

Foundation donates \$6 million for stroke clinic

By Imelda Valenzuela
Fowler

Before her death at age 95 in August, Roxanna Todd Hodges, who endured three strokes in her lifetime, had a goal of providing training, education and support for survivors of stroke and their family members.

On May 2, her vision was officially achieved at a recognition reception honoring her foundation and the \$6 million gift it committed to establish the Roxanna Todd Hodges Comprehensive Stroke Clinic and the Roxanna Todd Hodges Transient Ischemic Attack (TIA) Program.

"This is an extraordinary gift," said Keck School of Medicine of USC Dean Carmen A. Puliafito at the reception, held at the Zilkha Neurogenetic Institute.

"It is a devastating situation to have a stroke. The best strategy against it is prevention. I will do whatever I can to make



From left at the May 2 reception are: USC physicians Nerses Sanossian and Helena Chui; Deborah Massaglia, president of the Roxanna Todd Hodges Foundation; and Keck School of Medicine Dean Carmen A. Puliafito.

these programs successful and ones that the Roxanna Todd Hodges Foundation can be very proud of."

Nerses Sanossian, assistant professor of neurology and associate director of the neurocritical care/stroke section at USC, will serve as director for both the stroke clinic and the TIA program.

"Stroke is the leading cause of disability in this country, more than motor vehicle accidents or Alzheimer's disease or any

other condition," he said.

"Yet stroke is an entirely preventable disease. Education about stroke in general and about stroke risk factors in the community is not where it needs to be. With the Roxanna Todd Hodges Comprehensive Stroke Clinic, we will aim to reduce the burden of stroke in Southern California through prevention and education."

There are more than 2,600 stroke-related visits annually

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'With the Roxanna Todd Hodges Comprehensive Stroke Clinic, we will aim to reduce the burden of stroke in Southern California through prevention and education.'

—Nerses Sanossian, assistant professor of neurology and associate director of the neurocritical care/stroke section at USC

Lanni and Lee named to Keck School oversight board

USC President C. L. Max Nikias has appointed Deborah Lanni and David Lee to the Keck School of Medicine of USC Board of Overseers. Their terms began May 3.

"It's an honor to have these two distinguished individuals on our Board of Overseers," said Carmen A. Puliafito, dean of the Keck School of Medicine.

"Guidance from the Board of Overseers is critical in making the Keck School one of the best medical schools in America. We welcome their wisdom and vision."

Lee, an original member of the board, returns as chair of the Keck School Board of Overseers after having served as chair from 2001 to 2010. He succeeds John E. Bryson, named the Board of Overseers chair in late 2010. Bryson was appointed Secretary of Commerce in late 2011 by President Barack Obama.

Lee is a co-founder and managing general partner of the private equity firm Clarity Partners LP, based in Beverly Hills, Calif. He is a co-founder of Global Crossing Ltd., a global broadband communication services provider, serving as president and chief operating officer from 1997 until 2000, as well as a member of the board of directors (1997-2001).

From 1989 until 1997, Lee was a managing director at Pacific Capital Group, a private equity firm. Lee also has served as group vice president of finance and acquisitions at TRW Information Systems Group, has held various executive positions at Comsat, a satellite communications company, and practiced public accounting at Arthur Andersen LLP.

Lee is a trustee of USC, The J. Paul Getty Trust and the California Institute of Technology, and a director of Trust Company of the West, an investment management firm. He is a graduate of McGill University and holds a doctorate in physics with a minor in economics from the California Institute of Technology.

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Deborah Lanni



David Lee

Medical center events recognize hard work of personnel



Jon Nalick

The Keck Medical Center of USC recognized the achievements of staff and physicians over the last two weeks with activities celebrating National Nurses Week and National Hospital Week.

Above, (from left) Theresa Murphy, associate administrator of inpatient nursing; Annette Sy, interim chief nursing officer; Keck Hospital of USC nurse Marlene Morales; and Debbie Peterson, 9-East nurse manager, pose for a photograph at the 2012 Nurses Week Awards Ceremony held on May 3 at Keck Hospital of USC. Morales won Nurse of the Year.

Right, Keck Hospital of USC 7-North nurses Justine Pena (left) and Monica Chiu grab salads for lunch courtesy of the USC hospitals.



Tania Chatila

Honorees at Academic Convocation include four from HSC

By Debra Smith
The 31st annual USC Academic Honors Convocation was held April 4 to acknowledge the achievements of the university’s students, faculty and administrators. Among the honorees were four HSC dignitaries: Kelly Young-Wolff garnered the Phi Kappa Phi Student Recognition Award; Mark S. Humayun received the University Professor Award; Charles J. Gomer was given the Provost’s Mentoring Award; and Peter F. Crookes won the USC Associates Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Young-Wolff is a Ph.D. candidate in psychology and a master of public health candidate. She has received significant recognition for her scholarly pursuits and will begin a two-year

postdoctoral position at Stanford Prevention Research Center this fall.

“It is an honor to have my work chosen for the Phi Kappa Phi award,” said Young-Wolff. “I am grateful for the incredible training that I received from my mentors, teachers and supervisors in the Department of Psychology at USC.”

A leading ophthalmology expert with special emphasis on bioelectrics and the retina, Humayun is the Cornelius J. Pings Chair in Biomedical Sciences and professor of ophthalmology, biomedical engineering and cell and neurobiology, and associate director of research at the Doheny Retina Institute at USC.

Humayun is a co-inventor of a groundbreaking electronic retinal prosthesis, an implantable artificial

device that has restored partial sight to blind patients. (Read more about his University Professor appointment at <http://tinyurl.com/7o9vqzj>.)

Currently a professor of pediatrics and radiation oncology and the vice chair of pediatrics for faculty development, Gomer called winning the Provost’s award “a tremendous honor.”

According to Gomer, “a top priority for the university is the development of a culture of mentoring. Academic leaders on the Health Sciences campus and at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles continue to emphasize the importance of mentoring, and I feel privileged to be able to actively participate in this important activity.”

Crookes has been a key member

of USC’s Bariatric Surgery Program since he joined the university in 1994. Despite the challenges of maintaining an active clinical practice, he teaches both undergraduates and medical students, and mentors residents and junior faculty. He is also an accomplished violinist, and has participated in the Music Heals Project, a USC volunteer program that brings monthly classical music concerts to Keck Hospital of USC.

Speaking about the convocation, Crookes said he was “pleased that the University Park campus gets some idea of what we do on the medical campus. Teaching is a big part of what we do and I enjoy it. It’s nice that all the other schools recognize our work. It’s an honor for our department.”

USC researchers find link between depression, obesity and infertility in Latina women

By Amy E. Hamaker
The link between depression, obesity and fertility status is poorly understood among Latina women, but it’s becoming clearer thanks to a recently published study.

In “The Incidence of Depression by Fertility Status in Overweight and Obese Latina Women,” published in the March 2012 online version of the *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*, a team of researchers from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Keck School of Medicine of USC described their efforts in determining rates of symptoms suggestive of depression in specific subgroups of Latina women.

Researchers gave a patient health questionnaire to 76 new patients of the Diabetes and Obesity in Reproductive Age Women Clinic who were seen between June 2008 and June 2009. They then looked for median scores and scores higher than 10, which can be indicative of major depressive disorder (MDD), and compared the results by fertility

status.

Of the women who had scores indicating MDD, there were more infertile than fertile women, and infertile women had “marginally significantly higher” scores than their fertile counterparts.

The number of previous births was also inversely correlated with MDD indicators. Those who had never previously given birth had higher overall scores and were more likely to have indicators of MDD than those who had previously given birth. Among respondents who were fertile, postpartum women had significantly lower overall scores, while non-postpartum women were much more likely to have a score indicative of MDD.

“Our findings are novel because in women’s health, postpartum depression is the first thing that often comes to mind,” said lead author Penina Segall-Gutierrez, assistant professor of clinical obstetrics and gynecology, and family medicine at the Keck School. “We found that among Latinas at Los Angeles County+USC Medical Center, depression is

more common in women with infertility. Because depression is so common among Latinas of reproductive age who are not postpartum, we believe more clinics should not only be screening for postpartum depression, but for depression in women in other phases of their reproductive life span, including in those without children.”

Janet H. Pine, clinical associate professor of psychiatry at the Keck School and a senior author, said, “There’s a really interesting medical/psychological connection, and there are two really interesting findings from this study. First, there’s the low incidence of postpartum depression in this group, and second, the main conclusion that shows the association of depression along with infertility. This was a group of patients who were selected for this clinic because they’re obese, and they often have diabetes. It begs the question that if you could deal with obesity or depression, would that help with the infertility?”

Further investigation

is needed to determine if reproductive success is protective against MDD among overweight and obese urban Latinas. Overall, depression is common among overweight and obese reproductive-age Latinas, so routine screening is recommended.

“This paper is a great example of a project that involves collaboration between a number of different

researchers, including medical students, residents and undergraduates,” added Segall-Gutierrez, who is also the co-director for the Fellowship in Family Planning and the Diabetes and Pregnancy Service. “It’s also an example of research that can be completed without funding.”



Jon Nalick

The Weekly

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ALUMNI COMMITTEE INAUGURAL MEETING—The USC Alumni Association Executive Committee, for the first time, met on the Health Sciences campus May 2. The alumni leadership team gathered for their final meeting of the year and were given presentations by Senior Vice President for USC Health Tom Jackiewicz (second from left), Hospitals Chief Operating Officer and interim CEO Scott Evans, and Assistant Professor of Surgery Michael Bowdish. The group also toured the cardiac catheterization laboratory, led by Ray Matthews, professor of clinical medicine. Pictured above are CEO for the USC Alumni Association Scott Mory; Jackiewicz; USC Alumni Association President Lisa Barkett; and USC Alumni Association President-Elect and Keck School alumnus Mitchell Lew.

SAVE THE DATE

USC Norris Cancer Hospital will host the 22nd annual Festival of Life on June 2 at Harry and Celesta Pappas Quad. The event, held in recognition of National Cancer Survivors Day, will feature music, entertainment and inspiring speakers who will share their personal stories of living with cancer.

The free event for survivors and their families will run from 8:30 a.m. to noon. For more information, call (323) 865-3118.

High School student art exhibit hosted at IGM gallery heads to Japan

By Lynn Crandall
Students, teachers, international representatives and a diverse group of arts, medical and business leaders gathered on the USC Health Sciences campus to unveil a student art exhibit organized by the LA/Nagoya Sister Cities Affiliation (LANSCA).
The USC Institute for Genetic Medicine Art Gallery at the Keck School of Medicine of USC and LANSCA co-hosted a ceremony on April 28 to mark the conclusion of their Sakura Centennial projects and the launch of an art exhibit scheduled to go to Nagoya, Japan. The exhibit features the work of students from Keiko Miya’s Roosevelt High

School Japanese Language and Culture classes.
Miya’s students created 23 artworks, based on the Sakura (cherry blossom) metaphor. They used models and materials of Japanese cultural craftsmen. After the showing at the Institute for Genetic Medicine concluded May 10, the exhibit prepared to go to Nagoya, Japan, to continue their message of friendship and collaboration.
“This is a very significant event at exactly this moment in history,” said LANSCA Board Member Richard Fukuhara, a photojournalist and fine art photographer. Fukuhara’s recent article and photographs in *Rafu Shimpo*, a Los Angeles Japanese

daily newspaper, reported on his work with All Hands Volunteers in the Earthquake/Tsunami aftermath and addressed intercultural global volunteerism. “It is so important to educate our high school students in Japanese language acquisition and culture in the wake of the Sendai earthquake and tsunami and its implications for global health.”
The Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education, L.A. County Supervisor Gloria Molina and L.A. Council Member Jose Huizar presented certificates of commendation to the students, artists, community leaders and health care innovators.
The host organizations and

the team from Roosevelt High School earned commendations for planting cherry blossom trees on the school campus to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Japan’s gift of cherry blossom trees at the site of the Washington Monument in 1912 as a symbol of friendship to the United States.
Awards of recognition also were presented to Terry Church, project manager for the Women’s Cancer Program at the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center; Jeffrey Gold, associate professor of clinical pediatrics at the Keck School and Children’s Hospital Los Angeles; and Transversive Media Laboratory for pioneering efforts in support of education, arts in

health care and the development and implementation of alternative methods for reducing stress and pain throughout the hospital environment for patients, their families and care givers.
The event began with a mixer for LANSCA Board Members to introduce community, industry and school leaders. USC Artist-in-Residence, KB Solomon, basso profundo, opened the awards ceremony with a performance.
Cool-Cups, a local vegetarian snack company, provided healthy treats for the students and attendees and showcased a variety of new eco-games to raise awareness of sustainability issues and responsible environmental stewardship.

HODGES: Roxanna Todd Hodges TIA Program aims to advance diagnosis and treatment of stroke

Continued from Page 1
to the Keck Medical Center of USC. The stroke clinic will provide a multidisciplinary approach to the diagnosis, treatment and care of patients experiencing stroke or acute neurological events and related conditions. The Roxanna Todd Hodges Comprehensive Stroke Clinic will encompass outpatient care, inpatient care and research.
The Roxanna Todd Hodges TIA program will focus on the development of enhanced diagnostic and treatment modalities for preventing

stroke. Commonly known as a “mini-stroke,” a transient ischemic attack refers to the temporary disturbance of the blood supply to the brain, which often results in a sudden and brief reduction in brain function.
There are over 500,000 evaluations for TIA per year in the United States, although the true incidence is not known because most are never reported. TIA is an early warning of an impending stroke because it reflects an ongoing process such as an unstable artery plaque or heart rhythm.

The greatest impact on stroke prevention and treatment can be made immediately following a TIA event if rapid diagnosis and treatment occur.
“I believe that research, diagnosis and treatment of TIA patients can yield the greatest benefits because an averted stroke is the best outcome,” said Sanossian.
Also speaking at the reception was Deborah Massaglia, president of the Roxanna Todd Hodges Foundation and a close friend of Hodges.
“I know that Roxie would

be extremely proud and honored to have these centers in her name,” she said, using Hodges’ nickname. “I am so proud and grateful to the Keck School of Medicine

of USC for this opportunity. Years ago, TIAs were rarely ever mentioned and now to have a program to treat TIAs is something even we would never have imagined.”

World Children’s Transplant Fund honors Keck School faculty member

Yuri Genyk, assistant professor of surgery in the division of hepatobiliary/pancreatic and abdominal organ transplant surgery at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, was one of five honorees at the second annual Global Partners Awards Dinner to benefit the World Children’s Transplant Fund (WCTF) at the Sheraton Universal Hotel on May 9.
Genyk is surgical director of

the liver/intestinal transplant program at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles.
Proceeds from the event help fund the efforts of WCTF to provide pediatric transplant surgeries to children of the world. The goal of WCTF is to assist nations in developing and sustaining independent pediatric organ transplant programs.
Genyk is an expert in living-

related donor liver transplantation, adult and pediatric liver transplantation, laparoscopic donor nephrectomy for kidney transplantation, pancreas transplantation, as well as non-transplant hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgery. He is associate director of Abdominal Organ Transplant and surgical director of the Living Donor Liver Transplant Program at Keck Hospital of USC.



USC NORRIS CANCER UPDATE—Keck School of Medicine Dean Carmen A. Puliafito hosted a reception at the Balboa Bay Club in Newport Beach April 29 for more than 80 Keck School alumni and friends. USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center Director Stephen Gruber (center) spoke at the dinner about the latest advancements in cancer research. Above at the event are (from left): Diana Colyear, Hook McCullough, Gruber and Leo Lopes.

OVERSEERS: New Keck Board members to help guide school’s strategic plan

Continued from Page 1
Philanthropist Deborah Lanni is president of the Lanni Family Charitable Foundation, and the widow of former Keck School Board of Overseers member Terry Lanni, who passed away in 2011. She will serve a three-year term on the Keck School board.
Lanni sits on the Board of Trustees at Loyola Marymount University, as well as LMU’s Governance Committee and its Communications and Fine Arts Council.
She also is involved with St. Vincent Meals on Wheels program; The Colleagues, a nonprofit organization that raises funds for Children’s Institute Inc.; and is on the

National Committee for the Performing Arts under the Kennedy Center.
Lanni is a graduate of USC and worked for nine years in USC’s development office.
The Keck School Board of Overseers serves as an advisory group to the Keck School leadership. Its priority is helping the school’s leadership develop and implement a plan to make the Keck School one of the top 10 medical schools in the nation.
The Keck School Board of Overseers meets three times per year to hear updates on the Keck School’s strategic plan, learn about key programs, support the Keck School’s philanthropic efforts and serve as ambassadors for the Keck School.

The Weekly NEWSMAKERS

A recent article in *Fast Company* featured Applied Proteomics, a company co-founded by **David Agus**, professor of medicine at the Keck School. The story noted that Agus’ company analyzes proteins in blood, saliva and other fluids in order to diagnose diseases.
A May 7 broadcast on CW News Los Angeles affiliate KTLA-TV interviewed **Sharon Orrange**, assistant professor of clinical medicine at the Keck School, about a new website that compares prescription drug prices.
A May 2 article in the *U-T San Diego* noted that **Tom Jackiewicz** is senior vice president and chief executive of USC Health.
A May 1 blog entry in the *Houston Chron-*

icle highlighted research by **Joseph Miller**, associate professor of cell and neurobiology at the Keck School, asserting that the Viking Lander discovered life on Mars in 1976.
An April 29 report in *The Hindu* (India) quoted **Leslie Saxon**, professor of clinical medicine at the Keck School. Saxon recently launched a site called www.everybeat.org, designed to record heart rates around the world. By monitoring the patterns that emerge, Saxon and her team can predict strokes and diagnose other ailments.
An April 29 story by the Associated Press featured research by **Mitchell Geffner**, professor of pediatrics at the Keck School, that suggests overweight teens have trouble managing diabetes.

Calendar of Events

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

Saturday, May 12

7 a.m. – noon. Revlon Run/Walk For Women at Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum at Exposition Park. The cost to run/walk is \$35 through May 11 (\$40 day of the event). Your registration fee includes an EIF REVLON Run/Walk For Women T-shirt and goodie bag. It will also include a USC Norris Team T-shirt. Info: (323) 865-0668

Monday, May 14

Noon. KSOM Research Seminar. “KSHV: Latency and Reactivation,” Blossom Damania University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill. NRT Aresty Aud. Info: (323) 442-7732

Tuesday, May 15

10 a.m. Keck Medical Center of USC Guild Outreach Speaker Series. “Regenerative Medicine: An Organ Recital,” David Warburton, USC/CHLA. Presentation of Outstanding Faculty Award to Henri Ford, USC/CHLA. Private Club in Pasadena. Reservations by May 7 and info: (626) 440-0679

Wednesday, May 16

Noon. ZNI Seminar. “Mitochondrial Dynamics in Mammals,” David Chan, Caltech. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-2144

Friday, May 18

8:30 a.m. Surgical Grand Rounds: Clinical Research Presentations from Breast/Soft Tissue and Endocrine Surgery. Various presenters. DOH 1st Floor Auditorium. Info: (323) 442-2506

10 a.m. – 3 p.m. HTE @ USC Frontiers Symposium. “Matchgame 2012: Linking Clinical Needs with Engineering Know-how,” Dave Marvit, Fujitsu Laboratories of America. SSB 1st Floor Conference Room. Info: (323) 442-7732

11:30 a.m. KSOM 50 Year Fellows Luncheon, honoring medical school alumni who graduated prior to 1963 and distinguished emeritus faculty. Emceed by Phil Manning, M.D. LAC+USC Medical Center. Info: (323) 442-1530

Noon. Center for Applied Molecular Medicine Seminar. “The Emerging Role of Patient-Calibrated Computational Modeling in Cancer Research: A Case Study in Ductal Carcinoma in Situ (DCIS),” Paul Macklin, USC. CSC Harkness Auditorium. Info: (323) 442-3849

Saturday, May 19

8 a.m. – 11 a.m. Department of Surgery Symposium. “Professionalism and Systems of Care: Challenges and Opportunities.” Various speakers. NRT Aresty Auditorium. Info: (323) 442-2506

Monday, May 21

1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. ZNI Mini-Symposium. “Advancing Biomedical Technologies.” Various speakers. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-2144

Tuesday, May 22

8 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Cancer Center Grand Rounds. Annual USC Norris Cancer Center Poster Session for Postdoctoral Fellows and Graduate Students: “Searching for Creativity.” NRT LG 503/504 and Aresty Foyer. Info: (323) 442-7893

Friday, May 25

8:30 a.m. Pulmonary & Critical Care Research Seminar. “Molecular Mechanisms of Lung Destruction in Emphysema Pathogenesis,” Richard Barbers, USC. IRD 732-734. Info: (323) 226-7923

8:30 a.m. Surgical Grand Rounds. “Instrumental: A Tale of the Tools of Our Trade Told in Verse,” Jonathan Hiatt, UCLA. DOH 1st Floor Auditorium. Info: (323) 442-2506

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.



Ryan Ball

TAKING A SECOND LOOK—Students offered admission to the Keck School of Medicine chat at the Harry and Celesta Pappas Quad on April 26 as part of the school’s “Second Look Day,” which encouraged prospective students to meet with current students and faculty to learn more about the curriculum and student organizations.

Occupational Therapy expert Florence Clark shines in national spotlight

By Mike McNulty

Florence Clark, associate dean of the USC Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, reaffirmed the university’s longstanding history of leadership in the profession of occupational therapy at the 92nd annual conference of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) held April 26-29 in Indianapolis.

While overseeing research, educational and administrative responsibilities at USC, Clark is serving a three-year term as president of AOTA, which includes more than 43,000 members.

The AOTA, the nation’s largest professional association of occupational therapy practitioners and students, represents their interests around the world. Clark is the fourth president of AOTA to be associated with USC as either an alumna or faculty member. This year’s conference registered more than 6,000 attendees, and more than 50 USC alumni and faculty presented various workshops, courses and research posters.

At the opening ceremonies, Clark welcomed Gregory Ballard, the mayor of Indianapolis, who read a proclamation declaring the conference period as “Occupational Therapy Days” in the city of Indianapolis. Clark also greeted the ceremony’s keynote speaker, Joseph Coughlin, who as director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology AgeLab is known for innovative approaches to healthy and productive aging.

On April 27, Clark delivered her presidential address titled “Beyond High Definition: Attitude and Evidence Bringing OT in HD-3D.”

“Occupational therapy merges two separate perspectives—attitude and evidence—into one cohesive picture,” Clark explained. “The attitude of empowerment with the credibility of scientific evidence,” she said, will make occupational therapy a “powerful, widely recognized, science-driven and evidence-based profession with a globally connected and diverse workforce meeting society’s occupational needs.”

In a subsequent segment, Clark introduced a panel discussion on military occupational therapy featuring

U.S. service members Tammy Duckworth and Jessica Lynch.

Duckworth, an Iraq War veteran who sustained triple amputations as a result of combat wounds, is the former assistant secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Lynch is a former U.S. Army private first class who, in 2003, was captured by Iraqi forces and subsequently was recovered by U.S. Special Operations Forces, becoming the first American female prisoner of war to be rescued. Duckworth and Lynch discussed the ways in which their military and VA occupational therapists instilled a spirit of hope throughout their physical rehabilitation.

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