



## GETTING READY TO MOVE

Paramedics and staff members at the LAC+USC Medical Center performed their second simulated move of patients (above and right) to the new LAC+USC Replacement Facility on Sept. 24. The drill involved the simultaneous transfer of eight mock patients and was designed to perfect the protocol for the upcoming transfer of as many as 500 actual patients to the new facility.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** At press time, the LAC+USC Medical Center Replacement Facility's inpatient move, planned for Oct. 17-18, had been postponed pending a late-October inspection. The community open house set for Oct. 4 will take place 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with facility tours and refreshments; the official ribbon-cutting ceremony has been cancelled due to the postponement of the hospital opening.



Jon Nalick

## Good Neighbors Campaign Keck School kicks off campaign with call for greater participation

By Carol Matthieu

On the eve of the 2008 USC Good Neighbors Campaign, leaders of the Keck School of Medicine called on staff and faculty to participate more fully in the program and to become more active in the University's outreach efforts to the community.

During a Sept. 29 meeting of campaign leaders from the School, John Cleary, chief of staff, spoke on behalf of Keck School Dean Carmen A. Puliafito, emphasizing that the programs funded by the Good Neighbors Campaign aid and nurture the same community that serves as the University's home.

"We are members of the community, we aren't apart from

it, and that's something the dean realizes and wants to emphasize across our campus," Cleary said. "Programs funded in pediatrics, ophthalmology, the campus health fair and all kinds of things supported by the Good Neighbors Campaign are particular to the health science campus, so our support here is important."

Cleary said that the Keck School has the lowest University-wide participation rate—10 percent—and said Puliafito has set a goal of 15 percent participation for this year's campaign.

"That's an incredibly achievable goal. We have a challenge in front of us, and we appreciate your support in helping us meet it," Cleary said.

Carolina Castillo, executive director of planning and development in the office of Civic and Community Relations, and Good Neighbors Campaign director, said the University encourages participation in the campaign and "wants people to become active in our community. This is one way people can do that to support our neighborhoods."

USC Neighborhood Outreach (UNO), the non-profit organization funded by the Good Neighbors Campaign, was born from the desire to focus the University's philanthropy efforts in the communities surrounding

Watch for more about the Good Neighbors Campaign in upcoming issues of HSC Weekly.

## Doctors of USC creates center to focus on orthopaedic surgery

By Cheryl Bruyninckx

The Doctors of USC has announced the creation of the USC Center for Orthopaedic Oncology.

Led by Lawrence Menendez, professor of orthopaedic surgery at the Keck School of Medicine and director of orthopaedic oncology at USC University Hospital, the center specializes in treating musculoskeletal tumors, both malignant and benign.

"The management of patients with musculoskeletal tumors is complex," Menendez said. "The only reason I am able to do as many cases as I do here is

because I have such a strong team."

The center brings together a broad range of subspecialists to offer patients comprehensive diagnostic and treatment services.

In addition to Menendez and his staff, the team also represents pathology, medical oncology and radiation oncology.

"What separates us from other orthopaedic oncology centers is our innovative treatment of musculoskeletal tumors," says Menendez. "We offer techniques that are not available elsewhere."

For example, the University of Southern California is the only facility in Los Angeles with a Cyberknife, allowing physicians to perform Cyberknife Stereotactic Radiosurgery for metastatic bone tumors and primary sarcomas.

Additionally, USC physicians are the only ones on the West Coast developing techniques for the use of surgical navigation in orthopaedic oncology.

The center also offers such innovative treatments as limb salvage procedures, as well as cryoablation of benign and

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## Keck School professor offers expertise to China in run-up to Olympic Games

By Katie Neith

A graduate of the Peking Union Medical School in Beijing, China, Renli Qiao, now associate professor of clinical medicine at the Keck School of Medicine, has been helping improve medicine in his homeland for years.

This past August, his service paid off with an invitation to provide medical support at the Beijing Olympics.

Qiao's journey to the Games began in April, when he organized a respiratory medicine and intensive care conference with Edward Crandall, Hastings Professor and Norris Chair of Medicine at Keck, in Beijing and Shanghai. Qiao has presented an annual series of Continuing Medical Education lectures sponsored by the Chinese Ministry of Health since 2002.

During his recent visit, the ministry asked Qiao to be involved with medical planning for the Olympics.

"They were not confident in handling all the foreigners," said Qiao. "The levels of medical knowledge in China are not standardized like they are in the U.S. They needed help in knowing how to approach foreign patients."

Upon returning to the States, Qiao helped write and edit an 80-page English and Chinese manual of common medical situations to assist Chinese physicians in treating foreigners during the Games.

Then, he formulated a step-by-step admission plan, with a focus on informed consent.

"They do not go through the process of informed consent in China," Qiao explained. "I helped to make sure the patient admissions during the Olympics would be compatible to the American system."

Finally, just a few months before the opening day, Qiao was invited to be an official part of the Olympics medical team.

While he was resistant to take more time off for travel, Olympic fever got the best of him.

"The whole nation of China was like a boiling heat—I couldn't ignore the excitement," said Qiao. "Dr. Crandall worked very hard so that I could take another two weeks to be there."

Once he arrived in Beijing, he was

stationed in the medical station at the Olympic Headquarters. Initially, the most treated affliction was only heat stroke. However, Qiao was involved with treating a young foreign reporter

in a case that made national media both in China and in his native country. The man presented with respiratory failure, but also had liver failure—a complication that the local medical team could not clearly diagnose. Qiao was called in to treat him and was able to quickly stabilize the patient, who likely came to the Games sick.

"The Chinese were very appreciative," said Qiao, who later received coveted tickets to several real Olympic events as a gift.

The Olympics are over, but Qiao's effort continues. He is hoping to organize a return trip to China for next April and would love to have other doctors join him.

"China has become rich, and they have the money to buy the best equipment. But how it is used, how the hospitals are run—that's where they really need help," he said.



Renli Qiao

## USC researcher awarded \$210,000 for genome-wide prostate cancer scan

By Meghan Lewit

Christopher Haiman, assistant professor of preventive medicine at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, was named one of six national researchers to receive a grant from the Genes, Environment and Health Initiative of the National Institutes of Health.

Haiman was awarded \$210,000 for a multi-ethnic genome-wide scan of prostate cancer.

The national grants were awarded for studies aimed at finding genetic factors that influence the risks for stroke, glaucoma, high blood pressure, prostate cancer and other common disorders.

The researchers will use a genome-wide association study to rapidly scan markers across the complete sets of DNA, or genomes, of large groups of people to find genetic variants associated with a particular disease, condition or trait.

"Prostate cancer is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality among men," Haiman said. "We know that common genetic variation contributes to racial and ethnic differences in prostate cancer risk. The grant funding will go toward research to identify a more complete spectrum of genetic factors that contribute to prostate cancer in the population."

The work will be carried out by performing a genome-wide association study among multiple populations, he said.

"This initiative will yield valuable information about the biological pathways that lead to health and disease and about how genetic variants, environmental factors and behavioral choices interact to influence disease risk," said National Human Genome Research Institute acting director Alan E. Guttmacher. "Such information is vital to our efforts to develop more personalized approaches to health care."

Funding for the latest round of studies was contributed by the National Institutes of Health's 27 institutes and centers.



**EMERGENCY MEDICINE SYMPOSIUM**—The Keck School of Medicine hosted doctors and medical students from around California on Sept. 6 for the first Emergency Medicine Symposium and Residency Fair. The event, which included lectures, career and residency fairs, and procedural workshops, was designed to bring together medical professionals and medical students to disseminate information about the specialty of emergency medicine. Above, Stephen Docherty (far left), assistant professor of clinical emergency medicine, demonstrates airway management to symposium participants.

## ONCOLOGY: Doctors of USC launches new center

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malignant tumors.

Other services provided by Menendez and his team include comprehensive management of metastatic bone tumors, complex joint reconstruction and anterior approach muscle sparing total hip replacement.

Menendez has been practicing at USC since 1985 and also brings his own personal approach to patient care. "I think it's important to spend a lot of time with the patient," says Menendez. "I always dictate my notes and a letter to send to their referring physician every time they are in the office, so there are no ambiguities or misunderstandings."

For more information or to make an appointment, visit [www.doctorsofusc.com](http://www.doctorsofusc.com) or call 323-442-5830.

# USC study cites danger of pre-diabetes in overweight Hispanic kids

By Sara Reeve

A study by researchers at the Keck School of Medicine found that overweight Hispanic children are at significant risk for pre-diabetes, a condition marked by higher than normal blood glucose levels that are not yet high enough for a diagnosis of diabetes.

The persistence of pre-diabetes during growth is associated with progression in risk toward future diabetes, according to the study, which will be published in an upcoming issue of the journal *Diabetes*, and is now available online.

With a population of more than 35 million, Hispanics are the largest and

fastest growing minority group in the United States.

Despite the fact that Hispanics are at high risk for developing type 2 diabetes, few previous studies have looked at physiological causes of the disease within this population.

Researchers led by Michael I. Goran, professor of preventive medicine and physiology & biophysics at the Keck School, followed a cohort of 128 overweight Hispanic children in East Los Angeles. The children were tested over four consecutive years for glucose tolerance, body mass index, total body fat and lean mass, and other risk factors for type 2 diabetes.

The study found that an alarming 13 percent of the children had what the investigators termed "persistent pre-diabetes."

Most prior studies examining pre-diabetes in overweight and obese children looked at a one-time assessment of metabolic risk factors for type 2 diabetes, but fluctuations over time led to poor reliability for these tests.

In the new study, Goran and colleagues examined longitudinal data to look at a progression of risk factors over four years. Children were identified as having persistent pre-diabetes if they had three to four positive tests over four annual visits.

The children who had persistent pre-diabetes had signs of compromised beta-cell function, meaning that their bodies were unable to fully compensate to maintain blood glucose at an appropriate level, and they had increasing accumulation of visceral fat or deposition of fat around the organs.

Both of these outcomes point toward progression in risk toward type 2 diabetes.

Visceral fat, which pads the spaces between abdominal organs, has been linked to metabolic disturbances and increased risk for cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes.

"What this study shows is that doctors should be doing regular monitoring of these children over time, because a one-time checkup might not be enough

to tell if they are at risk for developing diabetes," Goran said.

Increased obesity has been identified as a major determinant of insulin resistance. Lower beta-cell function is a key component in the development of type 2 diabetes, as the cells are unable to produce enough insulin to adequately compensate for the insulin resistance.

"To better treat at-risk children we need better ways to monitor beta-cell function and visceral fat buildup," said Goran. "Those are tough to measure but are probably the main factors determining who will get type 2 diabetes."

Future studies will examine different interventions, including improving beta-cell function and reducing visceral fat.

"The study provides great insight into the risk factors that lead to the progression toward type 2 diabetes in this population," said Francine Kaufman, professor of pediatrics at the Keck School of Medicine at USC and head of the division of endocrinology and metabolism at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles, who was not directly involved in the study. "Only by understanding how this devastating disease develops will we be able to begin taking steps to prevent it."

This study was supported by the National Institutes of Health and the General Clinical Research Center, National Center for Research Resources.



Good Neighbors Campaign Director Carolina Castillo discusses the goals of the Good Neighbors Campaign and how its programs benefit the community.

## GNC: Month-long campaign now in full swing

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the Health Sciences and University Park campuses.

Last year's campaign marked the first year since its inception 14 years ago that the University-wide \$1 million goal was reached. With 37 percent faculty and staff participation in last year's campaign, Castillo added, "there's a lot of room for growth."

For the 2008-2009 fiscal year the campaign funded 38 programs surrounding the University's two campuses. This year's campaign goal is \$1.1 million University-wide.

At the meeting, Joseph Cocozza, research assistant professor of ophthalmology, spoke about his first-hand experience as an UNO grant recipient.

As co-director of the Education and Outreach Program at the NSF Engineering Research Center, Cocozza oversees the Science for Life program whose "overall objective is to increase the number of students going into science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) because it's a gateway into a good, productive life."

UNO currently funds a Science for Life program for grades three through five at Murchison Elementary School. Longitudinal studies of this program for the past five years show that with "Every grade that we looked at, we can see a significant increase in student achievement in science, and these aren't easy tests," said Cocozza.

Priscilla Aldrete, office assistant in the Department of Anesthesiology, said that as a parent of two elementary school-aged children, she understands the promise these programs offer. "I've never had experience with this, but now I'm interested to ask the schools my daughters' are in, do they have these [types of] programs, especially science. I hope they do."

The 2008 USC Good Neighbors Campaign began on Oct. 1 and runs through Oct. 31. USC faculty and staff will receive campaign informational and pledge packets via campus mail this week.

To view a list of HSC-area schools and programs that the campaign funds, visit <http://tinyurl.com/4ejo5n>.

## ETCETERA

Audrey Little has been recruited to The Doctors of USC as vice president of revenue cycle operations.

This is a new position responsible for the information systems and billing departments for The Doctors of USC.



Audrey Little

Little began her career in information systems and has been working in health care for 23 years. Little brings a wealth of experience to USC, including project management, information systems hardware, and physician billing services. Prior to her employment at USC, she ran Cedars-Sinai's physician billing services. Little also worked as a senior consultant for Partners in Healthcare Management, specializing in information system and revenue cycle turn-around situations. She also worked as a director for General Electric (formerly IDX).

In her current position, one of Little's first tasks is to lead the reinstallation of the GE (formerly IDX) Centricity Business System, which is a

practice management system for all clinical departments of The Doctors of USC. The reinstallation also will include standardizing processes throughout the revenue cycle across all departments.

"In this position I am able to use all of my favorite skills," said Little. "I am looking forward to rebuilding The Doctors of USC GE Centricity Business System and working with such a wonderful group of people."

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The School of Pharmacy's new histology lab is open and available on a fee basis to University researchers.

The lab is poised to do paraffin embedding of tissue samples. Frozen and embedded samples can be sectioned and mounted on microscope slides. A new Cryo-Jane system is used for slide mounting small frozen samples, and mounted specimens can be hematoxylin-eosin stained. A microscope and camera are available for photography of stained samples. Rates are available on request.

Contact **James Adams** at [jadams@usc.edu](mailto:jadams@usc.edu) for more information.



# Calendar of Events

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

## Tuesday, Oct. 7

NOON. Cancer Ctr. Grand Rounds: USC Stevens Inst. for Innovation Presentation. Various speakers. NOR 7409. Info: (323) 865-3147

## Wednesday, Oct. 8

NOON. USC Ctr. for Excellence in Research. "A Conversation About Addiction," Carol Prescott, USC. UPC: CUB 329. Info: (213) 740-6709

## Friday, Oct. 10

11 A.M. Hematology Grand Rounds. "Approach to Opportunistic Infections in the Immunocompromised Host," James Ito, City of Hope. GNH 14-441. Info: (323) 865-3950

NOON. Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences Seminar. "Challenges in Pancreatic Cancer Research and Treatment," Stephen Pandol, UCLA. PSA 104. Info: (323) 442-1449

7 P.M. Visions and Voices: The USC Arts and Humanities Initiative. "Scoring the Past: Exploring the Origins of Musical Imagery." UPC: Alfred Newman Recital Hall. Info: [visionsandvoices@usc.edu](mailto:visionsandvoices@usc.edu)

7 P.M. Visions and Voices: The USC Arts and Humanities Initiative. Roberta Flack in concert. UPC: Bovard Aud. Info: [visionsandvoices@usc.edu](mailto:visionsandvoices@usc.edu)

## Saturday, Oct. 11

1:45 P.M. Visions and Voices: The USC Arts and Humanities Initiative. "The Sound and the Fury: April Seventh, 1928." Redcat at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. Info: [visionsandvoices@usc.edu](mailto:visionsandvoices@usc.edu)

## Wednesday, Oct. 15

NOON. Renal Grand Rounds Conference. "RAS Imaging," Suzanne L. Palmer, USC. GNH 6441. Info: (323) 226-7307

**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](mailto: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.

NOON. "Platelet Considerations in Nephrology," Ajay Singh, Harvard. GNH 6441. Info: (323) 226-7307

## Thursday, Oct. 16

NOON. "Role of Mitochondria in Idiosyncratic Drug-induced Liver Injury (DILI)," Urs Boelsterli, Univ. of Connecticut. HMR 100. Info: (323) 442-1283

## Friday, Oct. 17

11 A.M. Hematology Grand Rounds. "Update on Hemophilia," Guy Young, CHLA. GNH 14-441. Info: (323) 865-3950

## Monday, Oct. 20

3 P.M. – 5 P.M. Hoyt Art Gallery Opening Reception. KAM Basement Lobby. Info: (323) 442-2553

## Friday, Oct. 24

11 A.M. Hematology Grand Rounds. "ITP in Pregnancy," Ilene Weitz, USC. GNH 14-441. Info: (323) 865-3950

## Monday, Oct. 27

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

## Monday, Oct. 29

NOON. "Renal Biopsy," Michael Koss, USC. GNH 6441. Info: (323) 226-7307

## Friday, Oct. 31

11 A.M. Hematology Grand Rounds. "Thalassemia Syndromes," Susan Claster, CHLA. GNH 14-441. Info: (323) 865-3950



**STUDENT LEADERSHIP MEETING**—The Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS) at the Health Sciences Campus recently hosted its annual Student Leaders Meet and Greet at the Edmonson Faculty Center to introduce its new HSC Governing Council members and familiarize student leaders with the organization and its services. The meeting, on Aug. 28, was also designed to encourage advocacy, joint programming and interaction among the different schools and organizations on campus. Above, from left are GPSS HSC Governing Council members: Irina Ianculescu, operations chair; Meleeneh Kazarian, programming chair; Sahar Bedrood, HSC chair; Rosanne Yetemian, publicity chair; and Sonya Soni, community service chair.

## USC UH Guild to celebrate 15 years of service on Oct. 14

The USC University Hospital Guild will celebrate 15 years of service to the hospital and the USC Keck School of Medicine at its anniversary luncheon on Tuesday, Oct. 14. The luncheon at the Wilshire Country Club in Los Angeles will honor special guest Harlyne J. Norris.

A USC trustee since 2000, Norris is a trustee and past chairman of the Kenneth T. and Eileen L. Norris Foundation, which was established by her husband's parents, Kenneth Sr. and Eileen Norris.

Through the Norris Foundation, the Norris family has given nearly \$50 million to USC.

Special guests at the luncheon will include USC President Steven A. Sample, Keck School of Medicine Dean Carmen A. Puliafito, and former National Medical Enterprises Chief Executive Officer Richard Eamer, and his wife, Eileen.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$80 each. For more information, or to R.S.V.P., please call Carol Corral (323) 254-0600.

## HSC NEWSMAKERS

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

A Sept. 29 *Los Angeles Times* article noted that the public will be invited to take tours during the community grand opening of the new Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center.

A Sept. 26 *Worcester Telegram & Gazette* article quoted cardiothoracic surgeon **Michael McFadden** about a young woman who is waiting to receive a lung transplant.

A Sept. 24 Associated Press article quoted oncologist **Stuart E. Siegel** of CHLA about a ballot measure that would raise money for children's hospitals.

A Sept. 23 *La Opinion* article highlighted a dental fair organized by the USC School of Dentistry for low-income families.

On Sept. 22, KPCC-FM covered a media tour of the LAC+USC Replacement Facility and featured highlights of the new medical center.

A Sept. 22 *Los Angeles Times* article noted that the LAC+USC Replacement Facility will have the newest trauma center in Los Angeles when it opens this fall.

A Sept. 22 *San Francisco Chronicle* article quoted plastic surgeon **Andre Panossian** in a story about a girl treated at CHLA for Bell's palsy.

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