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 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.