



The Per Niente



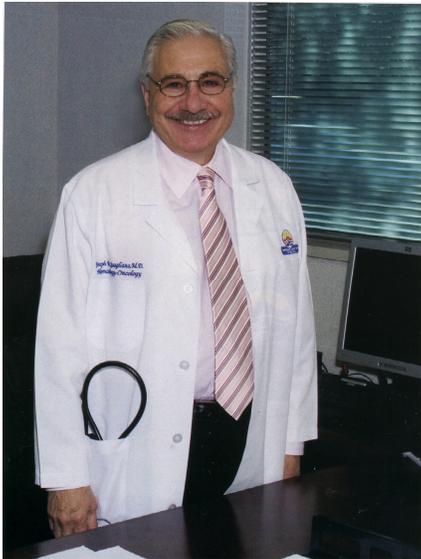
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Dr Joseph Quagliana

From the Fruit Belt to the World of Oncology

Joseph Quagliana, M.D. is widely regarded as Las Vegas' Godfather of oncology and is credited with bringing cancer diagnosis and treatment to Southern Nevada.

Originally from the Fruit Belt section of Buffalo, N.Y., and the son of a butcher/grocer,

Quagliana completed his medical training at the University of Buffalo School of Medicine working as a shoeshine boy and playing the drums to make enough money to pay the bills.. He did his oncology training under distinguished Medical Oncologist Dr. James Holland who wrote Cancer Medicine and his hematology training under renowned hematologist Dr. Maxwell Wintrobe, author of Wintrobe's Clinical Hematology. These prominent textbooks are still used today.

While practicing at a clinic in San Jose, CA, Dr. Quagliana's oncology training paused when he was drafted into the U.S. Air Force in 1966 during the Vietnam War. He served as captain and deputy hospital commander for two years and received an Air Force Commendation Medal for his efforts.

In 1968, he was recruited to join the University of Utah School of Medicine as its first chief of medical oncology. Under Dr. Quagliana's leadership, medical oncology flourished at the university, according to *Medicine in the Beehive State* contributing author Dr. John H. Ward.

While at the University of Utah, Dr. Quagliana established the Intermountain Regional Cancer Network Program to provide cancer education and research training throughout the western region of the country.

Dr. Quagliana's long relationship with the Las Vegas Valley began in 1969, when he established and conducted monthly tumor boards at St. Rose de Lima Hospital in Henderson, and at Southern Nevada Memorial Hospital (known today as University Medical Center).

Many local physicians urged Dr. Quagliana to move to Las Vegas, as there were no board-certified oncologists serving the area's residents. While the doctors were persuasive, the most influential person in the decision was Dr. Quagliana's wife, Paula. "She loved Las Vegas." In August 1974, Dr. Quagliana accepted the position of chief of hematology/ oncology and director of medical education at Southern Nevada Memorial Hospital.

At his clinic, Dr. Quagliana did a lot of work in pediatric cancer. He considers this work to be one of his greatest contributions to the community. Working in concert with Dr. Stephen Feig, Chief of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at UCLA, Dr. Quagliana established pediatric cancer protocols for the state of Nevada.

Quagliana said he was inspired to pursue a career as a physician by the old-time family practitioner in Buffalo, who used to make house calls, he also went into medicine for more personal reasons. "The truth is, I had an invalid brother who got crippling arthritis from age 7, and I watched my mother having to dress him and bath him and care for him. And I watched my dad pay the doctor's bill. They did not have medical insurance at the time," Quagliana said. "It was pretty emotional...and I said, "I've got to do things myself in medicine and try and make it work right for people.



See page 2 for more on Dr Quagliana.

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