

# CHLA dedicates 317-bed inpatient building

By Sara Reeve

More than 200 community leaders and supporters celebrated the dedication of a new patient care building at Children's Hospital Los Angeles on June 23.

Hospital staff members are scheduled to move more than 200 inpatients into the new 317-bed, seven-story building on July 17. The \$636 million, 460,000-square-foot structure is designed as a family-centered care environment, with every aspect of the new building planned with families in mind and nearly all patient rooms being private.

Children's Hospital has been affiliated with the Keck School of Medicine of USC since 1932.

"The strong academic focus of Children's Hospital Los Angeles makes it a perfect match for USC—this is indeed the third campus of our university," said Carmen A. Puliafito, dean of the Keck School of Medicine. "We have 300 full-time faculty members at Children's



From left: Hospital President and CEO Richard D. Cordova; Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa; CHLA Board of Trustees Co-Chair Marion Anderson; Board of Trustees Member Mary Hart; program speaker Jennifer Page and her sons Max and Ellis; hospital Board Co-Chair Jack Pettker; and Robert Adler, Keck School professor of pediatrics and CHLA vice chair of the Department of Pediatrics and director of medical education.

Hospital practicing, doing research and teaching. I am so thrilled that this outstanding type of medicine now has a facility to match its own excellence."

The new building was named the Marion and

John E. Anderson Pavilion in honor of the hospital philanthropists who provided the transformative \$50 million gift to the project.

Richard D. Cordova, president and CEO, Children's Hospital Los

Angeles, said, "This is an amazing day for our community that has been more than a decade in the making. As a community, we have designed and constructed the perfect building, which

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**'The strong academic focus of Children's Hospital Los Angeles makes it a perfect match for USC—this is indeed the third campus of our university.'**

**—Carmen A. Puliafito, dean of the Keck School of Medicine**



From left: Randolph Hall, vice president of research; Edward Crandall, chair of the Keck School of Medicine Department of Medicine; Darcy Spicer, associate professor of clinical medicine and HSC chair of the IRB; Todd Dickey, senior vice president of administration; and Laura La Corte, associate senior vice president of compliance.

## Institutional Review Board chair Darcy Spicer receives ethics award

By Amy E. Hamaker

The USC Office of Compliance recently presented its second annual USC Ethical Leadership Award to Darcy V. Spicer, chairman of the USC Health Sciences Institutional Review Board (IRB).

The award, given on June 16, was in recognition of Spicer's leadership

in his work with the Health Sciences Campus Institutional Review Board and the Human Subjects Research Protection Program. The IRB protects the rights and welfare of human research subjects in research studies conducted at USC and elsewhere by USC faculty, staff, graduate or undergraduate students,

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## Renovated operating suite provides key upgrades

By Tania Chatila

An upgraded operating room at USC University Hospital is taking minimally invasive surgery to a whole new level.

Operating Room 22 was recently converted into a fully integrated minimally invasive operating suite, outfitted with all the latest in audio visual control and medical device control.

"This is the most advanced operating room that we have right now," said Arlene De Los Santos, the urology coordinator for the operating room. "With so many technological features, this OR has already helped increase our workflow in getting surgeries completed efficiently and on schedule."

Among its many features, the room is equipped with two mounted cameras and a 65-inch viewing monitor that can capture and showcase up to four images at a time. That includes an endoscopic view, views of the room itself, anesthesia and vitals information, radiology images and even charting. In the future, those images could be placed into an



Operating Room 22 was recently converted into a fully integrated minimally invasive operating suite, outfitted with all the latest in audio visual control and medical device control.

electronic medical record.

Other features of the new integrated system include:

- medical device control from a touch panel at the

nurse station;

- teaching tools such as telestration, whereby physicians and staff can take an

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# Keck associate dean helps form recommendations for MCAT update

**‘Being good in your science classes isn’t all of what makes you a good physician.’**

**—Erin A. Quinn, associate dean of admissions emeritus for the Keck School of Medicine**

**By Amy E. Hamaker**

Changes are coming to the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), said Erin A. Quinn, associate dean of admissions emeritus for the Keck School of Medicine. Quinn served as a member of the MR5 Committee of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) that recently presented 14 preliminary recommendations for the content and format of the new exam.

Quinn began her work with the 22-member MR5 Committee in 2008 when it was formed—a job that she called “a huge commitment, but a lot of fun.

“We had a great mix of people on the committee, and

it was a long process so we got to know each other well,” she said. “We collected data from residents, schools, and medical and undergraduate faculty, asking them what they thought students needed to succeed in medical school. The test hadn’t really changed in over 20 years, but the world certainly had.”

Perhaps some of the strongest recommended additions to the test included:

- Areas on knowledge of behavioral/social sciences, research methods and statistics to give focus to behavioral and socio-cultural determinants of health
- The ability to analyze and reason through ethics/philosophy, cross-cultural

studies, population health, and social sciences and humanities disciplines

“It’s really to try to get students to think more broadly, to not be so narrowly focused on the sciences,” she explained. “Being good in your science classes isn’t all of what makes you a good physician.”

Quinn said she believes that the recommended test changes are a good reflection of the students sought by the Keck School. “For the last 10 years, we’ve looked for students who know what’s going on in the world, and who understand the social determinants of health,” she explains. “We consider that important whether you plan to become an M.D./Ph.D or a

pediatrician in the community. You need to understand what’s happening in society.”

Other MCAT recommendations included having four test sections with four scores (molecular, cellular and organismal properties of living systems; physical chemical and biochemical properties of living systems; behavioral and social sciences principles; and critical analysis and reasoning skills) and eliminating the writing sample section. The recommendations will be presented to the AAMC membership at the association’s annual conference in November, and then examined by the AAMC Board of Directors in February 2012. A new test is expected by 2015.

## Wide-ranging lecture explores epigenetics

**By Amy E. Hamaker**

Peter A. Jones, director of the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center and professor of urology, biochemistry and molecular biology at the Keck School of Medicine, recently presented information on his lab’s research on epigenetics to a crowd at Aresty Auditorium.

During his June 13 lecture, “The Human Epigenome in Health and Disease,” Jones explained that epigenetics represents the somatically heritable states of gene expression—in other words, how liver cells know they are liver cells, and how they know what to do when they divide. The study of epigenetics helps explain why identical twins, who have the same genetic code, can express significant differences in their appearance and health. The epigenome is the totality of epigenetic marks in a cell type.

Epigenetics is an important factor in learning about the mechanisms of and discovering treatments for conditions including aging, diabetes, genetically based diseases such as Rett syndrome and fragile X syndrome, imprinting disorders, and, most notably, cancer. “Almost all of the new mutations in cancer [that have been] discovered recently are related to these [epigenetic]



Peter A. Jones

processes,” said Jones.

Jones’ research centers on methylation, or the addition of carbon and hydrogen bundles called methyl groups to cytosines in DNA. Jones noted that a relatively small number of DNA cytosines—about 4 percent—are modified by methylation, but it is these modifications that cause genes to become active or silent. “Usually, genes are controlled without methylation except in cases where you want the genes off for an amount of time,”

Jones explained. “For example, one X chromosome for gender is turned off forever. This is the key to development. ... However, this can go wrong ... once something is turned off, it can be heritable and can lead to disease states.”

Some discoveries from Jones’ team include:

- Using a bacterial methyl transferase to seek out and methylate open pieces of DNA.
- Hormones are one key to turning genes on; they tend to hold open “back doors” to the DNA strand, allowing it to be switched on.
- Adding retinoic acid to OCT4 (a transcription factor involved in the self-renewal of undifferentiated embryonic stem cells) causes the accessibility to it to decrease rapidly.

## OR: Upgrades will bolster patient safety

Continued from page 1  
image and write or sketch on that image with the tip of a finger;

- the capability to interface with robots during robotic surgeries, all controlled through a touch panel; and
- teleconferencing allowing for surgeries to be broadcast real-time anywhere around the world.

Most of the equipment is boom-mounted, reducing the amount of clutter in the suite. The room is also designed so that all audio, visual and other devices can be controlled through two touch panels—one at the nurse station and one in the sterile field. It’s designed for use during any type of minimally invasive surgery, such as urological, gynecological and laparoscopic procedures.

“Initially, our main goal was to find new ways to streamline and integrate the surgical process so that we could enhance patient safety and increase our

turnover times in the OR,” said Chief Operating Officer Scott Evans. “This system has allowed us to do that and so much more. The educational advantages alone—the projected images and telestration, the broadcasting capabilities—are significant benefits furthering our academic medical center’s mission to teach the doctors and clinicians of tomorrow.”

Over the next several months, hospital administrators plan to further enhance the system by installing a web-based application that will allow all endoscopic suites already outfitted with audio-visual integration to be accessible via the Internet.

This will also allow for broadcasting of procedures on the World Wide Web.

“The health care industry is quickly moving more and more towards enhanced integration,” Evans said. “This is just one step we’re taking to keep USC on the cutting edge of medical technology.”

The Weekly

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## SPICER: Do the correct thing, even if it’s hard

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regardless of funding or type.

“We all are faced with difficult decisions every day where these principles can be compromised,” said Laura LaCorte, associate senior vice president of compliance, during the presentation. “Those of us in the Compliance Office have observed that Darcy can be a wonderful advocate for faculty, but at the same time, he isn’t shy about making decisions that he knows may be unpopular if he thinks it’s the right thing to do.”

“I’ve grown up here at USC in an environment where the emphasis has been to ‘do the correct thing’—even if that’s hard,” says Spicer. “This philosophy is pervasive throughout the university, the hospitals and clinics where our research is conducted. Essentially every investigator with whom I’ve had contact wants to do things correctly; without the personal commitment of each investigator I don’t think we could achieve such a high level [of compliance].”

The Office of Compliance began giving the USC Ethical Leadership Award last year to highlight the importance of ethical leadership. The award is given to a person who has demonstrated outstanding responsibility in following the principles of the office’s code of leadership and the code of ethics program.



# Department of Defense awards USC \$600,000 to develop breast cancer drugs

Nouri Neamati, associate professor of pharmacology, has been granted a two-year, \$607,500 Idea Award from the Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Breast Cancer Research Program for his grant titled, “Design of GRP78 inhibitors as novel therapeutics for breast cancer.”

Neamati is collaborating on this project with co-investigator Amy Lee, associate director for basic research at the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. Lee originally cloned the GRP78 gene several years ago. Graduate student Kavya

Ramkumar and postdoctoral fellows Bikash Debnath and Hiroyuki Otake are spearheading the work in the Neamati lab.

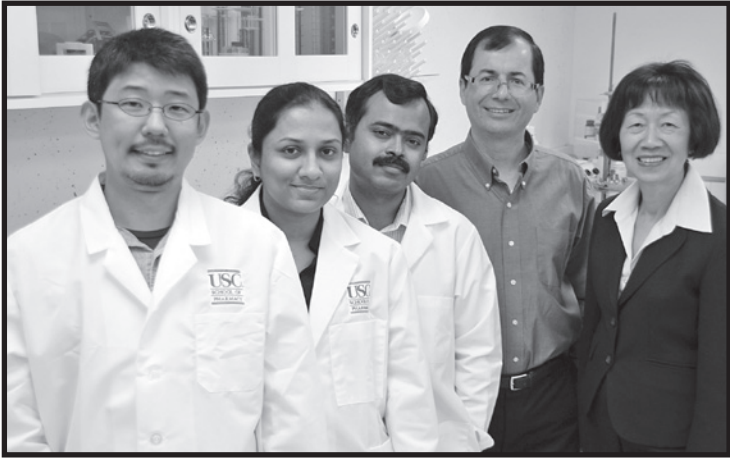
“This study aims to predict a novel approach to treatment for recurrent and resistant cancers,” said Lee, who holds the Freeman Cosmetic Chair in Basic Science.

The project, which focuses on breast cancer but can be applied to other cancers as well, explores the overexpression of the GRP78 gene in cancers. GRP78 promotes the growth of tumor cells, which increases cell resistance to chemotherapy.

“Drug resistance is what often causes cancer treatment therapy to fail, so decreasing this resistance would have significant impact and could help eradicate the cancer,” explains Neamati.

The goal of the project is to better understand the drug resistance mechanisms of the GRP78 gene and to design novel therapeutic agents to overcome them. Neamati and his team aim to counteract GRP78 by discovering ways to decrease its expression and to selectively inhibit its enzymatic activity in cancerous cells.

“It is expected that by



From left: research associate Hiroyuki Otake, doctoral student Kavya Ramkumar, and research associate Bikash Debnath with professors Nouri Neamati and Amy Lee.

## CHLA: New facility will help meet surging demand

Continued from page 1  
is truly a work of art and certainly a precious jewel for the City of Los Angeles.”

Civic leaders and Children’s Hospital administrators identified the need for the new hospital building more than a decade ago.

With the growth of Los Angeles and patients traveling from throughout the world to seek care from the expert physicians at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, demand for services exceeded the hospital capacity. The new Anderson Pavilion allows for increased access, expanded patient care services and the ability to recruit new physicians in key specialties.

“[This new building] will make recruiting faculty easier, as a premier facility where they can deliver state-of-the-art care,” said D. Brent Polk, chair of the Department of Pediatrics at the Keck School and vice president for academic affairs at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. “It also is a very visible beacon back to the community of Los Angeles reflecting the importance of

### Building boasts key design features

The architectural firm of Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Architects designed the building, while Rudolph & Sletten Inc. constructed the facility.

Key elements of the new pavilion include:

- It is licensed for 317 beds, 85 percent of which are private rooms.
- To meet growing demand, more than one-third of beds will be intensive care beds, a 63 percent increase over previous hospital capacity.
- The building’s design is based on the varied California landscape with each floor featuring a different region of the state—from

the desert to the ocean to a child’s own backyard.

- Every aspect of the building has been designed with families in mind, with each patient room featuring a daybed to allow parents or caregivers to stay at the patient bedside.

- Patients, families and staff will dine in style at the HBO Café, a Hollywood-themed dining space featuring large windows, indoor skylights and outdoor seating.

- Patients and visiting children will enjoy the Jane Vruwink Palmer Healing and Play Garden where children of all abilities can play side by side.

child well-being and health in our community.”

More than \$1 billion was raised for the new building and other critical programs and research, which is the largest-ever single fundraising campaign in the nation by a

freestanding, independent children’s hospital.

Known as Living Proof: the Campaign for Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, the campaign received an unprecedented 737,743 individual gifts.

blocking the survival effects of GRP78, cancer cells will become more susceptible to chemotherapy,” said Neamati.

Neamati’s lab has already identified two novel compounds that reduce GRP78 expression and inhibit its enzymatic activity with the help of a \$120,000 seed grant from the L. K. Whittier Foundation, on which Lee was the primary investigator. The DOD funding will be built on the Whittier grant’s

findings to investigate the molecular mechanisms and anticancer effects of these compounds.

“We will validate the therapeutic utility of these inhibitors as a novel approach to treat GRP78-overexpressing breast cancer,” said Neamati. “Successful completion of these studies will expedite the development of these drugs for use in cancer patients.”

This is the fourth DOD grant awarded to Neamati.

## ACGME awards five-year accreditation to Internal Medicine Residency Training Program

**By Ryan Ball**  
The Keck School of Medicine’s Internal Medicine Residency Training Program recently received the maximum five-year accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and its Residency Review Committee for Internal Medicine.

Ron Ben-Ari, vice chair for educational affairs in the Department of Medicine, which runs the program, said it has undergone a number of significant changes in recent years. These include expanding its core team of educators, restructuring its educational program and responding to new duty hour and educational requirements.

Ben-Ari attributed the five-year accreditation to outstanding residents, a competent and caring educational team (associate program directors Bharat Chaudry, Tabitha Goring, Eric Hsieh, Michael Karp, Steven Kim, Joshua Sapkin and program administrator Nancy Shepherd) and tremendous support from the chair and faculty of the Department of Medicine. He says another major contributing factor is the new Los Angeles County+USC Medical Center facility.

“We now provide improved patient privacy, patients have all the amenities they can expect in any hospital, and the hospital is state-of-the-

art in terms of our resources for diagnostic and treatment tools,” Ben Ari explained.

The Internal Medicine Residency Training Program will move forward under a new program director.

On July 1, Ben-Ari turned over that role to Eric Hsieh, assistant professor of clinical medicine at the Keck School. Ben-Ari says that Hsieh and the rest of the team will continue to place an emphasis on attracting excellent students, especially those from the Keck School. Other priorities for the program include increasing opportunities for training at the Keck Medical Center of USC, incorporating more simulation training using the Surgical Skills Center, and continuing to provide faculty with resources to enhance their teaching and supervisory skills.

One of the largest in the country, the Internal Medicine Residency Training Program currently serves 165 residents in the categorical three-year internal medicine residency. Another 24 residents are training in a combined Medicine/Pediatrics program, and additional trainees visit from Huntington Memorial Hospital and other programs.

The ACGME is responsible for the accreditation of post-MD medical training programs within the United States. Accreditation is accomplished through a peer review process and is based upon established standards and guidelines.



**BE PREPARED**—USC’s hospitals conducted a disaster drill on June 24, simulating the response to an active shooter on the premises. Key staff, as well as USC Emergency Management Services, USC Department of Public Safety and the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), participated in the exercise. Above, the emergency response team listens as LAPD Sgt. Miguel Lopez (far right) explains how the police department would respond to an active shooting incident.



# Legacy bricks dedicated at USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center in honor of loved ones

**By Pauline Vu**

Every time Donald Larsen, the chief medical officer at USC’s two hospitals, enters the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center from the quad, he’ll have the memory of his parents nearby.

That’s because Larsen donated money for two legacy bricks, which are embedded in the ground to the right of the entrance, in honor of his parents and their battles against cancer. His mother, Madeline, passed away 30 years ago from breast cancer. His father, Donald Sr., died 10 years ago from lung cancer.

“They’ll always be in my memory as I walk by,” Larsen said.

On June 12, approximately 75 people gathered outside USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center to dedicate 154 bricks in honor and memory of loved ones. The engraved legacy bricks, for which donors gave \$500 each, raised about \$77,000 and were bought mostly at the Concert to Cure Cancer held in September 2010. The money will go toward cancer research.

“Bricks are solid, and these lives that we’re commemorating are solid,” said Peter A. Jones, director of the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. “You can see them, you can read them, and there’s no getting away from it—these are people who have fought the fight against cancer.”

A few years ago, USC Norris dedicated bricks in the cancer center’s Hinderstein Family Meditation Garden. The program has expanded and now there are more opportunities to acknowledge someone special.

Three bricks were dedicated in honor of Paul



Brian Morris

Grayson Adler examines the new legacy bricks at USC Norris. One of them was dedicated by his father, Michael Adler.

Anderson, a patient at USC Norris who passed away in March 2010. He was one of the key inspirations for the Concert to Cure Cancer, which raised more than \$1 million for cancer research. Anderson’s wife, Dori, said she donated her brick “to always know that it’s here, that people can see it, and just to dedicate it to a wonderful man.”

Keck School of Medicine

Dean Carmen A. Puliafito and his wife, Dr. Janet Pine, each dedicated a brick in honor of their fathers. “It’s such a great way to commemorate the lives of family members and the efforts of scientists to fight cancer,” Puliafito said.

USC alumnus Michael Adler dedicated a brick in honor of Carmy Peters, director of development at USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. The reason: Peters was instrumental in helping Adler’s mother, Marilyn, get an appointment with a specialist at USC Norris in 2000 when she was diagnosed with mesothelioma.

Before coming to USC Norris, Marilyn Adler sought opinions from three hospitals, including UCLA and City of Hope. Their prognosis was bleak, giving her six to 12 months to live.

But at USC Norris, the Adlers found a different at-

titude. “Instead of doom and gloom, they spoke of clinical trials and research,” Michael Adler said. “They recommended my mom participate in a study that was approved just weeks earlier. There were no guarantees, but there was hope.”

Adler acknowledged it might seem strange that his brick doesn’t memorialize his mother. “That’s because my mom, Marilyn Adler, who was told she only had six to nine months to live in November 2000, is here with us today because of the advice and support of the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center,” he said.

As his mother waved, the audience clapped and cheered.

For more information on purchasing a Legacy Brick, please contact Tonya Strom, assistant director of development, at 323-865-0668 or [tstrom@usc.edu](mailto:tstrom@usc.edu).

# William H. Crawford Jr., former dean of the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry, 74

William H. Crawford Jr. ’62, former dean of the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC, died on June 18. He was 74.

During his time in dental school at USC, Crawford’s interest in histology led to work as a laboratory technician and teaching assistant. After graduation, he took a full-time teaching position with the school.

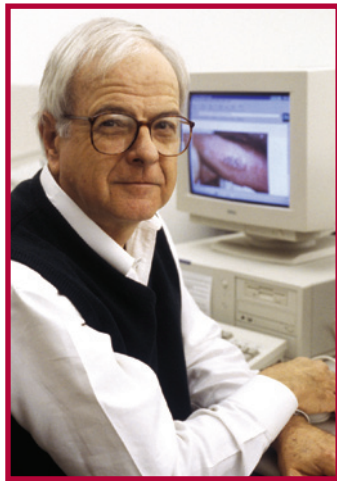
Following two years of service in the Army Dental Corps, he returned to USC in

1966 to begin his career as a faculty member.

Crawford served in several leadership roles, including assistant dean for preclinical affairs and associate dean for academic affairs, before being named interim dean in 1972 following the departure of John Ingle.

During that interim, Crawford established the school’s Board of Councilors and oversaw the creation of the Oral Pathology Laboratory.

Following the deanship of Richard Oliver, Crawford was named dean in 1977, a post he held until 1990. During his term, the school underwent many changes, including renovations to the Norris Dental Science Center, the creation of the Special Patients Clinic and the Sterilizer Monitoring Service, the opening of the Center for Craniofacial Molecular Biology on the Health Sciences Campus, improvements in dental education and several scientific advancements.



William H. Crawford Jr.

stewardship as dean.

“Dr. Crawford’s legacy,

vision and leadership continued to benefit the Ostrow School of Dentistry long after his term as dean,” said Avishai Sadan, the school’s current dean. “He will be greatly missed by the Trojan dental family.”

A memorial service for Crawford is planned for Aug. 5 at 1:30 p.m. in the Century Club Auditorium on the fourth floor of the Norris Dental Science Center. A reception will follow in the Blair Rooms located on the first floor of the East Lobby.

He is survived by his wife, Lynn Crawford.

## Calendar of Events

This Calendar of Events is also online at [www.usc.edu/hscalendar](http://www.usc.edu/hscalendar) for the Health Sciences Campus community

**Tuesday, July 19**

**Noon.** Psychiatry Grand Rounds. “Restraints: Is it a Treatment Failure?” Penny Panettiere, USC. CSC 250. Info: (323) 442-4065

**Friday, July 22**

**8:30 a.m.** Surgical Grand Rounds. “Liver Transplantation in MELD 40 Recipients: Is it Worth Doing?” Alexopoulous Sophoclis, USC. DOH 100. Info: (323) 442-2506

**11 a.m.** Hematology Grand Rounds. “Illuminating the Role of Runx1 in Clonal Myeloid Disorders,” James Mangan, Univ. of Pennsylvania. IPT C2J103. Info: (323) 865-3950

**Noon.** Medicine Grand Rounds. “Atrial Fibrillation,” Thiri Oo, USC. IPT Conference Room B. Info: (323) 226-7556

**Friday, July 29**

**8:30 a.m.** Surgical Grand Rounds. “Incredible Advances in Breast Cancer Surgery,” Melvin Silverstein, Hoag Hospital. DOH 100. Info: (323) 442-2506

**11 a.m.** Hematology Grand Rounds, Casey O’Connell, USC. IPT C2J103. Info: (323) 865-3950

**August 1 – 5**

**9 a.m. – 11 a.m.** “INTD 500: Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR),” Various speakers. KAM Mayer Auditorium. Info: (323) 865-0805

**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 email to [eblaauw@usc.edu](mailto: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.

## 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.

