

Keck School inks deal to train Chinese students

A delegation from a highly rated medical school in China visited the Keck School of Medicine of USC on April 9 to sign an agreement establishing an education and research program for visiting students.

The agreement was signed by Keck School Dean Carmen A. Puliafito and Xiangya School of Medicine Dean Tao Lijian.

The arrangement calls for as many as 10 qualifying Xiangya students to spend two years studying and conducting research as Dean's Research Scholars at the Keck School. The scholars will have already completed six years of their medical education in China.

Each visiting student will be hosted by a Keck biomedical, clinical or translational research laboratory.

"We're honored to open our doors to these visiting students," Puliafito said. "The experience and

training they receive here will help them throughout their careers."

The Chinese medical school is part of Central South University in Changsha in the Hunan Province.

A memorandum of understanding was signed last year by the leaders of both schools in which they agreed to explore opportunities for international exchange and to promote mutual cooperation in education and research.

Founded by the Hunan Institute of Education and the Yale-China Association of America in 1914, Xiangya School of Medicine is considered one of the best medical schools in China. The school has 12,000 students, 1,800 faculty members, affiliations with five major teaching hospitals with more than 10,000 beds, and active research programs in various fields.

ACC honors Rahimtoola for lifetime achievement

By Josh Grossberg

The American College of Cardiology has given its 2013 Lifetime Achievement Award to Shahbudin H. Rahimtoola, a USC Distinguished Professor and George C. Griffith Professor of Cardiology at the Keck School of Medicine of USC.

Rahimtoola is only the fifth person to receive the award – the highest honor bestowed by the ACC. It was given at the group's annual meeting in March.

The award is presented to those who have career-spanning achievements in the field of cardiovascular disease and have served as role models through service, research and teaching.

"It acknowledges one's efforts over 40 or 50 years," Rahimtoola said. "I value it highly."

Rahimtoola earned his medical degree in 1954. He came to the United States in 1963 to co-direct the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory of the Mayo Clinic. He was on the medical faculty of the University of Illinois and the University of Oregon before joining USC in 1980.

Among his many accomplishments, Rahimtoola considers his discovery of the hibernating myocardium among his most important. He was also the first person to describe the problems of prosthetic valve patient mismatch.

Although he's given 1750 lectures around the world, edited 11 textbooks and published 593 scientific articles, Rahimtoola—who has been called "the world's cardiologist"—is humble when describing himself.

"I think of myself as a hands-on cardiologist and a doctor who, in addition, does a lot of teaching," he said.

His colleagues said the award is very well deserved.

"Dr. Rahimtoola has been recognized throughout his career as a particularly astute and insightful contributor in his fields of interest," said Edward Crandall, chairman of the school's

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Jon Natlick

LEARNING THE SCIENCE OF MEDICINE—The Latino Medical Student Association and Student National Medical Association of the Keck School of Medicine of USC hosted graduation ceremonies for their respective pipeline programs Educación Primero and the Tom Bradley Mini Medical School on April 12 at the Health Sciences campus. About 160 fifth graders from Eastman Avenue Elementary School in East Los Angeles and Tom Bradley Environmental Science and Humanities Charter Magnet School in South Los Angeles, spent the day touring the campus, dissecting pig hearts and receiving their diplomas. These programs aim to encourage elementary students in the underserved Los Angeles area to pursue science, higher education and careers in medicine. Above, Claire Guevara, a second-year student at the Keck School, leads program participants in a pig heart dissection.

Transplant recipient relishes second chance

By Josh Grossberg

He likes to think of it as a birthday celebration.

It was 10 years ago this month when Bill Widen received a new lung—and a new life.

On April 5, Widen returned to Keck Hospital of USC to commemorate the anniversary with some of the people who helped make it happen. April is National Donate Life Month.

Bubbling with the energy of a man half his 60 years, racecar driver Widen greeted hospital workers and other transplant recipients. He also got supporters and curious onlookers to sign the hood of his Donate Life car, which he drives to events around the country to encourage people to become organ and tissue donors.

"We owe so much to the doctors and staff of USC for getting us through all these years," he said. "They have become a second family."

Several members of his original team from the hospital—then called USC

University Hospital—came outside to chat with Widen and to congratulate him on his continued good health.

"He's done great," said lead transplant coordinator Felicia Schenkel. "He's the biggest advertisement for transplant that we have."

Transplant scheduler Patricia Pulido has known Widen since his surgery.

"I'm glad he's doing great and glad we can give patients a second chance," she said.

Widen, an Ontario resident, was suffering

from emphysema and could barely walk a few feet when he received his new lung. He doesn't know the 18-year-old man who donated it, but it was an act of generosity that has inspired Widen ever since.

He and his daughter, Andrea Smith, drive the Donate Life Chevy Nova to drag races and to raise awareness for the importance of donating organs.

"People are afraid to put the dot on their license," said Widen, who runs

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Shahbudin H. Rahimtoola



Josh Jolly

Bill Widen celebrates the 10th year anniversary of receiving a new lung. Joining him are two members of his original transplant team, Portia Dauglash (left) and Felicia Schenkel (right).

USC research may point the way to regeneration of brain cells

‘We could be talking about a treatment that could be given within three days of a stroke.’

—Berislav Zlokovic, director of the Zilkha Neurogenetic Institute at the Keck School of Medicine of USC

By Leslie Ridgeway

New research from a USC team has possible implications for patients of neurological conditions including stroke, Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and traumatic brain injury (TBI).

The research, published April 2 in the *Journal of Neuroscience*, demonstrates that human neural progenitor cells, which build neurons, can be prompted into action by a genetically engineered variant of a key protein in the body.

A treatment developed using this variant could mean a stroke victim with irreversible brain damage might, days after suffering the stroke, be able to build new brain cells and regain cognitive and other functions thought to be lost forever.

“This implication is very exciting,” said Berislav Zlokovic, director of the Zilkha Neurogenetic Institute at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. “We could be talking about a treatment that could be given within three days of a stroke, and then after a week. The patient could receive treatment weekly for several months to stimulate neurogenesis. When we give mice the variant two weeks after they suffer a stroke, we’ve

seen good results and behavior.”

The research, “An Activated Protein C Analog Stimulates Neuronal Production by Human Neural Progenitor Cells Via a PAR-1-PAR-3-S1PR1-Akt Pathway” also describes the molecular mechanism and pathway needed for neuronal production, Zlokovic said.

The variant, called 3K3A-APC, was developed by Zlokovic and colleagues at ZZ Biotech, a Houston-based biotechnology company he co-founded with USC benefactor Selim Zilkha. Genetically engineered 3K3A-APC is a variant of the naturally occurring protein APC, which plays a role in protecting the brain against bleeding and inflammation.

A study published last July by a team led by Zlokovic demonstrated that 3K3A-APC, given in tandem with tPA—also known as the “clot buster drug” and given to stroke patients shortly after they suffer a stroke—can counteract the sometimes dangerous bleeding caused by tPA and improve cognitive function after a stroke. The difficulty for most patients is that tPA must be administered within three hours of a stroke; administered later, patients can suffer traumatic bleeding in the brain and breakdown of the brain’s protective barrier.

In the new study, Zlokovic and colleagues analyze how 3K3A-APC works in human neural progenitor cells. After stimulating the cells, the researchers observed that the cells differentiated mainly into neurons and suppressed differentiation into astroglial or oligodendroglial cells, which inhibit replenishment of neurons.

Future research will focus on whether 3K3A-APC may have applications for helping patients with neurological conditions other than stroke, Zlokovic said.

Funding was provided by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health (grant number HL63290).

The research team includes scientists from ZZ Biotech, the Center for Neurodegenerative and Vascular Brain Disorders in the Department of Neurosurgery and the Center for Translational Neuromedicine in the Department of Neurology at the University of Rochester Medical Center, the Department of Medical Pharmacology and Blood Brain Barrier Research Laboratory at the University of Arizona, and the Department of Molecular and Experimental Medicine at The Scripps Research Institute.

When it comes to pharmacy law, USC professor Fred Weissman wrote the book

By Kukla Vera

When Fred Weissman’s son was in pharmacy school in the 1990s, he complained about the dullness of the law portion of his studies. This sparked Weissman, who holds Pharm.D. and J.D. degrees, to write a book on pharmacy law that was engaging while still covering the important material.

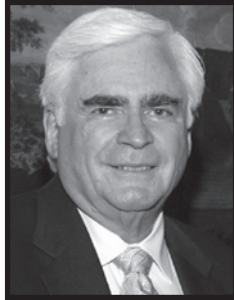
A Guide to California Community Pharmacy Law was first published in 1997 and has just come out in its eighth edition, reflecting recent changes to laws relevant to the practice of pharmacy. Pharmacy students, board exam candidates, practicing community pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are the typical audience for the book.

“I try to put law into a narrative language using a Socratic method in

the book,” said Weissman, associate professor at the USC School of Pharmacy, where he also serves as associate dean for student/faculty affairs and admissions. “Each legal point is raised as a question or statement, then answered in a concise manner supported by statutes and/or regulations.”

In the state’s pharmacy law text, similar or related laws often appear in different parts of the text, making it difficult for the reader to obtain a full view. Weissman’s book organizes similar statutes and regulations in the same section, making it more accessible to the reader.

Having taught USC students



Fred Weissman

throughout their pharmacy studies, Weissman is well versed on getting legal information across to pharmacy students and pharmacists. Among the topics he teaches are legal issues around compounding pharmacy, the role of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and a semester-long course on statutory and regulatory state laws complemented by a discussion of relevant federal laws.

“The book mirrors some of the material that I teach in my classes and goes beyond to cover material that will be included in the law portion of the Board of Pharmacy licensure exam,” Weissman said. “Further, the book is a resource for

practicing pharmacists.”

Weissman’s book is known to pharmacists and students statewide; students and schools throughout California rely on it as a law education source in preparation for the licensure exam and throughout their careers.

“As with most professions, the law plays an important role,” Weissman said. “Ignorance of the law is not an excuse. So the aim of my book is to help students and practicing pharmacists know and understand the laws that govern their profession and to keep up to date on changes.”

Weissman wrote an article that outlined recent changes in state pharmacy law in the winter 2013 edition of *California Pharmacist*, a publication of the California Pharmacists Association.

The Weekly

Next Issue: April 26

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Associate Vice President, Health Sciences Public Relations and Marketing: Deborah S. Fullerton

Executive Director of Communications: Ina Fried

Assistant Director of Publications: Sara Reeve

Editor: Jon Nalick

Contributors: Ryan Ball, Eva Blaauw, Tania Chatila, Josh Grossberg, Amy E. Hamaker, Carol Matthieu, Leslie Ridgeway, Diane Ver Steeg Anderson and Kukla Vera

Vice President, Public Relations and Marketing: Brenda Maceo

Phone: (323) 442-2830 Fax: (323) 442-2832
Email: hscwkly@usc.edu Web: theweekly.usc.edu

Revlon Run/Walk to aid USC Norris

Faculty, staff, students and friends are invited to join the USC Norris Team for the 20th Anniversary of the Entertainment Industry Foundation’s 5k REVLON Run/Walk for Women on Saturday, May 11, at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum at Exposition Park.

USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center has been selected as one of this year’s beneficiaries, with proceeds benefiting women’s cancer research conducted by Michael Press, co-leader of the Women’s Cancers Program. USC Norris also will have an information booth at the Health Expo the day of the run/walk, distributing giveaways and information.

To join the USC Norris Team, visit revlonrunwalk.org and click “Join Us in LA,” then “Register” and “Join a Team.” Input “USC Norris” for the team name. The registration fee is \$35 through May 10 (\$40 day of the event). The fee includes an EIF REVLON Run/Walk for Women T-shirt, gift bag and a USC Norris Team T-shirt.

To support the team, sign up for the Revlon Run/Walk in Your Dreams. The cost is \$42, and you still get the team T-shirt. Register for the USC Norris Team and click on the Participate in Your Dreams option.

For more information, contact Tonya Strom, USC Norris Team Captain, at (323) 865-0668 or tstrom@usc.edu.

The V Foundation for Cancer Research board meets at USC Norris

By Amy E. Hamaker

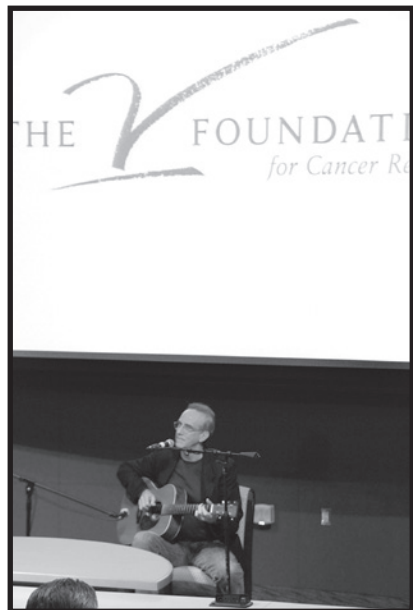
The USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center was the host for the recent annual board meeting of The V Foundation for Cancer Research, a leading nonprofit funder of cancer research founded by NCAA-winning coach Jim Valvano, who died in 1993 from cancer.

New board officers were elected at the meeting, held on Feb. 7, and the meeting was chaired by the foundation's new CEO Susan Braun.

Highlights included a special presentation. Composer David Barrett honored The V Foundation's board members with a special performance of two of his musical compositions—"One Shining Moment" (performed on piano) and "The Grateful Life" (performed on guitar).

Before the performance, Stephen B. Gruber, director of the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, welcomed the board members to the Health Sciences campus.

"Our investigators represent the many other scientists across the United States who have benefitted from The V Foundation's support, and we wanted to honor you in a special way," he said. "Thank you for your work for generations of patients, to help us work toward a life free from cancer."



Composer David Barrett honored members of The V Foundation with a special performance of his music as they held their annual board meeting at the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Afterward, foundation board members and USC Norris researchers attended a lunch at which researchers made brief presentations explaining how previous grants from The V Foundation have helped shape their work:

- Christina Curtis, assistant professor of preventive medicine

at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, spoke on her research tracing individual cells, evolutionary cancer dynamics and resistant cells.

- Tanya Dorff, assistant professor of clinical medicine at the Keck School, described her work in helping patients fast to protect against chemotherapy toxicity, and shared information on the phase I trial she has already completed.

- Parkash Gill, professor of medicine at the Keck School, talked about his team's work creating drugs to affect the KRAS gene. (Mutation of this gene is an essential step in the development of many types of cancer.)

- Nora Heisterkamp, professor of pediatrics pathology at the Keck School, spoke on drug resistance in leukemia, and how her work intersects with other research. "I'm a basic researcher. My perspective is different," she said. "With these grants, we can put our heads together to come up with solutions that are more translatable."

- Robert Ladner, assistant professor of research pathology at the Keck School, spoke about 5-FU chemotherapy drugs, and how The V Foundation's grant provided his team with a start to their translational research.

- Ebrahim Zandi, associate professor of molecular microbiology and immunology at the Keck School, talked about proteomics and cell signaling. "This type of grant really helps you to start your program in independent research," he said.

- Wu Zhang, a research associate at USC Norris, discussed chromatin remodeling in cancer cells, noting that The V Foundation's grant was a catalyst for receiving support from other sources.

Nick Valvano, Jim Valvano's brother, and The V Foundation board member and president emeritus, noted that meeting and speaking with the researchers helps board members see a more personal approach to helping diagnose and treat cancer. "You put a face on cancer research," he said. "We need a reason to hope, and when we see your passion and dedication, it reminds us why we raise money for research."

"The V Foundation's presence here at USC Norris is a recognition of the meaningful investment we've made to making cancer a disease of the past—not just financially, but also scientifically," said Gruber. "It's truly a privilege to have the foundation here transferring their leadership while we at the cancer center celebrate our 40th anniversary this year."

L.A. Kings Stanley Cup Championship ring to be auctioned to benefit CHLA

Fans of the defending world champion Los Angeles Kings have a unique opportunity to own a piece of sports history while also supporting a worthy cause. One of a limited number of authentic L.A. Kings Stanley Cup Championship rings, courtesy of the Kings in support of their charitable

partners, is up for auction now through April 22 on CharityBuzz.com.

Proceeds from the sale will benefit two of the Kings' charitable partners, Children's Hospital Los Angeles and City Year Los Angeles.

The Tiffany & Co.-fabricated ring is to the specifications of the Stanley

Cup Championship rings that were also created for the King's players. Worth \$13,500 at fair market value, the ring features 14 karat white gold with .84 carats in round, brilliant cut diamonds, and will be personalized with the name of the auction winner prominently engraved on the

band. Authentic LA Kings Stanley Cup Championship rings will not be sold in retail outlets.

Kings fans also can bid on an "Ultimate Kings Fan Package," valued at \$7,500. The package includes dinner for two with Luc Robitaille, two tickets to the Kings vs. Sharks game on

April 27 and a Kings jersey signed by the team.

The auction is currently underway, with bidding started at \$3,000 and \$800 respectively. Both opportunities will close at noon on April 22.

For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/calkyrk>.

The Weekly NEWSMAKERS

An April 14 article in the *U-T San Diego* quoted **Geoffrey Joyce**, associate professor of clinical pharmacy and pharmaceutical economics and policy at the USC School of Pharmacy, about the tax subsidies that come with the Affordable Care Act's new individual mandate.

An April 13 story in *The Sentinel* cited an op-ed by **Ken Murray**, retired clinical assistant professor of family medicine at the Keck School of Medicine, about how doctors view end-of-life care.

An April 12 story in the *Beverly Hills Courier* quoted **Brent Polk**, chair of pediatrics and vice dean for child health at the Keck School of Medicine, and **Sentra Georgia**, assistant professor of pediatrics at the Keck School of Medicine, about new research on generating insulin-producing beta cells. The research has implications for people diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes.

On April 11, *The New York Times* featured research by **Jon-Patrick Allem**, a doctoral student at the Keck School of Medicine, and colleagues, who used Google searches to analyze seasonal patterns of mental health. Their study found that searches pertaining to anxiety, obsessive compulsive disorder,

depression and other disorders surged in winter months.

An April 11 post by the Associated Press featured a medical device tested by **John Lipham**, associate professor of surgery at the Keck School of Medicine, and colleagues, that treats gastroesophageal reflux disease. The device, approved a year ago by the federal Food and Drug Administration and also sold in Europe, employs a ring of titanium beads around a weak muscle at the base of the esophagus. Lipham and colleagues recently published a study of the device in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, finding that acid in patients' throats greatly decreased after the device was implanted.

An April 11 story in *The New York Times* quoted **Andrea Hricko**, professor of clinical preventive medicine at the Keck School of Medicine, about pollution at the Port of Los Angeles, noting that she has done research on the subject.

On April 11, KPCC-FM interviewed **Yang Lu**, assistant professor of research with a joint appointment between the Keck School of Medicine and the USC Price School of Public Policy, about the impact of public education and clear menu labeling on public health.



HONORING EXCELLENCE—From left: Keck School of Medicine of USC Dean Carmen A. Puliafito, Maurice Hitchcock and Vice Dean for Medical Education Henri Ford admire the cake at a March 20 reception in honor of Hitchcock. A professor and director of the school's division of medical education, Hitchcock retired after 17 years. He received an engraved silver tray in appreciation for his work in recruiting and fostering professional development of outstanding medical educators.

Calendar of Events

Monday, Apr. 22

8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Earth Day 2013 Forum. "The Face of Climate Change: Local and Global Perspectives." Los Angeles City Hall. Info: (310) 479-1817

Tuesday, Apr. 23

Noon – 2 p.m.

USC Center for Excellence in Research Workshop. "Interdisciplinary Team Leadership," George Tolomiczenko and Azad Madni, USC. UPC: CUB 329. Info: (213) 740-6709

Noon. USC Office of Religious Life Conference.

A talk describing recent advances in the science of Judaism and mental health by David Rosmarin, founder and director of JPSYCH. MCH 156. Info: (213) 740-6110

4 p.m. Women's Cancers Program Research Seminar. "Can Antifungal Agent Be the Next Potential Therapeutic Drug For Endometrial Cancer Patients?" Paulette Mhawech-Fauceglia, USC. NOR 7409. Info: (323) 865-0801

Wednesday, Apr. 24

8:30 a.m. Medicine Grand Rounds. "Interstitial Lung Disease," Michael Koss, USC. IRD 732-734. Info: (323) 226-7923

11 a.m. Institute for Emerging Pathogens & Immune Diseases, Molecular Microbiology & Immunology Seminar. "Biochemical Dissection of Bacterial Virulence and Macrophage Innate Immunity," Feng Shao, National Institute of Biological Sciences. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-1713

Noon. Women in Management Speaker Series and Luncheon. "Creating a Culture of Philanthropy," Melany Duval, USC. BCC Seminar Rm. \$15 members, \$18 non-members. Info: (323) 442-2656

Thursday, Apr. 25

6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. Health Matters: USC physicians discuss health topics you care about. "Weight Loss Surgery: The Latest Options," various speakers. University Club of Pasadena, 175 North Oakland Ave., Pasadena, CA 91101. For more info and to RSVP, log on to usc.edu/esvp (code: HEALTHMATTERS4) or call 323-442-2830.

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.

Friday, Apr. 26

6:30 a.m. Anesthesiology Grand Rounds.

"Perioperative Stroke in General Surgery – It's More Common Than You Think," Adrian Gelb, UC San Francisco. MCH 256. Info: (323) 409-6856

8 a.m. Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Grand Rounds. "Clinical Chemistry Test Utilization: Are We Ready for the Role of Gate Keeper?" Kathleen Kelly, UCLA. NOR 7409. Info: (323) 442-1180

8:30 a.m. Medicine Grand Rounds. "Epithelial-Fibroblast Interactions in Adult Lung Homeostasis and Disease," Barry Stripp, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. IRD 732-734. Info: (323) 226-7923

8:30 a.m. Surgical Grand Rounds. "Imperforate Anus," Christopher Gayer, CHLA. DOH 100. Info: (323) 442-9064

Noon. Physical Sciences in Oncology Center Seminar. "Modeling and Predicting Oncogene Addiction," Dean Felsher, Stanford. CSC 250. Info: (323) 442-2764

Tuesday, Apr. 30

Noon – 1:30 p.m. Global Health Lecture. "Story of a Smile: The Journey of Operation Smile," William Magee, USC. UPC: TCC 450. Info: (323) 442-7732

Noon. Cancer Center Grand Rounds. "Obamacare: Implications for Treatment of Cancer," Michael Cousineau, USC. NRT Aresty Auditorium. Info: (323) 865-0801

Noon – 2 p.m. USC Center for Excellence in Research Workshop. "NSF Career Award Proposal Workshop," Phil Taylor, USC. UPC: CUB 329. Info: (213) 740-6709

Noon. Eli and Edythe Broad Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at USC Seminar. "Quantitative Imaging of Mammalian Development," Nicolas Plachta, European Molecular Biology Laboratory. BCC 1st Floor Seminar Room. Info: (323) 442-8080

Tuesday, May 7

Noon. Psychiatry Grand Rounds. "Neuropsychiatric Effects of Mild TBI," David Baron, USC. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-4065

USC student helps the visually impaired

By Diane Ver Steeg Anderson

Amanda Wong, a third-year student in the Doctor of Pharmacy program at the USC School of Pharmacy, has found new ways to meet the needs of blind and visually impaired patients.

Wong has done this through a partnership between the School of Pharmacy and the Los Angeles Braille Institute. Wong, who volunteered as a high school student at the Orange County Braille Institute, came up with the idea when a visually impaired participant at a USC community health fair had difficulty getting help.

"It made me think about how I could further help," Wong said. "I met with the Braille Institute. It took a year to educate them about the value a pharmacy can provide and the importance of having patients adhere to their medications."

To further the partnership, Wong applied for and was awarded



Amanda Wong

an Albert Schweitzer Fellowship, a national program that annually grants fellowships to select graduate students in the fields of medicine, pharmacy and public health. Each fellow identifies an unmet need in the community and develops a patient care project to meet that need.

As part of her Schweitzer project at the Braille Institute, Wong conducted medication reviews with participants; brought in fellow students to give presentations about asthma,

hypertension, bone loss, osteoporosis and over-the-counter drug safety; and handed out donations of Braille pillboxes.

"My goal for the project was not only to educate and teach the students at the Braille Institute, but also to provide an outlet for USC Pharmacy students to learn and get a chance to interact with [the] community," Wong said.

Brad Williams, professor of clinical pharmacy and clinical gerontology and Wong's fellowship mentor, noted that she "worked seamlessly" with the staff of the Braille Institute and with student organizations to accomplish her goal.

"She was most efficient and adept at working with several groups, which always is a challenge," Williams said. "The maturity with which she handles difficult situations speaks very highly of her leadership abilities in both easy and difficult circumstances."

WIDEN: 'Who doesn't want to be a hero?'

Continued from Page 1

Donate Life/Signatures Across America. "We talk to them about that."

Widen's appearance also inspired the family of a man who received a heart transplant at the hospital in March. Still recovering from his operation, 22-year-old Joe Alerta was escorted outside in a wheelchair to meet a man who was in a very similar situation a decade ago.

"It's awesome," said Joe's mother, Mel Alerta. "It gives me goose bumps. I'm overwhelmed."

Also on hand was Mike Catterall, who received a double lung transplant nine years ago. He said Widen's enthusiasm and energy show that people can lead active lives after a transplant.

"He's helped save a lot of lives," Catterall said. "This brings out the awareness.

You can save someone's life and be a hero. Who doesn't want to be a hero?"

For Widen, every day of the past 10 years has been a gift.

"It gave me a different outlook on life," he said. "It definitely changed the entire way I look at life."

For more information about Widen's project, visit www.donorrracing.com.

ACC: Rahimtoola honored as skilled teacher, physician

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Department of Medicine. "He is widely known and appreciated as a teacher and mentor, and has been an important part of the USC division of cardiovascular medicine for many years."

His sentiment was shared by colleague John T. Nicoloff, professor of medicine.

"How pleased we are his lifetime of accomplishments have been recognized by his peers," he said. This is truly an honor for his multiple contributions to the health of patients with heart disease."

USC Health Sciences
Public Relations and Marketing
1975 Zonal Ave. KAM 400
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