Steven Sample announces retirement as USC president

Steven B. Sample, president of the University of Southern California since 1991, will retire in August 2010. Sample has announced his retirement in February 2009. Sample has served as president of the University of Southern California for nearly 20 years. Under Sample's leadership, the university has become world-renowned and has been recognized for its global reach and impact.

By Katie Neith

‘For Kathryn and me the presidency of USC has been far more than just a job. It has been a calling, an all-consuming passion to move this university ahead farther and faster than any other university in the United States.’

—USC President Steven B. Sample

Samet highlights global health at Taiwan conference

By Meghan Levit

Physician-researchers at USC received a nearly $16 million grant from the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) to fund the development of a stem cell-based treatment for age-related macular degeneration, the leading cause of vision loss and blindness among the elderly.

By Veronica Jauriqui

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CIRM awards $16 million to USC vision researchers

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Flu vaccines arriving on campus; priority given to health care workers, youths

At this time, vaccinations are being given to the following priority groups, as designated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Los Angeles County Department of Public Health:

• Health care workers
• Persons ages six months through 24 years
• Pregnant women
• People living with or caring for infants under six months of age
• People ages 25–64 with chronic health disorders or compromised immune systems

Faculty and staff concerned about getting the H1N1 vaccine are encouraged to seek it from any source, including their health care provider, chain pharmacies and community clinics. Students should check with Student Health Services regarding the availability of vaccine and whether they are in a priority group.

Seasonal flu vaccine may also be available on a limited basis. It is OK to get an H1N1 and seasonal flu vaccine on the same day, with one important exception. Do not get the nasal flu spray vaccine of both H1N1 and seasonal flu vaccine on the same day.
USC expands legal support for Health Sciences Campus

By Jon Nalick

The USC Office of the General Counsel has expanded its Health Sciences Campus legal team to provide additional support to the USC hospitals, USC Care Medical Group and the Keck School of Medicine. In an Oct. 9 announcement, university officials also noted the promotion of university counsel Stacy Bratcher to the new position of associate general counsel for health sciences. The announcement, made jointly by Todd Dickey, senior vice president for administration, and Carol Mauch Amir, university counsel, cited Bratcher’s “excellent work on the $275 million purchase of USC University Hospital and USC Norris Cancer Hospital from Tenet Healthcare Corporation, and her leadership of the legal aspect of the integration of the eighteen independent faculty practice plan corporations into USC Care Medical Group.” In her new role, Bratcher will continue to report to Mauch Amir, and will be responsible for leading and coordinating the legal effort and strategy for the health sciences enterprise, including for the newly acquired hospitals and integrated physician practice. Since 2005, Bratcher has been university counsel providing primary legal support for the Keck School of Medicine, USC Care Medical Group, Health Research Association and related programs on the Health Sciences Campus.

Prior to joining USC, she was an associate with the Los Angeles office of the health care law firm Hooper, Lundy & Bookman where she practiced in the regulatory and litigation departments handling fraud and abuse defense, Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement cases, and managed care litigation for a variety of health care providers. As part of its expansion, the health sciences legal team has hired two new attorneys to serve as health sciences counsel—Jeannine McGregor and Lil Delcampo. McGregor joins USC after seven years of practice in the health care department of the law firm Foley and Lardner, LLP. While at Foley, McGregor focused her practice on payment issues arising under Medicare and Medicaid programs and provided compliance counseling to institutional clients that included county health systems, hospitals and managed care entities. She also has experience in legal issues relating to clinical research studies, and previously served on an institutional review board. McGregor graduated from the USC Gould School of Law and received her undergraduate degree from University of California, Irvine, magna cum laude, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. She is a regular contributor to articles on various health law publications and is a member of the American Bar Association (Health Law Section), American Health Lawyers, and Black Women Lawyers of Los Angeles.

Lil Delcampo comes to USC after spending two years developing her own health law practice, and serving as general counsel for health service companies in Southern California. Before starting her own firm, Delcampo served as senior counsel with Hooper, Lundy & Bookman for six years where she counseled clients on regulatory matters, HIPAA, privacy and informed consent issues and litigated complex managed care and coverage issues.

Delcampo is also the co-author of two chapters in health care treatises, “Providers v. Payers: Common Legal Disputes in Managed Care,” Managed Care Litigation, BNA (2005), and “The FDA Approval Process for New Drugs,” Pharmaceutical Law, BNA (2007). Delcampo graduated from Duke University with a bachelor’s degree in Journalism and Mass Communication and earned her J.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles. She is admitted to practice law in California and Hawaii.

The Health Sciences legal team can be reached at (213) 740-7922 or (323) 442-1336.

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CNN talk show host Larry King to moderate Nov. 6 panel discussion on obesity

CNN talk show host Larry King will moderate a panel discussion titled “The Obesity Crisis in America” on Friday, Nov. 6, from 10-11 a.m. at the Aresty Conference Center. All USC faculty, staff and students are invited to attend the discussion at the conference center, located on the lower level of the Harlyne J. Norris Cancer Research Tower.

Panelists include:

- Michael Goran, director, USC Childhood Obesity Research Center, professor of preventive medicine, physiology & biophysics and pediatrics; Prediman K. Shah, director, Cedars-Sinai Heart Institute; Karol Watson, co-director, UCLA Center for Cholesterol and Lipid Management; Devin Alexander, chef and director, Division of Preventive Medicine, USC Childhood Obesity Research Center, professor of health sciences.

- Larry King, shown above in a 2007 file photo, will moderate a panel discussion on campus Nov. 6 on obesity in America.

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Did we say that?

A photo caption in the Oct. 30 issue of The Weekly mischaracterized the nature of a $360,000 pilot project grant from the American Cancer Society. The grant is an Institutional Research Grant, administered by Amy Lee, associate director for basic research at the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, to support cancer research of junior faculty at USC.

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Women in Management program comes to HSC forum for communication, professional development and treatment.

Veen Endowed Chair in Therapeutic Discovery course for Women in Management (WIM) to bring campus. About 20 women charted a campus. It used to be called the “old boy network,” but women have discovered that knowing people can help them get their jobs done and advance in their careers. Women in Management has been serving that function for 30 years at USC. And now the organization will be even more accessible to women who work at the Health Sciences Campus.

At a breakfast meeting Oct. 27 at the Norris Medical Library, about 20 women charted a course for Women in Management (WIM) to bring some of its programming to the Health Sciences Campus. Breakfast or luncheon speakers and professional development workshops are in the plans. Already confirmed is a January presentation by Roberta Brinton, holder of the R. Pete Vander-veen Endowed Chair in Therapeutic Discovery and Development at the School of Pharmacy.

The purpose of the organization—to provide a forum for communication, professional development and career opportunities for women at USC—has led to a membership of about 150 women. “I’ve met people I wouldn’t have met otherwise,” said Tracy Kerr, WIM president and director of Human Resources Information Technology Services. “Through that personal network, I feel comfortable calling to ask for work-related advice.”

Another member, Gretchen Villaluz-Pacazo, has enjoyed the opportunity to reach out to top-level women at USC through such events as the annual Senior Vice Presidents Luncheon. “It’s the mentoring aspect I really appreciate. It’s very empowering to be part of the group and get great ideas from the members and speakers,” said Villaluz-Pacazo, who is administrative operations manager in the USC Stevens Institute for Innovation.

Membership in the organization is $25 per year and provides a discount to monthly luncheons at UPC and events at HSC. For more information, see www.usc.edu/org/wim.

By Ina Fried

USC experts deliver latest news on breast cancer

By Katie Neith

Being both scientists and physicians “brings the opportunity to really change the world through science and new technology,” said Debu Tripathy, professor of medicine and co-leader of the Women’s Cancer Program at USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, at an event downtown on Oct. 20.

He and fellow speaker Stephen Sener, professor of clinical surgery and chief of the division of surgical oncology at the Keck School of Medicine, addressed a group of women gathered to hear the latest news on breast cancer research and treatment.

Held at Tesoro Trattoria, “Medical News You Can Use: Focus on Breast Cancer,” featured presentations from the two national experts recently recruited to the Keck School and the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center and Hospital. The program was co-sponsored by the Doctors of USC and the USC Alumni Association to recognize national Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Sener, a renowned breast surgeon and researcher, spoke to the group about advances in understanding the biology of cancer. He talked about the importance of tumor banks and clinical databases as critical to research progress. Sener brings with him to USC access to a large breast cancer database housed at Northwestern University, where he previously worked. “With this repository of tissue and the clinical data, we can start to answer questions about breast cancer,” said Sener.

Tripathy also talked about his experience as a physician-scientist. He was part of the original team that brought the now commonly used breast cancer drug Herceptin into clinical care.

Tripathy noted that a critical part of progress in clinical care is learning from clinical trials and patient feedback. He also emphasized the importance of new technologies in analyzing data that will lead to new, tailored therapies for cancer patients.

“New therapies are moving so quickly that many of my patients will actually get a new therapy for breast cancer at some point in their lifetime,” he said.

Both physicians touched on the idea of personalized care at USC and how they will work together to individualize and improve treatment.

“It’s great that we came at the same time, as we have really interesting skill sets that complement each other,” said Sener. “I’m excited about the opportunity for us to work together.”

Attendees were given a chance to ask the doctors their personal questions about breast cancer, which addressed issues of diet, hormones and screening guidelines.

Representatives of a number of USC organizations were present at the event including Town and Gown of USC, Trojan Guild of Los Angeles, USC University Hospital Guild, The Norris Auxiliary, Town and Gown Junior Auxiliary and Trojan Junior Auxiliary.

The event also included a cocktail hour with wine and...
SAMPLE: Retiring president leaves indelible stamp on University

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• $120 million from the Annenberg Foundation to establish the USC Annenberg Center for Communication
• $100 million from the Annenberg Foundation for the USC Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism
• $175 million from USC alumnus George Lucas and his Lucasfilm Foundation to endow the USC School of Cinematic Arts

During his tenure USC also secured seven school naming gifts: USC Leventhal School of Accounting, USC Marshall School of Business, USC Rossier School of Education, USC Viterbi School of Engi- neering, USC Roski School of Fine Arts, Keck School of Medicine of USC and USC Thornton School of Music. In addition, during this time significant faculty achievements included the awarding of the Nobel Prize in chemistry to USC faculty member George Olah and the conferencing of the MacArthur Fellowship to USC faculty member Elyn Saks.

At the undergraduate level USC advanced rapidly as a highly selective university, with SAT scores rising more than 300 points and the number of freshman applications nearly tripling since 1991. This fall, USC enrolled 232 National Merit Scholars in its freshman class, a dramatic increase from 33 in 1991, placing USC among the nation’s top five universities in the number of National Merit Scholars. In 2000 USC was pro- claimed “College of the Year” by Time magazine and the Princeton Review. USC ranked among the top five in the nation in a survey of “Great Colleges to Work For” (Chronicle of Higher Education, 2008), was named a “college with a conscience” for its service learning and community involvement in 2005 and this year ranked number 1 in the “Saviors of Our Cities: A Survey of Best College and University Civic Partners- hips.”

During Sample’s tenure, the university claimed 20 na- tional championships in men’s and women’s intercollegiate sports, including back-to-back national titles in football and women’s volleyball. As of 1998 he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in recognition of his accom- plishments as a university president.

He has remained an active member of USC’s faculty, co-teaching with management expert Warren Bennis a popular course for juniors and seniors titled “The Art and Adventure of Leadership.” His book, The Contrarian’s Guide to Leadership, has been a Los Angeles Times best-seller, was named one of six “must-reads” for leaders by Harvard Management Update of the Harvard Business School and was chosen by the Toronto Globe as one of the 10 best business books of 2001. In October 2009 it was named best business book by www. bestbusinessbooks.com. It has been translated into five languages. He donates all royalties to a scholarship fund for USC undergraduates.

Sample is the author of numerous journal articles and published papers in science and engineering and higher education. His patents in the field of digital appliance controls have been licensed to practically every major manufacturer of appliance controls and microwave ovens in the world. Over 300 million home appliances have been built using his inventions.

Sample has chaired a number of statewide and national groups examining the state of elementary, second- ary and higher education. In 1994 he convened a group of Los Angeles leaders that was awarded a historic $53 million challenge grant from the Annenberg Foundation to ac- celerate reforms in public school systems. Among those chairing the Association of American Universities (AAU), a consor- tium of the 62 leading North American research univer- sities. He chaired a special AAU committee on postdoctoral education, and co-chaired an AAU task force on increasing protection for human subjects in university-based research. Sample has long believed in the primacy of Los Angeles as a global hub. He developed the concept of L.A.’s stature as the de facto capital of the Pacific Rim, a claim he substantiates by pointing to L.A.’s strong entrepreneurial-based business and commerce, with its seaports the busiest in the United States; its creative and intellectual capital; and unparalleled diversity. In order to capitalize on the emerging power and prominence of the Pacific Rim, he co-founded the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRUI), a consor- tium of 42 premier Pacific Rim research universities located in 16 countries that fosters international collaboration among faculty, students and university leaders.

He also established USC as an international university by making its global reach an ag- gressive strategic priority. USC now enrolls more international students than any other col- lege or university in the U.S. and has international offices in Hong Kong, Mexico City, Shanghai, Taipei and Tokyo. He earned B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering from the Uni- versity of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He has received honorary doctorates from the University at Buffalo of The State University of New York, the University of Notre Dame, Northeastern University, the University of Nebraska, Purdue University, Hebrew Union College, the University of Sheffield, England, and Canisius College, Buffalo.

The recipient of numerous awards, Sample recently received the Institute of Electri- cal and Electronics Engineers Founders Medal, the Dis- tinguished Business Leader Award from the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, the Heart of the City Award from the Central City Associa- tion of Los Angeles, and the Chancellor Charles P. Norton Medal, the highest award bestowed by the University at Buffalo of the State University of New York. He has also received the Humanitarian Award from the National Con- ference of Christians and Jews (now the National Conference for Community and Justice), the Hollister Memorial Award from the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, the Eddy Award for excellence in economic development from the Los Angeles County Economic Development Cor- poration, and the University of Illinois’ Alumni Achievement Award.

Sample is married to the former Kathryn Brunekow of Park Ridge, Ill. The Samples have two daughters, Michelle Sample Smith and Elizabeth Sample Smith, and two grandchil- dren, Kathryn and Andrew Smith.

The university has created a Web page focused on President Sample’s retirement, USC’s future and the search for a new leader at http://search.usc.edu.
Calendar of Events

This Calendar of events is also online at www.usc.edu/hsscalendar for the Health Sciences Campus community

Saturday, Nov. 7
9 a.m. 9th Annual Moving Target Symposium. “Drug Delivery and Therapeutics to the Tumor Microenvironment.” Various speakers. Radisson Hotel, Los Angeles @ USC. Info: bayan@usc.edu

Monday, Nov. 9
Noon. KSOM Research Seminar. “Chromatin States and Cell Fate.” Lauric Broyer, Massachusetts Institute of Technology / NRT Arasty Aud. Info: (323) 442-1144


Tuesday, Nov. 10
9 a.m. Neurology Grand Rounds. “Gamma Knife Radiation and Epilepsy.” Christi Heck, USC. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-7656

11:30 a.m. Psychiatry Grand Rounds. “Post-traumatic Stress Disorder Following 9/11.” Susan Turkel, USC. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-4065

Noon. USG Staff Assembly Open Forum. “Surviving and Thriving in a Climate of Uncertainty.” John Gaspar, USC. MCR 149. Info: (213) 740-4685

Wednesday, Nov. 11

5 p.m. “Sickle Cell Disease Town Hall Meeting,” Felicia Wilson, Univ. of South Alabama. NOR 444. Info: (323) 561-3523

Thursday, Nov. 12

Friday, Nov. 13
11 a.m. Hematology Grand Rounds. “Clinical Profile of a Second Therapeutic Option for Ph+ CML,” Bimuld Patapout, UCLA. Info: (323) 663-9590

Noon. “Case Presentations,” Michael Chui, USC. OPT ASC 129. Info: (323) 409-7995

Monday, Nov. 16
10 a.m.-7 p.m. KSOM Golf Tournament. Wilshire Country Club. Info: www.usc.edu/esvp code: Beck-Golf


Tuesday, Nov. 17
8:30 a.m. “Building Pharmacological Anti-Counterfeiting Programs.” Various speakers. CHP 106. Info: (323) 442-3102

8:30 a.m. “HIV Updates,” Paul Hollom, USC. ONH 11321. Info: (323) 226-7923

Noon. ZNI Seminar. “Are Presynaptic NMDA Receptors Postsynaptic?” Craig Jahr, Oregon Health & Science Univ. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-2144


Thursday, Nov. 19
11 a.m. “Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease,” Sandra Erickson, UC San Francisco. BMB 100. Info: (323) 442-1283

Friday, Nov. 20
8:30 a.m. USC Dept. of Surgery 11th Annual Leonard and Marion Louise Rosoff Visiting Professor Seminar. “Multidisciplinary Strategies for the Treatment of Esophageal Cancer.” Wylene Hofstetter, Univ. of Texas. DOH 100. Info: (323) 442-2506


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

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 The Weekly, KAM 400 or fax to (323) 442-3823, or e-mail to eblauwa@usc.edu. Entries must include day, date, time, title of talk, first and last name of speaker, affiliation of speaker, location, and a phone number for information.

SAMET: Seeking global solutions for global health problems

Continued from page 1
Samet remarked on the importance of USC holding a global conference, particularly with an emphasis on global health.

“The world is quite connected, environmentally, and the connections pose new challenges,” he said. “We need to be training and sensitizing people to their global roles and their responsibilities. At a large university like USC, we have all the different kinds of players represented who will figure into finding solutions for global health problems.”

In case of an emergency...

Call the Emergency Information Phone: 213-740-9233 The emergency telephone system can handle 1,400 simultaneous calls. It also has a backup system on the East Coast.

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