

Health Science Campus gets ready to hold on and ShakeOut

With 22 million people living and working in southern California, a major earthquake in the region could cause an unprecedented catastrophe. What residents do now, before a big earthquake, will determine what their lives will be like after.

Students, faculty and staff on the Health Science Campus can learn how to prepare at a one-hour free seminar Tuesday, Oct. 28, 11 a.m.-noon in Mayer Auditorium of the Keith Administration Building. The seminar will be presented by Steve Goldfarb, a USC fire safety and emergency planning specialist.

Goldfarb, who also is a nationally known emergency response trainer and president of the Business and Industry Council for Emergency Planning and Preparedness in Los Angeles, will cover what to do before, during and after an earthquake; how to prepare your home and family; and the USC earthquake response plan.

The seminar is hosted by Health Sciences Public Relations and Marketing, which will provide cookies and beverages. Attendees may bring their own lunch.

The seminar is one of three to be offered by the USC Emergency Planning Team in preparation for the Great Southern California ShakeOut. The other two will be Wednesday, Oct. 29, at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. in Bovard Auditorium on the University Park Campus.

Organized by the Earthquake Country Alliance, the Great Southern California ShakeOut is a week of special events featuring a massive earthquake drill at 10 a.m. on Nov. 13. With a goal of at least 5 million participants, the ShakeOut drill will be the largest in U.S. history. To participate, register at www.ShakeOut.org.

USC University Park Campus will be one of the primary sites for the Nov. 13 mass casualty and building inspection exercises. The Disaster Medical Response Team will set up the treatment area and be responsible for performing triage, treating the injured and providing crisis intervention and counseling. The team, under the direction of the Student Health Center, is comprised of the School of Dentistry, School of Pharmacy, the USC Community Emergency Response

USC READY EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS CAMPAIGN



DROP



COVER



HOLD ON

Team, Center for Work and Family Life, and the School of Social Work.

The Department of Public Safety will perform a "windshield" survey of the USC campus and provide security for the treatment area location and other areas as needed. Transportation Services, with the help of the ROTC, will transport patients and equipment from the field location to the treatment area.

Facilities and Housing building safety teams will check each building for

structural damage; Hospitality Services will distribute emergency food and drinking water; and Housing Services and Residential Education will provide shelter for anyone unable to leave campus and return home.

To learn more about the ShakeOut, and earthquake preparation tips, visit www.daretoprepare.org. USC students, staff and faculty can receive a 10 percent discount on emergency supplies at www.sosproducts.com.

Nikias named executive vice president and provost



The USC Board of Trustees voted to change the university bylaws to replace the title of provost and senior vice president for academic affairs with the title executive vice president and provost. This will be C. L. Max Nikias's new title, effective immediately.

According to USC President Steven B. Sample, the new title more appropriately describes the

responsibilities and duties of the provost as they have evolved over time and is especially relevant as the University prepares to acquire USC University Hospital and USC Norris Hospital.

The new hospital administration will report directly to the provost, as do the deans of the College and all the professional schools, including the Keck School of Medicine.

Nikias will continue to serve as the chief academic officer of the University and to serve as the acting president in Sample's absence.

There will be no change in the titles of the other senior officers, Todd Dickey, senior vice president for administration, and Martha Harris, senior vice president for university relations.

NIH awards \$8.9 million grant to Keck School researcher to study diagnosis of glaucoma

By Katie Neith

David Huang, the Charles C. Manger III Chair in Corneal Laser Surgery at the Keck School of Medicine, is the principal investigator of a new \$8.9 million grant from the NIH to study glaucoma, a leading cause of blindness in the United States.

The five-year grant will target the diagnosis and monitoring of glaucoma, a common, chronic degenerative eye disease that does not always present with initial symptoms and is often diagnosed in later stages when vision loss is irreversible.

"We hope to improve the diagnosis of glaucoma so people can know from a quick non-invasive imaging test whether they need to be treated or followed for glaucoma," said Huang. "Contrary to common belief, measuring eye pressure is not an accurate way of knowing whether someone has glaucoma or not."

The Advanced Imaging for Glaucoma (AIG) study will seek to advance the technology of optical coherence tomography (OCT), which offers a much more precise image of

the eye structures affected by glaucoma. Huang is co-inventor of the OCT technology, along with Keck School Dean Carmen A. Puliafito. They were part of a team that invented the technology at Harvard University in the early '90s.

Huang hopes to build upon his knowledge of the technology to improve the speed so that a 3-D set of images can be taken in a fraction of a second. He and his team will also use OCT to measure blood flow in the eye.

"We believe computer analysis of high resolution three-dimensional images of the optic nerve head and retina will be a much better way to follow glaucoma," said Huang. "These new developments will not only help us manage glaucoma better, but may also be useful in the management of retinal diseases, neurologic diseases and cardiovascular diseases, which all have manifestations in the eye."

For more information on the study, visit www.AIGstudy.net.