Marvin E. Ament, MD, is a distinguished professor of pediatrics and a pioneer in his field

IN JANUARY 2011, DR. MARVIN AMENT WILL TAKE A NEW position as chief of pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology, and nutrition at Central California Children's Hospital and Medical Center in Madera, California. This is a 335-plus bed facility that serves the central California valley communities from Modesto in the north to Bakersfield in the south. Dr. Ament has recruited a staff that will provide diagnostic and therapeutic services, making it unnecessary for patients to travel to the South or North Coast cities for care.

Dr. Ament, who has been a pioneer in the development of the subspecialty of pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology and nutrition, is retiring from his position as head of the division of Pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology and nutrition at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA after 38 years. Dr. Ament is a distinguished professor of pediatrics in the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

Dr. Ament is a pioneer in his field. He developed tests and tools needed to evaluate children with gastroesophageal reflux. He also developed pediatric endoscopes and colonoscopes to visualize diagnostically the intestinal tract and in some instances perform therapeutic interventions.

Dr. Ament is recognized internationally for pioneering the therapeutic technique of home parenteral nutrition for infants, children, and adults. He built an intestinal rehabilitation program more than 35 years ago to help patients with intestinal failure by providing them with intravenous support at home until their intestines adapted.