GARY NICOLAISEN, MD

APIC, Surgical Services
Chair, Chiefs of Urology
San Rafael

One of the pleasures of heading a department is being able to hire the kind of outstanding physician I'd want caring for my family and friends.

I select doctors with excellent clinical skills, who are also able to work together with a collaborative spirit. Urology is a team sport here, rather than an individual sport.

In addition to serving as chief, I'm responsible for surgical services for our medical center. I'm proud that I've made our operating rooms even more efficient; created a preoperative clinic; and helped implement Highly Reliable Surgical Teams to improve surgical outcomes.

It's also been exciting to help develop and expand our region's robot assisted prostatectomy program, which offers members many advantages over traditional surgery.

All of these patient-focused efforts are possible because of our terrific team -- and I'm honored to be part of it.

GARY NICOLAISEN, MD

UROLOGY, SAN RAFAEL

2009 Cecil Cutting, MD
LEADERSHIP AWARD

Thanks to the work of Gary Nicolaisen, MD, and his ability to hire and retain outstanding physicians, San Rafael's Urology Department has earned a reputation as a model of communication, collaboration and teamwork.

He's also helped implement innovative programs such as a nurse-run prostate-specific antigen follow up program, and the region's first robot assisted prostatectomy program.

When he became APIC of Surgical Services in 2007, he set three challenging goals – to institute highly reliable surgical teams; improve operating room efficiency; and create a preoperative clinic. He surpassed all three of these goals.

A superb clinician as well as a gifted leader, he maintains an active practice and is regularly called to consult on difficult urology cases throughout the region.