



M. ELLEN MAHONEY, M.D. 2017 PLESSNER AWARD RECIPIENT

Humboldt County oncologist and surgeon M. Ellen Mahoney, M.D., was awarded the California Medical Association's (CMA) Frederick K.M. Plessner Memorial Award on Saturday, at the association's annual House of Delegates meeting in Anaheim. The award honors the California physician who best exemplifies the ethics and practice of a rural country practitioner. Video -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tvfi1km1k&t=26s>

This year, St. Joseph Health's Cancer Care Program Medical Director and breast cancer researcher Ellen Mahoney was selected to receive the Frederick Plessner Memorial Award at a ceremony last weekend in Anaheim.

"A few years ago, colleagues and I developed a new rural cancer care delivery model so that our patients with complex cancer would receive a standard of coordinated care equal to that of a comprehensive cancer center in any urban area," Mahoney said in a Thursday statement. "With big dreams, limited resources, and terrific local support, we became very creative in using community resources to help fill our patients' needs."

A Humboldt County resident since 2000, Mahoney was the first member of her family to graduate from college, having graduated from Stanford Medical School as one of the first women general surgeons, according to a St. Joseph Health news release. She was also the first woman to open a private surgical practice in Palo Alto and served on Stanford University's faculty where she performed trauma, oncology and general surgeries, according to California Medical Association.

St. Joseph Health stated Mahoney continues to provide care to breast cancer patients and helped to create a partnership with Stanford Cancer Institute that led to the creation of a video conference tumor board.

"Under her leadership, the joint weekly tumor board has become a vibrant, standing-room only demonstration of collaboration and the constant search for each patient's best possible care," St. Joseph Health stated.