Nikias names senior vice president and CEO for USC Health

"For USC to achieve a competitive advantage in a rapidly changing health care landscape, we need to align the strategies of the school with the school of medicine."

—Thomas E. Jackiewicz, recently named senior vice president and chief executive officer for USC Health

A new era in academic medicine soon will begin on the USC Health Sciences Campus. On Nov. 1, the USC University Hospital will become Keck Hospital of USC, and the new Keck Medical Center of USC will be introduced on our campus and throughout the Los Angeles area.

These changes are made in recognition of the historic $150 million gift from the W. M. Keck Foundation announced in June. The Keck Medical Center of USC encompasses Keck Hospital of USC, USC Norris Cancer Hospital and the physician-scientists who are faculty members of the Keck School of Medicine of USC.

The entire academic medical enterprise will become known as Keck Medicine of USC, encompassing the medical school and medical center. Along with new names, a new graphic identity system for all the Keck and Norris entities will debut, linked with a new university-wide graphic identity system.

Read more about the new era in academic medicine at USC in the Nov. 4 issue of The Trojan.

Good Neighbors Campaign helps open new doors

By Amy E. Hamaker

Just a few blocks from the Health Sciences Campus and surrounded by a wide variety of USC medical institutions sits Francisco Bravo Medical Magnet High School. The school's long partnership with USC has been a boon for both the students and the community.

This year, students, faculty and staff at the Health Sciences Campus have a chance to open some new doors for Bravo students. Two programs at Bravo are among several benefitting from the Good Neighbors Program for the first time this year.

• Opening the Pipeline—This promotes a summer program for 40 underrepresented minority students to learn more about various health careers; students have the opportunity to volunteer at USC University Hospital.

• Engineering for Health Academy—Started in 2009, EHA offers students in grades 10-12 a course of study focused on biomedical engineering. This is the first year that EHA will receive funding through the Good Neighbors Program.

Bravo has partnered for many years with Health Sciences Campus entities. Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center officially adopted Bravo in 1981 through the Adopt-a-School program. Bravo students can use Health Sciences Campus medical center labs through some classes and educational programs, volunteer at the hospitals, have access to guest speakers, and more. Emphasis within the standard high school curriculum is placed not only on academics, but also on medical, nursing and allied health careers.

Erin Quinn, former associate dean for admissions for the Keck School and a USC partner with the Bravo school, believes that Good Neighbors contributions can help Bravo students as they decide on their futures. "They can see what it’s like to be in a medical college and a health care worker," she said of the Opening the Pipeline program.
OCCUPATIONAL Therapy receives grant to study adapted clinical dental environments

By Vivian Tang

The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research has awarded a two-year $531,000 grant to the division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, a part of the USC School of Dentistry.

Principal investigator Sharon Cermak, and co-investigators, Jose Polido, Marian Williams, Michael Dawson and Christianne Lane, will study the effectiveness of sensory adapted dental environments (SADe) for children, including those who have difficulty tolerating oral care in the dental clinic.

Two groups of ethnically diverse children ages 6-12 will be studied: 20 of whom will be children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and 20 of whom will be typically developing children, including those who are reactive to sensory stimulation.

Commonly, such children exhibit anxiety and negative behavioral reactions when confronted with experiential aspects of visits to the dentist’s office.

The SADe intervention group will include environmental adaptations such as dimmed lighting, soothing music, and the application of a special vest that provides calming deep pressure sensations. All of the adaptations are designed to reduce triggering children’s anxiety and behavioral problems while at the dentist.

If this study, which is being conducted in collaboration with Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, produces promising results, investigators plan to more comprehensively test the SADe intervention in a full-scale randomized clinical trial.

Cermak, professor of occupational science and occupational therapy, said she is pleased to contribute to a “safer, more efficient, less costly treatment” while having “the potential to revolutionize clinical-based dental care for the growing population of children with ASD, as well as for typically developing children who have sensory sensitivities and/or dental anxieties.”

Florence Clark, associate dean of the Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy and president of the American Occupational Therapy Association, noted that she thought the occupational therapy’s continued interdisciplinary collaboration with other health sciences was tremendous like psychology and dentistry. Because occupational science and occupational therapy is a division of the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry at USC, the study strengthens the alignment between the two academic units in their shared mission to improve holistic and systemic health.

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JACKIEWICZ: New leader known for creativity, collegiality, risk-taking

The medical center and medical school ‘need to work as one organization. We can’t be successful in our own silos, and collectively, we are much stronger’

—Thomas E. Jackiewicz, recently named senior vice president and chief executive officer for USC Health

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Jackiewicz will work with Garrett and Keck School Dean Carmen A. Puliafito to ensure that USC continues to attract and retain world-class clinicians and clinical scholars. Jackiewicz will serve as a member of the Keck Medicine Oversight Committee, and will serve as vice chair of the USC Hospitals Governing Board.

At USC, one of his top priorities will be the development of a clinical strategy plan that takes into account the impact of health care reform. “I will work with all levels of faculty and administrative leadership to develop a road map for growth across the clinical enterprise. The initial strategy and tactics will be shared with the entire organization in a series of open forums,” he said.

Jackiewicz also hopes to create further alignment between the medical center and medical school. “We need to work as one organization,” he said. “We can’t be successful in our own silos, and collectively, we are much stronger.”

Speaking with obvious energy and enthusiasm, Jackiewicz characterized himself as decisive and sometimes impatient, but prides himself as being a “very good listener.”

Colleagues at USCSD describe Jackiewicz as creative, collaborative, transparent, and willing to take risks. “I love academic medicine,” he said. “I am excited to work with the faculty, and I am committed to doing what’s right for the organization.”

As CEO of the UC San Diego Health System, Jackiewicz has overseen a large enterprise that includes UC San Diego Medical Center, Thornton Hospital, Moores Cancer Center, Shirley Eye Center and Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center, with more than 5,500 ninterroutes and $990 million in projected revenues.

Jackiewicz helped lead the health system during one of its largest periods of growth and expansion. During his tenure, the health system has received national recognition for its accomplishments. U.S. News & World Report ranked it first in San Diego, 20th in the “Best Hospitals in Metro Areas” rankings for 2011, and Thomson Reuters recognized it as one of the nation’s top 15 teaching hospitals in 2010.

Jackiewicz joined UC San Diego Health Sciences in 2001. Before assuming his current role as associate vice chancellor, he served as CFO and associate vice chancellor of finance and administration. Prior to his career at UC San Diego, Jackiewicz served as chief operating officer of Columbia University Medical Center and as senior associate chair for finance and administration of the Department of Medicine at the Stanford University School of Medicine. Earlier in his career, he held leadership positions at Oregon Health & Science University and the University of Pennsylvania Health System.

Jackiewicz has served as the national chair of the Association of American Medical Colleges’ Group on Business Affairs and currently is a board member of the University HealthSystem Consortium, the Hospital Association of San Diego and Imperial Counties, and the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, San Diego. He also is a member of the Council of Teaching Hospitals and Health Systems. This past year, Jackiewicz was elected to serve as chair of the Foundation’s Board of the Dr. Foster 2011 Global Comparators Project. The board includes chief executive officers from 31 top-ranked hospitals in five countries.

Jackiewicz earned his master of public health in health policy and management from Columbia University, and his bachelor’s degree in business administration from the University of Georgia.

Jackiewicz and his wife Patricia Schade will relocate, Jackiewicz to Los Angeles area with their two Boston terriers. They are the parents of three adult sons.
Keck School receives $350,000 to set up scholarship endowment

Andrea Kovacs, director of the Maternal Child and Adolescent/Adult Center for Infectious Diseases and Virology at Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center, remembers the death of her first AIDS patient in 1982. He had a fungal infection and “he was blind and comatose when he died,” she said. “It was horrific.”

Since then, HIV/AIDS has spread to every continent, and today more than 33 million people worldwide live with HIV. The first diagnosed cases of AIDS were reported in Los Angeles in 1981. Clinicians and researchers gathered in Los Angeles on Oct. 10 to share stories from the pandemic’s beginnings and to reveal the next steps in practice and research during “Thirty years of CHAPIDS—an L.A. perspective.”

The symposium, held at the Eli and Edythe Broad UCI Medical Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at UCI, brought together speakers from Cedars Sinai Medical Center, Johns Hopkins, Harvard University, Caltech, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles and the Keck School of Medicine. Speakers offered historical perspectives on HIV/AIDS progression and treatment, as well as information on upcoming developments, to a standing-room-only crowd.

During her lecture, Kovacs, a professor of pediatrics and pathology at the Keck School of Medicine, discussed her involvement with HIV/AIDS developments by decade. She recalled what it was like treating children born with HIV during the early years of the pandemic. “Children are different from adults in diagnosis and treatment,” she said. “We worked with pharmacists and drug manufacturers, crushing up drugs to be able to give them to the babies.”

Kovacs’ latest research centers on the interaction between HIV and hepatitis C. She noted that the immune system is more impaired in women infected with both viruses, making them more likely to develop AIDS.

Xiaojiang Chen, professor of biological sciences and chemistry, molecular and computational biology, reported on the ongoing work in his laboratory on the HIV inactivating enzyme APOBEC3G. He and his colleagues are working to develop the enzyme’s anti-HIV activity, hoping to use it in AIDS therapy in the future.

Gene and cellular therapies and whether they might someday replace antiretroviral drugs in the treatment of HIV/AIDS was the focus for Paula Cannon, associate professor of molecular microbiology and immunology, pediatrics, and biochemistry and molecular biology. Cannon and Grace Aldrovandi, associate professor of pediatrics at the Keck School and Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, also acted as hosts for the symposium.

The symposium was presented by the Molecular Medicine and Immunology Department and the Institute for Emerging Pathogens and Infectious Diseases. It was sponsored by the Provost through the Center for Excellence in Research, and the Southern California Clinical and Translational Science Institute.

USC symposium examines the history and future of HIV/AIDS

By Amy E. Hamaker

Andrea Kovacs, professor of pediatrics and pathology at the Keck School of Medicine, recounts the early days of the AIDS epidemic in Los Angeles during a standing-room-only lecture on Oct. 10.

Research at USC, brought together speakers from Cedars Sinai Medical Center, Johns Hopkins, Harvard University, Caltech, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles and the Keck School of Medicine. Speakers offered historical perspectives on HIV/AIDS progression and treatment, as well as information on upcoming developments, to a standing-room-only crowd.

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The Weekly NEWSMAKERS

An Oct. 24 story on KFCC-FM quoted Charles Best, assistant professor of clinical surgery at the Keck School, about volunteering at a free health care clinic in downtown Los Angeles. “We can do rectal exams and screen for prostate cancer, at least for abnormalities there,” Best said. “The information is really our goal for the patient here.” KFCC’s The Madeline Brand Show featured an Oct. 20 story about the clinic, interviewing Michael Cousineau, associate professor of research in the Department of Family Medicine and Preventive Medicine at the Keck School.

An Oct. 21 article in Woman’s Day featured research by Marsha Baker, a junior fellow in the Division of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Family Medicine at the Keck School, that found that menopausal women given licorice extract experienced up to 85 percent fewer hot flashes and night sweats over the course of a year.

An Oct.19 broadcast on ABC News’ Los Angeles affiliate featured a surgery that William Magee, assistant professor of clinical surgery at the Keck School, performed at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles on a 15-month-old Egyptian girl with a rare facial cleft. The girl could not receive treatment in Cairo, so charities like Operation Smile, Mending Kids International and The Children of War helped her find the treatment in the U.S. “We’ve been working really hard to provide specialized care to the region and are really starting to reach out to the world,” Magee said. “This child could never have had the opportunity for this care were it not for those incredible partners.”

An Oct. 18 broadcast on NBC News’ Los Angeles affiliate interviewed Paula Cannon, associate professor of molecular microbiology & immunology, biochemistry, and pediatrics, about her research on stem cell therapies for HIV/AIDS. “If we can use these new tools of medicine to come up with sort of a one-shot treatment which will give us the ability to fight HIV and throw away all your bottles of pills, everybody is going to win,” Cannon said.

An Oct. 18 broadcast on CBS News’ Los Angeles affiliate interviewed Darcy Spicer, associate professor of clinical medicine at the Keck School and co-director of the Clinical Investigations Support Office at USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer and Hospital, about a patient who recently celebrated her 13-year anniversary of being cancer-free.
Calendar of Events
This Calendar of Events is also online at www.usc.edu/hsccalendar for the Health Sciences Campus community

Tuesday, Nov. 1
Noon. Psychiatry Grand Rounds. "Pharmacogenetics in Psychiatry: Into the Clinic." James Kennedy, University of Toronto. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-4065

Wednesday, Nov. 2


Thursday, Nov. 3
10 a.m. – 3 p.m. USC Benefits Fair 2012. Benefits staff and representatives of the companies that provide benefit programs for the University will be on hand to answer questions. Pappas Quad. Info: (213) 740-6027


Sunday, Nov. 6
8:30 a.m. USC Institute for Urology and USC Norris Cancer Hospital 2nd Annual LA Prostate Cancer 5K. All proceeds and donations will be dedicated to prostate cancer research at USC. UPC, near Tommy Trojan. To register: urology.com/prostate-5k. Info: (323) 865-3731

Monday, Nov. 7
Noon. ZNI Seminar Series. “Seek and Ye Shall Find: Epidemiological Approaches to Developmental Psychopathology,” Young-Shin Kim, Yale. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-2144


Tuesday, Nov. 15

Friday, Nov. 18

Tuesday, Nov. 22
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Molecular Microbiology and Immunology and Institute for Emerging Pathogens and Immune Disease Symposium. "Frontiers in Immunity and Cancer Vaccines with Nobel Laureate Dr. Rolf Zinkernagel," Various speakers. NRT. Areys Auditorium. RSVP: ucsb.edu/csev (code: immunity22). Info: (323) 442-1718

Tuesday, Nov. 29
1 p.m. ZNI Lecture. 2nd Annual Zach Hall Lecture honoring, in person, Zach Hall. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-2144

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) 442-3822, or email to ebibaew@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.

CEO of California HealthCare Foundation and USC Founders’ Professor of Health Policy and Management at the Price School of Public Policy at the University of Southern California, Richard Thompson, will discuss his organization’s role in improving health care in California and the nation in a presentation at 3 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 11, in the Aresty Auditorium. ESVP: usc.edu/esvp (code: immunity22). There is no charge and the event is open to the public.

ngeighbors: Programs aim to help local students

Continued from Page 1

It is not too late to add your donation to the growing list of Good Neighbors Campaign contributions. As of Oct. 14, the campaign had received 3,157 pledges totaling $1,057,000—just 24 percent shy of the 2011 goal of $1.4 million.

In addition to programs at Francisco Bravo Medical Magnet High School mentioned earlier, newly funded HSC-area programs include:

• USC Family of Schools Concurrent Enrollment Initiative—With Manual Arts High School and Los Angeles City College, provides career paths in allied health occupations for a target population of low-income, disadvantaged, first-generation high school students from the USC Family of Schools, specifically those interested in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.


Ready to do your part? Donating is easy—visit https://giving.usc.edu/goodneighbors/Donation/Give. Donations to the Good Neighbor Campaign can be made through payroll deduction, or by check or cash. All donations to the campaign are tax deductible; tax receipts are issued the following February for the year in which donations are made. Donations to the Good Neighbor Campaign also count toward the $6 billion Campaign for USC effort.

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.