Targeted therapies and immunotherapies show promise to cure cancers or reduce their effects, he says.

“Targeted therapies and immunotherapies are showing a lot of promise and are likely the future of cancer treatment,” Van Etten said. “The future is already here; it’s coming very, very fast.”

“We’re taking cancers that are previously incurable and we’re curing them. We’re taking other cancers and turning them into chronic diseases that patients can live with.”

Nevertheless, Van Etten said, cancer is on track to overtake cardiovascular disease as the No. 1 killer in the U.S. Treatment of more than 150 forms of cancer is expected to cost the economy $240 billion a year.

### St. Joseph CEO announces plans to leave post

Deborah Proctor will end 10-year tenure as health care industry undergoes broad changes and increasing financial pressure.

Deborah Proctor, CEO of St. Joseph Health, will step down at the end of this year after a decade in which she oversaw the healthcare system’s growth into a $6 billion medical delivery system that has become a major pillar of hospital and physician care in Orange County and beyond.

She will leave the Catholic nonprofit healthcare system in a fortified position to confront the headwinds buffeting the hospital industry. All hospitals are under financial pressure in an era of new payment models that stress the quality of patient care rather than the volume of services provided. And they face fines for medical errors and readmissions that are deemed above normal.

St. Joseph own seven hospitals in California, Texas and New Mexico—including three in Orange County—and has numerous affiliated doctor groups.

Proctor, 63, is the first woman who is not a nun to head the health system since it was formed in 1920 after a flu epidemic. She joined the hospital group as CEO in 2005, and later shepherded it to a powerhouse affiliation with one of the most profitable hospitals in the county, Hoag Hospital.

“St. Joseph Health will enter the next decade at a time of rapid change and increased competition,” said Mireille Jacobson, director of the Center for Health Care Management.
**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

"Women may experience a combination of things they don’t always associate with a heart attack. Maybe we need to do a better job of explaining and describing to the public what a heart attack looks and feels like."  

**JUDITH LICHTMAN**  

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER  

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY  

U.C. IRVINE  

DISCUSSING A STUDY SHE AND COLLEAGUES CONDUCTED EXPLAINING WHY FEWER WOMEN SEEK EMERGENCY CARE FOR HEART ATTACK SYMPTOMS, AS TOLD TO NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO

**CANCER: UCI explores new treatments**

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The antibodies are absorbed into patient’s blood and begin attacking cancer cells. Three of these drugs were approved last summer by the Food and Drug Administration, Van Etten said.

**THERAPIES**

Therapies that more closely target malignant cells while sparing healthy ones are some of the focus of many cancer researchers, said Dr. Richard Van Etten of UCI Irvine.

For complicated cancers such as melanoma and lung cancer, targeted therapies have a chance of attack. Three patients have treatment that is showing success, Van Etten said.

"Multiple antibodies called body-digging drugs husband a poison to a patient’s cancer cells, which then seek out cancer tumor cells. The antibodies are otherwise not harmful to the malignant cell and broken down, and the poison is released and kills the cancer cells that are different from surrounding healthy cells, normal tissue is spared.

Three of these drugs were approved last summer by the Food and Drug Administration, Van Etten said.

**PROCTOR: St. Joseph Health CEO to quit**

FROM PAGE 1

Industry watchers said Proctor has navigated that environment well by forming partnerships with insurance companies and other health care providers — mainly Blue Cross — that provides coverage to about one-third of health care claims in Orange County through a network of hospital facilities, their affiliated physician groups and separation plans. The deal also led to the creation of an online resource for patients and researchers at Children’s Hospital of Orange County, which Proctor joined in 2013.

"Through Deborah’s leadership, St. Joseph is very well positioned," said Dr. Mitch Scrivani, a health care consultant with Deloitte LLP. "A very close relationship and integration with Hoag was a really smart move."

Proctor’s 43-year career at the health care industry began in cardiac-rehabilitation services when she was a graduate student in the eighth grade when she watched her teacher dissect a sheep’s heart.

After working with St. Joseph Hospital in various leadership roles, then as a consultant with Haymarket Health, which Proctor has formed a partnership with Children’s Hospital of Orange County.

"I was amazed when I began to work at St. Joseph that people talked about faith, how we would operate, our mission, our values," the Merage School’s Jacobson said.

"He’s a really tough environment. We’re not going to let us down and attack can- ner cells," he said.

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