

## **Tribute and Dedication to Fidelia Butt MD**

2023 Seed of Hope is dedicated in loving memory of Dr. Fidelia Butt, who believed in the impact of “The Seeds of Hope” to empower our community with hope and who supported us from the beginning in 2010 through the AACSN as well as her endless dedication to care for those in need.

[Recording of the Tribute and Dedication to Fidelia Butt MD](#) · Doug Gor Asian American Cancer Support Network- Dedication

[2022 Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Honorees - AACI](#)

Dr. Fidelia Butt  
ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH  
HONOREE  
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In Memory of Dr. Fidelia Butt  
Head and Neck Surgeon at The Permanente Medical Group  
Co-founder of the Asian American Cancer Support Network

Fidelia transitioned to Heaven on angel’s wings on April 11, 2022 after a valiant, courageous, and ferocious battle with pancreatic cancer. Fidelia was a Bay Area native and grew up in Saratoga, California. Upon graduating with honors from Saratoga High School, she attended Stanford University where she earned both a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences in Music and Biological Sciences and a Master of Science degree in Biology. As a young child, Fidelia knew she wanted to follow in her beloved father’s footsteps to become a doctor and give the gift of healing to others. She attended George Washington University for medical school, University of Chicago for a residency in General Surgery and UC Davis for a residency in Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery and a fellowship in Head and Neck Oncology/Skull Base Surgery. She joined the Head and Neck Surgery department at Kaiser Santa Clara in 2000 where she served as chief for several years. She also served as an Adjunct Clinical Associate Professor at Stanford and volunteered at the VA Hospital in Palo Alto. Along with the Radiation Oncology and Medical Oncology departments, Fidelia developed a comprehensive head and neck cancer program at Kaiser Santa Clara Medical Center where she was the primary oncologic surgeon, and she was a founding member of Kaiser’s Northern California Head and Neck Cancer service.

Fidelia was relentlessly passionate about serving those most in need. During medical school, Fidelia did research at the National Institutes of Health and helped organize a free medical clinic for the homeless at the Community for Creative Non-Violence shelter. Fidelia devoted tireless hours to working with several nonprofit organizations and volunteering with Mercy Ships and other medical missions both locally and internationally, including Cambodia, China, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Jordan, Pakistan, and Syria, among others. She also volunteered as a

Primary Care Physician at the CityTeam homeless shelter in San Jose and co-founded the Asian American Cancer Support Network. Additionally, Fidelia worked closely with AACI (Asian Americans for Community Involvement) for many years, most recently serving on their Quality Improvement Committee. While Fidelia received numerous accolades for her dedication to humanitarian service, including the Hick Williams Community Service Award, the Physician Hero Award, the J.E. Wallace Sterling Award upon graduation from Stanford, and the Award of Merit from the Stanford Associates, her only motivation and her greatest joy was to help those in the greatest need. To paraphrase her colleagues, Fidelia saved and positively impacted countless lives during her career and is overwhelmingly beloved for her compassion, generosity, dedication, humility, and kindness. Fidelia represented the “truest qualities of an exemplary physician and surgeon and is an inspiration to all who knew her as to what we should aspire to be.”

2022 Stanford University Award of Merit to the Stanford Asian Pacific Alumni Summit Leadership Team, of which Dr Butt was 1 of 7 people on the team for outstanding volunteer service to Stanford University.

2022 Santa Clara County Medical Association Robert D. Burnett, MD Legacy award  
-The Robert D. Burnett, MD, Legacy Award is for a physician member of the Medical Association who has demonstrated extraordinary visionary leadership, tireless effort, selfless long-term commitment, and success in challenging and advancing the health care community, the well-being of patients, and the most exalted goals of the medical profession.

#### [2023 TRIBUTE TO WOMEN AWARDS](#)- YMCA Golden Gate Silicon Valley

##### Honorees

DR. FIDELIA BUTT (In Memory Of), Physician, Kaiser Permanente Nominated by: Karla Rodriguez Lomax, Public Affairs Director, Kaiser Permanente Fidelia was a surgeon at Kaiser Permanente for over 20 years. She was also an Adjunct Clinical Associate Professor at the Stanford School of Medicine and volunteered at the VA Hospital. Locally, Fidelia was a co-founder of the Asian American Cancer Support Network. She ran the free medical clinic for City Team's men's homeless shelter. And she volunteered with numerous non-profits and at Menlo Church. Globally, Fidelia went on medical missions trips providing pro bono surgical care in numerous countries. Fidelia was a 3-time breast cancer survivor. Sadly, she lost her battle to pancreatic cancer in April 2022.

2023 Journal of Clinical Oncology (JCO) Precision Oncology, focusing on pancreatic cancer using patient data, which was dedicated to Dr Butt.

<https://ascopubs.org/doi/full/10.1200/PO.22.00570>

#### [The Fidelia Butt Memorial Medical Mission Scholarship](#)- 2022

The Fidelia Butt Memorial Medical Mission Scholarship is dedicated to helping residents develop a lifelong passion for community service and volunteerism in the medical field.

Dr. Fidelia Butt was a Head and Neck Oncologic surgeon at Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara who was beloved by her patients, staff and fellow physicians for her boundless compassion, dedication, and collegiality. Dr. Butt played a crucial role in the development a robust comprehensive head and neck cancer program at Santa Clara Medical Center where she was the primary oncologic surgeon for decades. Later, she was a foundational member and the South Bay pillar of the Northern California Head and Neck Cancer Service. She saved and positively impacted countless lives during her career. She was passionate about community service and volunteerism, spending many vacations on medical missions often traveling internationally to help those in need. Sadly, Dr. Butt passed away from pancreatic cancer in April 2022. This scholarship is a tribute to her dedication and passion for service and volunteerism.

Awardees will be granted \$5,000 towards domestic or international mission work.

Awardees will be expected to:

- Complete the medical mission work within 12 months of being selected.
- Report to regional Graduate Medical Education global health group at least 3 months in advance to complete required paperwork with the site, and to secure malpractice insurance.
- Write a short essay about their experience for the regional GME global health blog within one month of returning. <https://residency-ncal.kaiserpermanente.org/kpglobalhealth/>