



The USC School of Pharmacy welcomed 192 members of the Class of 2021 during the white coat ceremony, held Aug. 18 on the Health Sciences Campus.

Reynaldo Obreiro

## Pharmacy students mark beginning of a new journey

By Michele Keller and Divya Yerwa Mary

Taking the first steps in their journey to become Doctors of Pharmacy, the 192 members of the Class of 2021 entered the annual USC School of Pharmacy White Coat Ceremony on the Harry and Celesta Pappas Quad on Aug. 18.

Dean Vassilios Papadopoulos, DPharm, PhD, welcomed the first-year pharmacy students, along with their family members and friends.

“You have distinguished yourselves in your undergraduate years and we look upon you today with great expectations for what you will accomplish during your years in pharmacy school and in your eventual career,” Papadopoulos said.

He challenged the students to think

beyond their degrees and focus on finding ways they, as future medication-based experts, can innovate and improve the delivery of health care.

The keynote speaker for the ceremony was William Heeres, PharmD, former chair of the USC School of Pharmacy Board of Councilors, who reflected on his own experience as a second-generation Trojan pharmacist.

“When you tell people you’re a USC pharmacist, it makes all the difference. They know you’re something special,” Heeres said. “In 1,500 days, you will become licensed pharmacists. The time will go by much too quickly. Today you become members of the Trojan family. That’s not for four years,

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## Study: Zika virus stifles mom’s weakened immune system

By Zen Vuong

The Zika virus, linked to congenital birth defects and miscarriages, suppresses a pregnant woman’s immune system, enabling the virus to spread and increasing the chances an unborn baby will be harmed, a Keck School of Medicine of USC study finds.

The study is the first to report that the Zika virus targets specific white blood cells, handicapping a pregnant woman’s immune system in a way that almost resembles HIV, said Jae Jung, PhD, senior author of the study.

“Pregnant women are more susceptible to Zika virus because pregnancy naturally

suppresses a woman’s immune system so her body doesn’t reject the fetus — essentially it’s a foreign object,” said Jung, Distinguished Professor and chair of the Department of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology at the Keck School — among the nation’s leaders in innovative scientific discovery. “Our study shows pregnant women are more prone to immune suppression. Zika exploits that weakness to infect and replicate.”

The finding, published in *Nature Microbiology* on Aug. 21, is an instrumental step to improving the fate of pregnant women and their unborn babies, said

See ZIKA VIRUS, page 5

## Norris Healthcare Center set to open in January 2018

By Adriana Cho

Construction of the highly anticipated Norris Healthcare Center (HC3) is complete and the building is expected to be open to patients in January 2018.

Located on the USC Health Sciences Campus, this new healthcare center will further extend Keck Medicine of USC’s ability to provide outstanding care to patients. Further, it will decompress the Day Hospital and clinics in the USC Norris Cancer

Hospital, allowing services to expand clinical offerings.

“The Norris Healthcare Center is a beautiful, modern facility that will provide a new, first-class space for our specialty care,” said Tom Jackiewicz, MPH, senior vice president and CEO of Keck Medicine of USC. “This new center is an important step during our journey to become the leading health care provider in Southern California.”

See CENTER, page 5



Construction is complete for Norris Healthcare Center, which is scheduled to open for patient care in January 2018.

Ziva Santop/Steve Cohn Photography

## Research funding programs available for investigators

The Office of the Dean, in collaboration with departments and institutes of the Keck School of Medicine of USC, has announced two funding programs for FY18 that are designed to help Keck School faculty members obtain extramural research funding.

The Dean’s Pilot Funding Program targets full-time faculty members interested in launching a new research program or transitioning to a new area of research. Applicants should propose projects that will obtain preliminary data to support submission of new National Institutes of Health (NIH) R-series or other major research proposals. Letters of intent are optional and should be submitted to the Office of the Dean by Sept. 1 at <https://tinyurl.com/ybzn6hu>. Full applications are

due Sept. 29 and are accessible at <https://tinyurl.com/ybg65hrt>.

The Keck School Bridge Funding Program targets principal investigators who have had significant extramural funding, in particular NIH or other federal funding, within the past two years, are currently not funded but remain potentially competitive. Proposals for Bridge Funding must come from the faculty member’s department chair, must include matching funds, and must emphasize how funds will be used to support a proposal to renew extramural funding. Proposals should be submitted to Janet Stoeckert, director of research administration, at [janet.stoeckert@usc.edu](mailto:janet.stoeckert@usc.edu).

For more information about these funding opportunities, visit <http://keck.usc.edu/research-alerts>.

## USC Village makes its debut

The University Park Campus community celebrated the official opening of USC Village, a massive development at the corner of Hoover Street and Jefferson Boulevard. The Aug. 17 event included the unveiling of a 20-foot-tall bronze statue of Hecuba, Queen of Troy.

“This project has been a labor of love for all of us,” said USC President C. L. Max Nikias. “We built this village to show our enduring commitment to our exceptional students and our beloved neighbors.”

The development, which consists of six buildings spread over 15 acres, includes

housing for undergraduate students, retail stores and restaurants. In addition to the flagship Target and Trader Joe’s stores, USC Roski Eye Institute will have a retail outlet to serve the community.

For more information about the USC Village, go to [village.usc.edu](http://village.usc.edu).



USC President C. L. Max Nikias shows his Victory sign during the official opening of the USC Village, held Aug. 17.

Michael Owen Baker

## Professors discuss transforming health care through technology

By Nancy Sokoler Steiner

Carol J. Peden, MD, MPH, professor of clinical anesthesiology and director, Center for Health Systems Innovation, and Leslie A. Saxon, MD, professor of medicine (clinical scholar) and executive director, USC Center for Body Computing, are two Keck School of Medicine of USC faculty members on a mission to use technology to revolutionize health care.

They published some of their ideas in an article in the June 15 issue of *NEJM Catalyst*, and spoke with *HSC News* about their work and what they envision for the future of health care.

### Where do you see the greatest need when it comes to technological innovation in health care?

**Carol Peden:** The people who are designing innovation are not the people who are the biggest users of health care. We have to think about designing for and engaging the most socially disadvantaged and elderly patients. I've seen lots of companies with good ideas, but there are challenges to integrating them into your system and testing them. We want to make sure that they will really add value, not just be a new shiny toy.



Carol J. Peden

### How can we use the technology we already have?

**Leslie Saxon:** We've have really good sensors in smartphones, worn on the body and implantable. I implant cardiac rhythm management devices attached to remote Internet connections that are capable of unbelievable diagnostics. I can follow a thousand patients with implanted devices every day. I can look at a secure website and intervene before things happen. That saves lives and improves outcomes.

**CP:** That same idea can be used to help patients with chronic health issues. They don't always have to travel to the hospital. They can check in more frequently electronically and their providers



Leslie A. Saxon

can receive more feedback. For at-risk patients, we're looking at how we can enable them to stay in their own environments longer and how we can get feedback on their physiological state, which previously might have required the presence of a nurse or a doctor to take their vital signs.

### Talk about the Virtual Care Clinic.

**LS:** We're trying to create a new model of true patient engagement. The virtual care clinic is a construct where we build out the infrastructure in order to support on-demand care completely outside the walls of a medical center. This is how we think 80 percent of health care will be delivered in the future.

## Making USC a home base for emergency preparedness research

By Lex Davis

On April 15, 2013, terrorists struck the Boston Marathon, killing three people and wounding more than 260. Clinical staff across Boston's hospitals did heroic work, treating those who suffered burns, fractures and more severe injuries as a result of the homemade bombs. The emergency response planning also was effective: The wounded were distributed evenly among the area's five trauma centers.

But the caregivers faced a huge problem: There was no standard way to ask another hospital how many critical care beds were available or if it had supplies to spare. In some cases, individual doctors and nurses ended up texting friends at other hospitals for this vital information.

J. Perren Cobb, MD, professor of clinical surgery at the Keck School of Medicine of USC and chair of the advisory board for the new Critical Care Institute, was director of the critical care center at Massachusetts General Hospital at the time. After the attack, he was struck by the need for better communication between hospitals.

Inspired by those events, Cobb has been instrumental in the launch of Discovery PREP, an emergency preparedness program designed to help hospitals be ready for both predictable and unpredictable disasters, and to foster rapid collaboration between medical centers, federal agencies and industry suppliers. Keck Medicine of USC is leading a network of 20 nationwide program trial sites, run by the research network of the Society of Critical Care Medicine.

Cobb explained: "A well-designed system will allow us to collect and analyze data, test hypotheses and quickly share results across the country and the world."

Discovery PREP clinical trials are underway to develop standard approaches to real-time data collection, analysis and reporting. When a standardized system for data sharing is developed, hospitals will be able to rapidly share which treatments have worked best for them and help other hospitals deal with crises quickly and effectively, he said.

## Gill performs Mumbai's first robotic kidney transplant

By Mary Dacuma

On July 2, a team of surgeons led by Inderbir S. Gill, MD, Distinguished Professor of Urology at the Keck School of Medicine of USC and executive director of the USC Institute of Urology, performed Mumbai's first robotic kidney transplant at Sir H. N. Reliance Foundation Hospital and Research Centre.

This cutting-edge robotic technology replaces traditional open transplant surgery. During robotic surgery, the kidney, placed within an ice-filled bag, is inserted into the lower abdomen via a small, non muscle-cutting incision next to the pubic bone. All three anastomoses — the arterial, venous and ureteral surgical connections — are performed robotically through keyhole incisions. This surgery is not yet offered at Keck Medicine of USC.

"This is an advanced robotic procedure performed in only a few centers worldwide," said Gill, who also is chair of the Catherine and Joseph Aresty Department of Urology and the Shirley and Donald Skinner



Inderbir Gill, left, is joined by the surgical care team at Sir H. N. Reliance Foundation Hospital in Mumbai after performing a robotic kidney transplant on a 59-year-old patient.

Chair in Urologic Cancer Surgery at the Keck School. "We hopefully are laying the foundation for Sir H. N. Reliance Foundation Hospital to be the primary destination for robotic kidney transplants, not only in Mumbai, but in the entire country of India."

The 59-year-old recipient with renal failure received the kidney from his 55-year-old wife. The procedure was covered by numerous news outlets across India, including some of the country's top newspapers.

For nearly four years, the USC

Institute of Urology has been supporting the urology services at Sir H. N. Reliance Foundation Hospital and Research Centre, the newest major hospital in India.

Gill also serves as chairman of urology and robotics at the hospital, which is a premiere 345-bed, multi-specialty, tertiary care institution dedicated to providing state-of-the-art patient care to people of all socioeconomic backgrounds. This is the university's first example of active and formal clinical collaboration with an international partner.

"The Sir H. N. Reliance Foundation Hospital's fruitful relationship with Dr. Inderbir Gill and the USC Institute of Urology at Keck Medicine has been a key element in our mission to provide world-class health care services," said Nita Ambani, founder and chair of the Reliance Foundation. "We look forward to our continued collaboration to draw on USC's technological expertise and innovative practices to provide exceptional patient care and advance our research efforts."

## Calendar of Events

### Friday, Aug. 25

**Noon.** Department of Medicine Grand Rounds. Goltaz Vahdani, MD. LAC+USC Inpatient Tower Conference Room B. Info: Diane Reed, (323) 409-6625, mededu@med.usc.edu

### Saturday, Aug. 26

**7:30 a.m.-12:10 p.m.** Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and USC Office of Continuing Medical Education. "2017 USC Orthopaedic Surgery — Sports Medicine Football Injury Symposium." Aresty Auditorium. Info: Lysandro Valenzuela,

(323) 442-2555, usccme@usc.edu, <https://cmetracker.net/KECKUSC/Catalog>

### Wednesday, Aug. 30

**Noon-1:30 p.m.** USC Immigrant Health Initiative, USC Center for Health Equity in the Americas and USC Institute for Global Health. "Immigrant Visions & Voices: A Photovoice Exploration of Health in Chile," Justin Trop, medical student, and Mellissa Withers, PhD, MHS. SSB 301. Info: Larissa Puro, (323) 442-7233, global.health@usc.edu, <https://globalhealth.usc.edu/visions-and-voices-chile/>

### Wednesday, Sept. 6

**Noon.** The Saban Research Institute Seminar. "TSRI Core Facility Seminar: Biostatistics Core," Carolyn F. Wong, PhD. Saban Research Building Auditorium, 4661 Sunset Blvd. Info: Sandy Wang, (323) 361-7489, tecpad@chla.usc.edu, <http://chla.org/tecpad>

**Noon.** Southern California Clinical and Translational Science Institute. "Digital Scholar Webinar Series: Recruiting Study Participants Online using Amazon's Mechanical Turk (MTurk)," Jesse Chandler, PhD, Mathematica Policy Research. Info:

Katja Reuter, katja.reuter@med.usc.edu. RSVP: <http://bit.ly/2v3CSbG>

### Thursday, Sept. 7

**7 a.m.-4:30 p.m.** Division of Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapy & USC Office of Continuing Medical Education. "21st Annual Max R. Gaspar, MD Symposium: Vascular Surgery Emergencies," Michel S. Makaroun, MD, Gaspar Visiting Professor, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Millennium Biltmore Hotel. Info: Lysandro Valenzuela, (323) 442-2555, usccme@usc.edu, <https://cmetracker.net/KECKUSC/Catalog>

**Notice:** Calendar items are due at least 10 days before publication date. Timely submission does not guarantee publication in print. See more calendar entries at [hscnews.usc.edu/calendar-of-events](http://hscnews.usc.edu/calendar-of-events). Submit items at [tinyurl.com/calendar-hsc](http://tinyurl.com/calendar-hsc). Include day, date, time, title of talk, first and last name of speaker, affiliation of speaker, location and a phone number/email address.

# Department of Medicine faculty grow support through K-awards

By Eric Weintraub

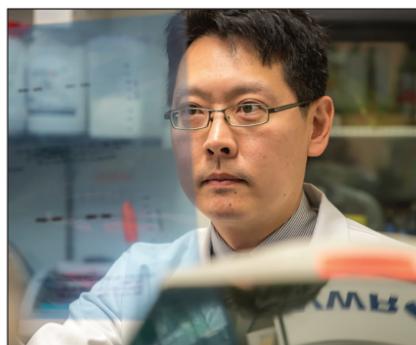
Finding ways to support early career physician-scientists has been an ongoing priority for the Keck School of Medicine of USC. One of the strongest avenues to encourage research among the faculty is through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Career Development Awards.

Known as K awards, these awards promote outstanding junior faculty and allow recipients to conduct their research independently to become competitive for major grant support. Multiple faculty members from the Keck School's Department of Medicine currently hold these awards.

"Identification of junior faculty physician-scientists is crucial to growing the research portfolio of the Department of Medicine," said Edward Crandall, PhD, MD, chair and professor of medicine; Kenneth T. Norris, Jr., Chair of Medicine; Hastings Professor of Medicine; and director, Will Rogers Institute Pulmonary Research Center. "For several years, the department has had a policy of aggressively recruiting 'K-quality' junior physicians and acquiring K awards, which provide support for early career development. We look to these young investigators to contribute to a sustainable future for the department's research footprint."



Lily Dara, above left, and Ling Shao, above right, are two of seven active K award recipients in the Department of Medicine at the Keck School of Medicine of USC.



Photos by Chris Shinn

As part of the awards, senior faculty members mentor each junior faculty investigator. Additionally, each awardee is advised on issues related to their career goals by a Career Planning Committee appointed by Laurie DeLeve, MD, PhD, professor of medicine and the department's senior associate chair for scientific affairs.

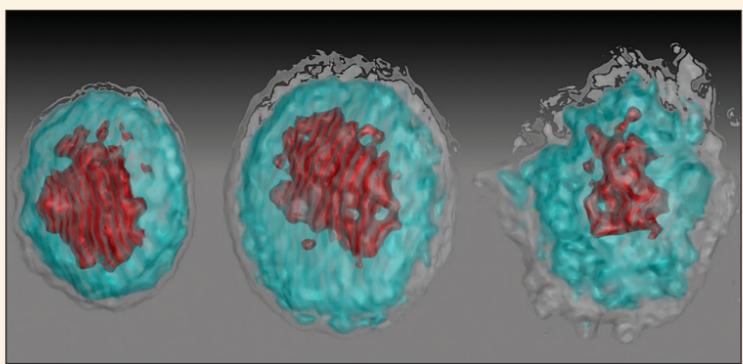
Department of Medicine K award recipients include:

- Hossein Bahrami, MD, PhD, assistant professor of medicine, "Inflammation and Risk of Myocardial and Coronary Diseases in HIV Infected Patients," under mentor Ray Matthews, MD, professor of clinical medicine and cardiovascular medicine division chief
- Lily Dara, MD, assistant professor of medicine, "Role of RIPK1 and RIPK3 in Liver Injury," under mentor Neil Kaplowitz, MD, professor of medicine, chief of the division of gastroenterology and liver diseases, and USC Associates/Thomas H. Brem Chair in Medicine
- Akil Merchant, MD, assistant professor of medicine, "The Role of Hedgehog/Gli in Normal Hematopoiesis and Leukemia," under mentor Parkash Gill, MD, professor of medicine and Renette and Marshall Ezralow Family Chair in Cancer Therapeutics
- Sonali Saluja, MD, MPH, assistant professor of clinical medicine, "Understanding Insurance After the

Affordable Care Act – Los Angeles Safety-Net Patients' Experiences with Applying for Insurance and Using Healthcare," under mentor Michael Hochman, MD, MPH, associate professor of clinical medicine

- Anisa Shaker, MD, assistant professor of medicine, "Epimorphin Deletion Alters Stem Cell Niche Myofibroblast," under mentor Neil Kaplowitz, MD, professor of medicine, chief of the division of gastroenterology and liver diseases, and USC Associates/Thomas H. Brem Chair in Medicine
- Ling Shao, MD, PhD, assistant professor of medicine, "The Ubiquitin Editing Enzyme A20 Preserves Intestinal Epithelial Cell Homeostasis," under mentor D. Brent Polk, MD, professor of pediatrics
- Hussein Yassine, MD, assistant professor of medicine, "Effect of Saturated Fat Ingestion on the HDL Proteome," under mentor Thomas Buchanan, MD, professor of medicine, vice dean for research, director of the Southern California Clinical and Translational Science Institute, co-director of the Diabetes and Obesity Research Institute, and endocrine division chief.

## ZIKA VIRUS: Jae Jung Lab previously identified two proteins responsible for microcephaly



From left, a healthy white blood cell; a cell infected by African Zika virus; and a cell infected by Asian Zika virus.

Continued from page 1

Suan-Sin Foo, PhD, lead author of the study and a postdoctoral scholar – research associate in the Jae Jung Lab.

Previously, Jung and his colleagues identified two Zika proteins responsible for microcephaly. It was a first step toward preventing Zika-infected mothers from giving birth to babies with abnormally small heads. None of the Phase 1 clinical trials for a Zika vaccine include pregnant women, which is surprising because the congenital birth defects caused by the virus are the reason why people are so eager to develop a vaccine, Jung said.

Nearly 3,000 cases of microcephaly have been associated with mothers who were infected with the Zika virus before giving birth, according to the Pan American Health Organization.

"The Zika virus vaccines in development seem to be highly effective, but they're being tested among non-pregnant women with different body chemistry compared to pregnant women," Jung said. "It's feasible the recommended vaccine dose — though effective for non-pregnant women — may not be potent enough for pregnant women because their bodies are more tolerant of viruses."

## CENTER: Preparations include trainings, simulations

Continued from page 1

Transition planning for department moves is underway. Equipment moves, deliveries and calibrations are also next up during this fall's fit-up period. Two "Day in the Life" events also are planned for this fall, where clinical areas will simulate visits with mock patients. These events provide an opportunity to evaluate new workflow and operations plans, systems integration, staff training effectiveness and equipment functionality. These simulations also allow issues to be identified and resolved early. Orientation and training sessions are currently being planned for all faculty and staff who will be working in the building.

This building will be home to the USC Institute of Urology, an infusion center treating both cancer and non-cancer patients, a women's specialty care and breast imaging center, and the USC Transplant Institute. The Outpatient Surgery Center will move from its current location in Healthcare Center 4 into HC3, which has some of the largest operating rooms on campus. HC3 also includes new retail space, as well as new dining options at the Terrace Café for patients, their families and staff to enjoy. These include Starbucks and Au Bon Pain.

Departments are planned to move in to the building this fall, with patient care scheduled to begin Jan. 8.



Members of the USC School of Pharmacy Class of 2021 take the "Oath of a Pharmacist" led by Kevin Forrester.

## PHARMACY: Class of 2021 dons white coats for first time, takes oath

Continued from page 1

that's for the rest of your life ... this group of students are the pharmacists you will know the best and keep track of throughout your life."

Susie H. Park, PharmD, associate dean for student affairs, and Irving Steinberg, PharmD, associate dean for faculty affairs, called each student to the stage to be officially coated by a member of the faculty, the Alumni Association or QSAD Centurion, the premier support group of the USC School of Pharmacy.

The ceremony culminated

with the administration of the "Oath of a Pharmacist," led by Kevin Forrester, PharmD, associate professor of clinical pharmacy. It was followed by a reception for all on the quad.

Before the ceremony began, first-year student Blanca F. Guzman reflected on her decision to pursue pharmacy.

"As a first-generation graduate student, this is my opportunity to represent where I come from and be a positive influence on my family," she said. "It means a lot to prove that this is possible and not out of this world, which was something I believed growing up."



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## 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:



Ricardo Carrasco III

Paintings by Vincent Takas are on display through December as part of the Healing Arts Exhibit at USC Verdugo Hills Hospital.

## Art exhibit unveiled at USC Verdugo Hills Hospital

A NEW ART EXHIBIT FEATURING PAINTINGS from a local artist has made its debut at USC Verdugo Hills Hospital. The Healing Arts Exhibit is intended to enhance and beautify the hospital for patients, families and staff. The exhibit features paintings by Vincent Takas, a local artist who captures iconic Southern California images in lively watercolor. The installation, which is open through December, is the first in an ongoing series from artists in the Glendale and La Cañada Flintridge community. "Our new exhibit is one way of providing comprehensive care and a nurturing environment for patients and their families," said Keith Hobbs, CEO of USC-VHH.



Anne McGilvray

From left, Danielle Viveros, Fatima Marroquin, Alexander Weber, Rod Hanners, Sylvia Hernandez, Natasha Buranasombati and Adah Ortega are seen in front of a first aid station.

## Physicians staff first aid station at basketball tournament

KECK MEDICINE OF USC WAS AN OFFICIAL sponsor of the Nike Basketball 3on3 Tournament, one of the largest street basketball tournaments in Los Angeles. The tournament was held Aug. 4-6 at L.A. Live in downtown Los Angeles. The USC Sports Medicine Center was the presenting sponsor of the first aid station during the tournament. Alexander Weber, MD, assistant professor of clinical orthopaedic surgery at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, was on site to assist with any sports-related injuries, along with clinical staff from USC Orthopaedic Surgery. Keck Medicine also hosted an information booth during the tournament.



Leslie Rockkitter Photography

From left, Scott Kaiser poses with Laura Mosqueda, Paul Aisen, Berislav Zlokovic and Arthur Toga after a panel discussion.

## Alzheimer's disease researchers speak at women's conference

FOUR OF THE KECK SCHOOL OF MEDICINE of USC's leading Alzheimer's experts talked about the disease and cutting-edge research at the fifth annual Deal With It conference, hosted by the Motion Picture & Television Fund. Paul Aisen, MD, professor of neurology; Laura Mosqueda, MD, chair and professor of family medicine (clinical scholar); Arthur Toga, PhD, Provost Professor of ophthalmology, neurology, psychiatry and the behavioral sciences, radiology and engineering; and Berislav Zlokovic, MD, PhD, chair and professor of physiology and neuroscience spoke at the July 30 women's conference, which took place in Beverly Hills.

# Master's student looks to future of stem cell research, medicine

By Cristy Lytal

"Everyone in this audience right now, you all started out as a stem cell," Natasha Natarajan said at the 2017 TEDxUSC conference. "And then your DNA came in, did all the work, and differentiated each group of your stem cells into your muscles, into your heart, into your brain until we get the finished product: you."

Natarajan's eyes sparkled as she described the potential of stem cell research — a passion of hers since she was 15 years old. As a student at Beverly Hills High School, she won a writing competition about stem cells hosted by Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Her prize was the opportunity to work in a stem cell laboratory at UCLA.

"I'm kind of a stem cell geek," said Natarajan, who graduated from USC with her bachelor's degree in human biology, and is now pursuing a progressive master's degree in stem cell biology and regenerative medicine at the Keck School of Medicine of USC.

At USC, she took MEDS 380 Stem Cells: Fact or



Cristy Lytal

Natasha Natarajan

Fiction. During the course, Gage Crump, PhD, associate professor of stem cell biology and regenerative medicine, led discussions about stem cells in film, literature and the laboratory. Newly inspired, she joined the Crump Lab.

Natarajan also studied abroad in Oxford, England, and Cape Town, South Africa.

"My dad is actually the first Indian surgeon from Johannesburg," she said. "He left during apartheid. I did

some volunteering and shadowing in a hospital in South Africa, and it gave me a lot more context for what it must have been like for my dad."

Natarajan intends to amplify her positive impact by pursuing medical school: "Being a physician is a priority to me, and stem cells are a passion. I want to be a doctor that uses these innovative stem cell therapies and actually implements them in patients."

## Compassion key to physician's success

By Virginia Baca

Michael Wang, MD, believes it is important to treat each patient like family. Having recently lost a family member, he reminds himself that each patient is someone's parent, sibling or child.

"I try to have a particular sensitivity to chronically ill patients and their families; I aim to understand their situations," he explained. "Patients are in uncertain territory and making life-and-death decisions."

This compassion has resulted in Wang receiving the 2017 USC Choi Family Excellence in Patient-Centered Care physician award. A nurse colleague nominated him for the award, stating that Wang is "totally committed to improving how we deliver care," and his approach is "never about making a point, but in accomplishing our common goals."

"I believe medicine is delivered best by a team, one with strong communications and collaboration," explained Wang, associate professor of clinical medicine at the Keck School of Medicine of USC and director of hospital medicine at Keck Hospital of USC. "I encourage clinical staff to explore collaborative solutions."

Wang has made numerous contributions to Keck Medicine of USC, such as working to improve the efficiency and accuracy of the electronic medical record, helping implement a nursing standardized procedure and creating an environment of interprofessional collaboration.

Growing up in the San Gabriel Valley as the son of a physician, Wang was encouraged by his parents to have a skill that was enduring and useful.

After graduating from Yale, he earned his medical degree from Boston University School of Medicine. Returning to the

West Coast, Wang completed his internship and residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in geriatric medicine, all at the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine. He has been practicing at Keck Medicine since 2010.

"Coming to USC is like coming home. I work and live near my family and treat the residents of my community," he said.

In his free time, Wang enjoys spending time with his family, running and hiking. He



Don Milici

Michael Wang, center, is seen with Tom Jackiewicz, left, and Rod Hanners after receiving the physician award.

also supports his own wellness through reading and prayer.

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