Nikias addresses state of university

Health Sciences Campus to get new hospital

By Michele Keller

USC will begin planning for the construction of a new, state-of-the-art hospital on its Health Sciences Campus, focused on the high-acuity services that are the emphasis of the Keck Medicine of USC medical enterprise.

President C. L. Max Nikias announced the vision for the new medical facility at his State of the University addresses at the Health Sciences and University Park campuses on Feb. 14 and 15.

This expansion of clinical facilities is necessitated by the significant growth the medical enterprise has experienced in virtually all areas over the last four years. In fact, the current hospitals that comprise Keck Medicine of USC are nearing capacity.

In his remarks, Nikias noted that USC’s clinical revenues have more than quadrupled in the last six years to more than $1.5 billion, while at the same time Keck Hospital of USC had the nation’s highest acuity rate, meaning it provides care for the most difficult medical cases.

“No one can deny that the health care environment is being driven by an expanding volume of very specialized medical cases,” Nikias said. “The expansion of our clinical services is driven by our desire to keep pace with the medical needs of our patients.”

Nikias said these two new initiatives would dramatically advance USC’s consequential work in the world, and were the appropriate next steps for a university whose academic reputation has soared in recent years.

“I believe it would be a big mistake to rest on our laurels,” Nikias said, praising the university community from influential faculty and diverse students to talented researchers and outstanding athletes. “This is the moment to accelerate our efforts even more.”

New appointments announced at the USC School of Pharmacy

By USC News staff

New appointments announced at the USC School of Pharmacy, including five new associate dean positions. Steven Chen, PharmD, William A. and Josephine A. Heeres Chair in Community Pharmacy, has been appointed associate dean for student affairs.

These changes ensure the school remains the leader in its field, and the destination for education.

— Dean Vasiliios Papadopoulos

Diversity praised in annual speech

By David Medzerian

USC President C. L. Max Nikias used his annual State of the University address to voice strong support for the university’s diverse and inclusive faculty and student body and to announce two game-changing initiatives: a new hospital at the Health Sciences Campus and an ambitious extension of the highly successful Campaign for USC.

In speeches to faculty and staff at the Health Sciences Campus on Feb. 14 and Town and Gown on the University Park Campus on Feb. 15, Nikias said these two new initiatives would dramatically advance USC’s consequential work in the world and were the appropriate next steps for a university whose academic reputation has soared in recent years.

“The belief that would be a big mistake to rest on our laurels,” Nikias said, praising the university community from influential faculty and diverse students to talented researchers and outstanding athletes. “This is the moment to accelerate our efforts even more.”

Good news shared during hospital survey

By Douglas Morino

Surveys from the Joint Commission visited Keck Hospital of USC and Keck Medicine of USC ambulatory clinics earlier this month, meeting with staff and reviewing policies to ensure health care facilities adhere to the highest quality of safe patient care.

The surveys were consistently impressed during their visit, said Rod Hannans, CEO, Keck Medical Center of USC and COO, Keck Medicine of USC.

“The surveyor team commented that, in their more than 60 years of combined experience, none have ever experienced a day with no findings,” Hannans said. “This is a major accomplishment.”

Joint Commission surveys are data-driven, patient-centered and focused on continuous improvement in an environ...
By Hope Hamashige

Jason Kutch, PhD, assistant professor in the USC Division of Biokinesiology and Physical Therapy, has been awarded a $1.3 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to further his research on chronic prostatitis/chronic pelvic pain syndrome (CP/CPPS) in men.

CP/CPPS is a poorly understood pain disorder that affects millions of men. It has no established cause, and there are no generally effective treatments—pain can be debilitating, affecting one's ability to perform a number of ordinary tasks, such as sitting and walking. The disorder also can affect the bladder and bladder function. “CP/CPPS symptoms can start suddenly for men in their 20s, 30s or 40s,” Kutch explained. “These symptoms can last for a long time and really upend someone's life, so there is a pressing need for a better understanding of this condition.”

Kutch recently published the first neuroimaging study comparing men with CP/CPPS to healthy men. His preliminary research showed that men with the disorder experience dysfunction in a specific region of the brain called the motor cortex, which controls pelvic floor muscles.

“We found that the motor cortex reorganizes with disease,” he said. “Findings fit with the physical therapy approach to treating CP/CPPS. One of Kutch's collaborators on the imaging, Erin Bell, signals to an instructor of clinical physical therapy, is a physical therapist who treats the disorder with a combination of pelvic floor muscle stretching and relaxation. “We are excited about our preliminary findings, but we need to carefully establish the link between brain and pelvic floor muscle dysfunction before we can improve therapy for CP/CPPS,” Kutch said.

The recently awarded NIH grant will help Kutch build upon his groundbreaking research for the next four years. Kutch plans to perform neuroimaging studies on nearly 50 subjects with chronic pelvic pain and 30 men who do not have a history of pelvic pain. He also will pursue pelvic floor muscle activity to better understand the link between dysfunction in the brain and poor pelvic muscle control.

Kutch explained that there had only been a small amount of research into CP/CPPS in recent years. The lack of research has left physicians and physical therapists who treat patients with CP/CPPS with few treatment options and very little information to give their patients about the disorder's cause.

Kutch hopes his research will begin to bridge the gap in both areas. He would like to see the research lead to a new understanding of CP/CPPS that will make it easier for doctors and patients to identify the disorder's symptoms to patients. He would also like to see the research leading to new and promising treatments for men who suffer from CP/CPPS.

For more research that may provide the groundwork for additional investigation into whether non-invasive motor cortex stimulation combined with physical therapy, can be a better treatment option.

“Of course, that this study will really point us toward next generation therapies for CP/CPPS,” Kutch added.

Reminder: Share opinions in Press Gamey survey

Keck Medicine of USC employees are being asked to share their thoughts in the 2017 Press Gamey survey, available through March 1. A link to the survey will be sent via email and prizes are available for those who complete the survey.

SUBREY: Visits are announced, thorough

By Cristy Lytal

Scientists from USC, UCLA and UCSC gathered at a symposium recently to celebrate the 10th anniversary of their three stem cell research centers, established with support from Eli and Edythe Broad, and the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM). As the guests of honor, the Broads marked the occasion by surprising the centers with a $1 million gift to support eight grants for early-stage stem cell research.

“We love scientists because none of you are satisfied with the status quo,” Eli Broad said at the Feb. 4 symposium, hosted by UCLA.

In addition to recognizing the Broads, the symposium highlighted recent scientific progress.

UCLA's Donald Kohn, MD, described how stem cell research has already cured infants born without a function in the immune system, an inherited condition called adenosine deaminase severe combined immunodeficiency, or “Bubble Baby Disease.”

Arnold Kriegstein, MD, PhD, director of UCSF's stem cell research center, shared how his research spurred an ongoing clinical trial, using the antiviral agent ganciclovir to treat Zika patients in Brazil.

UCSF's Holger Willenbring, MD, PhD, is nearing the clinical trial stage with a stem cell-based approach to treating liver cirrhosis. Other scientists shared earlier-stage discoveries.

Andy McMahon, PhD, director of the stem cell research center at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, has focused his lab’s full efforts on generating a human neonatal functional unit of the kidney. To better understand a human nephron developer, his lab is studying organoids, 3-D assemblies of cells possessing rudimentary kidney structure and function.

Neil Segl, PhD, professor of research stem cell and regenerative medicine at the Keck School, addressed hearing loss due to damage to the inner ear's sensory cells, which do not regenerate in humans, versus regenerating in non-mammals, such as birds. Segl said his lab's underlying ways to stimulate a similar regenerative response in mammals.

Min Yu, MD, PhD, assistant professor of stem cell and regenerative medicine at the Keck School, addressed metastasis, the leading cause of cancer-related death. By analyzing patient-derived breast cancer stem cells, her lab found that certain mutations and gene activity can consistently predict specific patterns of metastasis — such as the formation of secondary tumors in the brain versus other organs.

Other speakers included: UCSC's Saul Villeda, PhD, UCLA's Anna Murphy and Owen Witte, MD, director of UCLA's stem cell research center.

“We hope that everyone who makes your work means to us,” Broad said, “and how we appreciate all you do to improve human health.”

SURVEY: Visits are announced, thorough

Continued from page 1

assessments that support safe, high-quality care.

The announced visits usually happen every three years.

During the three-day visit to Keck Medicine facilities, the five surveyors met with physicians, nurses, staff and hospital leaders, observed procedures, toured facilities and patient care areas, and reviewed standards to ensure quality, safety and efficiency across the hospital and clinics.

The Joint Commission is a national nonprofit organization responsible for accrediting thousands of health care facilities across the U.S. Accreditation by the Joint Commission is based on a strict set of guidelines. Joint Commission surveys are expected to visit USC Norris Cancer Hospital in the next few weeks.

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PUBLIC HEALTH STUDENTS DISCUSS POLICY WITH STATE LEGISLATORS

By Larisa Puro

With the fate of the Affordable Care Act hanging in the balance, students met with California legislators and attended a health care reform conference in February as part of a public health policy class offered by the Keck School of Medicine of USC.

A group of 18 USC Master of Public Health and medical students traveled to the state capital to attend the Insure the Uninsured Project 21st annual conference on Feb. 7. The meeting focused on “the risks, threats and challenges to California’s health reform progress as the federal government considers amending, repealing or replacing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act,” according to the conference website.

Together with health leaders and experts from throughout the state, the students engaged in strategy discussions to explore California’s options in preserving and advancing health reform.

“Overall this new facility will reflect and further advance the cutting-edge medicine and surgery we are performing across the clinical enterprise,” Jackiewicz said. Creative concepts for the new facility will be further developed over the next several months, followed by planning and design. Construction could begin as soon as 2020, with plans for completion by 2026.

Between the new hospital and the proposed Biotech Park next door, strengthening the partnership between the USC Price School of Public Policy, the USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology and other schools and the USC School of Pharmacy, and will also be informed by the USC Viterbi School of Engineering of trainees, as well as bringing our research closer to the patients we serve,” Nikias said. The Trojan Family network is indeed legendary,” he said. “But moving forward we need to make serious investments in job placement, increase teacher-student interaction, and attending the conference.

This year stood out, he said, because the students focused entirely on the Affordable Care Act — from its impact in California to ideas for replacing or repairing it.

HOSPITAL: Facility to reflect future of care

Continued from page 1

President C. L. Max Nikias delivers the State of the University Address to USC faculty, Feb. 15, at Town and Gown on the University Park Campus.

ADDRESS: USC has history of inclusion

Continued from page 1

In the context of recent events, Nikias recounted USC’s history as an institution of inclusion. “We were global before it became the fashion or the new reality,” he said. “Our university has been renowned nationally for its openness and openness to people of the world — have lately come into conflict but said USC’s spirit of inclusion would remain the leader in its field, and the

Even in the current climate of uncertainty and risk, I felt reassured to see such diverse stakeholders meeting in order to find common ground and develop policy that will improve the health of all Californians,” he said.

For Osman Shaheen, an MPH student, the highlight of the trip was attending the conference and hearing health care leaders evaluate the situation in real time, as well as listening to their stories and experiences.

“The students also sat down with state legislators and Karen Smith, director of the California Department of Public Health, to discuss the future of the Affordable Care Act and potential consequences to California that may result from repealing or replacing it,” MPH student Brigitte Bailey said.

Michael Costinou, DPh, professor of clinical preventive medicine and head of the MHPH health policy track at the Keck School, takes his students to Sacramento every year to attend the conference.

“They stand out, he said, because the students focused entirely on the Affordable Care Act — from its impact in California to ideas for replacing or repairing it.

PEDIATRICS

Continued from page 1

at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. Recruited nationally for his research into pediatric heart failure and heart transplantation, Shaddy’s areas of expertise also include the use of echocardiography and other imaging in pediatric heart patients, transplant coronary artery disease, the effectiveness of pharmacological drug, in treating heart failure in children and the use of ventricular assist devices in pediatric patients.

He has written more than 180 journal articles for publications including Pediatric Cardiology, Pediatric Cardiology, Pediatric Transplantation, The Journal of the American Medical Association, Circulation and The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery. He has authored or co-authored 21 book chapters for textbooks used by students and practicing physicians, and authored or co-authored six books about heart defects and heart failure.

Shaddy received a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Boston College and his medical degree from Creighton University School of Medicine in Omaha, Nebraska. He completed an internship and residency in pediatrics at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City, Iowa, and a fellowship in pediatric cardiology at the Cardiovascular Research Institute, University of California, San Francisco. In the memo, Viviano and Varma thanked Roberta Williams, MD, who served as interim chair of pediatrics and Clinics in Iowa City, Iowa, and a fellowship in pediatric cardiology at the Cardiovascular Research Institute, University of California, San Francisco. In the memo, Viviano and Varma thanked Roberta Williams, MD, who served as interim chair of pediatrics and

The Trojan Family network is indeed legendary,” he said. “But moving forward we need to make serious investments in job placement, increase teacher-student interaction, encourage risk-taking and do even more to help our students find the very best career opportunities in an ever-changing job landscape.

“The Campaign for USC reflects the university’s manifold and increasing ambitions, the president also announced the extension through Dec. 31, 2021 of the Campaign for USC, which so far has raised nearly $6 billion for student scholarships, academic priorities and new facilities. The campaign was the most ambitious in the history of American higher education when it was announced in 2011 and has generated tremendous momentum in the intervening years.

“While we have an ambitious vision for USC’s future, let’s remember that our dreams have a deadline,” Nikias said. “Let us continue gathering the resources to make them a reality.”
**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.

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**FEBRUARY 24 • 2017**

**HSC Newsmakers**

**Visual and Performance Artist Siobhan Hebron**

New exhibit in Hoyt Gallery

Students and will run through April 12.

Students examine art on display in the Hoyt Gallery. The new exhibit features artwork inspired by the neuroscience system.

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**Faculty, students enjoy piano concert on campus**

**On Thursday, Feb. 16, the Health Sciences Campus community was treated to a special recital by internationally acclaimed concert pianist Zora Mihailovich, who currently is serving as artist-in-residence at the University of Rochester. The performance, sponsored by the Provost’s office and organized under the Keck School of Medicine of USC’s Humanities, Arts, and Law (HEAL) program, featured Mihailovich’s performance of Robert Schumann’s Scenes from Childhood and Sergei Rachmaninoff’s Sonata in B-flat minor Op.36 No.2.**

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**New exhibit in Hoyt Gallery focuses on neurosciences**

**Visual and performance artist Siobhan Hebron has drawn on her battle with brain cancer as the focus of her work for the past several years. Hebron’s work now is on display in the Hoyt Gallery, located on the basement level of the Keith Administration Building. Hebron, 27, says her illness inspired her to approach her art in a new way. “I make work not just because I need to for myself, but also for those that are blind to illness and disability,” she wrote on her website. “I want to contribute to a shift in the dialogue, and to encourage patients to be a part of integrative treatment for themselves and others.” The exhibit is part of a series intended to correspond to the main organ systems studied by first- and second-year medical students and will run through April 12.**

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**Lieberman elected USC Care president**

**Jay R. Lieberman, MD, chair and professor of orthopedic surgery at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, has been elected president of the USC Care Medical Group. He will serve as president until June 30, 2018, according to Keck School Dean Rohit Varma, MD, MPH, and Tom Jackiewicz, MPH, senior vice president and CEO of Keck Medicine of USC.**

**The role of the USC Care president is critical to achieving a high-caliber physician practice within Keck Medical Center of USC, Varma and Jackiewicz stated in the memo. As president, Lieberman will represent the achievements of the practice in the greater USC academic and research communities, and collaborate with leadership across the health system. Lieberman earned his medical degree from the Albany Medical College of Union University and completed his fellowship training in total joint replacement at The Hospital for Special Surgery in New York. He is internationally recognized for his expertise in primary and revision total hip and knee replacement and treatment of osteonecrosis (bone death) of the hip and knee. Lieberman is the immediate past president of The Hip Society, The Hip Society and The International Hip Society. He has been named multiple times to the Best Doctors in America List, Top Doctors and as a Southern California Super Doctor. He has co-edited three books for the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons on surgical techniques related to total hip and knee arthroplasty. He has published more than 250 manuscripts, book chapters and reviews.**

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**Reception honors new and previous anesthesiology chairs**

**Faculty and staff from the Keck School of Medicine of USC gathered recently to welcome and pay tribute to the current and previous chairs of the Department of Anesthesiology.**

**Holly Muir, MD, has been serving as chair since Jan. 1, succeeding Philip Lamb, MB, BS, MCCM, professor of anesthesiology, who served as chair of the department since 2004.**

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**USC Roski Eye Institute to add seventh trainee for residency**

**The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) approved the addition of another permanent resident at the USC Gayle and Edward Roski Eye Institute, the first resident to be added to the ophthalmology program since 1985. This brings the program to 21 total ophthalmology residents per training cycle, making it one of the largest residency programs in the country. Part of the approval process involved the ongoing partnership between the USC Roski Eye Institute and the Los Angeles County + USC Medical Center, in which the USC Roski Eye Institute remains the exclusive ophthalmology partner for treating patients and teaching residents at the 633-bed safety-net hospital. “Our residency program has excelled in combining superb clinical training at one of the country’s busiest hospitals with a rigorous academic program supported by the dedication of our 32 full-time faculty,” said V. Eugene Rouleau, MD, associate professor of clinical ophthalmology at the Keck School of Medicine of USC and ophthalmology residency program director at the USC Roski Eye Institute and Los Angeles County + USC Medical Center.**

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**Lieberman elected USC Care president**

Jay R. Lieberman, MD

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**HSC News**

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