

Moving Hearts Board Members

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kelly Perkins



Kelly is a heart recipient and mountain climber. In 1992, Kelly was diagnosed with viral (idiopathic) Cardiomyopathy, which led to congestive heart failure and ultimately a transplant in 1995. Despite the fact that her donor heart functions differently than her native heart, she has continued her passion of climbing. In doing so, she has helped make strides in the perception of transplantation both inside and outside of the transplant community. Kelly shows what are possible, choosing climbs for symbolic reasons, all in an effort to pull on the heart strings of others to participate in Organ, Blood and Tissue donation. She has climbed such notable mountains as Mt. Kilimanjaro, the Matterhorn, Mt. Fuji, Half Dome, and El Capitan, just to name a few.

Kelly is a real estate agent in Laguna Beach, CA, where she specializes in Coastal properties. She also is an internationally recognized crusader for Organ, Blood, and Tissue Donor Awareness and continues to be a sought after speaker by private and public organizations. In addition, Kelly is the author of *The Climb of My Life* where she recounts her inspirational journey from the brink of death and despair to the thrill and triumph of scaling renowned and symbolic mountaintops. (Rowman & Littlefield, Nov. 2007).

Kelly is also the co-founder and “heartbeat” behind HydraCoach, Inc., the first portable interactive fluid monitor designed to coach an individual’s personal hydration needs.

Kelly has been featured in various media channels worldwide, including *NPR*, *CNN*, *the New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Associated Press*, *Self Magazine*, *NBC News' The Today Show*, and *Oprah & Friends with Dr. Mehmet Oz*, *ABC News*, *Good Morning America* and many others.

Kelly studied Health Sciences at the University Of Oregon for two years before earning a B.A. in Lifestyle Health from San Francisco State University.

Craig Perkins



Craig is a veteran heart transplant caregiver and avid outdoor enthusiast who brings a personal commitment to the foundation that compliments the organization’s “moving” mission.

Craig Perkins is currently the VP of Business Development at Imagine This based in Irvine California. He has been a veteran salesman in the Orange County area since the mid 1980’s, starting as a commercial real estate broker in the Newport Beach office of Grubb & Ellis. In early 1997 he joined Overnite Express, a then young entrepreneurial “regional” shipping company, and helped grow their sales up to and through their acquisition by Norco Delivery Services in 2008. Craig held a variety of leadership positions at each of the respective companies including VP of Strategic Sales, Director of Sales & Marketing, and Senior Account Executive. In 2016 Craig invented and co-founded Tele-Stake, the first car friendly, height adjustable directional sign stake that rotates 360° out of a need to help Kelly’s growing real estate business. In 2001 he founded HydraCoach, where he invented and patented the first portable interactive fluid device designed to monitor proper hydration in medical and athletic applications. His HydraCoach product is sold around the world. In 1994, Craig founded CraKel Publications where he wrote and published the *Personal Health-Care Organizer*, a workbook for patients and caregivers managing chronic illnesses.

As a result of Craig's personal experiences, he has become a global crusader for organ and blood donation. In addition to appearing on multiple television programs, as well as in magazines and newspapers, Craig and his wife are sought after speakers by private and public organizations. Craig earned a Bachelor of Arts degree with a minor in Business in 1983 from the University of San Francisco. He resides in Laguna Beach, California where he has been happily married to Kelly since 1987. Traveling the world, climbing mountains and living a purposeful existence are just a few of the characteristics that make up Craig's zest for life.

Linda Parker



Linda is a Pediatric Nurse with the Children's Hospital of Orange (CHOC) in Orange, California. Linda's practical experience encompasses all facets of pediatric care including general pediatrics, medical/surgical, oncology, neonatal, psychiatric and telemetry.

Linda is originally from California, but grew up in the Southeastern United States. She attended college in Honolulu, Hawaii before completing her Bachelor's degree in Athletic Training at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She joined CHOC in 2002 following the completion of her Associates degree in Nursing.

As an avid adventure sports enthusiast, Linda's interests have ranged from skydiving to mountain bike racing to snow boarding. She continues to actively pursue her 15+ year passion for rock climbing both throughout the United States and abroad.

Linda presently lives in Southern California with her husband and daughter.

Louis R. Dumont



Louis was a human resources management major at the University of San Francisco, graduating in 1983. His academic and extra-curricular contributions earned him a nomination to the Alpha Sigma Nu Honors Society at USF. Mr. Dumont moved to Los Angeles to study law at Pepperdine Law School, earning his law degree in 1986.

Over the years, Mr. Dumont has gained valuable experience in defending liability claims on behalf of both governmental entities and insurance carriers. He has also been involved in handling environmental litigation concerning asbestos and toxic chemicals, as well as matters involving business, real estate and family law.

Mr. Dumont is currently licensed with the State Bar of California and the United States District Court. He is a member of the Los Angeles County Bar Association, Beverly Hills Bar Association, and the Association of Southern California Defense Counsel. He is active as a recruiter and fundraiser for USF and is active working with juvenile delinquents through the L.A. County Bar Association.

Lou resides in the South Bay area with his wife, Elizabeth, and their daughter and son.

ADVISORY BOARD

Dr. Jon Kobashigawa, M.D.



At the Cedars-Sinai Heart Institute, Jon Kobashigawa, MD, is Associate Director for Clinical Affairs, Director of Advanced Heart Disease and Director of the Heart Transplant Program. In addition, Dr. Kobashigawa holds the DSL/Thomas D. Gordon Chair in Heart Transplantation Medicine. He is a past President of the International Society of Heart and Lung Transplantation and served as Chairman of the American College of Cardiology Committee on Heart Failure and Transplantation, which has significant influence on the national health policies of the United States. He has published extensively in the field of clinical heart transplantation and has chaired a number of ground-breaking multi-center clinical trials. Currently serving as President of the International Society of Heart and Lung Transplantation, Dr. Kobashigawa continues to be at the forefront of new advances in heart transplantation.

After earning his bachelor's at Stanford University, Dr. Kobashigawa earned his medical degree at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York. He performed his internship and residency in internal medicine followed by a fellowship in cardiology at the UCLA Medical Center.

Eric Marton



Eric N. Marton is the Chief Strategy Officer for Verity Health System and Chief Executive Officer of the Verity Medical Foundation. He was the former Executive Director of the Cedars-Sinai Heart Institute and President of the California Heart Center Foundation.

Eric began his healthcare career in the early '90s as a managed care contract negotiator representing hospitals and medical groups for the University of California - first with UCSF and later with UCLA.

In 1996 Eric became the Executive Director of University Cardiovascular Medical Group (UCMG) at UCLA. While maintaining its busy private practice, UCMG built one of the largest heart transplant and heart failure programs in the world. Among his other responsibilities, Mr. Marton regularly consults for health care and venture capital organizations and serves as a member of the Board of Directors for several companies. Mr. Marton is also a frequent guest speaker at institutions such as the Anderson Graduate School of Management at UCLA, the Marshall School of Business at USC and the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. In 2007, Mr. Marton became a member of the Young Presidents' Organization (YPO).

Jignesh Patel, MD, PhD



Jignesh Patel, MD, PhD is the Co-Medical Director of the Heart Transplant Program at Cedars-Sinai Heart Institute. He also is an Associate Clinical Professor at the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

Board certified in cardiovascular disease and nuclear cardiology and a fellow of the American College of Cardiology, Dr. Patel has had a longstanding interest in all aspects of cardiovascular disease with special expertise in the management of patients with advanced heart failure and following cardiac transplantation.

Dr. Patel has been the principal investigator or co-investigator of more than 25 research projects in areas related to heart failure and cardiac transplantation. This includes clinical trials of novel

immunosuppressive agents, non-invasive technologies for the detection of rejection and multi-center trials of device therapy in congestive heart failure. His research into these and other areas has resulted in several articles in peer reviewed publications, several books chapters and more than 150 abstracts. He also has lectured extensively on hypertension, atherosclerosis and transplant coronary artery disease.

Dr. Patel is a member of several societies including the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology, the International Society of Heart and Lung Transplantation, the American College of Cardiology, and the Royal College of Physicians of the United Kingdom.

After earning his bachelor's with honors at the University of Cambridge, Dr. Patel earned his medical degree at Cambridge University. He earned his doctorate in vascular biology and physiology at UCLA. After becoming a member of the Royal College of Physicians (MRCP) in the United Kingdom, Dr Patel pursued internal medicine residency at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. He subsequently completed training in cardiovascular diseases in conjunction with his doctorate in the Subspecialty Training and Advanced Research (STAR) Program at UCLA, where he also served as a clinical instructor and chief cardiology fellow.

Lauren Ward-Larson



Lauren is the former President and Chief Ambassador of the Foundation for America's Blood Centers, which supports the independent blood centers that collect half the U.S. blood supply. She is also the author of the memoir, *Zuzu's Petals: A True Story of Second Chances* (In The Telling Press, © 2011), which chronicles her experience with near-fatal preeclampsia. In addition, she has a proven track record as a powerful and compelling speaker and storyteller. Since 2001, she has delivered more than 200 narrative advocacy talks in person, speaking directly to over 55,000 people. She has also given over 220 media interviews, reaching over 6 million people via television, radio, and print.

Prior to becoming a patient advocate/speaker, Lauren Larsen spent eighteen years in the corporate world. Past management roles include vice president of marketing for the 3DO Company, an entertainment software company; vice president of marketing for Thomson Learning, one of the world's largest educational publishers; director of marketing for Simon & Schuster; and brand manager for The Pepsi-Cola Company. She also worked as an independent marketing consultant for various smaller clients.

Lauren holds a B.A. from the University of Arizona, and an M.B.A. with an emphasis in Marketing from U.C.L.A.'s Anderson School of Management.

In her spare time, she and her husband assist Sudanese political refugees and are currently launching a well-drilling program in the war-torn areas of Southern Sudan. Lauren, Jeff, and daughter Clare live in Boulder, Colorado.