By Jane Brust

The Trojan Family has grown by two with USC’s acquisition of the USC University Hospital and USC Norris Cancer Hospital, effective April 1.

The deal in which USC purchased the two private hospitals from Tenet Healthcare Corp. for $275 million closed March 31.

USC, one of the world’s leading private research universities, and UCLA are now the only two Los Angeles-area universities owning hospitals. USC’s purchase includes 471 inpatient beds and 1,600 hospital employees. Planning is already under way for recruiting additional physicians, hiring additional nurses and other personnel, refreshing facilities and enhancing patient amenities.

With the hospital acquisition, USC’s faculty physicians will care for private patients at two hospitals owned and managed by the university, allowing for greater physician direction of clinical programs and acceleration of innovative therapies and surgical techniques for cardiovascular and thoracic diseases, urologic disorders, neurological issues, organ transplantation, cancer treatment, disease prevention and other health concerns.

USC President Steven B. Sample credits key members of the USC Board of Trustees with helping to bring the acquisition to a successful conclusion.

“Our trustees were crucial to this intricate and exacting process. Our current chairman, Ed Roski, like so many of his board colleagues, wholeheartedly believed that USC’s clinical enterprise would flourish remarkably once the university owned and integrated its academic medical center,” Sample said. “And our immediate past chairman, Stanley Gold, likewise lent his zeal and considerable talent to the project for two years, proving himself an astute chief negotiator for USC in this landmark acquisition.”

Negotiations have been under way since April 2008, when USC and Tenet signed a non-binding letter of intent for
USC School of Dentistry marks end of Harold Slavkin era with ‘heartfelt gratitude’

By Beth Dunham

On March 26, the USC School of Dentistry celebrated the deanship of Harold Slavkin, who led the school from 2000 through 2008.

Faculty, staff, alumni, family and friends marked the occasion with a reception in the University Club, complete with a performance by members of the Trojan Marching Band. Acting dean Sigmund Abelson welcomed attendees and lauded Slavkin as a visionary, innovator and great communicator.

“You are admired and loved by your School of Dentistry,” Abelson said. “We are all the better because of your caring.”

Ralph Allman, chair of the School of Dentistry’s Board of Councilors, saluted Slavkin’s “lifetime of achievement” while Executive Vice President and Provost C. L. Max Nikias conveyed his respect.

“Both losing a Super Bowl game and the intensity of the game may play a role,” Kloner said. “Researchers analyzed post-game deaths on the day of and for two weeks after the Los Angeles Rams lost to the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1980 and when the Los Angeles Raiders defeated the Washington Redskins in 1984. They also looked at data from the Super Bowls between 2000 and 2004 when Los Angeles did not have a professional football team.

“Stress may trigger cardiovascular events,” Kloner said. “Emotional stress involving a local sports team, especially in a highly publicized rivalry as in the Super Bowl, is no exception. USC study links football losses to heightened risk of fatal heart attacks

By Meghan Lewit

A study by Robert Klomer, professor of medicine at the Keck School of Medicine and heart researchers at Good Samaritan Hospital found that football fans in the U.S. are at increased risk for heart attack death, especially following a losing Super Bowl game.

The finding was presented March 28 at the American College of Cardiology annual meeting in Orlando, Fla.

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Employees hail change in hospital ownership to USC: ‘It’s like a brand new day!’

Continued from page 1

the university to acquire the two hospitals. Throughout the negotiations, USC has been advised by Moelis & Company. The University filed a lawsuit in August 2006 seeking to end the relationship with Tenet, and Tenet filed a counterclaim against the University seeking monetary damages. The litigation was set aside a year ago as negotiations began.

“The hospital acquisition is an historic investment by USC and a strategic move to create an integrated academic medical center,” said USC Executive Vice President and Provost C.L. Max Nikias. “We look forward to enhancing the patient service that comes with the outstanding care provided by our Doctors of USC. In so doing, we will elevate the Keck School of Medicine of USC to a nationally acclaimed leader among the nation’s medical schools.”

Effective April 1, Mitchell R. Creem became Chief Executive Officer of the two hospitals following a nationwide search led by Nikias. A seasoned hospital administrator widely known for his experience in revitalizing academic medical centers, Creem joined USC as Vice Provost in June.

With 25 years of management experience, Creem has influenced all aspects of the health care industry, including hospital, research and faculty group practice management.

As CEO, Creem reports to Nikias and will work collaboratively with Keck School of Medicine Dean Carmen A. Puliafito, who also reports to Nikias.

In an e-mail memo April 1, Creem welcomed hospital employees to the Trojan Family. “Now, the work of running our hospitals begins as we create our new USC academic medical center,” he said. “We will be working together in new and different ways to improve existing systems, create and expand our patient-focused programs and enhance our services throughout the clinical enterprise.

“I am privileged to have the opportunity to carry the USC tradition of quality and excellence to these two hospitals,” Creem said. “Together, with our faculty physicians, nurses, hospital staff and Keck School leadership, we will lead the USC University Hospital and the USC Norris Cancer Hospital into a new era of excellence in academic medicine.”

Puliafito has commented that Creem brings keen medical center expertise and a collaborative leadership style to the new academic medical center model. “Mitch already has cultivated productive relationships with our Keck School of Medicine faculty physicians, and we look forward to working with him to create the integrated academic medical center that we all envision for USC.”

Facilities at the 411-bed USC University Hospital include the new 10-story Norris Inpatient Tower, which provides 11 new operating rooms and 150 inpatient rooms, many of which have never been used. Facilities at the USC Norris Cancer Hospital include 60 beds. When USC opens the new inpatient beds at University Hospital, the Doctors of USC will be caring for patients throughout a 1,400-bed system, including the 600-bed Los Angeles County+USC Medical Center and the 317-bed Childrens Hospital Los Angeles.

USC’s more than 500 Doctors of USC are well known for the care they have provided to patients at LA County’s LAC+USC facilities for more than 100 years, building the largest academic training program in the country with more than 900 residents and fellows.

In recent decades, the Doctors of USC also have built private practices at the USC Norris Cancer Hospital and the USC University Hospital. The acquisition of the two private hospitals will allow the Keck School of Medicine to recruit additional world-renowned academic physicians who are committed to excellence in patient care both at the County facilities and at the private hospitals, while also committed to excellence in medical education and clinical research.

USC University Hospital opened in 1991 under the ownership of National Medical Enterprise Inc., which later became Tenet. An acute care hospital, USC University Hospital currently tracks 7,700 inpatient visits and 56,000 outpatient visits each year.

Tenet acquired Norris Cancer Hospital in 2003. Devoted exclusively to the treatment of patients with cancer, the hospital is affiliated with the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, one of the original eight such centers in the U.S.
Calendar of Events

The HSC Calendar is online at www.usc.edu/hsccalendar

Friday, Apr. 3 – Friday, Apr. 10

Global Health Awareness Week. This week’s program features a series of guest lectures and a diverse range of events. Info: http://ghaw.info

Monday, Apr. 6

NOON. “Case Presentations,” Shahroz Bermanian, USC. DNT B3B105. Info: (323) 409-7995

NOON. NEPHSAP: Hypertension, Mitra Nadim, USC. GNH 4420. Info: (323) 226-7307

Tuesday, Apr. 7


Wednesday, Apr. 8

NOON. “What Conscience Rights for Healthcare Workers,” Laila Muderspach, USC and Fr. Juan Velez. NOR Medical Library. Info: (818) 450-4720

Friday, Apr. 10


NOON. “Case Presentations,” John Kim, USC. OPT ASC129. Info: (323) 409-7995

Monday, Apr. 13

NOON. NEPHSAP: Fluid, Electrolyte and Acid-base Disturbances,” Alan Yu, USC. GNH 4420. Info: (323) 226-7307

NOON. “Case Presentations,” Shahroz Bermanian, USC. DNT B3B105. Info: (323) 409-7995

Tuesday, Apr. 14

8:45-NOON. The 19th Annual Cancer Surveillance Program Educational Symposium. “From Surveillance to Prevention,” Various speakers. NOR Anisty Conference Ctr. RSVP: csp.symposium@usc.edu


Thursday, Apr. 16

NOON. Cellular Homeostasis Lecture Series. “PPARs, Macrophage Activation and Insulin Resistance,” Ajay Chawla, Stanford. MCH 156. Info: (323) 442-3121

Friday, Apr. 17


NOON. “Case Presentations,” Yi Zheng, USC. OPT ASC129. Info: (323) 409-7995

Monday, Apr. 20

NOON. NEPHSAP: Transplant,” Yasir Qazi, USC. GNH 4420. Info: (323) 226-7307

Notice: Deadline for calendar submission is 4 p.m. Monday to be considered for that week’s issue—although three weeks advance notice of events is recommended. Please note that timely submission does not guarantee an item will be printed. Send calendar items to HSC Weekly, KAM 400 or call (310) 545-2239. For more information or to register, e-mail Candy Duncan at cdadsc@aol.com or call (310) 545-2239.

5k ‘Walk for Keck’ slated for April 16

The USC University Hospital Guild will host its annual “Walk the 5k for Keck” on April 16 to raise money for scholarships for Keck School students and medical research.

The group invites students, staff, faculty and friends to participate in the event, which will run from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Harry and Celesta Pappas Quad. Entry costs $10 and participants will receive a T-shirt, energy bar, water and lunch.

For more information or to register, e-mail Candy Duncan at cdadsc@aol.com or call (310) 545-2239.

In Case of An Emergency...

Visit the USC Web: http://emergency.usc.edu

Call the Emergency Information Phone: 213-740-9233

This page will be activated in case of an emergency. Backup Web servers on the East Coast will function if the USC servers are incapacitated.

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The emergency telephone system can handle 1,400 simultaneous calls. It also has a back up system on the East Coast.

HSC NEWSMAKERS

Complete listing at: www.usc.edu/uscnws/uscn_in_the_news/

A March 30 USA Today article highlighted research by cardiologist Robert Kloner presented during the American College of Cardiology meeting in Orlando. Kloner and colleagues found that fans of losing Super Bowl teams are more likely to die than fans of winning teams. U.S. News & World Report, the Los Angeles Times, Reuters, KABC-TV and HealthDay News also covered the research.

A March 30 San Diego Union-Tribune article cited epigenomic expert and USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center director Peter Jones in a story on epigenomics, the study of chemicals that control gene regulation.

A March 30 Los Angeles Times article remembered kidney disease expert and professor emeritus William Schwartz.

A March 26 Los Angeles Times article cited a USC study linking highway pollution to stunted lung growth in children.

A March 25 Newsweek article featured a new study by environmental health experts Carrie Breton and Frank Gilliland on secondhand smoke susceptibility. A variation within a single gene can determine how susceptible children will be to secondhand smoke, even in utero, the study found.

U.S. News & World Report, Forbes and HealthDay News also covered the story.

On March 25, ABC News’ “Good Morning America” interviewed fertility expert Karine Chung about a woman who did not realize she was pregnant before going into labor.

CELEBRATING LEADERSHIP—At a reception honoring internationally renowned cardiothoracic surgeon Vaughn Starnes upon his appointment as chairman of the expanded Keck School of Medicine Department of Surgery are, from left: USC Executive Vice President and Provost C. L. Max Nikias; Starnes; his wife, Julie; and Keck School Dean Carmen A. Puliafito. Speaking at the March 24 reception held at the California Club, Puliafito, who hosted the event, praised Starnes as an outstanding physician and administrator who is “totally committed to USC.” Starnes, who is also the H. Russell Smith Foundation Chair for Cardiovascular Thoracic Research and surgeon-in-chief of the USC University Hospital and USC Norris Cancer Hospital, thanked Tom DeMeester, his predecessor as chairman, for “setting the building blocks in place” for growth of the department.

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