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JEFFREY PEARL, MD, APPOINTED ASSOCIATE DEAN AT UCSF/ MOUNT ZION MEDICAL CENTER

Jeffrey Pearl, MD, UCSF clinical professor of surgery, has been named associate dean of UCSF Mount Zion Medical Center.

Haile T. Debas, MD, dean of the UCSF School of Medicine and vice chancellor for medical affairs; announced the appointment.

"Jeff Pearl, whose family, career and academic life is closely interwoven with the history of Mount Zion, has passion for the institution and a vision that will help redefine Mount Zion as a 21st century hospital and a leader in cancer care, women's health, integrative medicine and ambulatory care," Debas said. "His clinical and management expertise, and people's skills as well as his deeply held belief in Mount Zion will ensure success in his new responsibility as associate dean."

Pearl, whose roots run deep at Mount Zion, sees a promising future for the 114-year old institution that originally served as a hospital to treat San Francisco's Jewish population, many of whom were poor Russian immigrants. Mount Zion is being transformed into a comprehensive outpatient facility that includes programs in women's health, cancer, integrative medicine, cardiology and pain management among many other services.

"In the next five to ten years, Mount Zion will be the major focal point of health care in the city," he said. "While hospitals will become intensive care units, taking care of people at one extreme of the healthcare spectrum, Mount Zion will be a place where people can be treated on an outpatient basis. More importantly, it will also be a place where they can educate themselves and get services that will keep them healthy."

One of the first steps towards this vision, Pearl said, is for the leaders of the different programs at Mount Zion to work together and share ideas.

"I'm trying to get some sense of the things we can do here that will allow us not to be independent little silos but a cohesive family," he said. "I'm trying to create a sense of family among physicians and staff so we can all foster good working relationships."

As associate dean, Pearl's duties are many. One of his responsibilities is to help maintain a vigorous academic and learning atmosphere at Mount Zion by establishing rounds and lectureships that will benefit the community, staff and faculty. To this end, he will put together a broad lecture series, working with other programs at the Mount Zion campus such as the UCSF Comprehensive Cancer Center, the Osher Center for Integrative Medicine and

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women's health to develop ideas for talks and speakers. He also wants to bring back a program he started a few years ago called "Evenings Out." This after-hours social and educational get together will bring a diverse group of speakers representing a cross-section of fields to speak to the Mount Zion community. One such speaker will be Pulitzer Prize winning political cartoonist Michael Ramirez who writes for the Los Angeles Times, Pearl said.

"I want to help people feel that they are getting something back by working here," he said. "It's not just putting in your hours and going home."

Another important duty for Pearl is acting as a liaison between Mount Zion and the rest of UCSF, helping to enhance the campuses' overall mission of education, research, patient care and community service. "I don't want Mount Zion to be isolated from the rest of UCSF, but at the same time I would like UCSF to know what we are doing at Mount Zion," he said.

Pearl began his surgical career at Mount Zion in 1978 and became a UCSF faculty member in 1981, following appointments as major in the U.S. Army and instructor in surgery at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD. He received his medical degree from Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City and did postgraduate training at UC San Diego. Pearl became chief of staff in 1991 and was re-appointed to this position in 1998, the first time Mount Zion had a faculty member serve two terms in this position.

Pearl, who grew up in San Francisco near Mount Zion, says his father Milton (Buddy) Pearl was an inspiration to him. Milton Pearl, MD, was an intern at Mount Zion in 1941 and opened a private practice at the hospital in 1951. The elder Pearl also served as Mount Zion's chief of surgery and chief of staff.

Besides helping to nurture the various programs at Mount Zion, Pearl also wants to make the facility look better by upgrading the interior. "We can't have the new cancer center building attached to a building with 1950s style-interior," he said.

One addition will be at the main, joint entrance for Mount Zion and the new clinical cancer building. A large glass wall will be installed next to a pool of water in the lobby, which will have the Hellman building etched into the glass, along with the names of all the former chiefs of staffs. The five-story Hellman building was completed in 1914 as a modern replacement to the original Mount Zion hospital building. This artwork will be an important reminder of Mount Zion's past, Pearl said.

"It will give a sense of what Mount Zion was and what it meant to the community," he said. "I grew up here, so I am directly linked to this hospital. If we don't keep Mount Zion's history alive, then we could lose it forever. The history of this place is important because it will help us with our future."

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