Paul Craig named USC Health’s chief administrative officer

By Leslie Ridgway

Keck Medicine of USC named Paul Craig, RN, JD, a seasoned medical and human resources professional, the new chief administrative officer of USC Health, effective May 5, 2014. Craig comes to Keck Medicine from Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, where he serves as vice president for human resources and as the hospital’s chief human resources officer. His more than 30 years of experience includes practicing law and working as a registered nurse in intensive care units and emergency departments. Reporting directly to Tom Jackiewicz, senior vice president and CEO of USC Health, Craig will be responsible for central coordination of health system activities operations and planning, and ensuring the timely flow of information to and from the executive office. He also will concentrate on streamlining operations and leading task forces and initiatives to facilitate organizational improvement.

Before his tenure at Children’s Hospital, Craig spent nine years at the University of California, San Diego where he served as associate vice chancellor, Human Resources and Risk Management for UCSD Health Sciences, which includes the medical school, two medical centers and the faculty medical group. He also served as chief human resources and risk officer at the UCSD Health System. Before UCSD, Craig was the chief operating officer at Saint Francis Memorial Hospital in San Francisco.

Craig will lead initiatives for organizational improvement and true system integration and work on implementing the select insurance network currently under development, as well as managing the Keck Medicine International Medicine Program and assisting in outboarding the practices of USC University Medical Center.

Alia Tutor Endowed Chair established at Keck School

By Amy E. Hamaker

Alia Tutor, wife of USC trustee Ronald Tutor, both longtime supporters of the university, is providing a gift to establish the Alia Tutor Chair in Reproductive Medicine at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. The new chair will be housed in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

A former advisor to the United Nation’s Office for Partnerships, Alia Tutor has a concern for others that stretches from USC around the globe. She currently dedicates her time and leadership on the board of directors of Indego Africa, an organization that provides female artisans in sub-Saharan Africa with leadership skills and other training to become successful businesswomen.

The inaugural holder of the Alia Tutor Chair in Reproductive Medicine is Richard Paulson, MD, professor of obstetrics and gynecology, chief of the division of reproductive endocrinology and infertility, and director of USC Fertility.

“Richard Paulson’s groundbreaking research and treatment have given hope to many couples who feared they would never be able to have children,” said Keck School Dean Carmen A. Puliafito, MD, MBA. “This generous gift is a testament to his innovation and leadership and will assist him in his important work.”

Paulson has served as director of the fertility program at USC since 1986. He is an internationally recognized expert in fertility in women over age 40. He published several landmark investigations addressing the effect of age upon female fertility, including the first observation that egg donation could be used to extend the reproductive lifespan in women over 40.

“Richard Paulson’s groundbreaking research and treatment have given hope to many couples who feared they would never be able to have children.”

—Keck School of Medicine Dean Carmen A. Puliafito

Keck Medicine of USC volunteers help marathon runner survive heart attack

By Leslie Ridgway

“It was absolute luck,” Jode Lebeda said he was in the right place at the right time when he collapsed during the ASICS Los Angeles Marathon on March 9.

The 28-year-old, running in his first — and as he said, “almost my last” — marathon dropped to the ground in full cardiac arrest just after mile 20. It was indeed luck that he had this life-threatening episode near one of the medical tents staffed by the official medical sponsor of the marathon — Keck Medicine of USC.

Jatin Shah, MD, a Keck Medicine of USC emergency medicine physician volunteering at one of the tents, was on the scene in a heartbeat. Along with Los Angeles Fire Department staff assigned to the marathon, Shah stabilized Lebeda, who was then transported to Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, where he spent 10 days — some of them in a medically induced coma — in the neurointensive care unit while he recuperated from the effects of acute dehydration. On April 21, Lebeda got the chance to meet and thank Shah and his other rescuers at a press conference at the Los Angeles Fire Department Station 3 in downtown Los Angeles.

“The weather went up to 81 degrees and in afternoon we saw many more people with cramps and dehydration,” said Shah after the press conference. “It’s rare for someone to have a heart attack during the marathon. But when people over-exert themselves in those conditions, it’s not surprising when they get into trouble.”

Since 2012, Keck Medicine of USC volunteers for his survival at an April 21 press conference at Los Angeles Fire Station 3 in Los Angeles. Moments later, Glenn Aub (left), medical director of the ASICS LA Marathon and associate dean of clinical administration, Keck School of Medicine of USC, took the podium to say, “I think I can speak for everyone when I say we’re all pleased with the outcome.”

Angeles Fire Department Station 3 in Los Angeles. Moments later, Glenn Aub (left), medical director of the ASICS LA Marathon and associate dean of clinical administration, Keck School of Medicine of USC, took the podium to say, “I think I can speak for everyone when I say we’re all pleased with the outcome.”
Scott Evans, PharmD, MHA, CEO of Keck Hospital of USC and USC Norris Cancer Hospital, was named Hospital CEO of the year at the Los Angeles Business Journal’s annual Healthcare Leadership Awards event held at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel on April 23.

“We recognize the importance in our communities and in our personal lives of local health-care leaders and we’re proud to name Scott Evans this year’s Hospital CEO award winner,” said Matthew Toledo, publisher and CEO of the Los Angeles Business Journal. “Scott’s remarkable leadership at Keck Medical Center of USC has helped transform health care for thousands of Los Angeles area residents and his commitment to quality care and employee satisfaction is the foundation for the growth of one of our area’s strongest university-based medical enterprises.”

Evans was honored along with 15 other health-care leaders in Los Angeles. The awards are given every year to recognize the accomplishments of individuals and organizations that have contributed to improving healthcare delivery in Los Angeles.

“It’s a great honor to be recognized for being part of an organization dedicated to delivering compassionate patient care to those Southern Californians who seek help and hope for their serious health-care issues,” said Evans. “By honoring me, you honor our entire medical center team — the expert physicians, surgical teams, nurses, administrative staff and everyone who goes beyond exceptional medicine in what they do every day.”

Keck School of Medicine scientist to co-lead new stroke drug clinical trial

Berislav Zlokovic, MD, PhD, director of the Zilkha Neurogenetic Institute at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, will co-lead a multicenter Phase 2 clinical trial of an experimental drug developed in his lab to treat patients suffering from acute ischemic stroke.

Zlokovic, who is a co-investigator on the study, is a co-founder of ZZ Biotech scientific, which is making the drug, known as 3K3A-APC. The Phase 2 study will evaluate safety, tolerability and activity of 3K3A-APC when given after tissue plasminogen activator, or tPA, in patients who have experienced moderately severe ischemic stroke. The drug will be given intravenously as a 15-minute infusion every 12 hours for up to five treatments, and four dose levels will be evaluated. About 100 participants, ages 18 to 80, will be followed for 90 days.

The experimental drug is a genetically engineered variant of the naturally occurring activated protein C, which plays a role in the regulation of blood clotting and inflammation. In animal models of stroke, 3K3A-APC has helped prevent bleeding caused by tPA, the only drug currently indicated for the treatment of acute ischemic stroke.

Zlokovic said, “From the beginning, our intent has been to bring promising scientific discoveries from the laboratory bench to the patient bedside, where they have the most impact. We are pleased to have this opportunity to continue our work in translational medicine and save more lives.”

ZZ Biotech was founded in 2006 by Zlokovic and financier and philanthropist Selim Zilkha, and is a co-founder of the USC School of Pharmacy. It is written and produced by the University of Southern California’s Health Sciences Campus community. It is written and produced by the University of Southern California’s Health Sciences Campus community. It is written and produced by the University of Southern California’s Health Sciences Campus community.
By Leslie Ridgway

A first-ever analysis of Keck Medicine of USC's research on adolescent thyroid cancer found that children and young adults with thyroid cancer as a secondary cancer are six times more likely to die than those with primary thyroid cancer. The findings, published online Feb. 24, 2014 in the journal CANCER, a peer-reviewed journal of the American Cancer Society, stress the importance of screening young cancer survivors to detect early signs of a potentially life-threatening thyroid malignancy.

The research was conducted by Melanie Goldfarb, MD, assistant professor of otolaryngology, endocrine surgeons, and David Freyer, DO, MS, professor of clinical pediatrics, both with Keck Medicine of USC. Freyer is also director of the LIFE Cancer Survivorship and Transition program at Keck Medicine's affiliated Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

"The issue for adolescent and young adult cancer patients is that they have a long survivorship period that typically lasts many years," said Goldfarb, corresponding author. "Thyroid cancer is a common secondary cancer for the adolescent and young adult (AYA) population.

This study tells us that it's important for these patients to discuss the possibility of a secondary thyroid cancer diagnosis with their doctor, because it indicates they do have an increased risk, although we don't yet know why.

The research is one of the few studies on adolescent and young adult cancer, Goldfarb said, though there is increasing interest in the field. "Two years ago, USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center (part of Keck Medicine of USC) and Children's Hospital developed AYAMUSIC; the Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer program, dedicated to calling awareness to the need for more research and improved treatment of adolescents and young adults to improve survival rates and outcomes for this age group.

Thyroid cancer is one of the five most common malignancies in adolescent and young adult patients (ages 15 to 39 years). It can develop as an initial cancer or rarely after treatment for a previous cancer. In their research, Goldfarb and Freyer compared the tumor characteristics, treatment, and survival of primary versus secondary thyroid cancers in adolescent and young adult patients. Their analysis included all adolescent and young adult thyroid cancer cases documented in the 1998-2010 American College of Surgeons National Cancer Database.

Goldfarb is currently working on designing a study that looks into the reason AYA patients with a secondary thyroid cancer diagnosis have higher risk of death than those with primary thyroid cancer.

**MARATHON: USC offers life-saving aid**

**Continued from Page 1**

The research was featured on the cover story of the April 2014 edition of USA Today quoted Leslie Saxin, MD, professor of clinical medicine at the Keck School, on how wearable devices are changing health practices.

An April 11 report in The Washington Post quoted Gabriel Zada, MD, assistant clinical professor of neurosurgery at the Keck School, about the type of cancer that actress Valerie Harper of “The Mary Tyler Moore Show” has survived.

On April 14, The Washington Post quoted Michael Habib, PhD, assistant professor of research in cell and neurobiology at the Keck School, about the flight biomimicry of pterosaurs.

An April 10 story in Los Angeles magazine quoted Lon Schneider, MD, MS, professor of psychiatry, neurology, and gerontology at the Keck School, about drugs designed to cure Alzheimer’s disease.

An April 18 article in USA Today quoted Leslie Saxon, MD, professor of clinical medicine at the Keck School, on how wearable devices are changing health practices.

An April 18 article in the Los Angeles Times quoted Armand Dorian, MD, associate clinical professor of emergency medicine at the Keck School of Medicine and emergency room physician at USC Verdugo Hills Hospital, about a teenager who stowed away in the wheel well of a jet from California to Hawaii.
**Calendar of Events**

**Saturday, May 3**
7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Keck School of Medicine of USC Office of Continuing Medical Education: “Joseph P. Van Der Meulen Symposion in Clinical Neurosciences,” various speakers. Aresty Auditorium. Info: (323) 442-2555 or www.usc.edu/cmce

**Sunday, May 4**
3 p.m. USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center Benefit: “A Ball for Bach — An Afternoon Concert of Music.” 1335 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara. Info: Juxtapide Andreejich, (323) 865-0667, juxtapidejdeiejch@med.usc.edu. RSVP: Thosvdall Blouag, sshabach@gmail.com. Free admission.

**Monday, May 5**
Noon. Latino Medical Student Association of Keck School of Medicine Cinco de Mayo Celebration. Pappas Quad. Info: Fatima Be (562) 715-4383, ucm.lsm@usc.edu

**Wednesday, May 7**

**Monday, May 12**

**Tuesday, May 13**
4 p.m. Division of Medical Oncology — Women’s Cancers Research Seminar: “Characterizing Biological Properties of Circulating Tumor Cells,” Min Yu, USC, NTC-7409. Info: Terry Church, (323) 865-3536, mchurch@med.usc.edu

**Wednesday, May 14**
Noon. Disaster Preparedness “Bring Your Lunch and Learn” Seminar: “How to Be Prepared for a Disasters,” Robert G. Vance III, USC. Noon to 1 p.m. Hospital Cardinal Room. Info: Robert Vance III, (323) 442-9915, robert.vance@med.usc.edu

**Thursday, May 15**
9 a.m. – 4 p.m. HTE@USC Workshop: “EHR Part II – Designing for the User Experience,” Terry Sanger and George Tolomiczenko, USC. Grace Ford Salvatori Hall - GFS 106, UPRC. Info and RSVP: Nadine Allari, naf@usc.edu

**Friday, May 16**
7:45 a.m. – 3 p.m. Obstetrics and Gynecology Symposium: “USC Dept of Obstetrics and Gynecology 28th Annual Scientific Forum: Resident and Fellow Research Symposium,” various speakers. Aresty Auditorium. Info: Emily Silverstein, (323) 226-3314, emsilver@med.usc.edu

**Monday, May 19**

**Monday, May 26**

**Monday, May 26**

**HSC News site leaps into 21st Century with new redesign**

Featuring a colorful new format with larger images, a more accessible calendar of events and a more user-friendly interface, HSC News has launched its new website at hscnews.usc.edu.

Updated every Friday, the HSC News site, currently in beta testing, offers the most up-to-date news about campus achievements, personalities, events and programs.

The new site, which replaces a technologically archaic system dating to 1999, features a calendar of events, a searchable archive of campus stories and a form to send story ideas or news items for consideration. The site also includes a calendar submission form that allows event organizers to place event notices in multiple locations at once, such as HSC News (print and online editions), Keck Medicine News and Notes and the Keck School of Medicine web site. The calendar form is online at tinyurl.com/lsr82m2.

The site is essentially complete, but some work remains, and visitors are asked to report any problems by emailing hscnews@usc.edu.

**2014 Commencement Ceremonies**

**Wednesday, May 14**
Keck School of Medicine – MS, PhD, & MPH
4 p.m. at the Norris Medical Library Quad on the Health Sciences Campus. Keynote speaker: Helen M. Blau, Ph.D., Director, Baxter Laboratory in Stem Cell Biology, Stanford University School of Medicine. A reception will immediately follow at the same location. No tickets required. More Info: (323) 442-1807

Friday, May 16
Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy 10:45 a.m. at the lawn west of Leavney Library at the University Park Campus. Keynote speaker: Elizabeth Yoda, Ed.D., LHO (Hon.), SCd (Hon.), DMed (Hon.) OTH, FADTA. No tickets required. More Info: (323) 442-2181

Physician Assistant Program 10:45 a.m. at the lawn southwest of the Allan Hancock Foundation Building at the University Park Campus. Keynote speaker: To be announced. A reception will immediately follow at the same location. No tickets required. More Info: (326) 457-4954

School of Pharmacy 3 p.m. at the Norris Medical Library Quad on the Health Sciences Campus. Keynote speaker: Robert J. Naneson, Chairman, Board of Directors, National Association of Chain Drug Stores. A reception will follow at 5:30 p.m. on the HSC Upper and Lower Quad. Tickets are required. More Info: (323) 442-1181

**Saturday, May 17**
Keck School of Medicine – MD/ PhD, MD
3 p.m. at the Galen Center. Keynote speaker: To be announced. A reception will immediately follow on the McCarthy Quad at the University Park Campus. No tickets are required. More Info: (323) 442-2181

**In case of an emergency...**

Call the Emergency Information Phone: (213) 740-9233 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.

**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.