



## Kiersten Melendez, PA-C Comprehensive Cardiovascular



### How long have you been practicing medicine?

I have been a physician assistant since 2008 and have worked in cardiology for the past four years.

### Where did you earn your degree and practice medicine?

I earned my degree from the Stanford University's Physician Assistant Program.

### What inspired you to practice medicine?

I have always been interested in the science of medicine and I enjoy taking care of people. I decided that I wanted to be a nurse when I was a teenager, and once I became a

nurse, I knew that I wanted to know more about medicine.

### What do you enjoy most about your work as a physician?

I enjoy working with my patients and making a difference in their overall health and well being. I love it when my patients make meaningful changes and adopt health habits as a result of our interaction and the education we provide them.

### How do you practice living a happy, healthy life?

I try to make healthy food choices, avoid fast food and make exercise a part of my daily routine.



## Viral Y. Mehta, MD Comprehensive Cardiovascular



### How long have you been practicing medicine?

I began a private practice as an interventional cardiologist in 1994. I have been working in medicine for 20 years.

### What inspired you to practice medicine?

At a very early age, I realized that no matter how successful you are, if you are not healthy, everything else is irrelevant. With a career in health care, I can make an important contribution to people's lives.

### Why did you want to practice medicine in Bakersfield?

I did a large part of my training in Southern California, but I wanted to avoid a big city

like Los Angeles. I was looking for a smaller community with culture, closeness and family values. I couldn't think of any place better than Bakersfield.

### What do you enjoy most about your work as a physician?

As an interventional cardiologist, I feel that my work is very rewarding and gratifying. When a patient comes in with a heart attack and I perform an intervention, I could save that person's life.

### How do you practice living a happy, healthy life?

I try to balance work, personal life, entertainment, recreation and hobbies. I try not to overindulge in any one specific area.



## Nasser Khan, MD Comprehensive Cardiovascular

### How long have you been practicing medicine?

I have been practicing medicine in the United States for 21 years.

### Where did you earn your degree and practice medicine?

I trained in internal medicine and cardiology at State University of New York in Syracuse, and then as an interventional cardiologist at the University of Connecticut in Hartford.

### What inspired you to practice medicine?

I have always felt called to be a doctor. I want to care for people when they are most vulnerable, and solve the intricate puzzles of their diagnoses.

### Why did you want to practice

### medicine in Bakersfield?

I wanted to practice in a diverse community with a hard working population like Bakersfield, and Bakersfield has a climate similar to that of my home country, Pakistan.

### What does your job as a cardiologist entail?

I primarily diagnose and treat patients with cardiovascular disease and associated risk factors such as hypertension, diabetes, and obesity. I specialize in opening clogged arteries of the heart and legs with balloons and stents.

### How do you practice living a happy, healthy life?

I relax by reading books and traveling to the beach or mountains with my family. I play tennis to stay in shape.



## Becky Sutton, Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) Comprehensive Cardiovascular



### How long have you been practicing medicine?

I started working as a receptionist and medical assistant at Comprehensive Cardiovascular when I was 19. I went back to school and graduated in 2001 as a registered nurse. In 2013, I received my family nurse practitioner degree.

### Where did you earn your degree and practice medicine?

Holy Names University in Oakland, master's of science in nursing with an option for preparation as a family nurse practitioner. My nursing background is in the intensive care unit.

### What do you enjoy most about your work as a physician?

I really enjoy interacting with patients and

their families. Cardiovascular disease can be a scary diagnosis. I love being a knowledgeable resource for my patients and family members.

### What does your job entail?

I see patients for their follow-up appointments, respond to patients' messages and review lab/test results that come in.

### What makes your practice special?

Our staff – we have physicians and employees that really care about the patients and about each other.

### How do you practice living a healthy life?

Outside of work I enjoy spending time with my husband, two sons and our church family. We love the outdoors, hiking, and I sneak in reading whenever I can.





## Moksedul Habib, M.D. Comprehensive Cardiovascular



### How long have you been practicing medicine?

I have been practicing medicine in the United States since 1998. My specialty is in the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease and cardiac electrophysiology.

### Where did you earn your degree and practice medicine?

I did my training in cardiac electrophysiology at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center and Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles.

### What inspired you to practice medicine?

I went into the specialty of cardiac electrophysiology because I wanted to help people

who were suffering from cardiac arrhythmia, heart failure, and syncope, which is when patients lose consciousness due to a fall in blood pressure.

### Why did you want to practice medicine in Bakersfield?

I started practicing cardiology in Bakersfield in 1999. I fell in love with the people of Bakersfield and decided to stay and serve the residents of this area.

### How do you practice living a happy, healthy life?

I believe in God, and my faith inspires me to keep active and healthy.



## Supratim Banerjee, MD Comprehensive Cardiovascular



### How long have you been practicing medicine?

I have been practicing medicine for 17 years. I spent 14 of those years treating cardiovascular disease, which I now specialize in.

### Where did you earn your degree and practice medicine?

I earned my degree in cardiovascular diseases at the University of Louisville in Kentucky, and then taught medical residents and students at Kern Medical Center. I am now involved in the latest cardiovascular research and clinical trials.

### What inspired you to practice medicine?

I started practicing medicine because there

was a need for more physicians and found it to be very rewarding and fulfilling.

### Why did you want to practice medicine in Bakersfield?

I wanted to practice medicine in Bakersfield because there is a huge need for cardiologists that treat cardiovascular disease.

### How do you practice living a happy, healthy life?

I exercise regularly every day, eat a balanced healthy diet, and get regular check-ups.

### When you aren't hard at work at your office, what do you do to relax?

I enjoy spending time with my family and traveling around the world.