Practice makes perfect at Surgical Simulation Center

By Josh Grossberg

Becoming a doctor requires years of attending lectures, watching PowerPoint presentations and reading stacks of thick textbooks filled with charts and graphs. But at some point, young students and physician residents at Los Angeles County + USC will have to put down the heavy tomes and pick up a scalpel or a needle holder to begin the work of helping to make patients better.

To help them reach that goal as skillfully as possible, the Department of Surgery at the Keck School of Medicine of USC provides them with a variety of simulation options to teach procedural based skills. This provides the opportunity to practice — and practice some more — before they ever touch a patient. Now, students and young physicians can hone their skills in an environment that is safe, but also real enough to mimic the stress of a real-life situation.

“Historically, a student's first experience performing simple procedures on a patient occurred in a clinical, and often stressful setting,” said program Executive Director Maura Sullivan, PhD. “It sounds really simple, but practicing those skills first is important.”

Originally built as one room at its opening in 2000, the Surgical Skills Simulation and Education Center has expanded to include the heavy tomes and pick up a scalpel or a needle holder to begin the work of helping to make patients better.

The development of a community medical foundation intended to add primary and specialty practices into the Keck Medicine network was a key initiative identified as part of the clinical enterprise-wide strategic plan. “As CEO of the new foundation, McAfee will play a key role in developing the health system’s physician align- ment strategy,” said Shawn Sheffiel, MBA, MSHA, chief strategy and system development officer for Keck Medicine of USC. “A critical function will be to establish the foundation and attract marquee groups and physicians to affiliate with Keck Medicine of USC.”

The foundation model in development will be the Keck Medicine of USC home for acquired physician practices, enabling the enterprise to provide a comprehensive range of health services in a broader geographic footprint. It also will allow Keck Medicine to expand its participation in the managed care environment, and service the health needs of USC employees more efficiently.

“Tom McAfee has both the clinical and health-care business management experience to excel in this new role,” said Tom Jackiewicz, MPH, senior vice president and CEO of USC Health, to whom McAfee will report. “I am confident that his leadership will take our health-care system to a new level of excellence.”

McAfee will develop and maintain close working relationships with physician groups, local hospitals and other clinical service providers; create an integrated electronic clinical practice environment to facilitate care coordination and streamline referrals; and promote collaboration among physicians within the foundation and with USC clinical faculty. In his role, he also will work closely with Keck Medicine department chairs, as well as leadership of the Keck Medical Center of USC, USC Verdugo Hills Hospital and the USC Care Medical Group (composed of Keck School of Medicine of USC faculty physicians), which are all part of Keck Medicine of USC.

“Physicians in independent practice are increasingly financially tethered to medical centers,” said John Niparko, MD, president of USC Care Medical Group. “Our current economics and health reform are accelerating this trend. These partnerships have many working parts, however. With his experience, McAfee offers insight and flexible thinking in developing well-managed physician foundations. He knows how to build these relationships. His appointment reflects Keck Medicine’s desire to develop new approaches and an exceptional system of health care for Southern Californi- a.”

McAfee said he is looking forward to joining Keck Medicine of USC and being part of transformative decisions affecting the clinical enterprise.

“USC has developed an ambitious vision to be a top performing medical school and health system regionally and nationally,” McAfee said. “Tom Jackiewicz has assembled a first-rate leadership system, and the faculty and department chairs impressed me as having the commitment and passion to be the best. It’s an exciting time to be at USC.”

Of the opportunity to shape a new medical foundation, McAfee said, “It’s a new strategic opportunity to create something that hasn’t existed at USC before. The key success will be selecting the right physicians. We have a powerful brand name in Los Angeles and beyond, and to preserve that brand equity, we need to include physicians who are the best in their field.”

AUGUST 9 • 2013

PUBLISHED FOR THE USC HEALTH SCIENCES CAMPUS COMMUNITY

VOLUME 19 • NUMBER 23

theweekly.usc.edu

The development of a community medical foundation intended to add primary and specialty practices into the Keck Medicine network was a key initiative identified as part of the clinical enterprise-wide strategic plan.

“Tom McAfee offers insight and flexible thinking in developing well-managed physician foundations. He knows how to build these relationships. His appointment reflects Keck Medicine’s desire to develop new approaches and an exceptional system of health care for Southern Californi- a.”

McAfee said he is looking forward to joining Keck Medicine of USC and being part of transformative decisions affecting the clinical enterprise.

“USC has developed an ambitious vision to be a top performing medical school and health system regionally and nationally,” McAfee said. “Tom Jackiewicz has assembled a first-rate leadership system, and the faculty and department chairs impressed me as having the commitment and passion to be the best. It’s an exciting time to be at USC.”

Of the opportunity to shape a new medical foundation, McAfee said, “It’s a new strategic opportunity to create something that hasn’t existed at USC before. The key success will be selecting the right physicians. We have a powerful brand name in Los Angeles and beyond, and to preserve that brand equity, we need to include physicians who are the best in their field.”

AUGUST 9 • 2013

PUBLISHED FOR THE USC HEALTH SCIENCES CAMPUS COMMUNITY

VOLUME 19 • NUMBER 23

theweekly.usc.edu

The development of a community medical foundation intended to add primary and specialty practices into the Keck Medicine network was a key initiative identified as part of the clinical enterprise-wide strategic plan.

“Tom McAfee offers insight and flexible thinking in developing well-managed physician foundations. He knows how to build these relationships. His appointment reflects Keck Medicine’s desire to develop new approaches and an exceptional system of health care for Southern Californi- a.”

McAfee said he is looking forward to joining Keck Medicine of USC and being part of transformative decisions affecting the clinical enterprise.

“USC has developed an ambitious vision to be a top performing medical school and health system regionally and nationally,” McAfee said. “Tom Jackiewicz has assembled a first-rate leadership system, and the faculty and department chairs impressed me as having the commitment and passion to be the best. It’s an exciting time to be at USC.”

Of the opportunity to shape a new medical foundation, McAfee said, “It’s a new strategic opportunity to create something that hasn’t existed at USC before. The key success will be selecting the right physicians. We have a powerful brand name in Los Angeles and beyond, and to preserve that brand equity, we need to include physicians who are the best in their field.”

AUGUST 9 • 2013

PUBLISHED FOR THE USC HEALTH SCIENCES CAMPUS COMMUNITY

VOLUME 19 • NUMBER 23

theweekly.usc.edu

The development of a community medical foundation intended to add primary and specialty practices into the Keck Medicine network was a key initiative identified as part of the clinical enterprise-wide strategic plan.

“Tom McAfee offers insight and flexible thinking in developing well-managed physician foundations. He knows how to build these relationships. His appointment reflects Keck Medicine’s desire to develop new approaches and an exceptional system of health care for Southern Californi- a.”

McAfee said he is looking forward to joining Keck Medicine of USC and being part of transformative decisions affecting the clinical enterprise.

“USC has developed an ambitious vision to be a top performing medical school and health system regionally and nationally,” McAfee said. “Tom Jackiewicz has assembled a first-rate leadership system, and the faculty and department chairs impressed me as having the commitment and passion to be the best. It’s an exciting time to be at USC.”

Of the opportunity to shape a new medical foundation, McAfee said, “It’s a new strategic opportunity to create something that hasn’t existed at USC before. The key success will be selecting the right physicians. We have a powerful brand name in Los Angeles and beyond, and to preserve that brand equity, we need to include physicians who are the best in their field.”

AUGUST 9 • 2013

PUBLISHED FOR THE USC HEALTH SCIENCES CAMPUS COMMUNITY

VOLUME 19 • NUMBER 23

theweekly.usc.edu

The development of a community medical foundation intended to add primary and specialty practices into the Keck Medicine network was a key initiative identified as part of the clinical enterprise-wide strategic plan.

“Tom McAfee offers insight and flexible thinking in developing well-managed physician foundations. He knows how to build these relationships. His appointment reflects Keck Medicine’s desire to develop new approaches and an exceptional system of health care for Southern Californi- a.”

McAfee said he is looking forward to joining Keck Medicine of USC and being part of transformative decisions affecting the clinical enterprise.

“USC has developed an ambitious vision to be a top performing medical school and health system regionally and nationally,” McAfee said. “Tom Jackiewicz has assembled a first-rate leadership system, and the faculty and department chairs impressed me as having the commitment and passion to be the best. It’s an exciting time to be at USC.”

Of the opportunity to shape a new medical foundation, McAfee said, “It’s a new strategic opportunity to create something that hasn’t existed at USC before. The key success will be selecting the right physicians. We have a powerful brand name in Los Angeles and beyond, and to preserve that brand equity, we need to include physicians who are the best in their field.”

AUGUST 9 • 2013

PUBLISHED FOR THE USC HEALTH SCIENCES CAMPUS COMMUNITY

VOLUME 19 • NUMBER 23

theweekly.usc.edu

The development of a community medical foundation intended to add primary and specialty practices into the Keck Medicine network was a key initiative identified as part of the clinical enterprise-wide strategic plan.

“Tom McAfee offers insight and flexible thinking in developing well-managed physician foundations. He knows how to build these relationships. His appointment reflects Keck Medicine’s desire to develop new approaches and an exceptional system of health care for Southern Californi- a.”

McAfee said he is looking forward to joining Keck Medicine of USC and being part of transformative decisions affecting the clinical enterprise.

“USC has developed an ambitious vision to be a top performing medical school and health system regionally and nationally,” McAfee said. “Tom Jackiewicz has assembled a first-rate leadership system, and the faculty and department chairs impressed me as having the commitment and passion to be the best. It’s an exciting time to be at USC.”

Of the opportunity to shape a new medical foundation, McAfee said, “It’s a new strategic opportunity to create something that hasn’t existed at USC before. The key success will be selecting the right physicians. We have a powerful brand name in Los Angeles and beyond, and to preserve that brand equity, we need to include physicians who are the best in their field.”

AUGUST 9 • 2013

PUBLISHED FOR THE USC HEALTH SCIENCES CAMPUS COMMUNITY

VOLUME 19 • NUMBER 23

theweekly.usc.edu

The development of a community medical foundation intended to add primary and specialty practices into the Keck Medicine network was a key initiative identified as part of the clinical enterprise-wide strategic plan.

“Tom McAfee offers insight and flexible thinking in developing well-managed physician foundations. He knows how to build these relationships. His appointment reflects Keck Medicine’s desire to develop new approaches and an exceptional system of health care for Southern Californi- a.”

McAfee said he is looking forward to joining Keck Medicine of USC and being part of transformative decisions affecting the clinical enterprise.

“USC has developed an ambitious vision to be a top performing medical school and health system regionally and nationally,” McAfee said. “Tom Jackiewicz has assembled a first-rate leadership system, and the faculty and department chairs impressed me as having the commitment and passion to be the best. It’s an exciting time to be at USC.”

Of the opportunity to shape a new medical foundation, McAfee said, “It’s a new strategic opportunity to create something that hasn’t existed at USC before. The key success will be selecting the right physicians. We have a powerful brand name in Los Angeles and beyond, and to preserve that brand equity, we need to include physicians who are the best in their field.”
USC announces winners of inaugural Regenerative Medicine Initiative Awards

By Cristy Lytal

Three newly assembled research teams within USC Stem Cell, the regenerative medicine initiative at USC, will take steps that could lead to future stem-cell based therapies for certain forms of deafness, bone defects and pediatric leukemia.

The teams are the winners of USC's Regenerative Medicine Initiative (RMI), a University-wide program kick-started by $1.2 million in funding from the office of Carmen A. Puliafito, MD, MBA, dean of the Keck School of Medicine of USC. Each RMI Award provides up to $200,000 per year for two years to multi-investigator research collaborations that harness the full potential of USC-affiliated faculty members.

“We hope these are the first of many awards as we continue to develop new strategies to enable and empower regenerative medicine researchers across USC,” explained Andrew McMahon, PhD, director of the Eli and Edythe Broad Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at USC, who is spearheading USC Stem Cell and the Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at USC.

The three winning teams were selected from 26 proposals, involving 80 faculty members from Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA); the USC Viterbi School of Engineering; the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences; the House Ear Institute; the USC School of Pharmacy; the Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC; and the Keck School of Medicine.

For the first team, Neil Segil, PhD, and Takahiro Ohyama, PhD — both from the House Ear Institute — will work with Justin Ichida, PhD, assistant professor of stem cell biology and regenerative medicine, on curing deafness by using cellular reprogramming to create inner ear cells, including sensory hair cells. The death of these cells, which humans and other mammals cannot regenerate, is the most common cause of deafness.

The second team will focus on ways to repair human bones through lessons learned from mice and zebrafish. When mouse ribs or zebrafish jaws are damaged, special cartilage cells transform into bone-producing cells called osteoblasts. The team hopes to show that osteoblasts can effectively heal severe bone damage.

The project brings together Jay R. Lieberman, MD, a clinical orthopaedic surgeon and chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery; and assistant professors of cell and neurobiology Gage Crump, PhD, and Francesca Mariani, PhD.

The third team will develop therapy for B precursor acute lymphoblastic leukemia (BPL), the most common form of cancer in children and adolescents. Some children with BPL have a genetic defect that results in the production of an abnormal form of the protein CD22E12, which causes their cancer stem cells to proliferate and resist chemotherapy. The team will use insights gained from studying CD22E12 to design new and more effective treatment strategies.

Faith Uckun, MD, PhD, professor of research pediatrics who heads the translational research in leukemia lymphoma at the Children's Center for Cancer and Blood Diseases of CHLA, and Gregor Adams, PhD, assistant professor of cell and neurobiology at the House Ear Institute, are the principal investigators on the project. They will collaborate with Frank Alber, associate professor of biological sciences at USC Dornsife, and colleagues across multiple campuses.

“I view this as an opportunity to work together with my colleagues,” said Uckun. “Only by working as a team can we accomplish the goal of helping children who are in urgent need of a new treatment.”

John Ferrelli appointed chief administrative officer for USC Norris Cancer Hospital

John Ferrelli has been appointed to the position of chief administrative officer (CAO) for USC Norris Cancer Hospital, effective Aug. 1. Ferrelli will be responsible for managing and coordinating the administrative, fiscal and operational activities of USC Norris Cancer Hospital.

"I view this as an opportunity to work together with my colleagues," said Uckun. "Only by working as a team can we accomplish the goal of helping children who are in urgent need of a new treatment."
Community comment sought for Health Sciences Master Plan

By Amy E. Hamaker

Big changes are coming to the Health Sciences Campus neighborhood as part of the USC HSC Master Plan. As part of the community, USC recently invited neighborhood residents to add their input to the process.

Two special workshops on implementation of the HSC Master Plan and streetscapes were held for community members on Aug. 3 and Aug. 8 at Hazard Park. The events were cosponsored by the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council and the office of Councilmember José Huizar.

Approved by university trustees in 2013, the Master Plan guides future campus growth for academic, research and clinical space over the next 25 to 30 years. Boundaries include Valley Blvd. (north), Soto St. (east), Zonal Ave. (south) and Mission Rd. (east).

“I believe that democracy is as its best when people come together, and I really do appreciate the fact that you are here,” said Martha Euceta, vice president, government relations for USC, who welcomed the crowd. “USC is your neighbor, and has been here for more than 100 years. USC is going to stay here for as long as possible because they have made a commitment to this community.”

Laurie Stone, executive director of land use & planning, gave a short presentation on plan implementation as part of a formal outreach process. The presentation included:

- New student housing: A four-story, 157-unit housing facility for graduate medical students and their families.
- Development American Campus: Community is building and operating

An Aug. 6 article in Wired featured a patient who’s had partial eyesight restored by the Argus II, an optical implant developed by Mark Humayun, MD, PhD, Cornelius Sims Professor of Biomedical Sciences and professor of ophthalmology, biomedical engineering, cell and neurobiology at the Keck School of Medicine and Viterbi School. The device allows those wearing a visor to see borders and boundaries at low resolution. “It’s not the way we normally see, but it activates the same function,” Humayun said.

An Aug. 5 broadcast on ABC News Los Angeles affiliate KABC-TV featured research led by Tracy Gritschelt, MD, visiting assistant professor of pediatric surgery at the Keck School of Medicine, on engineering intestines through stem cells. The story quoted Russell Merrett, MD, clinical professor of pediatrics at the Keck School, about a patient who had a birth defect that caused his intestine to grow outside of his body.

An Aug. 2 story in the Los Angeles Daily News mentioned that Keck Hospital of USC was included in a ranking of the safest hospitals in California. A July 30 broadcast of CBS News “This Morning” interviewed David Agus, MD, professor of medicine at the Keck School of Medicine, about redefining cancer in order to better treat more threatening forms of the disease. The risk of aggressive treat- ment of slow-growing cancers include unnecessarily undergoing “radical therapy,” including surgery and radiation, treatments that could cause “lots of side effects when it’s not needed,” Agus said. “The key is to treat the cancers we need to treat, so we need a new definition.”

A July 29 article in the Beverly Hills Courier featured research led by Pat Lovett, PhD, Provost Professor of neuroscience, psychiatry, psychology and pharmacy at USC, which explores the role that oxidative stress may have in children with autism and gastrointestinal disorders. The story also quoted Brent Polk, chair of pediatrics and vice dean for child health at the Keck School of Medicine. “With one in three families affected by neurodevelopmental or cognitive disorders, this finding could have a far-reaching impact,” Polk said.

MCAFEE: New CEO will lead forming medical foundation’s clinical quality agenda

Continued from Page 1

By Amy E. Hamaker

MCCA Fee: New CEO will lead forming medical foundation’s clinical quality agenda

Community comments centered on the Norfolk Street Extension, and the concern that current green space will be lost and traffic, noise and pollution will all increase. Speakers also suggested USC work with the community to better determine needs for Hazard Park. After the open comment session, consultants and experts were available to answer individual questions from the public.

Craig Keys, associate senior vice president, civic engagement, thanked audience members for their comments and suggestions. “We need your comments and ideas to make this project work for both the university and the community,” he said.

The Weekly NEWSMAKERS

An Aug. 3 op-ed in the Glendale News-Press mentioned that the USC Verdugo Hills Hospital is one of three hospitals working in unison to share electronic medical data in order to improve the coordination of patient care.

An Aug. 2 broadcast on ABC News Los Angeles affiliate KABC-TV featured research led by Tracy Gritschelt, MD, visiting assistant professor of pediatric surgery at the Keck School of Medicine, on engineering intestines through stem cells. The story quoted Russell Merrett, MD, clinical professor of pediatrics at the Keck School, about a patient who had a birth defect that caused his intestine to grow outside of his body.

An Aug. 2 story in the Los Angeles Daily News mentioned that Keck Hospital of USC was included in a ranking of the safest hospitals in California. A July 30 broadcast of CBS News “This Morning” interviewed David Agus, MD, professor of medicine at the Keck School of Medicine, about redefining cancer in order to better treat more threatening forms of the disease. The risk of aggressive treat-ment of slow-growing cancers include unnecessarily undergoing “radical therapy,” including surgery and radiation, treatments that could cause “lots of side effects when it’s not needed,” Agus said. “The key is to treat the cancers we need to treat, so we need a new definition.”
Tuesday, Aug. 13


Wednesday, Aug. 14


Friday, Aug. 16
5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., Keck School of Medicine of USC White Coat Ceremony. Pappas Quad. Info: (323) 442-2552.

Tuesday, Aug. 20

Thursday, Aug. 22
8 a.m. – 5 p.m., USC Center for Excellence in Research Workshop. “Managing a Scientific Laboratory,” various speakers. UPC: Davidson Conference Center Board Room. Info: (213) 740-4509.

3 p.m., USC School of Pharmacy White Coat Ceremony. Pappas Quad. Info: (323) 442-1369.

Friday, Aug. 23


Tuesday, Aug. 27

Wednesday, Aug. 28


Notice: Deadline for calendar submission is 4 p.m. Monday to be considered for that week’s issue—although 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.

Calendar of Events
Info: (213) 740-6709
speakers. UPC: Davidson Conference Center Board Room.

Mhawech-Fauceglia, USC. NOR 7409. Info: (323) 442-1180

Killer: Ovarian Cancer Pathology Overview,” Paulette Mhawech-Fauceglia, USC. NOR 7409. Info: (323) 865-0001

CSC 250. Info: (323) 442-3849

The School of Pharmacy White Coat Ceremony.

The Keck School of Medicine of USC White Coat Ceremony.

The School of Pharmacy White Coat Ceremony.


Wednesday, Aug. 14

11 a.m. RSOM Department of Pathology Lecture. “A New Role for Iron Channels, Nuclear Receptors and Histiocytosis in the Regulation of Arthritis Severity and Joint Damage.” Perseo Gullo, Hofstra North Shore – LIJ School of Medicine. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-8865.

Friday, Aug. 16
5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., Keck School of Medicine of USC White Coat Ceremony. Pappas Quad. Info: (323) 442-2552.

Tuesday, Aug. 20

Thursday, Aug. 22
8 a.m. – 5 p.m., USC Center for Excellence in Research Workshop. “Managing a Scientific Laboratory,” various speakers. UPC: Davidson Conference Center Board Room. Info: (213) 740-4509.

3 p.m., USC School of Pharmacy White Coat Ceremony. Pappas Quad. Info: (323) 442-1369.

Friday, Aug. 23


Tuesday, Aug. 27

Wednesday, Aug. 28


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 ebllaw@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.

In case of an emergency...
Call the Emergency Information Phone: (213) 240-3333. 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.