

EDUCATION IS CENTER STAGE

Robert Pugach, MD Trains Physicians, Physician Assistants, Allied Health Professions and Speaks to Local High School Students

For 24 years Dr. Pugach has donated his time training and mentoring a wide variety of health care personnel, including nurses, physician assistants and other physicians wanting specialized training. "As healthcare continues to evolve and needs more extended care professionals such as Physician Assistants, I am happy to work with students to advance their knowledge of minimally invasive urological treatments," says Dr. Pugach.



MEET THE DOCTOR...CAREER DAY AT LOS ALAMITOS MEDICAL CENTER

For the 2nd year Dr. Pugach participated in Los Alamitos High School "Meet the Doctor" Breakfast! Held on May 30, 2012 at Los Alamitos Medical Center. 50 students from the local high school attended this annual event to help them decide if a career in healthcare is right for them.

"I love the opportunity to help them explore their future job choices and understand how they want to serve our community in the future. Los Alamitos Medical Center and our dedicated physicians come together every year to help high school students understand the many options they have to become the physicians, nurses and other healthcare providers. We need them to become the healthcare team of the future and it is an honor to help them realize their aspirations," says Dr. Pugach

Army Reservist Find's Life Work While Serving in Afghanistan.. Meet Travis, Physician Assistant

Travis met Dr. Robert Pugach, Medical Director of Pacific Coast Urology Medical Center, and was interested in learning more about urological problems and advanced treatments. "Dr. Pugach is a great teacher. Every time I had questions regarding his surgeries or any kind of physiological questions, he answered thoroughly and in detail. When interesting cases came up, he always called me to observe, carefully explaining the nature of the case and his treatment techniques," says Travis.

Los Alamitos , CA, July 2011 MEET THE DOCTOR!

In May 2011, Dr. Robert Pugach was invited to be part of a physician group that hosted local high school students who are interested in a career in health care. Most of them were considering an educational path that would take them to medical school to become doctors.

"Talking to students is always an enjoyable and fascinating experience. Their innocence and openness as they investigate becoming a physician are wonderful," says Dr. Pugach. Sample of questions and Dr. Pugach's answers:

Q: How long it takes to become a physician?

A: Many were amazed to learn that the answer is from 11 to 18 years after high school graduation, depending upon their choice of medical field.

Q: What kind of personal life a doctor has given his or her choice of practice type and specialty, i.e. What is it like as a solo practice in obstetrics vs. a group practice in general surgery? How many on call hours are typical, how much vacation time does one get, etc.

A: More and more, upcoming generations of doctors are looking to ensure that they have personal time for themselves as opposed to past generations where time off was a luxury.

Q: How does a doctor keeps a positive outlook and compassion for patients when dealing with the emotion of daily life and death issues for his or her patients?

A: There was no easy answer to that one but the keys, as expressed by Dr. Pugach, were maintaining a balance between time at work and time at home and having a strong support system at home so that a physician can enjoy time away from the office. Doing that allows doctors to maintain the compassion that leads them to the sacrifices of a medical career and provide the best treatment for each individual patient.