

## Keck School dean honors new LAC+USC facility at reception



Keck School of Medicine Dean Carmen A. Puliafito addresses a crowd of alumni, staff and faculty at the Oct. 5 reception.

By Bryan Schneider

Keck School of Medicine Dean Carmen A. Puliafito, ushered in a new era for the medical school's historic affiliation with Los Angeles County on Sunday, Oct. 5, with a reception introducing the LAC+USC Medical Center Replacement Facility.

Nearly 500 attended the event including Keck School alumni, faculty, staff, and students joining administrators and staff of LAC+USC.

Dean Puliafito welcomed guests and remarked upon the opening of the new facility, which is expected to open in November.

"This is a great event for the community of Los Angeles, for the citizens of Los Angeles County, for the patients served by our physicians," said Puliafito.

He discussed the special place of LAC+USC in the region, over its many years of providing high-quality care to all Angelenos, whatever their means. Calling the new public hospital "breathtaking," Puliafito said it looked like a hospital serving an upper middle-class community. "No community in the United States has made this level of commitment to its people," he said.

Puliafito reflected upon the long-standing association of the medical school and the medical center dating back to 1885. He reminded the assembled audience that the Keck School of Medicine currently has almost 1,000 residents and fellows working in the hospital alongside 500 faculty physicians.

"Everywhere I go, when I tell people that I have something to do with the USC medical school, the discussion always comes back to the very special place that County has played in the history of USC medicine," he said. "So many of the physicians that live and work in California were trained here and [many of the physicians] throughout the United States."

Following Dean Puliafito's remarks, guests were invited to take a tour of the new facility. "Amazing," "efficient," "well-organized," and "state-of-the-art" were a few of the words most often overheard in the hallways of the new facility, as guests browsed through the units and waiting rooms.

"This is beautiful," said alumnus Jerry Andes, class of 1960. "I have a private practice in Fullerton, but I'd

See RECEPTION, page 2

## County hosts open house for new hospital

By Veronica Jauriqui

Mark Garcia grew up in the shadow of Los Angeles County+USC Medical Center. Born and raised in Boyle Heights, Garcia has been a patient here, visited family here, and on an overcast Saturday morning came to see for himself the bright and shiny complex that would be his new community hospital.

"It's beautiful. All of the new stuff here, the new equipment and everything, is very fascinating. I'm going to feel very comfortable coming here in the future," he says.

Several hundred of Garcia's neighbors—community members from across East Los Angeles and beyond—got a

sneak peek at the LAC+USC replacement facility when it laid out the welcome mat for a community open house on Saturday, Oct. 4.

The event included self-guided tours of the nearly 1.5-million-square-foot facility, located just east of the original LAC+USC structure, where the Keck School of Medicine has a tradition of providing medical service to the community. Attendees enjoyed refreshments and mingled with community leaders and volunteers.

It was one in a series of special previews prior to the opening planned for November.

See OPEN HOUSE, page 2



Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina and county CEO William Fujioka joined hundreds of other visitors to view the new facility Oct. 4.

## Keck School names Michael Selsted chair of Dept. of Pathology

After a nationwide search, Dean Carmen A. Puliafito has appointed Michael E. Selsted as chair of the Department of Pathology at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, effective Feb. 1, 2009. Selsted comes to USC from the University of California, Irvine, where he is professor and chair of the department and holds the Warren L. Bostick Endowed Chair in Pathology.

"Dr. Selsted is ideally suited to lead the Department of Pathology," said Puliafito. "He is actively involved in teaching, research, patient care and administration, and he has an appreciation for the important role of each area of our academic mission."

Selsted has been a professor of pathology at UCI since 1989. He has held the Warren Bostick Endowed Chair



Michael E. Selsted

since 2000. Prior to his service at UCI, he was professor in the division of hematology-oncology at the University of California, Los Angeles School of Medicine.

Selsted has identified several priorities for the Department of Pathology, including: strengthening the department's diagnostic infrastructure to meet the growing needs of the academic medical center and increased patient volumes; recruiting new clinical and research faculty to bring new

clinical services online and build on the portfolio of research programs within the department; creating new opportunities for collaboration with other departments; and developing new resources to support the residency and fellowship training programs.

See SELSTED, page 2

## SELSTED: Joins a department 'composed of truly outstanding faculty'

Continued from page 1

"I have been greatly impressed by the academic ascent of USC over the last decade and this is reflected by great achievement on the University Park Campus and at the Keck School of Medicine," said Selsted. "The students and faculty are outstanding, and this is precisely the environment where any serious academic would want to do their work."

Selsted's research has focused on defensins, antimicrobial peptides produced by the body that provide a first line of defense against potentially invasive pathogens. He has published more than 130 scholarly articles and has been lauded with numerous academic honors,

including a National Institutes of Health MERIT (Method to Extend Research in Time) award, which recognizes researchers who have demonstrated superior competence and outstanding productivity in research endeavors. The award provides long-term support to investigators with impressive records of scientific achievement in research areas of special importance or promise. Fewer than 5 percent of NIH-funded investigators are selected to receive MERIT Awards.

He has also been honored by election to the American Society of Clinical Investigation and the Association of American Physicians. In 2008 he was the first recipient of the UCI Chair

Award for Excellence in Medical Student Education.

Selsted's research discoveries have resulted in more than 20 U.S. patents, and he has co-founded three biomedical startup companies. In recognition of his accomplishments in university-industry partnering, he was an inaugural recipient of the UCI Innovation Award. Selsted also built a highly successful outreach laboratory business at UCI, a partnership between the Department of Pathology and the UCI Medical Center.

"Dr. Selsted's commitment to entrepreneurship and excellence will be a catalyst for the advancement of our Department of Pathology, particularly during this time of transformation into

a new academic medical center environment," said Puliafito.

During Selsted's nine-year tenure as chair of the Department of Pathology at UC Irvine, total and NIH research funding increased more than four fold, with 2007 NIH funding at \$6.6 million. Beyond the department of pathology, Selsted served as associate vice chancellor for research at UCI from 1993 to 1995.

"I'll be joining a department composed of truly outstanding faculty," said Selsted. "I can think of nothing more enjoyable than contributing to the next phase of its mission."

Selsted succeeds Clive Taylor, who has served as chair of the Department of Pathology for the last 25 years.

## OPEN HOUSE: Local residents flock to see hospital

Continued from page 1

Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina, who represents the district, called the new facility "one of the most significant buildings that [Los Angeles County] has built."

"As the County, we are the safety net. And this facility serves a community that desperately needs health care but unfortunately doesn't have [sufficient] access to it. Thousands upon thousands of children have been born here. It has met access needs for this community for a long time," she said.

"The community will continue to welcome LAC+USC. It is a great neighbor," she added.

As a lifeline of L.A. County's health care system, the complex is an important site at which Keck School of Medicine provides clinical care to the

county's underserved and indigenous populations. More than 500 Keck faculty physicians practice at LAC+USC, in addition to 900 of its residents.

The original art deco complex has been a community fixture in this area since 1933 and has nearly 39,000 inpatient discharges, 150,000 emergency room visits and 1 million ambulatory care visits annually.

Barbara Causey knew the historical significance of this event. Causey came to the U.S. from Jamaica in 1965 and when her children got sick, it was LAC+USC she trusted to care for them.

"This building is like a landmark to us and a very special place," she said. "I always knew I'd get really good care here. I had always been impressed with the doctors."

## RECEPTION: Alumni and staff hail 'amazing' facility

Continued from page 1

rather practice here. This is superior in design and efficient. I'm proud of USC and what they've done and what I see here."

"I'm overwhelmed," said alumnus Donald Seidman, class of 1959. "If I get ever get sick, I'd love to come here."

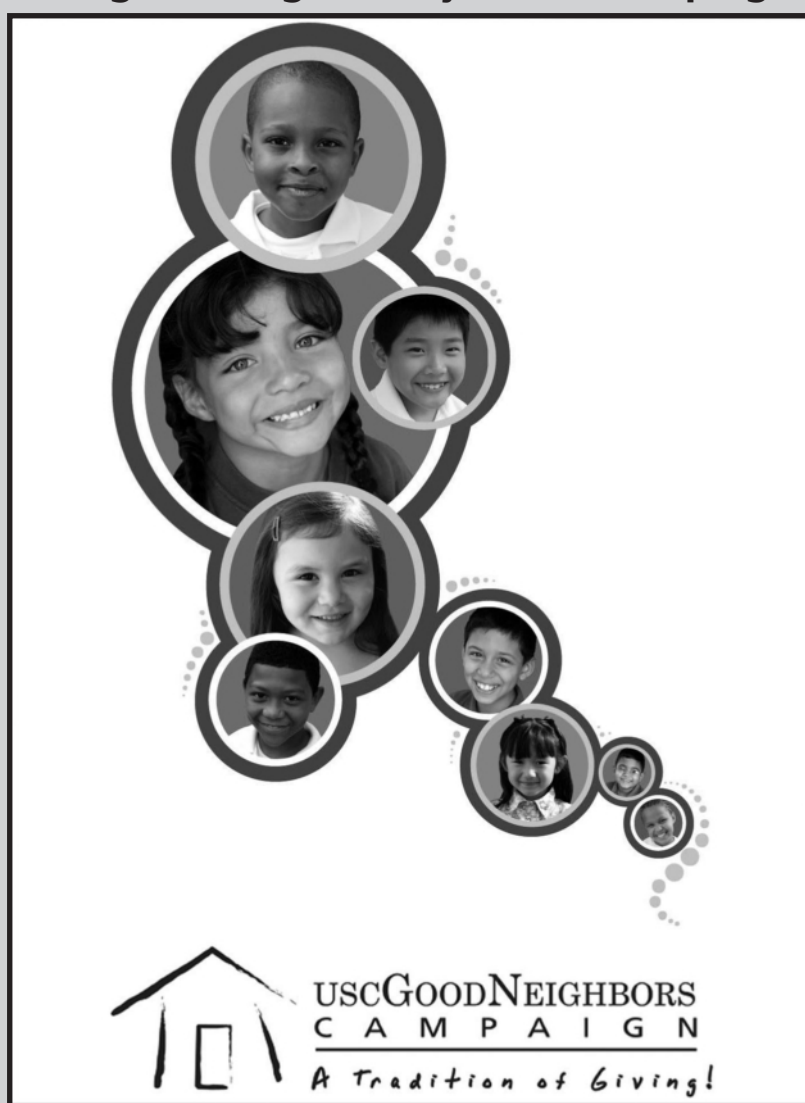
"This is state of the art," said second-year resident Catherine Lin, "I feel very privileged to provide care at LAC+USC and look forward to working here."

Second-year Keck medical student Elliott Birnstein exclaimed: "This is amazing. I can tell a lot of time and effort went into this. The hands-on experience was a big reason I came [to the Keck School] to study, and I'm really looking forward to working here."

"This [facility] is better organized and designed for efficiency. Medical students will be at great advantage training here," said alumna and Keck faculty member Karen Tsoulas.

The event followed an open house a day earlier for the new LAC+USC hosted by Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina, and attended by local community members, community leaders, Los Angeles County employees and others.

## Be a good neighbor—join the campaign!



The 2008 Good Neighbors Campaign is underway and will continue through the end of October. Please consider donating to the program, which aids the communities surrounding the Health Sciences and University Park campuses. For more information, visit [www.usc.edu/gnc](http://www.usc.edu/gnc) or call (213) 821-2549.



## Alzheimer Disease Research Center honors founder Caleb Finch

By Ina Fried

USC University Professor Caleb "Tuck" Finch has been described as "this century's Charles Darwin." With his white beard, Finch resembles the best-known pictures of Darwin.

But the similarity goes farther. Like Darwin's theories of evolution, Finch's discoveries have changed the way that scientists look at animal and human aging. Finch, who holds the ARCO/William F. Kieschnick Chair in the Neurobiology of Aging, is ranked in the top half-percent of the world's most cited scientists.

Founding principal investigator of the USC Alzheimer Disease Research Center (ADRC) and its director for 20 years, Finch was honored at a Sept. 26 symposium celebrating the center's 25th anniversary.

Finch's work "leaps from basic science to bedside," said Helena Chui, chairman of the Department of Neurology at the Keck School of Medicine of USC and director of the ADRC for the last five years. The wide range of speakers and topics that Chui assembled for the symposium illustrated the breadth of Finch's influence—from basic mechanisms of development, longevity, aging and neurodegeneration, to genetics, epidemiology, biodemography, prevention, treatment and even the role of chance in the development of Alzheimer Disease.

The original proposal to the National Institute on Aging (NIA) for the ADRC in 1983 was pulled together in a matter of weeks as a joint project with the University of California at Irvine (UCI), after UCLA decided to go in alone. The proposal turned out to be "highly competitive," recalled Finch, who holds appointments in USC College's biological sciences, anthropology and psychology departments, as

well as in the USC Davis School of Gerontology.

The USC-UCI center was one of the first five in the country funded by the NIA, along with Johns Hopkins, Harvard, UC San Diego and Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York.

"The early goals of the center anticipated the national agenda for years, not because we haven't been growing, but because the vision and leadership that Tuck put forward was just on target," said Carl Cotman, professor of neurology, neurobiology and behavior at UC Irvine. Cotman was co-director of the joint center until encouraged by the NIA to establish a separate Alzheimer center on his campus.

Cotman described the USC-UCI consortium as "really pace-setting and a compliment to Tuck that he was the first Ph.D. director of an ADRC. There were very few basic scientists at that time who also branched into clinical areas."

Over time, the USC ADRC has played a "major role in developing Alzheimer Disease as a biomedical discipline," Finch said.

Now one of 32 in the nation, the ADRC is part of USC's Memory and Aging Center, which has clinics at the Health Sciences Campus, Rancho los Amigos at Downey, and the Eisenhower Medical Center in Coachella Valley.

Chui said the ADRC focuses on "understanding the interface between Alzheimer Disease and cerebral vascular disease," the two major causes of cognitive



Caleb Finch and Helena Chui discuss research during a break at the Sept. 26 symposium.

impairment and progressive dementia in late life.

Today Finch is pleased to see that "now we have a community of researchers on both USC campuses who are leaders on the neurobiology of aging. We have had a training grant on neurobiology and neuroendocrinology of aging for 25 years."

His teaching and mentoring of doctoral students, undergraduates and postdoctoral fellows has been "part of Tuck's excellence," said Gerald Davison, dean of the USC Davis School of Gerontology. Four of the speakers were former post-doctoral fellows in the Finch lab, who now lead national efforts to translate basic science discoveries to new treatment strategies for Alzheimer Disease.

"One thing I've always been struck by in Tuck is that he is sort of an adult faculty version of the Renaissance Scholar Program that USC has had for a couple of years at the undergraduate level," Davison said. "Tuck's intellectual scope is amazing. He's really a paradigm for what we try to do at the Davis School of Gerontology, to try to bring a multidisciplinary approach to the study of developmental processes into old age."

For more information about the Alzheimer Disease Research Center or clinical trials for memory disorders, see [www.usc.edu/adrc](http://www.usc.edu/adrc) or [www.usc.edu/memory](http://www.usc.edu/memory) or call 323-442-7600.

## Safe, Sound, and Secure and Investing Every Day in Trojan Dreams



James White  
Class of 2008  
Member-Owner Since 2006

Keith A. Vaughn  
Assistant Dean, MBA Admissions  
Member-Owner Since 1992

Rosa Pineda  
Cashier, Cafe 84  
Member-Owner Since 1996



Federally Insured by NCUA

In times like these, you want a financial institution you can trust. At USC Credit Union, we don't invest in subprime loans, mortgage backed securities, or the stock market. We invest in our members.

We recognize that the best investment we can make with the savings dollars you entrust to us is in responsible loans to fellow members of the Trojan Family. This unwavering focus on quality is why USC Credit Union continues to:

- Offer the value added products and personal service you've come to expect from the only financial institution owned by – and operated for – the faculty, staff, students and alumni of the University of Southern California
- Insure member deposits up to \$250,000 through National Credit Union Administration with excess coverage through American Share Insurance
- Service our members with a full line of home, consumer and business loan options
- Offer objective financial advice that helps YOU, not our bottom line

Put your trust in USC Credit Union. Call 213.821.7100 today or visit [www.USCcreditunion.org](http://www.USCcreditunion.org) and find out why we're the trusted choice for thousands of members of the Trojan Family.

**USC CREDIT UNION**  
Investing in Trojan Dreams

# Calendar of Events

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

## Monday, Oct. 13

**7:30 P.M.** Visions and Voices: The USC Arts and Humanities Initiative. "What Happens When Art Collides with Its Society," James Conlon. UPC Bing Theatre. Info: [visionsandvoices@usc.edu](mailto:visionsandvoices@usc.edu)

## Tuesday, Oct. 14

**11:30 A.M.** Psychiatry Grand Rounds. "Depression and Cardiovascular Disease," Various speakers. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 226-5572

**5:30 P.M.** Visions and Voices: The USC Arts and Humanities Initiative. "The Eye of the Needle," David Wilson. UPC: USC Fisher Museum of Art. Info: [visionsandvoices@usc.edu](mailto:visionsandvoices@usc.edu)

## Wednesday, Oct. 15

**7 A.M.** Medicine Grand Rounds. "Breast Cancer," Jasbir Tiwana, USC. GNH 1645. Info: (323) 226-7556

**NOON.** Asians for Miracle Marrow Matches Bone Marrow Drive. HSC Quad. Info: (626) 731-8265

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

**NOON.** "Platelet Considerations in Nephrology," Ajay Singh,

Harvard. GNH 6441. Info: (323) 226-7307

**NOON.** USC Ctr. for Excellence in Research. "Feminism in the 21st Century American Academy," Lisa Bitel, USC. UPC: CUB 329. Info: (213) 740-6709

**4 P.M.** USC Ctr. for Excellence in Research. "Grants Opportunities in the Humanities," Peter Mancall, USC. UPC: CUB 329. Info: (213) 740-6709

**4 P.M.** USC Ctr. for Excellence in Research. "Obtaining Research Funding from Corporate Sponsors," Dennis Atkinson, USC. NML West Conference Rm. Info: (213) 740-6709

## 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

## Tuesday, Oct. 21

**11:30 A.M.** Psychiatry Grand Rounds. "Hoarding and OCD: Commonalities and Differences," Gail Steketee, Brown Univ. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 226-5572

## Wednesday, Oct. 22

**7 A.M.** Medicine Grand Rounds. "Biliary Ascariasis," Azaz Bulbul, USC. GNH 1645. Info: (323) 226-7556

## Friday, Oct. 24

**8 A.M.** Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Grand Rounds. "Current Controversies in HER2 Testing," Allen Gown, PhenoPath Laboratories. NOR 7409. Info: (323) 442-1180

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

**NOON.** Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences Seminar. "Novel Targets for the Pharmacotherapy of Impulsivity and Obsessive-compulsive Disorder," Marco Bortolato, UCLA. PSC 104. Info: (323) 442-1451

## Monday, Oct. 27

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



**DINO-MIGHT**—Gail Murdoch, (second from left) director of the Center for Psychosocial Excellence at the Keck School of Medicine, with her daughter Annie (far left), accepts a check from Walking with Dinosaurs—the Live Experience and Arena Networks to support the center's programs. A dollar for each ticket sold to the show at Staples Center from Sept. 25-28 went to support the center. Also pictured are (from left): Walking with Dinosaurs company manager Scott Ellis; Norman Kachuck, a physician in the Neurology Department at the Keck School of Medicine; Brad Parsons, president of Arena Networks; and Danielle Edouarde, Staples Center, senior director of guest services.

## University community urged to be earthquake-ready

University officials are urging staff, faculty and students to participate in the Nov. 13 "Great Southern California ShakeOut," a disaster drill aimed at bolstering earthquake preparedness statewide. The drill is intended to be the largest earthquake preparedness activity in U.S. history.

To sign up to participate or for more information, visit [www.shakeout.org](http://www.shakeout.org) and register.

## HSC NEWSMAKERS

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

An Oct. 6 *Los Angeles Times* article quoted fertility expert **Richard Paulson** in two stories on embryo adoption and what fertility clinics do with leftover embryos.

An Oct. 6 *Los Angeles Times* article quoted clinical pediatrician **Astrid Heger** about medical treatment for rape victims. The article noted that Heger is founder of the Keck School's Violence Intervention Program.

An Oct. 6 *Los Angeles Times* article quoted trauma surgeon **Demetrios Demetriades** about the season premiere of "Grey's Anatomy," in which a pen was jabbed into a patient's throat to keep the upper airway unobstructed.

An Oct. 5 *Los Angeles Times* article quoted emergency medicine expert **Edward Newton** in a

story about the opening of the new LAC+USC Medical Center, which will be postponed.

An Oct. 4 *Newsweek* article quoted family medicine expert **Jo Reilly** in a column about the need for doctors to model healthy lifestyles for their patients.

An Oct. 3 *Los Angeles Times* story highlighted bilingual health fairs sponsored by the USC School of Pharmacy.

An Oct. 2 *San Diego Union-Tribune* article stated that Professor Emeritus **Shaul Massry** is addressing the Pro Athletes for Life banquet. The banquet will honor Massry for his efforts to increase awareness about kidney donation, including encouraging Pope John Paul II to become a registered organ donor.

USC Health Sciences  
Public Relations  
1975 Zonal Ave.  
KAM 400  
Los Angeles, CA 90033

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
University of Southern  
California