As Oct. 1 deadline nears, training begins on ICD-10 medical record protocol

By Douglas Morino

The Oct. 1 implementation of the new ICD-10 coding system for reporting of patient diagnoses and procedures has reenergized the journey toward accurate medical record documentation — and two physicians from the Department of Neurology are among those at Keck Medicine of USC who are blazing the trail.

Benjamin Emanuel, DO, and May Kim-Tenser, MD, launched an effort to optimize their documentation about a year ago after discovering that the existing process did not reflect the actual severity of illnesses and mortality risks of their patients, affecting their quality indicators.

“We asked ourselves: How can we improve our documentation to reflect how sick our patients actually are?” Emanuel said. “We found that accurately documenting how the patient is actively being treated had a huge impact.”

Emergency medicine leader is recruited to Keck School

Carl R. Chudnofsky, MD, has been recruited from the Albert Einstein Medical Center to lead the Keck School of Medicine of USC’s Department of Emergency Medicine effective Aug. 1.

“Dr. Chudnofsky is an established leader in emergency medicine, having successfully managed a complex emergency medicine department within a challenging organizational structure — a private teaching hospital that responds to and fulfills the enormous emergency department demands of a major public hospital,” said Keck School of Medicine Dean Carmen A. Puliafito, MD, MBA.

Chudnofsky began his 26-year academic career at the University of Massachusetts and University of Michigan.

$10 million gift to Keck School supports biomedical research and education

By Lynn Lipinski

U SC Trustee Malcolm Currie and his wife, Barbara, have given $10 million toward the endowment of the Keck School of Medicine of USC and construction of the USC Michelson Center for Convergent Bioscience. In recognition of their investment in the university’s biomedical research and education, two facilities will be named in honor of the Curries: a new Health Sciences Campus residence hall that will open in 2016 and the lobby of the USC Michelson Center.

An engineering physicist who was chair and CEO of Hughes Aircraft, Malcolm Currie has served as a member of the USC Board of Trustees since 1989 and chaired the board from 1995-2000. He and his wife, Barbara, have been generous supporters of the university, endowing the Malcolm R. Currie Chair in Technology and the Humanities in 2008. The chair, currently held by USCPresident C. L. Max Nikias, was USC’s first endowed faculty position honoring exceptional...
Doctor crusades against elder abuse

By Diane Krieger

Laura Mosqueda, MD, a leader in the study and prevention of elder abuse, has seen it all. You wouldn’t want your grandmother to know about it. On house calls with Adult Protective Services workers, she’s seen frail, demented seniors in appalling circumstances — victims of neglect, starvation, beatings, occasionally even rape. Instead of averting her eyes, the USC-trained geriatrician has directed her unflinch- ing attention to these horrors and forced the medical community to look too.

A year ago, Mosqueda joined USC as chair of the Department of Family Medicine and associate dean of primary care at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. Mosqueda came to USC with 15 years of experience at the University of California, Irvine, where she co-founded the nation’s first Elder Abuse Forensics Center — a hub for interdisciplinary bridges around the field of elder abuse. The center is the nation’s only clearinghouse on elder abuse. Sponsored by a three-year, $2.2 million federal Administration on Aging grant, the center is the nation’s only clearinghouse on elder abuse.

Mosqueda has been building a web of expertise that includes researchers, practitioners, students, and other experts in the field of elder abuse. The center has been implement in our environment all of this together, figuring out how to implement it in our environment and do it so, Paul added. Pulling together the skills of her colleagues, Mosqueda has been able to launch a website that offers a comprehensive range of resources for those interested in elder abuse.

As the model for the USC-based Los Angeles County Elder Abuse Forensic Center, where Mosqueda continues to work with fellow Keck School geriatrician Laura Mosqueda director Diana Homeier, MD.

Boosting USC’s leadership in the study and prevention of elder abuse, prior to joining the USC Davis School of Gerontology, where she holds a faculty position, Mosqueda posted online at hscnews.usc.edu.

Calendar of Events

Friday, Aug. 14
5 p.m. Educational Affairs White Coat Cer- emony and Faculty Teaching Awards, Peter Cookes, MD, Department of Surgery. Harry and Gelsea Pappas Quadrangle. Information: Teresa Cookes, (323) 442-4149, teresa.cookes@usc.edu.


Tuesday, Sept. 7
11 a.m. USC Stem Cell Seminar. Markus Grompe, Oregon Health and Science University. Eli and Edythe Broad CIRM Center Auditorium. Info: Crisy Lyralt, (323) 442-2172, lyralt@med.usc.edu.

Thursday, Aug. 27

Thursday, Sept. 8

Thursday, Sept. 10

Thursday, Sept. 15

Thursday, Sept. 24
11 a.m. USC Stem Cell Seminar. “Depression and Stroke,” Mary Kim-Tenner, MD, USC Keck Hospital. 3 North, Day Room (331A). Parking validated and snacks provided. Info: Ozi Oluwole, (323) 442-0049, oluwole@med.usc.edu.

RSVP: Ginger Mayerson, (323) 227-1902, mayerson@usc.edu, RSVIP: http://stemcell.usc.edu.

By Douglas Morino

A keck Medicine of USC neuroan- atologist has been awarded four grants that will pave the way for new research into the underlying causes of cognitive disorders such as Alzheimer’s disease and dementia. Kevin S. King, MD, assistant professor of clinical radiology at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, will receive $300,000 in grant funding to further his research for two years. His work is expected to begin this summer and will focus on cerebrovas- cular reactivity as an early predictor of brain hypoperfusion, microvascular injury and cognitive decline. King will be looking at samples of Alzheimer’s, dementia and other cognitive disease while examining potential therapeutic options that could prevent reduced cognitive function associated with aging. “We could potentially be un- derstanding some interesting and important questions,” said King, who was recently recruited from the University of Texas, Southwestern, where he worked with the Dallas Heart Study. Although it is now widely accepted that vascular risk factors damage the brain and increase risk for dementia, little is known about how this occurs. The grant funding will allow King to directly assess the relationships between the health and functions of blood vessels in the brain and cogni- tive decline.

To test his theory that decreased blood flow to the brain is the cause of cognitive decline, King will use noninvasive advanced imaging such as functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to assess the health of blood vessels in the brain. King will use those findings to help develop preventative measures for cognitive decline.

His research focuses on the causes of dementia that are related to blood pressure. He will conduct stress tests that increase flow in brain blood vessels. Early stages of disease may decrease the capacity of these blood vessels to increase flow. The brain uses a large amount of energy, and maintaining this ability to increase flow to meet metabolic demand may be critical to maintaining cognitive function.

King will collaborate with other researchers at USC's Health Sci- ences and University Park campuses, and the study will be performed in conjunction with the Vascular Cohort Study of the USC Alzheimer’s Dis- ease Research Center. King will work with patients in the Los Angeles area and the Huntington Research Institute. The project will include about 40 men and women older than age 70. King's grants are the Baxter Foun- dation Grant, the Keck/Huntsman Institute, the Zumberge Grant and the Radiological Society of North America Research Scholar Grant, which is considered among the most presti- gious research awards in the radiology community.
In memoriam: Jane Hoffman Popovich, 72

By Lynn Lipinski

USC Trustee Jane Hoff-
mam Popovich, 72, an accomplished businesswoman and philanthropist with a lifelong commitment to the university and the commu-
nity, died Aug. 4, following a long battle with cancer. “My wife, Niki, and I wish Jane deep,” said USC President C. L. Max Nikias. “She was a close and caring friend, a good neighbor and, yes, a great Trojan. She has left all of us with so many wonderful memories at USC and in Sun Valley, that we will cherish them for the rest of our lives.”

“Popovich and her hus-
bond, J. Kristoffer Popovich, have been longtime, gener-
ous volunteers and benefac-
tors to USC, supporting many areas of the university, including the Keck School of Medicine of USC, the USC Marshall School of Business, and USC Athletics. Their giving, which encompasses more than $20 million in gifts and pledges to re-
cently included $4 million in June toward cancer research at the university’s 1961 Master Plan; and Elaine Stevely Hoffman Research Center on the Health Sci-
cences Campus, which honors her mother.

Cancer research also was a major focus of her fam-
lly’s charitable giving and involvement. “The Popovi-
ches, with a million dollar gift this year, funded the Jane and Kris Popovich Chair in Cancer Research at USC Norris. The donation came a decade after the family’s gift to en-
dow H. Leslie Hoffman and Elaine S. Hoffman Chair in Cancer Research at the Keck School of Medicine in 2008. Jane Popovich is survived by her husband, three daughters, and eight grandchildren.”

NEW MS: Inaugural class of 30 to pursue neuroimaging degree

By Douglas Morino

More than 400 staff members parti-
cipated in an evacuation exercise on July 17 at USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center.

The drill centered on a simulated earth-
quake of magnitude 7.0 that struck near Santa Monica, damaging medical facili-
ties throughout Los Angeles. Physicians evacuated and assembled in three assembly areas while physicians and nurses gathered at a triage area in Pappas Quad to treat the injured.

USC Norris drill simulates earthquake response

By Douglas Morino

More than 400 staff members partici-
pated in an evacuation exercise on July 17 at USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center.

The drill centered on a simulated earth-
quake of magnitude 7.0 that struck near Santa Monica, damaging medical facili-
ties throughout Los Angeles. Physicians evacuated and assembled in three assembly areas while physicians and nurses gathered at a triage area in Pappas Quad to treat the injured.

“Dr. Robert Vance III, who served as safety officer, said that our complication rate is in the single digits. Additionally, we need to ensure that our physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants have access to the institution’s new brain scanning facili-
ties expected to open next spring.

“Students will be able to gather, analyze and explore piles of neuroim-
aging data on brain function, form and connectivity,” Van Horn said.

“This exciting new master’s program has something for everybody and provides an environment where every-
body can make contributions,” Van Horn said. The program will engage in public policy, regulatory or administrative role.

“NIN students will ideally

positioned to enter any field related to the study of the brain,” Van Horn said.

CHUDNOFSKY: New leader for Emergency Medicine

Continued from page 1

New leader for Emergency Medicine

CHUDNOFSKY: New leader for Emergency Medicine

Continued from page 1

Chudnofsky graduated

Chudnofsky graduated

and completed his

and completed his

MD, who had served as interim chair of Emergency Medicine since August 2014. The Department of Emergency Medicine at USC Norris provides world-class emergency, trauma and medical services. It is the country’s largest emergency department, offering a safety net for emergency care to the 10 million residents of Los Angeles County, for which it provides more than 29 percent of all trauma care.

The program consists of 10 courses, 26 units are required.

The exercise allowed HSC security and emergency management staff to set and test the Norris Hospital Command Center and victim triage areas. It also provided building search and clearance practice for members of the HSC-CERT team.

The exercise marked the first time in 15 years that all components of the complex USC Norris operation participated on this scale,” said Safety and Emergency Manage-
ment Officer Robert Vance III.

Evacuation drills at Keck Medical Center of USC are done at least four times a year.

Students will be able to gather, analyze and explore piles of neuroim-
aging data on brain function, form and connectivity,” Van Horn said.

“This exciting new master’s program has something for everybody and provides an environment where every-
body can make contributions,” Van Horn said. The program will engage in public policy, regulatory or administrative role.

“NIN students will ideally

positioned to enter any field related to the study of the brain,” Van Horn said.

CHUDNOFSKY: New leader for Emergency Medicine

Continued from page 1

New leader for Emergency Medicine

CHUDNOFSKY: New leader for Emergency Medicine

Continued from page 1

Chudnofsky graduated

Chudnofsky graduated

and completed his

and completed his

MD, who had served as interim chair of Emergency Medicine since August 2014. The Department of Emergency Medicine at USC Norris provides world-class emergency, trauma and medical services. It is the country’s largest emergency department, offering a safety net for emergency care to the 10 million residents of Los Angeles County, for which it provides more than 29 percent of all trauma care.

The program consists of 10 courses, 26 units are required.

The exercise allowed HSC security and emergency management staff to set and test the Norris Hospital Command Center and victim triage areas. It also provided building search and clearance practice for members of the HSC-CERT team.

The exercise marked the first time in 15 years that all components of the complex USC Norris operation participated on this scale,” said Safety and Emergency Manage-
ment Officer Robert Vance III.

Evacuation drills at Keck Medical Center of USC are done at least four times a year.

Students will be able to gather, analyze and explore piles of neuroim-
aging data on brain function, form and connectivity,” Van Horn said.

“This exciting new master’s program has something for everybody and provides an environment where every-
body can make contributions,” Van Horn said. The program will engage in public policy, regulatory or administrative role.

“NIN students will ideally

positioned to enter any field related to the study of the brain,” Van Horn said.

CHUDNOFSKY: New leader for Emergency Medicine

Continued from page 1

New leader for Emergency Medicine

CHUDNOFSKY: New leader for Emergency Medicine

Continued from page 1

Chudnofsky graduated

Chudnofsky graduated

and completed his

and completed his

MD, who had served as interim chair of Emergency Medicine since August 2014. The Department of Emergency Medicine at USC Norris provides world-class emergency, trauma and medical services. It is the country’s largest emergency department, offering a safety net for emergency care to the 10 million residents of Los Angeles County, for which it provides more than 29 percent of all trauma care.

The program consists of 10 courses, 26 units are required.

The exercise allowed HSC security and emergency management staff to set and test the Norris Hospital Command Center and victim triage areas. It also provided building search and clearance practice for members of the HSC-CERT team.

The exercise marked the first time in 15 years that all components of the complex USC Norris operation participated on this scale,” said Safety and Emergency Manage-
ment Officer Robert Vance III.

Evacuation drills at Keck Medical Center of USC are done at least four times a year.
First Huddle for night staff is held

A KNOWN ROUNDING was conducted on July 30 at Keck Medical Center, followed for the first time in the evening by a Keck Huddle. More than 100 night shift staff members attended. Future evening rounding and huddles are planned for the fall, with dates to be announced soon.

Research focuses on effects of near-roadway air pollution

POLICYMAKERS AND DEVELOPERS planning high-density housing near public transit with the goal of reducing auto use and greenhouse gas emissions need a clearer understanding of the health risks of air pollution from busy roads and freeways nearby, according to new research by Keck School of Medicine of USC scientists. The study is one of the first to focus on heart disease that can result from residential exposures near major roadways in a large urban area. The study estimated the current impact of near-roadway pollution and of likely future exposure under proposed urban redevelopment plans for Southern California in response to landmark California legislation passed in 2008 to reduce greenhouse gases by 2030. The anticipated result is less reliance on private automobiles, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and corresponding reduced levels of air pollution hazardous to health. “The health benefits of these reduced emissions are partially offset by increased exposure to high concentrations of near-roadway pollutants among a larger population living next to major traffic corridors,” said Rob McConnell, MD, corresponding author and professor of preventive medicine, Keck School of Medicine of USC.

New associate dean for Health Sciences Libraries is named

CYNTHIA L. HENDERSON is the new associate dean, Health Sciences Libraries, and director, Norris Medical Library, effective July 16. Henderson is responsible for providing leadership and direction for the USC Health Sciences Libraries, which includes the Norris Medical Library, the Wilson Dental Libraries, which includes the Norris Dental Library, effective July 16. Henderson is responsible for providing leadership and direction for the USC Health Sciences Libraries, which includes the Norris Medical Library, the Wilson Dental Libraries, as well as the provision of information services to the USC hospitals and clinics and Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. Henderson comes to USC from the position of Executive Director of the Louis Stokes Health Sciences Library at Howard University in Washington, D.C., where she had been since 2010. She had held leadership positions at the Morehouse School of Medicine, Samuel Merritt College (now Samuel Merritt University) and the University of Illinois at Chicago since 1995. She is a past member of the Board of Directors of the Medical Library Association, is published and has made presentations at numerous conferences and workshops.

Security app provides quick access to emergency assistance

SAFETY IS JUST A CLICK away with a new mobile app available to USC students, staff and faculty. The LiveSafe app can be used to initiate contact with emergency responders at any time and around the University Park and Health Sciences campuses. Managed by the USC Department of Public Safety and the USC Department of Emergency Planning, the mobile app is available for free download on iOS and Android devices.

Keck Medicine of USC gets new director of Kidney Research Center

By Douglas Morino

A peer-reviewed physician has joined Keck Medicine of USC as chief of the Division of Nephrology and director of the USC/UKRO Kidney Research Center. Kenneth R. Hallows, MD, PhD, is an internationally recognized expert in ion transport physiology and in transport-metabolism coupling via the metabolic sensor AMP-activated protein kinase, an enzyme that plays a role in cellular energy homeostasis. His clinical interests include electrolyte disorders, acute kidney injury and polycystic kidney disease.

“Keck Medicine of USC is pleased to have Dr. Hallows take on this leadership role,” said Vito M. Campese, MD, professor of medicine at the Keck School of Medicine of USC and chair of UKRO’s Medical Scientific Advisory Board — which is instrumental in the planning of the kidney center — serves as co-director.

“UKRO is delighted to welcome Dr. Hallows to USC’s group of nationally known researchers into various aspects of the kidney,” said UKRO President Kenneth Kleinberg. “We are counting on his leadership to place the USC/UKRO Kidney Research Center at the forefront of renal research and medical sciences,”

Malcolm Currie said.

A defense and aerospace industry leader whose work upholds today’s national security systems, Malcolm Currie served in the 1970s as Undersecretary of Defense for Research and Engineering and in the U.S.-designated national armament director in NATO. He is also known for leading Hughes Aircraft from 1988 to 1993.

ENDOWMENT: Curies donate $10 million

Vito M. Campese, MD, PhD, is an internationally known researcher into various aspects of the kidney, and we expect he will lead the division of Nephrology and endocrinology with outstanding credentials, said UKRO President Kenneth Kleinberg. “We are counting on his leadership to place the USC/UKRO Kidney Research Center at the forefront of renal research and medical sciences,” Malcolm Currie said.

A defense and aerospace industry leader whose work upholds today’s national security systems, Malcolm Currie served in the 1970s as Undersecretary of Defense for Research and Engineering and in the U.S.-designated national armament director in NATO. He is also known for leading Hughes Aircraft from 1988 to 1993.

ENDOWMENT: Curies donate $10 million

Vito M. Campese, MD, PhD, is an internationally known researcher into various aspects of the kidney, and we expect he will lead the division of Nephrology and endocrinology with outstanding credentials, said UKRO President Kenneth Kleinberg. “We are counting on his leadership to place the USC/UKRO Kidney Research Center at the forefront of renal research and medical sciences,”

Malcolm Currie said. A defense and aerospace industry leader whose work upholds today’s national security systems, Malcolm Currie served in the 1970s as Undersecretary of Defense for Research and Engineering and in the U.S.-designated national armament director in NATO. He is also known for leading Hughes Aircraft from 1988 to 1993.

ENDOWMENT: Curies donate $10 million

Vito M. Campese, MD, PhD, is an internationally known researcher into various aspects of the kidney, and we expect he will lead the division of Nephrology and endocrinology with outstanding credentials, said UKRO President Kenneth Kleinberg. “We are counting on his leadership to place the USC/UKRO Kidney Research Center at the forefront of renal research and medical sciences,”

Malcolm Currie said. A defense and aerospace industry leader whose work upholds today’s national security systems, Malcolm Currie served in the 1970s as Undersecretary of Defense for Research and Engineering and in the U.S.-designated national armament director in NATO. He is also known for leading Hughes Aircraft from 1988 to 1993.

ENDOWMENT: Curies donate $10 million

Vito M. Campese, MD, PhD, is an internationally known researcher into various aspects of the kidney, and we expect he will lead the division of Nephrology and endocrinology with outstanding credentials, said UKRO President Kenneth Kleinberg. “We are counting on his leadership to place the USC/UKRO Kidney Research Center at the forefront of renal research and medical sciences,” Malcolm Currie said.

A defense and aerospace industry leader whose work upholds today’s national security systems, Malcolm Currie served in the 1970s as Undersecretary of Defense for Research and Engineering and in the U.S.-designated national armament director in NATO. He is also known for leading Hughes Aircraft from 1988 to 1993.