

Welcome to Our Practice!

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Our Doctors:

Loraine Stern

Kathy Brockett

Michael Schoenwetter

Brian Kirschner

Rebecca Whitney Mandel

Mary Ellen McCormick

Neela Sethi

Welcome to Valencia Pediatric Associates

We have been caring for the children of the Santa Clarita Valley since 1972. If you have small children, chances are you will be spending a lot of time with us over the years, both in the office and on the phone. We want this to be a positive, supportive experience for you and your children. There is no question that we will enjoy your family, but we also want you to enjoy ours. If there is anything that bothers you or that you think might be done better, please do not hesitate to bring it to our attention.

First a word about the doctors:

They are all certified by the American Board of Pediatrics and are Fellows of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Loraine Stern, M.D.

Was born in Chicago and attended the University of Chicago for college and medical school. Her pediatric training was at UCLA, where she came to get warm in the winter. She wrote a regular feature for Woman's Day for 20 years and also writes for Pampers.com. She has two stepchildren and has absolutely no interest in football because Chicago did not have a football team.

Kathy Brockett, M.D.

Was born in Los Angeles, went to college and medical school at UC San Diego and did her pediatric residency at USC-Los Angeles County Hospital. She is married and has 1 child. She has been with Valencia Pediatrics since 1987. She does not care who wins the USC-UCLA games. Her daughter's golf handicap is a .7.

Michael Schoenwetter, M.D.

Is a native Californian who went to college at UCLA, medical school at UC Irvine and did his pediatric training at UCLA. He was chosen to be chief resident for an additional year. He is married and has two children. He is an avid fantasy football player and is a truly "handicapped" golfer.

Brian Kirschner, M.D.

Was born in New Jersey. He attended the College of William and Mary in Virginia and Medical College of Virginia. He completed his residency at UCLA, as well as being chosen to be chief resident. He is married and has two children. He enjoys hockey, football, and fantasy football.

Rebecca Whitney Mandel, M.D.

Was born in New Hampshire, raised in Maine and attended Harvard University. She went to Tulane for medical school where she obtained her MD and a Master's Degree in Public Health. She then saw the light and came to California for her residency at UCLA and spent an extra year as chief resident. She is a runner and spends all the extra time she can in movie theaters. She is married and has two children.

Mary Ellen McCormick, M.D.

Joined us in July, 2007. She was born in Glendale, California, went to UCLA for college. She left Los Angeles briefly to attend medical school at UC Davis but returned to UCLA for her pediatric training. She has been married since 2004 and her husband is in training for pulmonary intensive care at Cedars. She has one child. She is an avid sports fan- football, baseball, and basketball, especially when UCLA is playing.

Neela Sethi, M.D.

Dr. Neela Sethi was born and raised in Palos Verdes, California. She attended the University of California at Los Angeles for her undergraduate training, and graduated both Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa with a major in Psychobiology. She stayed a loyal Bruin and continued at UCLA medical school, where she graduated with honors. She completed her residency in Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine at Cedars Sinai Medical Center. Her special interests include childhood obesity, nutrition and breastfeeding advocacy. She is also trained as a certified lactation educator.

Here are some common questions that patients have. If you have others, please ask us.

WHAT INSURANCE DO YOU ACCEPT?

A complete list of current insurance plans in which we participate is available on request from the front office. Since we are constantly adding new ones, it is impractical to list them here. Even if we are not in the printed provider list your insurance company sends you, we may be on your plan. Call the insurance department to find out if we accept your insurance.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOURS?

Weekdays we open at 8:00 a.m. and close on or about 5:30 p.m. During flu season, or if we have sick patients, we stay until everyone is taken care of. We know that children seldom time their illnesses for anybody's convenience. We encourage you to call us rather than go to urgent care or the emergency room unless it is truly a "911" emergency. If your child needs after hours care, we will direct you to the most appropriate place. Saturdays we are open half-day in the morning. There is usually only one doctor in the office. We reserve Saturday mornings for sick children.

WHAT IF MY CHILD IS SICK? HOW SOON CAN HE/SHE BE SEEN?

We always make room for sick children on the day you call. We try to get patients with scheduled appointments in as close to the appointment time as possible, so you may have to wait to be seen, but we will not make you wait until the next day.

If your child is sick during the night and you know you want him/her to be seen in the morning, be in at 8:00 a.m. For later times, please call our office to schedule an appointment.

If your child is sick, please enter through the right hand door. If you are here for a checkup or a routine visit with a well child, you may enter the well side which is to the left.

HOW DO WE REACH YOU IN AN EMERGENCY?

If there is a life-threatening emergency, do not hesitate to call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room. For less severe situations, we prefer that you always call us first. There are often many things we can do to relieve the situation without bringing your child to strangers.

After hours, call our office number and listen to the message. If it is before 10:00 p.m. and you can wait to be called back within an hour (often less), press 6. If you need to talk to the doctor on call immediately or it is after 10:00 p.m., press 7 and we will be paged. Be sure to leave your phone number slowly and clearly.

We always return phone calls. If you are not called back within an hour, it is because there is some glitch. The most common reason is that parents leave their work number by mistake or forget to leave a phone number at all, or it is just a neurotic quirk. If you are not called within an hour, please call again.