

Comprehensive health information now available online

‘MyUSCchart allows patients to access information when they want, where they want.’

— Josh Lee, chief information officer for USC Health

By Tania Chatila

Keck Medicine of USC is taking its medical record to the next level with myUSCchart, a new electronic portal that allows patients to access their health information from a computer or smartphone.

The portal launched July 1, and it provides patients with a secure, private way to view their medical history, check lab test results, send and receive messages with their doctor, request appointments, manage prescriptions and more, 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week. Other features include patient biometrics (weight, blood pressure, etc.), immunization records, clinical care summaries and patient education.

“MyUSCchart allows patients to access information when



they want, where they want,” said Josh Lee, MD, chief information officer for USC Health. “Historically, providers have been the keeper of information. We hold the results, we hold the medical record, and patients have to call us to request access to their own personal health history. MyUSCchart gives them more control and makes them a more active partner in their care.”

Patient data is posted online within 36 hours of a patient’s inpatient discharge, or within 96 hours of an office visit. And signing up is easy — patients just need to provide their name, date of birth, email address and zip code to a Keck Medicine staff member, and they will receive a registration invitation in their email

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USC rolls out the cardinal carpet for the new president of California’s stem cell agency

By Cristy Lytal

“I will be beating the better, faster drum as long as there are patients that need to be treated,” said C. Randal Mills, PhD, the newly appointed president and chief executive officer of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM), at a June 10 public appearance at USC.

Researchers, industry leaders, patient advocates and curious members of the public gathered to hear Mills share this vision at the Eli

and Edythe Broad CIRM Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at USC.

As the new leader of CIRM — established in 2004 to dispense \$3 billion in voter-approved dollars to fund stem cell research in California — Mills outlined four simple principles to guide the agency’s decisions about which projects to support.

“The first test is that it has to accelerate the development of a stem cell

therapy to a patient,” he said. “Part two is that it has to increase the likelihood of success of a stem cell treatment. The third criterion is that there has to be an unmet medical need. And then fourth is [that it has to do so] efficiently.”

Mills, who has been a member of CIRM’s Grant Review Board for the past five years, was previously the president and CEO of Osiris Therapeutics. Prior to that, he held leadership

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From left are Orange Coast Oncology Hematology doctors George B. Semeniuk III, Dilruba Haque, Louis VanderMolen, Greg Richard Angstreich and Minh D. Nguyen.

Key Orange County oncology practice joins Keck Medicine of USC

USC is growing its medical enterprise by acquiring Orange Coast Oncology Hematology (OCOH) in Orange County. This acquisition brings together Keck Medicine of USC and USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center with OCOH to provide exceptional oncology care across Southern California.

A highly respected oncology practice that sees more than 5,000 patients a year, OCOH includes two physician practices: one at Hoag Hospital in Newport Beach and one in Irvine. OCOH also has an infusion center in Newport Beach. These offices and staff became a part of Keck Medicine of USC

on July 4. Additionally, OCOH’s five physicians — Louis VanderMolen, MD, George Semeniuk, MD, Greg Angstreich, MD, Minh Nguyen, MD, and Dilruba N. Haque, MD — are now faculty at the Keck School of Medicine of USC and members of the USC Care Medical Group.

“For some time, we have recognized the need to take the innovations of USC Norris far beyond the USC Health Sciences Campus,” explains Tom Jackiewicz, senior vice president and CEO for USC Health. “Our goal has been to build a system of cancer programs with satellites across Southern California. Today, we are one step

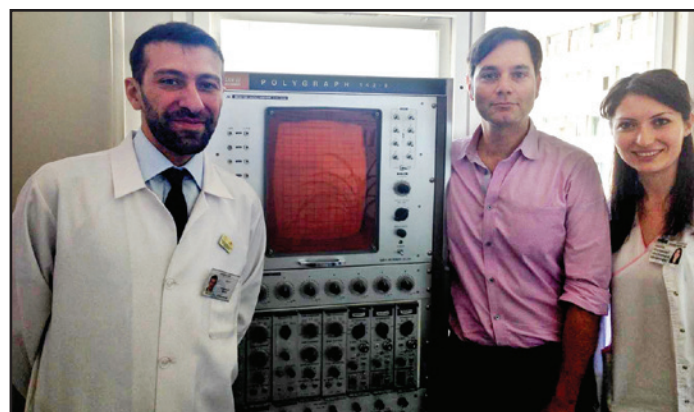
See **OCOH**, page 3

Stroke doctor helps improve care in ancestral home

By Hope Hamashige

Doctors in the United States routinely administer tissue plasminogen activator (t-PA) to some people having a stroke brought on by a blood clot. When administered shortly after the onset of symptoms, t-PA will prevent one patient of every eight treated from having a lifelong disability.

In Armenia, t-PA had been used only once until recently because it was held in a central pharmacy in the capital city, Yerevan. Hospitals did not stock it, so it was not available to patients unless they could buy it and bring it to the hospital. There was no organized system of stroke care focusing on rapid evaluation which included screening for eligibility to receive t-PA. Nerses Sanossian, MD, assistant professor of neurology at the Keck



Nerses Sanossian (center), assistant professor of neurology at the Keck School of Medicine, tours Erebouni Medical Center in Armenia as part of a project to develop a better system of stroke care there. With him are Samson G. Khachatrya (left), director of the Sleep Laboratory, and staff neurologist Marianna Ghambaryan.

School of Medicine of USC, recently helped change that, so now two hospitals stock it and have protocols for its use.

Sanossian is part of a small group of neurologists of Armenian descent from the United States and Canada who launched a project to

develop a better system of stroke care in Armenia. He and his colleagues held a stroke conference for young Armenian neurologists through Yerevan’s Erebouni Hospital in early June. They were on hand when the hos-

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myUSCchart: New system boosts health care access

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prompting them to complete creation of their account.

For patients, the application will enhance safety and quality by increasing clinical effectiveness and allowing for better coordination of care, said Laurie Johnson, executive administrator of ambulatory care services.

For staff and physicians, the benefit is also multi-pronged.

“It means fewer phone calls and easy, efficient communication with patients online,” Johnson said.

“We can message patients about follow-up items, and recommendations. We can attach test results to messages and quickly share vital information that may be critical to a patient’s care.”

To learn more, visit myUSCchart.KeckMedicine.org.



Send and Receive Messages with Your Doctor’s Office

Send non-urgent** messages to your physician. Receive health reminders and letters from your physician’s office.



View Your Medical History

Conveniently access your medical records, such as medications, immunizations and care summaries.



Manage Your Prescriptions

Review your current medications or request a refill.



Check Lab Test Results

View and print results from routine tests, such as weight, blood pressure and cholesterol.



Request An Appointment

Request, view or cancel non-urgent** appointments with a Keck Medicine of USC physician.

For more information about the advantages of myUSCchart, please visit myUSCchart.KeckMedicine.org.

American Physical Therapy Association awards highest honor to James Gordon

By John Hobbs

James Gordon received the highest honor bestowed by the American Physical Therapy Association when he delivered the 45th Mary McMillan Lecture at the association’s annual conference in June.

Gordon, associate dean and division chair for the USC Division of Biokinesiology and Physical Therapy, is the fourth Trojan to have that distinction, following in the footsteps of Margaret Rood (1969), Helen Hislop (1975) and Carolee Winstein (2009).

Deriving inspiration from Hislop’s speech, “The Not-



Sara Villagran

James Gordon delivers the 45th Mary McMillan Lecture.

So-Impossible Dream” — a game-changer for physical therapy with its push toward research and knowledge creation — Gordon used a part

of her quote, “If greatness is a goal, it will take great thinking and consummate honesty to achieve it,” for the title of his lecture.

Gordon noted that the speech coincided with the 40th anniversary of his having received a bachelor’s degree in physical therapy from the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center, and he noted the quantum leap the profession has made since.

“Not in his wildest psychedelic dreams would our 1974 RPT [Registered Physical Therapist] have imagined that a physical therapist would ever graduate with a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree,” he said in his speech. “The DPTs who graduate in 2014 have so much more knowledge, skill

and expertise than the RPTs who graduated in 1974 that it almost seems a different profession.”

Underscoring the profession’s evolution, Gordon compared a 1974 *Physical Therapy* journal to one from 2014, noting that only 12 percent of the articles were of original research 40 years ago whereas 78 percent are today.

He also pointed out that the number of physical therapy educators with PhDs had increased 25-fold in the 40-year gap, according to the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education.

OCOH: USC expands world-class cancer care to patients in Orange County

‘For our patients, this means access to leading technology, advanced clinical trials, the world’s best oncologists.’

— Stephen Gruber, director of the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center

Continued from page 1

closer to realizing this goal.”

Through this acquisition, Keck Medicine of USC brings the services of USC Norris — one of the National Cancer Institute’s eight original designated comprehensive cancer centers in the United States — to OCOH. That includes a rich, 40-year history of global research, compassionate clinical care, groundbreaking clinical trials, tumor boards and genetic stem cell research.

Leveraging OCOH’s expertise in outpatient oncology services, Keck Medicine of USC will expand its complete range of world-class cancer care to patients in Orange County by

bringing the best university-based medical center offerings to an outpatient clinic.

Stephen Gruber, MD, director of USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, explained, “For our patients, this means access to leading technology, advanced clinical trials, the world’s best oncologists, an expanding faculty base that continues to recruit top tier clinicians, and the newest cancer therapies.”

He added, “By providing this kind of world-class care closer to home, we know we will be making a significant impact in the lives of the patients and families in Southern California who entrust their care to us.”

HSC News

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MILLS: CIRM chief visits HSC

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positions at RTI Biologics Inc., the University of Florida Tissue Bank, and the American Association of Tissue Banks’ Standards Committee. The U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services appointed him as a voting member of the National Institutes of Health and AIDS Research Advisory Council. He holds a bachelor’s degree in microbiology and cell science and a PhD in drug development from the



C. Randal Mills

University of Florida.

Mills is replacing Alan Trounson, PhD, who stepped down from the CIRM presidency to spend more time with his family in Australia.

“To say we are delighted to have Randy take over as president is an understatement,”

said Jonathan Thomas, JD, PhD, chairman of CIRM’s Governing Board. “He is a well-respected scientist whose experience and expertise will ensure we will continue to be a world leader in stem cell research.”

Keck School of Medicine of USC grad celebrates 100th birthday

By Hope Hamashige

When Masako Kusayanagi Miura graduated from the Keck School of Medicine of USC in 1941, the certificate she received congratulated “him” on “his” accomplishment. Since she was one of only two women graduating alongside 45 men, she brushed it off as an honest mistake.

Miura, who celebrated her 100th birthday on June 29, might be the oldest living Keck School alumna and

possibly its most humble.

“I guess I got in because I got pretty good grades,” said Miura, who was an undergraduate at USC, refusing to acknowledge how tough it was for women to attend medical school in those days.

Miura graduated from medical school just a few months before Japan bombed Pearl Harbor and, in 1942, she and her then-husband, James Goto, also a Keck School graduate, were

sent to an internment camp.

They ran the hospital at Manzanar, a camp in California’s Owens Valley, with five other doctors, all Japanese-American internees.

“There were seven doctors for 10,000 people,” said Miura. “We were always working.” They dealt with every kind of illness and injury, even the gunshot wounds of the internees who were injured in Manzanar’s riots.

Miura recalled one tricky problem she faced was a patient with tertiary syphilis demonstrating symptoms of mental breakdown. Miura induced him with typhoid to raise his temperature, hoping the fever would kill the syphilis.

“It worked,” she said, simply.

At the close of World War II, Miura and Goto returned to Los Angeles and ran a medical practice in Little Tokyo.

“They let people pay them however they could — boxes of celery or a bag of peaches,” recalled their daughter, Denise Kodani, noting their patients were mostly Japanese-Americans just released from internment.

After many years in private practice, Miura went on to specialize in dermatology. She continued practicing medicine almost until her 80th birthday.



Masako Miura, who celebrated her 100th birthday on June 29, may be the oldest living Keck School alumna.

Although she now lives in northern California, Miura has never forgotten her roots. At least once a year she flies south to attend Half Century Trojan functions.

“She loves being a Trojan and, even though she’s humble, she loves being a doctor,” said Kodani.

HSC NEWSMAKERS

A June 2 report in *The Toronto Star* featured a study by **Scott Fruin**, DEnv, assistant professor and Neelakshi Hudda research associate, both in preventive medicine at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, and colleagues finding that LAX is a major source of air pollution for communities up to 10 miles east of the runways. MinnPost and Headlines & Global News also covered the story.

A June 3 report in *The Washington Post* quoted **Cynthia Bir**, PhD, professor of emergency medicine in the Keck School about the physical impossibility of a death portrayed in a recent episode of “Game of Thrones.” Bir was also cited by Australian Associated Press.

A June 4 report in *USA Today* quoted **Leslie Saxon**, MD, executive director of the USC Center for Body Computing and chief of cardiovascular medicine at the Keck School about the use of technology in health care.

A June 6 report on Reuters quoted **Anne Peters**, MD, director of medicine at the USC Westside Center for Diabetes and professor of medicine at the Keck School, about the links between depression and inflammation.

A June 9 report on NPR’s “The Salt” featured research by **Michael Goran**, PhD, director of the Childhood Obesity Research Center and professor of preventive medicine, physiology and biophysics and pediatrics at the Keck School, and colleagues finding that juice may contribute almost as much to obesity and health diseases as soda.

A June 12 article in *U.S. News and World Report* quoted **John Lipham**, MD, director of the USC Digestive Health Center and associate professor of surgery at the Keck School, about new research indicating that heartburn medicines are more effective when taken at the right time. “It’s something we have known since these medications came out, that they work best if you take them 30 minutes or so before a meal,” Lipham said.

A June 12 article in *The Independent* quoted **Michael Goran** about the health risks of fructose.

A June 15 article in *The Wall Street Journal* quoted **Anne Peters** about new technology that could help regulate Type 1 diabetes.

A June 16 article in the *Los Angeles Times* quoted **Alex Markarian**, MD, assistant professor of otolaryngology – head & neck surgery at the Keck School, about the association between smokeless tobacco and

oral cancers. “We do know that with using oral smokeless tobacco or chewing tobacco, there is about a tenfold increase in the risk of oral cancers,” Markarian said.

A June 18 article in the *Los Angeles Times* quoted USC Verdugo Hills Hospital emergency room physician **Armand Dorian**, MD, associate clinical professor of emergency medicine at the Keck School, about the risks undertaken by a teenager who snuck on board a plane via its wheel well.

A June 19 article in *Neurology Today* featured a comment by **Regina Berkovich**, MD, PhD, assistant professor of clinical neurology on research studying the effect of a pregnancy hormone on female patients with multiple sclerosis.

A June 23 broadcast on KPCC-FM quoted neuroscientist **Pat Levitt**, PhD, Provost Professor of neurogenetics, pediatrics, neuroscience, pharmacy, psychiatry, pathology and psychology at USC, about how early stress experiences can shape a baby’s brain. “Because the brain is changing so rapidly so early, the influence of those experiences can be very powerful early, and it takes more to change things later on,” Levitt said.

A June 24 *Los Angeles Times* article quoted **Jessica Wu**, MD clinical instructor in medicine-dermatology at the Keck School about the healing and cosmetic properties of a bacteria known as Antarcticine.

A June 25 article in *Forbes* by **Sherri Snelling**, executive director of public and media relations at Keck Medicine of USC highlighted the challenge posed by family disagreements in the care of patients suffering from dementia and Alzheimer’s, using the Casey Kasem case as an example.

A June 26 article in the *Los Angeles Sentinel* mentioned that **Leo Doumanian**, MD, associate professor of clinical urology of the Keck School spoke at a symposium on prostate cancer among African-American men.

A June 27 report in *Newsweek* cited a study by **Michael Goran** and colleagues finding that the actual high fructose corn syrup in sodas varied significantly from the sugar content disclosed on those sodas’ labels.

A June 30 article in *Healio* featured a perspective from **Mazen Nouredin** MD, hepatologist at Keck Medicine of USC, on new World Gastroenterology Organization guidelines for clinicians on fatty liver disease.

Henri Ford leads post-quake critical care effort in Haiti

By Lorenzo Benet/CHLA

In addition to treating and operating on hundreds of Haitian patients, Henri R. Ford, MD, MHA, professor of surgery and vice dean for medical education at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, has been an integral part of the reconstruction and development of Haiti’s medical facilities since the country was devastated by a 7.0 earthquake in 2010.

His latest contribution is helping the country’s leadership develop a new world-class, nationwide critical care and trauma network to cope with preventable causes of death in the Caribbean country.

“There is a strong need for Haiti to invest in a national trauma critical care network,” explained Ford, who is also vice president and surgeon-in-chief at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles.

Ford visits Haiti several times a year to treat patients and work with local surgeons, medical schools and government officials to develop the country’s medical facilities.

He noted, “The health care needs in Haiti are great and this will benefit the citizenry and help the overworked physicians providing the care for patients on a daily basis.”

The project will help significantly reduce fatalities in cases involving five preventable causes of death in Haiti, which are major trauma, heart attack, stroke, severe burns and maternal emergencies.

Haiti’s Prime Minister, Laurent Lamothe, with Ford and representatives of the non-profit Project Medishare by his side, announced plans for the establishment of a National Trauma Critical Care Hospital after meeting with Ford and his team, which was invited to present the trauma network plan to the Haitian ministerial cabinet. Ford will also participate in a commission to develop a long-term sustainability plan for the hospital facilities and to cultivate donors.

Ford said that, so far, \$5 million has been committed to the project by the government of Haiti but he estimates that an additional \$15-20 million are needed to complete construction of the NTCC. In addition, it is projected that operational costs to sustain the medical facilities will range between \$5 million and \$10 million annually.



Henri R. Ford, professor of surgery and vice dean for medical education at the Keck School of Medicine, meets with Haiti’s Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe.



Jon Natick

NOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS —Keck Medicine of USC held a grand opening for new clinical space on the fifth floor of the Healthcare Center 4 building. The 20,000-square foot space features the USC Spine Center and USC Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, both of which boast greatly expanded clinical and administrative areas and state-of-the-art equipment.

USC Stem Cell, USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center accelerate drug discovery

By **Cristy Lytal**

Three teams of USC stem cell researchers have won a coveted prize — the opportunity to test 3,000 drug candidates or chemicals for the potential to help patients. Two teams will focus their efforts on cancer, and the third team will search for ways to accelerate the healing of large bone fractures.

The free screens will take place at the new Choi Family Therapeutic Screening Facility, part of the Eli and Edythe Broad Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at USC. Andy McMahon, PhD, FRS, director of the stem cell research center, is sponsoring the bone repair project, and Stephen Gruber, MD, PhD, MPH, director of the

USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, is sponsoring the two cancer-related screens.

The bone repair project brings together Gage Crump, PhD, and Francesca Mariani, PhD, two principal investigators at USC’s stem cell research center. They will test a variety of chemicals to see which ones encourage cartilage progenitors to develop into “ossifying chondrocytes,” a special type of cell that promotes bone growth. Such chemicals would hold promise for healing large fractures in patients.

A second project led by

Shou-Jiang Gao, PhD, professor of molecular microbiology and immunology at the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, is seeking new treatments for a group of tumors and cancers caused by Karposi’s sarcoma-associated herpesvirus, or KSHV. The goal is to use the screening facility to find potential drugs that inhibit or kill tumor or cancer cells, but have no effect on healthy cells.

Amy S. Lee, PhD, professor of biochemistry and molecular biology at the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, is heading up the third project. Her team

will use the screening facility in their quest for potential drugs to suppress a cancer-promoting protein called GRP78. The protein plays a major role in the growth and survival of a wide variety of cancers, including pancreatic adenocarcinoma.

Courtesy of McMahon and Gruber, all of these researchers will have complimentary access to the screening facility’s extensive chemical libraries, state-of-the-art equipment and trained technicians. The screening facility was recently established with a generous donation from The Choi Family Trust.

Calendar of Events

Monday, August 4

8 a.m. - noon. Education, Career Development, and Ethics Program of Southern California Clinical and Translational Science Institute Seminar. “Short Course: Research in Diverse Urban Populations,” Jon Samet, Lourdes Baezconde-Garbanti, Katrina Kubicek, Jennifer Unger and William Vega, USC. Aresty LG 503-4. Info: Ray De Mesa, (323) 442-8281, ray.demesa@med.usc.edu. RSVP: ow.ly/xxDSy

Thursdays, August 7 - September 25

9 a.m. - Noon. Southern California Clinical and Translational Science Institute Course. “Introduction to Clinical and Translational Research Study Design.” Aresty LG503-4. Info and RSVP: (323) 442-8281, ecede@sc-ctsi.org, http://j.mp/1dVmmg5. This is an eight-week course. \$200.

Saturday, August 16

4 p.m. USC Multiple Sclerosis Comprehensive Care Center and Research Multiple Sclerosis Benefit Concert. Herbert Zipper Concert Hall, 200 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles. Parking at Walt Disney Concert Hall. Info: Maria Hall (626) 354-1674. Tickets: keck.usc.edu/DonateMS, \$30 for adults, \$20 for under 18.

Thursday, August 21

7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Division of Nursing Education and USC Office of Continuing Medical Education Symposium. “5th Annual Pain Management Symposium,” Steven Richeimer, USC. Aresty Auditorium. Info: Teresa Ball, (323) 442-2555, teresa.ball@med.usc.edu, www.usc.edu/cme

Thursday, Sept. 18

7 a.m. - 5 p.m. 18th Annual Max R. Gaspar Symposium. “Peripheral Arterial Disease in 2014.” Millennium Biltmore Hotel, 506 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles. Info: Lisa Delgado, (323) 442-2555, lisa.ho@med.usc.edu, www.usc.edu/cme. RSVP: usceme@usc.edu, /www.usc.edu/cme

Notice: Calendar submissions must be received at least 10 days before an issue’s publication date to be considered. Please note that timely submission does not guarantee an item will be printed. Entries must include day, date, time, title of talk, first and last name of speaker, affiliation of speaker, location and a phone number or email address for information.

Submit calendar items at tinyurl.com/calendar-hsc.

STROKE: USC physician helps bolster training in Armenia

Continued from page 1

pital dedicated a new ward to treating stroke patients, and then reached out to local media to raise awareness about the risk factors for stroke.

“The doctors we have met are smart and thirsty for knowledge,” Sanossian said, adding that Armenian doctors have few opportunities for ongoing training. Because of that, Sanossian will host an Armenian neurologist next year for two months of training at Keck Medical Center of USC.

Sanossian’s group helped establish a stroke center at Yerevan State Medical University last year and plans to continue setting up stroke centers elsewhere in Armenia. They are also working on a system of delivery, similar to the one in use in Los Angeles, that involves training paramedics and other emergency medical personnel to transport those stroke patients whose symptoms

began fewer than two hours earlier to stroke centers.

“I believe there’s a great purpose to working at a university,” he said. “We

have knowledge and skills and I believe it’s our duty to reach out to other countries that can learn from what we know.”

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