

Ming Hsieh Institute Symposium explores nanomedicine

By Ryan Ball

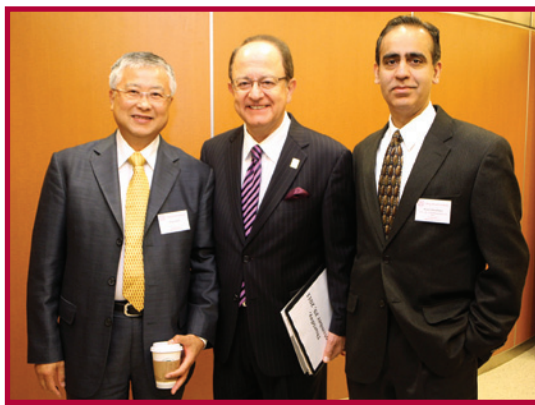
Small medicine was the big idea as the Health Sciences Campus hosted the USC Ming Hsieh Institute for Engineering Medicine for Cancer Symposium on Sept. 29. The inaugural event focused on bridging research in engineering and the sciences with clinical needs, as well as partnering with industry in the quest to develop better therapies.

USC President C. L. Max Nikias delivered the opening remarks and introduced USC Trustee and alumnus Ming Hsieh, who established his namesake institute with a \$50 million gift in October 2010.

"The ambitious goal of the USC Ming Hsieh Institute is to make USC a leader in cancer research that bridges medicine, engineering and the sciences," Nikias said. "Thanks to Ming, we are well on our way to conducting integrated transformational research that will bring recovery and renewal to the lives of cancer patients."

Ming Hsieh acknowledged the symposium's various presenters from USC's Viterbi School of Engineering, Keck School of Medicine and School of Pharmacy. "This represents cooperation, teamwork and a grand effort on behalf of our Health Sciences and University Park campuses to represent one united USC," he remarked.

The keynote address was delivered by Mauro Ferrari, president and CEO of the Methodist Hospital Research Institute in Houston. Ferrari is an internationally recognized expert in the



Above, (from left) USC Trustee Ming Hsieh, USC President C. L. Max Nikias and Preet Chaudhary, Keck School professor of medicine, gather at the opening of the Ming Hsieh Institute Symposium. Right, Mauro Ferrari discusses the application of biomedical nanotechnology.

Jon Nalick

development, refinement and application of biomedical nanotechnology.

According to Ferrari, nanotechnology is a necessary component of individualizing medicine. Getting the right therapeutics to the right people at the right time is critical in combating cancer in its many different forms, he said, adding that engineering and physics play a big role in customizing drugs to be more effective.

Ferrari concluded with praise for USC and its interdisciplinary approach to innovation. "I don't know of any other institution in the country that has been able to be so visionary and so consistent in its focus on bringing together great talents across the dividing wall which should not be there between medicine and engineering."



Jon Nalick

USC University Hospital prepares for strike action

USC University Hospital will be under heightened security from 6 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 12, until 6 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 13, as the National Union of Healthcare Workers (NUHW) goes on strike.

"Our management team has been working steadfastly to implement our strike action plan to ensure smooth operations and the safe working environment that our patients, families and employees expect and deserve," said hospitals CEO Mitch Creem. "This plan includes arrangements for adequate staffing with qualified replacement workers and a heightened level of security to maintain a safe environment for everyone on our campus."

Creem added that he expects the strike to be conducted in an orderly fashion.

All Health Sciences Campus faculty should be prepared for delays in arriving on campus Oct. 12. Access to USC University Hospital will be limited to approved, scheduled staff during the period of the strike. NUHW workers

are permitted to picket on Alcazar, San Pablo and Norfolk streets.

Faculty and staff are encouraged to check the USC University Hospital website at www.uscuniversityhospital.org for informational updates beginning Oct. 10. An employee hotline will be activated Oct. 10 for hospital personnel who have questions. That telephone number will be announced via email.

USC University Hospital employs 640 workers represented by NUHW. They work in areas as diverse as respiratory therapy, facilities and housekeeping.

The California Nurses Association (CNA) will participate in a 12-hour informational picket on Oct. 12, also beginning at 6 a.m. USC Norris Cancer Hospital is not affected by the strike or the picket.

Arrangements are being made for secure parking and safe transportation to and from work on Oct. 12 for USC University Hospital personnel who are scheduled to work that day.

See **STRIKE**, page 2

NIH awards Keck School researchers \$3.5 million to study lung cells

By Amy E. Hamaker

Researchers at the Keck School of Medicine recently received a \$3.5 million, five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health to study how lung cells differentiate in idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF), a disease that causes scarring or thickening of the lungs.

Ite Laird-Offringa, associate professor, surgery and biochemistry and molecular biology, and Zea Borok, professor of medicine, biochemistry and molecular biology, and chief of the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, plan to identify genome-wide changes of type 2 human lung wall cells as they transition during the course of IPF. They will also compare those cells to healthy lung cells.

Currently, no one knows what causes IPF, and there is no known cure. The condition generally leads to death within five years unless the patient undergoes a lung transplant. Approximately 34,000 cases of IPF are diagnosed in the United States each year.

The idea for the grant proposal was spurred when

Laird-Offringa attended a lecture given by Borok on studying purified lung epithelia in rats. Afterward, Laird-Offringa approached Borok with the idea of studying human epithelia (cells from the wall of the lung) using epigenetic science.

"It's a very expensive thing to do because it requires the ability to analyze thousands and thousands of genes at the same time," Borok explained. "It's never been done for this population of cells before."

We're in a unique position of having the USC Epigenome Center. Ita and I are bringing together two different areas of expertise to be able to do something that neither of us could do on our own."

Laird-Offringa added, "The grant really came about because we're so interactive at USC. The team spirit is really strong here. I've seen a difference between USC and other places that I've worked. I hope that more projects like this will come to fruition."



Jennifer Walker

From left, Crystal Marconett, a postdoctoral fellow from the Laird-Offringa lab; Ite Laird-Offringa, associate professor of surgery and of biochemistry and molecular biology; Zea Borok, professor of medicine and of biochemistry and molecular biology; and Beiyun Zhou, assistant professor of medicine, celebrate their recent NIH grant.

Starving the body impacts brain's ability to resist unhealthy foods

'We've all experienced it—we skip breakfast, we're starving at lunch, and the first thing we usually find to eat is unhealthy.'

—Kathleen Page, assistant professor of medicine

By Leslie Ridgeway

Low blood sugar influences the body's ability to resist high-calorie food, especially in obese individuals, according to research conducted by Keck School of Medicine and Yale University faculty.

Research conducted by Kathleen Page, assistant professor of medicine in the Keck School Division of Endocrinology, while at Yale University, indicates that the area of the brain regulating impulsive behavior is less able to fight temptation for a big slice of pizza or a box of chocolate chip cookies when blood glucose is low. Glucose is the brain's primary fuel source.

Page is one of the lead authors of the paper "Circulating glucose levels modulate neural control of desire for high-

calorie foods in humans." The study was published online Sept. 19 in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*.

"We've all experienced it—we skip breakfast, we're starving at lunch, and the first thing we usually find to eat is unhealthy," said Page. "We know that a drop in blood sugar drives people to eat, but we didn't know the relationship of how the brain responds to low blood sugar and the foods we desire."

Page's team studied both lean and obese individuals whose blood sugar had been reduced intravenously with insulin. Using functional

magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), the researchers looked at which areas of the brain

were activated when the test subjects viewed pictures of different kinds of foods, from fatty foods like cake and ice cream to more healthy choices such as salads and fruit. The subjects rated their desire for the foods.

All the test subjects desired the higher-calorie foods more when glucose levels dropped below normal. The brains of obese people in particular showed a lack of inhibition of impulsive desire for food.

"The prefrontal cortex

is the part of the brain that says 'Stop eating,'" Page said. "When blood sugar levels are low, that area of the brain is less activated. Obese individuals lacked prefrontal brain activation even when sugar levels were normal. We don't know if obesity changes the way the brain responds, or if it responds this way because of obesity."

Though more research is needed to determine reasons that obese people's brains respond differently to low blood sugar, the message for most people is: Give the brain a steady supply of fuel to prevent overeating.

"Eating healthy food that maintains glucose levels is the key," said Page.

The research was funded by the National Institutes of Health.



Kathleen Page

Avon Foundation for Women awards Keck School clinic \$125,000

Women with little or no insurance who have a family history of breast and ovarian cancer are the beneficiaries of an award of \$125,000 to the Keck School of Medicine from the Avon Foundation for Women.

The funding is one of five "safety net" grants awarded during the Avon Walk of Santa Barbara, which took place on Sept. 19 and raised a total of \$4.6 million for breast cancer research.

The safety net grants are part of the Avon Safety Net Hospital program, which comprises more than 100 hospitals and community clinics nationwide supported by the Avon Foundation to assist with access to high quality breast health services for women and men with no insurance or other resources.

The funding donated to the Keck School will support

the Avon Familial Breast and Ovarian Cancer Clinic. This clinic at Los Angeles County+USC Medical Center aims to give patients the same high-quality services available in the Lynne Cohen Preventive Care Clinic for Women's Cancer at USC Norris Cancer Hospital, said Heather Macdonald, assistant professor of clinical obstetrics and gynecology and breast surgery at the Keck School.

"This is the first clinic of its kind in a public hospital in Los Angeles County," said Macdonald, who directs the clinic with Charite Ricker, genetic counselor. "We are building a medical home for women who have a family history of these cancers. They feel like sitting ducks, watching cancers run through their families, waiting until it's their turn. We can support them, educate them, empower

them and help them empower each other."

The clinic offers patients surveillance services for early detection as well as prevention strategies including medication, surgery and reconstructive surgery. The grant enables the program to build a database of patients, hire a data manager who follows up on patients' test results and a nurse navigator who serves as a point person for patients.

"These women have tragic stories," said Macdonald. "They are often primary caregivers, taking care of multiple aunts, sisters, cousins and parents who have suffered and died from cancer. Their fear is palpable. We are creating a robust system that we hope will address the medical, psychological and social issues affecting their access to the best medical care. After two years of recruiting patients, we

have a wait list of more than 100 women."

For additional information on the Avon Familial Breast and Ovarian Cancer Clinic, call (323) 226-2289.

The Lynne Cohen Preventive Care Clinic for Women's Cancer at USC Norris Cancer Hospital is a specialized women's care facility that combines research, screening and clinical care for women who are at risk for both ovarian and breast cancers. Patients receive comprehensive breast

and gynecologic exams and screenings, access to some of the latest clinical trials, genetic counseling and, if needed, psycho-social counseling.

The Avon Walk Santa Barbara attracted 2,000 participants from 42 states, Washington, D.C., and Canada. Walkers included 241 men and 265 breast cancer survivors, who joined together to raise life-saving funds and awareness for breast cancer.

For information on the Avon Foundation visit www.avonfoundation.org.

Benefits/HR appointments now available

Staff members from both Benefits and HR are now available for counseling or special meetings in the new Soto Building, by appointment only.

However, most benefits-related and HR support services that had been housed at KAM 409 are now provided out of the UPC office (CUB 200), so there is no drop-in option. Please note that there is no need to drop off paperwork as benefits transactions can be completed online via eTrac, or by fax or phone.

Contact Benefits at benefits@usc.edu or see the website at www.usc.edu/benefits where many questions are answered. For HR questions, please contact your designated HR Partner. The HR Partner contact list is at <http://www.usc.edu/dept/personnel/>.

STRIKE: Patient safety is hospital's priority

Continued from page 1

Complimentary meals will be provided during the strike, so that employees do not have to leave the facility for lunch or dinner breaks.

Hospital staff are working with physicians to minimize the number of surgical cases scheduled for Oct. 11 through Oct. 13. The Outpatient Surgery Center will be closed on Oct. 12. A Command Center will be activated at USC University Hospital from Tuesday, Oct. 11, through the duration of the strike to address any issues that may arise during this period.

"We are working to reassure

our patients and their families that patient safety remains our highest priority in the days ahead and every day," Creem said. "Likewise, we are reminding ourselves and our colleagues about our shared commitment to coming to work so that we may provide the personalized, innovative, compassionate care that is the hallmark of our USC hospitals."

"We are disappointed with NUHW's decision to strike, and we stand by the proposals we have presented at the negotiating table. We are eager to return to the negotiating table as soon as NUHW is willing."

The Weekly

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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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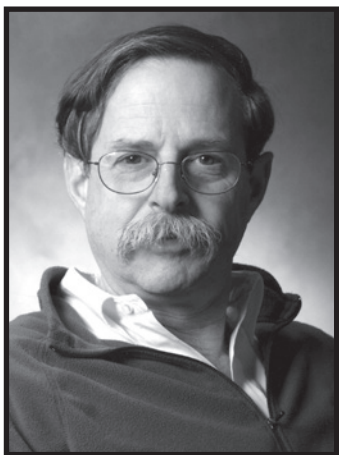
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Massry Prize Laureates to discuss protein folding research Oct. 13

By Amy E. Hamaker
Proteins are the topic for the 2011 Massry Prize Laureates' Lectures, to be held on Thursday, Oct. 13, at Aresty Auditorium from noon to 1:30 p.m. (A reception is scheduled for 11:30 a.m.) Massry Prize winners F. Ulrich Hartl, of the Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry, and Arthur Horwich, of Yale University, will present details of their research into how proteins fold.

Proteins are made of long chains of amino acids and fold to form specific shapes that help the protein carry out its specific function. Misfoldings in proteins in cells can cause organ malfunction and



Arthur Horwich

neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's disease and Huntington's disease.

Previously, it was believed that proteins spontaneously folded into stable structures



F. Ulrich Hartl

unassisted. Working initially as collaborators, Hartl and Horwich made the discovery that complex protein machines called chaperones manipulate newly synthesized

proteins into the specific shapes needed for a particular purpose.

Hartl's presentation, "Chaperone-assisted protein folding in health and disease," will focus on a class of chaperones called chaperonins, which provide nanocompartments for single protein molecules to fold in isolation, and the drugs that are being researched to activate this chaperone system.

In his presentation, "Chaperonin-mediated protein folding," Horwich will discuss his initial research with Hartl regarding a mutant of yeast in which proteins were unable to properly fold. He will also show a study of a

misfolding-induced model of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, The Meira and Shaul G. Massry Foundation, founded by Shaul G. Massry, professor emeritus of medicine, and physiology and biophysics at the Keck School of Medicine, established the Massry Prize in 1996 to recognize outstanding contributions to the biomedical sciences and the advancement of health.

A live webcast of the lectures will be available at <http://keckmedia.usc.edu/mediasite/Catalog/catalogs/massry.aspx>.

To reserve a space online, visit <http://keckapps.usc.edu/esvp> and enter the code "Massry2011."



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Trojan fans salute USC breast cancer physicians, patients and survivors during a special halftime appearance on Oct. 1 at the Coliseum.

USC kicks off Breast Cancer Awareness Month

By Valerie Zapanta
USC celebrated the kickoff of Breast Cancer Awareness Month on Oct. 1 at the Coliseum's USC Trojan football game against Arizona.

Before the game, several breast cancer physicians, patients and survivors volunteered at The Doctors of USC booth and distributed giveaways and information on breast cancer services. The day's events were in recognition of the researchers, physicians and patients who fight against breast cancer every day.

"Today's events recognize not only our patients and physicians, but also the nurses, technicians and researchers, who devote so much of themselves to finding a cure to ending breast cancer. I am honored to represent the amazing team of people at USC Norris, and I am humbled to stand next to a group of breast cancer patients and survivors who fight on each and every day," said Stephen Sener, professor of clinical surgery and chief of surgical oncology.

The highlight of the day was when Trojan fans saluted 12 USC breast cancer physicians, patients and survivors as they stood on the 50-yard line during a special halftime appearance.

"I felt honored and privileged to represent fellow breast cancer patients, and to publicly support the outstanding medical team at USC Norris Cancer Hospital," said Laura Alcala, a breast cancer patient.

She added, "As an alumna of USC, the motto 'Fight On' no longer pertains just to football, because to cancer I say, 'fight on and fight back.' I remembered those words as I stood on the field waving to the cheering crowd at halftime."

Throughout October specially designed pink T-shirts will be sold at all USC Bookstore locations, hospital gift shops and online at breast-cancer.uscbookstore.com. Proceeds will benefit breast cancer research at USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. Donations can also be made online at uscnorris.com/BreastCancer.

Keck School researchers engineer functioning small intestine in lab experiments

By Ellin Kavanagh
Researchers at the Keck School of Medicine have successfully engineered a small intestine in mice that replicates the structures of naturally occurring intestine—a necessary first step toward someday applying this regenerative medicine technique to humans.

Led by Tracy C. Grikscheit, assistant professor of surgery at the Keck School and attending surgeon at The Saban Research Institute of Children's Hospital Los Angeles, the study was published in the July 2011 issue of *The Journal of Tissue Engineering Part A*.

As a pediatric surgeon, Grikscheit is concerned with finding solutions for newborns. Infants born prematurely are at increased risk for a gastrointestinal disease called necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), which occurs when the intestine is injured. The cause is unknown.

Early treatment of NEC is essential to stop the potentially life-threatening leakage of bacteria into the abdomen. Often, the only solution is surgical removal of the small intestine. However, this option leaves the baby dependent on

intravenous feeding and at risk for liver damage from subsequent intravenous nutrition. Organ transplants are possible but not a long-term solution, with only a 50 percent chance that the grafted intestine will last past the child's fifth birthday.

Working in the laboratory, the research team took samples of intestinal tissue from mice. This tissue was comprised of the layers of the various cells that make up the intestine—including muscle cells and the cells that line the inside, known as epithelial cells. The investigators then transplanted that mixture of cells within the abdomen on biodegradable polymers or "scaffolding." New, engineered small intestines grew and had all of the cell types found in native intestine.

Because the transplanted cells had carried a green label, the scientists could identify which cells had been provided—and all of the major components of the tissue-engineered intestine derived from the implanted cells. Critically, the new organs contained the most essential components of the originals.



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Jon Nalick

WORLD STEM CELL SUMMIT CONCLUDES

Several Keck School of Medicine faculty participated 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 Keck School was a sponsor of the event, held Oct. 3–5 at the Pasadena Convention Center, and more than 170 prominent scientists, business leaders, regulators, policymakers, advocates, economic development officers and experts in law and ethics attended, discussing the latest scientific discoveries, business models, legal and regulatory solutions, and best practices.

Far left, Keck School of Medicine Dean Carmen A. Puliafito chats with diabetes session moderator Camillo Ricordi, of the Diabetes Research Institute at the University of Miami. Immediate left, Paula Cannon, associate professor of molecular microbiology and immunology finishes her session on "Stem Cell Progress Report—HIV/AIDS."

Calendar of Events

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

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 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

Noon. “Serotonin and Autism: Fifty Years On,” Randy Blakely, Vanderbilt. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-2144

Tuesday, Oct. 11

8 a.m. Neurology Grand Rounds. “Oligodendroglial and Astroglial Pathology in MS and EAE,” David Pleasure, UC Davis. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-7686

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

Wednesday, Oct. 12

8:30 a.m. “Pathology 1,” M. Koss, USC. IRD 732-734. Info: (323) 226-7923

Noon. Center for Excellence in Research. “Responsible Conduct of Research: What You Need to Know,” Susan Rose, USC. UPC: CUB 329. Info: (213) 740-6709

4:30 p.m. Center for Technology and Innovation in Pediatrics. “Pediatric Medical Device Rounds,” various speakers. CHLA Anderson Pavilion, Barth Family Conference Rm. Info: (323) 361-2247

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. Info: (800) 564-0445

Tuesday, Oct. 18

10:30 a.m. USC University 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

Noon. Cancer Center Grand Rounds. “Genome Organization and Targeted DNA Damage Determine the Location and Frequency of Chromosomal Translocations,” Rafael Casellas, NCI. NRT Aresty Auditorium. Info: (323) 865-0801

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

Wednesday, Oct. 19

Noon. Center for Excellence in Research. “How to Manage a Research Lab: A Workshop for New Faculty,” various speakers. NML West Conference Rm. Info: (213) 740-6709

Thursday, Oct. 20

Noon. Center for Excellence in Research. “A Panel on Medical Informatics,” Urbashi Mitra, USC. UPC: RTH 526 (webcast at HSC NML East Conference Room). Info: (213) 740-6709

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. 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.



VERY GOOD NEIGHBORS—The USC Good Neighbors Campaign kicked off Sept. 28 with a celebration at Alumni Park. The campaign, administered by USC Government and Civic Engagement, allows faculty and staff to donate to USC Neighborhood Outreach and United Way programs. Since the university covers administrative costs for donations made to USC Neighborhood Outreach, 100 percent of those donations support local community efforts. Above, USC President C. L. Max Nikias (center) and Thomas S. Sayles (center, right), senior vice president for University Relations, present a check to community partners that have received grants funded by the USC Good Neighbors Campaign.

Brinton receives award for Alzheimer research

By Kukla Vera

Roberta Diaz Brinton, the R. Pete Vanderveen Endowed Chair in Therapeutic Discovery and Development at the USC School of Pharmacy, is one of 19 researchers to receive a CIRM Disease Team Therapy Development Award from the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) to support the assembly of a research team to develop a clinical trial grant that could be worth up to \$20 million.

“These planning awards continue CIRM’s record of requiring scientists to work in teams, sharing knowledge and speeding the time to new therapies,” said CIRM president Alan Trounson in a release. Brinton’s award was the only one received by USC in this round of funding.

Brinton’s proposal called for the founding of a disease team to develop allopregnanolone, a small molecule therapeutic, to prevent and treat Alzheimer disease. Lon S. Schneider, professor of psychiatry, neurology and gerontology at the Keck School of Medicine, is co-principal investigator on the project. The Southern California Clinical and Translational Science Institute Center for Scientific Translation and the USC National Institute of Aging Alzheimer Disease Research Center are contributing partners.

“Allopregnanolone promotes the ability of the brain to regenerate itself by increas-

ing the number and survival of newly generated neurons,” Brinton explained.

These newly generated neurons are associated with a reversal of cognitive deficits, restored learning and memory function in preclinical models of Alzheimer disease. In addition, allopregnanolone reduces the amount of Alzheimer pathology in the brain.

Brinton emphasized the fact that Alzheimer therapies like this urgently need to be developed.

“In the United States, 5.4 million people have Alzheimer and another American develops the disease every 69 seconds,” she said. “No therapeutic strategies exist to pre-

vent or treat Alzheimer, and results of a recent two-year clinical study show that the currently available medications for managing symptoms are ineffective in patients with mild cognitive impairment or mild Alzheimer.”

Brinton, who believes that allopregnanolone has the potential to be effective for both the prevention of and early stage treatment of Alzheimer disease, will use the funding to assemble an interdisciplinary team of clinicians, scientists and experts in therapeutic development, data management and statistical analysis who will plan and implement clinical trials of the compound.

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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.