

Keck Medical Center of USC charts new strategic plan

By Tania Chatila

The Keck Medical Center of USC is creating its clinical blueprint for the future, and all staff and physicians are invited to participate.

The organization-wide strategic planning process will develop a vision and strategic priorities for the medical enterprise.

The process is expected to last six months and will engage every member of the medical center through a variety of media including workgroups, town halls, an interactive web site and an

‘Our potential is limitless, and we need a vision that expands our reach and reputation as a top academic medical center.’

—Tom Jackiewicz, senior vice president and CEO for USC Health

electronic survey that will begin the week of Aug. 20.

“Since USC’s acquisition of Keck Hospital of USC and USC Norris Cancer Hospital in 2009, this organization has made tremendous progress to expand and enhance services, but we have so much more we can accomplish,” said Tom Jackiewicz, senior vice president and CEO for USC Health. “Our potential is limitless, and we need a vision that expands our reach and reputation as a top academic medical center.”

A Strategic Planning Steering Committee made up of key leaders and stakeholders including Jackiewicz; Scott Evans, CEO for the USC hospitals; and Keith Gran, CEO for USC Care, has begun meeting, and AMC Strategies, LLC, has been engaged to facilitate the strategic planning process. AMC is conducting interviews with key internal and external stakeholders—including health care executives from throughout the Los Angeles area—to gauge the perception of the medical center in the community, including strengths, weaknesses, areas of opportunity and potential challenges. The electronic survey launching the week of Aug. 20 will allow medical center staff and

physicians the opportunity to provide their opinions on the organization’s current position, and weigh in on critical issues that will need to be addressed to ensure Keck Medical Center’s success.

“We need to develop a vision and strategic plan that capitalizes on our competitive advantages in order to continue growing in a period of declining reimbursement and consolidation,” said Shawn

Sheffield, chief strategy and business officer for the medical center, who is charged with leading the strategic planning process. “Through data-driven research and input from our staff and physicians, we can define new plans and develop fresh tactics to fully meet our enterprise potential.”

When completed, the plan will provide a shared vision for the future of USC Health, including strategies for

growing the clinical enterprise, improving the quality of patient care and overall experience, expanding access to USC physicians, and refining management of resources. It will also identify ways to meet the financial challenges of health care reform, and will integrate strategic priorities for the Keck School of Medicine of USC and the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center.



Keck School of Medicine Dean Carmen A. Puliafito speaks at the July 24 health care briefing and luncheon, which featured a distinguished panel of USC experts who answered health care questions from the crowd.

Keck School draws standing-room only crowd to health care panel on personalized medicine

By Imelda Valenzuela Fowler

By the end of the first-ever Dean’s Health Care Briefing and Luncheon, not a single business card remained from stacks of cards that Keck School of Medicine Dean Carmen A. Puliafito had left on a reception table.

“We’re here to help you when it comes to your own health care needs and those of your family and your friends,” said Puliafito as he welcomed an overflow crowd of more than 200 local community members and friends of USC who attended the briefing July 24 in Aresty Auditorium. “If you need some advice, my business card is out there, so do not hesitate to call my office when you need advice about what to do.”

The dean moderated the discussion among eight Keck School physicians, then opened the floor to take questions from the audience. The physician panelists included:

Daniel Allison, assistant professor of clinical orthopaedics and assistant director of the USC Center for Orthopaedic Oncology;

Monish Aron, professor of clinical urology and co-director of robotic surgery and advanced laparoscopy;

Michael Bowdish, assistant professor of surgery and director of mechanical circulatory support at the USC Cardiovascular Thoracic Institute;

Martin Heur, assistant professor of ophthalmology;

Nurses Sanossian, assistant professor of neurology and director of the Roxanna Todd Hodges Comprehensive Stroke Clinic and Transient Ischemic Attack Program;

Joshua Sapkin, assistant professor of clinical medicine and associate program director of the Internal Medicine Residency Training Program;

Leslie Saxon, professor of clinical medicine and chief of the division of cardiovascular medicine; and

Darcy Spicer, associate professor and chief of the division of oncology, associate professor of clinical medicine, director of the clinical investigations support office and division chief of cancer medicine and blood disease.

A primary theme of the event was personalized medicine. Many of the panelists stressed the importance for patients to take charge of their health care needs and educate themselves about risk factors and family history.

The dean provided his definition of personalized medicine.

“It’s personalized in terms of having a discussion with the patient, having a diligent physician who is willing to analyze the data and discuss it with the patient. That’s medicine at its best.”

A video recording of the event can be viewed at http://med-videos.med.usc.edu/education/dean_healthcare_briefing_2012/movie.html.

CIRM awards USC researcher Andrew McMahon \$5.7 million

By Jon Nalick

California’s stem cell agency, the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) has approved \$5.7 million for a USC researcher to help move promising stem cell-based therapies from the laboratory research phase to clinical trials in people.

CIRM approved a \$5.7 million Research Leadership Award to foster the recruitment of Andrew McMahon from the Harvard Stem Cell Institute to the Eli and Edythe Broad Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at USC.

McMahon, director of the stem cell center, plans to use the award to study ways to repair and regenerate kidney tissue. Research Leadership

Awards are intended to support robust and innovative stem cell research programs of the most

promising researchers newly recruited to California.

Keck School of Medicine Dean Carmen A. Puliafito hailed the news, calling it “a powerful affirmation of the high quality of the stem cell research

USC performs and of our place in the vanguard of regenerative medicine.”

Announced on July 27, CIRM awarded \$150 million in grants to researchers in both academia and industry who have been working on projects that represent the best possible chances of producing therapies for deadly and disabling diseases and disorders.



Andrew McMahon

Kathleen Johnson, vice dean of clinical affairs at USC School of Pharmacy, 58

By Kukla Vera

Kathleen Johnson, vice dean of clinical affairs and outcomes sciences and chair of the Titus Family Department at the USC School of Pharmacy, died on July 24 in Bordeaux, France, resulting from injuries sustained in a fall.

Johnson was a distinguished leader in the pharmacy profession whose career was marked by innovative projects that have been integral in the current national movement to expand the role of the pharmacist as the medication expert on the health care team. Her work to improve medication use and safety generally and for vulnerable, uninsured populations specifically distinguished her with several national awards.

Just last month, Johnson was one of only 12 professionals elected to the National Academies of Practice in recognition of achievements and contributions to health care practice. Also, last month, Johnson, as a co-investigator, was awarded a CMS Innovation grant for \$12 million, the largest ever received by the



Kathleen Johnson

School of Pharmacy. The project aims to use pharmacists to improve health outcomes and save money among patients in safety-net clinics.

“Dr. Johnson was truly one of a kind—a wonderful person, a superb faculty member and administrator, and such an important and integral part of our school—that we will never stop missing her,” said School of Pharmacy Dean R. Pete Vanderveen. “We can only be grateful that we were privileged with the opportunity to know her and to work with her.”

Joining the faculty in 1984 as an assistant professor, Johnson assumed the chair of the Titus Family Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Economics & Policy in 2006. In 2007, she was named the William A. and Josephine A. Heeres Endowed Chair in Community Pharmacy. Her leadership extended beyond USC and included serving on the task force of the University of California Office of the President, California Health Benefits Review Program, editorial board of the *Annals of Pharmacotherapy*, and the medication therapy review advisory panel of the American Pharmacists Association.

A dedicated professor, Johnson taught students pursuing the doctor of pharmacy degree as well as master's and doctoral students in public health and epidemiology and in pharmaceutical economics and policy. Her outreach work to the underserved communities in Southern California has been supported by grants from the Health Resources and Services Administration (Health and Human Ser-

vices), UniHealth Foundation, QueensCare Foundation and Wellpoint Foundation, among others.

Johnson was the author of over 50 papers and book chapters, which have been published by leading pharmacy and managed care journals. Her clinical work has been featured in *USA Today*, Reuters and the *Los Angeles Times*. Her expertise established her as a sought-after speaker among pharmacy professionals worldwide.

Johnson earned her doctorate in pharmacy from the USC School of Pharmacy in 1978. She received a master's degree in public health in 1983 and a doctorate in health services research in 1991, both from UCLA.

Her career has been recognized with numerous awards, including the American Pharmacists Association Pinnacle Award (group recognition in 2007), American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Best Practices Award (group recognition in 2008), and the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Trans-

formative Community Service Awards (group recognition, 2009).

With a keen eye to unmet needs, Johnson was a leader in establishing clinical pharmacy practices in safety-net clinics throughout Southern California. She also spearheaded an effort to prevent accidental poisonings among children through educational programming for children and parents in schools with largely Spanish-speaking populations. Her innovative approach paired service learning activities for pharmacy students with unmet community needs, providing students experience in serving diverse populations.

Surviving Johnson is her husband, Wynnsan Moore, their two children, Kimberly and Alex, and her parents, Keet and Dorothy Johnson. Kimberly will enter the USC School of Pharmacy as a Pharm.D. student later this month.

The USC School of Pharmacy will hold a celebration of Johnson's life on Aug. 24 at 3 p.m. at Harry and Celesta Pappas Quad.

First 5 LA awards Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC \$1 million for new program for children

By Beth Dunham

A new \$1 million, three-year grant from First 5 LA will enable the Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC to provide underprivileged children with oral health care and help them see a dentist regularly.

The Children's Health and Maintenance Program (CHAMP) will travel to Head Start and Women, Infants, Children centers throughout South Los Angeles, where Ostrow School faculty, students and staff will screen children up to the age of 5 for dental problems, administer preventive fluoride treatments and provide families with oral

health education.

In addition, to help families find a trusted “dental home,” where children can receive regular dental care, the CHAMP team will provide referrals to Ostrow School clinics and community dental clinics, and train community dental providers how to care for children age 5 and under. USC School of Social Work students will also provide follow-up assistance to families, helping them understand and access dental care benefits and overcome other barriers to getting routine dental care.

“Only 25 percent of children eligible for Denti-Cal

[California's public dental benefits program] see a dentist,” said Roseann Mulligan, associate dean for community oral health programs and hospital affairs at the Ostrow School. “The earlier we can reach families and get children accustomed to going to a dentist, the more we can prevent disease instead of repairing damage.”

During the first year, the program hopes to screen more than 2,000 children and help more than 800 families find regular dental care, Mulligan said.

Mulligan also said CHAMP will greatly benefit Ostrow

School students, who will gain more experience treating youngsters from a variety of backgrounds and learn about working in an interdisciplinary setting with social workers. In addition, USC School of Social Work students will obtain valuable case management experience in a health care environment.

“By working together with families in neighborhood settings, CHAMP seeks to reengage community mem-

bers, facilitate improved connections with a dental home, connect families to needed social services and follow up to further empower those receiving services,” said Tory Cox, clinical assistant professor of field education at the USC School of Social Work. “At the School of Social Work, we are excited about this collaboration and look forward to working with the Ostrow School of Dentistry in the implementation of this grant.”

The Weekly

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The Weekly NEWSMAKERS

An Aug. 6 report in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* highlighted research by **Tracy Grikscheit**, a visiting assistant professor of pediatric surgery at the Keck School, on regenerating human organs, and specifically the human digestive system. She has succeeded in regenerating the small intestine in animals. Grikscheit said that this decade could be when “we will start seeing human clinical trials and success in human tissue engineering.”

An Aug. 4 article in the *Los Angeles Times* featured a science internship program for minority students that was founded at Children's Hospital Los Angeles by **Emil Bogenmann**, associate professor of pediatrics at the Keck School. The Latino & African-American High School Internship Program encourages teenagers to pursue careers in science or medicine. Students conduct their own research in the hospital's labs with professionals and have studied cancer, HIV and eye tumors. Bogenmann visits local schools to encourage participation in the program.

A July 31 segment on Fox News Tulsa, Okla., affiliate KOKI-TV interviewed **Diana Ramos**, a clinical instructor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology of the Keck School, about women's reticence to speak with their medical providers about menstrual problems, despite the potentially serious health implications.

An Aug. 2 report by Eastern Group Publications notes that USC Norris Cancer Hospital was recognized as a top hospital by *U.S. News & World Report*.



Tania Chatila

Keck Hospital of USC nurse Kilyoung Oh teaches Taiwanese nursing student Yuan-Jhen Li about medication administration.

Taiwanese students get a taste of Keck Medicine

By Tania Chatila

Fourteen nursing students from Taiwan say they are taking back valuable lessons in Western medicine thanks to a two-week immersion program at the Keck Medical Center of USC.

The students—juniors in the bachelor of science in nursing program at China Medical University in Taichung, Taiwan—spent the latter part of July shadowing registered nurses at Keck Hospital of USC. The trip was sponsored by the Taiwanese Bureau of Education as a way to encourage studies abroad.

“We chose USC because we really wanted to observe techniques in a mainstream teaching hospital,” said Susie Chen, a nursing director at Mt. San Antonio College with close ties to Taiwan. She arranged the trip and supervised the students during their stay in America. “We felt that USC would be a great place for them to learn.”

During the two weeks of clinical observations at Keck, the students shadowed nurses in several patient care units. They rounded and learned

about shift reporting, pain assessments, care plans, clinical documentation and medication administration, among other topics.

“As an academic medical center, we have a commitment to teaching,” said Gina Greco, the hospitals’ director of Evidence Based Practice, who helped coordinate the students’ visit to nursing floors. “We were more than happy to host these students. It was a great opportunity for our nurses and staff to educate others about our best practices and standards, as well as learn about nursing techniques internationally.”

Yu-Erh Huang said she would be taking back many lessons to Taiwan, where patient-to-nurse ratios are much higher than California standards. “In Taiwan, a nurse needs to care for eight or more patients, so sometimes the care is fragmented,” she said, speaking through a translator. “Here, with less patients, you can get a full understanding of a patient’s history.”

Student Yu-Hsiang Huang called the experience inspiring: “You can really feel the passion (for patient care) here.”

USC surgeons perform first ‘live’ radical cystectomy webcast

By Cheryl Bruyninckx

The USC Institute of Urology hosted a first-of-its-kind, live surgery webcast on July 11, as hundreds of urologists worldwide watched USC urologists perform four live cystectomies (three robotic and one open surgery).

The webcast, “Robotic Cystectomy and Intracorporeal Diversion: A Time-Efficient Technique,” aired for more than eight hours. The live surgeries were viewed by urologists from all over the world in countries such as Japan, Brazil and England.

More than 200 viewers registered, with a peak of 83 simultaneous viewers.

“We reached an audience that spanned 142 cities in 46 different countries,” said Inderbir S. Gill, professor and chair of the Department of Urology. “We are tremendously proud of the entire USC team for the success of this webcast.”

USC urologists are world leaders for open, and now robotic, bladder cancer surgery. The special focus of this webcast was live demonstration of the entire urinary

diversion part of the operation (orthotopic neobladder, ileal conduit) performed completely robotically in an intracorporeal fashion.

“This is the first time this technique has been broadcast live,” said Mihir M. Desai, director of robotic surgery at the USC Institute of Urology. “Over the past year, we have developed a novel robotic technique for bladder cancer surgery, wherein the entire operation is performed intracorporeally (cystectomy, high-extended lymphadenectomy, and neobladder). To our knowledge, USC is the only center in America offering this robotic treatment.”

USC surgeons involved in this webcast included Sia Daneshmand, Monish Aron, Anne Schuckman, and Gary Leiskovsky.

The USC Institute of Urology is currently planning a series of live surgery webcasts on bladder cancer, kidney cancer and prostate cancer. This series will allow viewing on mobile phones and tablets, as well as on live Twitter feeds.

SCEHSC seeks applicants for pilot project grants

The Southern California Environmental Health Sciences Center (SCEHSC) is seeking applications for the 2013 Environmental Health Research Pilot Project Grants.

The grants of up to \$35,000 fund one-year pilot projects that aim to promote the understanding of environmental exposures, host factors and human disease.

Eligible applicants include faculty or graduate students and post-doctoral researchers with a faculty sponsor. Applicants should submit a one-page letter of intent describing their proposed projects by Sept. 5, 2012, to Lisa Grossman at lgrossma@usc.edu. Applications must be electronically received by Sept. 17.

For more information, contact Lisa Grossman at (323) 442-2750.

The Weekly ETCETERA

Louis Dubeau, professor of pathology, has been named to the Molecular Oncogenesis Study Section of the Center for Scientific Review—a branch of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Study sections review grant applications submitted to the National Institutes of Health and make recommendations to NIH national advisory boards. His term runs through June 30, 2018.

Stuart E. Siegel, professor of pediatrics at the Keck School and director of the Children’s Center for Cancer & Blood Diseases at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, received the American Cancer Society’s Spirit of Vision & Leadership Award on July 29. The award recognized his academic achievements, leadership and philanthropic efforts in the community.

Uri Elkayam, professor of medicine and obstetrics and gynecology, delivered the sixth H.J.C. Swan Memorial Lecture at the opening ceremony of the International Academy of Cardiology, 17th World Congress on Heart Disease Annual Scientific Sessions in Toronto, from July 27-30.

Elkayam spoke on “Peripartum Cardiomyopathy (PPCM): New Concepts in Pathophysiology and Management.” PPCM is a pregnancy-associated cardiomyopathy developed in young and healthy women presenting with heart failure symptoms

secondary to decreased left ventricular systolic function.

Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to finding cures for children with cancer, has awarded \$6,000 to Keck School of Medicine student **Jessica Trimis**.

Trimis—who received a Pediatric Oncology Student Training (POST) Grant for childhood cancer research—was one of only 15 students nationally to receive the award. Her research focuses on acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

POST grants enable medical and graduate students to gain experience in the lab of an established researcher in the field of pediatric oncology over the summer months.

Keck School registered nurse anesthetist student **Rose Wechter** in the Department of Anesthesiology has been awarded a \$5,000 Sheridan National Allied Health Scholarship from Sheridan Healthcare Inc., a hospital-based, multispecialty practice management company and a leading anesthesia services provider.

“To be selected the national winner is such an honor,” Wechter said. “I will use this scholarship to help finish school so that once I am a certified registered nurse anesthetist, I will be able to achieve my goal of joining medical mission groups to perform much-needed

surgeries for the less fortunate.”

Istvan Seri, professor of pediatrics at the Keck School of Medicine and director of the Center for Fetal and Neonatal Medicine at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, served as co-editor of *Hemodynamics and Cardiology Neonatology Questions and Controversies*.

Published in May, the text, now in its second edition, covers principles of developmental physiology and pathophysiology of neonatal shock and discusses functional echocardiography, near-infrared spectroscopy, laser-Doppler technology and advanced magnetic resonance imaging to assess cardiac output, organ blood flow and oxygen delivery in preterm and term neonates.

The text was co-edited with Charles S. Kleinman, of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology of Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.

USC’s Office of Benefits Administration is inviting **all employees** to visit their new website at www.usc.edu/benefits.

The site features a comprehensive listing of university benefits, custom pages to clarify which benefits are available to various types of employees (full-time, part-time, faculty, staff, union), and multimedia features.

Experimental drug created at USC may extend therapeutic window for stroke

By Alison Trinidad

A team led by USC physician-scientist Berislav V. Zlokovic has created an experimental drug that reduces brain damage and improves motor skills among stroke-afflicted rodents when given with federally approved clot-busting therapy.

Stroke, which occurs when blood flow to a part of the brain

stops, is the No. 4 cause of death and the leading cause of adult disability in the U.S. According to the American Stroke Association, the Food and Drug Administration-approved tPA (tissue plasminogen activator) is the best treatment for stroke caused by a blocked artery. But to be effective, it must be administered within three hours after symptoms

start. If given outside that three-hour window, tPA has shown serious side effects in animal and human brains, including bleeding and breakdown of the brain's protective barrier.

Generally, according to the American Stroke Association, only 3 to 5 percent of those who suffer a stroke reach the hospital in time to be considered for tPA treatment.

Zlokovic, director of the Zilkha Neurogenetic Institute at the Keck School of Medicine of USC and the study's lead investigator, said, "What tPA does best is to break down clots in the blood vessel and restore blood flow, but it is a powerful enzyme. After three hours, tPA also damages the blood vessel and causes intracerebral bleeding. We have developed something that not only counteracts the bleeding

but also reduces brain damage and significantly improves behavior after stroke. I feel very strongly that this approach will extend the therapeutic window for tPA."

Zlokovic is the scientific founder of ZZ Biotech, a Houston-based biotechnology company he co-founded with USC benefactor Selim Zilkha to develop biological treatments for stroke and other neurological ailments. The company's 3K3A-APC is a genetically engineered variant of the naturally occurring activated protein C (APC), which plays a role in the regulation of blood clotting and inflammation. APC has cell-protecting, anti-inflammatory and anti-coagulant properties; 3K3A-APC has reduced anti-coagulant ability, which minimizes the risk of bleeding induced by normal APC. The protective

effect of 3K3A-APC on the lining of blood vessels in the brain further helps prevent bleeding caused by tPA.

Zlokovic and his team gave tPA—alone and in combination with 3K3A-APC—to mice and rats four hours after stroke. They also gave 3K3A-APC for three consecutive days after stroke. They measured the amount of brain damage, bleeding and motor ability of the rodents up to seven days afterward.

The researchers found that, under those conditions, tPA therapy alone caused bleeding in the brain and did not reduce brain damage or improve motor ability when compared to the control. The combination of tPA and 3K3A-APC, however, reduced brain damage by more than half, eliminated tPA-induced bleeding and significantly improved motor ability.

Calendar of Events

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

Tuesday, Aug. 14

USC HSC Fitness Center – Open House and First Year Anniversary. 2001 Soto Street. Entry to the fitness center and all the group exercise classes will be FREE on this day! Noon – 2 p.m. Cake and light refreshments. 5 – 8 p.m. Special USC workout classes. Info: (323) 442-7354

Noon. Psychiatry Grand Rounds. "Stress, Depression and Child Asthma: A Recipe for Disaster," Bruce Miller, Women's/Children's Hospital, Buffalo, NY. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-4065

Friday, Aug. 17

Noon. Medicine Grand Rounds. "History of Diabetes," Matt Johnson, USC. IPT Conference Room B. Info: (323) 226-7556

Monday, Aug. 20

Noon. Medicine Grand Rounds. "Coronary Artery Disease in Women," Raheleh Sarbaziha, USC. IPT Conference Room B. Info: (323) 226-7556

Thursday, Aug 23

Noon. Radiology Grand Rounds. "You and the SC CTSI – Partners in Translational Research," Thomas Buchanan, USC. "CT Evaluation of Pulmonary Nodules in Liver Transplant Candidates with Hepatocellular Carcinoma: Imaging Characteristics and Clinical Correlates," Lauren Ihde, USC. "MRI and Acute Coronary Syndrome," Farhood Saremi, USC. NRT Aresty Auditorium. Info: (323) 865-9949

Friday, Aug. 24

8 a.m. – 7 p.m. Moving Targets 2012 – 11th Annual Symposium. "Metabolic Syndrome: Past, Present & Future," Thomas Buchanan, USC. Radisson Hotel, Los Angeles. Info: (323) 442-2605

Noon. Center for Applied Molecular Medicine Seminar. "Modeling and Analysis of the Core Architecture Regulating TGF Induced Epithelial to Mesenchymal Transition (EMT)," Jeffrey Varner, Cornell University. CSC 250. Info: (323) 442-3849

Sunday, Sept. 16

6:30 a.m. – 8 a.m. Registration. 3rd Annual LA Prostate Cancer 5K. USC University Park Campus. All proceeds and donations from the event will be dedicated to prostate cancer research and education at USC. The 5K is open to all levels of runners, joggers and walkers. The race starts at 8:30 a.m. Info: (323) 323 865-3731

Tuesday, Sept. 18

Noon. Psychiatry Grand Rounds. "Accelerating New CNS Drug Development: Translational and Biomarker Driven Approaches for Alzheimer's, Depression and Schizophrenia," Larry Ereshefsky, Parexel International. ZNI 112.

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.

USC Norris patients invited on Santa Barbara surf weekend

USC Norris Cancer Hospital's AYA@USC (Adolescent and Young Adult) cancer program is teaming up with First Descents to offer a two-day surfing trip in Santa Barbara for young adult cancer patients.

The program is free and open to cancer fighters and survivors ages 18 to 39 whose treatment was at either USC Norris Cancer Hospital or Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

The trip will take place on Sept. 29 and 30, and will include meals, lodging and transportation.

Email Josh Pashman at josh.pashman@med.usc.edu for more information or if you know a patient who would be interested in participating.

ONLINE EXTRAS

Read more *HSC news* online:

• **Apuzzo Honored by The Japanese Congress of Neurological Surgeons**
<http://tinyurl.com/8psbjca>

• **HTE@USC Frontiers Symposium offers students feedback, collaboration**
<http://tinyurl.com/ckq22jx>

• **Keck Researcher finds viewing images of high-calorie foods brings on similar cravings**
<http://tinyurl.com/9af5b8n>



FIGHTING CANCER—Heinz-Josef Lenz, associate director for clinical research and co-leader of the Gastrointestinal Cancers Program at the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, with his patient and WunderGlo Foundation founder, Gloria Borges. Borges, who was diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer, presented Lenz with a \$50,000 check from her foundation at its first annual Cancer Warrior Awards dinner June 21 at the Los Angeles Athletic Club.

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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.