

USC awards Presidential Medallion to Inderbir Gill

Inderbir Gill, chairman and professor of the Catherine and Joseph Aresty Department of Urology and founding executive director of the USC Institute of Urology, has received the Presidential Medallion, USC's highest honor.

USC President C. L. Max Nikias presented Gill with the award at the 32nd annual Academic Honors Convocation on April 23.

The medallion, which was also presented to USC Trustee Verna B. Dauterive, is awarded to those individuals who have brought honor and distinction to the university.

In his introduction, Nikias noted Gill's contributions to robotic and laparoscopic

surgery, and called Gill a "world leader" in minimally invasive kidney-preserving surgery for renal cancer.

"Dr. Gill is a true medical visionary who has immeasurably advanced USC's clinical experience, while reimagining the boundaries of modern surgery," Nikias said.

Gill, who also serves as associate dean of clinical innovation at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, is ranked as the top author in the entire field of urology, having published eight textbooks and 513 peer-reviewed scientific papers with more than 8,000 citations.

Nikias also recognized the recent appointment of



USC President C. L. Max Nikias (center) congratulates Presidential Medallion honorees USC Trustee Verna B. Dauterive (left) and Inderbir Gill of the Keck School of Medicine of USC.

Jae Jung as a distinguished professor. Jung, who was appointed in February, holds the Fletcher Jones Foundation Distinguished

Chair in Molecular Biology and Immunology at the Keck School. He also holds a joint appointment in pharmacology and

pharmaceutical sciences at the USC School of Pharmacy.

Other awards and winners included:

- Associates Award for Creativity in Research and Scholarship was presented to Yves De Clerck, professor of pediatrics, biochemistry and molecular biology;

- Phi Kappa Phi Faculty Recognition Award was given to Gelya Frank, professor of occupational therapy and anthropology;

- Phi Kappa Phi Student Recognition Award was presented to Shili Xu, candidate: Ph.D., pharmacology and pharmaceutical sciences at the USC School of Pharmacy.

Keck School to host Nobel Laureate John Gurdon in lecture on stem cells

Nobel Laureate Sir John Gurdon will speak on "From Nuclear Transplantation to Prospects for Cell Replacement" on Thursday, May 16, noon-1 p.m. in the Aresty Auditorium of the Harlyne J. Norris Cancer Research Tower.

Gurdon has led significant advances in developmental biology, particularly through his pioneering research in nuclear transplantation and cloning. In the 1960s and '70s, his seminal experiments demonstrated the viability of animal cloning and laid the foundation for modern stem cell research. His discoveries transformed the understanding of how gene regulation generates cellular diversity with profound implications for stem cell and medical research.

In recognition of his achievements, he was awarded the 2012 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

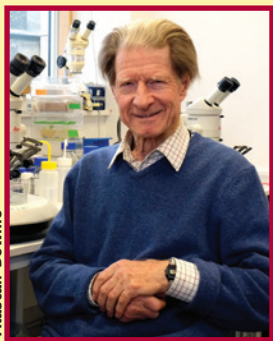
Gurdon, who will receive an honorary degree from USC at commencement ceremonies, is a professor emeritus at the University of Cambridge

John Gurdon

and a Distinguished Group Leader at the Wellcome Trust/Cancer Research UK Gurdon Institute.

The free public lecture is sponsored by USC Stem Cell, the Eli and Edythe Broad Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at USC, and the Department of Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine, Keck School of Medicine of USC.

Those unable to attend may watch a live webcast at <http://keckmedia.usc.edu/mediasite/Catalog/catalogs/broad.aspx>.



Alastair Downie

Transplant recipient gets a heartfelt farewell

By Josh Grossberg

Although he had been in the hospital for five months—and near death more times than his mother cares to remember—Joe Alerta set a goal for himself: To be home by the time he celebrated his 23rd birthday.

He made it with three days to spare.

Thanks to a new heart in his chest and a lot of care and support from his family, friends and the staff at Keck Hospital of USC, Alerta is ready to celebrate his birthday in style.

But before he could leave, the nursing staff wanted to have their own celebration for the man they got to know so well over the months. They were impressed not only with Alerta's spirit, but also with the outpouring of support from his family and a seemingly endless supply of friends who came to visit every day since he was admitted on Nov. 8.

On April 21, everybody gathered in a hospital conference room for a going-away party. There were balloons, presents, cakes and enough homemade food to feed the Trojan football team.

Looking a little nervous, but strong enough to walk on his own, Alerta welcomed everybody with a warm smile, a solid handshake or an emotional hug. He was looking forward to going home, but also a bit apprehensive about it.

"It's a little bittersweet," he said. "I'm nervous. I haven't been outside for six months."

His mother, Mel Alerta, broke down into tears as she thanked the roomful of nurses, dieticians,



Keck Hospital patient Joe Alerta chats with Cortney Montgomery, clinical nutrition manager, at Alerta's farewell party on April 22.

therapists and all the others who helped her son make his recovery.

"Without your help, I don't think my son would be strong," she said.

While they're thrilled that Alerta is recovering

See **HEART**, page 2

USC research identifies new model to study Alzheimer's

By Leslie Ridgeway

Research by Keck School of Medicine of USC faculty supports the idea that increases in a molecule called beta-amyloid in the brain drives Alzheimer's disease, according to a study published in the *Journal of Neuroscience*.

Using genetically engineered lab rats with the full array of brain changes associated with Alzheimer's disease, a team led by Terrence Town, the study's

senior author and a professor in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics at the Zilkha Neurogenetic Institute, created a next-generation disease model to study the disease.

"We believe the rats will be an excellent, stringent pre-clinical model for testing experimental Alzheimer's disease therapeutics," said Town, who conducted the study while working as a professor of biomedical sciences at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and

David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Alzheimer's is an age-related brain disorder that gradually destroys a person's memory, thinking and the ability to carry out simple tasks. Affecting at least 5.1 million Americans, the disease is the most common form of dementia in the United States.

Pathological hallmarks of Alzheimer's brains include

See **TOWN**, page 2

CHLA lures pediatric oncologist Alan S. Wayne from NCI

After serving 14 years as clinical director of the Pediatric Oncology Branch of the National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the internationally renowned pediatric hematologist-oncologist, Alan S. Wayne, is joining USC and Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

Wayne has been named director of the Children's Center for Cancer and Blood Diseases at CHLA and will serve as the division head of hematology-oncology and bone marrow transplantation in the Department of Pediatrics at the hospital.

He will also hold positions as professor of pediatrics at the Keck

School of Medicine of USC and associate director for pediatric oncology at the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. He will begin his duties on July 1.

At CHLA, Wayne will assume the Stuart E. Siegel Endowed Chair. His directorship duties will include responsibility for the delivery of patient care services to all inpatients and outpatients of the hospital's cancer and blood diseases center and the hematology-oncology and bone marrow transplantation division. In addition, he will oversee direction for research, lead fundraising efforts and promote the hospital's missions and values in the community. He also will

supervise the quality and accreditation of oncology and hematology teaching programs for interns, residents and fellows.

"Dr. Wayne will increase the scientific integration and collaborative work between the Children's Center for Cancer and Blood Diseases and the broader community at Children's Hospital, The Saban Research Institute and the University of Southern California," said Carmen A. Puliafito, dean of the Keck School of Medicine and a member of the CHLA Board of Trustees.

Wayne has authored more than 20 scholarly books and monographs and more than 70 peer-

reviewed scientific papers in the fields of pediatric hematology, oncology, stem cell transplantation and transfusion medicine. In the past five years he has contributed to 40 exhibitions and presentations at national and international conferences.

Among his numerous awards and honors, he received the NIH Director's Award for Mentoring and has been listed among "The Best Doctors In America" every year since 1995.

Throughout his career, Wayne has served in leadership roles on institutional and national committees and as a member of numerous professional societies and



Alan S. Wayne

organizations including the Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplant Consortium, Children's Oncology Group and the American Society of Hematology. His current editorial responsibilities include the position of associate editor, *Frontiers in Pediatric Oncology*.

HEART: Patient's birthday present—leaving the hospital with a new heart—comes early

Continued from Page 1

nicely, his care staff will miss him. The Alertas have become like family to them.

"People got attached," said Felicia Schenkel, the hospital's lead transplant coordinator. "No one wanted him to go. He knows everybody. He knows the housekeepers."

Up until May 2012, Alerta felt perfectly healthy. But then he started having trouble breathing.

A trip to urgent care revealed an enlarged heart. He made an appointment to see a cardiologist but never went. Instead, the recording engineer went on a 16-city tour with a rap group.

After going to the doctor a few months later, he was diagnosed first with bronchitis and then pneumonia.

His mother came from her home in Lompoc, Calif., as quickly as she could.

"As soon as I got here, he went into cardiac arrest," she said. "I got down on my knees crying. I experienced my own son dying in front of me. I was begging people to save him."

He needed a new heart, a process that took months. During that time, a bond developed between the family and the nursing staff.

"The nurses are so good to us," Mel Alerta said. "I don't know why. Joe can be so bratty."

Good news finally arrived on Good Friday—a healthy heart was available. The transplant took place on Easter Sunday.

"I feel so grateful, but I feel bad for the other family," Mel Alerta said. "I feel sad for them, but I'm overwhelmed that my son is getting better."

Alerta was released the day after the party. It was a happy day for everybody.

TOWN: Genetically engineered rats offer new avenue to study Alzheimer's disease

Continued from Page 1

abnormal levels of beta-amyloid protein that form amyloid plaques; tau proteins that clump together inside neurons and form neurofibrillary tangles; and neuron loss. Additionally, glial cells—which normally support, protect or nourish nerve cells—are overactivated in Alzheimer's.

Using rats engineered to

have certain mutant genes, the researchers were able to see that beta-amyloid in the rats' brains increased with age.

They also noticed the development of neurofibrillary tangles in brain regions most affected by Alzheimer's involving learning and memory, and the death of about 30 percent of neurons, or

brain cells, in these regions. Some of the rats' glial cells acquired shapes reminiscent of the activated glia found in patients.

Activation of glia occurred earlier than amyloid plaque formation, which suggests that Town and his colleagues identified an early degenerative event and a new treatment target that scientists studying other

rodent models may have missed.

In addition to grants from the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NS076794), National Institute on Aging (AG029726, AG033394) and

the National Institute of Mental Health Intramural Research Program, this study was funded by the Alzheimer's Association (IIRG-05-14993, ZEN-10-174633) and the Ellison Foundation/American Federation for Aging Research (M11472).

The Weekly

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BAXTER FOUNDATION VISITS THE KECK SCHOOL—Directors of the Donald E. and Delia B. Baxter Foundation visited the USC Health Sciences campus to hear formal presentations of the nominees for two junior faculty members to receive funding. The foundation also supports medical student summer research scholarships at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. The Baxter Foundation has a long relationship with USC, having given more than \$10 million during its 54 years of giving to the university. The foundation's mission is to advance charitable, scientific and educational purposes, primarily at medical and scientific schools of higher learning in California. Pictured here, left to right, are Keck School Interim Vice Dean for Research and Associate Dean for Clinical Research Thomas Buchanan, and, from the Baxter Foundation, Martha B. Haake, Richard Haake, James Russell, Jane Russell, new director Martha E. Haake, William Russell, new director Marla Elliott, and Donald Haake.

Merger transforms USC family practice into a federally qualified health center

By Leslie Ridgeway

As the Affordable Care Act plays out, numerous challenges have cropped up—from how to serve the millions of newly insured expected to crowd into doctors' offices, community clinics and hospitals, to the perilous shortage of primary care doctors to serve them.

Researchers at USC believe they may have a solution to some of those challenges, which they recently put into practice through a merger of the Family Practice and Family Medicine Residency involving the Keck School of Medicine of USC, the California Hospital Medical Center and the Eisner Pediatric and Family Medical Center.

The merger transformed a downtown Los Angeles family practice operated by USC into a federally qualified health center (FQHC) owned by the Eisner Center that is now eligible for federal grants and higher

Medi-Cal reimbursements. USC faculty continue to run the residency and see patients. Patient volumes have increased, and the new center is not only in the black after one year, but it has for the first time filled all eight of its residency slots.

"This model is a true partnership between a university, a hospital and clinic and a model for how to expand community-based medical training," said Michael Cousineau, principal investigator on the paper and associate professor of preventive medicine at the Keck School. "Trying to align leadership was tough. Leadership and commitment were the keys."

Lessons learned were detailed in a paper recently published by *Academic Medicine*, a journal of the Association of American Medical Colleges. Titled "Transforming a family medicine center and residency program into a federally qualified

health center," the paper is a kind of template that the researchers and participants hope will help others set realistic expectations when attempting to accomplish similar goals.

"We were surprised at the complexity of the project," Cousineau said. "I've helped in merging organizations, but I didn't imagine all the obstacles. The smallest things could have undermined us at any time."

The most important lessons, as noted in the paper, include:

- Getting a commitment from all partners to the final goal, which helped usher through approvals and eliminate communications problems
- Hiring a project director to keep the project on track and facilitate the grant process (including a \$600,000 operational grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration)
- Leveraging opportuni-

ties for federal and local grant funding

• Obtaining funding from a foundation (in this case, UniHealth) with the means to support critical goals such as building infrastructure and securing legal counsel.

Although Cousineau said the partners "went in with our eyes open," the administrative and legal hurdles were considerable. For one, the staff of about 20 had to leave USC employment to become Eisner Center employees, a requirement that led to a loss of some staff.

As the clinic was moved from USC to Eisner, the partners found they had to replace all the equipment and even exam tables, which were officially owned by USC. Another challenge was switching the patient management system from USC to Eisner, which involved developing new electronic medical records and the patient scheduling system.

The merger created a sustainable alternative to

hospital-based family medicine residencies for medical residents, Cousineau said. With hospital-based family medicine residencies becoming more rare, community health centers like Eisner are well positioned within the health care safety net, making them more attractive to residents.

"The students interview and see our clinic's affiliation with USC and the fact that it's an FQHC, and they are interested. They have a sense that they're part of something," said Cousineau, adding that medical students have already established a student-run Saturday clinic.

California Hospital serves as the residents' location for experience with labor and delivery and other required hospital-based training, he said.

Now that the clinic has been up and running for a year, Cousineau said leadership is meeting soon to learn more about outcomes to help determine future plans.

The Weekly NEWSMAKERS

An April 29 broadcast on OnLive noted Keck School of Medicine faculty members **Peter Jones**, the Sawyer Chair in Cancer Research and a distinguished professor of urology, biochemistry and molecular biology; **Barbara Gitlitz**, associate professor of clinical medicine; and **Stephen Liu**, assistant professor of medicine, as leaders of Stand Up 2 Cancer's epigenetics Dream Team. Stand Up 2 Cancer is a multidisciplinary initiative created to accelerate cancer research and therapies.

On April 29, KPCC-FM's Larry Mantle interviewed **Sharon Orrange**, assistant professor of clinical medicine at the Keck School of Medicine, about doctor-recommended hangover remedies.

An April 26 article by the Associated Press quoted **Lon Schneider**, professor of psychiatry and the behavioral sciences and neurology at the Keck School of Medicine, about a UCLA-led project that aims to fast-track the pace of discovery and will hopefully lead to new therapies for autism and other neurological disorders. "I'm thrilled to see quick and dirty early development trials, but nothing comes free and the devil is in the details in how these trials are managed and carried out," said Schneider.

On April 26, AOL Energy featured research guided by **Jonathan Samet**, who serves as the Flora L. Thornton Chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine at the Keck School of Medicine, and colleagues, about the long-term psychological consequences of the infamous Chernobyl nuclear plant meltdown.

An April 26 column in the *Montreal Gazette* cited **Robert Kloner**, professor of medicine at the Keck School of Medicine, about his research that links the emotional stress experienced by fans of a losing Super Bowl team to increased risk of heart attack.

An April 26 article in *Oncology Nurse Advisor* quoted **Taline Khoukaz**, nurse practitioner at the Keck Hospital of USC and the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, about the effects of regorafenib, an oral multikinase inhibitor, on patients with metastatic colorectal cancer. "While regorafenib showed an acceptable safety profile, patients experienced adverse events such as hand-foot skin reaction, hypertension, fatigue, diarrhea and oral mucositis; and some patients showed an elevation of liver enzymes (AST and ALT) and hyperbilirubinemia," said Khoukaz.

On April 26, *The New York Times* published an op-ed by **Kathleen Page**, assistant professor of medicine at the Keck School of Medicine, and Robert S. Sherwin, a professor of medicine at Yale, about how the brain controls eating habits.

An April 25 story in the *New Scientist* featured research by **Cheng-Ming Chuong**, professor of pathology at the Keck School of Medicine, finding that stem cells appear to create the patterns in feathers. Chuong said that a complex interweaving of variables creates the diverse array of patterns: "You have [something] like a symphony there." The story stated that the discovery could one day help scientists grow organs from scratch without the need to put cells on scaffolds.

An April 24 post on The Equation mentioned that **Ed Avol**, professor of clinical medicine at the Keck School of Medicine, presented at a UC Davis policy forum series on the future of California's freight transportation system.

On April 24, Medical Xpress featured research led by **Theodore Berger**, professor of biomedical engineering and neurobiology at the Keck School of Medicine, about neural coding and the development of memory device implants.

USC researcher discovers key factor in generating insulin-producing beta cells

In a study that could have a great impact on people with type 1 diabetes, Keck School of Medicine of USC researcher Senta Georgia has discovered a key factor required for the differentiation of pancreatic insulin-producing cells.

This research has been published as the cover article in a recent issue of *Genes and Development*.

"The field of regenerative medicine and stem cells has great potential to define new treatments that harness the body's own developmental and restorative processes to promote healing and undo damage from chronic inflammatory or environmental injuries. The work that Dr. Georgia is pursuing is a perfect example of this new frontier in biomedical investigation and health," said Brent Polk, chair of the Department of Pediatrics at the Keck School and director of the Saban Research Institute of Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

Beta cells of the pancreas produce insulin. Because people with type 1 diabetes have a deficiency of beta cells, they are unable to produce enough insulin to maintain normal blood glucose levels.

"Regenerative medicine has the potential to cure this disease if we can devise a

method for using stem cells to make new beta cells," said Georgia, an assistant professor of pediatrics at the Keck School and researcher at the Saban Research Institute.

For stem cells to differentiate into specialized cells, they must go through a series of divisions. The challenge is to determine how to direct the stem cell through many intermediate states and cell divisions so that ultimately, it becomes a beta cell.

Mother stem cells must pass the appropriate cellular information to the daughter stem cells for this process to occur. One way of transmitting this "cellular memory" is through DNA methylation. An enzyme, DNMT1, is known to regulate DNA methylation during cell division, but its requirement for passing on cellular memory was unknown.

In this paper, Georgia has demonstrated that DNMT1 is critical for progenitor cell survival during pancreas formation in fetal development. Molecular analysis suggests that DNMT1 represses the expression of p53, a protein that acts to inhibit cell division and to activate cell death. Decreasing the amount of p53 in models that lacked DNMT1 restored pancreas formation.

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, May 7

Noon. Eli and Edythe Broad Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at USC Seminar. "Differentiation of Chondrocytes and Osteoblasts: Regulation and Lineage Tracing," Henry Kronenberg, Harvard. BCC Seminar Room. Info: (323) 442-8084

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

6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Town Hall Los Angeles. "Changing the Faces of Health Care: Who Will Take Care of You?" Kevin Loherty, USC. Rand Corporation, 1776 Main St., Santa Monica. Info: (213) 628-8141.

Wednesday, May 8

7:30 a.m. – 9 a.m. USC Institute for Integrative Health Seminar. "The Role of Occupational Therapy in Integrative Health," Camille Dieterle, USC. Breakfast reception 7:30–8 a.m. Speaker and discussion at 8 a.m. CHP 102. Info: (323) 442-2638

Noon. ZNI Seminar. "You Can Learn a Lot Just By Watching: Uses and Abuses of MRI and Simultaneous PET/MRI," Russell Jacobs, CalTech. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-2144

4:30 p.m. 3rd Annual Vladimir Zelman Distinguished and Endowed Lectureship. "Living in Transformational Times: Two Personal Perspectives," Roald Sagdeev, former advisor to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, and Susan Eisenhower, The Eisenhower Institute. Reception at 4:30 and lecture at 5:15 p.m. NRT Aresty Auditorium. Info: (323) 409-6856

Friday, May 10

8:30 a.m. KSOM Surgical Grand Rounds. "Mesenteric Ischemia: What Every Surgeon Should Know," Shahin Pourrabbani, USC. DOH 100. Info: (323) 442-9064

10 a.m. – 3 p.m. HTE @ USC Frontiers Symposium. "Bringing the Shark Tank to USC! Place Your Bets: Assessing Medical Device Potential for Impact," Vivek Ramakrishnan, Intellectual Ventures. UPC: TCC 450. Info: (323) 774-1442

11 a.m. – 2 p.m. USC Center for Excellence in Research Workshop. "Understanding, Writing, and Obtaining NIH-K-Series Career Development Grants," Charles Gromer, USC. CHLA Saban Auditorium. Info: (213) 740-6709

Saturday, May 11

6 a.m. – 6 p.m. Revlon Run/Walk for Women. Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum at Exposition Park. Faculty, staff, students, residents 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, on the grounds of the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum at Exposition Park. Info: (323) 865-0668

Tuesday, May 14

9 a.m. – 11 a.m. Southern California Clinical and Translational Science Institute Mentoring Workshop. "Strategies for Successful Mentoring," Emil Bogenmann, CHLA, and Kenneth Yates, USC. NRT Aresty Auditorium. Info: 323 442-8281

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. USC Breast Center Forum. "Get Fit After the Fight: What You Need to Know About Exercise After Breast Cancer," Christina Dieli-Conwright and Debu Tripathy, USC. NRT Jennifer Diamond Cancer Resource Library. Info: (323) 442-7808

Friday, May 17

6:30 a.m. Anesthesiology Grand Rounds. "The Truth about Spinal Anesthesia," Robert Martin, Loma Linda University. MCH 256. Info: (323) 409-6856

8:30 a.m. KSOM Surgical Grand Rounds. The 15th Annual Lyman Brewer, III, MD Visiting Professor Lectureship. "Translational Research in Aortic Disease: Clinical Applications," John Ikonomidis, Univ. of South Carolina. DOH 100. Info: (323) 442-9064

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.



Steve Cohn

KECK SCHOOL WELCOMES JOHN NIPARKO—Keck School of Medicine of USC Dean Carmen A. Puliafito, right, hosted a welcome reception April 3 at the California Club for John Niparko, center, professor and chair of the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. With them at the reception is Dale Rice, who stepped down from the position of department chair after 30 years of service.

2013 Health Sciences Campus Commencement Ceremonies

Wednesday, May 15

Keck School of Medicine—M.S., Ph.D., & M.P.H.

4 p.m. at the Harry & Celesta Pappas Quad on the Health Sciences campus. Keynote speaker: Jonathan Evan Fielding, director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and health officer for Los Angeles County. A reception will immediately follow at the same location. No tickets required. More Info: (323) 442-1607

Friday, May 17

Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy

10:45 a.m. at the lawn west of Leavey Library at the University Park campus. Keynote speaker: Captain Mary I. Greenwood (Ret.), U.S. Navy. A reception will immediately follow at the Davidson Conference Center, Embassy Room. No tickets required. More Info: (323) 442-2811

Physician Assistant Program

10:45 a.m. at the lawn southwest of the Allan Hancock Foundation Building at the University Park campus. Keynote speaker: Robert Sachs, president of the Physician Assistant Board. A reception will immediately follow at the same location. No tickets required. More Info: (626) 457-4253

Biokinesiology and Physical Therapy

11 a.m. at Bovard Auditorium at the University Park campus. Keynote speaker: Stephania Bell, physical therapist, senior writer and injury analyst for ESPN. No tickets required. More Info: (323) 442-5550

Dentistry

11 a.m. at McAlister Soccer Field at the University Park campus. Keynote speaker: Jerold Goldberg, dean at the School of Dental Medicine at Case Western Reserve University. A reception will follow at 1:30 p.m. at the same location. No tickets required. More Info: (213) 740-2851

Health Promotion

11 a.m. at Town and Gown at the University Park campus. Keynote speaker: Elahe Nezami, director of the Health Promotion and Global Health Programs at the USC Institute for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Research. A reception will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the same location. Tickets are required for the ceremony, but not for the reception. More Info: (231) 821-1601

School of Pharmacy

3 p.m. at the Norris Library Quad on the Health Sciences campus. Keynote speaker: Jon Roth, CEO of the California Pharmacists Association. A reception will immediately follow on the Upper Quad. Tickets are required. More Info: (323) 442-1383

Saturday, May 18

Keck School of Medicine – M.D./Ph.D., M.D.

3 p.m. at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. Keynote speaker: Robert K. Ross, president and CEO of The California Endowment. A reception will immediately follow on the McCarthy Quad at the University Park campus. No tickets are required. More Info: (323) 442-2553

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