

ABDUL WALI, MD

Assistant Physician-in-Chief and Chief of Staff, Diablo Service Area

Growing up in Afghanistan, I had a family member who was a physician. His care and deep concern for others fueled my dreams that someday I would become a physician, too. My dream came true in the United States.

My desire to help people inspired me to become involved in hospital medicine. I'm proud to say that Kaiser Permanente immediately saw that hospitalists – physicians who would care exclusively for patients in the hospital – would help us provide even more personalized care and service. I eagerly agreed to help develop and implement a hospital-based program for Northern California. In addition, I organized the first team of hospitalists in Martinez and Walnut Creek and continue to lead this outstanding group.

Later, I became the lead physician of a Patient Care Experience Initiative. By looking closely at the hospital experience from the patient's perspective, we've been able to launch more than 40 different projects to improve all aspects of care – from admission through discharge.

I never thought I'd have the opportunity to help so many patients in so many ways. It's been an honor, and the fulfillment of my childhood dream.



"THE GUIDING LIGHT FOR ME IS OUR PATIENTS."

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HOSPITAL MEDICINE, DIABLO SERVICE AREA

2007 Cecil Cutting, MD LEADERSHIP AWARD

In times of change, skilled leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better.

In the mid-1990s, Dr. Wali helped implement a hospital-based specialist program; assembling the first team of hospitalists at Martinez and Walnut Creek to provide more personalized care and service. He's led this outstanding group since 1997.

To further improve members' care, Dr. Wali became the lead physician of the area's Patient Care Experience Initiative in 2004. Through this program, more than 40 different projects have been launched to improve all aspects of care -- from admission through discharge.

His innovative efforts have had a deep and enduring impact on patients and physicians alike.

