



Ricardo Carrasco III

Maria de Fátima Reyes shows her match results to gathered friends and family during Match Day celebrations on March 17 at Pappas Quad.

Match Day brings smiles, tears to Pappas Quad

By Leigh Bailey

Cheers, tears and champagne toasts rang across the Harry and Celesta Pappas Quad in the morning sunshine as the Keck School of Medicine of USC's class of 2017 learned where they would be spending their next few years of training as medical professionals.

Coordinated by the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP), thousands of graduating medical students opened envelopes at the same time across the country on March 17, to find out where they will be spending their residency.

Maria de Fátima Reyes stood on the quad steps with her beaming father and proud sister who had joined her to celebrate the day. Minutes before picking up the envelope with her residency information, Reyes said that no matter what the results, she was thrilled and honored to have reached this milestone.

"I'm from here, I grew up here and of course I would love to stay here (in California), but my real



Steve Cohn

Julian Wu, 2, places a pin on a map of the United States on behalf of his parents, Julie Jang, center, and Brian Wu, back right, during Match Day celebrations.

dream is to be able to bring medical care to communities that don't usually have access to that care," she explained.

One of the programs on her list was located in Kansas.

"It was a great program," she recalled, "and I was honestly surprised. I didn't really know anything about Kansas but I found a ton of Latinos there and not a lot of people in the medical

community who really understood and supported that culture."

Kansas, however, will have to make do with another resident, as Reyes is going to University of California, San Francisco, to complete her residency in obstetrics and gynecology.

Opening remarks were led by Donna Elliott, MD, EdD, senior associate dean for student and

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John S. Oghalai tapped to lead otolaryngology

John S. Oghalai, MD, has been recruited to serve as the new chair of the USC Tina and Rick Caruso Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, effective Aug. 1.



Courtesy John S. Oghalai

John S. Oghalai

He joins the Keck School of Medicine of USC from Stanford University School of Medicine after a national search, according to Rohit Varma, MD, MPH, dean of the Keck School and director of the USC Gayle and Edward Roski Eye Institute.

"We look forward to Dr. Oghalai's arrival in August and have great expectations for him to continue the department's ascending trajectory in quality clinical care, resident and fellow education, and research," Varma said in a memo announcing Oghalai's recruitment. "Please join us in welcoming him to the Trojan family."

Oghalai has been a professor in the

See **OGHALAI**, page 2

Grant to fund model for elder abuse intervention

By Claire Norman

Laura Mosqueda, LMD, chair and professor of family medicine at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, has been awarded a grant from the John A. Hartford Foundation for \$775,000 to develop, test and evaluate a model to help identify victims of elder abuse during hospital stays, and to intervene when abuse is suspected. She will work with a team of elder abuse prevention experts from four states to mobilize over a two-year period.

The intervention is intended to ensure that older people seen in medical settings are properly assessed for mistreatment. Once screened, they can receive appropriate treatment or



Steve Cohn

Laura Mosqueda

See **GRANT**, page 2



Yang Chai

Philip Channing

\$12 million award supports tissue regeneration center

By John Hobbs

A research team initiated by faculty in the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC, called C-DOCTOR (Center for Dental, Oral and Craniofacial Tissue and Organ Regeneration), is one step closer to developing products that facilitate tissue regeneration, thanks to a \$12 million award from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR).

The award stems from a challenge issued by NIDCR two years ago for

researchers to develop safe and effective clinical strategies for dental, oral and craniofacial tissue regeneration.

"This is really about engineering products," explained Ostrow's Associate Dean of Research Yang Chai, DDS, PhD, one of the study's principal investigators. "It's not only about being able to understand what stem cells can do, but also how you deliver the stem cells for patient care."

An example of the projects that the Ostrow-initiated research team, which

includes seven other California-based universities and organizations, hopes to develop is an effective way to use a 3-D printed, dissolvable scaffold to help organize stem cells for focused repair and regrowth of bone tissue.

"Bone deficiency is a very common problem that patients face when they need an implant or when they have periodontal disease, traumatic injury or a birth defect," Chai said. "Instead of stealing bone from other parts of the body, we're going to be

See **CENTER**, page 2

Steven Siegel discusses research, plans for psychiatry department

By Hope Hamashige

Steven Siegel, MD, PhD, recently was appointed the chair of the Department of Psychiatry and the Behavioral Sciences at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. He talked with *HSC News* about his background and where he wants to take the department in the coming years.

You have done a lot of translational science in your career. Will you talk about one of your early projects?

I came from a basic science background and originally wanted to study imaging of people with psychiatric disorders. I came to realize they didn't need their brains imaged — what they needed was to take their medications. I decided to

develop a drug delivery system to deliver antipsychotic medications with a single injection per year. That research led to several patents, which were licensed to a company that was sold to Teva Pharmaceutical Industries. Teva currently is developing this type of drug delivery system for schizophrenia.

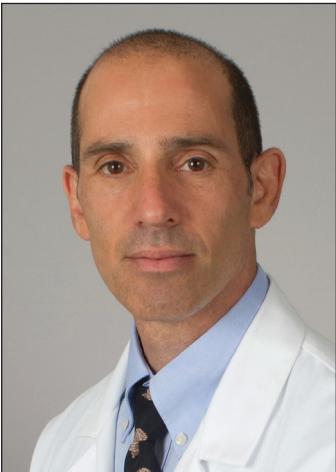
Are you still doing research now and what is the subject of your current work?

I started to study electrophysiology in mice — understanding changes in brain function in awake and alert animals — to look at what might be the underlying cause of schizophrenia. It occurred to me that we could use our mouse models to understand what changes in brain activity

occur when a drug crosses the blood-brain barrier and engages its target. It won't tell you if the drug is going to be efficacious, but it helps you distinguish a drug that didn't cross the blood-brain barrier and one that didn't have its intended effect even though it did.

How do you see the future of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences?

Psychiatry has a reputation as a top clinical department at Keck Medicine of USC. We want to maintain that standing since we have some of the top clinicians in the country, and we want to bolster the reputation on the research side.



Steven Siegel

Ricardo Carrasco III

CENTER: Ten groups initially funded by NIDCR

Continued from page 1

able to use stem cells to regenerate their own bone.”

From the NIDCR's original request for applications, 10 groups were selected as Stage 1 awardees, allowing them to continue competing for Stage 2 funding.

During Stage 1, the groups — composed of dental clinicians, researchers, engineers, biomaterials experts and regulatory scientists — worked together to identify areas in which tissue regeneration could improve patient outcomes and make an immediate impact.

Ostrow researchers and DDS students also surveyed craniofacial surgeons, oral surgeons and dentists from all specialties to determine areas of clinical need. From the surveys, they determined that bone, soft tissues, tooth structure and periodontal tissues were areas that could be served best by the team's expertise.

From the original 10 awardees,

just two were selected, including C-DOCTOR, to continue their work into Stage 2. A University of Michigan-led group is the other awardee.

Chai explained that, during Stage 2, the research team will take their study from a small- to large-animal model to prepare it for a Phase I clinical trial.

“USC already had a strong history and reputation in developmental biology and stem cell tissue regeneration,” Chai said of C-DOCTOR's success in the competition. “But in this case, it was our partnership with really strong academic institutions throughout California that really made this consortium stand out.”

The California-based C-DOCTOR consortium includes the USC Viterbi School of Engineering, the Keck School of Medicine of USC, Children's Hospital of Los Angeles and the USC School of Pharmacy, as well as several other California-based institutions.

GRANT

Continued from page 1

referrals. The end goal is that the model for screening created out of this project can lead to support and foundations that deter or alleviate abuse on a national scale in hospitals across the country.

“We look forward to joining with colleagues across the country to develop a method for screening for and detecting elder abuse that just about any health care system in the country can use,” Mosqueda said. “The synergistic work with other

important leaders will eventually lead to a true reduction of abuse in this country.”

The John A. Hartford Foundation is invested in practice innovations that transform the delivery of care for older adults. According to its objectives, the organization is focused on supporting evidence-based models to improve the care of older adults, as it supports society as a whole.

“This initiative represents an important first step toward finally closing what we see as a gap in our health care system,” said Terry Fulmer, president of the John A. Hartford Foundation, in a statement.

OGHALAI: New chair to begin Aug. 1

Continued from page 1

Department of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery at Stanford University School of Medicine since 2010. He also is director of the Stanford Children's Hearing Center and has joint academic appointments in the departments of neurosurgery and pediatrics at Stanford. He is the director of the Clinician-Scientist Training Program in Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at Stanford, which is funded by a National Institutes of Health (NIH) Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (T32).

Oghalai has built a nationwide referral practice in the subspecialty care of patients with diseases of the ear and skull base. He has been a leader in the development of comprehensive medical and surgical care strategies while on faculty at both Stanford University School of Medicine and at Baylor College of Medicine. At both sites he designed and led team-based multidisciplinary programs to provide care for children with complex hearing loss. Oghalai was appointed a Stanford School of Medicine Faculty Fellow in 2012, was elected a fellow of the American College of Surgeons in 2007, has received a number of teaching awards, and has been a guest examiner for the American Board of Otolaryngology – Head

and Neck Surgery several times. Oghalai received his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he also received his medical degree. He then did an internship in general surgery and residency training in otolaryngology – head and neck surgery at Baylor College of Medicine. During that time, he took two years off from clinical activities for a basic science research post-doctoral fellowship. He completed his medical training with a subspecialty fellowship in neurotology and skull base surgery at University of California San Francisco.

Oghalai is married to Tracy Nguyen-Oghalai, MD, who is a rheumatologist. They have two children, Kevin, 16, and Tom, 12. Together, they enjoy hiking, biking, camping with the Boy Scouts, and traveling.

Varma also thanked Dennis Maceri, MD, for serving as interim chair for the USC Tina and Rick Caruso Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery since the death of John Niparko, MD, and for his assistance in the transition to a new chair.

“Dr. Maceri has done a tremendous job of leading the complex services provided by the department at all its sites,” Varma said. “We are indebted to his stewardship.”

Calendar of Events

Friday, March 24

10 a.m.-3 p.m. Department of Preventive Medicine. “USC Public Health Career Fair.” Soto Street Building (SSB) Patio. Info: Larissa Puro, (323) 442-7233, puro@usc.edu, <http://bit.ly/2l8O6q9>

Noon. Jane Anne Nohl Division of Hematology and Center for the Study of Blood Diseases Lecture. “Pathogenesis of HIT: Perhaps New Tests and Perhaps New Treatments,” Douglas B. Cines, MD, University of Pennsylvania. LAC+USC Medical Center Inpatient Tower Conference Room B. Info: Carolyn Castellanos, (323) 865-3913, castellanos_c@med.usc.edu

Tuesday, March 28

5:30 p.m. Department of Ophthalmology Grand Rounds. Christine Greer, MD, MS. HCC4 Conference Room, 6th Floor. Info: John Daniel, (323) 865-7071, john.daniel@med.usc.edu, <http://eye.keckmedicine.org>

Wednesday, March 29

11 a.m. USC/Amgen Seminar. “Structure guided engineering of antibody-small molecule hybrids,” Chawita (Jelly)

Netirojjanakul, PhD. Health Sciences Campus. Info: Cristy Lytal, (323) 442-2172, <http://stemcell.usc.edu/events>

Noon. Zilkha Neurogenetic Institute Seminar. “The Development of Dendrites and Axons: The Mechanisms and Relevance to Neurodevelopmental Diseases,” Bing Ye, PhD, University of Michigan Medical School. Herklotz Seminar Room, ZNI 112. Info: Emily Chu, (323) 442-3219, <http://www.usc.edu/zni>

6 p.m.-7:45 p.m. USC Institute of Urology Seminar. “Life After Prostate Cancer Treatment.” Aresty Auditorium. Info: Alan Arredondo, (323) 865-0757, alan.arredondo@med.usc.edu <http://bit.ly/2lMwG0c>

Thursday, March 30

Noon. The Southern California Research Center for ALPD & Cirrhosis Seminar. “Cellular Homeostasis Lecture Series: Reversing the Paradigm: Protein Kinase C as a Tumor Suppressor,” Alexandra Newton, PhD, University of California at San Diego. McKibben Lecture Hall 156. Info: Asma Deras, (323) 442-3121, asmadera@usc.edu. Please contact host/moderator, Douglas E.

Feldman, douglas.feldman@gmail.com, for meeting requests.

4 p.m. USC Visions & Voices Medical Humanities, Arts, and Ethics Series. “When We Have To Talk About Something Less Pleasant: Aging, Alzheimer's, and the End of Life,” Roz Chast. Mayer Auditorium. Info and RSVP: <http://bit.ly/2bcfWi3>.

Saturday, April 1

9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Adolescent and Young Adult Cancers Program: USC Norris Cancer Center and Hospital Continuing Medical Education. “David Stroud Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology Symposium.” Aresty Auditorium. Info: Chelsea Michel, (323) 442-2555, uscme@usc.edu, <https://cmetracker.net/KECKUSC/Catalog>

Monday, April 3

Noon. Immigrant Health Initiative Lecture. “Smoking Selectivity Among Mexican Immigrants Using Binational Data,” Annie Ro, PhD, MPH, University of California, Irvine. Soto Street Building (SSB) Room 116. Info: Larissa Puro, (323) 442-7233, puro@usc.edu, <https://globalhealth.usc.edu/mexican-immigrants-selectivity/>

Wednesday, April 5

Noon. The Saban Research Institute Seminar. “Mechanisms of Lung-Associated Congenital Disorders: Surprises from Mouse Models,” Xin Sun, PhD, MIT. Saban Research Building Auditorium, 4661 Sunset Blvd. Info: Sandy Wang, (323) 361-7489, tecpad@chla.usc.edu, <http://chla.org/tecpad>

Thursday, April 6

Noon. The Southern California Research Center for ALPD & Cirrhosis Seminar. “Cellular Homeostasis Lecture Series: Design Principles of Cellular Communication Pathways,” Michael B. Elowitz, PhD, California Institute of Technology. McKibben Lecture Hall 156. Info: Asma Deras, (323) 442-3121, asmadera@usc.edu. Please contact host/moderator, Keigo Machida, kmachida@usc.edu, for meeting requests.

4:30 p.m. USC Visions & Voices Medical Humanities, Arts, and Ethics Series. “Doctors' Orders for a Good Death: Caitlin Doughty and Lindsey Fitzharris,” Caitlin Doughty and Lindsey Fitzharris, PhD. Mayer Auditorium. Info and RSVP: <http://bit.ly/2aJBI92>.

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. Submit items at 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.

Zea Borok honored for a career spent mentoring

By Leigh Bailey

Zea Borok, MD, professor of medicine, Ralph Edgington Chair in Medicine and chief of the division of pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, is having a banner year already. In January, Borok was named this year's recipient of the Mayo H. Soley Award by the Western Society for Clinical Investigation; in April, she will be presented with the Elizabeth A. Rich, MD Award by the American Thoracic Society (ATS).

Named for society cofounder Mayo H. Soley, who was recognized by his peers as a distinguished clinical scientist and a generous mentor to aspiring colleagues, the award honors the lifetime achievement of outstanding medical researchers who are devoted to training junior investigators. Similarly, the Elizabeth A. Rich, MD Award is presented to "an outstanding woman in ATS who has made significant contributions in the fields of pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine," according to the society's website.

"I'm really honored," said Borok, who also is director of the Hastings Center for Pulmonary Research. "For me, being recognized by my peers makes these awards particularly meaningful. None of this could be accomplished without the amazing support and hard work of all



Zea Borok

the members of the pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine division — faculty, fellows and of course members of my laboratory."

As director of the Hastings Center, which was established at Keck Medicine in 2015 with the goal of creating a nationally recognized center of excellence for advanced lung disease, Borok said, "Awards like these help to raise the profiles of organizations like the Hastings Center, which in turn draws the attention of talented researchers and clinicians."

Edward Crandall, PhD, MD, chair and professor of medicine, and holder of the Kenneth T. Norris, Jr., Chair in Medicine and Hastings Foundation Professorship in Medicine at the Keck School, nominated Borok for the Mayo H. Soley Award.

"Zea is a gifted scientist and researcher who has always been extremely generous with her time and talents," he said. "I can think of no one more deserving of this award."

Borok was nominated for the Elizabeth A. Rich, MD Award by

Kristin Burkart, MD, MSc, associate professor of medicine at Columbia University Medical Center. She met Borok at the annual Association of Pulmonary and Critical Care Program Directors in 2011, when Burkart had just stepped into her role as Columbia's program director of the Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine Fellowship.

"I was fortunate enough to sit next to Zea at that meeting and she took me under her wing," Burkart recalled. "I was still early in my career and Zea essentially told me that I could and should become a leader, that I could make valuable contributions in the field and that I needed to just go for it. She introduced me to other women mentors and helped create a network of women that I and other early-career directors could call upon."

"She inspired me, she encouraged me, and most importantly, she led by example," Burkart concluded.

"We are proud to have a physician-scientist of Dr. Borok's caliber among the faculty here at the Keck School, particularly given her dedication to mentor to and support junior faculty," said Rohit Varma, MD, MPH, dean of the Keck School and director of the USC Gayle and Edward Roski Eye Institute. "I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate Dr. Borok on these well-deserved awards."



Ricardo Carrasco III

Above: Friends hug after sharing their match results during celebrations on Pappas Quad.

Below: Lauren Mills places a pin on a map of the United States, indicating the city where she will be spending her residency.



Ricardo Carrasco III

With emotions running high, here are some of the conversations that were overheard on Match Day:

"I've never been happier in my life."

— Rachel Anderson, to Mark Portman, after they were matched as a couple at UC Davis Medical Center



Mark Portman, left, and Rachel Anderson celebrate during Match Day.

"I'm getting a dog! I'm going to go dog shopping today!"

— Chris Brophy, who will be completing his residency at VA Greater Los Angeles Health System and White Memorial Medical Center

"His father is a doctor and he always wanted to be a doctor. I think he will be an excellent doctor."

— Uche Ugwueze, mother of Chidubem Ugwueze, who will complete his residency at Mount Sinai St. Luke's Roosevelt and Huntington Memorial Hospital

"My knees were so weak. They're still rubbery right now."

— Ricardo Gutierrez, who will be completing his residency at University of California, Irvine School of Medicine/Children's Hospital of Orange County

MATCH DAY: LAC+USC welcomes 26 percent of graduates; internal medicine is top specialty

Continued from page 1

educational affairs, who also is on the NRMP board of directors. Rohit Varma, MD, MPH, dean of the Keck School and director of the USC Gayle and Edward Roski Eye Institute, offered the day's toast.

"I am delighted to be here with you on this exciting day," he told the assembled crowd. "The class of 2017 will always hold a special place in my heart, as you are the first class I have the privilege of toasting on Match Day in my new role as dean."

"I want to offer my sincere congratulations to all of the students and your families who are joining us," he continued. "Today is the culmination of all your hard work and I am so very excited for each and every one of you as you open the envelopes that will signal the beginning of the next step of your lives."

Of the 204 students in the class of 2017,

71 percent will stay in California for all or part of their residency and 26 percent will join staff at Los Angeles County + USC Medical Center (LAC+USC). Internal medicine is the class of 2017's top specialty, with 48 students matching in that field.

For married couple Julie Jang and Brian Wu, who both matched locally, Match Day marked the first time they would be able to make plans for their family, which includes 2-year-old Julian Wu.

"Now we get to pick out a school for him and decide what to do," said Jang, who will be in the radiation oncology program at LAC+USC and White Memorial Medical Center while her husband will be in the psychiatry program at LAC+USC. "We have a house in a great school district so we were already kind of settled, so we're glad it worked out."



Steve Cohn

A group of graduating medical students cheer at 9:01 a.m. March 17, immediately after opening envelopes containing their residency matches.

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:



Keck Medicine of USC employees walk through Hazard Park as part of the inaugural Walk in the Park event on March 16.

Employees hit the road for inaugural walk in park

DOZENS OF KECK MEDICINE OF USC employees donned red caps and joined members of the community for the first Walk in the Park recently. The new community effort kicked off March 16 and was organized by the Hazard Park Recreation Center and Keck Medicine of USC. The walk is held from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. every Thursday and is open to the public. The USC Department of Public Safety will be on hand to provide a safe environment to walk while Keck Medicine of USC nurses will be available to provide blood pressure checks.



The Office of Diversity and Inclusion recently hosted law professor Jody Armour for a discussion about unconscious bias.

Law professor visits campus to discuss unconscious bias

JODY ARMOUR, JD, ROY P. CROCKER Professor of Law at the USC Gould School of Law, visited the Health Sciences Campus recently to discuss unconscious bias in everyday life. The Keck School of Medicine of USC Office of Diversity and Inclusion hosted Armour as part of the school's Diversity Seminar Series on March 2 for a discussion titled, "Coping with Unconscious Bias at Work, School and in Everyday Life." Armour has been a USC faculty member since 1995 and studies the intersection of race and legal decision-making.

Symposium to address young adult cancer patient care

THE ADOLESCENT AND YOUNG ADULT CANCER Program at USC (AYA@USC) is holding its third David Stroud Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology Symposium on April 1. The event provides medical professionals, patients and their families an opportunity to learn about developments in research and care for adolescent and young adult cancer patients. The event is sponsored in part by Dan and Jacqui Stroud, whose son, David, was treated for Hodgkin lymphoma at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. There will be talks on physical therapy, economics, fertility, mindfulness, and nutrition; including one seminar about fasting as a tool to enhance cancer treatment and another about foods that can make a difference for teens and young adults with cancer. Also on the agenda is a discussion of recent survival trends among adolescents and young adults in Los Angeles County.

— Hope Hamashige

USC acquires campus building

By Douglas Morino

USC has purchased a multi-story building owned by the Doheny Eye Institute, providing additional university-owned research and treatment space at a key location on the Health Sciences Campus. The 150,000-square-foot building at 1450 N. San Pablo St., called Healthcare Center 4 or HC4, is adjacent to Keck Hospital of USC.

"The purchase of HC4 marks an important acquisition for Keck Medicine of USC," said Tom Jackiewicz, senior vice president and CEO of Keck Medicine of USC. "We can now ensure that our clinical practices will have a permanent home, allowing our talented physicians, nurses and staff to provide exceptional care services to the community far in the future."

Prior to the sale, USC had leased space inside the building for clinical practices and faculty offices, including the USC Gayle and Edward Roski Eye Institute, which has consistently ranked in the top



Healthcare Center 4

10 nationally in *U.S. News and World Report's* annual "Best Hospitals" issue for more than 22 years.

"The acquisition of HC4 is an important milestone in the continued growth of Keck Medicine," said Rohit Varma, MD, MPH, dean of the Keck School of Medicine of USC and director of the USC Roski Eye Institute. "The integration of this building into our medical enterprise will greatly benefit our clinical, research and educational missions."

The building purchase comes as work continues on a series of

construction and beautification projects transforming the 79-acre Health Sciences Campus into an oasis of medical research and health care.

The Norris Healthcare Center, a modern multi-story facility under construction at the corner of Alcazar and San Pablo streets, will open in Fall 2017. In February, USC President C. L. Max Nikias also announced that planning and fundraising would begin for a new hospital on the Health Sciences Campus with construction underway as soon as 2020.

Selena Gomez donation funds lupus research

By Meg Aldrich

Singer and actress Selena Gomez made a donation to the Keck School of Medicine of USC to support lupus research. While the singer has been a longtime advocate for health programs and research, this is her first donation for efforts in relation to lupus research at USC.

She created the fund, called the "Selena Gomez Fund for Lupus Research," that will initially support a pilot research program focused on treating complications of lupus, led by Janos Peti-Peterdi, MD, PhD, professor of physiology and biophysics at the Keck School.

"I continue to be optimistic about the progress being made in lupus research and am proud to support the promising work at Keck School of Medicine. I am hopeful for the millions of us around the world that may benefit from this," Gomez said.

The research program potentially lays the foundation for targeted therapeutic treatment breakthroughs. This is a collaborative effort between Peti-Peterdi and Chaim Jacob, MD, PhD, professor of medicine at the Keck School, who specializes in lupus research.

"We are extremely pleased to partner with Selena in her efforts to promote awareness and medical research toward a much-needed cure for lupus," Peti-Peterdi said. "Complications from systemic lupus cause serious damage, and we are hopeful that our research, with Selena's support, will help those affected by this disease lead full, healthy lives."

Lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease that affects more than 1.5 million Americans and more than 5 million people worldwide. Currently there is no cure for lupus.

Peti-Peterdi is among the nation's most prominent

researchers looking at complications from lupus. His award-winning interdisciplinary research team are experts in the genetics and pathogenesis of lupus and have conducted groundbreaking work using state-of-the-art imaging techniques to model new methods for understanding the true sources of lupus complications.



Ricardo Carrasco III



Daniel Torok, Getty Images

Left, Janos Peti-Peterdi; right, Selena Gomez

Gifts to support the important work of the Selena Gomez Fund for Lupus Research can be made at keck.usc.edu/giving/selenafund.

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