**USC hospitals open new outpatient endoscopy center**

By Tania Chatila

A new outpatient endoscopy center with state-of-the-art equipment and dedicated staff is up and running at the USC hospitals.

The USC Center for Endoscopy opened on March 29 on the second floor of USC Norris Cancer Hospital. Staffed with a team of 12 nurses and patient care technicians, the center caters to outpatient endoscopic needs, such as colonoscopies, liver biopsies and ultrasounds.

Integral to the opening of the clinic were Emma Wright, who oversees all endoscopy services at the USC hospitals, and Annette Sy, associate administrator of ambulatory services including endoscopy.

"We are very excited about being able to serve our community with this new center," said Cynthia Leone, manager of the USC Center for Endoscopy. "We’re providing expanded services for all of our patients, and we plan to continue that expansion well into the future."

Efforts to open the center have been under way since last summer, and with the recent transition of USC Norris Cancer Hospital inpatient services to USC University Hospital, a team of administrators and clinicians were able to convert three of the five former operating rooms at Norris into state-of-the-art endoscopy suites, said Ashley Wagman, USC hospitals manager of administrative operations.

An existing gastrointestinal lab was also outfitted to meet the specific needs of the center and its patients.

"We have a more spacious and comfortable area now to accommodate the growing volume of outpatient procedures," said Wagman. "That is really helpful for the safety and experience of our patients and the quality of care provided by our physicians."

About $1 million in equipment has been purchased for the new center, said Wagman. That includes 39 high definition scopes, a new endoscopic ultrasound machine and four fully equipped Olympus endoscopy units with high-definition monitors that support streaming live video, image capture and reporting capabilities.

Since opening, the center has served an average of 17 to 21 patients a day. By the end of the year, Leones hopes to bump those figures to between 40 and 50 patients daily.

The center also will eventually accommodate all outpatient endoscopic cases from USC University Hospital and USC Norris Cancer Hospital. Inpatient endoscopic procedures will continue to be performed at USC University Hospital.

---

**I-SPY 2 breast cancer trial aims for rapid results**

By Meghan Lewit

The USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center is among 20 leading cancer centers in the U.S. and Canada that will recruit and treat patients as part of a large-scale clinical trial aimed at quickly testing new therapies and developing new breast cancer drugs.

The Biomarkers Consortium, a unique public-private partnership that includes the Food and Drug Administration, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and major pharmaceutical companies, led by the Foundation for the NIH, and major pharmaceutical companies, led by the Foundation for the Medical Research and Development, announced in March the start of the highly anticipated I-SPY 2 TRIAL, for breast cancer at a news conference at NIH headquarters in Bethesda, Md. I-SPY 2 is a groundbreaking new clinical trial model that will help scientists quickly and efficiently test the most promising drugs in development for women with high-risk, fast-growing breast cancers.

"The I-SPY trial is among the most innovative and potentially informative trials testing new therapies and analyzing biological pathways that will lead to more accurate patient selection and could point the way to designing more effective drugs for breast cancer," said Debasish (Debu) Tripathy, professor of clinical medicine at the Keck School of Medicine and co-leader of the Women’s Cancer Program at the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Tripathy is the principal investigator of the study at USC and was part of the original team that formulated the concept for the I-SPY trial along with Laura Esserman, professor and director of the Carol Franc Buck Breast Care Center at the University of California, San Francisco.

The I-SPY 2 trial will employ a groundbreaking clinical trial model that uses genetic or biological markers (“biomarkers”) from individual patients’ tumors to screen promising new treatments, identifying which treatments are most effective in specific types of patients. In addition, an innovative adaptive trial design will enable researchers to use early data from one set of patients to guide decisions about which treatments might be more useful for patients later in the trial, and eliminate ineffective treatments more quickly.

Tripathy’s involvement in this trial will expand the array of experimental options available to patients and contribute to this international effort," Tripathy said. "We are particularly proud that we can offer this to patients at the Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center, where many individuals who are eligible for this trial are seen and can be offered state-of-the-art imaging along with new investigational agents."

I-SPY 2 has the potential to significantly reduce the cost of drug development and speed the process of bringing safe and efficient new drugs to market. Currently, it takes over $1 billion, 12 to 15 years, and thousands of patient volunteers to get a single drug to market. I-SPY 2 will allow the effectiveness of drugs to be assessed much earlier in the research process. This will result in the ability to identify and develop the most promising and effective drugs in a

---

**USC hospitals administrator named associate dean of School of Pharmacy**

USC hospitals executive administrator for medicine and hospital operations Scott Evans has been appointed associate dean for Academic Health Center Programs at the USC School of Pharmacy. He will continue to serve as an executive administrator for the hospitals while also assisting the school in developing new and innovative opportunities for pharmacy students and residents at USC University Hospital and USC Norris Cancer Hospital.

Evans is a 1998 graduate of the USC School of Pharmacy. He served as APHA-ASP and Phi Lambda Sigma president during his student days. In 2004, Evans took the helm as director at the USC University Hospital Pharmacy, and two years later he was

---

Scott Evans

Scott Evans oversaw the pharmacies at USC University Hospital and USC Norris Cancer Hospital. More recently, he assumed the role of executive administrator for medicine and operations.

"While Scott’s career has focused on hospital administration, he has always maintained an active role with the School of Pharmacy and our various training programs within the hospitals," said R. Pete Vanderveen, dean of the School of Pharmacy.

Last year, Scott was honored as Preceptor of the Year for his work with pharmacy school students, and he frequently lectures in pharmacy courses and speaks at various pharmacy events. In 2008, he was named Pharmacist of the Year by the Southern California Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

---

The Weekly

PUBLISHED FOR THE USC HEALTH SCIENCES CAMPUS COMMUNITY

VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 13

APRIL 16 • 2010
AMA Foundation honors Keck School student for leadership

Walavan Sivakumar, a fourth-year student at the Keck School of Medicine, has been named a recipient of the American Medical Association (AMA) Foundation’s 2010 Leadership Award. Sivakumar was one of 20 medical students nationwide to receive the award, which honors outstanding non-clinical leadership skills in advocacy, community service and education.

The award also provides medical students, residents/fellows and early career physicians from around the country with training to develop their skills as future leaders in organized medicine and community affairs.

Sivakumar received the award at the AMA Foundation’s annual Excellence in Medicine Awards ceremony on March 1 in Washington, D.C.

A former student body president for the medical school, Sivakumar has been a leader at USC, and he continues to mentor them.

Peters’ research on children’s health is ‘looked to as one of the world’s most important studies on how air pollution affects the lungs of children.’

—Jonathan Samet, the Flora L. Thornton Chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine

Health Sciences Center and directed it for 10 years. Researchers at the center study how a wide variety of environmental factors and personal factors interact to produce human disease. Peters’ research “has had a dramatic impact within the state, nationally and internationally,” said Jonathan Samet, the Flora L. Thornton Chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine. Peters’ research on children’s health is “looked to as one of the world’s most important studies on how air pollution affects the lungs of children.” In addition, Samet noted, Peters has recruited “a spectacular group of faculty to USC, and he continues to mentor them.”

Named for the first chairman of the California Air Resources Board, the Haagen-Smit Clean Air Award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to air quality. Nichols read a proclamation from the California State Senate recognizing Peters’ “expansive and groundbreaking research.” The proclamation said, “The state of California commends you on your contributions to the health of our nation’s children and communities.”

The John Peters Fund for Research and Education was established a year ago to sustain research and education in environmental health at USC. Peters interested in making a donation to the fund may contact Susan Roberts at (323) 863-0805 or susanr@usc.edu.

AMA Foundation honors Keck School student for leadership

Walavan Sivakumar, a fourth-year student at the Keck School of Medicine, has been named a recipient of the American Medical Association (AMA) Foundation’s 2010 Leadership Award.

Sivakumar was one of 20 medical students nationwide to receive the award, which honors outstanding non-clinical leadership skills in advocacy, community service and education.

The award also provides medical students, residents/fellows and early career physicians from around the country with training to develop their skills as future leaders in organized medicine and community affairs.

Sivakumar received the award at the AMA Foundation’s annual Excellence in Medicine Awards ceremony on March 1 in Washington, D.C.

A former student body president for the medical school, Sivakumar has been a leader at USC.

He sits on the USC Student Health Committee and serves as the student member on the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) National Committee, the accreditation body for all U.S. medical schools.

He has also been a leader in the community and has been involved with the recovery efforts of his native country of Sri Lanka following the conclusion of a nearly 30-year civil war. Recently, he organized a benefit concert at Pasadena’s historic Ambassador Auditorium that raised $25,000 for internally displaced persons in his war-torn country. Additionally, he is a Sri Lankan Next on Public Policy, serves as a mentor to USC students and continues to mentor them.

California Air Resources Board honors Peters for leadership in environmental health research

California Air Resources Board honors Peters for leadership in environmental health research

John M. Peters, the Huntington Professor of Preventive Medicine at the Keck School of Medicine, has been honored for his leadership in environmental health research that has influenced California public policy. At a March 1 luncheon in the Edmundson Faculty Center, Peters received the 2009 Haagen-Smit Clean Air Award from the California Air Resources Board.

“Dr. Peters has been recognized for many years as one of the leading authorities on the effects of air pollution on health,” said Mary Nichols, chair of the California Air Resources Board, in presenting the award. In particular, she cited the Children’s Health Study, for which Peters was founding principal investigator. Started more than 16 years ago, this study of more than 11,000 children investigates the effects of air pollution on children’s respiratory health.

Nichols also credited Peters with leading development of a center of excellence at USC, as founding director of the division of environmental health in the Department of Preventive Medicine. “How pleased it makes me to present this award to a person who really exemplifies all of the qualities, the creativity and integrity in science, but also a person who has built and nurtured a program here that will stand in good stead for many years to come,” she said.

Peters thanked the Air Resources Board for “this very high honor” and for support of his research over the years. The research “has had a dramatic effect on public policy,” said Carmen A. Puliafito, dean of the Keck School of Medicine. “I have tremendous respect for the great public policy leadership that the state of California has shown in the area of air quality.” The academic partners in this leadership have been at USC, and the man we’re honoring today has played an incredibly important role in environmental health.

In addition to the division of environmental health, Peters also founded the Southern California Environmental Health Committee and serves as one of the organization’s directors.

He has been a leader in the community and has been involved with the recovery efforts of his native country of Sri Lanka following the conclusion of a nearly 30-year civil war. Recently, he organized a benefit concert at Pasadena’s historic Ambassador Auditorium that raised $25,000 for internally displaced persons in his war-torn country. Additionally, he is a Sri Lankan Next on Public Policy, serves as a mentor to USC students and continues to mentor them.

Named for the first chairman of the California Air Resources Board, the Haagen-Smit Clean Air Award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to air quality. Nichols read a proclamation from the California State Senate recognizing Peters’ “expansive and groundbreaking research.” The proclamation said, “The state of California commends you on your contributions to the health of our nation’s children and communities.”

The John Peters Fund for Research and Education was established a year ago to sustain research and education in environmental health at USC. Peters interested in making a donation to the fund may contact Susan Roberts at (323) 863-0805 or susanr@usc.edu.

California Air Resources Board honors Peters for leadership in environmental health research

California Air Resources Board honors Peters for leadership in environmental health research

John M. Peters, the Huntington Professor of Preventive Medicine at the Keck School of Medicine, has been honored for his leadership in environmental health research that has influenced California public policy. At a March 1 luncheon in the Edmundson Faculty Center, Peters received the 2009 Haagen-Smit Clean Air Award from the California Air Resources Board.

“Dr. Peters has been recognized for many years as one of the leading authorities on the effects of air pollution on health,” said Mary Nichols, chair of the California Air Resources Board, in presenting the award. In particular, she cited the Children’s Health Study, for which Peters was founding principal investigator. Started more than 16 years ago, this study of more than 11,000 children investigates the effects of air pollution on children’s respiratory health.

Nichols also credited Peters with leading development of a center of excellence at USC, as founding director of the division of environmental health in the Department of Preventive Medicine. “How pleased it makes me to present this award to a person who really exemplifies all of the qualities, the creativity and integrity in science, but also a person who has built and nurtured a program here that will stand in good stead for many years to come,” she said.

Peters thanked the Air Resources Board for “this very high honor” and for support of his research over the years. The research “has had a dramatic effect on public policy,” said Carmen A. Puliafito, dean of the Keck School of Medicine. “I have tremendous respect for the great public policy leadership that the state of California has shown in the area of air quality.” The academic partners in this leadership have been at USC, and the man we’re honoring today has played an incredibly important role in environmental health.

In addition to the division of environmental health, Peters also founded the Southern California Environmental Health Committee and serves as one of the organization’s directors.

He has been a leader in the community and has been involved with the recovery efforts of his native country of Sri Lanka following the conclusion of a nearly 30-year civil war. Recently, he organized a benefit concert at Pasadena’s historic Ambassador Auditorium that raised $25,000 for internally displaced persons in his war-torn country. Additionally, he is a Sri Lankan Next on Public Policy, serves as a mentor to USC students and continues to mentor them.

Named for the first chairman of the California Air Resources Board, the Haagen-Smit Clean Air Award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to air quality. Nichols read a proclamation from the California State Senate recognizing Peters’ “expansive and groundbreaking research.” The proclamation said, “The state of California commends you on your contributions to the health of our nation’s children and communities.”

The John Peters Fund for Research and Education was established a year ago to sustain research and education in environmental health at USC. Peters interested in making a donation to the fund may contact Susan Roberts at (323) 863-0805 or susanr@usc.edu.

AMA Foundation honors Keck School student for leadership

Walavan Sivakumar, a fourth-year student at the Keck School of Medicine, has been named a recipient of the American Medical Association (AMA) Foundation’s 2010 Leadership Award.

Sivakumar was one of 20 medical students nationwide to receive the award, which honors outstanding non-clinical leadership skills in advocacy, community service and education.

The award also provides medical students, residents/fellows and early career physicians from around the country with training to develop their skills as future leaders in organized medicine and community affairs.

Sivakumar received the award at the AMA Foundation’s annual Excellence in Medicine Awards ceremony on March 1 in Washington, D.C.

A former student body president for the medical school, Sivakumar has been a leader at USC.

He sits on the USC Student Health Committee and serves as the student member on the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) National Committee, the accreditation body for all U.S. medical schools.

He has also been a leader in the community and has been involved with the recovery efforts of his native country of Sri Lanka following the conclusion of a nearly 30-year civil war. Recently, he organized a benefit concert at Pasadena’s historic Ambassador Auditorium that raised $25,000 for internally displaced persons in his war-torn country. Additionally, he is a Sri Lankan Next on Public Policy, serves as a mentor to USC students and continues to mentor them.

Named for the first chairman of the California Air Resources Board, the Haagen-Smit Clean Air Award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to air quality. Nichols read a proclamation from the California State Senate recognizing Peters’ “expansive and groundbreaking research.” The proclamation said, “The state of California commends you on your contributions to the health of our nation’s children and communities.”

The John Peters Fund for Research and Education was established a year ago to sustain research and education in environmental health at USC. Peters interested in making a donation to the fund may contact Susan Roberts at (323) 863-0805 or susanr@usc.edu.
With each drug representing a different drug class or type of biological mechanism, the first phase of the trial, and will be donated by the companies in a much more targeted and timely manner.

Continued from page 1

USC School of Pharmacy students honored for osteoporosis research

Five new drugs currently in development by three major pharmaceutical companies are expected to accelerate the screening process, allowing patients to get care for osteoporosis before it becomes severe, or preventing onset altogether.

USC Norris Team and support the fight against women’s cancers

Faculty, staff, students, residents and friends are invited to join Team USC Norris at the 17th Annual Entertainment Industry Foundation (EIF) Revlon Run/Walk For Women on Saturday, May 8, to help fight women’s cancers. All USC Norris team members will receive team T-shirts for the walk. The USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center has been selected as one of this year’s beneficiaries.

I-SPY: Five new cancer drugs to be tested

Continued from page 1

I-Spy Five new cancer drugs to be tested

The USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center has been selected as one of this year’s beneficiaries.

The celebrity opening ceremony begins at 8:30 a.m. at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum at Exposition Park. The 5K course takes participants through the streets surrounding the USC University Park campus and finishes inside the Coliseum. The USC Norris Cancer Hospital will host a booth at the event’s Health Expo to promote the USC Norris Harold E. and Henrietta C. Lee Breast Center. The expo will feature health screenings, giveaways and more.

One in three women is predicted to develop cancer in her lifetime. Cancer survivors are invited to pick up a special cap from the Survivor Booth at the Health Expo. Tribute signs, to be worn in memory or support of loved ones, can be picked up on the day of the event, and survivors may wear tribute signs proclaiming their number of years as a survivor.

Cosanized in 1993, the EIF Revlon Run/Walk For Women has grown to become one of the nation’s largest 5K fundraising events. To date, the Run/Walks in Los Angeles and New York have distributed nearly $60 million for cancer research, treatment, counseling and outreach programs.

The cost to run or walk is $30 through April 25 ($35 thereafter). To make a donation or join the USC team, visit http://tinyurl.com/USC-NorrisTeam. For information, contact Tonya Strom, USC Norris Team Captain, (323) 863-0668 or stronm@usc.edu.

An April 12 Associated Press article highlighted research led by professor of preventive medicine Rob McConnell linking osteoporosis to traffic-related exposure at schools located near freeways and busy streets. Business Week, The Press Enterprise, The Daily Mail International, SoCal Minds and Futurology also featured the research.

An April 7 Inland Valley Daily Bulletin article highlighted the one-year anniversary of USC acquiring USC University Hospital and USC Norris Cancer Hospital.

An April 5 Dallas Morning News article quoted professor of medicine and co-leader of the Women’s Cancer Program at USC Norris Debub Tripathy about celebrities talking about their experiences with cancer.

A March 31 Los Angeles Times article quoted director of adult and pediatric palliative care at Los Angeles County+USC Medical Center Pamehyn Close about advanced directives for end-of-life care.

A March 31 City News Service article reported that Los Angeles County officials honored the team of doctors and nurses from Los Angeles County+USC Medical Center who traveled to Haiti to help in the aftermath of January’s earthquake.

On March 30, KCBS-TV reported that USC has raised $10 million from the Annenberg Foundation to establish a scholarship fund. The grant will be divided evenly between the USC Annenberg School and the Keck School of Medicine of USC. The Desert Sun also covered the gift.

A March 30 San Diego Union-Tribune article reported that professor of preventive medicine and pathology Thomas Mack will conduct research on cancer cases in a Carlsbad neighborhood to determine whether a cancer cluster exists.

A March 29 New York Times article reported that Flora L. Thornton Chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine Jonathan Samet chairs the Food and Drug Administration’s new Tobacco Products Scientific Advisory Committee, which will address the issue of regulating menthol cigarettes. The Associated Press and WebMD also covered the story.

A March 29 MSN.com article noted a research project by associate professor of research in the Department of Preventive Medicine Donna Spruill-Metz that uses technology to monitor obese teenagers’ eating and exercise habits.

A March 28 Sacramento Bee article quoted professor of medicine and director of the USC Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center Cape Johnson about stem cell research and sickle cell disease.

A March 26 Associated Press article quoted assistant professor of clinical dermatology David Sawyer about vitiligo, a skin condition that affected the late Michael Jackson. The Daily Mail (U.K.) also quoted Sawyer.

On March 26, KABC-TV reported that actor Dennis Hopper is being treated for prostate cancer through a special program at USC.

A March 25 San Bernardino Sun article quoted associate professor of research in preventive medicine Michael Cousseau about the recently passed health care bill.
Monday, Apr. 19


Nooon. “Case Presentations,” Alexander Ham, USC, ITP C3JH01. Info: (323) 409-7995

Nooon. USC Wellness Workshop for Students. “Communication/Conflict Resolution.” NML West Conference Rm. Info: (323) 442-3360

Tuesday, Apr. 20

8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. “What’s Hot in Aging Research at USC: Interdisciplinary Perspectives.” Various speakers. USC: GER Davie Aud. Info: (213) 749-1363

10:30 a.m. USC University Hospital Gold Speaker Series. “Urology for You and Your Loved One: What is the Latest?” Indorab Gill, USC. The Valley Hunt Club. Passadena. Info: (626) 440-6079


Wednesday, Apr. 21

8:30 a.m. “Emerging Concepts and Therapies of HIV Infections,” R. Larsen. USC, BID 732. Info: (323) 226-7923

Nooon. USC Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice. “Smoking Cessation: Brain Thinking About Quitting?” NML West Conference Rm. Info: (323) 442-3340

Nooon. Dean’s Translational Medicine Seminar Series. “From Bedside to Bench: The Curious Course of Medical Device Development.” Dr. Stephen N. Osterle, Medtronic Inc. NRT Artery Aud. Light lunch and refreshments will be served. RSVP required. Info: (323) 442-1144

7 p.m. LAC-USC Violence Intervention Program. “Heart Desires,” featuring Emmy award-winning actor and activist, Ed Asner. The Colony Theatre, Burbank. Info: (323) 226-2097

Friday, Apr. 23

8:30 a.m. “Ins, Outs and Hints of Teaching Physician Rules in the Electronic Era.” Scott Mandaker, Univ. of Pennsylvania. IRD 732. Info: (323) 226-7923

11 a.m. “Diagnosis and Management of Inhibitors in Hemophilia A.” Carol Kuspr, USC, BID 22103. Info: (323) 865-3914

Nooon. “Case Presentations,” Joon Kim, USC. OPP ASC/29. Info: (323) 409-7995

Saturday, Apr. 24

6 p.m. Opening Reception for Art Exhibit. “Darkwave: Eight Artist-Surfers Explore Surfing and the Violence of the City.” Various local painters, sculptors and photographers. RDM Art Gallery 2nd Floor. Info: (213) 765-7489

Monday, Apr. 26

Nooon. USC Wellness Workshop for Students. “Self-Awareness & Embracing Diversity.” NML East Conference Rm. Info: (323) 442-3340

Nooon. RSSOM Research Seminar. “TGFBeta Signal-Specificity in Regulating Craniofacial Morphogenesis,” Yang Chai, USC. NRT Artery Aud. Info: (323) 442-1144

4 p.m. “Mechanisms of Muscle Contraction,” Walter Herzog, Univ. of Calgary. CHP 147E. Info: (323) 442-2911

Tuesday, Apr. 27

Nooon. Cancer Center Grand Rounds. “Captured Alive, the Active Form of DNA Polymers & Reveals the Mutagenic Mechanism of the RecA Nucleoprotein Filament,” Myron F. Goodman, USC. NRT Artery Aud. Info: (323) 865-0901

Wednesday, Apr. 28

8:30 a.m. “Hypertensive Urgency & Emergency,” S. Ghaffari, USC. BID 732. Info: (323) 226-7923


Thursday, Apr. 29


Calendar of Events

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

By Katie Nielth

Ed Asner to perform at April 21 event to stem elder abuse

Emmy award-winning actor and activist Ed Asner will headline a staged reading of the critically acclaimed play “Heart Desires” on April 21, to benefit the Los Angeles County Elder Abuse Forensic Center (LACEAFC).

The event is sponsored by the Violence Intervention Program (VIP), a nonprofit organization affiliated with LAC-USC Medical Center and headed by Astrid Heger, professor of clinical pediatrics at the Keck School of Medicine. The reading will raise funds to help aid victims of interpersonal violence and abuse in Los Angeles.

Christine Rosensteel, a local playwright with a master of professional writing degree from USC, a program planner for Los Angeles County Adult Protective Services and a member of the LACEAFC Team, helped “Heart Desires.” The play focuses the lives of an elderly couple on the verge of losing their independence who open their home to a young homeless couple.

The show is at 7 p.m. at the Colony Theatre, 555 North Third Street, Burbank, Calif. General admission seating is $25. To buy tickets, call VIP at (323) 226-2097, or e-mail Erica Blodgett at eblodgett@vip-emhc.org.

For information about the Los Angeles County Elder Abuse Forensic Center, visit www.lacelcedase.org or call (323) 226-1470.