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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

President Obama names Jon Samet to key administration post

President Barack Obama has announced his intent to appoint USC Professor Jonathan M. Samet to the National Cancer Advisory Board. Samet serves as the Flora L. Thornton Chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine at the Keck School of Medicine of USC and Director of the USC Institute for Global Health.

"We are enormously proud of Dr. Samet and this welldeserved honor," said Keck School Dean Carmen A. Puliafito. "Dr. Samet is an internationally respected leader in preventive medicine, and his contributions to the work of the National Cancer Advisory Board will be significant."

Members of the National Cancer Advisory Board meet several times a year to advise the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services and the director of the National Cancer Institute with respect to the activities of the institute. The board's work includes reviewing and recommending support grants and cooperative agreements, following scientific and peer review.

"I am honored to be asked to join the National Cancer Advisory Board," said Samet, who will serve a five-year term. "My appointment comes at a critical moment in cancer research as we attempt to realize the promise of genomics and molecular medicine. From my perspective, tobacco control research remains a high priority as well."

In a press release issued by The White House to announce several appointments including Samet's, President Obama said, "These dedicated individuals bring a wealth of experience and talent to their new roles, and I



USC Professor Jonathan M. Samet

am proud to have them serve in this Administration. I look forward to working with them in the months and years to come."

From 1994 to 2008, Samet was professor and chair of the Department of Epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Previously, he was professor and chief of the Pulmonary and Critical Care Division of the Department of Medicine at the University of New Mexico.

His research has addressed health risks posed by environmental agents, including active and passive smoking, indoor and outdoor air pollution, cancer occurrence among diverse populations, and patterns of cancer care.

Samet presently chairs the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Tobacco Products Scientific Advisory Committee of the Food and Drug Administration. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Science's Institute of Medicine. Samet holds an A.B. from Harvard College, an S.M. from the Harvard School of Public Health, and an M.D. from the University of Rochester.

'Dr. Samet is an internationally respected leader in preventive medicine, and his contributions to the work of the National Cancer Advisory Board will be significant.'

—Keck School of Medicine Dean Carmen A. Puliafito

USC School of Pharmacy dean honored with top CPhA award

By Kukla Vera

School of Pharmacy Dean R. Pete Vanderveen received the 2011 Bowl of Hygeia at the California Pharmacists Association annual Outlook meeting awards ceremony on February 11 in Palm Springs.

The award is given to "someone who is recognized for outstanding involvement both in and outside of the profession of pharmacy by demonstrating how pharmacists can elevate themselves and the profession in the eyes of the public," according to the California

"Dean Vanderveen has provided exemplary leadership to the School of Pharmacy," says USC Provost Elizabeth Garrett. "His work reflects the university's commitment to preparing the next generation of national leaders while also providing service to our neighboring communities and modeling new approaches in health care. I congratulate him and thank the association for recognizing his many contributions."

Vanderveen has been an integral part in expanding the school's reach to surrounding neighborhoods, where many of the residents are low-income and underinsured. He has supported student efforts to hold numerous health fairs throughout the year, where students and faculty perform important screenings, immunizations and consultations, and he has increased the school's participation in safety-net clinics, expanding the School's clinical pharmacy services to 12 local centers.



Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder Andre Ethier hands an autographed bat to a fan on Feb. 14 as part of an afternoon rally for USC hospital employees. Opening day is March 31 and, as sponsors, USC Norris Cancer Hospital and USC University Hospital will have promotional signage in Dodger Stadium and on television broadcasts.

Los Angeles Dodgers pay a visit to the 'heart of Dodgertown'

Pharmacist Association website.

Throughout his time at the School of Pharmacy, Vanderveen has played a pivotal role in the advancement of the pharmacy profession, working to expand the impact of the pharmacist both as part of the healthcare team and as an active participant in community outreach. He has spoken on behalf of the profession to legislators locally, as well as in Sacramento and Washington. Further, he launched a diversity initiative that aims to increase the number of students from underrepresented minorities at the school.

"At USC, we're committed to giving back to our community, and the School of Pharmacy's efforts make it possible for us to directly See **AWARD**, page 2 By Tania Chatila

About 1,700 employees from USC Norris Cancer Hospital, USC University Hospital, Healthcare Consultation Center I and II and the Doheny Eye Institute kicked off the 2011 Los Angeles Dodgers season last week with an afternoon rally that included visits from current ball players and organization legends.

This was the second year in a row that the Dodgers community caravan made a stop at USC University Hospital, the official hospital of the Los Angeles Dodgers.

"We're delighted that the Dodgers chose us to kick off the season," said hospitals Chief Executive Officer Mitch Creem, who opened the two-hour event in the lower level parking terrace of HCC II. Creem introduced the afternoon's emcee, Dodger broadcaster and former Major League Baseball player Steve Lyons.

"This is truly the heart of Dodgertown, and we are here to thank all of you for the hard work you do for all your patients," Lyons said.

During the event, employees got autographs and took pictures of nine current and former Dodger greats, including Andre Ethier, James Loney, Tommy Lasorda, Rudy Law, Don Mattingly, Kenny Landreaux, Bobby Castillo, Tommy Davis and Jimmy Campanis.

Carolina Moroscallo, a nurse at the Outpatient Surgery Center, stood in line during her lunch break for Ethier's autograph. "I don't have time to go to the games, so for me, this is my only chance to see them in person," she said. "It's so nice that they can share these moments with us."

Dodgers General Manager Ned Colletti said the real thanks goes to hospital employees, who offer health and hope to the patients they serve.

"We can help people have a good day. You can help people have many good days," he said.

Keck residency programs receive 5-year institutional reaccreditation

'Residents are the lifeblood of LAC+USC Medical Center.'

—Glenn Ault, associate dean for clinical administration (LAC+USC Medical Center) at the Keck School By Sara Reeve

The Keck School of Medicine/Los Angeles County+USC Medical Center residency programs received national recognition in December when the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) bestowed another five-year reaccreditation—the longest cycle possible—upon the institution.

"This accreditation signals that the Keck School of Medicine/LAC+USC Medical Center is among the elite training sites for residents in the United States," said Keck School of Medicine Dean Carmen A. Puliafito. "I am proud of all the faculty, staff and residents who participated in this important process."

The institutional reaccreditation was achieved after a lengthy preparation and review by the Office for Graduate Medical Education, led by Lawrence Opas, associate dean for graduate medical education at the Keck School. A review document of more than 1,000 pages was assembled to demonstrate the institution's compliance with ACGME requirements. A site visit took place in June 2010, and interviews were conducted with Keck School and LAC+USC administration, select faculty leaders and 12 peer-selected residents from different programs.

"It all boils down to teamwork," said Opas. "From a supportive administration, to excellent program leaders, to brilliant residents, it's not any one individual's work—it's a team effort."

Nearly 900 residents train in the 53 residency programs operating under the institutional umbrella of USC/LAC+USC Medical Center, which is one of the largest teaching hospitals in the country, admitting close to 40,000 patients each year.

Accredited programs can only exist within an accredited institution—a fact that lent added importance to the accreditation process.

"Residents are the lifeblood of LAC+USC Medical Center," said Glenn Ault, associate dean for clinical administration (LAC+USC Medical Center) at the Keck School. "This achievement reflects the outstanding commitment to graduate medical education at both the Keck School and LAC+USC Medical Center."

The review committee commended the institution for demonstrating substantial compliance with ACGME requirements. They commended Opas, as the institutional official, and the USC/LAC+USC graduate medical education committee for a "well-conceived" document demonstrating institutional engagement in supporting program efforts and continuous program quality improvement.

USC offers \$1 million for neighborhood programs

The USC Neighborhood Outreach (UNO) program is now accepting 2011-2012 grant applications for more than \$1 million in available funding.

All benefits-eligible employees and departments are eligible when they partner with a community-based, tax-exempt organization that operates and has a home-base within the UNO boundaries surrounding the University Park and Health Sciences campuses.

This year, for the first time, proposals that demonstrate impact in the following areas will receive priority in the grant review process. These areas are those that: • improve educational outcomes particularly for K-12 children;

• improve health outcomes particularly in the areas of obesity and diabetes; and

• support job creation including training and small business development.

Grant applications are due on Thursday, March 31, 2011.



Clinical and translational grants up to \$40,000 offered

The Los Angeles Basin Clinical and Translational Science Institute (LAB-CTSI) is seeking applicants for its Spring 2011 Pilot Grants Program, for which as many as 10 one-year grants of up to \$40,000 will be awarded.

The LAB–CTSI is funded by the National Institutes of Health to transform how clinical and translational research is conducted, ultimately enabling researchers to provide new treatments more efficiently and quickly to patients. Based at USC and including clinical and research partners throughout the LA Region, LAB-CTSI is focused on the health issues of diverse, multi-ethnic, urban populations.

Eligible applicants include faculty members, trainees and students at any CTSI academic, clinical or community partner organization. Proposals addressing health issues of diverse, multi-ethnic, urban populations are encouraged. Areas of interest include: mental illness, neuroscience and behavior; metabolism, obesity and diabetes; child health; HIV/AIDS and infectious diseases; cardiovascular disease; and cancer.

Letters of intent are due March 31. The complete program announcement may be viewed at http://tinyurl. com/4mfb6yp. For more information, contact Janet Sobell, at sobell@usc.edu. USC SChool of Pharmacy Dean R. Pete Vanderveen (center) accepts the Bowl of Hygeia Award from Jon Roth, CEO of the California Pharmacists Association, and Wilma Wong, chair of the organization's awards committee.

AWARD: CPhA honors Vanderveen

Continued from page 1 impact the health of some of L.A.'s most at-risk residents," says Vanderveen. "We've seen firsthand how our pharmacists have improved patient outcomes while saving precious health-care dollars."

This work with the safetynet clinics under Vanderveen's leadership has earned the School of Pharmacy numerous awards for its community outreach, including the 2007 American Pharmaceutical Association Pinnacle Award, the 2008 American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Best Practices Award and the 2008-09 American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Inaugural Award for Transformative Community Services. Not only has Vanderveen been committed to expanding the pharmacist's role in the community, but he also has strived to emphasize the pharmacist's role in the overall health-care environment, penning an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal that supports giving pharmacists more oversight for patient medication management to alleviate the burden

on physicians while optimizing patient care.

"Many worry there won't be enough physicians to care for the estimated 30 million more patients who will be insured under the health law passed earlier this year," Vanderveen stated in the article. "Pharmacists, who number almost 300,000 today, could help fill the gap. The men and women who complete a four-year graduate professional program are trained to master complex medications. ... For patients with chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and asthma who typically must take multiple drugs, pharmacists' knowledge of drug interactions can be life-saving." Also accepting awards at the CPhA ceremony are School of Pharmacy alums John Cronin, PharmD ('76), who received Pharmacist of the Year award, and Ken Thai, PharmD ('02), who received the New Practitioner of the Year award. USC students won top honors for their project, Operation Hypertension, which offers screening and education to the community.



Next Issue: March 11

The Weekly is published for the faculty, staff, students, volunteers and visitors in the University of Southern California's Health Sciences Campus community. It is written and produced by the Health Sciences Public Relations and Marketing staff. Comments, suggestions and story ideas are welcome. Permission to reprint articles with attribution is freely given.

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USC urologists pioneer new cancer surgery to reduce kidney damage

USC urologists have developed a new method of robotic surgery for kidney cancer, which could help reduce organ damage.

A world first, this novel robotic and laparoscopic technique was reported in 15 initial patients in the January 2011 issue of *European Urology*.

Current techniques of kidney-sparing surgery (termed partial nephrectomy) require the kidney blood flow to be stopped by clamping the renal artery while the tumor is being removed. Stopping renal blood flow can negatively affect kidney function. USC's novel robotic technique, called "zero-ischemia" partial nephrectomy, allows uninterrupted blood flow to the kidney during the entire operation. By removing only the tumor and saving the rest of the kidney without stopping its blood flow, surgeons minimize kidney damage, leading to superior kidney function.

Pioneered by Inderbir S.

Gill, professor, chairman and executive director of the USC Institute of Urology, this technique involves renal artery micro-dissection.

"We use delicate robotic neurosurgical aneurysm micro-bulldog(s) to control specific, pre-terminal renal artery branches, which directly supply the tumor," says Gill. "Thus, blood supply to the rest of the kidney stays untouched."

Gill added that meticulous anesthetic techniques for controlled reduction of blood pressure were employed as needed.

"We monitored these patients very carefully by evaluating their brain, heart and lung function intraoperatively," said Duraiyah Thangathurai, a renowned leader in urologic anesthesia, and an integral part of Gill's team in developing this technique.

Other co-authors of the paper include Manny Eisenberg, Mukul Patil, Andre Berger, Casey Ng, Monish Aron, Mihir Desai and Vito Campese.

Thus far, the technique has been carried out successfully in the first 75 patients at USC, proving that the method is feasible. Initial data indicate that patients undergoing the new technique may have superior surgical outcomes and better kidney function. This may lead to improved quality of life over the long term.

Interest in the new "zeroischemia" technique is gaining rapidly.

In December 2010, a team led by Professor Michele Gallucci from the famed Istituti Fisioterapici Ospitalieri in Rome, Italy, visited USC to learn this technique and became the first to apply it in Europe. His team has already performed zero-ischemia partial nephrectomy in 25 patients.

"Gill's technique is the best way to optimize patient outcomes," Gallucci remarked. "It will change the way partial nephrectomy surgery is done."

On March 4-5, the USC Institute of Urology is holding the first "Live-Surgery" Robotic Symposium to demonstrate the zero-ischemia technique to a group of more than 50 national and international surgeons at the Aresty Auditorium on the USC Health Sciences campus. Additionally, USC urologists will be presenting five papers on this novel technique at the upcoming annual American Urologic Association meeting in Washington, D.C., in May.

"Saving kidneys is very important for overall health and longevity," Gill concluded. "This new possibility that even complex kidney tumors can be removed robotically without renal ischemia is very exciting.""

Gill was recently named the first North American editor of *European Urology*. The highly influential publication has been published for more than 35 years and is read by more than 20,000 urologists across the world.

'Saving kidneys is very important for overall health and longevity."

—Inderbir S. Gill, executive director of the USC Institute of Urology

HSC launches roadside landscaping project

By Jon Nalick

To beautify and improve the visual identity of the Health Sciences Campus, the university has begun improving landscaping and irrigation on several areas of USC property that front public roads.

Maria Morgan, senior construction project manager for USC Capital Construction Development, said the project, which will run from March through October, is designed to "improve the streetscapes and gateways so as to give the campus a better identity and to improve the experience of students, patients, faculty and staff."

She added that a new palette of trees and shrubs "will bring a more unified look to the campus, and the use of more drought tolerant plants will reduce maintenance requirements and allow for the use of more economical drip irrigation systems."

The first phase of the project

covers San Pablo Street between Alcazar Avenue and Eastlake/Norfolk Avenue, Alcazar Avenue and Norfolk Avenue near San Pablo Street, and University Hospital Drive.

The work will be performed by Valley Crest Landscape Development Company under the direction of USC Capital Construction Development. This phase is scheduled to take place from March to May of 2011.

A second phase is currently in design by Melendrez Landscape Architecture, and will include the remaining portions of San Pablo Street, Alcazar Avenue and Norfolk Avenue, as well as Eastlake Avenue, Biggy Street, and Zonal Avenue.

A significant part of this phase will be the construction of a gateway at the intersection of Soto Street and Alcazar Avenue to provide clear identification and direction into the campus. This phase is scheduled to take place from June to October 2011



HAVE A (HEALTHY) HEART—The USC Women's Cardiovascular Center hosted a heart health screening on Feb. 7, offering glucose and blood pressure tests, as well as a chance to meet with occupational therapists on lifestyle redesign and with physicians for personal consultations. More than 50 female faculty and staff took advantage of the event. Above, pharmacy student Troy Phipps offers advice about maintaining healthy blood pressure.

The Weekly NEWSMAKERS

A Feb. 18 story in *The New York Times* quoted **Melvin Silverstein**, clinical professor of surgery at the Keck School of Medicine, about research showing that too many women with breast problems are given surgical biopsies, rather than less expensive and invasive needle biopsies.

A Feb. 19 article in Medical News Today featured research by **Fatih Uckun**, professor of research pediatrics, and colleagues from the Children's Center for Cancer and Blood Diseases and the Saban Research Institute at Children's Hospital Los Angeles that has led to a breakthrough discovery in understanding how the body fights leukemia. The research was also covered by RedOrbit, *Asian News International* (India), *HindustanTimes* (India), Sify News (India) and TopNews (New Zealand).

A Feb. 20 story in *The Scotsman* (U.K.) featured research by **Valter Longo** of the USC Davis School in collaboration with **Sue Ingles** of the Keck School of Medicine of USC and other institutions, which found that an Ecuadorian population with Laron-type dwarfism may shed light

on human longevity and ways to increase it. Over 22 years, members of this group, who have a deficiency in a gene that prevents the body from using growth hormone, have been almost completely free of cancer and diabetes, the story stated. The *Star*-*Tribune* and *Neue Zurcher Zeitung* (Switzerland) also highlighted the research.

A Feb. 23 story on MSNBC interviewed **Barbara Korsch**, clinical professor of pediatrics at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, about the importance of patients being honest with their doctors, and noted that she is author of *The Intelligent Patient's Guide to the Doctor-Patient Relationship*.

A Feb. 25 story broadcast on KTTV FOX 11 News interviewed **Roger De Filippo**, assistant professor of urology at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, and **Ramen Chmait**, assistant professor of clinical obstetrics and gynecology at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, and featured their research on creating custom therapies for patients using the stem cells found in their own amniotic fluid.

Calendar of Events

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

Monday, Mar. 7

3 – 5 p.m. Hoyt Gallery Opening and Reception. KAM Basement Lobby. Info: (213) 821-5547

Wednesday, Mar. 9

Noon. ZNI Seminar. "Functional Connectivity in the Retina at the Resolution of Photoreceptors," Greg Field, Salk Institute. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-2144

Noon. Global Health Lecture. "The Rise and Fall of Global Health as a Foreign Policy Issue," David Fidler, Indiana Univ. NRT Aresty Aud. Info: (323) 865-0419

2 – 4 p.m. Center for Excellence in Research. "Developing NIH Grant Applications," Steve Moldin, USC. NML West Conference Rm. Info: (213) 740-6709

Thursday, Mar. 10

Noon. Cellular Homeostasis Lecture. "HC03, The Leavening for Mucins," Paul Quinton, UC San Diego. MCH 156. Info: (323) 442-3121

Wednesday, Mar. 16

8:30 a.m. Women in Management HSC Workshop. "You Are What You Do: An Occupational Therapy Approach to Time Management," Camille Dieterle, USC. CHP 102. Info: (323) 442-1865

8:30 a.m. Research Seminar. "mRNAs and microRNAs in Lung Fibrosis: New Mechanisms and Biomarkers," Naftali Kaminski, Univ. of Pittsburgh. IRD 732-734. Info: (323) 442-1217

Thursday, Mar. 17

Noon. ZNI Seminar. "Coupled Binding and Folding of Intrinsically Disordered Proteins," Allan Chris Ferreon, Scripps Research Institute. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-2144 **8:30 a.m**. Research Seminar. "Idiopathic Interstitial Pneumonias," Talmadge King, UC San Francisco. IRD 732-734. Info: (323) 442-1217

Wednesday, Mar. 23

Noon. ZNI Seminar. "Light Detection in the Retina," King-Wai Yau, Johns Hopkins. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-2144

Thursday, Mar. 24

Noon. Cellular Homeostasis Lecture. "Coverage of Genetic and Stem Cell Biology in Human Disease," Deepak Srivastava, UC San Francisco. MCH 156. Info: (323) 442-3121

Noon. ZNI Seminar. "Solidstate NMR Investigations on Prion Proteins and Proteinsolvent Interactions," Ansgar Siemer, Columbia Univ. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-2144

Friday, Mar. 25

8 a.m. Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Grand Rounds. "Leadership Challenges in Residency," Joseph York, USC. NOR 7409. Info: (323) 442-1180

11:30 a.m. Physical Sciences in Oncology Center Seminar. "The Physical Organization of Chromosomes and Cancer," John Marko, Northwestern Univ. CSC 240. Info: (323) 442-3849

Monday, Mar. 28

Noon. The Beyond Medicine Lecture Series. "Beyond the MD," Various speakers. HMR 100. Lunch will be provided. Info: (323) 442-1678

Tuesday, Mar. 29

Noon. The Beyond Medicine Lecture Series. "Beyond the Specialist," Various speakers. NML West Conference Room. Lunch will be provided. Info: (323) 442-1678





CULTURE FLASH

Above, pharmacy student Tram Nguyen sings for a crowd of more than 100 students as part of a Feb. 17 culture show hosted by the Vietnamese American Pharmacy Student Association at Harry and Celesta Pappas Quad.

Left, pharmacy students Jane Suh and Bryan Son strut down the runway during the fashion show segment of the event.

USC Norris to honor Director Peter Jones March 14

The USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center Auxiliary will host a luncheon fundraiser in honor of Peter Jones, retiring director of the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, March 14, at 11 a.m. at the California Club in Los Angeles.

It is the first official event in honor of Jones' retirement, which he announced in November, after serving as director of the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center for 17 years. Jones is leaving his administrative post

ONLINE EXTRAS

Read more HSC news online:

• Dwarfism Gene Linked to Protection from Cancer and Diabetes

A 22-year study of abnormally short individuals suggests that a growth-stunting mutation also may stunt two of to pursue his longstanding research interest in the field of epigenetics.

Proceeds from the luncheon will benefit the USC Norris Auxiliary's Endowment, whose purpose is to support peer-reviewed clinical cancer research for protocol patients at the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. The event will include a silent auction featuring silver from the Max Factor Family Estate. Opportunity prizes will also be available.

"As well as being such

USC Health Sciences Public Relations and Marketing 1975 Zonal Ave. KAM 400 Los Angeles, CA 90033 a wonderful support for the Auxiliary throughout the years, Peter Jones is an outstanding researcher who has continued to raise awareness of the latest advances in the area of epigenetics," said USC Norris Auxiliary Past President and Board Member Nancy Hoffman. "For all he has done and continues to do for clinical cancer research, we want to recognize him for his achievements."

Tickets are \$80 per person and reservations can be made through Marilyn Atha Suazo at 323-255-6827.

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

Friday, Mar. 18

8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. USC Memory and Aging Center and Keck School of Medicine Seminar. "Many Faces of Dementia: Serving Diverse Populations," Various speakers. \$75 registration, \$45 registration for full-time students. UPC: Davidson Conference Ctr. Info: (626) 470-6619

Wednesday, Mar. 30

Noon. The Beyond Medicine Lecture Series. "At the Juncture: The Diabetes Epidemic," Moderated by Keck School of Medicine Dean Carmen A. Puliafito and will include various speakers. NRT Aresty Aud. Lunch will be provided. Info: (323) 442-1678

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 *The Weekly*, KAM 400 or fax to (323) 442-2832, or e-mail to eblaauw@usc.edu. Entries must include day, date, time, title of talk, first and last name of speaker, affiliation of speaker, location, and a phone number for information. humanity's worst diseases.

Published in Science Translational Medicine, part of the Science family of journals, the study raises the prospect of achieving similar protection in full-grown adults by other means, such as pharmaceuticals or controlled diets.

http://tinyurl.com/484sz8e

In case of an emergency...

Call the Emergency Information Phone: 213-740-9233 The emergency telephone system can handle 1,400 simultaneous calls. It also has a backup system on the East Coast.

Visit the USC Web: http://emergency.usc.edu This page will be activated in case of an emergency. Backup Web servers on the East Coast will function if the USC servers are incapacitated.