



Ananse Taharka, MD

Director of Adult Intensive Care
and Pulmonary Consultant
East Bay Area

I knew that I wanted to be a doctor from the time I was a young boy. I remember our family doctor; there was something very special about our relationship with him, and I wanted to be like him.

The challenges of critical care medicine are what I love most. We are the ones who must make sure that our sickest patients successfully get into the ICU, and ultimately out of the hospital. I'll never forget one patient who was 'touch and go' after surgery. We stayed up with her through the night. She said later that it was our optimism and conviction that gave her the courage to survive.

I am particularly proud of my role in opening the ICU at Kaiser Permanente Richmond, and for developing the cardiac services team at Summit Hospital. We filled a pressing need to provide quality cardiac services to our patients in the East Bay Area.

I've learned a lot about leadership from my experience as a musician in the world of jazz improvisation. Everyone contributes a unique talent to the ensemble, and ultimately, success is achieved through collaboration.

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CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE, EAST BAY AREA

2008 Cecil Cutting, MD
LEADERSHIP AWARD

Ananse Taharka, MD, led the effort to establish and expand critical care units throughout the East Bay, including Richmond's ICU and Oakland's PICU. His contributions also helped make KP's program at Summit Hospital one of California's top-ranked cardiac surgery units.

Still, he's not one to toot his own horn, unless it's the trumpet, his favorite instrument. Dr. Taharka likens himself and his top-notch medical team to a bandleader with a great band – noting that successful collaboration happens when each 'player' contributes a unique talent to the group.

A multiple award-winning physician, teacher, and leader – with five awards for excellence in teaching alone – he's received local and national recognition for his clinical practice.

