



## Lorna Yamaguchi, MD

Assistant Physician-in-Chief for Risk  
and Human Resources  
San Jose

In all that I do, there is nothing more gratifying than caring for patients and their families. In my generation, girls didn't become doctors. My high school guidance counselor discouraged me, but luckily, my chemistry teacher encouraged me to pursue medicine.

After my post-doctoral work at Stanford, I came to Kaiser Permanente to practice intensive care medicine in an environment where I could focus on the patient.

In the course of my career, I have been able to pursue my interests in pulmonology, anesthesiology, and critical care, while developing administrative responsibilities at the same time.

In my role as APIC, my highest priority is keeping our patients,

physicians, and staff members safe. I've been privileged to work with some of the best physicians in the world. Together, we have implemented new patient safety programs, simulation trainings, and technologies to improve patient care.

Human resources is also an interesting area. One of my favorite roles is mentoring new physicians. As we develop, we look beyond our individual specialties to understand how we all fit together. It's at that point new physicians realize that a single physician can make a huge difference in The Permanente Medical Group.

In no other organization can a physician find such a rich tapestry of experience.

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ANESTHESIOLOGY, SAN JOSE

**2008 Cecil Cutting, MD**  
LEADERSHIP AWARD

If it wasn't for her high school chemistry teacher who encouraged her to pursue her love of medicine, Lorna Yamaguchi, MD, might not have become a doctor. Her guidance counselor thought medicine was a poor career choice for a girl. Perhaps that explains why Dr. Yamaguchi is such a passionate mentor.

Her talent as a leader became evident soon after joining the Medical Group in 1982, and as she's played key roles in the implementation of patient safety programs, emergency training, and technologies to improve patient care.

Currently, she's focused on recruitment and retention; supporting education and leadership training; and protecting patients and physicians through risk management.

