

What Kind of Hospital Does Dr. Martin Brotman *Really* Want to Build?

The San Francisco Business Times reports that Dr. Martin Brotman is stepping down as CEO of California Pacific Medical Center (*see attached*). Brotman plans to devote more time to CPMC's massive plan to build a new hospital at Geary and Van Ness. But what kind of hospital does Dr. Brotman *really* want to build?

On April 8, my wife, Sherri, and I found out. Sherri is a registered nurse who worked at CPMC until 2007 when multiple sclerosis rendered her disabled. When she needed a new primary care physician, she made an appointment with one of Brotman's medical practice partners. As part of the new patient paperwork, Sherri received a medical malpractice arbitration agreement form. Had she signed it, Sherri would have given up her right to sue her doctor for malpractice and to have her case heard by a jury of her peers. Any claim would have had to have been submitted to an arbitrator of the malpractice insurer's choosing.

Sherri didn't sign. She asked to speak with an attorney first. **That's when the doctor refused to treat her.**

If Sherri had been a criminal suspect arrested by the San Francisco Police Department, she would have had the right to remain silent and the right to speak with an attorney. She would have had the right to a jury trial, too. But as a patient in the same office where Dr. Brotman practices medicine, Sherri had *no* legal rights at all.

Dr. Brotman wants to build a fancy, new hospital. But if this is the kind of hospital he wants to build, San Francisco would be better off without it.

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CPMC names Warren Browner to succeed Martin Brotman as CEO

San Francisco Business Times - by [Chris Rauber](#)

California Pacific Medical Center, one of the Northern California's largest and most successful hospitals, will have a new chief executive officer, effective May 4.

CPMC's board promoted Warren Browner, M.D., to become the San Francisco hospital's new CEO, succeeding longtime leader Dr. Martin Brotman. Browner had been CPMC's vice president for academic affairs and a member of its executive management team.

In his new post, one of Browner's key goals will be to work with Brotman to make CPMC's proposed new \$1.7 billion Cathedral Hill hospital and medical campus a reality, a huge challenge in tough economic times.

Sacramento-based **Sutter Health**, California Pacific's parent company, promoted Brotman in mid-February to be president of its new West Bay region. The nonprofit system confirmed in early March that Brotman, 69, had taken on new duties Feb. 12 as part of its new regional Northern California strategy, which replaces individual boards at its 26 hospitals with five regional boards to make governance of the sprawling system more efficient.

Browner, 55, joined the multi-campus San Francisco hospital nine years ago as the first scientific director of its CPMC Research Institute.

Brotman has headed CPMC since 1995 and helped engineer a mid-1990s financial and psychological turnaround that allowed it to remain an elite facility. In an April 6 statement, Brotman said Browner is "uniquely prepared to lead California Pacific," given his prior career as a clinician, administrator, teacher and researcher.

Like many others in the region, CPMC faces great challenges, led by its need to gain regulatory approvals — and sufficient funding — to move ahead with its proposed 555-bed Cathedral Hill hospital and medical campus near downtown San Francisco, at Geary Boulevard and Van Ness Avenue. That project, like many other construction and IT implementation projects at Sutter, is on hold, except for design, planning and entitlement work, while Sutter reviews the economic situation and bond markets.

Before joining CPMC, Browner was a practicing general internist, Chief of General Internal Medicine, and acting Chief of the Medical Service at the **San Francisco VA Medical Center**. He was also professor of medicine, and of epidemiology and biostatistics, at the University of California, San Francisco, and executive editor of the *American Journal of Medicine*. Browner received his medical degree from UCSF and his master's degree in Public Health from the **University of California, Berkeley**.

His research focuses on the genetics of human longevity, according to CPMC, and he is the author of several books and numerous articles in scholarly journals.

Browner recently initiated a collaboration between CPMC and **Dartmouth Medical School**, giving third-year students at the Hanover, N.H., Ivy League campus an opportunity to do their clerkships at California Pacific, enhancing its reputation as a leading teaching hospital, CPMC officials said Monday.

Sutter is one of the region's most powerful hospital networks, with 26 medical centers in Northern California, including **Alta Bates Summit Medical Center**, Castro Valley's **Eden Medical Center** and **Peninsula Medical Center** in Burlingame.

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CPMC named Warren Browner as its new CEO.

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