



MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

# NEWS

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*Protecting consumers by advancing high quality, safe medical care.*

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## THE BOARD'S MISSION

The mission of the Medical Board of California is to protect health care consumers through the proper licensing and regulation of physicians and surgeons and certain allied health care professionals and through the vigorous, objective enforcement of the Medical Practice Act, and to promote access to quality medical care through the Board's licensing and regulatory functions.



Barbara Yaroslavsky, pictured with former Board President David Serrano Sewell, was known for her leadership and hard work on behalf of California's health care consumers. MBC Photo.

## Remembering Barbara Yaroslavsky

*By Susan Wolbarst  
Public Information Officer*

Barbara Yaroslavsky, who passed away recently at the age of 71, dedicated much of her life to public service, including nearly 13 years on the Medical Board of California (Board).

During her tenure on the Board, she served in nearly every capacity, including terms as secretary and vice president before taking the gavel as president from 2009-2012.

She was first appointed to the Board on September 23, 2003, bringing a trove of knowledge and experience gained serving on boards of many non-profits in Southern California. Barbara served on the board

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Longtime Medical Board Member Barbara Yaroslavsky poses with a Senate resolution honoring her for her work on behalf of California consumers. MBC Photo.



## Driving While Impaired

Do you know if your patients are recreational cannabis users? A 2014 nationwide survey by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported 7,000 new cannabis users every day. The people at University of California San Diego's Training, Research and Education for Driving Safety (TREDs) program have created a brief user-friendly guide for clinicians and pharmacists called *Cannabis & Driving*. It provides answers for some of the many questions that arise when patients use cannabis before getting behind the wheel.

## FDA Approves HPV Vaccine for 27 to 45-year-olds

A vaccine known as Gardasil 9 has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to protect men and women aged 27 to 45 from nine strains of human papillomavirus (HPV). HPV infections can lead to cervical, anal, vaginal, penile, and throat cancers. The CDC said more than 43,000 Americans developed such cancers in 2015. The previous approved HPV vaccine was designed for people aged 15-26 and given in two doses.

The new vaccine will be given in three doses (The Washington Post, October 5, 2018). In a related development, Australia will likely become the first country to eliminate cervical cancer, thanks to a nationwide free HPV vaccination policy beginning with teenage girls in 2007 and expanded to boys, who can carry and transmit the virus and get other HPV-related cancers, in 2013. Cervical cancer is the fourth most common type of cancer in women globally. An estimated 570,000 cases will occur in 2018 (The New York Times, October 3, 2018).

## Tech Med Corner

### Rapid Gene Screen Saving Kids

The California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS) is investing \$2 million in a pilot project to explore how genetic sequencing can be used to quickly diagnose mysterious ailments in low-income children. The pilot program is designed for infants from Fresno, Oakland, Sacramento, and San Diego, who receive Medi-Cal. The money will be used to diagnose infants such as a recent patient – a weakening 11-month-old baby suffering from repeated seizures. He was quickly diagnosed and given daily vitamin doses to successfully stop the seizures. "The practical application of genomic sequencing that we're seeing here at Rady Children's (Hospital, in San Diego), using it to actually save babies' lives, is a compelling story and a very good application of very interesting technology," said, Michael Wilkening, secretary of CHHS. (*San Diego Union-Tribune*, September 26, 2018).

### Newly Developed Flu Medicine Can Zap Flu with One Dose

The Food and Drug Administration has approved a new type of flu drug – an endonuclease inhibitor – which reportedly interrupts the process of viral replication in the body. The drug can be taken by anyone over 12 years of age and requires only one dose, which is either one or two pills, depending upon a person's weight. If the drug is taken within 24 hours after symptoms appear, it is said to shorten a flu sufferer's misery by an average of 33 hours. Taken later, the effect is about half as significant. The brand of the new flu medicine is Xofluza and the wholesale price will be \$150, whether the prescription calls for one or two pills.

([www.statnews.com](http://www.statnews.com), October 24, 2018)