



# PROTECTING *Private Practice*

*Maximizing Benefits, Overcoming Barriers*

*Tuesday, December 3, 2024*



# Welcome!

Welcome to the Physician Association of California's (PAC) Protecting Private Practice symposium. We are thrilled to have you with us for this insightful and engaging event.

We launched PAC this past year to bring the voice of the independent and small practice physician to the Capitol. As we build our advocacy efforts, we want to help ensure the voice of the small practice physician is considered when making healthcare policy.

---

***Throughout the symposium today we will hear from a wonderful lineup of panelists—who will offer insight into the benefits and barriers to private practices in California. We will hear from experts across the healthcare field as together we explore how private practice benefits patients, and we explore how their practice benefits patients, but also what prevents them from thriving here in California.***

---

We encourage you, the audience, to involve yourself in the conversation as your questions and insights are essential parts of our conversation. Thank you for attending and for your interest in delivering high-quality access to care to patients throughout California!

Thank you,



Matthew Robinson  
CEO, Physician Association of California



“

*Our mission is* **TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE  
HEALTHCARE DELIVERY BY SMALL GROUP MEDICAL  
PRACTICES AND INDEPENDENT PHYSICIANS WHILE  
PROMOTING THE OVERALL WELL-BEING  
AND CARE OF THEIR PATIENTS.**

”

## AGENDA

### 1.....Welcome!

Matthew Robinson, CEO, Physician Association of CA

### 2.....Keynote Speaker

### 3.....Panel Discussion

Benefits of Private Practice to Providers and Patients

*Moderator:* **Allen Young**

Interim Host of Insight on Capital Public Radio

*Panelists:* **Join Luh**

MD, FACP, FACR, FASTRO, Radiation Oncology

**Omer Deen**

MD, FACG, AGAF, CPNS, Internal Medicine

**Lynne Kinst**

Executive Director, Hemophilia Council of California

### 4.....Panel Discussion

Barriers to Private Practice

*Moderator:* **Allen Young**

Interim Host of Insight on Capital Public Radio

*Panelists:* **Lamia Gabal**

MD, FPMRS, Urologist, Prestige Medical Group

**Flo Di Benedetto**

J.D., President and CEO, Di Benedetto Solutions, Inc.

**Michael Leathers**

MD, Sports Medicine, Orthopedic Surgeon

### 5.....Event Conclusion



# HOW INDEPENDENT PHYSICIANS BENEFIT PATIENTS



**Personalized  
Care**



**Access  
to Care**



**Quality  
of Care**

## MODERATOR



### ALLEN YOUNG

**Allen Young** is a seasoned political journalist based in Sacramento. He is currently the interim host of Insight, the flagship public affairs talk show on CapRadio, Sacramento's NPR affiliate. His journalism has been featured in publications such as The Daily Beast, The Sacramento Bee, and The Washington Post. In addition to his reporting career, Allen has served as a press secretary for two California Attorneys General and a State Senator.

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**Assembly Majority Leader**

## **CECILIA AGUIAR-CURRY** **DISTRICT 4**

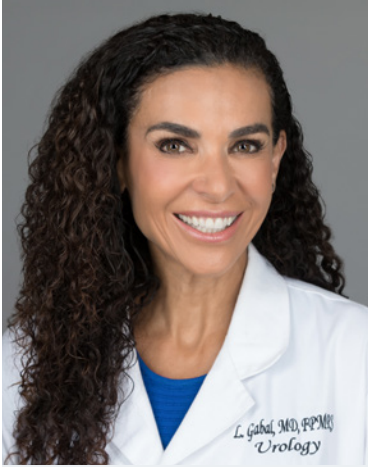
Legislative Women's Caucus Chair-Elect  
Health Committee Member

**In November 2016, Cecilia Aguiar-Curry was elected to the California Assembly to represent the 4th District, which includes all of Napa, Lake, Yolo, Colusa Counties and part of Sonoma County.**

Cecilia grew up in western Yolo County and has long served her community. After going to school and working in the Bay Area for several years, she moved back to her hometown of Winters, where she almost immediately became active in the local community and a regional leader on several issues. She first served as planning commissioner and then was elected to the city council, eventually serving as the first female mayor of Winters.

A small business woman and family farmer, she currently resides in Winters a block from her childhood home with her longtime partner, Larry Harris, and has a stepson and two grown daughters.

# SPEAKERS



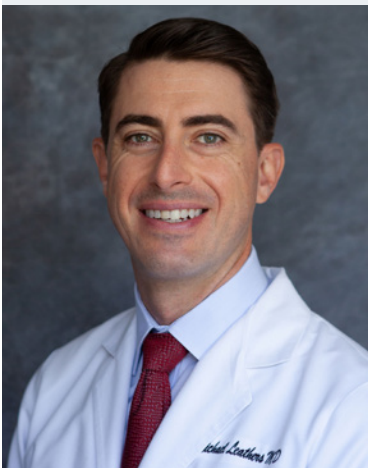
## DR. GABAL

**Dr. Lamia Gabal** is a board-certified urologist with subspecialty certification in Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery (FPMRS). She founded Prestige Medical Group (PMG) in Tustin, California, which consists of a team of two MDs and three PAs. With over 20 years of experience in the field, Dr. Gabal specializes in a range of urologic treatments, including regenerative and restorative surgeries. PMG offers cutting-edge treatment options and is also home to a clinical trials division. Dr. Gabal graduated from the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine in 1995, completing both her General Surgery internship and Urology residency at UCSD Medical Center. She has been recognized as a “Top Doctor” by the Orange County Medical Association for the past 17 years. Dr. Gabal and her team are dedicated to providing innovative, personalized care, continually incorporating the latest advancements in urologic medicine to benefit their patients.



## DR. LUH

**Dr. Join Y. Luh** is a radiation oncologist in a private practice in Eureka, CA, serving patients as far north as southern Oregon and many rural outlying areas in northwest California. He is past president of the Northern California Radiation Oncology Society, Humboldt Del-Norte County Medical Society, and California Radiological Society. He is a member of the Board of Trustees for the Radiation Oncology Institute (ASTRO Foundation) and the Board of Chancellors for the American College of Radiology. He is an advocate for independent physician practice.



## DR. LEATHERS

**Dr. Michael P. Leathers** is a skilled orthopedic surgeon and sports medicine physician in Sacramento, California, specializing in advanced treatments for knee, shoulder, and hip injuries. He earned his medical degree with honors from the Keck School of Medicine at USC, where he was inducted into the prestigious Alpha Omega Alpha honor society. Dr. Leathers completed his orthopedic surgery residency at UCLA and a fellowship in sports medicine and shoulder replacement at UCSF, focusing on advanced reconstruction techniques. He has authored multiple publications on topics such as ACL reconstructions and shoulder replacements and is passionate about helping athletes of all levels recover and improve performance.



## FLORENCE L. DI BENEDETTO

**Florence “Flo” Di Benedetto** is a seasoned healthcare attorney with over 40 years of experience. She spent 28 years in private practice, including 20 years as a Senior Partner at Hunter Richey Di Benedetto and Eisenbeis, LLP, representing health systems, medical staff, and physicians in litigation, business matters, and commercial transactions. From 2009 to 2023, she was the Senior Vice President and General Counsel at Sutter Health, overseeing legal, risk, privacy, and compliance services for the \$15B integrated system. In 2024, she launched Di Benedetto Solutions, Inc., offering leadership development, executive coaching, governance advice, and team assessments. She also serves as an arbitrator, mediator, and advisor on complex litigation and governance issues. Ms. Di Benedetto holds a Juris Doctor degree and an MBA in Health Care Management



## LYNNE KINST

**Lynne Kinst** has been the Executive Director of the Hemophilia Council of California (HCC) since January 2020, where she has led efforts to advocate for the bleeding disorders community. In 2024, she spearheaded the creation of the California Rare Disease Access Coalition to enhance care access for rare disease patients. Prior to joining HCC, Lynne was the Executive Director of the Central California Hemophilia Foundation (CCHF) and held various public service roles, including positions with the California State Board of Equalization and the Taxpayer’s Rights Advocate. She has also worked in nonprofit administration and political roles. A Sacramento native, Lynne holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from UC Davis and a master’s in biblical counseling from The Master’s University. She has personal ties to the hemophilia community, with her father, Jim Carey, being a founding member of CCHF. Lynne, who has mild hemophilia B, resides in Rocklin, CA, with her husband, David, and their children, Zach and Ashley.



## DR. DEEN

**Dr. Omer J. Deen** is a board-certified physician specializing in clinical nutrition, with expertise in treating nutritional disorders such as malnutrition, obesity, and eating disorders. He earned his medical degree from Ross University, completed an internal medicine residency at the University of Nevada-Reno, and a fellowship in digestive disease and clinical nutrition at the Cleveland Clinic. He is an executive board member of the National Board of Physician Nutrition Specialists and involved in the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition and the American Society for Nutrition. A fellow of the American College of Gastroenterology and the American Gastroenterological Association, he currently practices in Torrance, CA, where he serves as Chair of the Physician Association of California and is a past president of the LA County Medical Association.





**PAC-MD.ORG • (916) 235-3487 • info@PAC-MD.ORG**  
500 Capitol Mall, Suite 550, Sacramento, CA 95814

 [PhysicianAssociationOfCalifornia](#)  [PACMD\\_ORG](#)  [PAC-MD](#)  [PAC-MD](#)