

Keck School fills two new key positions

Judy Garner named School's senior associate dean of faculty affairs

By Katie Neith

Dean Carmen Puliafito has appointed Judy Garner to the position of senior associate dean for faculty affairs at the Keck School of Medicine.

She has served as assistant dean for faculty affairs at Keck since 2004.



Don Millic

Judy Garner

"I am excited to be part of a new team at the medical school that has a new perspective on directions the medical school can take," said Garner. She also serves as associate provost for faculty development at USC and is an associate professor in the Department of Cell and Neurobiology at the Keck School of Medicine. "There are tremendous opportunities for academic growth. Our faculty

have great potential to significantly advance medical research, while providing the Los Angeles community with the quality health care it needs and deserves."

The senior associate dean for faculty affairs provides oversight of faculty development including appointments, promotions and tenure, recruitment and hiring processes, mentoring, career advancement and merit review, as well as faculty salaries, problems and records.

"Dr. Garner brings a great deal of enthusiasm to her role in working with and supporting our faculty at the Keck School of Medicine," Puliafito said. "I welcome her to our leadership team."

As part of her role, Garner has outlined a number of goals for the Office of Faculty Affairs. She said one of the most important goals is to make career advancement for all Keck faculty a high priority, as well as making the criteria used for such advancement more transparent.

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William Bartlett tapped as new director of business intelligence

By Jon Nalick

William Bartlett has been recruited to the Keck School as director of clinical and program analysis and program manager for LAC+USC.

This is a new position charged with turning a wide range of raw business data into strategically useful information for key decision-makers.

Bartlett, who reports jointly to USC Care and the Office of the Dean, also will manage the technical aspects of the contractual agreements between the County and the Keck School.

Bartlett said he sees the role of information management as a catalyst for implementing the strategic initiatives of the dean's office and USC Care—making metrics available, assessing available information and turning that into something useful and useable.

"We figure out where we are so that the right people have the right information at the right time to enable good, solid decision-making," he said.

According to Minor Anderson, USC Care CEO, "William will add a whole new dimension to our analytical capability. We are very excited about William joining our team."

Keck School Dean Carmen Puliafito added that Bartlett's expertise "will serve the clinical enterprise as a whole. His expertise will help us gather and integrate performance data so that our clinical leaders have more useful information about their clinical practices."

Bartlett, who holds an MBA as well as a master's degree in computer information systems from the University of Miami, brings 20 years of administrative experience in health-related fields and



Jon Nalick

William Bartlett

See **BARTLETT**, Page 3

USC Advances in bid for stem cell grant

By Jennifer Chan

USC is one of 12 California institutions moving on to the next round of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine's Major Facilities Grants application process.

The grants will provide up to \$262 million to fund the establishment of facilities in support of stem cell research, making it the single largest grant program that the institute will undertake.

"Being among one of the select few institutions to be considered for part two of the application is a critical step in the growth of our new program here," said Martin Pera, director of USC's Center for Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine. "The potential funding would enable us to make a timely start on the construction of the Eli and Edythe Broad Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at USC, which is essential to support stem cell investigation and the eventual translation of new discoveries to patient care."

USC is seeking funding to establish an institute that would allow the university to carry out stem cell research in three categories: basic and discovery stem cell research; preclinical research and preclinical development; and clinical research. Funding is anticipated to range from \$25 to \$50 million.

Part two of the California Institute application process will evaluate the technical aspects of an applicant's building program and how the scientific program aligns with the institute's objective. Recommendations and approval for funding is expected in April.

"The new CIRM institute will allow our investigators to work with scientists and clinicians from USC and regional institutions to develop interdisciplinary collaborative projects and make the most effective use of resources," Pera said.

The California Institute for Regenerative Medicine was established when voters passed Proposition 71 in 2004 to borrow and spend \$3 billion over 10 years to support stem cell research. To date, USC has received more than \$23.6 million in stem cell grants from the institute.

California's Healthy Kids program saves government millions

New data released today showed that Healthy Kids, a locally funded health insurance program for children, saves California and the federal government up to \$7.3 million annually in health care costs by preventing more than 1,000 unnecessary child hospitalizations per year.

The study, conducted by the Center for Community Health Studies at USC and funded by The California Endowment and First Five California, focused on children enrolled in Healthy Kids through Children's Health Initiatives (CHIs) in nine counties: Kern, Los Angeles, Riverside,

San Bernardino, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz.

"These are startling figures with significant policy implications," said Michael R. Cousineau, associate professor and director at the Center for Community Health Studies at the Keck School of Medicine of USC and co-author of the policy brief. "This study links expanding coverage through local children's health initiatives to quantifiable savings to California's health care system and the taxpayers."

The following is a summary of the

main findings of the report:

- Healthy Kids increases low-income children's access to primary care, thus decreasing their chance of hospitalizations for preventable illnesses and manageable conditions, such as bacterial pneumonia, gastroenteritis and asthma
- Over 333,000 preventable child hospitalizations occurred in California between 2000 and 2005, according to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
- Nine CHIs helped prevent 1,050 hospitalizations per year over the six-

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USC Norris Medical Library offers access to Community of Science

By Katie Neith

The USC Norris Medical Library has licensed a valuable new funding and collaboration resource for researchers. As members of the Community of Science (COS), USC researchers now have access to numerous online services aimed at supporting research efforts.

“The Norris Medical Library is delighted that the office of the vice provost for research advancement has agreed to fund this important new online resource,” said Maggie Wineburgh-Freed, associate director of the Collection Resources Division at the USC Norris Medical Library. “Community of Science will not only make the world’s most extensive database of research funding available to USC researchers, but will also present their accomplishments to this extensive world-wide community.”

Membership to COS includes access to COS Funding Opportunities, a database of available grants, awards and fellowships; COS Expertise, a database of more than 480,000 researcher profiles; and COS Scholar Universe, containing information on more than 1 million scholars and organizations around the world to aid in finding researchers by specific area of study. Through the sites’

PapersInvited alerting service, faculty and students also will be able to search for more opportunities to present and publish their work.

In addition, account holders with COS will be able to utilize the COS Workbench function, allowing users to create CVs, set up customized funding alerts, save searches and much more.

“Community of Science is the best single source of information on research opportunities,” said Randolph Hall, vice provost for Research Advancement at USC. “It provides a comprehensive database on funding opportunities that spans disciplines and all types of sponsors.”

COS is a leading provider of information resources to researchers, scholars and other professionals, bringing them together from more than 1,600 universities, corporations and government agencies worldwide.

USC faculty, researchers, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows are invited to register for free accounts at the following address:

<http://www.cos.com/login/join.shtml>

For more information on COS, visit <http://www.usc.edu/hsc/nml/lib-services/cos.html>.

CHLA researcher links asthma, family structure

Alex Y. Chen, a researcher in the division of research on children, youth and families at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles and assistant professor of pediatrics at the Keck School of Medicine, is the principal investigator on an article titled, “The Family Structure and the Treatment of Childhood Asthma,” to be published in the February 2008 issue of the journal *Medical Care*.

“Family structure is known to influence children’s behavioral, educational and cognitive outcomes,” Chen said. “Recent studies suggest that family structure affects children’s access to health care as well. However, no study has addressed whether family structure is associated with the care children receive for particular conditions or with their physical health outcomes.”

The study consisted of children 2 to 17 years of age with asthma who lived in single-mother or two-parent families. Chen and his co-author, Jose J. Escarce, from RAND/UCLA, assessed the effect of the number of parents and the number of other children in the household on office visits for asthma and use of asthma medications, and they assessed the effect of family structure on the severity of asthma symptoms.

They discovered that “for children with asthma, living with a single mother and the presence of additional children in the household are associated with less treatment for asthma and worse asthma outcomes.”

Asthmatic children in single-mother families had fewer office visits for asthma and filled fewer prescriptions for controller medications than children with two parents. In addition, children living in families with three or more other children had fewer office visits and filled fewer prescriptions for reliever and controller medications than children living with no other children.



Veronica Jauriqui

STATE OF THE ART MRI—Keck School of Medicine Dean Carmen Puliafito speaks to a crowd gathered on Jan. 16 to inaugurate a new GE 3 Tesla MRI scanner, awarded to the school’s Department of Radiology by the National Institutes of Health. Department Director Edward Grant then took Puliafito on a tour of the Imaging Center. The 3 Tesla MRI system is twice as powerful and faster than the standard MRI and will offer higher resolution and greater contrast in imaging for clinical care and research.

USC expert’s healthful ‘ExtendBar’ snack goes mainstream

Francine R. Kaufman, director of the Comprehensive Childhood Diabetes Center and head of the Center for Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles, and professor of pediatrics at the Keck School of Medicine, has launched ExtendBar at Albertson’s, Ralph’s and Walgreens in their locations throughout Southern California.

A key figure in prompting the Los Angeles Unified School District to ban sodas, Kaufman hopes that

making this product more easily accessible will enable families to make lifestyle choices that produce lasting health benefits and reduce risk of disease.

Over the last decade, obesity and diabetes have reached epidemic proportions in America and worldwide. Kaufman created ExtendBar in February 1997 as a response to the challenges of

these growing epidemics.

“After seeing thousands of patients suffering from the effects of abnormal blood sugar levels—ranging from loss of energy and focus, unpredictable mood swings, or the rare seizure—I desperately wanted to do something to improve the health and quality of life for my patients,” Kaufman said.

With ExtendBar, she has endeavored to build a brand that people with diabetes, dieters, healthy active adults and their children, can count on to assist them in managing their blood sugar levels and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.



KIDS: USC study shows health insurance program cuts unneeded hospital stays

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year study period

- 2,050 additional preventable hospitalizations per year might have been averted if the nine CHIs had been operational for the full six years
- The average cost of a child hospitalization is \$7,000
- The State and federal government could save up to \$30 million annually in

health care costs if Healthy Kids were expanded to all California counties

“The USC study shows why providing health insurance to children is a win-win for our kids and our state,” said Debra Ward, project lead for California’s Children’s Health Initiatives, which counts the nine counties studied among its membership. “These very programs that have been so

successful are also at risk financially, which is why a statewide policy solution that covers all kids is so important.”

The California Children’s Health Initiatives is a collaboration of 32 counties working to expand access of affordable health insurance to all children in California.

Healthy Kids programs are available to children ineligible for public health insurance programs such as Medi-Cal and Healthy Families due to income or immigration status.

Healthy Kids programs similar to those evaluated in the study are offered in 25 of the 32 counties and, collectively, they have insured more than 84,000 kids in California.

The USC study comes on the heels of recent studies by other independent institutions showing that children in three county CHIs—Santa Clara, San Mateo and Los Angeles—enjoyed across-the-board gains in health access and health outcomes.

In those studies, conducted in 2007 by Mathematica Policy Institute, the Urban Institute and the University of California, San Francisco, the proportion of children having a usual source of

care rose significantly, reaching about 90 percent in each county.

Unmet health needs also declined dramatically while the proportion of parents who reported being “very confident” that their children could obtain needed care rose sharply in all three counties.

The California Endowment, which helped fund the USC study, echoed the importance of these latest findings. “Kids with access to health care coverage lead healthier lives, do better in school and grow up to become more productive members of society,” said Robert K. Ross, president and chief executive officer of The California Endowment. “State and local leaders must take steps to expand coverage to the nearly 800,000 children in California without health insurance, and to ensure that the Children’s Health Initiatives are protected so that thousands of children do not lose health coverage.”

Copies of the USC policy brief can be found at www.communityhealth.usc.edu.

The entire study will be published in the February 2008 issue of *Medical Care*.

BARTLETT: ‘Optimization’ is key to growth

Continued from page 1

expertise in strategic analysis and business modeling, data mining and computer database systems.

He comes to USC from the University of Miami Medical Group and Hospitals (UMMG), a 650-physician medical group, which, with its two specialty hospitals generate combined revenues of nearly \$500 million per year.

At UMMG, he served for eight years as director of decision support—six of those years working closely with Anderson—and three years as provider relations manager.

Bartlett’s key achievements at UMMG included the creation of a team of business analysts to assist strategic decision-making and the development of productivity metrics for physicians, including an easy-to-read scorecard that encouraged physician action to improve productivity.

Bartlett said he looks forward to helping USC Care move from a decentralized structure to a more optimized structure for doing business.

“They call the process ‘integration,’ but I prefer ‘optimization,’ because you’re not simply moving things around in the organization [for its own sake], you’re creating value. That’s what our role in information management is,” he said.

GARNER: New position targets recruitment

Continued from page 1

“We hope to achieve a culture of mentoring for career success in research and teaching,” said Garner. “We want to facilitate our faculty’s entry into new fields of inquiry where they will make a substantial contribution in understanding mechanisms of disease and development of new therapeutics.”

In addition, she pointed to recruitment, program building and faculty employment issues as priority goals for the office.

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A Jan. 24 *Los Angeles Times* story quoted otolaryngologist **Dennis Maceri** about the movie *Cloverfield* causing nausea in some viewers.

On Jan. 24, KPCC-FM interviewed cancer expert **Juan Felix** about cervical cancer.

A Jan. 23 *Los Angeles Times* article interviewed pharmacologist **Greg Thompson** about drug interaction related to actor Heath Ledger's death.

On Jan. 23, KCBS-TV Channel 2 news interviewed pharmacologist **Michael Wincor** about drug interactions related to actor Heath Ledger's death.

On Jan. 23, KTLA-TV Channel 5 interviewed environmental health expert **Jim Gauderman** about a resolution passed by LAUSD to carefully consider air pollution exposure from freeways in planned and existing schools.

A Jan. 22 *Los Angeles Times* story quoted vascular expert **Leonardo Clavijo** about a new study finding that leg injuries may increase the risk of blood clots.

A Jan. 22 United Press International story featured research by scientists at USC, UCLA, UC Irvine and Michigan State University that found nano-sized air pollutants promoted atherosclerosis in an animal model.

On Jan. 21, ABC News quoted fertility expert **Richard Paulson** about a new study finding that expectant mothers who reported drinking more than two cups of coffee a day had a higher risk of miscarriage.

A Jan. 18 *Wired* article reported that USC is among 12 California institutions that advanced to the second round of consideration for grants from the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine.

On Jan. 18, *BusinessWeek Magazine* interviewed stem cell researcher **Cheng-Ming Chuong** about a study that identified a new mechanism that controls activation of stem cells during hair

regeneration. KFWB-FM ran a similar story.

A Jan. 17 *San Diego Union-Tribune* story quoted preventive medicine researcher **Thomas Mack** about how twin studies provide novel insights into genetics, behavior and disease.

The Jan. 17 *San Luis Obispo Tribune* quoted public health expert **Michael Cousineau** and featured a new study by the USC Center for Community Health Studies that found that providing health insurance to children through the local Children's Health Initiatives saves California taxpayers in nine counties \$7 million a year by preventing unnecessary hospitalizations.

Calendar of Events

The HSC Calendar is online at www.usc.edu/hscalcalendar

Monday, Feb. 4

NOON. Fellows' Didactic Teaching Conference. "NEPHSAP: Genetic Disease of the Kidney," Miroslaw Smogorzewski, USC. GNH. Drs. Dining Rms. A & B. Info: (323) 226-7307

4 P.M. "Research in Progress," Amer Khan, USC. GNH 10-340. Info: (323) 226-7307

Tuesday, Feb. 5

9 A.M. Neurology Grand Rounds. "Status Epilepticus," Dean Naritoku, So. Illinois Univ. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-7686

11:30 A.M. Psychiatry Grand Rounds. "Dr. Habib Davanloo's Intensive Short Term Dynamic Psychotherapy," William Callahan, APA Committee on Public Affairs. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 226-5572

NOON. Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences Seminar. "The Interaction of Proteins with Lipids at an Air Liquid Interface," Thomas Millar, Univ. of Western Sydney. PSC 104. Info: (323) 442-1445

Wednesday, Feb. 6

NOON. Renal Grand Rounds Conference. "Sleep and Fatigue," Joshua Sapkin, USC. GNH 6441. Info: (323) 226-7307

NOON. ZNI Faculty Candidate Seminar. "Survival and Regeneration in the Visual System," Jeffrey Goldberg, Univ. of Miami. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-3219

4 P.M. USC Ctr. for Excellence in Research. "Corporate Funding for Research," Dennis Atkinson, USC. UPC: CUB 329. Info: (213) 740-6709

Thursday, Feb. 7

NOON. Cellular Homeostasis Lecture Series. "Stem Cells, Pluripotency & Nuclear Reprogramming," Rudolf Jaenisch, Whitehead Inst. MCH 156. Info: (323) 442-3121

4 P.M. USC Ctr. for Excellence in Research. "Writing Persuasive Proposals," Bonnie Lund, The Writing Co. NOR 2418. Info: (213) 740-6709

Friday, Feb. 8

NOON. Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences Seminar. "Targeted Drug Delivery via Folate Receptors," Robert J. Lee, Ohio State Univ. PSC 104. Info: (323) 442-1902

Saturday, Feb. 9

9 A.M. "An Introduction to Integrative Medicine," Barbara Sarter, USC. KAM Mayer Aud. Info: (323) 442-2555

9:20 A.M. "A Whole Medicinal System Approach: Ayurveda," Shri Mishra, USC. KAM Mayer Aud. Info: (323) 442-2555

9:40 A.M. "Mind-body Medicine: Guided Imagery Intervention for Obese Adolescents," Marc Weigensberg, USC. KAM Mayer Aud. Info: (323) 442-2555

10 A.M. "Dietary Approaches: Green Tea Consumption and Breast Cancer Risk," Anna Wu, USC. KAM Mayer Aud. Info: (323) 442-2555

10:45 a.m. "Herbal Remedies and Other Supplements: Ayurvedic Herbs in the Treatment of Sarcopenia," Shri Mishra, USC. KAM Mayer Aud. Info: (323) 442-2555

11 A.M. "Herbal Remedies and Other Supplements: Role of SAME in Liver Function and Repair," Shelly Lu, USC. KAM Mayer Aud. Info: (323) 442-2555

Monday, Feb. 11

NOON. Fellows' Didactic Teaching Conference. "Renal Disease During Pregnancy," Mohammad Akmal, USC. GNH Drs. Dining Rms. A & B. Info: (323) 226-7307

4 P.M. "Transplant Conference," Various faculty. UH Salerni Rm., 5th Floor. Info: (323) 442-9093

Wednesday, Feb. 13

NOON. Renal Grand Rounds Conference. "Daily Dialysis Program," Victoria Kumar, So. CA Kaiser Medical Group. GNH 6441. Info: (323) 226-7307

USC Center for Excellence in Research to host workshop series on developing grant proposals

The Center for Excellence in Research (CER), a new faculty-initiated activity at USC designed to increase the impact and prominence of scholarly research throughout the university, is hosting a series of training workshops and informal dialogues for research faculty through May.

Under the auspices of the Vice Provost for Research Advancement and the University Research Committee, a joint Academic Senate-Provost committee, CER will promote advancement, leadership and excellence in the pursuit of all areas of research, university-wide.

Workshops will cover topics including corporate fund-

ing for research, developing National Institutes of Health grant proposals and writing persuasive proposals.

Informal research salons will focus on topics including the impact of nanotechnology on medicine and what motivates researchers to push intellectual boundaries.

Most events will be held in the Office of Research Advancement, 3rd Floor of the new University Credit Union Building, 3720 S. Flower St.; others will take place in Norris Topping Tower.

For more information, contact Dale Odano at odano@usc.edu or (213) 740-6709, or view the CER calendar online at www.usc.edu/cer.

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Notice: Deadline for calendar submission is 4 p.m. Monday to be considered for that week's issue—although three weeks advance notice of events is recommended. Please note that timely submission does not guarantee an item will be printed. Send calendar items to HSC Weekly, KAM 400 or fax to (323) 442-2832, or e-mail to eblaauw@usc.edu. Entries must include day, date, time, title of talk, first and last name of speaker, affiliation of speaker, location, and a phone number for information.