

## World-renowned expert to lead global health at USC

One of the world's leading public health experts will become founding director of the new USC Institute for Global Health and chairman of the Department of Preventive Medicine of the Keck School of Medicine of USC.

Keck School Dean Carmen A. Puliafito announced the appointment of Jonathan Samet, effective Nov 1.

Samet comes to USC from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. An international authority on the effects of smoking and air pollution on health, he has served as professor and chairman of the Department of Epidemiology at Johns Hopkins since 1994. For the last 10 years, he also has directed the Institute for Global Tobacco Control at Johns Hopkins.

Appointed to the prestigious Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences in 1997, Samet has contributed to many of the U.S. Surgeon General's reports and was the Senior Scientific Editor for the 2004 and 2006 reports on active and passive smoking, respectively. He has worked actively to promote tobacco control around the world, particularly in China and Mexico. He also has addressed some of the most critical issues in indoor and outdoor air pollution, such as lung cancer and radon, and airborne particles and health. Studies done by Samet and his colleagues have been critical in setting air quality standards for particles and ozone.

"We are thrilled to bring to the University of Southern California an

academic health leader of the stature of Jon Samet," Puliafito said. "His international reputation for scientific excellence in the interest of global health includes a tremendous track record of leadership on scientific and advisory boards, a stellar roster of scientific publications, and a deep commitment to excellence in the quest for improved public health around the globe. His appointment will generate significant momentum as we expand and strengthen the research enterprise at the Keck School of Medicine of USC



Jonathan Samet

and enhance our collaboration with other USC faculty."

Puliafito described the new Institute for Global Health as a catalyst for such collaboration. "The Institute for Global Health will create synergy among USC faculty across numerous schools, all of whom have research interests in the arena of global health. Jon Samet's

expertise and experience are a perfect fit for USC, one of this country's leading research-driven, international universities."

Samet views the environment as the

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## NIH awards \$12.4 million for USC stroke study

By Sara Villagran

The National Institutes of Health recently awarded Carolee Winstein, professor of biokinesiology and physical therapy, \$12.4 million for a five-year study of a promising physical therapy program for stroke patients who have lost movement in their upper limbs.

Funded by the NIH's National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the trial will investigate the effectiveness of the Accelerated Skill Acquisition Program.

The program is an "intense and focused" outpatient rehabilitation program that emphasizes activities-based training and resistance exercises, and includes 30 hours of one-on-one therapy early in the rehab process. The program also uses motivational techniques to encourage patients to self-manage their therapy.

Winstein, director of the Motor Behavior and Neurorehabilitation Laboratory at USC, said that each year about 700,000 people in the United States experience first or recurrent attacks of stroke. About 65 percent of stroke survivors experience significant disability, such as the loss of use of one arm.

She noted that such losses often result in significantly reduced quality of life and loss of independence: "More effective rehabilita-

tion treatments could lessen the disability, caregiver burden and economic impact of stroke."

Winstein's study is named I-CARE, for Interdisciplinary Comprehensive Arm Rehabilitation Evaluation (I-CARE) Stroke Initiative.

The I-CARE trial will link Biokinesiology and Physical Therapy, a division at the USC School of Dentistry, with two other academic clinical research centers in the U.S.: the National Rehabilitation Hospital in Washington, D.C., led by co-principal investigator Alexander Dromerick, and the Emory University Center for Rehabilitation Medicine in Atlanta, Ga., led by co-principal investigator Steven Wolf. USC will serve as the primary project site and data management center.

I-CARE also will involve five Southern California physical rehabilitation sites: Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, Casa Colina Centers for Rehabilitation in Pomona, Huntington Rehabilitation Medicine Associates in Pasadena, Long Beach Memorial Medical Center in Long Beach and Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center in Downey.

The extensive study is expected to generate a wealth of useful data about stroke rehabilitation that "could find use in trials of current and future experimental interventions such as pharmacological agents, gene therapy, stem cell implants, and robot-assisted and direct cortical stimulation programs," Winstein said.



Carolee Winstein

## ADA honors USC diabetes expert

The American Diabetes Association (ADA) recently awarded Anne L. Peters its prestigious Outstanding Physician Clinician Award at the organization's 68th Scientific Sessions.

Peters, professor of clinical medicine and director of clinical diabetes programs at the Keck School of Medicine, received the award June 9 at the ADA's meeting in San Francisco.

The Outstanding Physician Clinician Award is presented to an individual who has made outstanding efforts in diabetes care and is recognized as a highly regarded clinician and educator with more than 10 years of distinguished service.

"This is a well deserved award," said Thomas A. Buchanan, chief of the division of endocrinology and diabetes. "Dr. Peters is one hundred percent dedicated to improving the lives of diabetes patients and one of the leaders of USC diabetes research and care, helping to translate research findings into clinical care."

Peters manages two diabetes centers, one in the Beverly Hills area and one in the underserved, primarily Latino East Los Angeles, which was highlighted in the PBS series "Remaking American Medicine." She also participates in community-based diabetes and obesity prevention initiatives.

Peters' research is focused on improving the delivery of medical care to patients with diabetes, particularly in underserved populations.

She is the principal investigator on several diabetes clinical trials, including a grant from the California Nutrition Network, and the National Institutes of Health-funded Look AHEAD (Action for Health in Diabetes) study.

She is involved in numerous professional organizations and activities, and has written over 100 publications, including *Conquering Diabetes*, published by Penguin Books, and Davidson's *Diabetes Mellitus*, Fifth Edition. She serves on the editorial board for ADA's *Diabetes Care*, is a reviewer for multiple journals and is on the American Board of Internal Medicine Endocrinology and Diabetes Board.



Anne Peters



Keck School of Medicine Dean Carmen A. Puliafito hosts a town hall meeting on June 11, offering updates on chair searches and items of importance to the School.

## Keck School of Medicine town hall meeting focuses on key priorities, achievements

By Katie Neith

Keck School Dean Carmen A. Puliafito spoke to another full house at his second town hall meeting held June 11 at the Aresty Conference Center.

Unlike the last meeting, which began with the recognition of the challenges Keck faces, Puliafito kicked this meeting off by highlighting key achievements made over the past few months. He pointed to the development of a business plan to acquire both University Hospital and USC/Norris Cancer Hospital, development of a mission-based strategy for the budget and nearly \$80 million in grants and gifts to help build the Eli and Edythe Broad CIRM Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at USC, which will break ground soon.

Puliafito outlined research priorities for the Keck School, including an increase in National Institutes of Health funding, recruitment of new leaders, expansion of the M.D./Ph.D. program and an increase in the value of scholarly productivity, among others.

The recruitment of Jon Samet, world leader in public health, as the new chairman of the Department of Preventive Medicine at the Keck School was celebrated as a major victory for the Keck School. Samet will be the founding director of the new USC Institute for Global Health and is expected to recruit 10 new investigators over the next five years.

Puliafito also said chair searches for

### Research Priorities for the Keck School

- Increase size of NIH Grant Portfolio
- Win Clinical and Translational Science Award grant
- Recruit new leadership for key programs
- Increase available funds for bridge funding for NIH investigators and mid-career scientists
- Promote RO1 funded research by clinician scientists
- Increase size and profile of M.D.-Ph.D. program
- Have at least 10% of medical school class (15 to 20 students) spend a fifth year doing basic science or clinical research
- Develop HST @ USC (Health Sciences Technology Program across UPC and HSC campuses)
- Improve quality of Ph.D. programs (applicants and accepted students)
- Develop programs to promote training of clinicians in research techniques
- Increase translational funding of stem cell studies (cardiac, eye, neuro)

several departments were on track to be filled by the end of the year, including pathology, urology and surgery. The search for a new director of the Zilkha Neurogenetic Institute is also underway.

## USC researchers present key findings to American Society of Clinical Oncology

By Meghan Lewit

Keck School of Medicine and USC/Norris researchers recently presented more than 20 abstracts outlining significant developments in cancer research and treatment at the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology in Chicago.

Keck School contributions to the international conference, which was held May 30-June 3 and drew about 30,000 medical professionals, included a number of posters and oral presentations.

Among them:

- Researchers identified genetic markers in cancer cells that predicted the benefit of a novel cancer drug prior to chemotherapy. Researchers looked at the effect of the drug PTK/ZK—a therapy designed to inhibit the development of cancer blood vessels—in combination with chemotherapy for patients with metastatic colon cancer. The findings suggest that patients with tumors with a specific gene expression profile may benefit most from the incorporation of this drug into their treatment. The results of the study were presented at a clinical science symposium on biomarkers in colorectal cancer management.

“When we understand how drugs like PTK/ZK work, we can develop treatment strategies to maximize their impact by identifying patients who will benefit most from their use,” said Peter M. Wilson, senior post-doctoral research fellow at the Keck School of Medicine and lead author of the study.

- The interaction of sex, age and ethnicity has a significant impact on overall survival in metastatic colorectal cancer (MCRC) patients. Researchers found that pre-menopausal women with metastatic colorectal cancer (18-44 years old) lived longer than younger men, while older women (75 and older) had significantly worse overall survival than older men, said Andrew Hendifar,

research fellow at the Keck School and the lead author of the study. The research was presented during a poster discussion on gastrointestinal (colorectal) cancer.

“This study provides further evidence that estrogen may play an important role, not only in colon cancer development, but also in progression of the disease, and may impact how we develop therapies for women and men with colon cancer,” said gastrointestinal oncologist Heinz-Josef Lenz, professor of medicine at the Keck School and a senior investigator on the study.

- Lapatinib (L), an oral small molecule tyrosine kinase inhibitor of EGFR and HER2, is useful in combination with capecitabine for the treatment of women with HER2-positive metastatic breast cancer, according to a study presented by Michael Press, professor of pathology at the Keck School. He presented the findings at a clinical science symposium and gave a presentation on HER2 testing at an education session.

- In a phase II trial of an oral targeted agent called Sorafenib for the second line treatment of small cell lung cancer (SCLC), about 35 percent of patients benefited from the treatment, according to a study led by oncologist Barbara Gitlitz, associate professor of medicine at the Keck School. People afflicted with SCLC can often enjoy a strong response to the first line of treatment they receive. However, many people relapse and then the options for treatment are very slim, she said. The study was presented during a poster discussion on metastatic lung cancer.

“The oral targeted drug in this setting produced response and survival results quite similar to the chemotherapy approved for second line therapy,” she said. “These results are quite promising and certainly warrant further exploration and development of Sorafenib in the treatment of this devastating form of lung cancer.”

## In Case of An Emergency...

Visit the USC Web:

<http://emergency.usc.edu>

This page will be activated in case of an emergency. Backup Web servers on the East Coast will function if the USC servers are incapacitated.

Call the Emergency Information Phone: 213-740-9233

The emergency telephone system can handle 1,400 simultaneous calls. It also has a back up system on the East Coast.

## June 26 memorial service slated for USC School of Dentistry's Charles Meyer Goldstein

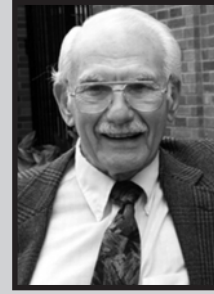
The USC School of Dentistry will celebrate the life of longtime faculty member Charles Meyer Goldstein during a memorial scheduled for 3 p.m. on June 26, at the Bovard Auditorium on the University Park campus.

Goldstein, who helped launch and oversee the growth and success of the school's Mobile Clinic program, died on May 11 at the age of 87.

"Charlie," as he preferred to be called, devoted his career to providing access to care for underserved populations, especially the children of California. He was appointed faculty director of the mobile clinic in 1970. Over the following years, he and teams of

USC dental students hit the road, delivering free and low-cost dental care to migrant farm workers and other poor and underserved residents throughout California.

His tenure as faculty director ended in 1982, but Goldstein continued to teach and work with the mobile clinic and other School of Dentistry community outreach programs well into his 80s. On May 10, representatives of the California Dental Association Foundation presented him with the organization's first-ever Humanitarian Award.



Charles Meyer Goldstein

During the last two months of his life Goldstein had been working on establishing a \$4 million endowment for the operations of the mobile clinic.

In lieu of flowers, friends and colleagues may consider making a gift in Goldstein's memory to the USC Mobile Clinic Fund.

Donations to the USC Mobile Clinic Fund can be sent to the USC School of Dentistry, 925 W. 34th Street, Suite 202, Los Angeles, CA 90089.

## ETCETERA

**Carol Kasper**, professor emerita of medicine and hematology at the Keck School of Medicine, recently received the Award for Outstanding Life Achievement in Hemostasis from the Hemophilia and Thrombosis Research Society.

The society, a North American organization of hemostasis and thrombosis caregivers and researchers, presented the award at its annual meeting in Chicago in April.

Kasper, widely recognized for her study of the diagnosis and treatment of hemophilia for more than 40 years, was the director of the hemophilia treatment center at Orthopaedic Hospital from 1989 to 1999 and served as the medical director of the World Federation of Hemophilia from 1994 to 2000. She is also a former member of the Board of Directors of the National Hemophilia Foundation.

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The American Society of Hematology (ASH) recently named first-year Keck School of Medicine student **Edward E. Robertson** as a participant in the 2008 Minority Medical Student Award Program.

The program encourages minority medical students to pursue research projects in hematology. Robertson was one of 15 award recipients from the United States and Canada.

According to ASH President Kenneth Kaushansky, "This program is an important tool in encouraging our

brightest students from traditionally underrepresented groups to enter careers in hematology."

Robertson will conduct a hematology-related research study under the mentorship of **Allen Yang**, assistant professor in the Department of Hematology at the USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. His project will examine DNA methylation of the Philadelphia chromosome in leukemia.

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The California Academy of Family Physicians recently awarded its prestigious 2008 Award for Family Physician of the Year to Keck School of Medicine alumna **Condessa Curley**. She graduated from the USC/California Hospital Family Medicine Residency in 2000, completed the Family Medicine Maternity Fellowship in 2001, and was a full-time faculty member of the residency through 2004.

She is currently a physician at Eisner Pediatric and Family Medical Center and continues to care for underserved families in downtown Los Angeles.

She remains an active voluntary faculty member in the Year I Introduction to Clinical Medicine program. Curley is also CEO and founder of the nonprofit organization Project Africa Global, which trains physicians and nurses in new environments, enhances sustainable living practices and provides peer counselors from central Los Angeles to the youth in Africa.

## SAMET: Research focuses on airborne pollutants

Continued from page 1

focal point for the new institute's activities. "The damage done to the environment by human activities is no longer a 'quiet crisis,'" he said. "The institute should move forward with an agenda of capacity building, research and policy formulation that will have immediate impact."

At Johns Hopkins, Samet chairs the largest department of epidemiology in the country; the department has global reach in its training and research missions. The University's global health activities are extensive and collaborative and give emphasis to infectious diseases. Samet views his experience at Johns Hopkins as relevant to USC, where he hopes to establish multidisciplinary collaborations that extend across departments and schools.

According to Samet, his decision to join the USC faculty was based on the opportunity to chair the Department of Preventive Medicine, one of the leading such departments within a medical school, and at the same time to lead the development of a model institute for multidisciplinary collaboration in global health.

Samet commented, "I found a perfect match between my view of needs in global health and what USC wanted to accomplish as an institution. I also have the opportunity to work with the Department, which has many long-term colleagues and friends among its faculty, and to lead its growth and evolution at a time when public health and clinical research are changing rapidly."

Some of Samet's current research projects include:

- A multidisciplinary, EPA-funded center for research on the health effects of airborne particles; the center brings together epidemiologists, biostatisticians, exposure assessors and toxicologists with a goal of learning more about

how inhaled particles cause premature death and morbidity;

- A global study on exposures of women and children to secondhand tobacco smoke;
- Collaboration with Yonsei University in Seoul in a follow-up study of the health of 1.3 million Koreans;
- A long-term study of sleep-disordered breathing and risk for cardiovascular disease (the Sleep Heart Health Study);
- Studies on non-infectious lung diseases in HIV-infected persons and on the genetic basis of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Samet will lead the Keck School of Medicine's Department of Preventive Medicine, which is comprised of faculty who focus on scientific discoveries to identify and better understand the causes of the

diseases that most impact public health, such as cancer and cardiovascular disease, and to develop new ways to prevent them. A comprehensive external review of the department conducted in recent years cited the "intellectual excitement of faculty and students, a precious aura of collegiality, genuine interdisciplinary interest, and world-class academic scholarship that ranges over and integrates a multitude of interconnected scientific disciplines."

Faculty in the Department of Preventive Medicine include authorities on chronic disease epidemiology, biostatistics, environmental medicine, health behavior and prevention, detection and treatment methods. Department research findings have left indelible marks on preventive medicine research, national and international health guidelines, physician practices, cancer screening, preventive methods for people at high risk of developing a chronic disease, and alcohol and tobacco education programs.

**'I found a perfect match between my view of needs in global health and what USC wanted to accomplish as an institution.'**

—Jonathan Samet, Chair-designate of the Department of Preventive Medicine of the Keck School of Medicine



USC Professor of Medicine Donald Feinstein (left), presents the "Healing Award" to Tower Cancer Research Foundation Medical Director and Keck School alumnus Peter Rosen at the sixth annual Tower of Hope Gala held May 18 at The Beverly Hilton. The nonprofit foundation promotes state-of-the-art clinical research in a private practice setting. Funds raised at the dinner support cancer research, education and patient and community support programs.

# Calendar of Events

The Calendar is online at [www.usc.edu/hscalendar](http://www.usc.edu/hscalendar)

## Monday, June 23

NOON. "NEPHSAP: Ca/Phos/Vit D/PTH in CKD," Miroslaw Smogorzewski, USC. GNH Drs. Dining Rm. A & B. Info: (323) 226-7307

NOON. "Transplant Conference," Various Transplant faculty. GNH 6441. Info: (323) 226-7307

## Tuesday, June 24

NOON. Cancer Ctr. Grand Rounds. "Testosterone, Herbs & Starvation: Pushing the Envelope in Genitourinary Cancer Therapy," Tanya Dorff, USC. NOR 7409. Info: (323) 865-0801

## Wednesday, June 25

NOON. Renal Club Lecture. "Podocyte Survival," Stuart Shankland, Univ. of Washington. GNH 6441. Info: (323) 226-7307

## Friday, June 27

8:45 A.M. The 18th Annual CSP Educational Symposium. "Cancer Occurrence in the Majority of Minorities in Los Angeles," Various speakers. KAM Mayer Aud. Info: (323) 442-2869

11 A.M. "Transplantation and Iron Overload – Clinical and Experimental Studies," H. Joachim Deeg, Univ. of Washington. GNH 14-441. Info: (323) 865-3914

## Saturday, June 28

8:30 a.m. "Rheumatology Sixth Annual Community Seminar," Various speakers. KAM Mayer Aud. Info: (323) 442-6177.

**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](mailto: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.

## Monday, June 30

8:30 A.M. "Maternal Transmission of Asthma Risk," Lester Kobzik, Harvard. GNH 11-321. Info: (323) 226-7923

## Tuesday, July 1

NOON. Cancer Ctr. Grand Rounds. "Perturbation of Host Cellular Regulatory Networks by Human Papillomaviruses," Karl Münger, Harvard. NOR 7409. Info: (323) 865-0801

## Wednesday, July 2

7 A.M. Medicine Grand Rounds. "Renal Artery Stenosis," Rizwan Badar, USC. GNH 1645. Info: (323) 226-7556

## Tuesday, July 8

NOON. Cancer Ctr. Grand Rounds. "The HBP1 Transcriptional Repressor & Invasive Breast Cancer Mechanisms," Amy Lee. NOR 7409. Info: (323) 865-0801

## Wednesday, July 9

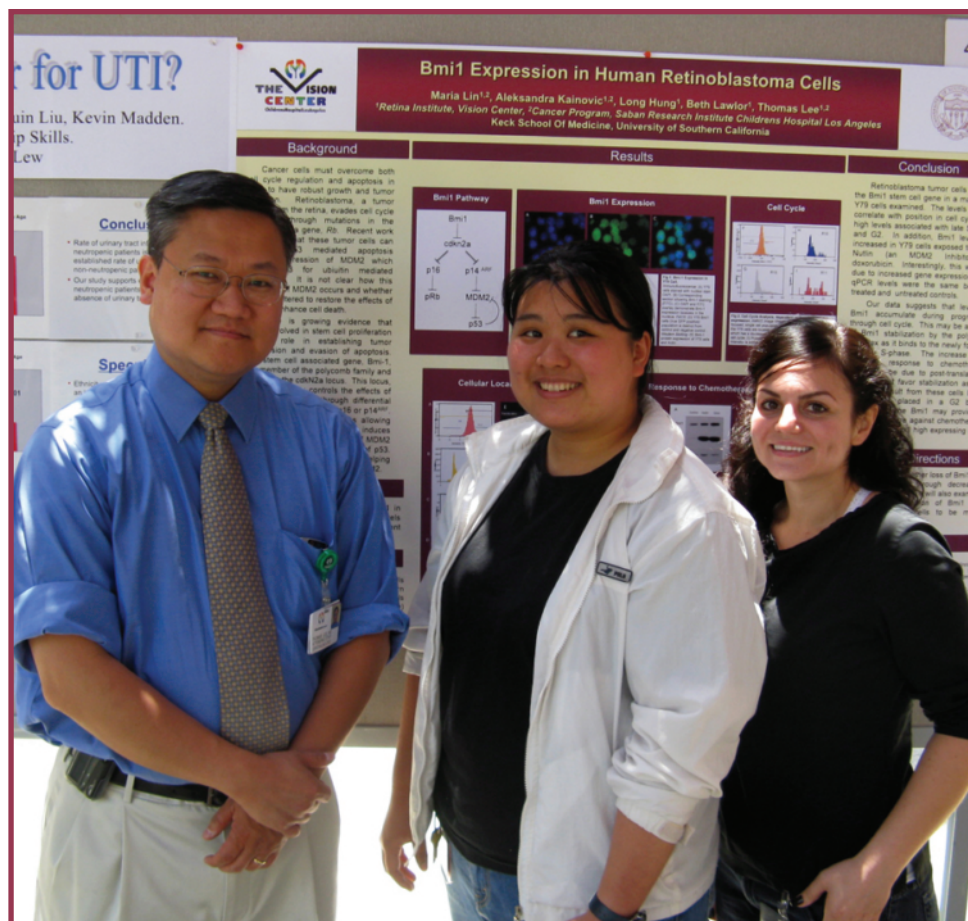
7 A.M. Medicine Grand Rounds. "Pulmonary Hypertension," Paresh Giri, USC. GNH 1645. Info: (323) 226-7556

## Tuesday, July 22

NOON. Cancer Ctr. Grand Rounds. "8q24 and Cancer Risk," Chris Haiman, USC. NOR 7409 Info: (323) 865-0801

## Tuesday, July 29

NOON. Cancer Ctr. Grand Rounds. "DNA Methylation in Lung Cancer," Ite A. Laird-Offringa, USC. NOR 7409. Info: (323) 865-0801



The Saban Research Institute of Childrens Hospital Los Angeles held its 13th Annual Poster Session and Open House on June 2, featuring dozens of posters highlighting current research. From left: physician Thomas Lee of the CHLA Vision Center and students Maria Lin and Aleksandra Kainovic in front of their poster, Bmi1 Expression in Human Retinoblastoma Cells.

## Zuo-Zhong Wang, Keck School and Zilkha researcher, 46

The Keck School of Medicine community mourns the loss of Zuo-Zhong Wang, a Keck School faculty member and researcher at the Zilkha Neurogenetic Institute who died in an accident while hiking in the San Dimas Mountains last weekend. He was 46.

Wang, associate professor in the Department of Cell and Neurobiology at the Keck School, was a noted neuroscientist whose discoveries had a profound impact on his field. His research focused on how synapses form, using the neuromuscular junction as a model system. His recent work with colleague Lin Chen on the crystal structure of a nicotine receptor was noted as a landmark accomplishment in the fields of structural biology and neuronal cell signaling.

Wang joined the Keck School of

Medicine in 2005 and served on the faculty of the USC Programs in Biomedical and Biological Sciences. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the Second Medical University in Shanghai, China, and received his Ph.D. in physiology from the University of Utah School of Medicine and did his postdoctoral training with Zach Hall at the University of California, San Francisco and the National Institutes of Health.

He became an assistant professor and was promoted to associate professor with tenure in the Department of Neurobiology at the University of Pittsburgh prior to joining the Keck School.

Wang is survived by his wife Yun Yao, a son and step-son, his mother and three brothers.

## HSC NEWSMAKERS

Complete listing at: [www.usc.edu/uscnews/usc\\_in\\_the\\_news/](http://www.usc.edu/uscnews/usc_in_the_news/)

A June 4 *Los Angeles Times* article highlighted the USC School of Dentistry in a story about treating the disabled.

A June 6 widely carried Healthday News story featured research by diabetes experts **Richard Watanabe** and **Thomas Buchanan** that identified a gene that regulates glucose levels but does not increase the risk of type 2 diabetes.

A June 9 *Los Angeles Times* article quoted pharmacologist **Roger Clemens** about glucomannan, a yam-derived fiber believed by some to aid weight loss.

In it's June 9 issue, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Childrens Hospital Los Angeles ninth among 143 children's hospitals and medical centers in the nation.

On June 11, KABC-TV featured surgeon **Peter Crookes** in a story about the positive impact of music in helping patients heal.

A June 16 *Los Angeles Times* article quoted emergency medicine expert **Edward Newton** about an episode of "Grey's Anatomy" in which a patient was trapped in concrete.

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