

## Movie examines lives of young adults with cancer

By Tania Chatila

Will Reiser knows too well the experience of a young adult with cancer.

In 2005, the 25-year-old budding screenwriter and producer was diagnosed with a malignant spinal tumor. But he fought it—living on to write the screenplay for the loosely autobiographical comedy, *50/50*.

The movie—currently in theaters—was screened at a special event hosted by the Adolescent and Young Adult Program (AYA) at USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center and Hospital on Sept. 18. Held at Los Angeles' Landmark Theatre, the screening was meant to create awareness for adolescents and young adults with cancer.

"This was the perfect venue to introduce our up-and-coming Adolescent and Young Adult Program at Norris," said Peter Jones, director of the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. "This movie was all about the cancer experience of a young adult—a patient population that is greatly overlooked in the cancer arena. At Norris, we are trying to change that."

See **CANCER**, page 2



Above, from left, Stuart Siegel, co-leader of the Adolescent and Young Adult Program (AYA) at USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center and Hospital; Debu Tripathy, co-leader of AYA; Will Reiser, writer and cancer survivor; Peter Jones, director of the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center; and Scott Evans, chief operating officer of the USC hospitals, at a screening of the film *50/50*. Right, *50/50* actors Anna Kendrick and Seth Rogen (right) discuss the movie's themes and comment on the need for more resources for young adults with cancer.



**'This movie was all about the cancer experience of a young adult—a patient population that is greatly overlooked in the cancer arena. At Norris, we are trying to change that.'**

**—Peter Jones, director of the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center**

## Keck School researchers awarded grant for Hispanic colorectal cancer genome study

By Amy E. Hamaker

Keck School of Medicine researchers Robert Haile, professor of preventive medicine, and Jane Figueiredo, assistant professor of preventive medicine, recently received a five-year RO1 grant totaling \$4.7 million from the National Cancer Institute to study racial/ethnic disparities in cancer susceptibility in Hispanic populations.

Genome-wide association studies (GWAS) of colorectal cancer have been instrumental in identifying several common factors in the susceptibility of non-Hispanic white populations to colorectal cancer, but Hispanics have been under-represented in these types of studies. Hispanics are often diagnosed with colorectal cancer at a younger age and have a significantly greater incidence of stage IV tumors or metastatic disease when compared to non-Hispanic whites.

"Hispanics are the fastest growing major demographic group in the U.S., so it is critical that we better understand

the causes of colorectal cancer in this population to allow us to develop more effective strategies for preventing this cancer in the future," explained Haile. "This grant will enable us to conduct by far the largest study in the country of colorectal cancer in Hispanics and to test a comprehensive panel of more than 1 million genetic markers. This will also serve as an extremely valuable resource to the scientific community for launching other studies of colorectal cancer in Hispanics."

For "Adding Hispanics to Ongoing GWAS in Colorectal Cancer," Haile and Figueiredo plan to conduct a large population-based GWAS in Hispanics by using existing National Institutes of Health-funded resources, the Colon Cancer Family Registry and the Multiethnic Cohort Study. The study will recruit 2,500 Hispanic men and women who have been diagnosed with colorectal cancer between January 2010 and October 2013 using cancer registries

in California. Risk factor/diet questionnaires, pathology reports, buccal samples (from inside the cheek for genotyping) and tumor blocks (for MSI testing) will be collected during the initial study, and the researchers hope to replicate their findings during a second stage using colorectal cancer cases and controls from Mexico.

"Launching the largest colorectal cancer study in Hispanics to study the human genome will address a critical gap in our knowledge and have the potential to provide novel genetic variants associated with cancer risk," added Figueiredo. "Furthermore, in this study we will compare genetic effects in multiple Hispanic groups (Mexican-Californian, Puerto Rican, Mexican, Colombian, Brazilian, Argentinean, Portuguese and Spanish) as well as across ethnic and racial groups (non-Hispanic whites, Japanese and African-Americans), helping us better explain ethnic and racial disparities in cancer rates."

## 2011 Good Neighbors Campaign kickoff starts a season of giving

By Amy E. Hamaker

The areas surrounding USC's Health Sciences Campus and University Park Campus share a deep connection with the university. It is that connection that prompts staff members, faculty and students to donate every year to the Good Neighbors Campaign to fund programs that help children and adults in these areas.

The 2011 USC Good Neighbors Campaign kicked off on Wednesday, Sept. 28, with a reception on the University Park Campus. USC president C. L. Max Nikias and Tom Sayles, senior vice president for university relations, welcomed all university faculty and staff to the celebration, the first-ever university-wide kickoff of the campaign.

Nikias spoke at the event, noting, "The success of this effort is measured not only in the millions you give, but also in the milestones that are

reached through the partnerships and programs made possible by your contributions."

The goal for this year's campaign is \$1.4 million, and campaign organizers hope to achieve 50 percent participation across the university—an increase from last year, when participation was at 38 percent. For the first time, donations to the campaign can be made directly online.

"Through this campaign, university employees are not only supporting the transformative work the university is doing, but also contributing to the \$6 billion Campaign for USC effort, as Good Neighbor funding goes toward that campaign's goal," said Carolina Castillo, executive director of planning and development in the office of Government and Community Relations, and Good Neighbors Campaign director.

Health Sciences Campus leaders are encouraging faculty and staff to see **CAMPAIGN**, page 3



# USC study underscores value of specialty medical services

**‘Psychiatric pharmacists can be a valuable asset to help bridge the gap in providing comprehensive health care that includes quality psychiatric services.’**

**—USC School of Pharmacy associate professor Julie Dopheide**

While safety-net clinics are providing vital care to uninsured and underinsured patients—a population of 47 million Americans and 2.7 million people in Los Angeles alone—studies show that these clinics are struggling to meet the rising demand for care, particularly specialty services such as psychiatry.

USC School of Pharmacy associate professor Julie Dopheide, along with Bosun Chung of the healthcare division of the Veterans Administration of Greater Los Angeles, and Paul Gregerson, chief medical officer of the JWCH Institute, worked together to bring a psychiatric pharmacist to the Center for Community Health (CCH) safety-net clinic in the Skid Row area of Los Angeles, providing a previously unavailable service to patients there. Chung was a psychiatric pharmacy resident at USC when the paper was submitted.

In “Psychiatric Pharmacist and Primary

Care Collaboration at a Skid-Row Safety-Net Clinic,” which appears in the July 2011 issue of the *Journal of the National Medical Association*, the authors explain that many homeless people using the clinic have

mental disorders, but do not have access to a psychiatrist.

Adding a psychiatric pharmacist and residents, all from the USC School of Pharmacy, provides patients with numerous services that were previously unavailable, including drug therapy, adjusting dosages, discontinuing certain drug therapy and medication education.

These necessary interventions were often not performed by primary care providers at the clinic. “Primary care providers were not comfortable in providing psychiatric medication follow-up for patients beyond uncomplicated depression and anxiety disorders,” said the study.

Not only was the integration of psychiatric pharmacists beneficial to the primary care providers, who expressed an overall

positive view of the services provided for their patients with established psychiatric diagnoses, but patient satisfaction ratings were also high.

“Patients felt that their needs were being met and that they were receiving excellent quality of service,” said the study. “This seems to be due largely to the extended visits that the psychiatric pharmacy resident was able to provide, which allowed for the psychiatric pharmacy resident to provide needed psychosocial support and education regarding their mental illness and their psychotropic medications.”

Dopheide’s study concluded that a psychiatric pharmacist-run medication management service working in collaboration with primary care providers can improve access to mental health services in safety-net clinics, with good provider and patient satisfaction.

“Psychiatric pharmacists can be a valuable asset to help bridge the gap in providing comprehensive health care that includes quality psychiatric services,” said Dopheide.



Julie Dopheide

## CANCER: 50/50 movie addresses serious topic with humorous touch

Continued from page 1

The screening was attended by nearly 300 Keck School of Medicine students and faculty, as well as staff of USC University Hospital and USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center and Hospital. It showcased AYA, a new program being developed at USC Norris to tailor existing clinical, research and support services to fit the unique needs of young adults with cancer.

“We were thrilled to see such support and excitement for our program,” said Josh Pashman, program manager for AYA. He referred to the evening’s announcement of a monetary pledge from founding benefactor, The Women’s Cancer Research Fund. “We have a great opportunity to improve cancer care and research for young

adults in Southern California. This is only the start.”

Following the screening, attendees listened in on a panel discussion with Reiser and two of the film’s leading actors, Seth Rogen and Anna Kendrick. The discussion centered on the film’s themes and addressed the need for more resources for young adults with cancer.

“When you’re in your teens and twenties, you want to feel normal,” said Reiser, talking about the impact a program like AYA could have on young adults with cancer. “You don’t want to feel alienated. You don’t want to feel marginalized. You don’t want to feel separated from the rest of your peers. ... There does need to be a dialogue. The more there is a dialogue, the better it is for young people.”

Through humor, the movie

touches on many topics facing young adults with cancer, like relationships, communication and fertility. One scene even portrays what can sometimes be a transactional relationship between physicians and their patients.

“Sometimes you need to extract a lot of a person’s story in 15 minutes,” said Donald Moe, a third-year medical student at the Keck School. “But every patient goes through peaks and valleys. As a doctor, you might catch someone at a peak, but you also need to prepare them for the valleys.”

Annette Sy, associate administrator of ambulatory care at the USC hospitals, said the film was a good portrayal of what young adults with cancer experience based on their age range.

“I thought it was a close

portrayal, very emotional,” said Sy, going on to talk about the commitment of the USC hospitals’ staff to treating cancer patients.

She added, “That’s why it is

so important for us to be very supportive of our patients. We really try to individualize our care and give them the specific support that they need.”

## Longtime USC professor Findlay Russell, 91

Former USC professor Findlay Ewing Russell died on Aug. 21, just days before his 92nd birthday. Russell served as professor of neurology, physiology and biology at USC for 30 years and was the first president and founding member of the International Society of Toxinology.

He was a pioneer in the advancement of polyvalent crotalid antivenom for snakebites, and has several species of arachnids named after him. Russell received his medical degree from Loma Linda University in 1952 and worked as a physician and neurosurgeon before serving as an army medic in Okinawa, Japan, during World War II. He returned home

with a Purple Heart, two Bronze Stars and wounds that limited his dexterity. Unable to perform surgery, Russell began his academic career at

Caltech and continued at USC, where he served as director of the Laboratory of Neurological Research.

A Fulbright scholar, Russell was a visiting professor to numerous colleges and universities

throughout the world. He was awarded the Skylab Achievement Award for his work with NASA and consulted for the World Health Organization, Doctors Without Borders and the National Science Foundation. His last 15 years were spent in the School of Pharmacology at the University of Arizona.



Findlay Ewing Russell

## Science-themed filmmaking competition begins

USC science students are invited to participate in the university’s first science-themed filmmaking competition.

Teams of students from different USC schools will present a short film or documentary that explains and illustrates a scientific concept, principle or issue for a wide non-expert audience.

Each team must include at least one student from a USC Dornsife science department, the Viterbi School of Engineering or the Keck School of Medicine, and at least one from the USC School of Cinematic Arts or the Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism.

The deadline to register is Oct. 8 and the final submission deadline is Jan. 11, 2012. First prize receives \$2,500, second prize \$1,500, and third prize \$500.

For more information, visit [sciencefilms.usc.edu](http://sciencefilms.usc.edu). Faculty who wish to help connect students to the competition may contact Clifford Johnson, professor of physics and astronomy, at [johnson1@usc.edu](mailto:johnson1@usc.edu).

The Weekly

Next Issue: October 7

*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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## Keck School faculty featured at World Stem Cell Summit, Oct. 3–5

Several Keck School of Medicine faculty will participate as speakers and moderators during the World Stem Cell Summit, an international gathering of scientists, advocates and government representatives involved with stem cell research.

The summit, in its seventh year, will be held Oct. 3–5 at the Pasadena Convention Center. The Keck School is a sponsor of the event, which is expected to bring together more than 170 prominent scientists, business leaders, regulators, policymakers, advocates, economic development officers and experts in law and ethics to discuss the latest scientific discoveries, business models, legal and regulatory solutions, and best practices.

Keck School co-chairs of the event are Elizabeth Fini, vice dean for research and professor of cell and neurobiology, and Mark Humayun, professor of ophthalmology, biomedical engineering and cell and neurobiology, and associate director of research at the Doheny Retina Institute at USC.

The summit is co-organized by the nonprofit Genetics Policy Institute, dedicated to promoting stem cell research, the Keck School and several other California institutions including CIRM, City of Hope, Cedars Sinai Regenerative Medicine Institute and Caltech.

To attend, register online at <http://tinyurl.com/3lszbg6>. Keck School participants in the summit include:

### Monday, Oct. 3

**Dean Carmen A. Puliafito**  
Welcome Overview  
8 a.m., Civic Auditorium

**Paula Cannon, Moderator**  
Stem Cell Progress Report—HIV/AIDS  
2:30 – 3:30 p.m., Ballroom C

**Henry Sucof, Speaker**  
Translational and Clinical Studies of Stem Cells for Heart Regeneration  
4 – 5 p.m., Ballroom D

### Tuesday, Oct. 4

**Brent Polk (CHLA), Speaker**  
**David Warburton (CHLA), Speaker**  
Welcome  
8:30 a.m. Civic Auditorium

**Martin Pera, Moderator**  
Safety Issues in Stem Cell Therapies  
12:15 – 1:15 p.m., Ballroom D

**Tracy Grikscheit, Speaker**  
**David Warburton (CHLA), Moderator**  
Stem Cell Science—Regenerating Whole Organs  
2:30 – 3:30 p.m., Ballroom D

**Wange Lu, Speaker**  
Stem Cells for Modeling Neurological Disorders  
3:45 – 4:45 p.m., Ballroom B

### Wednesday, Oct. 5

**Mark Humayun, Speaker**  
Stem Cell Translational Report—Diseases of the Eye  
11 a.m. – noon, Ballroom E

**David Warburton (CHLA), Moderator**  
**Laura Perin (CHLA), Speaker**  
New Stem Cell Discoveries—Clinical Implications  
2 – 3 p.m., Ballroom D

**Roger DeFilippo, Speaker**  
Hospital and Clinician Perspectives on Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine  
2 – 3 p.m., Ballroom C



**WALKING THE WALK, RAISING THE CASH**—The American Liver Foundation hosted its annual Liver Life Walk on Sept. 18 in Santa Monica, Calif. The two-mile fundraising walk attracted more than 500 participants and raised more than \$81,000, of which the The USC Liver Team generated \$3,500.

## CAMPAIGN: Goal is to make an impact, save lives

Continued from page 1  
ulty and staff to participate.

“The Good Neighbors Campaign benefits the community surrounding our campus through programs that enhance science, health, literacy and math education,” said Keck School of Medicine Dean Carmen A. Puliafito. “Supporting these partnerships is a worthwhile and rewarding goal for faculty, staff and students.”

School of Pharmacy Dean Pete Vanderveen, an avid Good Neighbors Campaign supporter, said, “USC is a global leader in so many fields, and the Good Neighbors Campaign provides a tremendous opportunity for us to share some of that expertise with our community. At our school alone, the GNC has helped us fund fotonovelas on diabetes, depression and other health issues, poison prevention and STAR—and that’s just the beginning. This

### Want to help? Here’s how:

USC’s Good Neighbors Campaign is now under way, and contributions to the campaign can be made at any time through payroll deduction, or by check or cash. All donations to the campaign are tax deductible; tax receipts are issued the following February for the year in which donations are made.

Look out for your information packet arriving soon via mail. For more information, visit <http://communities.usc.edu/gnc/give.html>.

is an amazing program.”

“Opening Doors” is the theme for 2011. “This year’s theme is meaningful in many different ways,” Castillo said. “The university regularly opens its doors to the community to its infrastructure, its buildings, labs, faculty and staff. Plus, we’re opening doors to greater opportunities.

“We’re hearing a lot of success stories about students going off and doing great things from programs that have been funded through previous Good Neighbors campaigns,” she continues. “Lives are being changed, and it’s exciting

to see a real impact.”

Begun in 1994 by former USC President Steven Sample, the USC Good Neighbors Campaign encourages USC faculty and staff to contribute a portion of their paychecks to support programs that help strengthen local communities through USC Neighborhood Outreach, United Way and other nonprofit organizations. Students, alumni and friends can also participate. To date, the campaign has raised more than \$11 million to support more than 411 community partner organizations.

## Human resources, international services offices open on Soto Street

The Keck School of Medicine Human Resources Department, the USC hospitals’ Human Resources Department and the Health Sciences branch of the Office of International Services recently opened for business at their new spaces in the Soto Street Building. The building is located at 2001 Soto Street (at the corner of Soto Street and Valley Boulevard), and the move was completed in early September. The offices, which are open weekdays from

7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. except where noted, can be reached at the following numbers:

- Keck School of Medicine Human Resources, Room 102; (323) 442-3913
- USC hospitals Human Resources, Room 102; (323) 442-8628
- Office of International Services (OIS/HSC), Room 203 (for mailing, use Room 203E); (323) 442-1841; office hours: weekdays, 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

## The Weekly NEWSMAKERS

**Leslie Saxon**, chief of cardiovascular medicine and professor of clinical medicine at the Keck School, was quoted by *Fast Company* in a Sept. 26 article about an iPhone game developed by the USC Center for Body Computing and Ayogo Games. The game, revealed at the center’s Body Computing Conference on Sept. 23, helps teach users to regulate their heartbeat.

“The game illustrates how we can bring something as basic to our health and existence as heart rate to teens and make it fun,” said Saxon, executive director of the center. The magazine also ran separate stories on former Apple CEO John Sculley, who was the keynote speaker at the conference, and a diagnostic kit revealed at the conference. *Medgadget*, *MIT Technology Review*, *Healthcare IT News*, Hive

Health Media and Venture Beat featured other devices presented at the conference.

A Sept. 26 article in the *Los Angeles Times* quoted **Jonathan Samet**, who serves as the Flora L. Thornton Chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine at the Keck School and director of the USC Institute for Global Health, about the Clean Air Act advisory panel reviewing recent research on ozone.

A Sept. 22 article in the *Times of India* (India) featured an artificial retina device developed at the USC Doheny Eye Institute by **Rajat Agrawal**, assistant professor of clinical ophthalmology at the Doheny Retina Institute at USC, and **Mark Humayun**, profes-

sor of biomedical engineering, ophthalmology, and cell and neurobiology at the Keck School and associate director of research at Doheny. The device has allowed 37 patients in the United States and Europe to regain some vision, the article reported. Agrawal is working to introduce the device to India by collaborating with Indian scientists to develop a less expensive version.

A Sept. 22 story on MSNBC.com quoted **Michael Goran**, who holds the Dr. Robert C. and Veronica Atkins Endowed Chair in Childhood Obesity and Diabetes and professor of preventive medicine, physiology and biophysics, and pediatrics at the Keck School, about the health impact of consuming high fructose corn syrup. “High fructose corn syrup is not sugar,” Goran said.



# 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

## Monday, Oct. 3– Wednesday, Oct. 5

**7 a.m.–5 p.m.** USC Partners in 2011 World Stem Cell Summit. Various speakers and presenters. Pasadena Convention Center. Info: (323) 442-2605

## Wednesday, Oct. 5

**Noon.** Center for Excellence in Research. “Technologies for Empowering Research Collaboration Across & Beyond the Institution,” Susan Metros, USC. UPC: HNB 100. Info: (213) 740-6709

## Thursday, Oct. 6

**4:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m.** Norris Medical Library Presentation. “In the Roaring Twenties, Poison Was a Silent Killer,” Deborah Blum, author. NRT Aresty Aud. Info: (323) 442-1134

## Friday, Oct. 7

**6:30 a.m.** “Fluid Management in Clinical Practice: One Size Does Not Fit All,” Gerard Manecke, UC San Diego. MCH 256. Info: (323) 409-6856

**11:40 a.m.** Southern California Environmental Health Science Seminar. “Particulate Matter Health Effects: Does Chemical Composition Matter?” Sverre Vedal, University of Washington. SSB 116. Info: (323) 442-1096

**Noon.** Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences Seminar. “Genetic Knockout of Pept1 and Pept2 in Mice: Impact on Peptide/Mimetic ADMET and Pharmacologic Response,” David Smith, University of Michigan. PSC 104. Info: (323) 442-1445

## Saturday, Oct. 8

**8 a.m.–6 p.m.** The 10th Moving Targets Symposium. “Aging and Oxidative Stress,” Various speakers. UPC: Davidson Conference Ctr. Free registration <http://itims.usc.edu/MovingTargets2011/> Info: (323) 442-2157

## Monday, Oct. 10

**9 a.m.–5 p.m.** Molecular Microbiology and Immunology and Institute for Emerging Pathogens and Immune Diseases Symposium. “30 Years of HIV/AIDS—An LA Perspective,” Various speakers. Broad

CIRM Center 1st Floor Conference Rm. Info: (323) 442-1710

**11:45 a.m.** KSOM Research Seminar. “Exploring Neural Tube Closure via Genes, Environment and Imaging,” Lee Niswander, University of Colorado. NRT Aresty Aud. Info: (323) 442-2605

## Tuesday, Oct. 11

**Noon.** Psychiatry Grand Rounds. “Does the Practice of Geriatric Neuropsychopharmacology Constitute Fraud, Assault and Racketeering Despite its Substantial Evidence-base?” Lon Schneider, USC. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-4065

## Sunday, Oct. 16

**10 a.m.–2 p.m.** Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Los Angeles 5K to End Epilepsy. Rose Bowl, Pasadena. Join the USC Epilepsy Team. To register [www.walktoendepilepsy.org](http://www.walktoendepilepsy.org). Info: (800) 564-0445

## Tuesday, Oct. 18

**10:30 a.m.** USC Hospital Guild Women’s Health Focus. “You Are What You Do,” Camille Dieterie, USC, and Christy Russell, USC. Coffee Reception at 10 a.m.; lunch following program. \$45 per person. Wilshire Country Club. Info: (323) 254-0600

**1:30 p.m.** Ming Hsieh Institute for Engineering Medicine for Cancer Seminar. “The Advances in Nanotechnology in Cancer,” Piotr Grodzinski, National Cancer Inst. NRT Aresty Aud. Info: (323) 442-2605

## Saturday, Oct. 22

**9 a.m.–1 p.m.** USC Norris Women’s Cancer Event. “Personalizing Breast Cancer Care,” Debu Tripathy, USC. This free multidisciplinary half-day conference will feature updates on personalized approaches for the prevention and treatment of breast cancer. Includes breakfast reception and tours of screening, care and research facilities. KAM Mayer Aud. Info: (323) 442-7050

## Tuesday, Oct. 25

**Noon.** Psychiatry Grand Rounds. “Publicly Funded Outpatient Care for Childhood ADHD,” Bonnie Zima, UCLA. CSC 250. Info: (323) 442-4065

**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.

## Dodgers honor USC patients with heart disease

By Tania Chatila

Lisa Reinstedt came out of the womb practically a member of the Trojan Family. Born with hypoplastic right heart syndrome—underdevelopment of the right side of the heart—Reinstedt has been treated by USC and affiliated physicians her whole life.

So when her doctor, Philip Chang of the Keck School of Medicine, recently asked her to be part of a special group of patients representing USC at Los Angeles Dodger Stadium, Reinstedt jumped at the offer.

“I wanted to do something to give back,” said Reinstedt, 33, who has undergone six different heart surgeries, including her most recent at USC University Hospital. “USC is the ‘it’ place for adult cardiology, so whatever little I can do to represent that, I will.”

Reinstedt was one of eight patients representing USC University Hospitals’ Adult Congenital Heart Disease Care Center on the field at Dodger Stadium on Sept. 15, USC Night.

The patients got to run out on the field before the evening game to get autographs from Dodger players. They were also recognized by Dodger announcers along with several USC cardiologists.

“It was awesome,” said Rafael Artiga, who got an autograph from Dodgers first baseman James Loney. “I’ve



Patients of the USC University Hospital Adult Congenital Heart Disease Care Center celebrate on the field of Dodger Stadium on Sept. 15 as part of USC Night. The adults, from left, are: Rafael Artiga, Gina Sulme, Lisa Reinstedt, Pedro Benavides, Maria Lopez, Sami Gharib, Luigi Cilloniz. In front, CHLA congenital heart disease patient Tommy Faber joins the group.

only ever seen him on TV, so it was really cool to actually see him in person.”

At only 19, Artiga has had surgery four times, including three open-heart surgeries. Two of his procedures were performed at USC University Hospital.

His story is similar to those of many other adult congenital heart disease patients who suffer from heart disease in infancy, childhood and eventually into adulthood.

For many of these patients, heart surgery as newborns is common, followed by lifelong treatment to monitor and care for their conditions.

“I had my first open-heart surgery at five months old,” said Gina Sulme, 30, who suffers from a condition where her two main arteries are at-

tached to the wrong ventricles in her heart. “Essentially, my heart works backwards.”

For Sulme, getting out on the field was an opportunity to experience “something fun—a change from the hospital setting.”

It was also a unique opportunity to recognize the patients and their own personal feats, said Chang, medical director of the Adult Congenital Heart Disease Care Center, which specializes in treating children and adults with congenital heart disease.

“There was a time when a lot of these patients would not have survived,” Chang said. “They are all great examples of what personal responsibility for health and working with your doctors can achieve.”

## Federal officials seek comments on proposed human research rules

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is seeking public input on proposed changes to the 1991 Common Rule regulations overseeing human research subjects. Comments are being sought on:

- Revising the existing risk-based framework to more accurately calibrate actual risk.
- Using a single Institutional Review Board review for all domestic sites of multisite studies.
- Updating forms and processes for informed consent.
- Establishing mandatory data security standards for identifiable information.
- Creating a systematic approach to collecting and analyzing data on unanticipated or adverse events.
- Extending federal regulatory protections to all research conducted at U.S. institutions that receive funding from the Common Rule agencies.
- Providing uniform guid-

ance on federal regulations.

To submit a comment by the Oct. 26 deadline, visit [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov),

enter the ID number HHS-OPHS-2011-0005-0001 and click on “Submit a Comment.”

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**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.