

Scott Evans appointed CEO of USC's hospitals

'We do life-changing work here, we never settle for less than the best, and my goal is to further strengthen our foundation for greatness.'

**—USC hospitals
CEO Scott Evans**

Scott Evans, a respected health care administrator who has served in leadership roles at USC's hospitals for a decade, has been named the new chief executive officer of Keck Hospital of USC and the USC Norris Cancer Hospital, both a part of the Keck Medical Center of USC.

With administrative experience that includes leadership as director of Pharmacy and chief operating officer at Keck Hospital of USC (formerly USC University Hospital) and USC Norris Cancer Hospital, Evans has been at the forefront of numerous milestone achievements, including USC's historic purchase of both hospitals from Tenet Healthcare Corp., major improvements to hospital operations, and the development of measures aimed at

significantly enhancing patient care.

"We are confident that Scott's experience, foresight, commitment and vision will build our hospitals' reputation as leading, innovative and patient-driven facilities," said Tom Jackiewicz, senior vice president and chief executive officer for USC Health. "At this transformative time for the Keck Medical Center of USC, Scott will play an integral role in propelling our academic medical center to the forefront of care from Southern California to around the world."

Evans, who has served as interim CEO of the hospitals since January 2012, recently oversaw the opening of Keck Medical Center of USC Pasadena, a state-of-the-art medical office that is home to



Scott Evans

more than 50 Keck School of Medicine of USC faculty physicians. His experience also includes serving as executive administrator for medicine and operations at Keck Hospital, focusing on the growth and development of hospital clinical operations.

"I'm proud to play a role

in building our reputation as one of the most innovative and dynamic medical centers in the United States," said Evans. "From the exceptional faculty physicians to our caring and compassionate nurses and staff, we all share a commitment to excellence. We do life-changing work here, we never settle for less than the best, and my goal is to further strengthen our foundation for greatness."

During his tenure at USC, Evans has developed an impressive record reflecting his commitment to enriching Keck Medical Center of USC's reputation for world-class medical care. He spearheaded efforts to significantly improve efficiency and quality care in perioperative services, and created an Evaluation

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Zlokovic named director of Zilkha Neurogenetic Institute

By Leslie Ridgeway

Berislav V. Zlokovic has been appointed director of the Zilkha Neurogenetic Institute at the Keck School of Medicine of USC.

Zlokovic, the institute's deputy director and professor and chair of the Department of Physiology and Biophysics,



Berislav Zlokovic

began his new role July 1. He succeeds Pat Levitt, who has served as director since 2009.

An eminent scientist-clinician, Zlokovic is recognized worldwide for his contributions to the understanding of the pathogenesis of disorders of the aging brain (as foundations for development of new therapies), and for his pioneering research on the mechanisms in cerebral blood vessels mediating brain dysfunction in Alzheimer's disease. He is also internationally renowned for his work on stroke, including

the discovery of the protein C pathway in the brain that has therapeutic implications for stroke and neurological disorders.

"Dr. Zlokovic is singularly well qualified to lead the Zilkha," said Dean Carmen A. Puliafito, of the Keck School of Medicine. "As the institute's director, he will expand our efforts to build a world-class neuroscience program at USC. He will devise new neuroscience initiatives that bring together our best basic and clinical scientists, lead faculty recruitment efforts in collaboration with basic and clinical departments, and develop plans to increase philanthropic efforts. We also thank Dr. Levitt for his leadership and his numerous contributions to the Keck School's success."

Zlokovic will also work with faculty leadership to integrate neuroscience research, training and education programs, and will continue to serve as director of the Center for Neurodegeneration and Regeneration at the Zilkha Neurogenetic Institute. Zlokovic rejoined USC in December 2011 after spending the previous 11 years at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York. At USC, he spent 11 years at the Keck School, the last eight as professor of Neurosurgery, Physiology and Biophysics.

See **ZLOKOVIC**, page 2



Jon Nalick

Harvard-Westlake School senior Ashley Wu prepares stem cell samples as part of a program that offers high school students opportunities to gain practical experience in campus labs.

Keck School helps train high school stem cell researchers

By Leslie Ridgeway

Two new summer education programs at the Keck School of Medicine are giving 19 high school students with aspirations for careers in biomedical research an opportunity to gain experience in the field.

The USC Early Investigator High School (EiHS) Summer Program in Stem Cell Research placed nine students from the Harvard-Westlake School, Marlborough School and Milken Community High School in Los Angeles and Lifeline Education Charter School in Compton, Calif., in an eight-week program working with faculty scientist mentors who supervise students as they conduct research and teach them about lab procedures, ethics and compliance.

In addition, the USC CIRM STAR High School Summer Research and Creativity program is enabling 10 interns from Francisco Bravo Medical Magnet School in Los Angeles to spend eight weeks working with USC scientists,

learning about stem cell research, communication strategies and public policy development. Both programs, among many offered by USC for area high school students, began in June.

EiHS was developed by Victoria Fox, director of the Stem Cell Core at the Eli and Edythe Broad Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at USC with support from Jeff Gunter, a Los Angeles-area physician and chair of the Broad Center advisory board.

The USC CIRM STAR High School Summer Research and Creativity program is funded by a \$264,000 Creativity Award from the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine (CIRM). USC is one of nine California institutions to receive a CIRM Creativity Award in 2012. The grant is administered under the USC Science, Technology and Research (STAR) program, a 23-year collaborative science program between USC and nearby Bravo Medical Magnet High School.

USC-led study first to calculate falls in nursing home patients

By Mike McNulty

One in five short-stay nursing home patients sustains a fall after admission, and certified nursing assistant (CNA) staffing is associated with decreased fall risk, according to a study led by USC researcher Natalie Leland recently published in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*.

Though falls are unintentional, they are hardly insignificant: the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services reports fall rates as a quality indicator, and falls of nursing home residents have been associated with greater morbidity, mortality and health care costs.

Leland, who is co-appointed to the USC Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy and the USC Davis School of Gerontology, and colleagues from Brown University analyzed the 2006 Minimum Data Set (MDS) assessments of all Medicare/Medicaid patients admitted to a nursing home for the first time. Among more than 230,000 patients in nearly 10,000 nursing homes across the country, the researchers found that 21 percent of newly admitted nursing home residents sustained at least one fall during their first 30 days in the facility.

To identify potential factors contributing to falls, the study also examined various organizational

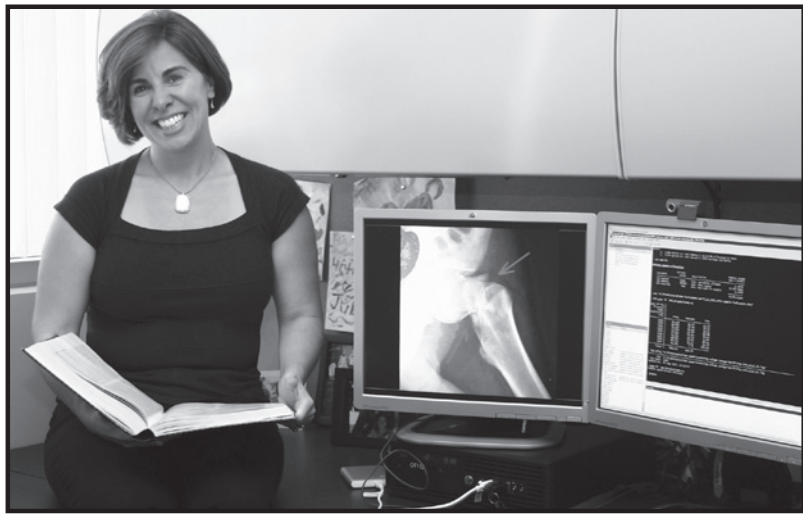
characteristics of nursing homes.

Facilities with higher CNA-to-patient staffing ratios were associated with fewer falls, likely because CNAs provide much of the hands-on patient care during high-risk activities such as toileting, dressing and ambulation.

While fall rates among long-term nursing home populations are well documented, the nationwide study is believed to be the first of its kind to specifically analyze fall rates among newly admitted nursing home residents. Because newly admitted nursing home residents are in a novel environment and are unfamiliar to staff, identification and management of fall risk poses a particular challenge.

Leland, a research gerontologist and licensed occupational therapist, explains the significance of this research.

“This study highlights the different health care goals of a population striving to get back to the community, who were mostly admitted for rehabilitation after a hospital stay, relative to long-



Kimberly Kelton

Natalie Leland, assistant professor of occupational therapy, and her team found that 21 percent of newly admitted nursing home residents sustained at least one fall during their first 30 days in their facility.

term patients who reside in the nursing home. A fall can delay or permanently prevent the patient from returning to the community, and identifying risk of falling is essential for implementing fall prevention strategies and facilitating successful discharge back to the community.”

ZLOKOVIC: Research focuses on the relationship of vascular problems to Alzheimer’s disease

Continued from Page 1

“I am honored to have the opportunity to lead this prestigious institute,” said Zlokovic. “It’s especially exciting to return to the Keck School of Medicine in this capacity, and I look forward to working with our researchers toward cures for diseases and conditions like Alzheimer’s, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, stroke and Parkinson’s. I’m also grateful to Pat Levitt for the work he has done to create a solid foundation of science and innovation at ZNI.”

Zlokovic is currently the principal investigator for numerous grants, including two National Institutes of Health (NIH)–funded R37 awards to study pathogenesis and new therapeutic targets in Alzheimer’s disease and two RO1 awards, one to study the development of therapies for ischemic stroke and the

other to investigate the role of pericytes in the adult and aging brain.

While at the University of Rochester, Zlokovic was Dean’s professor, professor of Neurosurgery and Neurology, director of the Center for Neurodegenerative and Brain Vascular Disorders, and director of the Interdisciplinary Program in Dementia Research.

Over the course of the past 20 years, Zlokovic’s research has focused primarily on the relationship of vascular problems to Alzheimer’s disease. He was a pioneer of the concept that impaired blood flow and flaws in the blood-brain barrier may play a major role in the development of diseases such as Alzheimer’s through their impact on neurons. A prolific author, with more than 250 published articles in journals such as *Nature*, *Nature Medicine*, *Nature*

Cell Biology and *Nature Neuroscience*, Zlokovic’s findings continue to provide new and significant clues on the causes of Alzheimer’s disease.

In March 2012, for example, in research published in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, his team of scientists reported on development of a new compound that was shown to inhibit the Receptor for Advanced Glycation Endproducts (RAGE) in mice. RAGE is a molecular factor that causes the type of inflammation and vascular problems of the brain and propagation of amyloid-beta toxin seen in people with Alzheimer’s disease.

In May 2012 in the journal *Nature*, Zlokovic and his team reported the results of a study investigating why a gene called ApoE4 makes people more likely to develop Alzheimer’s disease. They

found that the gene’s presence makes it more probable that toxic substances will leak from blood vessels into the brain, damaging neurons and reducing blood flow.

For his research on Alzheimer’s disease and stroke, Zlokovic has received numerous awards, including the MetLife Award, the Potamkin Prize from the American Academy of Neurology, the Javits Award from the National Institute on Neurological Disorders and Stroke, and a MERIT Award from the National Institute on Aging.

Zlokovic is also an active biotech entrepreneur, inventor and holder of several patents. He co-founded three companies with Selim Zilkha, member of the Keck School Board of Overseers and major

donor to the Zilkha Neurogenetic Institute, including ZZ Biotech, a concern developing new treatments for stroke and Alzheimer’s disease.

Zlokovic received his bachelor’s degree from Belgrade College of Sciences in what is now Serbia. For his medical degree and doctorate, he attended the University of Belgrade, where he also completed his residency in clinical physiology (neurology and intensive care). He completed fellowships in transport biology at Queen Elizabeth College in the United Kingdom, as well as in neurobiology and blood-brain barrier transport at King’s College London, and in neurobiology and transport physiology at St. Thomas’ Hospital London.

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Scientists find surprising links between health, relative income inequality <http://tinyurl.com/6vh5xfn>

Henri Ford receives Faculty Member of the Year Award
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Keck School faculty receive Mellon Mentoring Awards
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The Weekly

Next Issue: July 27

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Keck School student climbs so at-risk kids can reach higher



Third-year medical student Christopher Czaplicki (front) has recently parlayed a passion for mountaineering into an opportunity to aid a program for at-risk youths.

By Ryan Ball

When Christopher Czaplicki was an undergraduate, he helped his girlfriend move across country from New York to California and caught his first glimpse of the Rocky Mountains. Seeing Grand Teton for the first time was a life-changing event.

“You come through the valley out of Dubois, Wyoming, and all of a sudden it’s just there,” Czaplicki recalled. “When you’re a little kid drawing mountains in a picture and you don’t even know what a mountain looks like, that’s what you draw. That’s what it looks like. Just so perfect.”

A third-year student at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, Czaplicki has developed a passion for mountaineering over the past two years and has found a way to use his newly found avocation to help others. He became involved

with Climbing for Kids, a program of Oakland, Calif.-based Bay Area Wilderness Training. The non-profit organization aims to literally expand the horizons of at-risk and underprivileged youths by getting them out of the city and into the wild.

Czaplicki has a goal of raising \$3,800 through private donations as he scales the very mountain that inspired him during that road trip years ago. He leaves on July 25 for a five-day climb up Grand Teton with five other climbers.

They will all pay their own travel expenses, and gear will be provided by sponsors. The \$25,000 being raised by the team will directly benefit children served by the program.

Climbing and immersing himself in nature has kept Czaplicki grounded throughout his medical education, and he believes it will

serve him well as a physician. He hopes to have a career that involves some form of international medicine.

“Studies have shown that physicians and climbers have a lot in common because climbers aren’t really thrill seekers—they’re very meticulous in their planning,” Czaplicki noted. “A lot of physicians later in life take up climbing as a hobby.”

Czaplicki has nearly met his fundraising goal but still needs help. Donations can be made at www.climbingforkids.org/fundraising/donate. Those who donate \$25 or more will be able to have a special message written on a Tibetan prayer flag that he brought back from the Himalayas, where he participated in an international medical clinic last summer. The flag will be flown on the summit, and each donor will receive in the mail the piece containing their message.

EVANS: Administrator brings wide variety of experience to hospitals CEO post

Continued from Page 1

and Treatment Clinic, which provides patients with 24-hour access to Keck Hospital of USC. He has overseen critical initiatives to reduce medication errors and supported productive labor negotiations while fostering unity and teamwork throughout all levels of the organization.

“On behalf of all of our faculty physicians, I welcome Scott’s leadership and expertise,” said Don Larsen, chief medical officer of Keck Medical Center of USC. “He understands the critical role of our physician leaders and has established a reputation as a problem solver. I’m confident that our hospitals will thrive under his watch.”

As CEO, Evans serves on the executive leadership team of the Keck Medical Center of USC. Evans also holds an appointment as associate dean for academic medical center programs in the USC School

of Pharmacy, underscoring his enthusiasm for education, teaching and mentorship.

“Many great hospitals work closely with a great medical school,” said Carmen A. Puliafito, dean, Keck School of Medicine. “I look forward to collaborating with Scott to highlight the important work of our clinical enterprise and educate tomorrow’s leaders in medicine.”

In 2004 Evans joined USC University Hospital (now Keck Hospital of USC) as the director of pharmacy services and residency program director for USC School of Pharmacy—acute care residencies. As an adjunct member of USC’s faculty, he developed several key pharmacist positions including specialists in psychiatry, infectious disease, and ambulatory care transplantation. Under his direction, the hospital was recognized by the National Patient Safety Congress for a pioneering patient safety proj-

ect related to tele-pharmacy services in California.

“Scott’s tireless attention to patient safety is one of the reasons that our reputation commands increasing respect in the community,” said Vaughn Starnes, chief of surgery, Keck Medical Center of USC. “The welfare of our patients is his greatest concern, proven by the many initiatives he has championed on their behalf.”

Evans has a wide range of administrative experience that includes responsibilities in the areas of radiology, clinical lab, medical staff administration, respiratory care, quality and outcomes management, and risk management. His tenure includes being named associate administrator for Professional and Quality Services for both Keck Hospital of USC and USC Norris Cancer Hospital.

In this capacity he created a Clinical Authorizations Center

with an emphasis on chemotherapy reimbursement in the outpatient setting.

“Scott has developed the important skill of working effectively over all levels of our organization,” said Edward Crandall, chair, Department of Medicine, Keck School of Medicine. “His dedication to collaboration and teamwork across the clinical enterprise has earned him the respect and support of all our clinical department chairs.”

That respect is echoed by Inderbir Gill, chair of the USC Department of Urology.

“I have known Scott for the past three years. He is dy-

namic, he is visionary and he is a can-do person,” said Gill. “I know that under his leadership, he will bring renewed energy to the Keck Medical Center of USC enterprise. We look forward to closely partnering with him.”

Evans received his Doctorate of Pharmacy in 1998 from the USC School of Pharmacy, with postgraduate residency training at the Department of Veterans Affairs and the USC School of Pharmacy. He is in the class of 2012 in the Executive Master of Health Administration program at the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy.

Researchers gather for town hall to discuss research resources

By Nasim M. Thompson

Researchers gathered at a June 4 town hall in Aresty Auditorium to discuss new developments in the USC-based Southern California Clinical and Translational Science Institute (SC CTSI). The town hall was led by Thomas Buchanan, director of the SC CTSI.

“The CTSI exists to develop and support research that will lead to improvements in human health. To do that, we have developed really outstanding resources to support researchers on the front lines of translational discovery and to create a new generation of investigators who do translational work,” said Buchanan.

The SC CTSI supports researchers by providing a variety of critical research resources along the translational research pipeline. At the town hall, Buchanan noted that some of the updated resources include \$1 million in annual support for pilot projects; robust pre- and post-doctoral education and mentored career development programs; access to a free, web-based research

data management tool called RedCap; and two robust clinical trials units—one at USC and another at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles.

The institute provides consultations by faculty and staff to help faculty members and trainees conduct preclinical development of new diagnostics and therapeutics, early phase human trials and mechanistic studies; community-engaged research; and data acquisition, management and analysis. The CTSI can also help researchers and teams with complex issues related to regulatory support and research ethics.

In April 2010, the SC CTSI received a five-year, \$56.8 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to create more direct links between biomedical research and new approaches to health and health care. The SC CTSI places particular emphasis on research that can improve health in diverse urban populations.

An archive of the town hall is available at <http://tinyurl.com/6txef8p>. To learn more about SC CTSI resources, visit www.sc-ctsi.org.



Jon Nalick

BAXTER FOUNDATION VISIT—The Donald E. and Delia B. Baxter Foundation has given USC more than \$10 million and recently gave the Keck School of Medicine of USC \$300,000 for junior faculty research and medical student scholarships. The latest gift will be split between Emil Kartalov, assistant professor of pathology, and Andy Chang, assistant professor of urology, and the Baxter Summer Research Program that allows medical students to perform scientific research during the summer of their first year. Back row, from left: George Tolomiczenko, Richard H. Haake, Donald B. Haake and James (Jim) Russell. Front row, from left: Elizabeth M. Fini, Jane Haake-Russell and William Haake.

USC surgeon operates on little Darth Vader

By Alison Trinidad

The boy who portrayed a mini Darth Vader in a popular Super Bowl ad is recovering after open-heart surgery on June 14 by renowned USC cardiothoracic surgeon Vaughn Starnes.

Max Page, 7, was born with Tetralogy of Fallot, a congenital heart defect that prevents adequate oxygenation of the blood. Left untreated, the defect can lead to heart failure. Since birth, Max has had multiple surgeries to repair the valve that connects the heart to the lungs.

“One of the basic problems with Max’s heart and the way it formed, the blood vessel that goes between the heart

and lungs was way too small—it was probably 10 percent of the normal size,” said Michael Silka, pediatrics professor at the Keck School of Medicine of USC and co-director of The Heart Institute at Keck School-affiliated Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, where Page has been treated since he was an infant. “Because of this, it’s like trying to basically breathe through a straw.”

The two-hour surgery implanted a larger, porcine-manufactured valve that is expected to last 10 to 15 years.

“The surgery went very well,” said Starnes, Hastings Distinguished Professor at the Keck School and co-director of The Heart Institute. “We went in to replace his

pulmonary valve, which we did without incident.”

During the surgery, Page’s family spent time in a hospital family lounge.

“The next 48 hours are so crucial in Max’s recovery,” said Jennifer Page, the boy’s mother. “We love the outpouring of support that everyone has shown, and the kindness from family, friends and strangers has been tremendous.”

Max Page, a cast member of “The Young and the Restless,” serves as a Junior Ambassador for Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, speaking to groups and encouraging individuals to support treatment and research to fight pediatric illness.



Max Page, right, with his brother, Els, shows off his Sith skills at a June 13 Children’s Hospital Los Angeles press conference.

At a press conference on June 13, Page left a message for other children: “If you use your force and dream big, you can achieve anything. We may be small, but we are mighty.”

Donations can be made to CHLA.org/MAX. “Every

dollar that is given in Max’s honor means so much to us and all the children at this hospital,” his mother said.

On July 9, the “Today Show” interviewed Page about his surgery; the interview is at <http://tinyurl.com/7htgyxr>.



STANLEY CUP VISITS CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL LOS ANGELES—The iconic trophy was on display recently at CHLA thanks to Tim Leiweke, president of Anschutz Entertainment Group, which owns the 2012 Stanley Cup Champions the Los Angeles Kings. From left, behind Bailey, the Los Angeles Kings Mascot, are: Stuart Siegel, Thomas M. Simms, Carmen A. Puliafito, Todd E. Molz, Dustin Brown, Megan Hernandez, D. Brent Polk and Richard Cordova.

USC to double child care capacity with new provider

By Jon Nalick

Addressing a “dire need” to bolster child care availability for employees, University officials have signed an agreement to turn over the operation of USC’s child care services to the San Francisco-based Children’s Creative Learning Center (CCLC).

Announcing the move in a June 25 memo, Elizabeth Garrett, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, and Todd R. Dickey, senior vice president for administration, said the move will double the university’s child care capacity to about 400 slots. At the same time, it would “ensure that enrolled children receive the best care possible and ample educational opportunities.”

Under the agreement, CCLC will begin operating USC’s two existing child care centers—at Severance Street north of the University Park campus, and Playground Street at the Health Sciences campus—effective Aug. 20.

USC and CCLC will also build and operate two new child care centers, one on each campus.

executive director of benefits administration, said the change stemmed from a “dire need” to increase availability of child care university-wide—but particularly at the rapidly growing Health Sciences campus.

She said the decision also reflected the university’s leaders’ acknowledgement that child care “is not what USC does. We want to partner with someone whose business it is to provide child care.”

Under the agreement, she said, the majority of the USC child care teachers and staff have left university employment while assuming equivalent positions at CLCC.

In addition, the current tuition rates, classroom curriculum and teacher ratios will remain in effect at least

through the end of 2012.

CLCC founder Fran Durekas met with parents and teachers in late June on both campuses to emphasize the university’s commitment to care continuity and minimizing disruptions during the transition.

CCLC was founded in 1996 and is the largest early childhood education provider in the United States. CCLC clients include major universities such as Stanford, Northwestern, Virginia and Oregon State. The company’s USC Child Care Centers website during the transition period is at www.cclc.com/USC.

For more information about the transition or to make suggestions or requests, email hsc@cclc.com.

Calendar of Events

This Calendar of Events is also online at www.usc.edu/hscalcalendar for the Health Sciences campus community

| | |
|--|--|
| Friday, July 20 | Noon. Center for Applied Molecular Medicine Seminar. “The Role of Physical Cues and Cellular Forces in Metastatic Cell Migration,” Cynthia Reinhard-King, Cornell University. CSC 201. Info: (323) 442-3849 |
| 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. Surgical Grand Rounds: Chairman’s Education Kick-off Session—Review of Goals and Expectations. DOH 100. Info: (323) 442-9064 | |
| Monday, July 23 | Tuesday, July 31 |
| 3 – 6 p.m. USC Stevens and USC School of Pharmacy Seminar. “Conversations in Life Sciences, An Interactive Discussion,” Kristina Burrow, San Francisco Arch Venture Partners. PSC 104. Info: (213) 821-6063 | Noon. Cancer Center Grand Rounds. “Inherited Susceptibility to Epithelial Ovarian Cancer: The Story So Far...” Paul Pharoah, University of Cambridge. NRT Aresty Aud. Info: (323) 865-0801 |
| Friday, July 27 | Friday, Aug. 24 |
| 8:30 a.m. Surgical Grand Rounds. “Circulating Tumor Cells in Breast Cancer,” Julie Lang, USC. DOH 100. Info: (323) 442-9064 | 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. Moving Targets 2012 – 11 th Annual Symposium. “Metabolic Syndrome: Past, Present & Future,” Thomas Buchanan, USC. Radisson Hotel, Los Angeles. Info: (323) 442-2605 |

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 email to eblaauw@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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