

August 2020

To my valued patients and colleagues,

As of December 1, I will be retiring from clinical practice. After 38 wonderful years with what is now MarinHealth Cardiovascular Medicine, it's time. The actual date is driven at least in part by the current COVID-19 situation and its effect on medical practices, but I'm ready for the next stage of my life.

I've had the honor of being entrusted with the cardiac care of a fantastic group of people, and I hope I've helped. Watching the field develop from a time before echocardiography, angioplasty, and statins to its current state has been endlessly fascinating. Moving from the "cholesterol hypothesis" to the understanding that coronary disease, heart failure, and even atrial fibrillation can be largely managed, even prevented, by lifestyle alterations has been a revelation. And the opportunity to practice with a superb group of colleagues for literally a generation has been remarkably gratifying.

I'm completely comfortable passing on my favorite patients (and you're all my favorites, of course) to my partners. All are beyond competent, all are good people, and all will take good care of each of you. I'd be happy to try to make suggestions, but the truth is our group has done a great job finding excellent physicians for many years and our most recent additions, Dr. Amy Gin and Dr. Ines Sherifi, continue that tradition. Any of our partners will, of course, have access to your records.

You should select another cardiologist as soon as possible. If you have no specific request, we will assign you to one of our partners. If you have scheduling issues, please contact Gina Blackwell at 1-415-927-6170. You are free, of course, to choose a cardiologist in a different practice; if you need records transferred to another physician, please ask their office for a records release form and we will transfer your records.

I'm not leaving town, and I will be available for some months to help with transitions or lingering issues by email, MyChart, or phone. I hope to see many of you again, but out and about in the grocery store or on the tennis courts.

I'm grateful to all of you for a wonderful career. I couldn't have asked for more. Stay well, be kind, and stay strong in these crazy times.

With great respect and affection,

Joel Sklar, MD, FACC