

Listen to the Medical Professionals

To the editor:

Marin County may be at risk of losing a great asset.

The residents of Marin County are privileged to have the superb Marin Cancer Institute adjacent to Marin General Hospital, affiliated with Sutter Health. A short drive from our homes, we are able to find excellent oncologists, radiation oncologists, additional healthcare professionals and a broad array of other services tailored to the needs of cancer patients. Annually, hundreds of Marin residents, women and men, avail themselves of these vital services. It is no secret that Marin has alarming breast cancer statistics and when you become one of those stats, you look at Marin General Hospital through different lenses.

We may be at risk of losing the Marin Cancer Institute as the Marin General Hospital District Board searches for a solution to the future management of the hospital. Most of the doctors at the hospital have made it clear through their recent petition that they do not have confidence in the district board to oversee or manage the hospital. They are calling for a long-term lease or sale to a competent healthcare management company. Should the district board fail to hear the doctors, the doctors will relocate to Novato Community Hospital, or Sutter's new property as Marin Square, or they may leave the county. When the doctors leave, their breast cancer patients will follow them as they are joined together in a five-year therapy program. Other specialties are at risk of leaving as well. Our fine community hospital will wither and fail.

The hospital is hemorrhaging now. Get informed. Get involved. Be aware of the leadership of the doctors and healthcare professionals. They are the core of the hospital, not the physical plant. For more information, refer to www.savemgh.org.

— Ann Otter,

former Chair, MGH Operating Board and
Director of MGH Foundation