

A winning match for Keck School students

By Tania Chatila

With just one week to their wedding, fourth-year medical student Adam Brooks and his fiancée couldn't have asked for a better wedding gift – Brooks' placement in his first choice orthopedics residency program at St. Mary's Medical Center in San Francisco.

"Our families are from there and it's a great program," said Brooks, still clutching the residency match letter tightly in his hand. "I still can't believe it."

Brooks was one of thousands of fourth-year medical students across the country on March 18 to participate in Match Day: when graduating medical students find out where they will complete their residencies.

At the Keck School of Medicine, students received their official letters from the National Residency Matching Program just after 9 a.m. Minutes later, many of them were crying tears of joy and embracing friends and family as they shared the news.

"It's kind of surreal," said Justin Wagner, who placed in general surgery at UCLA Medical Center along with his girlfriend Adrienne Keener, who will be completing her



Clockwise from right: Keck School students Anthony Carden and Julianne Awrey celebrate their matches; student leaders Janak Chandrasoma (at the podium) and Jolene Sawyer address their fellow students moments before the matches are revealed; Rahul Modi accepts his letter.

residency in neurology.

Just moments before opening their envelopes, the couple performed a "good luck" dance they'd created the night before. Some dancing,

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Photos/Jon Nalick

USC hospitals launch free patient 'CarePages' on the Web

By Tania Chatila

The USC hospitals are offering a new service to help patients stay connected.

CarePages, a program offering free patient Web sites, is now available to all patients of the USC hospitals and is accessible via the USC University Hospital Web page.

The service allows patients to create a personalized, private Web page where they can upload photos, blog about their progress, connect with other patients and receive messages from friends and family.

The Web pages are ideal for long-term patients such as transplant or cancer patients who can spend weeks at a time in the hospital, said Yolee Casagrande, director of patient experience. It can also be helpful for patients in isolation who have very limited visitor access.

"Many of our patients have conditions that can sometimes require long-term treatment and repeat hospitalizations," said Ellen Whalen, nursing executive for the USC hospitals. "CarePages helps them to keep in touch with family members and friends and helps them stay connected with the outside world. It's one more way we can support our patients and families through difficult times."

The Web pages, being offered in conjunction with CarePages.com, are easy to access and provide different levels of privacy.

Since free Internet access is already offered at the USC hospitals, patients would only need to bring in a laptop computer from home.

Casagrande said she hopes to eventually have a limited number of laptops available

See **WEB**, page 2

DOD awards \$800,000 to eye trauma program

By Leslie Ridgeway

Restoring sight for combat troops who have suffered eye injuries in battle is one of the goals of a research program based at the Keck School of Medicine, which will be supported by \$800,000 in funding from the Department of Defense.

The Eye Trauma and Visual Restoration (EyeTVR) program funding request was submitted and supported by Congressman Adam B. Schiff (D-Pasadena), representing California's 29th Congressional District. The funding is part of the federal fiscal year 2010 budget under the congressional special interest program.

EyeTVR brings together innovation in biomedical engineering, genetic medicine and regenerative medicine technologies to pave the way for unparalleled advances that promise to save, and even restore, sight to troops with traumatic eye injuries. The broader goal of the program is to save and restore sight to veterans and veterans' family members who suffer eye injury, eye infection, and inherited or age-related eye disease. The new applications developed through EyeTVR are expected to eventually be available to the public.

EyeTVR will be coordinated by the Keck School and will involve researchers from Keck, USC Viterbi School of Engineering, Doheny Eye Institute; Huntington Medical Research Institute (HMRI), Pasadena; California Institute of Technology, Pasadena; and Pasadena City College.

"Iraq war veterans are experiencing more than double the traumatic eye and brain injuries of World War II combat troops," said Carmen A. Puliafito, Keck School dean and an

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'CarePages helps [patients] keep in touch with family members and friends and helps them stay connected with the outside world.'

—Ellen Whalen, nursing executive for the USC hospitals

‘This chair is our stepping stone to build a number one program in infectious disease and immunology.’

—Jae Jung, professor and chair of the Department of Molecular Biochemistry and Immunology at the Keck School of Medicine

Jae Jung installed as first Fletcher Jones Foundation Chair

By Katie Neith

Jae Jung, professor and chair of the Department of Molecular Biochemistry and Immunology at the Keck School of Medicine, was installed as the inaugural Fletcher Jones Foundation Chair of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology during a reception at the Harlyne J. Norris Research Tower on March 15.

“This is a great honor and a great pleasure for me,” said Jung. “This chair is our stepping stone to build a number one pro-



From left: Peter K. Barker, Jae Jung and Keck School Dean Carmen A. Puliafito celebrate Jung’s installation as the inaugural Fletcher Jones Foundation Chair.

gram in infectious disease and immunology.”

The Fletcher Jones Foundation, a grant-making organization that supports private, higher educational institutions, created the endowed chair with a gift of \$1 million last year. The foundation was created by the estate of Fletcher Jones, the co-founder of Computer Sciences Corporation, in 1969.

Peter K. Barker, a member of the Board of Overseers for the Keck School, is also the president of the Board of Trustees for

the Fletcher Jones Foundation and was instrumental in funding the chair.

“We are privileged and delighted to provide the funds for this chair,” said Barker, on behalf of the trustees.

The reception included a welcome from Carmen A. Puliafito, dean of the Keck School of Medicine, and an unveiling of the chair. Jung’s wife and son were in attendance, as well as Ronald Desrosiers, his mentor at Harvard University, where he did his post-doctoral work.

“We’ve come to know Jae over the past few years as an incredibly creative scientist and someone who has really shown himself to be an academic leader,” said Puliafito. “Jae came to USC with a record of tremendous success ... and we are super enthusiastic about his future here.”

Daniel Oakes tapped as director of USC Joint Replacement Program

Daniel A. Oakes, has been named director of the USC Joint Replacement Program and associate professor of clinical orthopaedics at the Keck School of Medicine, effective March 1.

A nationally recognized joint replacement specialist, Oakes will direct the development of the USC Joint Replacement Center at USC University Hospital with the goal of establishing USC as a regional center of excellence for hip and knee joint replacement surgery.

“Dr. Oakes is a stellar new addition to our Department of Orthopaedic Surgery,” said Keck School Dean Carmen A. Puliafito. “His goals of increasing mobility for arthritis patients and managing pain for joint replacement patients

dovetail with the needs of our aging population. By embracing technology and working collaboratively with clinical and research programs here at the Keck School, Dr. Oakes will help more and more of our patients maintain active lifestyles well into later life.”

Oakes comes to USC from UCLA, where he served as chief of the UCLA Joint Replacement Service and assistant professor of orthopaedic surgery since 2006. There, he developed a thriving joint replacement division and was a leader in resident education. Oakes was previously a member of the

Keck School faculty from 2004 to 2006.

“USC has a history of strong leadership in joint replacement surgery, and we have a tremendous opportunity to develop a world-class program,” said Oakes. “With the new leadership at the hospital, there’s a renewed commitment to excellence, and the pride in USC has become evident.

It’s an exciting place, and I’m happy to be back in the Trojan Family.”

At the Keck School, Oakes will continue research on hip surface replacement procedures as an alternative joint replacement option for younger, more active patients.



Daniel A. Oakes

WEB: New service offers patients a new way to reach out

Continued from page 1

for patients to use during their inpatient stays if they don’t already have one.

“When patients come to our hospitals for care, we want to be sure we are providing them with a really positive, experience,” Casagrande said. “This service is going to help further that goal by providing an outlet for patients to express themselves and draw inspiration.”

Administrators said the key to making the program successful is support and encouragement from USC hospitals staff.

Casagrande and a representative from the CarePages organization visited the inpatient floors at USC University Hospital this week and offered short tutorials to staff on how to use the program.

“Our staff members play a really major role here,” Casagrande said. “As caregivers, we need to let our patients know that this great tool is available for them and that it’s free. We also need to encourage them to use this service and assure them that if they have any questions, someone will be there to help them.”

His plans include collaborating with the Department of Anesthesiology to improve perioperative pain management protocols associated with joint replacement surgeries to help patients regain their mobility and restore their active lifestyles as quickly as possible.

Oakes will also focus on developing the role of emerging computer-assisted navigation technologies for hip and knee joint replacement procedures, continuing research on improving longevity of hip and knee implant technologies and the prevention and treatment of infected joint replacements. He will collaborate with USC’s existing research program on stem cells to determine if a clinical application for the treatment of hip osteonecrosis can be developed.

Oakes also plans to study long-term clinical outcomes of

emerging technologies in hip resurfacing, primary and revision total knee arthroplasty, and primary and revision total hip arthroplasty. Oakes has extensive experience with revision procedures using porous metal technology and will continue his research at USC.

Oakes has a strong background in resident and fellowship training, which he will continue as a member of the Keck faculty.

Oakes’ accomplishments include winning the Mark B. Coventry Adult Reconstruction Fellowship award from the Mayo Clinic. Oakes is the current president of the Los Angeles chapter of the Western Orthopaedic Association.

Oakes earned his bachelor’s degree in biology from Harvard University and his medical degree from Harvard Medical School.

MATCH: Most students to stay in California

Continued from page 1

clapping and a chest bump later, they were sharing smiles.

“This was our second choice, but we’re both extremely happy,” Keener said.

Of the 155 Keck students who participated in the match, 117 will complete all or part of their residencies in California while the rest will pursue training in 20 other states, said Donna Elliott, associate dean of student affairs.

“This is wonderful because residency programs all across the U.S. will see how magnificent our Keck students are,” she said.

Forty students will remain at LAC+USC Medical Center for their residencies. Internal medicine, family medicine, pediatrics and emergency medicine had the highest number of placements overall, Elliott said.

“This is the best match that the Keck School of Medicine has ever had,” said Dean Carmen A. Puliafito, as students

anxiously awaited the moment they were allowed to pick up and open their letters.

Across the nation, 16,070 medical school seniors participated in the match, the largest ever, according to the NRMP.

Of those, there were 808 couples—participants who agreed to have their residency rankings linked to ensure placement in the same geographical region.

For Julianne Marie Awrey, that meant a match in general surgery at the UC Davis Medical Center, where her fiancé will also be completing his residency.

“It was a pleasant relief,” said Awrey, who said she’d already had a good feeling about Davis. About her medical school experience at Keck, she said, “I’ve had a very happy four years here. I’ve made great friends. The faculty is fantastic. I have a lot of great memories that have led up to this.”

The Weekly

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'Great thinkers' forum examines climate change challenges, solutions

By Ina Fried

Imagine a 9- or 10-degree increase in temperatures in Los Angeles by the end of the century... a 55-inch rise in sea level that puts both the San Francisco and the Oakland airports under water ... 90 percent less snowpack in the High Sierra, which is the source of a third of California's water supply.

"If you don't start today, you won't be prepared," said Dan Mazmanian, director of the Judith and John Bedrosian Center on Governance and the Public Enterprise at the USC School of Policy, Planning and Development. Climate change mitigation strategies put in place today will not be fully effective until the second half of the century.

Mazmanian, who also is leader of the Task Force on California's Adaptation to Climate Change; was one of more than two dozen "great thinkers" who participated Feb. 15 in a daylong forum, "A Global Collective for a Sustainable Planet," at the USC Institute for Genetic Medicine Art Gallery on the Health Sciences Campus.

California has been a first mover in climate change innovation strategies, trying to create a more livable state and to reduce the emissions of

greenhouse gases, Mazmanian said.

His task force is organizing its report around the concept of resilience and how to adapt incrementally to climate change and absorb the cost over time. "We have to emphasize the importance of science-based projections and risk analysis," he said. But he added that "this is new territory for scientists."

"It's a real difficult challenge to get people to think about the future," Mazmanian said. "In the world of science, most of it is retrospective. Science is based on past experience, but we're saying this is a new world to look ahead and plan based on projections rather than past patterns. The reason you have to do that is because climate change is changing those patterns. We're trying to set a course and revisit it continually as we go forward."

Ed Crandall, the Hastings Professor and Norris Chair of Medicine at the Keck School of Medicine, agreed that solutions to global climate change are not simple, but he remains optimistic. "We face many problems as the human population grows," he said. "I have no doubt we'll solve these problems. There is nothing inherently evil about

the technologies that we've developed so far or the people who invented them. If it had not been for fossil fuels, we would be living in the dark ages relative to where we are today. It's brought us tremendous advantages.

"We're in a stage in human history where we have to solve problems that have grown up because of successes of the past. Now we have to turn these things into new successes so we can go forward with clean water and clean air and find alternatives to fossil fuels," Crandall said. "As humans, we will muddle through, and at the end we'll be in a better place than we are now."

The purpose of the forum was to bring a diverse group together to share their vision and facilitate cooperation and collaboration on economic,

social and environmental sustainability issues facing the planet. The outcome is expected to be innovative partnerships that lead to research and development of clean energy and clean jobs.

The forum was organized by Lynn Crandall, director of the Institute of Genetic Medicine Art Gallery, and Diana Dehm, president of Sustainable Business Partnerships. Supporting organizations were: Emergency USA, Kids vs Global Warming, artAngeles, Southern California Sister Cities, Americans for Informed Democracy, Focus the Nation, Water Woman Consortium, Society for the Arts in Healthcare, RunningDry.org and AssistMed.

To see video clips from the forum visit www.youtube.com/user/hollywoodz#p/a/u/0/U5Zyzy8OIIdE.

'We're in a stage in human history where we have to solve problems that have grown up because of successes of the past.'

—Ed Crandall, the Hastings Professor and Norris Chair of Medicine at the Keck School of Medicine

'Infomania' research resource fair slated for April 8 at HSC

On April 8, the Norris Medical Library will host InfoMania, a vendor fair featuring producers of scholarly and electronic research resources such as Ovid's Primal Pictures, Visual Dx and ePocrates.

The event will be from 10 am. to 2 p.m. at the Harry and Celesta Pappas Quad and will include snacks and an information scavenger hunt with prizes including Amazon Kindles, iPod Touches and

Nanos, and a Flip pocket camcorder.

All USC library users are invited to meet with the producers of their favorite scholarly resources. InfoMania will host representatives of the following electronic resources: ACP Pier, Books@Ovid, ePocrates, Essential Science Indicators, Exam Master, Global Health, Health and Psychosocial Instruments (HaPI), International Pharmaceutical Abstracts

(IPA), ISI Journal Citation Reports, Lexi-Comp, MD Consult, Micromedex, OVID MEDLINE, Primal Pictures, Pubget, RefWorks, Rittenhouse books, Science Direct journals, SCIRUS, Springer ebooks, Springer Protocols, StatRef!, Visual DX, Unbound Medicine, UptoDate, and Web of Knowledge.

For more information on InfoMania, visit www.usc.edu/nml/infomania.



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The Weekly NEWSMAKERS

On March 18, "NBC Nightly News" featured associate professor of research at the Department of Preventive Medicine **Donna Spruijt-Metz** and USC Engineering Professor Shri Narayanan and their work on the KNOWME NETWORK, a mobile device that is aimed at fighting childhood obesity.

On March 18, the *Los Angeles Times* covered Match Day for Keck School medical students. *Sing Tao Daily* also covered the event.

A March 18 *Pasadena Star-News* article featured an eye trauma program that will be based at USC that is designed to restore sight to battle-injured troops.

A March 18 Medical News Today online article featured research by associate professor of cell and neurobiology and researcher at the Eli and Edythe Broad Center for

Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at USC **Henry Sucov** that identified a key cellular mechanism that guides embryonic heart tissue formation and that, if disrupted, can lead to a number of common congenital heart defects. *Asian News International* also featured the research.

On March 17, KCRW-FM'S "Which Way, L.A.?" interviewed associate professor of research in preventive medicine **Michael Cousineau** about a study which found that 25 percent of Californians under age 65 do not have health insurance.

A March 17 *U.S. News & World Report* article quoted professor of medicine in the cardiovascular division **Robert Kloner** about new research showing that erectile dysfunction is a strong predictor of fatal heart disease.

A March 16 MSNBC story highlighted USC

research led by assistant professor of neurology **Amytis Towfighi**, which found that women aged 35 to 64 are almost three times as likely to have a stroke as men of the same age.

A March 13 *The Times of India* article covered live demonstrations of robotic surgeries by chair of the department of urology and associate dean for clinical innovation **Inderbir Gill** and professors of urology **Mihir Desai** and **Monish Aron**. The demonstrations of robotic kidney and prostate surgeries from the USC Institute of Urology were transmitted to hospitals located in India, Venezuela, the United Kingdom, China and Kuwait, the story reported.

A March 13 *Ventura County Star* article quoted associate professor of preventive medicine **Richard Watanabe** about Type 2 diabetes.

Calendar of Events

This Calendar of events is also online at www.usc.edu/hscalendar for the Health Sciences Campus community

Monday, Mar. 29

11 a.m. “Mixed-mode Oscillations,” John Guckenheimer, Cornell Univ. UPC: RRB Laufer Conference Rm. Info: (213) 821-2084

Tuesday, Mar. 30

9 a.m. Neurology Grand Rounds. “M & M Conference,” Lee Lin, USC. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-7686

Wednesday, Mar. 31

8:30 a.m. “Classification of Lung Cancer,” Michael Koss, USC. IRD 732. Info: (323) 226-7923

1 p.m. – 5 p.m. KSOM Parent’s Association. “Mini-Medical Day,” Various speakers, campus and LAC+USC Tours. KAM Mayer Aud. Info: (323) 442-1084

Thursday, Apr. 1

Noon. KSOM Cellular Homeostasis Lecture Series. “Role of Pref-1 in Adipogenesis and Mesenchymal Cell Fate,” Hei Sul, UC Berkeley. MCH 156. Info: (323) 442-3109

Friday, Apr. 2

Noon. “Case Presentations,” Gebran Abboud, USC. OPT A5C129. Info: (323) 409-7995

Monday, Apr. 5

Noon. “Case Presentations,” Alexander Han, USC. IPT C2J101. Info: (323) 409-7995

4 p.m. “Model-based Verification of Complex Dynamical Systems with Applications in Engineering and Biology,” Ufuk Topeu, Cal Tech. UPC HNB 100. Info: (213) 821-2084

Tuesday, Apr. 6

Noon. Psychiatry Grand Rounds. “ADHD and Addiction,” Paul Erickson, Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-4065

Wednesday, Apr. 7

Noon. “Treatment of Acute Metabolic Acidosis: What is Optimal Therapy?” Jeffrey Kraut, UCLA. Info: (323) 226-7307

5 p.m. Global Health Visions for Change Lecture. “Follow the Money: Covering the Surge of Funds for

HIV/AIDS,” John Cohen, Science Magazine. NRT Aresty Aud. Info: (323) 865-0419

Thursday, Apr. 8

Noon. KSOM Cellular Homeostasis Lecture Series. “The Na+/Dicarboxylate Cotransporters from the SLC13 Family,” Ana Pajor, UC San Diego. MCH 156. Info: (323) 442-3109

Friday, Apr. 9

Noon. Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences Seminar. “Membrane Trafficking in Live Animals: Novel Approaches Based on Intravital Microscopy,” Roberto Weigert, NIH. PSC 104. Info: (323) 442-1551

Noon. “Case Presentations,” Joon Kim, USC. OPT A5C129. Info: (323) 409-7995

Monday, Apr. 12

Noon. “Case Presentations,” Alexander Han, USC. IPT C2J101. Info: (323) 409-7995

Thursday, Apr. 14

11 a.m. – 2 p.m. USC Hospital Guild Fourth Annual Darlene Dufau Reid Walk the 5K for Keck. HSC Papas Quad. \$15 fee, includes lunch and tee shirt. Info: (310) 545-2239

Thursday, Apr. 15

10 a.m. Trainee Workshop. “Childhood Obesity: Mechanisms, Interventions, Policy and New Frontiers,” Michael Goran and Steven Moldin, USC. CSC 250. Info: (323) 442-2637

Noon. Medicine for the Soul Speaker Series. “A Conversation with Nandu Bhairavan,” internationally renowned Vedic priest and healer. MCH 149. Info: (213) 740-6110

Friday, Apr. 16

Noon. “Case Presentations,” Gebran Abboud, USC. OPT A5C129. Info: (323) 409-7995

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. USC Childhood Obesity Research Ctr. Symposium. “Childhood Obesity: Mechanisms, Interventions, Policy and New Frontiers,” Various speakers. NRT Aresty Aud. Info: (323) 442-2637

DEATH, GRIEF
AND THE
RICHNESS OF
LIFE—

Physician Ira Byock, director of palliative medicine at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center and author of *Dying Well* and *The Four Things That Matter Most*, speaks on the meaning and value of death on March 12 at Mayer Auditorium. His lecture was part of the *Visions and Voices* lecture series.



Jon Nalick

EYES: Grant to fund new technologies to save sight

Continued from page 1
ophthalmologist who will advise the program. “Modern medicine has saved more troops’ lives than ever. The EyeTVR program, supported by Congressman Schiff, will help us develop the tools we need to apply the success of modern medicine to the complex injuries related to eye trauma and loss of sight suffered by our soldiers and Marines.

“I’m also excited that the new technologies will be immediately applicable to saving and restoring sight in individuals with blinding diseases such as inherited retinal degeneration or age-related macular degeneration.”

EyeTVR features three subprograms focusing on the following goals:

- Functional Imaging—to develop innovative methods to visualize retinal and optic nerve structure and to determine whether cells in these

tissues are functioning properly

- Molecular Therapeutics—to restore a degree of sight in individuals suffering loss of photoreceptors using a novel gene therapy approach

- Biomaterials—to develop materials to promote wound healing and the attachment of devices to the retina and the visual centers of the brain, enabling the functional placement of visual prosthetics or drug delivery systems

Within this structure, five individual projects will be supported by the FY2010 appropriation, involving eight different faculty investigators from the partner institutions.

The team includes Mark Humayun, Shuliang Jiao, James Weiland, and Alan Horsager from Keck and Viterbi; Yu-Chong Tai from Caltech; and Douglas McCreery, Victor Pikov, and Martin Han from HMRI.

Gala del Sol to honor USC surgeon Vaughn Starnes

Vaughn A. Starnes, chair of the Department of Surgery at the Keck School of Medicine and surgeon-in-chief at USC Norris Cancer Hospital and USC University Hospital, will be honored for his accomplishments in pediatric cardiac surgery at the 7th Annual Gala del Sol.

The gala will take place on Saturday, April 17, at the Globe Theater at Universal Studios in Hollywood. Comedian Tom Arnold will emcee the black tie event, which benefits Camp del Corazon, a non-profit organization that provides year-round opportunities for children and young adults with heart disease.

Starnes is executive director of the USC Cardiovascular Thoracic Institute and the H. Russell Smith Chair for Cardiovascular Research at the Keck School. He is director of the Heart Institute at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles and has an ongoing interest in congenital heart

disease. A recognized expert in heart and lung transplants, repair of congenital heart defects, and heart surgery in children and newborns, Starnes is investigating the

use of gene therapy to prevent scarring following heart surgery.

For more information on the gala, visit www.campdelcorazon.org.

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