

# Progress Notes

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## Medical Executive Committee Approvals

Items approved at the last Medical Executive Committee meeting can be viewed by using this website link and selecting the particular month: <https://www.torrancememorial.org/for-providers/medical-executive-committee/>

If you have any questions, please contact the Medical Staff Services Department at (310) 517-4616.



## Law AB 2338: Surrogate Decision Maker



**WHO:**

All Direct Care Personnel



**WHAT:**

Medical decisions for  
indisposed patients without  
legal documentation



**WHEN:**

Immediately



**QUESTIONS:**

Linda Dobie Ex 74612 or  
linda.dobie@tmmc.com



TORRANCE  
MEMORIAL

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# VERY IMPORTANT UPDATE



### BACKGROUND

A new law, AB2338, became effective on 1/1/2023. It dictates who can consent or make medical decisions on behalf of a patient that lacks capacity to make medical decisions and has no legal documents (e.g. Durable Power of Attorney for Health; Conservator, etc.) that indicates the surrogate decision maker.

Previously our policy stated to utilize the next of kin hierarchy, BUT the new law changes how we should choose the correct surrogate decision maker for patients.

### RECOMMENDATION

When identifying the appropriate surrogate decision maker, choose from the list below based upon the following criteria:

- The surrogate shall be an adult who has demonstrated special care and concern for the patient, is familiar with the patient's personal values and beliefs to the extent known, and is reasonably available and willing to serve.

With these criteria in mind, a surrogate may be chosen from ANY of the following persons:

1. The spouse or domestic partner of the patient
2. An adult child of the patient
3. A parent of the patient
4. An adult sibling of the patient
5. An adult grandchild of the patient
6. An adult relative or close personal friend

1.24.23

## Pathology and Clinical Laboratory Update



**Attn:** Torrance Memorial Medical Center and TMPN Medical Staff Medical Staff

**From:** Department of Pathology and Clinical Laboratory

**Re:** New CA 15-3

**Date:** 01/30/2023

**To all Medical Staff,**

Torrance Memorial Medical Center, Department of Pathology and Clinical Laboratory, is pleased to announce in-house testing for CA 15-3, a marker commonly associated with breast cancer, in a clinical specimen using the ABBOTT Alinity i effective February 28, 2023. The ABBOTT Alinity i CA 15-3 assay is a chemiluminescent microparticle immunoassay (CMIA) used for the quantitative determination of DF3 defined antigen in human serum and plasma. The Alinity i CA 15-3 assay is to be used as an aid in the management of Stage II and III breast cancer patients. Serial testing for patient CA 15-3 assay values should be used in conjunction with other clinical methods for monitoring breast cancer.

Cancer antigens (CAs) 15-3 and 27.29 are commonly used in the clinical management of breast cancer patients. While monitoring the serological concentration of tumor markers over time should always be conducted using the same assay/platform.

The present findings indicate that substantial correlation exists between CA 15-3 and CA 27.29 results, while also reinforcing that they should not be used interchangeably. As CA 15-3 and CA 27.29 result patterns trend similarly across sequential specimens for individual patients, there is little evidence for value in performing both tests unless discordance with clinical condition is suspected. Clinicians should therefore consider using either, but not both, for routine tumor marker testing in breast cancer patients.

An important finding in a comparative study of serological tumor markers for the detection of breast cancer by Shawn R. Clinton, Kevin L. Beason, Sabrina Bryant, James, was that CA 15-3 was superior to CA 27.29 for the detection of breast cancer, exhibiting a diagnostic sensitivity of 63% as compared to 39%. This was an important finding since CA 27.29 is more commonly used than CA 15-3 for the serological detection and monitoring of patients with breast cancer. Indeed, in many labs it has replaced CA 15-3. In a similar study, the results of Lauro and his colleagues (Lauro et al., 1999) supported our findings using a large population of patients with metastatic breast cancer. In a study by Gion and Minone (Gion and Minone, 2001) the authors reported CA 15-3 to be comparable to CA 27.29 at higher concentrations of tumor marker and slightly less sensitive than CA 27.29 at lower concentrations of tumor

Sincerely,

John Kunes MD, Pathologist

Torrance Memorial Medical Center

Dept of Pathology and Clinical Laboratory

## Pathology and Clinical Laboratory Update



Attn: All medical staff, Emergency Department, Hospitalists, Intensivists, Infectious Disease, OB/GYN, and any staff ordering the D Dimer test at Torrance Memorial.

### **SPECIAL NOTICE:**

1. **New units!** for the D Dimer assay
2. **New tests!** Thrombin Time and Rivaroxaban

Effective: **February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Attention all applicable staff:

Torrance Memorial's Department of Pathology and Clinical Laboratory will be changing reagents for the D Dimer test. We are switching from one highly sensitive D-dimer assay to another. The instrument is the same, the units are different.

There is lack of standardization of D-Dimer reporting across the industry. The new assay reports in ng/mL fibrinogen equivalent units (FEU), which is different than the previous which reported in ng/mL d-dimer units (DDU)

**1 FEU = 2DDU (approx.) with a new cutoff is 500 ng/mL FEU**

The numbers will appear roughly 2x what they would have been prior to the change. The assay is approved for exclusion of venous thromboembolism (VTE) when used in conjunction with clinical pretest probability (PTP) assessment model in outpatients suspected of having deep venous thrombosis (DVT) and pulmonary embolism (PE). At the cutoff of 500 ng/ml it was demonstrated to show 100% sensitivity and negative predictive value for DVT and PE. The new units bring us in line with the majority of literature and other laboratories.

---

We are also happy to announce 2 new tests to our coagulation menu!

### **Thrombin time and Rivaroxaban**

The thrombin time (TT) test, is a blood test that measures the time it takes for a fibrin clot to form in the plasma of a blood sample. This assesses the activity of fibrinogen and is used to investigate excessive bleeding or inappropriate blood clot formation.

Rivaroxaban also known as Xarelta is in a class of medications called factor Xa inhibitors. It works by blocking the action of a certain natural substance that helps blood clots to form. This assay will only be used to detect the presence or absence of this drug in emergency situations and will not be used to monitor levels.

Sincerely,

Lisa Hughes, QA, Sr. CLS Core Laboratory  
Ihab Abumuhor, Laboratory Director  
John Kunesh MD, pathologist and CLIA director

## Black History Month

# Here's the story behind Black History Month — and why it's celebrated in February

February 1, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET



JONATHAN FRANKLIN



At the March on Washington on Aug. 28, 1963, African Americans carry placards demanding equal rights, integrated schools, decent housing and an end to bias.

*Warren K. Leffler/Universal History Archive/Getty Images*

Every February, the U.S. honors the contributions and sacrifices of African Americans who have helped shape the nation. Black History Month celebrates the rich cultural heritage, triumphs and adversities that are an indelible part of our country's history.

This year's theme, *Black Health and Wellness*, pays homage to medical scholars and health care providers. The theme is especially timely as we enter the third year of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has disproportionately affected minority communities and placed **unique burdens** on Black health care professionals.

## Black History Month

"There is no American history without African American history," said Sara Clarke Kaplan, executive director of the Antiracist Research & Policy Center at American University in Washington, D.C. The Black experience, she said, is embedded in "everything we think of as 'American history.'"



TED RADIO HOUR  
Black History Month Playlist

### First, there was Negro History Week

Critics have long argued that Black history should be taught and celebrated year-round, not just during one month each year.

It was Carter G. Woodson, the "father of Black history," who first set out in 1926 to designate a time to promote and educate people about Black history and culture, according to W. Marvin Dulaney. He is a historian and the president of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH).

Article continues after sponsor message



Woodson envisioned a weeklong celebration to encourage the coordinated teaching of Black history in public schools. He designated the second week of February as Negro History Week and galvanized fellow historians through the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, which he founded in 1915. (ASNLH later became ASALH.)

The idea wasn't to place limitations but really to focus and broaden the nation's consciousness.

## Black History Month

"Woodson's goal from the very beginning was to make the celebration of Black history in the field of history a 'serious area of study,' " said Albert Broussard, a professor of Afro-American history at Texas A&M University.

The idea eventually grew in acceptance, and by the late 1960s, Negro History Week had evolved into what is now known as Black History Month. Protests around racial injustice, inequality and anti-imperialism that were occurring in many parts of the U.S. were pivotal to the change.

Colleges and universities also began to hold commemorations, with Kent State University being one of the first, according to Kaplan.

Fifty years after the first celebrations, President Gerald R. Ford officially recognized Black History Month during the country's 1976 bicentennial. Ford called upon Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history," History.com reports.

### Why February was chosen as Black History Month

February was chosen primarily because the second week of the month coincides with the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Lincoln was influential in the emancipation of slaves, and Douglass, a former slave, was a prominent leader in the abolitionist movement, which fought to end slavery.

Lincoln and Douglass were each born in the second week of February, so it was traditionally a time when African Americans would hold celebrations in honor of emancipation, Kaplan said. (Douglass' exact date of birth wasn't recorded, but he came to celebrate it on Feb. 14.)



Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950) was an American historian, a scholar and the founder of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. Woodson was instrumental in launching Negro History Week in 1926. *Bettmann Archive/Getty Images*

## Black History Month

Thus, Woodson created Negro History Week around the two birthdays as a way of "commemorating the black past," according to ASALH.

Forty years after Ford formally recognized Black History Month, it was Barack Obama, the nation's first Black president, who delivered a message of his own from the White House, a place built by slaves.



President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama host the annual reception for Black History Month at the White House on Feb. 18, 2016.

*Mike Theiler/Pool/Getty Images*

"Black History Month shouldn't be treated as though it is somehow separate from our collective American history or somehow just boiled down to a compilation of greatest hits from the March on Washington or from some of our sports heroes," Obama said.

"It's about the lived, shared experience of all African Americans, high and low, famous and obscure, and how those experiences have shaped and challenged and ultimately strengthened America," he continued.

(Canada also commemorates Black History Month in February, while the U.K. and Ireland celebrate it in October.)



## Black History Month

### There's a new theme every year

ASALH designates a **new theme** for Black History Month each year, in keeping with the practice Woodson established for Negro History Week.

This year's Black Health and Wellness theme is particularly appropriate, Dulaney said, as the U.S. continues to fight the coronavirus pandemic.

"As [Black people], we have terrible health outcomes, and even the coronavirus has been affecting us disproportionately in terms of those of us who are catching it," Dulaney said.

"There's never been a time where Black people and others should not celebrate Black history," Broussard said.

"Given the current racial climate, the racial reckoning that began in wake of George Floyd's murder ... this is an opportunity to learn."



**SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS**  
More Black And Latinx  
Americans Are Embracing  
COVID-19 Vaccination

## Black History Month

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FEBRUARY 2023

### Black Health & Wellness

Honoring the resilience and excellence of Black Americans who have contributed to Black Health and Wellness & so much more.

#### Sponsored by:

Committee for the Advancement of Respect, Equity & Justice

#### Michelle Obama

As first lady, she served as a role model for women and worked as an advocate for poverty awareness, education, nutrition, physical activity, and healthy eating. Michelle is a lawyer, acclaimed author and podcast host.



#### Maya Angelou

An American memoirist, popular poet, and civil rights activist. She published seven autobiographies, three books of essays, several books of poetry, and is credited with a list of plays, movies, and television shows spanning over 50 years.

#### Henrietta Lacks

An African-American woman whose cancer cells are the source of the HeLa cell line, the first immortalized human cell line and one of the most important cell lines in medical research.



#### Michael V. Drake

An American university administrator and physician who is the 21st president of the University of California. From 2014 to June 2020, he was the 15th president of Ohio State University.

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FEBRUARY 2023

## Black Health & Wellness

Honoring individuals that have demonstrated outstanding leadership in promoting health and wellness at Torrance Memorial

### Sponsored by:

Committee for the Advancement of Respect, Equity & Justice



### Cristal Lynch, MD

Dr. Cristal Lynch got her undergraduate degree in English from Stanford University. She went to the Medical College of Ohio and finished her OB/GYN residency at Martin Luther King Hospital in Los Angeles. Upon graduation Dr. Lynch began working at Torrance Memorial. She also served as Chief of OB/Gyn Department in 2022. After practicing obstetrics in the South Bay for 30 years, her practice now is focusing on gynecology and gynecological surgeries, infertility, adolescent medicine, sexual health, and wellness and mature women's health issues.



### Elaine Hume-Dawson, MSN, RN, PHN, CPAN

At the age of 19, Elaine Hume-Dawson immigrated to the United States from Freetown, Sierra Leone in West Africa. She started her career at TMMC in 2007 as a primary RN in PACU and currently manages the Perianesthesia and Endoscopy departments. She was instrumental in utilizing the Studer method for onboarding staff in the Perianesthesia units resulting in increased staff satisfaction and retention. She fosters staff-led initiatives which have resulted in numerous performance improvement projects.



### La Toya Johnson

This March, La Toya Johnson will be embarking on 24 years of service, at TMMC. She has been a part of the HIM department, Patient Access and the Compliance Department. La Toya has an innate passion for helping people and hopes that every human interaction leaves a mark. She believes African Americans continue to mobilize resources and influence social movements to create a space to triumph and thrive, where equality becomes customary, and being accustomed to respect is normalized.

# Celebrate March 2023 National Nutrition Month



## SUSTAINABLE EATING CHALLENGE

Print your calendar and participate in daily challenges in March to earn stamps



## PLANT BASED MEALS

Choose meatless meals on **Mondays** and **Wednesdays** and use reusable beverage containers on **Tuesdays** at TMMC cafes to earn stamps



## LEARN NEW SKILLS

Join Chef Sam Sellona and Master Gardener Judi Gerber to learn plant-based cooking and gardening skills in weekly videos (links to follow) and visit tables outside cafes on **Thursdays** 11am-1pm

## READ BLOGS

Read weekly blogs from TMMC Dietitians on topics related to sustainable eating (links to follow)



## ENTER PLANT-BASED RECIPE CONTEST

Submit your favorite plant-based recipes on **Fridays** to [tmme.nutrition@tmme.com](mailto:tmme.nutrition@tmme.com)

## WIN PRIZES

Collect at least 10 stamps to be eligible for prizes, 15 stamps for double entry, and 20 stamps to be eligible for the grand prize!

## GRAND PRIZE

Private in-home plant-based meal for up to 10 guests by Executive Chef Sam Sellona!



# National Nutrition Month



Food and Nutrition Services

## 31-Day Sustainable Eating Challenge

Complete daily challenges to collect stamps and enter to win exciting raffle prizes!

Employee name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/extension: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Choose a meatless meal	2 Visit NNM Table	3 Participate in the plant-based recipe contest	4 Visit local farmers market
5 Get creative with leftovers	6 Choose a meatless meal	7 Bring a reusable water bottle or coffee cup	8 Choose a meatless meal	9 Visit NNM table (11 am – 1 pm) or watch "Grow What You Eat" skills video with Judi Gerber	10 Participate in the plant-based recipe contest	11 Go paperless with your grocery list and BYO bag
12 Cook at home with a plant-based recipe	13 Choose a meatless meal	14 Bring a reusable water bottle or coffee cup	15 Choose a meatless meal	16 Visit NNM table (11 am – 1 pm) or watch "All about Grains" cooking skills video with chef Sam	17 Participate in the plant-based recipe contest	18 Visit local farmers market
19 Get creative with leftovers	20 Choose a meatless meal	21 Bring a reusable water bottle or coffee cup	22 Choose a meatless meal	23 Visit NNM table (11 am – 1 pm) or watch "Composting 101" video with Judi Gerber	24 Participate in the plant-based recipe contest	25 Go paperless with your grocery list and BYO bag
26 Cook at home with plant-based recipe	27 Choose a meatless meal	28 Bring a reusable water bottle or coffee cup	29 Choose a meatless meal	30 Visit NNM table (11 am – 1 pm) or watch "Scraps to Vegetable Stock" cooking skills video with chef Sam	31 Participate in the plant-based recipe contest	

### Directions to collect stamps:

**Monday – Wednesday:** Bring your calendar to Torrance Memorial Medical Center cafés and receive a stamp for purchasing a meatless meal (Mondays and Wednesdays) or for using a reusable beverage container (Tuesdays).

**Thursday:** Visit the table outside Torrance Memorial Medical Center cafés to learn about sustainability and receive a stamp or watch the weekly skills video and document "code word" provided.

**Friday:** Submit your favorite plant-based recipe to [tmmc.nutrition@tmmc.com](mailto:tmmc.nutrition@tmmc.com) to receive credit for participation in the plant-based recipe contest (up to three recipes per participant).

**Saturday – Sunday:** Document participation in weekend challenges via photos (ex: photo of yourself at the farmers market or cooking a plant-based meal at home). At the end of the month, submit ONE email to [tmmc.nutrition@tmmc.com](mailto:tmmc.nutrition@tmmc.com) including the list of activities completed with dates and attach photo documentation to receive credit for challenges completed.

### Enter raffle:

- Collect at least 10 stamps to be eligible for raffle
- Collect at least 15 stamps for double raffle entry
- Collect at least 20 stamps for double raffle entry and to be eligible for **GRAND PRIZE!**

### Grand prize:

Private in-home plant-based meal prepared for up to 10 guests by **Torrance Memorial Medical Center executive chef Sam Sellona\***

Return completed calendars to Torrance Memorial Medical Center cafés by April 5.

\*Winner must coordinate with Food and Nutrition Services to select date for meal. Must be 21 years older. Prize is not transferrable or redeemable for cash. One winner will be announced by April 14. Employees in Food and Nutrition Services are not eligible to participate in raffle.



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
27	28	1 7:00a CV Review Conference 12:30p CME Conference	2 7:00a Breast Tumor Board 7:45a Gen Tumor Board 12:30p Medical Staff PI	3 7:00a Thoracic Tumor Board
6 12:30p Cardiology	7 12:00p Bioethics Committee 12:30p Infection Prevention/P&T	8 7:00a Anesthesia Department 7:00a CV Review Conference	9 7:00a Breast Tumor Board 7:00a Cardiac M&M 7:45a GI Tumor Board 12:30p Pediatrics PI	10 7:00a Thoracic Tumor Board
13 12:30p Credentials	14 6:00p Medical Executive Committee	15 7:00a CV Review Conference 12:30p CME Conference 12:30p Medicine Department	16 7:00a Breast Tumor Board 7:30a CNS Tumor Board 9:00a Emergency Department 12:30p Pediatric Department	17 7:00a Thoracic Tumor Board
20 7:30a IRB 12:00p Burn & Wound Surgery 12:30p Oncology PI	21 12:30p C-Section Committee 12:30p EDIE Patient Care Committee	22 7:00a CV Review Conference	23 7:00a Breast Tumor Board 7:45a GI Tumor Board 1:00p Stroke Committee 5:00p Bariatric Surgery Subcomm	24 7:00a Thoracic Tumor Board
27 12:00p ECMO Case Review 5:30p Physician Resiliency	28 7:00a Cancer Committee 12:30p OB/GYN Department 12:30p Utilization Management	29 7:00a CV Review Conference	30 <i>Happy Doctor's Day</i> 7:00a Breast Tumor Board 7:45a GI Tumor Board 12:30p Credentials	31 7:00a Thoracic Tumor Board

## CME CONFERENCES



**Wednesdays, 12:30 p.m.**  
**Hoffman Health Conference Center**

Torrance Memorial Medical Center is accredited by the Institute for Medical Quality/California Medical Association (IMQ/CMA) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Torrance Memorial Medical Center designates this live activity for a maximum of 1 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

For up-to-the-minute conference information call (310) 784-8776 or visit: [http://www.torrancememorial.org/For\\_Physicians/Wednesday\\_CME\\_Conferences.aspx](http://www.torrancememorial.org/For_Physicians/Wednesday_CME_Conferences.aspx)

### Wednesday, March 1, 2023

*"Health Inequities in Oncology"*  
 Anees Chagpar, M.D., MSc, MPH  
 Yale University School of Medicine  
 Commercial Support: None

### Wednesday, March 8, 2023

NO CONFERENCE

### Wednesday, March 15, 2023

*"Update on Hearing Health"*  
 Courtney Voelkner, M.D., Ph.D.  
 Keck UCS School of Medicine  
 Commercial Support: None

### Wednesday, March 22, 2023

NO CONFERENCE

### Wednesday, March 29, 2023

NO CONFERENCE

### Wednesday, April 5, 2023

*"Contingency Management for Substance Abuse"*  
 Morris Gelbart, Ph.D.  
 Gelbart & Associates Psychological Services  
 Commercial Support: None

### Wednesday, April 12, 2023

NO CONFERENCE

### Wednesday, April 19, 2023

TBD

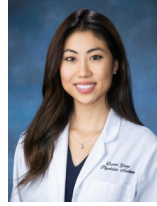
### Wednesday, April 26, 2023

NO CONFERENCE

## Welcome New Practitioners



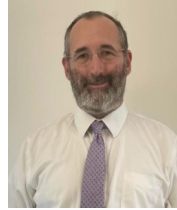
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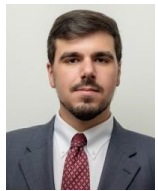
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## Physician/AHP Roster Updates

### Address Change

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The Medical Staff Newsletter **ProgressNotes** is published monthly for the Medical Staff of Torrance Memorial Medical Center.

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ProgressNotes Vol. 15 Issue 3 March 2023



MONTHLY  
MEDICAL  
STAFF  
NEWSLETTER

# Progress Notes

