Union election to be held at USC University Hospital May 26, 27

By Tania Chatila
A National Labor Relations Board election will be held at USC University Hospital on May 26 and 27 to determine representation for about 700 hospital employees.

The election date was set earlier this month, following a petition filed in September by the National Union of Healthcare Workers (NUHW), which has been vying for the membership of the roughly 700 USC University Hospital employees who currently belong to the Service Employees International Union (SEIU).

As of press time, SEIU has disclaimed any interest in representing USC hospital employees, effective immediately. Those employees include pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, monitor technicians, radiology and environmental service workers, among others.

On May 26 and 27, eligible voters will see two options on their election ballot. Those options will be to vote for whether or not they wish to be represented by NUHW.

“I am very proud of the workplace environment that we have created here at USC University Hospital and USC Norris Cancer Hospital,” said hospitals CEO Mitch Greem. “Our overall retention rate is 92 percent, and we stand committed to providing a supportive and empowering environment for all of our employees. On May 26 and 27, our employees will have an opportunity to exercise their rights to vote for representation. I look forward to those employees joining me in our journey for excellence and placing their trust in USC by voting ‘No.’”

The secret ballot election (no one will know how one votes) will be conducted and monitored by the National Labor Relations Board. The voting polls will be located in the Salerni Room on the fifth floor of USC University Hospital and will be open on both days from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

While the election results will be known after polls close, they will not be certified until at least a week later. The winning option needs to receive more than 50 percent of the votes.
Keck School celebrates Introduction to Clinical Medicine’s 40th anniversary

By Ina Fried

The patient is the reason for medicine, yet 40 years ago, the idea that medical students should encounter patients during their first semester in medical school was revolutionary.

At least it was—until “Introduction to Clinical Medicine” (ICM) program pioneer USC faculty member Lorin L. Stephens and fellow revolutionaries changed it in a fundamental way: how people become physicians.

On April 15, the Keck School of Medicine celebrated their success and marked the USC program’s 40th anniversary with a program that drew current and former students and faculty to Mayer Auditorium. Welcoming the group, Dean Carmen A. Puliafito said, “We are celebrating the idea that medical students shouldn’t spend the first two years of their medical life in a classroom, but they should get out of the classroom and experience the centrality of the doctor-patient relationship in real life, as well as the clinical experience of developing their history and physical exam skills,” said Theresa Woehrle, assistant professor of family medicine and current ICM director.

After its introduction at USC, the ICM program was copied and implemented at other schools. “There are now ICM programs in 40 schools across the country,” said Althea Alexander, assistant dean for diversity; Donald W. Jackson, one of the original ICM directors; and Barbara M. Korsch, past ICM director.

New USC cancer research center slates June 18 symposium

The Physical Sciences in Oncology Center (PS-OC)—a new cancer research center at USC—will hold its first symposium on June 18 at the Davidson Conference Center. The center is part of a new strategy against the disease by the National Institutes of Health and its National Cancer Institute. The center is one of 12 in the country to receive the designation.

“The cancer research field has focused on understanding cancer for the last several decades, and an engineering approach to focus on control may provide a novel treatment methodology,” said Agus. “We have assembled a remarkable network of researchers. It will feature notable speakers from USC and from leading medical centers across the country who are national leaders in the integration of the physical sciences as applied to cancer.”

The symposium will be a forum to highlight scientific efforts within the PS-OC network of researchers. It will feature notable speakers from USC and from leading medical centers across the country who are national leaders in the integration of the physical sciences as applied to cancer.
Team USC Norris boasts 139 Revlon Run/Walk participants

By Tania Chatila

For Payge O’Donnell, there was something extra special about this year’s Entertainment Industry Foundation Revlon Run/Walk for Women.

Running with Team USC Norris, O’Donnell was not only honoring her husband, she was also celebrating the birth of her surrogate twins, Carlyn and Kyra. The couple had picked out those names in 2005, long before they knew they would one day lose everything they planned.

Michael’s mental state was always focused on hope,” said Payge O’Donnell. “Doing this for him honors his memory and the heroic battle and celebrating the children Michael always wanted.”

The 17th annual Revlon Run/Walk attracted an estimated 40,000 walkers and runners to the Los Angeles Coliseum on May 8 for a 3.1-mile trek around Exposition Park. The USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center—which this year is a beneficiary of the fundraiser—made its mark with a team, while Norris Cancer Hospital hosted a booth to promote patient services.

Thousands of Revlon Run/Walk participants lined up before the start of the race for giveaways like hand sanitizers, bandage holders and other items. When the walk started, Team USC Norris could be seen making its way through the sea of participants.

The team was made up of 139 patients, support- ers and employees of USC Norris.

“They did so much for us and for my brother,” said Kevin O’Donnell, Michael’s brother.

“Whenever the Norris has events we always participate,” said Kevin O’Donnell, Michael’s brother.

The USC Norris booth at the Revlon Run/Walk attracted hundreds of visitors who received balloons, hand sanitizers, band aid holders and educational pamphlets.

“The new center can get the right people together to identify inhibitors of pathways critical for diseases and move forward more effectively.” — Heinz-Josef Lenz, professor of medicine and preventive medicine

Keck School honors USC Trustee David Lee for support of school

David Lee, chair of the Board of Overseers of the Keck School of Medicine, received the Elaine Stevely Hoffman Award May 16 during the Keck School’s commencement ceremonies.

“As the medical school at USC has moved forward, often in challenging times, David Lee has been an unwavering advocate, a voice of optimism and encourage- ment,” said Keck School Dean Carmen A. Puliafito in presenting the award.

The annual award honors an individual who has made extraordinary contributions to advancing the mission of the school. A physicist, entrepreneur, financier and philanthropist, Lee has served on the Keck School Board of Overseers since its inception.

As a trustee of USC, he was instrumental in the 2009 acquisition of the USC University Hospital and USC Norris Cancer Hospital.

Lee is co-founder and managing general partner of Clarity Partners, L.P., a private equity investment firm based in Los Angeles.

The award is named in memory of Elaine Stevely Hoffman, a Los Angeles philanthropist who contrib- uted to building a research center on the USC Health Sciences Campus.

The Weekly NEWSMAKERS

On May 13, KABC-TV featured work by assistant professor of neurology Liliyana Amezcua to understand why multiple sclerosis is on the rise in minorities.

On May 12, KABC-TV quoted genetic counselor Charlie Ricker about a San Diego-based company that plans to sell genetic testing kits in drugstores.

On May 12, CBS News ran a WebMD story that highlighted research by associate professor of anesthesiology and pediatrics Jeffrey L. Gold, which found that children and adults with acute or chronic pain received some analgesic benefit from playing video games.

On May 11, American Public Media’s “Marketplace” quoted professor of clinical preventive medicine Edward Avol about the city of Mira Loma, Calif., which has an active warehouse district and some of the worst air pollution in the country.

On May 10, the Los Angeles Times ran an obituary for John M. Peters, Hastings professor and director of the Division of Environmental Health in the Department of Preventive Medicine. Peters was also principal investigator of the Children’s Health Study. A second Los Angeles Times story also remembered Peters.
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nous?“ Puliafito asked. “First
of all, it will mean unprecedented job security for the graduates of this class.”
Puliafito noted that newly acquired health insurance coverage for more than 30 million Americans will drive tremendous demand for health care professionals, specialists in particular, and said that the health bill, while not perfect, is “the right thing for America, the right thing for medicine and a real plus for the class of 2010.”

(Received text)