Adventist Health Telehealth Providers

Cardiology
Arsen Hovanesyan, M.D.
Thanh T. Nguyen, D.O.

Dermatology
Erica R. Aronson, M.D., FAAD

Gastroenterology
Rajeev Manu, M.D.

Hematology / Oncology
Vikas Ghai, M.D.

Infectious Disease
Rasha A. Kuran, M.D.

Neurology
Arbi Ohanian, M.D.

Orthopedics
Philip O. Merritt, M.D.

Pulmonology
Saied Safaee-Semiromi, M.D.
Lusine Simonyants, M.D.
Arin Aboulian, M.D.

Rheumatology
Dan T. La, M.D.

For additional information please contact the
Adventist Health Telehealth Network Provider Relations
(866) 832-8218
Cardiology

Arsen Hovanesyan M.D.

Education

- Medical School, Rosalind Franklin University
- Residency, Barnes Jewish Hospital
- Fellowship, Harbor - UCLA Medical Center

Board Certifications

- American Board of Internal Medicine - Internal Medicine, 2007
- National Board of Echocardiography, 2010
- Certification Board of Nuclear Cardiology, 2010
- Certification Board of Cardiac Computed Tomography, 2010
- American Board of Internal Medicine - Cardiovascular Disease, 2011

About the Doctor's Practice:

Dr. Hovanesyan’s primary goals are to help patients with cardiovascular illness live longer, healthier, happier lives. Dr. Hovanesyan’s practicing style is to pay attention to detail and patient satisfaction. By doing this, he is able to make recommendations that are supported by medical literature as well as nationally accepted guidelines and standards.

Dr. Hovanesyan has always been fascinated with human medicine and particularly the workings of the human heart. The doctor can never seem to learn enough about the subject. Dr. Hovanesyan is passionate about what he does and wants to achieve the best outcome for every patient. Currently, Dr. Hovanesyan has a private practice in Glendale, California and takes part in medical rounds at GAMC.

Personal Note

“I really enjoy teaching and working with doctors, at all levels, by teaching and giving talks. In my free time, I enjoy hiking and taking part in some photography.” – Dr. Arsen Hovanesyan

Commitment to Telehealth

“I want to ensure that quality specialty services, such as Cardiology, are available in rural areas.” – Dr. Arsen Hovanesyan
Cardiology

Thanh Nguyen D.O.

Education
- Medical School, Western University of Health Sciences
- Residency, Cleveland Clinic Foundation Hospital
- Fellowship, UC Davis Medical Center
- Fellowship, William Beaumont Hospital

Board Certification
- American Board of Internal Medicine, Interventional Cardiology

About the Doctor’s Practice

Dr. Thanh Nguyen works every day to provide preventive medicine. Patient education and instruction is important to him. The best way to prevent heart disease, heart attack, and stroke is by learning the causes, and then the patient altering their lifestyle. By doing so he helps patient live happy and healthy lives.

For the last 12 years, Dr. Nguyen has dedicated himself to not just caring for sick patients but by giving educational seminars on how to stay “heart healthy.” The doctor is currently apart of the Adventist Health Physician Network which is a large medical foundation comprised of various physician practices.

Personal Note

“In my free time I really enjoy spending time with my three active kids whether that be coaching a local baseball team or cooking on the BBQ for them. I enjoy staying active by playing tennis and getting out on the golf course.” –Dr. Thanh Nguyen

Commitment to Telehealth

“I would like to reach areas of underserved patients and provide comprehensive heart care through the state of the art Telehealth Equipment.” –Dr. Thanh Nguyen
Dermatology

Erica Aronson M.D, FAAD

Education

- Medical School, The University of Chicago Pritzker School
- Residency, The University of Chicago Medical Center
- Fellowship, The University of Chicago Medical Center

Board Certification

- American Board of Dermatology

About the Doctor’s Practice:

Solano Dermatology Associates, which Dr. Aronson is a part of, has been around for over six decades. They are a group of likeminded dermatologists and dermatologic physician assistants with offices in Vallejo, Fairfield, Vacaville, El Cerrito and St. Helena.

The group provides state-of-the-art dermatologic care with special expertise in Mohs Micrographic Surgery, dermatopathology, treatment of varicose veins including Endovenous Laser Ablation, pediatric dermatology, allergic contact dermatitis, advanced treatment of psoriasis including laser therapy, phototherapy for chronic and whole body rashes, cosmetic dermatology including ten different laser systems, filler agents and Botox treatments.

Solano Dermatology Associates prides themselves on providing state-of-the-art dermatologic care. Patients who come to Solano Dermatology Associates will not need to be referred elsewhere for difficult or advanced therapy because we provide it all for our patients.

Dr. Aronson stated that “I strive to provide the best care for my patients in all of their dermatological needs from acne to skin cancer. I provide specialized care to patients of all ages with a variety of skin ailments. My goal is to educate my patients and build lasting relationships with a common goal of improved long term skin health. I recently relocated to practice Dermatology in the Napa Valley and am looking forward to building a long term relationship with Adventist Health.’

Personal Note

“In my free time, I like to hike, bicycle, read, and explore beautiful Napa Valley with my family.” – Dr. Aronson

Commitment to Telehealth

“I am looking forward to participating in TeleHealth to improve the dermatological care to a wide range of patients who may not have easy access to dermatology clinics nearby.” – Dr. Aronson
**Gastroenterology**

**Rajeev Manu M.D.**

**Education**
- Medical School, Government Medical College Mysore, Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences
- Fellowships in Internal Medicine; Gastroenterology; Hepatology

**Board Certification**
- American Board of Internal Medicine, Internal Medicine
- American Board of Internal Medicine, Gastroenterology

**About the Doctor’s Practice**

Dr. Manu finished my Internal Medicine training in New York and gastroenterology training in Boston, MA. Not long after finishing my schooling the doctor joined the US Air Force and spent three years at Travis Airforce Base in California. Following that, he was stationed three years at Lindsey Air Station in Wiesbaden, Germany. Following Dr. Manu’s service overseas, he spent several years at Dallas VA Medical Center in Texas. In 1990, he joined a private practice group in Bakersfield. To further his education Dr. Manu left for six months to go to Germany to obtain advanced training in ERCP. The doctor started private practice in 2003 and has been practicing in Bakersfield since. He makes rounds at many of the Bakersfield hospitals including Adventist Health San Joaquin Community Hospital. Dr. Manu has taken part in SJCH’s TeleHealth program for five years.

What drew Dr. Manu to Gastroenterology was many due to members of family, especially his father, had gastrointestinal health problems. Also, with this specialty it combines aspects of surgical treatment and medicine. This gastroenterology combination allows Dr. Manu to work with his hands to cure problems patients of his have. He has always enjoyed working with his hands, especially when it can lead to helping someone live a healthier life.

**Personal Note/Comment**

“I enjoy spending my free time with my family. I also volunteer in administrative area of a local religious institution for Hindus. With the other time I have I spend learning and becoming informed on many different subjects. I take pride in being able to start an intelligent conversation with almost every specialist on their subject for at least five minutes and go on from there.” —Dr. Rajeev Manu

**Commitment to Telehealth**

“I started telehealth with skepticism that it may not be as good as face to face without physical in person contact. But with my experience with CDCR it works well and experienced that a lot of medicine can be done without being in the same place. About 80-90% of consultation medicine in my specialty works well in the telehealth atmosphere. As I have seen with the prisoners, telehealth alone can be even better than in person visits. While we still need procedures done in person, most of the problems can be managed via telehealth especially after initial procedure.” —Dr. Rajeev Manu
Hematology / Oncology

Vikas Ghai M.D.

Education

- Medical School, Jawaharial Nehru Medical College, India
- Medical School, Rajiv Gandhi HS University, India
- Master of Science and Biomedical Services, Medical University Toledo, Ohio
- Fellowship, Hematology/Oncology, Penn State University

Board Certification

- American Board of Internal Medicine, Hematology
- American Board of Internal Medicine, Internal Medicine
- American Board of Internal Medicine, Oncology

About the Doctor’s Practice

Vikas Ghai, MD, FACP, is part of the medical staff of The AIS Cancer Center at San Joaquin Community Hospital, a member of the UC Davis Cancer Care Network. Dr. Ghai cares for cancer patients with benign and malignant hematological disorders and all solid tumors. His main areas of focus are lung cancer, breast cancer, GU, GI, leukemia and lymphomas.

Dr. Ghai comes to Bakersfield most recently from Penn State’s Hershey Medical Center, where he was an assistant professor. Dr. Ghai studied Internal Medicine and earned a Master’s of Science and Biomedical Sciences from University of Toledo, Ohio. He received a Hematology/Oncology Fellowship from the Hershey Medical Center.

Personal Note

“My inspiration to enter the medical field comes from losing his grandmother to breast cancer. I really wanted to help those going through this difficult time.”

“My and my wife, Dr. Sonia Ghai an OB-GYN, are the proud parents of two children. I love to stay active in my free time by playing cricket and tennis with my son.” –Dr. Vikas Ghai

Commitment to Telehealth

“Telemedicine is the use of telecommunication and information technologies in order to provide clinical health care at a distance. It helps eliminate distance barriers and can improve access to medical services that would often not be consistently available in distant rural communities. I believe that Telemedicine can be beneficial to patients living in isolated communities and remote regions, who can receive care from doctors or specialists, like myself, while being located far away. Another benefit I see for the patient is that they will not have to travel great distances in initially to have a visit with a specialist like myself.” –Dr. Vikas Ghai
Infectious Disease

Rasha Kuran, M.D.

Education
- University of Jordan Medical School 1990-1997
- Fellowship, University of California, Irvine (UCI) 2003-2005
- Residency, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) 2000-2003

Board Certification
- American Board of Internal Medicine, Infectious Disease, 2004
- American Board of Internal Medicine, Internal medicine, 2003

About the Doctor’s Practice

Dr. Rasha Kuran is a board certified infectious disease specialist who has been practicing as an infectious disease consultant for the past ten years. Dr. Kuran became interested in field of infectious diseases during residency when she was exposed to a large number of Valley Fever patients at Kern Medical Center, training under world renowned experts, Dr. Hans Einstein and Dr. Royce Johnson.

After Dr. Kuran finished infectious disease fellowship at UCI she worked in private practice in Orange County. She moved to Bakersfield in 2013 and established a new practice. She serves a wide variety of patients ranging from ICU patients with septic shock, pneumonia, post-surgical complications, diabetic infections, etc. to outpatient treatment of MRSA infections, HIV, tuberculosis, cellulitis, etc. Dr Kuran does hospital rounds at Adventist Health San Joaquin Community Hospital as well as several others. She desires to provide high level of specialized care to patients who suffer serious and complicated infections

Personal Note/Comment

“In my free time, I enjoy spending quality time with my family, gardening and tending to my growing collection of chickens. I’m a farmer at heart” –Dr. Rasha Kuran

Commitment to Telehealth

“Just because people live in rural and underserved areas shouldn’t hinder them from getting the quality care that they deserve. I know what it is like because I lived in rural areas growing up and I am currently living in the “countryside” outside Bakersfield. People should have access to quality healthcare no matter where they live.” –Dr. Rasha Kuran
Neurology

Arbi Ohanian M.D.

Education

- Medical School, USC Keck School of Medicine
- Residency, UCLA
- Fellowship, Comprehensive Stroke and Vascular Neurology Program UCLA

Board Certification

- American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology
- American Board of Vascular Surgery

About the Doctor’s Practice

Dr. Ohanian is a board certified neurologist with fellowship training and board certification in vascular neurology and stroke. He has been instrumental in the development of several primary stroke centers in Southern California. Dr. Ohanian is passionate about telehealth and has been involved in acute stroke management including telstroke management of patients for approximately 10 years. He currently serves as the CMO of SAGE Neurohospitalist Management Group.

On a Personal Note

Dr. Ohanian is married with four children. He enjoys volunteering in the community, including civic work, voter registration, as well as coaching children’s basketball and soccer.

Commitment to Telehealth

“The latest technology of the day combined with Telemedicine provides an avenue to see patients if they have questions or concerns. Also, with this technology, TeleICU allows us to attend to stroke patients who must be seen by a doctor as soon as possible after having any symptoms of a stroke.” –Dr. Arbi Ohanian
Orthopedic Surgeon

Philip Merritt M.D.

Education
- Medical School, Univ. of Southern California
- Internship, USC University Hospital (MSO)
- Residency, USC University Hospital (MSO)

Board Certification
- American Board of Orthopedic Surgery

About the Doctor’s Practice

Dr. Merritt specializes in arthritis and total joint replacement. For more than two decades, he has pioneered work in the orthopedic field and has used state-of-the-art medical procedures in the operating room and outpatient surgical centers. Dr. Merritt regularly performs corrective surgery on previously performed or failed joint replacements and offers a special expertise in total hip and knee arthroplasty. He is currently serving as medical director of the Orthopedic Center at Glendale Adventist.

Dr. Merritt is one of few physicians nationwide currently playing a leading role in testing cutting-edge medical procedures for total joint replacements. He is recognized by many, in the medical community, for his various research contributions and innovations. He has written and published materials for some of the most widely used orthopedic medical textbooks and has authored and published dozens of clinical research papers. Dr. Merritt has also given hundreds of lectures on orthopedics and joint replacement techniques both in the United States and internationally.

Personal Note

“My time away from work is centered on family activities including sports with our children and projects around the house.” –Dr. Philip Merritt

Commitment to Telehealth

“I am looking forward to caring for complex orthopedic patients and delivering advanced care that may not be available in their immediate area.” –Dr. Philip Merritt
Pulmonology; Critical Care; Internal Medicine

Arin Aboulian M.D.

Education
- Medical School, Rosalind Franklin University
- Residency, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
- Fellowship, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

Board Certification
- American Board of Internal Medicine, Internal Medicine
- American Board of Internal Medicine, Pulmonary
- American Board of Internal Medicine, Special Qualification in Critical Care Medicine

About Me and My Practice

After finishing my subspecialty training in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, I joined Southern California Pulmonary and Critical Care Associates, Inc. (SCPCCA) in 2012, so that I could work in the same community I had grown up in. I am specialized in the treatment of patients with respiratory diseases, those hospitalized with complex, sometimes life-threatening critical illnesses. My main areas of expertise are in the diagnosis and management of acute respiratory failure, shock, sepsis, acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, chronic bronchitis, emphysema, sarcoidosis, pulmonary hypertension, pneumonia, pulmonary embolism, lung cancer, and pulmonary fibrosis.

I am board certified in pulmonary, critical care and internal medicine, and a fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians.

Personal Note/Comment

“I am a proud father of 2 young boys, ages 5 and 3, and almost of all of my free time is spent with my wife and boys. I enjoy and truly value spent time with my family. I am trying to instill the same love, into my sons of the outdoors that my father instilled in me. I am very proud that during this past winter, 2013/2014, both of my sons learned how to ski, and was thankful for the opportunity to have them ski with their grandfather.” - Dr, Arin Aboulian

Commitment to Telehealth

“I believe TeleHealth is a tremendous asset for individuals who live away from large urban areas, and with advancement in technology, it allows us to bring world class care to every corner of the globe. I have been practicing TeleHealth through a Tele-ICU opportunity whereby, I have been fortunate to deliver care for patients who are critically ill and do not have quick access to critical care subspecialists. I am very excited to carry through and add to this experience by participating in the Blue Shield TeleHealth network, and provide high quality care to patients with complex pulmonary problems.” – Dr. Arin Aboulian

Adventist TeleHealth Providers
Updated: 10/8/15
Pulmonology: Critical Care

Saied Safaee M.D.

Education
- National University of Iran Medical School
- Residency, Pathology, Inova Health System Fairfax Hospital, Virginia
- Residency, Internal Medicine, Pinnacle Health Systems, Pennsylvania
- Fellowship, Pulmonary Critical Care, Penn State University

Board Certification
- American Board of Internal Medicine, Internal Medicine
- American Board of Internal Medicine, Pulmonary
- American Board of Internal Medicine, Special Qualification in Critical Care Medicine

About the Doctor's Practice
Saied Safaee M.D. specializes in the treatment of patients with respiratory diseases, those hospitalized with complex, sometimes life-threatening critical illnesses, and patients with sleep disorders. Saied Safaee M.D. has expertise in the diagnosis and management of asthma, chronic bronchitis, emphysema, sarcoidosis, obstructive sleep apnea, pneumonia, pulmonary hypertension, lung cancer, respiratory failure, and pulmonary fibrosis.

Saied Safaee M.D. is board certified in pulmonary medicine, critical care medicine and internal medicine. Saied Safaee is the President of Southern California Pulmonary and Critical Care Associates, Inc. (SCPCCA). The SCPCCA physicians direct the intensive care unit at Glendale Adventist Medical Center.

Personal Note
“In my free time, I really enjoy taking hikes on some of the nearby trails we have in Southern California. Another activity which I take part in to get some exercise would be swimming. Lastly, playing a game of poker can be a fun way to relax.” – Dr. Saied Safaee

Commitment to Telehealth
“The rural and underserved areas of California are in great need of a wide range of specialists. I have always been passionate about the use of technology based communication and am happy to contribute using state of the art technology systems. I believe that comprehensive medical care involves a partnership with the physician the patient and the staff. By providing specialty services to underserved areas, I know it will greatly help them.” –Dr. Saied Safaee
Pulmonary; Critical Care

Lusine Simonyants M.D.

Education

- Yerevan State University Medical School, Armenia
- Residency, Internal Medicine, Pinnacle Health Systems, Pennsylvania
- Fellowship, Penn State University

Board Certification

- American Board of Internal Medicine, Internal Medicine
- American Board of Internal Medicine, Pulmonary
- American Board of Internal Medicine, Special Qualification in Critical Care Medicine

About the Doctor’s Practice

Lusine Simonyants M.D. specializes in the treatment of patients with respiratory diseases, those hospitalized with complex, sometimes life-threatening critical illnesses, and patients with sleep disorders. Lusine Simonyants M.D. has expertise in the diagnosis and management of asthma, chronic bronchitis, emphysema, sarcoidosis, obstructive sleep apnea, pneumonia, pulmonary hypertension, lung cancer, respiratory failure, and pulmonary fibrosis.

Dr. Simonyants is board certified in pulmonary medicine, critical care medicine and internal medicine. Lusine Simonyants M.D. is a part of Southern California Pulmonary and Critical Care Associates, Inc. (SCPCCA). The SCPCCA physicians direct the intensive care unit at Glendale Adventist Medical Center.

Personal Note/Comment

“I really enjoy spending time with my 5 year old son and local friends. I also enjoy getting into the kitchen and whipping up some delicious meals.” – Dr. Simonyants

Commitment to Telehealth

“The idea of telehealth is very exciting to me because of the time and money it can save a patient. Even if the patient live in an area which makes it difficult to see me, telehealth allows him or her feel secure that their physician is, in a sense, not far away. Telehealth gives the patient reassurance that a doctor is watching over and caring for them not matter where they live.” Dr. Simonyants
Rheumatology

Dan T. La M.D.

Education

- Medical School, American University of the Caribbean
- Residency, LAC+USC Medical Center in Internal Medicine
- Fellowship, LAC+USC Medical Center (Rheumatology)

Board Certification

- American Board of Internal Medicine, Rheumatology

About the Doctor’s Practice

Dr. Dan La has been in a solo practice since 2006. He has truly enjoyed helping patients with various arthritis conditions and establishing long term relationships. As with many specialties, rheumatology care is best practiced in a partnership manner between the doctor and each patient. Dr. La strives to provide this high quality care with each and every patient. It has been a very rewarding experience for the doctor to improve a patient’s quality of life and help restore their functional activities.

Personal Note

“In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, usually engaging in a variety of outdoor activities with them.” – Dr. Dan La

Commitment to Telehealth

“I look forward to using the latest technology to help patients in underserved areas. There is a real shortage of physician specialists in rural areas and telemedicine is permitting greater access to a variety of these healthcare providers.” – Dr. Dan L