

USC researchers awarded \$8 million for stem cell studies

By Meghan Lewit

Keck School of Medicine faculty at the Health Sciences Campus and Childrens Hospital Los Angeles received \$8 million from the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM).

The state's stem cell agency awarded a total of \$59 million in New Faculty II Awards to support researchers early in their career. The grants received approval Aug. 13 from the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee (ICOC), the 29-member governing board of the institute.

The New Faculty II Awards is the second round of CIRM funding to support M.D. and Ph.D. scientists who are at critical early stages of establishing careers in stem cell research. Investigators funded by these grants receive salary and research support for five years, creating a stable environment for building innovative research programs at a point in their careers when funding can be difficult to obtain.

"These prestigious awards to Keck and CHLA faculty members will accelerate the pace of these young scientists' highly innovative and creative research programs in basic stem cell biology and tissue engineering," said Martin Pera, director of the Eli and Edythe Broad

See CIRM, page 3



USC Football Coach Pete Carroll (center, in cardinal) and actors prepare to shoot a commercial touting The Doctors of USC.

Coach Pete Carroll pitches The Doctors of USC

By Cheryl Bruyninckx

USC Trojan Football Coach Pete Carroll will be featured in a new promotional campaign for The Doctors of USC to debut this fall.

The campaign—a video commercial, radio spot and print ads—was shot June 24 at Heritage Hall on the University Park Campus. The premise of the advertising campaign is to highlight the

fact that Carroll himself is a patient of The Doctors of USC.

"The Doctors of USC are the health care providers for our Trojan athletes, and we are delighted that Coach Carroll accepted our invitation to appear in the new campaign to promote the expertise of our USC physicians," said Jane Brust, associate senior vice president for health sciences public rela-

tions and marketing. "We want the Trojan Family to be watching for the campaign to appear on our Web sites and in print beginning in September."

In the ads, Carroll is shown seated in the waiting room of a doctor's office, engaged in conversation with a female patient who is at first startled and then excited to see him there.

See CARROLL, page 3

Henri Ford named vice dean for medical education of Keck School of Medicine



Flanked by Erin Quinn (left), Keck School associate dean for admissions, and Donna Elliot, associate dean for student affairs, Henri Ford discusses research opportunities for medical students.

By Katie Neith

Henri R. Ford has been named to the position of Vice Dean for Medical Education at the Keck School of Medicine. He succeeds Clive Taylor, who has served as Senior Associate Dean for Educational Affairs with distinction since 1997.

As Vice Dean, Ford will oversee all aspects of education of medical students, including the offices of Admissions, Curriculum, Diversity, and Student Affairs. Ford will additionally oversee the Office of Continuing Medical Education, the Division of Medical Education, and the School's application for accreditation by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME).

"As vice president and chief of surgery at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles, Dr. Ford has shown exceptional leadership," said Carmen A. Puliafito, dean of the Keck School. "As a professor in the Department of Surgery at the Keck School of Medicine, he has been an important role model for young physicians and medical students. Together, these outstanding traits will help Dr. Ford advance the medical school's educational mission. Working closely with faculty leaders and me, he will promote excellence in medical education as one of the highest priorities of the Keck School."

Ford has been a part of Childrens Hospital Los Angeles and the Keck

School of Medicine since 2005. Prior to that, he was professor and chief of the Division of Pediatric Surgery and surgeon-in-chief at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

In his new role, Ford counts among his early priorities developing a strategic plan for medical education, reviewing and revising the Year III/IV medical student curriculum, strengthening research opportunities for medical students, increasing the proportion of students who spend a fifth year doing full-time research, and developing new sources for medical student financial aid.

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George Boone, philanthropist and USC benefactor, 85

George Nicholas Boone, longtime friend of the university, life trustee, former USC Alumni Association president and leading Southern California philanthropist, died Aug. 12, at his home in San Marino, Calif. He was 85.

"The entire Trojan Family mourns the loss of George Boone," said USC President Steven B. Sample. "He and his wife, MaryLou, have shared a strong belief in the university's mission as well as in the creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship of our students and

faculty. He leaves a legacy at USC that is felt in fields ranging from dentistry and medicine to environmental studies. In addition, George's passing means the loss of a dear personal friend of Kathryn's and mine."

George Boone enrolled at USC as a transfer student from Pasadena City College, receiving support from the U.S. Navy for his pre-dental studies. After earning a D.D.S. in 1946, he worked as a dentist on a military base in China, later returning to the university to earn

a master's degree in 1951. He practiced orthodontics in the Pasadena area for 20 years before going into the real estate business in 1969.

Boone often remarked that he had enjoyed all three of his careers but that his greatest satisfaction came from the third—philanthropy.

Together with his wife, MaryLou—who holds a B.S. in dental hygiene as well as a master's in art history from USC—he generously shared his success with his alma mater, as well as with

many other organizations throughout Southern California. As a philanthropist, George Boone was a visionary who was committed to helping institutions "think outside the box" and create innovative new initiatives.

In 1984, the Boones endowed the George and MaryLou Boone Chair in Craniofacial Molecular Biology at the USC School of Dentistry, advancing research into fundamental questions about genetics and craniofacial development. In 1996, the couple donated real estate to support renovation of the third floor of USC's Eileen and Kenneth T. Norris Dental Science Center, helping create a state-of-the-art orthodontic clinic, as well as patient-simulation units for the pre-clinical education of dental students. George Boone also served as a part-time faculty member of the dental school, where he lectured in the undergraduate orthodontic program and conducted seminars on practice management.

In March 2005, the Keck School of Medicine of USC announced two separate gifts from the Boones: one to establish the George and MaryLou Boone Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders Research Center, and one to endow the George N. and MaryLou Boone Professorship in Medical Excellence.

Rather than focusing on research, as most endowed faculty positions do, this professorship focuses on patient care and provides budgetary support for internal medicine.

First elected to the USC Board of Trustees in 1995, George Boone also was a member of the USC College Board of Councilors and the advisory board of USC's Philip K. Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies. Over the years, he served on the boards of USC's schools of dentistry, medicine and fine arts as well.

In appreciation for his 55 years of service to the USC School of Dentistry, George Boone received the school's Bronze Trojan award in July 2004. In 2005, he and his wife were among the inaugural recipients of the Dean's Medallion from USC College.

In addition to his wife, Boone is survived by children Lynda Boone Fetter and husband Blaine Fetter, Nick Boone and Suzanne Boone; grandchildren Nic, Kyle and Adam Fetter, and Rex, Claire and Kelly Kirshner; and sister Jeanne Boone Tappan.

Keck School dean opens up his home to fete Class of 2012

By Veronica Jauriqui

Amidst the bustle of orientation, it's been a busy week for first-year medical students.

But the 166 members of the incoming class of 2012 took a time-out from their orientation schedule to enjoy a backyard picnic courtesy of Keck School of Medicine Dean Carmen A. Puliafito.

The party, held Aug. 13 at Dean Puliafito's Pasadena home, featured dinner, games and a live DJ. Students played volleyball and croquet, threw horse shoes, played on a giant Malpractice game board (aka Operation) and bounced on an inflatable Twister.

"It's an incredible gesture," said incoming student Ian Macqueen. "It's great to get together and enjoy the festivities. It's the most fun we've had all week."



Above, from left: Kavel Visrodia, Dean Carmen A. Puliafito, Anita Damodaran and Priyanka Kadam relax at an Aug. 13 party at the dean's home that also featured games of Operation and (at right) Twister.



FORD: School to be 'training ground for future leaders of American medicine'

Continued from page 1

"I am deeply honored to have been selected to serve as the Vice Dean for Medical Education at the Keck School," said Ford. "I accept this appointment with great trepidation and humility, because I recognize the magnitude of the task at hand and the significance of this position. For what could be more important to the mission of the school of medicine than the education of its medical students?"

Taylor, who has overseen the department for 11 years, noted the significance of Ford's clinical service and leadership.

"The LCME in 15 months will look at the revision of the clinical part of our

curriculum and we felt we should have a physician lead the program," said Taylor, who will continue as Senior Associate Dean in an advisory role. "Dr. Ford is well suited for this position. The office is blessed with excellent faculty who have a long-term and enthusiastic commitment to teaching."

Under Taylor's leadership, the Office of Educational Affairs revised the Year I/II medical school curriculum and improved United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) test scores among students. The class of 2009 averaged 233 points against a national mean of 218 on the Step 1 test, taken after the first two years of medical school.

"My predecessor, Dr. Clive Taylor, has done a magnificent job as Senior Associate Dean for Educational Affairs over the past decade. I hope to build on the strong foundation that he has created and work with the outstanding staff that he has assembled to take the office to new heights," said Ford. "It is my hope that the Keck School of Medicine will not only attract and train the best medical students in the country, but also become the training ground for future leaders of American medicine."

Ford's office is located in the Keith Administration Building, suite 218. He will continue his work at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles in addition to his new appointment.

Keck Schools nets \$116.5 million in charitable donations to boost programs

By Sara Reeve

The Keck School of Medicine surpassed last year's fundraising tally by 75 percent in FY08, raising \$116.5 million in philanthropic contributions.

Dean Carmen A. Puliafito said the financial gifts received in the last fiscal year "will help to continue the Keck School's pursuit of excellence in teaching, research and clinical care. We are deeply appreciative of the confidence these donors have placed in the school."

The largest gift received this year was the \$60 million gift from the estate of Jane Anne Nohl, which was the sixth largest gift in the university's history. That bequest has created the Jane Anne Nohl Division of Hematology and

Center for the Study of Blood Diseases at the USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. The gift provides the resources for attracting new outstanding faculty and for the education and training of new clinical scientists.

Other donations included a \$10 million gift from the Kenneth T. & Eileen L. Norris Foundation for the USC Epigenome Center, a \$5 million gift from businessman Larry Freeman and his wife, Judy, to name the Judy and Larry Freeman Cancer Day Hospital, and a \$5 million gift from the L.K. Whittier Foundation to extend funding of the L.K. Whittier Foundation Innovative Tailored Therapies Initiative at USC/Norris

Dean Carmen A. Puliafito recently outlined the following fundraising priorities for the Keck School of Medicine:

- Fully developing the USC Academic Medical Center
- Capital funding for the Eli and Edythe Broad CIRM Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research
- Programming funding for stem cell research
- Increasing availability of student scholarships
- Establishing a Doctors of USC satellite facility in Beverly Hills
- Building a new HSC Student Fitness Center
- Increasing unrestricted gifts to fund additional programs and projects as needed.

Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Senior Executive Director of Development William Loadvine noted that many of the gifts were the result of considerable time and effort. "Thanks to the dedicated efforts of staff and faculty, the Keck School continues to

attract substantial donors who are engaged in the work of this School," said Loadvine. "In order to establish the Keck School as a premier education and research institution, it is imperative that we build on this fundraising success."

The total of \$116.5 million represents an increase of more than 75 percent over the previous fiscal year, which tallied \$65.4 million for the Keck School.

Combined with donations received by affiliated institutions, including Childrens Hospital Los Angeles and Doheny Eye Institute, the total raised in the last year adds up to more than \$186 million. Since 1999, the year that USC President Steven B. Sample unveiled a new 10-year fundraising initiative, the Keck School and affiliated hospitals have raised more than \$1.55 billion. The initiative began with the W.M. Keck Foundation's historic naming gift of \$110 million to the school.

CARROLL: USC Football coach kicks off The Doctors of USC ad campaign

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USC Athletics offers promotional considerations to The Doctors of USC in return for the outstanding care USC physicians provide the Trojan athletes. The football team is under the close care of head physician, Dr. James Tibone, and many other orthopaedic surgeons. In addition, USC physicians from internal medicine, infectious disease and neurosurgery are involved in the treatment of the Trojan athletes.

"The Doctors of USC provide exceptional care to our athletes," says Russ

Romano, director of sports medicine and head athletic trainer. "We are very fortunate to work with this group of physicians and we have the highest regard for them."

The involvement of Coach Carroll in this year's campaign is a key component to this partnership.

Orchestrated by the Health Sciences Public Relations and Marketing staff in collaboration with USC Athletics, the campaign continues the award-winning "See the Doctors They See" campaign created last year.

Following last year's campaign, the ads featuring Coach Carroll will appear in several USC publications as well as in the printed football program. A video version will be shown in the Coliseum as part of The Doctors of USC injury update at the beginning of each USC home game.

Look for the print ads in and around the Coliseum and the Galen Center. And be sure to listen for radio spots from The Doctors of USC during USC football and USC men's basketball games.

CIRM: Latest round of California Institute for Regenerative Medicine grants to fund three USC researchers

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Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at USC.

Three Keck School of Medicine faculty members working at the Health Sciences Campus and Childrens Hospital Los Angeles received New Faculty II Awards:

- Gage Crump, assistant professor of

cell and neurobiology at the Keck School of Medicine, received a \$2.3 million award aimed at developing cell-based therapies that lead to better healing of traumatic head injuries.

- Qilong Ying, assistant professor of cell and neurobiology at the Keck School, received a \$2.4 million award for his studies of an important bio-

chemical pathway that influences embryonic stem cell behavior.

- Tracy Grikscheit, assistant professor of pediatric surgery at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles, received a \$3.2 million award to investigate a new approach towards building intestinal tissue to correct a devastating condition called Short Bowel Syndrome, seen primarily in premature babies.

"These studies will enable efforts to scale up production of specialized cells like nerves and muscle from stem cell cultures, for use in future research and therapy," says Pera, also a professor of cell and neurobiology at the Keck School. "They will also support genetic studies of how bones in the head and neck are formed in the embryo and how they might be stimulated to regenerate in the adult, work that will one day aid in reconstruction after traumatic head injuries. Grikscheit's tissue engineered bowel has the potential to overcome the many limitations of current transplantation surgery for short bowel syndrome."

This second round of New Faculty Awards builds on the 22 grants given out in December 2007.

Funded researchers could work with any type of stem cell including adult or embryonic, animal or human.

"We expect these awards to play a

significant role in changing the career trajectory of funded researchers, encouraging talented young investigators to pursue careers in stem cell research," said Alan Trounson, president of CIRM. "I'm pleased that great research has the opportunity for funding. We now have a very high caliber of new faculty with a total of 45 awards from two independent RFA rounds."

CIRM received 55 applications from 32 institutions. Each institution could recommend up to five faculty members minus the number that received New Faculty I awards. This second round of New Faculty Awards differs slightly from the first round in the focus on recruiting promising new physician-researchers to the field of stem cell research, and in requiring funded scientists to name mentors who will guide them toward establishing successful, productive careers in stem cell research.

CIRM 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 faculty members at the two main campuses and Childrens Hospital Los Angeles have secured \$60 million in funding.

For information on USC's stem cell programs, visit <http://stemcell.usc.edu>.



Jon Naick

RESTRICTIONS ON RESTRAINTS—In an Aug. 8 talk to medical students, Elyn Saks drew from her experience as a schizophrenia patient to make recommendations for policy changes in treatment for mental illness, including regulations on the use of mechanical restraints. Saks is associate dean and the Orrin B. Evans Professor of Law, Psychology, and Psychiatry and the Behavioral Sciences in the USC Gould School of Law. The talk was part of the Keck School of Medicine's HEAL (Humanities, Ethics, Art and the Law) curriculum. The four-year curriculum, directed by Assistant Dean Pamela Schaff, concludes with students developing and presenting health policies.

Calendar of Events

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

Monday, Aug. 25

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

Wednesday, Aug. 27

7 A.M. Medicine Grand Rounds. "Hyponatremia and SIADH," Niloofar Nobakht, USC. GNH 1645. Info: (323) 226-7556

8:30 A.M. "Ultrasound in Pulmonary/Critical Care Medicine," Ching-Fei Chang, USC. GNH 11-321. Info: (323) 226-7923

Friday, Aug. 29

8:30 A.M. "Pulmonary Thromboembolism," Renli Qiao, USC. GNH 11-321. Info: (323) 226-7923

Wednesday, Sept. 10

NOON. "Developmental Refinement of Inhibitory Connections in the Auditory System," Karl Kandler, Univ. of Pittsburgh. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-3219

Thursday, Sept. 18

NOON. "Genetic and Metabolic Control of the Folate-dependent Methionine Cycle," Barry Shane, UC Berkeley. HMR 100. Info: (323) 442-1283

Friday, Sept. 19

NOON. Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences Seminar. "AMPK, Regulation of Liver Gene Expression, and Type 2 Diabetes," Jian Yang, Univ. of South Alabama. PSC 104. Info: (323) 442-2184

Thursday, Sept. 11

4 p.m. USC Arts & Humanities Initiative Visions and Voices. "Praxis & Poetry: Beyond the Walls of Medicine," William Rector, USC. HSC: KAM Hoyt Gallery. Info: (213) 740-6786

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 ebalauw@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.



Photos: Jon Nallick



EMERGENCY!—Fifty-eight HSC staff and faculty members completed a six-week Campus Emergency Response Team course that culminated on Aug. 12 with a realistic emergency drill that put their skills to the test. Volunteer team members learned to perform triage, light search-and-rescue operations (above and top), fire suppression (far left), and first aid (left) to help assist professional responders in the event of a real emergency. Additional photos of the event are online at www.usc.edu/hsc/info/pr/hscert. To enroll in future classes e-mail sgoldfarb@caps.usc.edu.

HSC NEWSMAKERS

Complete listing at: www.usc.edu/uscnews/usc_in_the_news/

The Aug. 17 *Los Angeles Times* ran an obituary of pediatrician **Joan Hodgman**. Hodgman's life was also discussed by the Associated Press, KCBS-TV and the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

An Aug. 13 WebMD article quoted cardiovascular medicine expert **Boris Z. Simkhovich** and cardiologist **Robert Kloner** about the effects of air pollution on heart health.

An Aug. 13 United Press International article highlighted a study led by obesity expert **Michael Goran**, which found that overweight Hispanic children are at increased risk for pre-diabetes.

On Aug. 13, a KNBC-TV story quoted stem cell expert **Martin Pera** about funding for stem cell research awarded by the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine.

An Aug. 12 *Scientific American* article quoted sarcoidosis expert **Om Sharma** in a Q&A about sarcoidosis, a disease with which comedian Bernie Mac was diagnosed in 1983.

On Aug. 7, KNBC-TV ran an interview with environmental expert **Jim Gauderman** during a story on air pollution at the Beijing 2008 and Los Angeles 1984 Olympics.

On Aug. 5, a CBS News story on "The Early Show" quoted fertility expert **Richard Paulson** about the supplement DHEA, which some say helps older women who want to conceive.

An Aug. 5 *Los Angeles Times* article quoted urology expert **David Penson** about a federal recommendation that men over 75 not undergo prostate cancer screenings because the potential harm outweighs the potential benefits.

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