Herman Ostrow Donates $35 million to USC Dentistry

Herman Ostrow, a USC trustee, alumnus and lifelong Southern Californian, has donated $35 million to USC for its School of Dentistry. The gift was announced Jan. 20 by USC President Steven B. Sample at a gala unveiling ceremony at the Norris Dental Science Center on the University Park campus.

In recognition of the gift—believed to be the largest individual donation to a dental school in the United States—the school has been renamed the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC, Sample announced.

“This magnificent gift will be a powerful catalyst for innovations and improvements in human health and for building on USC’s long tradition of leadership in dentistry,” Sample said. “Since the school’s founding in 1897, USC’s dental programs have contributed significantly to oral health in our region, our nation and the world by educating the best practitioners, by advancing scientific research and by providing dental care to underserved members of our community.”

The gift will be pivotal in raising the school to the next level of effectiveness, by providing resources to renovate and improve clinical facilities, to bring in new faculty members, to continue to support dental and craniofacial research, to enhance service programs in downtown Los Angeles and to attract and retain the best students, according to Avishai Sadan, dean of the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC.

“We are grateful and proud that an alumnus of our school has chosen us to carry his legacy,” Sadan said. “Our mission is to provide the best possible care to our patients and to train the next generation of oral health professionals for the benefit of the community.”

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By Meghan Lewit

USC University Hospital received a Heart Transplant Excellence Award from the independent health care ratings organization HealthGrades, ranking among the top 1 percent of hospitals in the U.S. that perform heart transplants.

The top-rated hospitals for organ transplantation based on patient outcomes were identified for the first time by HealthGrades and are now available at www.healthgrades.com.

USC University Hospital was one of only two heart transplant centers to receive the award out of 141 hospitals that were evaluated in the category. USC University Hospital was also the only Southern California hospital included in the ratings.

“We are very proud that our heart transplant program has been ranked in the top one percent nationally based on our consistently high survival rate,” said Vaughn A. Starnes, chairman of the Department of Surgery at the Keck School of Medicine of USC and surgeon-in-chief of USC University Hospital. “The award highlights the excellent work of our surgeons and staff and the program’s ongoing dedication to our patients.”

Hospitals with transplant programs received HealthGrades’ Transplant Excellence Awards if they had statistically significantly higher three-year survival rate than the national average, based on data calculated by the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR). Award recipients also had to have wait-list mortality that was either not significantly different than expected or was significantly lower than expected based on SRTR calculations.

Of the 266 hospitals evaluated, 20 hospitals received the award for 22 programs performing liver, kidney, heart or lung transplantation.

“The heart transplant program started in 1993 with the philosophy that we would focus on creating the highest quality patient center that was not only concerned with getting the patient through the high-risk operation and peri-operative period, but that would also ensure that these complex patients would receive state-of-the-art long-term care,” said Mark Barr, co-director of cardiothoracic transplantation and associate professor of surgery at the Keck School of Medicine. “The award from HealthGrades recognizes the importance of survival beyond the first year, which is obviously something that the patients and their families are also very concerned with. The fact that we have had statistically better results than the national average over multiple years highlights the tremendous team effort and organization that is involved in maintaining a successful transplant program.”

A large part of the program’s strength is the ability to apply clinical and translational research directly to patient care, which has had a definite positive effect on patient outcomes, he noted.

Hospital CEO Mitch Creem noted that USC University Hospital was also recently listed as one of the top hospitals in the nation by Consumer Reports magazine.

“People look to consumer-focused websites like healthgrades.com for information that will assist them in making more informed choices for their health care,” Creem said. “We’re very pleased to see a continuing trend of USC University Hospital being recognized for providing outstanding heart care.”

USC University Hospital is a private, 411-bed acute care hospital staffed by The Doctors of USC, who are also faculty at Keck School of Medicine of USC. The USC heart transplantation program provides care for patients who are in the end-stage of heart disease for whom other medical or surgical therapies are not advisable.

OSTROW: ‘Proud to give my name and support’ to school

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tradition of excellence in clinical education, research and community outreach; our world-renowned, dedicated faculty and staff; and loyal alumni such as Dr. Ostrow will safeguard the lofty reputation of the school for decades to come.”

Ostrow, who earned his D.D.S. from USC in 1945, has a history of hard work and entrepreneurship. He spent 17 years practicing dentistry, including both private practice and service in the Army Dental Corps, before delving into Los Angeles construction and the real estate market. He also enjoys growing rare fruit trees.

“I am proud to give my support and my name to the USC School of Dentistry, an institution with a well-earned reputation for excellence,” Ostrow said. “I am thrilled that my legacy will provide tomorrow’s talented professionals with opportunities to achieve great successes.”

The Ostrow School of Dentistry’s traditional curricula include the Doctor of Dental Surgery program, the wait-list in the Dental Hygiene program and several postdoctoral programs in dental specialties. Other available degrees include combined D.D.S./M.B.A. and D.D.S./M.S. programs, graduate degree programs, master’s and Ph.D. opportunities in the craniofacial biology program and the Advanced Standing Program for International Dentists.
Within 24 hours, the team was quickly to do any good,” said Pulsafio. “Thousands of people are suffering from broken bones, internal injuries and other trauma. The trauma team from LAC+USC is one of the most experienced in the United States. We will do whatever we can, right now, to help the victims survive and recover.”

The team’s first assignment was with the Israeli Defense Force, which had set up a fully functioning field hospital near a soccer stadium in Port-au-Prince. After three days of performing triage, orthopedic surgery, trauma care, anesthesia and emergency care at the IDF facility, the team’s services were requested at a field hospital 10 miles from the Port-au-Prince airport. Many victims suffered orthopedic injuries, mainly open fractures that became infected due to delays in medical care.

Campus fundraiser wants the shirt on your back

By Ina Fried

As the people of Haiti continue to face major health needs after the devastating earthquake earlier this month, students on USC’s Health Sciences Campus have taken action to help.

They are selling specially designed T-shirts with the proceeds donated to Partners in Health. Working in Haiti for more than 20 years, Partners in Health brings modern medical care to poor communities in nine countries around the world. The T-shirts are being sold for a donation of $10 or more at:

• Keck School of Medicine Admissions Office, KAM 100C, during business hours
• The HSC Graduate Program Student Senate (GPSS) Office, Seaver Residence Hall, 101A, noon-1 p.m.
• The Quad area, noon-1 p.m., weather permitting.

“We will continue sale of the shirts for at least a couple of weeks. We also are working with the student government at the University Park Campus to organize sales of the T-shirts there,” said John Mahajan, GPSS HSC Community Service Chair. “We’re optimistic about the possibility of making a significant contribution. In our first hour of sales on the Quad, we raised over $800.”

Designed by Aaron-Ross Jermenex, a Master of Public Health student at Keck, the shirt shows a map of Haiti with the USC logo and the slogan, “Help Haiti Fight On!” The shirt was printed at a reduced cost by Homeboy Industries, a nonprofit organization that assists at-risk and formerly gang-involved youth to become positive and contributing members of society through job placement, training and education. For more information or to order shirts for delivery on the Health Sciences Campus, contact Mahajan at gpmahajan@usc.edu.

A Jan. 14 Economist article quoted chief of cardiovascular medicine Leslie Saxon about Swiss pharmaceutical company Novartis, which plans to develop wireless sensors to monitor overweight teens as part of the fight against childhood obesity.

A Jan. 12 segment on KPCC-FM’s “Patt Morrison” featured research being done at USC to study obesity. Leslie Saxon about Swiss pharmaceutical company Novartis, which plans to develop wireless sensors to monitor overweight teens as part of the fight against childhood obesity.

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**Calendar of Events**

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

**Monday, Feb. 1**

**Tuesday, Feb. 2**

**Thursday, Feb. 4**

**Friday, Feb. 5**
- 11:45 a.m. “Illumina DSA Methylation Data: Selecting Features for Cluster Analysis,” Kimberly Sigmund, USC. NTT 4444. Info: (323) 442-1096

**Monday, Feb. 8**
- Noon: “Secreted Semaphorins Control Spine Distribution and Morphogenesis in the Postnatal CNS,” Tracy Tran, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-3121

**Tuesday, Feb. 9**
- Noon: Psychiatry Grand Rounds. “Initiatives to Improve Mental Health Services for Latinos with Serious Mental Illness,” Steve Lopez, USC. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-4065

**Tuesday, Feb. 11**
- Noon: Cellullar Homeostasis Lecture Series. “Stico-mediated Regulation of Hematopoietic Stem cells in the Adult Bone Marrow,” Gregor Adams, USC. MCH 156. Info: (323) 442-3121

**Tuesday, Feb. 12**
- 8:30 a.m. Surgery Grand Rounds. “IPAA for CUC – The Operation, the Outcomes and the Future,” Bruce Wolff, Mayo Clinic. MCH 156. Info: (323) 442-3121

**Wednesday, Feb. 17**
- Noon: “Signaling Between Synapse and Nucleus During Neuronal Plasticity,” Kelsey Martin, UCLA. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-2319

**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) 442-2832, or e-mail to stbanners@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.

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**CORE: Facility is centerpiece of campus stem cell research**

Continued from page 1... 

By Ryan Ball

"Trying to shed holiday pounds? Sacrificing wellness for work? USC Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice wants to help faculty, staff, students and referred patients reach their health goals for the new year with Lifestyle Redesign groups starting this month on the Health Sciences Campus.

Though we work and learn in a health care environment, many of us do not do the things we need to do to maintain healthy lifestyles. Designed with that in mind, the Lifestyle Redesign groups focus on weight management, diabetes control, pain management, multiple sclerosis therapy and smoking cessation.

Participants stay on track with the aid of life coaching, peer support, role modeling and various activities that fit into busy schedules. A lunch-time Wellness Walkers group, for instance, meets each Tuesday and is free of charge. The Weight Management Program requires a co-pay from faculty and staff, but participants on the USC Network insurance plan will have the entire cost reimbursed if they lose weight by the end of 90 days.

Camille Dieterle, director of Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice, said that with health care reform and the trend moving toward prevention wellness, "I really want the USC academic and medical community as a whole to know that USC is actually doing something about that already. We’re pretty established and we’re getting great outcomes.

Those who are intimidated by the typical weight-loss regimen will find Lifestyle Redesign a refreshing alternative, Dieterle said: “It’s such an individual program that we want to find out what’s going to make it fun and exciting for each person. If the client’s not excited about it, it doesn’t really work.”

Occupational therapist Karen McNulty added, “Our clients are people who are sick of dieting and want something realistic for a lifetime, not something that’s too good to be true.”

For more information, visit http://ot.usc.edu/ patient-care/faculty-practice, or e-mail USC Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice at ot@usc.edu.

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