Dr. Kusek has been a Pediatrician at the Westmin-
ter Children’s Clinic for the past 11 years and is the Area Operations Chief for
the four clinics in the Metro West Region.

Football games from the sidelines as photo editor
of the world.

25,000 print readers per
issue, such as anesthetic consider-
tations from patient’s age or
time since reaction. Route and
data on the rate of positive peni-
cillin skin test (PenST) results
over time in large populations
are rare. Of 5490 individuals,
251 had positive PenST. The rate
declined from >10% to <5% (13
years studied) accounted for by
the year of testing without con-
tribution from patient’s age or
time since reaction. Route and
frequency of outpatient antibiotic
use may explain this.

Developing Minimally Invasive
Surgery Centers Within Kaiser Per-
manente: The Integrated Multidis-
ciplinary Experience of Los Angeles,
Gary W. Chien, MD, Mihalis A.
Alibas, MD, FACS, FASECS

Although there are unique issues for each specialty, many common
issues, such as anesthetic consider-
tations, organizing operating rooms,
tests, standardization of disposable
products and electro surgical units,
testing and implementation of new equipment, postoperative care,
education, simulation, train-
ing, and research are effective
and efficiently addressed through
a multidisciplinary approach and
complete integration.

Incidental Gallstones. Cindy Ehrle,
RN, MSN, CPHRM, FASHRM

Following the implementation of a new “Images-to-Operating-
Room”—a survey of all Safety Action
Team (SAT) participants showed they
knew more about building a reliable
process, their job satisfaction increased,
patient safety was improved, and the
gains were sustained. The plan is to
continue SATs which are readily trans-
ferrable to other areas and facilities.

Birth Day: A Pediatrician
explores the science, the
history, and the wonder
of childbirth by Mark Sloan, MD
New York: Ballantine Books;
2009 ISBN-10: 0345502868
Hardcover: 384 pages

Prostitution and Trafficking in
Nevada: Making the
Connections by Melissa Farley, PhD
ISBN-10: 0787997528
Hardcover: 326 pages

Gallstones develop in approximately
10% to 15% of the US population.
Complications arise in 1% or fewer in
asymptomatic patients and 2% per
year in symptomatic patients.
Laparoscopic
derivatives have quickly
become the gold standard in the US.
The literature
does not advocate
dextranolol for
gallstones found incidentally during
other abdominal procedures.
CASE STUDIES
55 An Unusual Presentation and Etiology of Hypotension Seen in Nephrotic Syndrome.
Anna-Maria Panagiotides, MD; Aviv Hever, MD; John J Sim, MD
The case discussed illustrates an unusual presentation of hypotension due to amyloid infiltration of the vasculature, leaving the patient susceptible to acute kidney injury even from what is generally considered mild diuresis. The kidneys are the most frequently affected organs in approximately 80% of patients with the disease. Cardiac dysfunction is the second most common presentation.

58 An Unusual Cause of Elevated Values on Liver Function Tests in a Liver Transplant Patient.
Ankur Jain, MD; Amandeep Sahota, MD; Najeeb S Alshak, MD; Jim K Tung, MD
Biliary obstruction and rejection are two of the most common causes of abnormal findings on liver function tests (LFTs) in patients who have already undergone liver transplantation. Here a post-transplant patient with jaundice, not previously vaccinated, had hepatitis B as the cause of his increased values on LFTs.

CLINICAL MEDICINE
Corridor Consult
61 Early and Accurate Diagnosis of Sudden Sensorineural Hearing Loss. Barry Rasgon, MD; Luke James Schloegel, MD
Sudden Sensorineural Hearing Loss is defined as a 30-dB hearing loss in three consecutive frequencies whose onset is less than three days. Most researchers agree it is likely to be of vascular, immunologic, or viral origin, and is regarded as an otologic emergency.

COMMENTARY
Statement on behalf of the Kaiser Permanente Medical Care Program before the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; United States Senate on January 15, 2009.

65 Investing in Health IT: A Stimulus for a Healthier America.
John H Cochran, MD, FACS
Congress should explore investing in the nation’s health care delivery system. KP HealthConnect securely connects 8.7 million people to their physicians, their health care teams, their personal health information, and the latest medical knowledge, leveraging the integrated approaches to health care available at KP. It's not just about digitizing the visit: it's about using visit data to inform and ultimately to transform care delivery.

71 Marketing, Media, Wishful Thinking, and Conflicts of Interest: Inflating the Value of New Medical Technology.
Richard A Deyo, MD, MPH
"Advances"—autologous bone marrow transplantation, Vioxx, arthroscopic debridement—were expensive, marginal treatments that became widely used without adequate scientific evaluation or comparison to competing treatments. "Newly approved" does not necessarily mean new and improved. Marketing, politics, media, and advocacy sometimes trump scientific considerations. "Jumping the gun" before rigorous evaluation makes it hard to practice evidence-based medicine.

EDITORIALS
77 Isn’t it Time to Stop Accepting Handouts for our Educational Efforts? KM Tan, MD
Commercial support for continuing education risks distorting educational content, invites bias, and endangers professional commitment to evidence-based decision making. The Permanente Medical Groups are leading a ban on commercial support for accredited organizations that provide continuing education, especially because it is not the size of the gift, but the giving itself that creates the desire to reciprocate.

80 Dealing With Change: Using the Conditional Change Model for Clinical Research.
Mikel Aickin, PhD
Virtually all clinical medicine is about change. In clinical research one of the most frequently used approaches—to compare changes in a treated group with corresponding changes in a control group—fails to include the baseline measurement value in the analysis. Reasons to prefer the conditional change model over the t-test are: smaller error, similar groups, and less artifact.

85 Attaining Comprehensive Health Care Improvement is Imperative.
Lee Jacobs, MD
Two physicians are on journeys to improve health care. Lawrence Weed, MD (problem-oriented medical record) explores how practitioners process and apply information, using "knowledge couplers" for decisions based on quality data input rather than on recall. Donald Berwick, MD believes that the key to higher quality is understanding and improving 100 core workflow processes covering 95% of all patient care. We need both approaches.

NARRATIVE MEDICINE
88 A Fatal Form of Contentment.
Catherine Hickie, MBBS
A 19th-century query in The Lancet into mass train travel noted vagrants as enjoying the pleasure of travel without having earned it through work—"a fatal form of contentment." The Internet has come with anxieties and fears just as the trains did. A 21st-century psychiatrist wonders if our hopes for new technology are different from the hopes of the Victorians.