

## Hospital completes circle at Mission Bay: UCSF Medical Center adds clinical element to huge biomedical campus

By Chris Rauber

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UCSF Medical Center CEO Mark Laret and executive director of the Mission Bay Hospital Project, Cindy Lima, are excited to see the finish of their 1.52 billion hospital project on Wednesday, January 21, 2015. (Conner Jay/San Francisco Business Times)

Conner Jay

Until now, the UC San Francisco campus at Mission Bay was missing just one crucial element, says UCSF Medical Center CEO [Mark Laret](#): a significant clinical component.

The new UCSF Medical Center at Mission Bay completes the biomedical university's campus, he says, placing a major clinical facility in the midst of a major research complex "at the center of a major U.S. city."

"It completes the continuum for us," Laret said. "I'm really ecstatic. This project has been at least a dozen years in gestation, and it's ready for a healthy delivery on Feb. 1."

For those who envisioned and built it, the \$1.52 billion UCSF Medical Center at Mission Bay is the final piece in the puzzle, linking the university's clinical and research efforts in the new campus with the specialty women's, children's and cancer specialty facility.

The Mission Bay campus — which covers what until recent years was an urban wasteland — now includes the new 289-bed hospital, UCSF Chancellor [Sam Hawgood](#)'s offices, and a constellation of research institutes.

The various centers have sprouted over the last decade or so, from Genentech Hall in 2003 to Mission Hall last fall.

With the hospital set to open its doors in late January for outpatient care and early February for inpatient operations, the biomedical campus' clinical component has finally arrived, more than a decade after planning began.

[Cindy Lima](#), the executive in charge, shepherded the huge construction project through to completion, along with Laret, [Stuart Eckblad](#), the project's director of design and construction, and a host of vendors, led by outside architect [Stantec](#) and general contractor DPR Construction.

Roughly 100 biotech and life sciences firms are clustered nearby, helping make biomedical research a \$1.33 billion industry in the city, much of it centered in Mission Bay.

There were times when Laret and crew wondered if they'd be able to meet fund-raising goals or stay on budget, but ultimately the huge facility came in on time and slightly under budget, thanks in part to cost-saving suggestions by vendors and what Laret calls "the amazing duo" of Lima and Eckblad.

Now, it's time to get to work, Laret said. "We are at the point when everybody wants to see patients here tomorrow."