Entrepreneur and industrialist Norbert Gehr lost his battle with leukemia in February at age 74, but his family foundation’s $20 million gift to the Keck School of Medicine of USC for research may help others with the most challenging of diseases.

Gehr was the founder and CEO of The Gehr Group, a privately held, Los Angeles-based multinational organization with interests in international trade, real estate, manufacturing, wholesale and distribution.

Diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia (AML) two years ago, Gehr had great respect for his Keck Medecine of USC doctors — internist David Goldstein, MD, and hematologist Casey O’Connell, MD — and wanted to support their research as part of his legacy.

The gift will be split between the research efforts of O’Connell and Goldstein. O’Connell will use the gift for translational research into blood diseases such as myelodysplastic syndromes, which can lead to leukemia, and AML, the most common adult acute leukemia. Goldstein’s research includes practical methods for improving delivery of health care through a team-based, coordinated approach. He is chief of the Division of Genitourinary, Hospital Palliative and General Internal Medicine and vice chair for clinical affairs for the Department of Medicine.

Sickle cell disease

Although the molecular and genetic defect that causes sickle cell disease was discovered in 1949, six decades have passed and yet no treatment for the disease exists. This gap between knowing what makes people sick and finding effective treatments was a primary focus of Austin’s July 9 presentation in Aresty Auditorium as part of the Dean’s Distinguished Lecturer Series.

“Translational science is a difficult challenge,” Austin said. “It is costly, time-consuming and inefficient.”

The process of translational science faces hurdles at every stage, said Austin, which is why the National Institutes of Health established NCATS in 2008 to deal with the complexity of the translational research.
Stem Cell research produces genetic blueprint for cartilage

By Crisy Luyt

LCTECH: Transitioning into treatment

Continued from page 1

shared some of the ways that NCATS attempts to make translational science quicker, more effective and less costly.

One initiative developed a network of more than 60 academic medical institutions that includes the Southern California Clinical and Translational Science Institute at USC. By pooling resources, so-called NCATS hubs can improve clinical trials by creating a central resource to centralize the painstaking reviews and contract negotiations that can delay efforts for years.

NCATS partners with academic researchers with pharmaceutical companies to benefit both. NCATS helped London-based Astrenze find academic researchers whose cells fail to grow in chondrocytes. They were working with drugs that wasn’t testing well, for example. The drug development information about showing foxg3 activating a green fluorescent protein reporter in chondrocytes. amount of proteins that grow in chondrocytes, and therefore the amount of cartilage produced by the body. This Sox9 binding works similarly in cartilage of different origins — ranging from the nose to the rib.

“Sox9 is essential to normal skeletal development throughout the body,” said McMahon, one of the corresponding authors on the study. “When people have a Sox9 mutation, they can suffer from a devastating condition of bent bones, and respiratory failure called campomelic dysplasia. Our study advances our knowledge of Sox9’s role in causing this terrible disease — and brings us one step closer to understanding how to potentially treat it.”

Born in Brazil to a Jewish father who fled Germany in the 1930s, Gehr spoke in a video interview of his journey as a self-made Cadillac. He recalled quitting his job at age 25 and selling his prized Cadillac to be able to launch his first business — an industrial supply firm — in the San Fernando Valley.

He grew that business and ultimately built multiple successful companies under the Gehr Group umbrella with his brother, brothers such as New York hotel properties, electrical cables and defense intelligence systems. He called himself a “born optimist who loved the challenge of business and never ailed from risks.”

During the 1990s, Gehr Group owned firms — in the San Fernando Valley, California, a multiyear effort that will provide an enduring impact on the university of southern California, a part of the Campaign for the University of Southern California, a multiyear effort that seeks to raise $6 billion or more in private philanthropy to advance USC’s academic priorities and expand its positive impact on the community and world. Four years after its launch, the campaign has raised more than $4.3 billion.

Mr. Gehr was survived by his four children, Crystal, Max, Robert and Andrew, and two brothers, Richard and Leo.

This legacy supports the Keck School of Medicine’s efforts to advance its academic priorities and expand its positive impact on the community and world. Four years after its launch, the campaign has raised more than $4.3 billion.

“We are grateful for the continued support to our wonderful USC Norris family, especially our nursing staff, who cared for him with one of his favorite gifts. What he wanted was “Mr. Gehr was an inspiring man with incredible vision, an exemplary work ethic and a constant desire to push boundaries,” O’Connell said.

“I am so proud of his loyalty to our wonderful USC Norris family, especially our nursing staff, who cared for him with one of his favorite gifts. What he wanted was to help other patients by finding a cure to blood cancers, even though he wouldn’t live to see the benefit.”

(Photo courtesy of Gehr Family Foundation)

LECTURE: Transitioning into treatment

Continued from page 1

Dr. John C. Austin, president and CEO of the Gehr Group, recalled his father who fled Germany in the 1930s, Gehr spoke in a video interview of his journey as a self-made Cadillac. He recalled quitting his job at age 25 and selling his prized Cadillac to be able to launch his first business — an industrial supply firm — in the San Fernando Valley.

He grew that business and ultimately built multiple successful companies under the Gehr Group umbrella with his brother, brothers such as New York hotel properties, electrical cables and defense intelligence systems. He called himself a “born optimist who loved the challenge of business and never ailed from risks.”

During the 1990s, Gehr Group owned firms — in the San Fernando Valley, California, a multiyear effort that will provide an enduring impact on the university of southern California, a part of the Campaign for the University of Southern California, a multiyear effort that seeks to raise $6 billion or more in private philanthropy to advance USC’s academic priorities and expand its positive impact on the community and world. Four years after its launch, the campaign has raised more than $4.3 billion.

Mr. Gehr was survived by his four children, Crystal, Max, Robert and Andrew, and two brothers, Richard and Leo.

This legacy supports the Keck School of Medicine’s efforts to advance its academic priorities and expand its positive impact on the community and world. Four years after its launch, the campaign has raised more than $4.3 billion.

“We are grateful for the continued support to our wonderful USC Norris family, especially our nursing staff, who cared for him with one of his favorite gifts. What he wanted was “Mr. Gehr was an inspiring man with incredible vision, an exemplary work ethic and a constant desire to push boundaries,” O’Connell said.

“I am so proud of his loyalty to our wonderful USC Norris family, especially our nursing staff, who cared for him with one of his favorite gifts. What he wanted was to help other patients by finding a cure to blood cancers, even though he wouldn’t live to see the benefit.”

(Photo courtesy of Gehr Family Foundation)

LECTURE: Transitioning into treatment

Continued from page 1

Dr. John C. Austin, president and CEO of the Gehr Group, recalled his father who fled Germany in the 1930s, Gehr spoke in a video interview of his journey as a self-made Cadillac. He recalled quitting his job at age 25 and selling his prized Cadillac to be able to launch his first business — an industrial supply firm — in the San Fernando Valley.

He grew that business and ultimately built multiple successful companies under the Gehr Group umbrella with his brother, brothers such as New York hotel properties, electrical cables and defense intelligence systems. He called himself a “born optimist who loved the challenge of business and never ailed from risks.”

During the 1990s, Gehr Group owned firms — in the San Fernando Valley, California, a multiyear effort that will provide an enduring impact on the university of southern California, a part of the Campaign for the University of Southern California, a multiyear effort that seeks to raise $6 billion or more in private philanthropy to advance USC’s academic priorities and expand its positive impact on the community and world. Four years after its launch, the campaign has raised more than $4.3 billion.

Mr. Gehr was survived by his four children, Crystal, Max, Robert and Andrew, and two brothers, Richard and Leo.

This legacy supports the Keck School of Medicine’s efforts to advance its academic priorities and expand its positive impact on the community and world. Four years after its launch, the campaign has raised more than $4.3 billion.

“We are grateful for the continued support to our wonderful USC Norris family, especially our nursing staff, who cared for him with one of his favorite gifts. What he wanted was “Mr. Gehr was an inspiring man with incredible vision, an exemplary work ethic and a constant desire to push boundaries,” O’Connell said.

“I am so proud of his loyalty to our wonderful USC Norris family, especially our nursing staff, who cared for him with one of his favorite gifts. What he wanted was to help other patients by finding a cure to blood cancers, even though he wouldn’t live to see the benefit.”

(Photo courtesy of Gehr Family Foundation)
Continued from page 1

GIFT: Leslie Hoffman and Elaine gift from the Hoffman in involvement, and a 1995 charitable giving and directors for the USC As- was instrumental in the of Leaders. Kris Popovich on the USC Marshall Board and serves with her husband she has held since 1983. She Popovich serves on the USC Board of Trustees, a position she has held since 1983. She is the president of the USC As- sociates Board of Directors, and serves with her husband on the USC Marshall Board of Leaders. Kris Popovich was instrumental in the formation of a board of directors for the USC As- sociates, and later served as the group’s president.

Cancer research is a major focus of the Popoviches’ charitable giving and involvement, and a 1995 gift from the Hoffman Foundation endowed the H. Leslie Hoffman and Elaine S. Hoffman Chair in Cancer Research at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. In addition, Kris has served as a member of the board of councilors of the Keck School of Medicine and was also involved with the Norris Cancer Research Associates. They also are major supporters of Children’s Hospital Los Angeles and other causes, along with their three daughters and sons-in-law, Kimberly and Robert Shepherd, Ticia and Michael Fink, and Jennifer and Christopher Allen.

Jane Popovich, who shares her husband’s commitment that personal philanthropy is key to community growth, added, “I’m proud to follow in my parents’ tradition of giving back to the USC commu- nity. I hope to preserve their memory and legacy through gifts such as this, as well as by staying involved.”

Stephen Gruber, MD, PhD, MPH, director of USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, praised the Popoviches’ generosity. “Jane and Kris Popovich understand the importance of investing in translational research, which is key to bringing the knowledge generated through basic science to the patient’s bedside,” said Gruber, who holds the Hoffman Chair in Cancer Research. “Thanks to their generosity, USC Norris can support outstanding faculty who will be able to develop innovative care that will benefit cancer patients. We are deeply honored and grateful for this gift.”

The Popoviches’ gift supports the Keck Medi- cine Initiative, part of the Campaign for the University of Southern California, a multiyear effort that seeks to raise $6 billion or more in private philanthropy to advance USC’s academic priorities and expand its impact on the community and world.

A n institute focusing on the development of new, effective treatments for Alzheimer’s Disease has been established by the Keck School of Medicine of USC. The USC Alzheimer’s Therapeutic Research Institute (USC ATRI) in San Diego will be led by distin- guished Alzheimer’s disease scientist, Paul Assen, MD. Assen is being proposed as professor of neurology at the Keck School of Medi- cine of USC and will lead the institute in pursuit of its mission to accelerate the development of effective treatments for Alzheimer’s disease through innovative, collaborative, multicenter clinical trials.

“Dr. Assen has been a leading figure in Alzheimer’s disease research for more than two decades, having developed novel methodologies and well-designed and directed many large thera- peutic trials,” said Carmen A. Puliafito, MD, MBA, dean of the Keck School of Medicine of USC. “We are proud to have him join USC, where his expertise and leadership will help the Keck School of Medicine and USC create a leading hub of basic, translational and clinical research in neuroscience and neurological diseases.” To accomplish this ambitious goal, USC is actively recruiting transformative faculty researchers to focus on the brain’s role in numerous medical conditions including Alzh- erner’s disease and multiple sclerosis. These efforts align closely with President Obama’s BRAIN Initiative, announced in April 2013. The establishment of the USC ATRI with Assen as director adds a strong clinical research program to supplement USC’s existing strengths in Alzheimer’s disease research.

“Keck School of Medicine of USC provides an optimal environment for this re- search program,” said Assen. “Close collaboration with Keck investigators, includ- ing Drs. Arthur Toga and Paul Thompson at the USC Mark and Mary Stevens Neuroimaging and Informat- ics Institute, Dr. Helena Chui at the Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center, and Dr. Berislav Zlokovic at the Zilkha Neurogenetic Institute, will facilitate rapid progress in data sharing and analytical methods central to the drug development process. USC ATRI will be the hub of the outlet for testing of new treatments.”

A n institute focusing on the development of new, effective treatments for Alzheimer’s Disease has been established by the Keck School of Medicine of USC. The USC Alzheimer’s Therapeutic Research Institute (USC ATRI) in San Diego will be led by distin- guished Alzheimer’s disease scientist, Paul Assen, MD. Assen is being proposed as professor of neurology at the Keck School of Medi- cine of USC and will lead the institute in pursuit of its mission to accelerate the development of effective treatments for Alzheimer’s disease through innovative, collaborative, multicenter clinical trials.

“Dr. Assen has been a leading figure in Alzheimer’s disease research for more than two decades, having developed novel methodologies and well-designed and directed many large thera- peutic trials,” said Carmen A. Puliafito, MD, MBA, dean of the Keck School of Medicine of USC. “We are proud to have him join USC, where his expertise and leadership will help the Keck School of Medicine and USC create a leading hub of basic, translational and clinical research in neuroscience and neurological diseases.” To accomplish this ambitious goal, USC is actively recruiting transformative faculty researchers to focus on the brain’s role in numerous medical conditions including Alzh- erner’s disease and multiple sclerosis. These efforts align closely with President Obama’s BRAIN Initiative, announced in April 2013. The establishment of the USC ATRI with Assen as director adds a strong clinical research program to supplement USC’s existing strengths in Alzheimer’s disease research.

“Keck School of Medicine of USC provides an optimal environment for this re- search program,” said Assen. “Close collaboration with Keck investigators, includ- ing Drs. Arthur Toga and Paul Thompson at the USC Mark and Mary Stevens Neuroimaging and Informat- ics Institute, Dr. Helena Chui at the Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center, and Dr. Berislav Zlokovic at the Zilkha Neurogenetic Institute, will facilitate rapid progress in data sharing and analytical methods central to the drug development process. USC ATRI will be the hub of the outlet for testing of new treatments.”

GIFT: Funding for cancer research

USC Alzheimer’s Therapeutic Research Institute established

By Alison Trinidad and Leslie Hoffman

C ancer research is a major focus of the Popoviches’ charitable giving and involvement, and a 1995 gift from the Hoffman Foundation endowed the H. Leslie Hoffman and Elaine S. Hoffman Chair in Cancer Research at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. In addition, Kris has served as a member of the board of councilors of the Keck School of Medicine and was also involved with the Norris Cancer Research Associates. They also are major supporters of Children’s Hospital Los Angeles and other causes, along with their three daughters and sons-in-law, Kimberly and Robert Shepherd, Ticia and Michael Fink, and Jennifer and Christopher Allen. Jane Popovich, who shares her husband’s commitment that personal philanthropy is key to community growth, added, “I’m proud to follow in my parents’ tradition of giving back to the USC community. I hope to preserve their memory and legacy through gifts such as this, as well as by staying involved.”

Stephen Gruber, MD, PhD, MPH, director of USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, praised the Popoviches’ generosity. “Jane and Kris Popovich understand the importance of investing in translational research, which is key to bringing the knowledge generated through basic science to the patient’s bedside,” said Gruber, who holds the Hoffman Chair in Cancer Research. “Thanks to their generosity, USC Norris can support outstanding faculty who will be able to develop innovative care that will benefit cancer patients. We are deeply honored and grateful for this gift.”

The Popoviches’ gift supports the Keck Medicine Initiative, part of the Campaign for the University of Southern California, a multiyear effort that seeks to raise $6 billion or more in private philanthropy to advance USC’s academic priorities and expand its impact on the community and world.

By Kukla Vera

G ilbert C. Stimmel, PharmD, a national leader in clinical pharmacy practice and a USC faculty member since 1974, has been named interim dean of the USC School of Pharmacy, effective July 1.

“I’m looking forward to working with the excellent faculty, staff, students, alumni and supporters of our School of Pharmacy,” Stimmel said. “Our school is on an amazing trajectory that promises to help improve pharmacy practice, research and education. I’m honored to play a role in this important mission.”

Stimmel is a professor of clinical pharma- cy, psychiatry and the behavioral sciences in the School of Pharmacy and the Keck School of Medicine of USC. As interim dean, he will hold the John Stauffer Dean’s Chair in Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Stimmel has long been a national voice in expanding the scope of practice for pharma- cists, including advocacy for pharmacist pre- scripting authority. He led a pivotal project in the 1970s to examine the safety and ef- ficiency of pharmacists serving as prescribers. That same year, he authored a landmark study that led to passage of legislation in California allowing pharmacists to initiate and modify drug treatment, order lab tests, perform physical assessments and administer drugs under physician authority. The law set the stage for further expansion of pharmacist authority in California and, ultimately, 2013’s Senate Bill 493, which recognizes pharmacists as health care providers.

“Dr. Stimmel’s work was foundational to today’s efforts to continue to expand the role of the pharmacist as an essential health care team,” said outgoing Dean R. Pete Vanderveen, PhD. “We are very fortunate to have a leader of Dr. Stimmel’s reputa- tion and caliber to lead our school at this auspicious time when we are building on the passage of Senate Bill 493.”

Stimmel is a prolific scholar who has been a full professor since 1984. He has served in various administrative posts at the school, including as chair of its clinical department, the strategic planning and strategic implementation committees, and the curriculum committee.
Possible treatment found for a deadly lymphoma in HIV patients

By Les Dunseith

ew research at Keck Medicine of USC has taken a step toward a potential treatment for a rare but previously incurable form of lymphoma that is observed primarily in patients with HIV/AIDS infection.

The study’s lead author is Ramkrishnan “Ram” Gopalakrishnan, PhD, a research associate in the lab of Preet Chaudhary, chief of the Jane Anne Nohl Division of Hematology and Center for the Study of Blood Dis- eases at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. Gopalakrishnan has been exploring the decision process in the USC research. “So, when we combined the drugs, we knew how they could be toxic to this other situation with PEL.”

“Not only have we figured out that the drugs work, but we have also figured out what the underlying molecular mechanism is. And that allows us to combine this drug with other drugs in a more intelligent way,” Chaudhary said. “We are in the Bloom Family Chair in Lymphoma Re- search at the Keck School, is senior author of the study. His lab has done previous work on cancers that are found in patients with human immuno- deficiency virus (HIV) infection, including cancers such as PEL, that are caused by infection with Kaposi’s sarcoma associated herpesvirus, also known as Human Herpesvirus-8. “Primary effusion lymphoma is very aggressive. Median survival with current therapy is just three to six months,” Chaudhary noted. “And the current therapy for PEL is toxic and requires medications that have other side effects, and that need to be given intravenously. This has become an issue for countries with limited re- sources, for example in Africa where this disease is more common.”

The study results are promising, but Chaudhary cautioned that the USCs research is based on in vitro and animal model studies that involved putting human lymphoma cells into immuno-deficient mice. “We are not suggesting that the patients begin taking these drugs,” Chaudhary said. “The disease itself is not very common, so it’s not feasible for a single center to conduct the clinical trial. You would have to work as a consortium.”

Such a consortium already exists for physicians who have patients with both cancer and AIDS. “So once they see our study, hopeful- ly it will create enough excitement and enough interest that they will say, “Let’s put this study through our consortium. Let’s conduct a proper clinical trial,” Chaudhary said.

Breakthroughs like this one related to less-prevalent diseases are now possible because of evolving attitudes in the medical research community. “In the old days, we were mainly interested in drugs that effect millions or thousands of patients,” Chaudhary noted. “The paradigm has changed at the NIH level and at the highest levels of medicine, and rare disease research has also become a priority now.”

Other USC co-authors include Hirtru Matta, Bhavari Jolani and Tim Triche Jr. The study was sup- ported by National Institute of Health grants, a Southern California Clinical and Translational Science Institute pilot grant and a grant from the Stop Cancer Foundation.

Opposite page: Lindsey Mork and Michaela Patterson from Gage Crump’s lab. Together, they will use zebrafish to investigate the role of a gene, known as Tnni3k, in heart regeneration. When activated, this gene appears to lower the number of cells called mononuclear diploid cardiac monocytes that form new cardiac muscle after a heart attack or other injury. The project combines the Sucov lab’s expertise in heart regeneration with the Crump lab’s knowledge of zebrafish, which can heal from severe cardiac injuries. “In this project, Lindsey and Michaela directly address a funda- mental question in regenerative biology: namely, the cellular basis for the profound differences in regeneration- al capacity between mammalian and non-mammalian vertebrates such as the zebrafish,” said Crump, PhD, as- sociate professor of stem cell biology and regenerative medicine. Sucov, PhD, a professor of stem cell biology, reflects on his research: “I joined the lab to do regenerative medicine, cell and neurobiology, and biochemistry and molecular biology, added: “I have no doubts that they will uncover important new mecha- nisms fundamental to heart regeneration, and their success could lead to a long-standing collaboration.”

Daniel Oh, MD, speaks to the crowd as he and colleagues from Keck Medicine of USC accept their award from the American Lung Association in Los Angeles.

USC Norris team receives Impact Award at American Lung Association Gala

Daniel S. Oh, MD, and the entire Multidisciplinary Lung Cancer team at USC’s Keck School of Medicine recently received the Impact Award during the 2015 LUNG FORCE Gala.

The award recognizes a public health professional whose career and work have made major and lasting contributions to the world of lung health. It was presented June 20 during an event hosted by actor and comedian Kim Coles at the Skirball Cultural Center.

The gala is part of an effort by the American Lung Association in Califor- nia to increase awareness of lung cancer and make lung cancer in women a public health priority. The event also featured a silent auction and raised funds to support lung cancer research.

The Lung Cancer Program at USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center is one of the few programs in the country in which patients with lung cancer can be evaluated simultaneously in one visit by physicians of different specialties, such as thoracic surgery, pulmonary medicine, medical oncology and radiation oncology. This team approach allows patients to benefit from real time multidisciplinary discussion of their care to provide advanced personalized care to a streamlined setting.

Joining Oh at the gala to receive the award were physicians Chris Lee of radiology, Chang-Fei Chang and Alex Baleykian of pulmonology, and Barbara J. Gritzl and Jorge Nieves of medical oncology, plus investigators Lee Laidt-Off- stieg, PhD, and nurse navigator Nancy Nguyen. Other recipients are Jeff Hagen, MD, and Mike McFadden, MD, of thoracic surgery, and Eugene Chang, MD, PhD, JD, of radiation oncology.

Oh, an assistant professor of surgery and an integral part of the multidisciplina- ry team, specializes in general thoracic surgery. He has an interest in applying and expanding the role of minimally invasive and robotic technol- ogy in the diagnosis and treatment of the conditions afflicting his patients.
Henderson became an career in medicine as a research and as a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a physician, scholar and leader, he served on the board of trustees for a stem cell research entity. He also served as the president of the Society for Epidemiologic Research in the late 1990s. In 2004, he was one of the first scientific experts selected to the oversight committee for the state’s stem cell research entity. He also served on the board of trustees for Children’s Hospital Los Angeles.

Of his career and work, Henderson said: “In the course of my travels, I feel fortunate to have been taught and to have received more than I could possibly have given.”

A graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, he received his medical degree from the University of Chicago Medical School. He completed his internship and residency at Massachusetts General Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Judith; his children, Sean O’Brien Henderson, Maira Henderson Mullaly, Sarah Cathleen Henderson, Brian John Henderson, and Michael Henderson; and his grandchildren. Donations may be made to a fellowship fund at USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center at http://www.uscnorris.com/support/brianhenderson.html

RANKINGS: Hospital programs do well again in U.S. News report

Continued from page 1

Dr. Henderson’s contributions as a physician, scholar and leader transformed our understanding of the hormonal basis of many human cancers, and led to the way to effective medicines to prevent and treat cancer,” Gruber said. “He saved countless lives.”

Henderson led the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center at a time of tremendous growth between 1983 and 1994. He also led the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in San Diego as its president from 1995 to 1999, returning to USC in 1996. “During his decades of service to USC, Dr. Henderson brought significant prestige, as well as national and international recognition, to USC, the Keck School of Medicine and the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, because of the outstanding education and research programs he established and promoted,” said Keck School of Medicine Dean Carmen Puliafito, MD, MBA. “Dr. Henderson was a warm and caring individual, a passionate scientist, a man of great integrity, and an excellent role model for young researchers and students.”

While Henderson was widely recognized for his contributions to cancer research, he pointed to the Keck School of Medicine’s education of future scientific minds as his greatest accomplishment. “Looking back, I’m really proud to have helped build the scientific base of the medical school,” he said. “Teaching students is something I just love.”

Continued from page 1

Henderson’s passion for science was evident in his work at the Keck School of Medicine. His contributions to the field of cancer biology and his dedication to teaching and mentoring have left a lasting legacy. He is survived by his wife, Judith; his children, Sean O’Brien Henderson, Maira Henderson Mullaly, Sarah Cathleen Henderson, Brian John Henderson, and Michael Henderson; and his grandchildren. Donations may be made to a fellowship fund at USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center at http://www.uscnorris.com/support/brianhenderson.html

Continued from page 1

September 2004: Brian Henderson meets with noted Russian pediatrician Leonid Roshal, second from left, during a visit to the Health Sciences Campus. Also pictured are faculty physicians Stephen Giannotta and Vladimir Zelman.

August 2003: As medical school dean, Henderson presided over several white coat ceremonies.

Continued from page 1

RANKINGS: Hospital programs do well again in U.S. News report

Continued from page 1

Henderson began his career in medicine as a research and as a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a researcher in virology. As a young scientist, he ventured to Africa as a research...
Desai is ‘rising star’ in health care

Amar A. Desai, MD, MPH, of Keck Medicine of USC has been selected for the 2015 edition of Rising Stars: 50 Healthcare Leaders Under 40. The honorees on this year’s list have achieved great professional heights in the health care industry at a young age, and these “rising stars” are poised for continued growth throughout the rest of their careers, according to a news release from Becker’s Hospital Review. Becker’s selected leaders are selected from nominations. All leaders were under 40 at the time of their nomination. This list has appeared annually since 2012. Desai, who is one of four recipients from California, was honored for contributions to medical education at Keck School of Medicine of USC, to increase awareness among Hispanic women about the importance of cervical cancer screenings. Baezconde-Garbanati said the project was initiated after Laila Muderspach, MD, chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Keck School, noted high rates of Hispanic women coming in with advanced cervical cancer, suggesting that many were not getting regular screenings. Cervical cancer remains a leading cause of cancer morbidity and mortality among Hispanic women even though it is largely preventable through screenings and vaccination against human papillomavirus (HPV).

Puliafito honored for contributions to physician training

By Douglas Morino

K eck School of Medicine of USC Dean Carmen A. Puliafito, MD, MBA, has received an award honoring his contributions to medicine from National Medical Fellowships (NMF), an organization founded in 1946 that provides scholarships to underrepresented minority students in medicine and the health professions. Puliafito was given the NMF Excellence in Medicine Award at the annual Los Angeles Champions of Health Awards ceremony, which was held in June at the Molina Healthcare Event Center in Long Beach.

Liver transplant program lauded

The Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) recently released data indicating that the Keck Medicine of USC liver transplant program is one of four programs in the U.S. (and the only one on the West Coast of California) with overall statistically higher than expected 1-year patient and graft survival rates.

Campaign urges screening for cervical cancer

By Leslie Ridgeway

A study by Keck School of Medicine of USC found that despite a U.S. Food and Drug Administration ban in 2011, flavored cigarettes are still available for purchase via the Internet and are popular search targets. Heightened online interest in flavored cigarettes was targeted through a case study of Djarum, a manufacturer of flavored cigarettes and cigars, the latter of which are legal. By monitoring the search terms “Djarum cigarettes” and “Djarum cigars” in Google, the scientists discovered that 72 percent of websites in the top 50 of search results promoted and 34 sold flavored cigarettes.

HSC Newsmakers

A roundup of news items related to Keck Medicine of USC, which may include philanthropic donations, research grants, publication in academic journals and mentions in the news media.

HSC News

HSC News is published for the faculty, staff, students, volunteers and visitors at the University of Southern California’s Health Sciences Campus community. It is produced by the Health Sciences Public Relations and Marketing team. Permission to reprint articles is available upon request. No artwork may be reproduced without the creator’s consent.

Campaign urges screening for cervical cancer

By Hope Hamaehiga

It’s important. It’s easy. It’s time.” That message in English and Spanish adorns bus benches, billboards and lampposts around the Health Sciences Campus as part of a cervical cancer prevention campaign dubbed Es Tiempo. The message, which also features an image of a juncara tree, was spearheaded by Lourdes Baezconde-Garbanati, PhD, MPH, associate professor of preventive medicine at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, to increase awareness among Hispanic women about the importance of cervical cancer screenings.

Baezconde-Garbanati took on the campaign as an effort to change those rates, at least in the immediate vicinity of the Health Sciences Campus. The campaign was designed to remind women of the importance of cervical cancer screening and getting their children vaccinated against the human papillomaviruses. It’s easy to do and can save lives if done in time.

In addition to the banners and signs, reminders to schedule an appointment are being mailed to women who have not had a pap test in three years by workers at Clinicas Monseñor Oscar Romero and Boyle Heights Women & Pico Union. Jazmin Gutierrez, a patient at Clinicas Monseñor Oscar Romero, said the campaign opened her eyes about the danger of not getting screened for cervical cancer.

She made an appointment herself and plans to promote cervical cancer screening and HPV vaccination among friends and family members.

Baezconde-Garbanati is heartened that women have responded to the campaign. “I believe that people are craving information and we are beginning to see people respond,” she said. “With this campaign, I feel like we are going to make a differ- ence and save lives.”

The Norris Whittier Foundation, California Com- munity Foundation and the USC Center for Health Equity in the Americas provided funding for the Es Tiempo campaign.

Front cover

Liver transplant program lauded

By Douglas Morino

The Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) recently released data indicating that the Keck Medicine of USC liver transplant program is one of four programs in the U.S. (and the only one on the West Coast of California) with overall statistically higher than expected 1-year patient and graft survival rates.

HSC News

HSC News is published for the faculty, staff, students, volunteers and visitors at the University of Southern California’s Health Sciences Campus community. It is produced by the Health Sciences Public Relations and Marketing team. Permission to reprint articles is available upon request. No artwork may be reproduced without the creator’s consent.

Campaign urges screening for cervical cancer

By Hope Hamaehiga

It’s important. It’s easy. It’s time.” That message in English and Spanish adorns bus benches, billboards and lampposts around the Health Sciences Campus as part of a cervical cancer prevention campaign dubbed Es Tiempo. The message, which also features an image of a juncara tree, was spearheaded by Lourdes Baezconde-Garbanati, PhD, MPH, associate professor of preventive medicine at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, to increase awareness among Hispanic women about the importance of cervical cancer screenings.

Baezconde-Garbanati took on the campaign as an effort to change those rates, at least in the immediate vicinity of the Health Sciences Campus. The campaign was designed to remind women of the importance of cervical cancer screening and getting their children vaccinated against the human papillomaviruses. It’s easy to do and can save lives if done in time.

In addition to the banners and signs, reminders to schedule an appointment are being mailed to women who have not had a pap test in three years by workers at Clinicas Monseñor Oscar Romero and Boyle Heights Women & Pico Union. Jazmin Gutierrez, a patient at Clinicas Monseñor Oscar Romero, said the campaign opened her eyes about the danger of not getting screened for cervical cancer.

She made an appointment herself and plans to promote cervical cancer screening and HPV vaccination among friends and family members.

Baezconde-Garbanati is heartened that women have responded to the campaign. “I believe that people are craving information and we are beginning to see people respond,” she said. “With this campaign, I feel like we are going to make a difference and save lives.”

The Norris Whittier Foundation, California Community Foundation and the USC Center for Health Equity in the Americas provided funding for the Es Tiempo campaign.

Front cover

Liver transplant program lauded

By Douglas Morino

The Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) recently released data indicating that the Keck Medicine of USC liver transplant program is one of four programs in the U.S. (and the only one on the West Coast of California) with overall statistically higher than expected 1-year patient and graft survival rates.