

Meet Dr. Vang

Ask physicians and staff at Oroville Hospital about what makes the medical center distinctive, and you're bound to hear "family" and "community" in their answers. The medical center boasts a close-knit collection of caregivers dedicated to serving their neighbors.

No one cares more about family and community than Dr. Nhia Kash Vang, a native of Laos who grew up in Oroville. Entering his second year at the hospital, Dr. Vang is the only Hmong physician in the area and plays a particularly significant role in this culturally diverse corner of the North State.

Dr. Vang specializes in family medicine. He is a hospitalist—a hospital-based physician—but administrators also set up an office so he can care for patients on an ongoing basis.

"I think I have an advantage coming from the Hmong community; when there is a Hmong patient, I am able to explain things to them from a culture perspective so they are able to understand a little bit more," Dr. Vang says. "It just makes the hospital stay a little bit easier for them.

"But the other doctors do just as good a job in taking care of them. All of the physicians here are very culturally sensitive and very competent in their fields, and that makes taking care of the patients much easier."

Dr. Vang spends most of his time in the hospital. His family medicine practice is part-time, yet particularly important to him. When he came to Oroville Hospital in 2009, after three years in a local clinic and the hospital in Yuba City, he had a number of patients whom he wanted to continue to follow.

"The days that I work, it's pretty busy," Dr. Vang says, "but it's working out well. Oroville Hospital is able to provide me with the space to provide the care that the community needs. I take care of my patients here in the hospital and also continue to take care of my patients out in the community, so I think I am having the best of both worlds being able to do both things."

Oroville has been home to Dr. Vang's family for more than 20 years, since leaving Laos when he was a child. Dr. Vang graduated from Chico State University and got his medical degree at UC Davis before completing the Stanislaus Family Medicine Residency program in 2006.

"My parents are here. I grew up here. I know the people here and I love the area."

"When I finished with my training, I came back here," Dr. Vang says. "My parents are here, I grew up here, I know the people here and I love the area. It's a small town, family-oriented, nice and quiet. When I was growing up I saw that there was a need, especially in this community, so that's why I went into family medicine."

Dr. Vang has a brother finishing dental school at UCLA who's "probably going to be coming back here, maybe in the summer," Dr. Vang says, "and I have a couple of younger siblings who are interested in the health care field."

In terms of health-care needs and education, Dr. Vang has been an ambassador of medicine in the Hmong community. "It's been rewarding. I've been happy about returning to Oroville."



Oroville Hospital