

Keck School of Medicine of USC welcomes new class

‘You are about to embark on an unparalleled and exhilarating journey. Support one another along this journey. In the end, the only thing that will matter is how you ran the race.’

—Henri Ford, vice dean for medical education of the Keck School of Medicine of USC

By Hope Hamashige

They come from 69 different universities and 24 different states. Thirty-two of them have been to graduate school before and two of them are already dentists.

And at the Keck School of Medicine of USC’s Class of 2016 White Coat ceremony last week, the faculty emphasized that wherever they came from, they are all part of the same team now.

This class is the largest and most diverse group in USC history and have, at 34.11, on average the highest MCAT scores of any new crop of Keck School students.

Vice Dean for Medical Education Henri Ford said the success of this group would depend on hard work but, above all, teamwork.

“Teamwork is one of the underpinnings of our curriculum,” said Ford. He added that there would be endless hurdles throughout this journey and that working together is what would get them through.

The white coat ceremony is a tradition by which the faculty of the medical school welcomes the first-year



Keck School Dean Carmen A. Puliafito (second from left) and Henri Ford (far right), vice dean for medical education, cloak Michael Dacey (far left) and Betsi Crow, both first-year students at the Keck School, in their white coats at last Friday’s white coat ceremony.

students into the profession of medicine. The coat, Ford told students, is a symbol of authority and a beacon of hope to the people they will serve.

Another of the cornerstones of the experience at the Keck School, said keynote speaker Raquel Arias, associate dean of educational affairs, is learning to honor the relationship between patients and their doctors.

Arias, the 2012 recipient of the Humanism in Medicine Award, told the group of

186 new students they were chosen because they possess qualities that make them “people into whose hands I can deliver my most precious commodities: my patients.”

After Ford and Dean Carmen A. Puliafito cloaked the new medical students in their white coats, students and faculty read together the Hippocratic oath. Several students said that part of evening was both celebratory and poignant.

“Everything feels a lot more real now,” said Abhik

Banerjee. “Having the faculty read the Hippocratic oath felt like this is really starting now.”

Connor Corcoran admitted he had not read the words before and found them inspirational. “It made me excited to get started.”

Several members of the faculty also received teaching awards at the Aug. 17 event. For a complete list please visit <http://tinyurl.com/9hnjohs>.

Please see page 2 for a comprehensive list of upcoming white coat ceremonies.

Good Neighbors campaign funds HSC projects aimed at promoting health in the community

By Hope Hamashige

The staff at Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles (CHLA) knows first-hand that the auto-choked streets of Los Angeles pose hazards for youngsters that routinely land them in emergency rooms. So, while not a traditional role for the acclaimed children’s hospital, CHLA launched a program to help kids avoid accidents while crossing streets, riding bikes and playing near busy roads because it fits with its mission of keeping kids healthy.

The Safe Streets-CHLA Injury Prevention Program was recently awarded a \$45,000 grant from USC’s Neighborhood Outreach program to continue this work. In all, a dozen health care-related programs received nearly \$300,000 through donations from USC faculty and staff to the USC Neighborhood Outreach program.

The mission of the Neighborhood Outreach program is to reward organizations



A USC student leads participants in a race, one of a variety of physical activities that is part of the Fit Families program. Fit Families is run by the Division of Physical Therapy and was again awarded funding by the Good Neighbors Campaign.

in Los Angeles around the university’s campuses that encourage young people to pursue their education and to help local families live healthier and more productive lives.

Each year, the awards are given on the basis of community impact in the priority funding areas

including health and well-being, education, economic development, and community building, according to Carolina Castillo, executive director of development for USC Civic Engagement.

That said, each year there are programs whose outcomes are recognized

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Keck Medical Center of USC opens high-tech endoscopy suite

By Hope Hamashige

It took two years to plan and several months to build, and the result is that Keck Medical Center of USC can now lay claim to having an endoscopy suite that is among the most advanced in the state.

“It is fair to say this is the most advanced endoscopic facility in Southern California,” said Jacques Van Dam, professor of medicine and director of clinical gastroenterology at the Keck Medical Center of USC.

Van Dam said creating a state-of-the-art facility, which is housed in the USC Norris Cancer Hospital, helps to achieve several goals. It sets a new standard for patient care by providing a broad range of advanced endoscopic procedures and allows those procedures to be performed with more speed and accuracy.

Among the anticipated additions to the facility is a new device, called The Third

Eye, which improves the detection rate of precancerous polyps during colonoscopy. There is now a holmium laser to fragment large gallstones to facilitate their endoscopic removal.

The new and far roomier space gave them the opportunity to provide anesthesia services. The whole place is wired for images and sound so the team can broadcast into classrooms at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, to doctors in the community or to continuing education classes anywhere. Providing a space from which training, and also research, could be done was another one of the goals that was in mind while in the planning phase.

“We now have the ability to do both research and training in a way that is going to make this the envy of other top hospitals in the area,” said Van Dam.

Keck Medical Center of USC doctors offering surgery in San Gabriel Valley

By Leslie Ridgeway

Keck Medical Center of USC faculty physicians have partnered with a local health system to offer specialized colorectal surgery options to patients in the San Gabriel Valley.

Anthony Senagore, professor and chief of colorectal surgery, and Kyle Cologne, assistant professor of colorectal surgery, are now seeing patients and performing minimally invasive surgery two days a week at Citrus Valley Medical Center in Covina, Calif. The medical center is part of Citrus Valley Health Partners (CVHP), a nonprofit, comprehensive health system in the San Gabriel Valley.

“Dr. Cologne and I look forward to working more closely with many of our referring physicians to provide expanded services at the Citrus Valley Health Partners hospitals,” said Senagore. “With CVHP’s support, we will increase local access to

advanced minimally invasive colorectal surgery, as well as new procedures for pelvic floor and anorectal surgery.”

CVHP serves nearly one million residents of the San Gabriel Valley through four locations: Citrus Valley Medical Center–Inter-Community Campus in Covina, Citrus Valley Medical Center–Queen of the Valley Campus in West Covina, Foothill Presbyterian Hospital in Glendora and Citrus Valley Hospice in West Covina.

“CVHP is honored to have the expertise of Dr. Senagore and Dr. Cologne,” said Robert H. Curry, President/CEO of CVHP. “This important partnership with USC’s distinguished faculty is part of our commitment to expand our specialty services to our community. It is vital that our patients have access to high-quality care in their neighborhood. We look forward to a long, successful collaboration.”

The USC division of colorectal surgery physicians are internationally recognized for their expertise in managing colon cancer, colorectal disease, inflammatory bowel disease and benign disorders of the colon, rectum and anus.

The team offers comprehensive multidisciplinary care of a variety of colorectal conditions, as well as advanced diagnostic studies including MRI, CT scans and ultrasound. The team has one of the most experienced minimally invasive surgical teams in the United States and specializes in all forms of laparoscopic and robotic colon and rectal surgery.

CVHP is known regionally for its Citrus Valley Heart Center, oncology services, robotic surgery program, accredited diabetes treatment and education program, maternal and child health services, and Citrus Valley Hospice hospital and Home Health program.



Laura Sturza

FRESH AND EASY FIELD TRIP—Regulatory Science students from the School of Pharmacy donned gear designed to ensure quality control on a recent field trip to the Fresh and Easy Manufacturing Campus in Riverside, CA. Professor Roger Clemens’ class, Regulation of Foods and Dietary Supplements, gives students access to the best practices of quality assurance. Globalization of the food supply creates the demand for regulation, ensuring that what goes into a consumer’s body is safe. Students in Clemens’ class examine the challenging nature of cooperative international regulations of foods and supplements. Clemens considers Fresh and Easy one of the top facilities in the country for food safety and quality standards. Pharm.D./Regulatory Science student Derek Kuwahara said the visit showed them an “example of a really well run production line.” Above, from left, regulatory science student Kuwahara, Fresh and Easy Senior Team Leader Ashley Collins and regulatory science student Mugdha Dongre.

SAVE THE DATE

The Keck School of Medicine was the first of several white coat ceremonies taking place on the Health Sciences and University Park campuses in the last several days and continuing through the end of August.

The USC School of Pharmacy also held its white coat ceremony on Wednesday, Aug. 23, in the Harry and Celesta Pappas Quad. Below is a list of the remaining white coat ceremonies:

- Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC. Monday, Aug. 27, from 5 to 7p.m. in Bovard Auditorium on the University Park campus. There will be a reception for attendees before the ceremony, at 4 p.m. in Founders Park.
- Division of Biokinesiology and Physical Therapy at the School of Dentistry of USC. Thursday, Aug. 30, at 6 p.m. The ceremony will be preceded by a reception on the lawn behind the Eli and Edythe Broad CIRM Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research on the Health Sciences Campus.
- Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy at the School of Dentistry of USC. Friday, Aug. 31, at 5 p.m. on the lawn behind the Eli and Edythe Broad CIRM Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research on the Health Sciences Campus.

The Weekly

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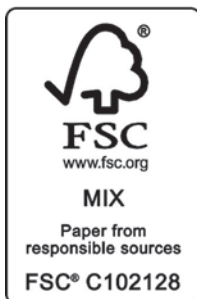
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Three scientists share 2012 Massry Prize

By Hope Hamashige

Scientists and philosophers have long debated whether behavior is a product of nature or nurture and just how big a role free will plays.

The winners of this year’s Meira and Shaul G. Massry Prize are a trio of scientists—Michael Rosbash and Jeffrey C. Hall of Brandeis University and Michael W. Young of Rockefeller University—who have pioneered research proving that at least some behavior is in fact embedded in the genes.

The awardees were able to isolate in fruit flies the specific DNA segments that carried a periodic gene, dubbed a “per” gene, that regulates circadian rhythms and sleep patterns. They found that transferring those DNA segments from normal flies into per mutant flies resulted in a conversion of their behavior—and that of their offspring—to normal rhythms.

They went on to identify the molecules that the

per locus encodes, isolate those and other associated molecules involved in the mechanism that regulates the sleep-wake cycle, and demonstrate how the periodic production of these proteins is regulated and—in turn—regulates the circadian rhythms of the fly.

These genes and the proteins they encode are not confined to flies but are largely conserved in vertebrate species, including humans. Since their groundbreaking research, a number of human sleep disorders have been identified as stemming from mutations in the equivalent of the per locus in humans.

All three winners will spend Monday, Oct. 29, at USC and will speak at the Mayer Auditorium from 2 - 3:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided before their lectures beginning at 1 p.m.

For further information about their schedule while at USC, contact Gigi Petrovich at (323) 442-2605.

NEIGHBORS: Campaign funds health-related programs in Los Angeles

Continued from page 1

repeatedly.

Repeat grantees with health-related programs included the USC Neighborhood Mobile Dental Clinic (\$28,000), the Engineering for Health Academy (\$25,277), the FUENTE program (\$7,725), Science for Life (\$11,814), HSC Health and Science Expo (\$16,295), USC Physical Therapy Fit Families Program (\$28,231), the annual women’s health conference called Proyecto Pastoral (\$12,000), the USC Med-COR program (\$32,700), and the HSC Community Health and Wellness Fair (\$17,245).

These initiatives benefit USC’s neighbors in many ways including health screenings, providing science education and hands-on experience for young people, teaching children how to avoid the dangers of poisons and household chemicals and trying to get area families enthusiastic about good nutrition and regular exercise.

In addition to CHLA’s Safe Streets program, first-time award recipients included the HIV Youth Mentorship Program called LEAF (\$30,000) and a program to create an audionovela on the subject of obesity (\$38,150).

USC’s Good Neighbors Campaign was started in 1994. USC employees are given the option of contributing a portion of their paycheck to support programs that help the communities surrounding the university’s two campuses near downtown Los Angeles.

The unique approach to raising money for the community has collected more than \$14 million for the more than 500 programs that partner with USC.

T-shirts now on sale to fund prostate cancer research

As part of the Keck Medical Center of USC’s prostate cancer awareness campaign, an exclusive “For a Prostate Cancer Cure. Fight On.” T-shirt is now on sale at USC Bookstores, gift shops and online at uscbookstore.com/prostate-cancer. T-shirt sales will support prostate cancer research and patient education at Keck Medical Center.

Also part of the campaign, the first Trojan football game of the season, on Sept. 1, will feature a Keck Medical Center of USC booth with educational materials about prostate cancer research and the lifesaving treatments performed by physicians and researchers from the USC Institute of Urology.

The booth will be located outside the Coliseum, near the Olympic torch.

Staff and physicians can still register for the 3rd annual LA Prostate Cancer 5k being held Sept. 16 at USC University Park campus. The event is hosted by the USC Institute of Urology and USC Norris Cancer Hospital. All proceeds will support 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.

For more information and to register, visit uscurology.com/prostate-5k.



Stroke center kicks off lecture series on stroke prevention and education

By Leslie Tarlow

Bruce Ovbiagele, professor of neuroscience at the University of California, San Diego, recently visited the Health Sciences Campus to give a lecture on the relationship between kidney disease and the risk of stroke.

Ovbiagele’s lecture was the first in a series called the Roxanna Todd Hodges Visiting Lectureship in Stroke Prevention and Education.

A neurologist with a special focus on stroke prevention, Ovbiagele focuses on stroke epidemiology and bedside-to-community research translation in his research. Patients who have chronic kidney disease face a higher risk of stroke and heart disease, but using kidney disease as a screening tool can be problematic, as kidney disease often goes undiagnosed due to a lack of obvious symptoms. Ovbiagele looked at whether kidney disease can be considered a factor in the risk of stroke, or a secondary event.

“We are honored to have such a distinguished lecturer be the first to receive this award that supports the mission of the Roxanna Todd Hodges Foundation, to reduce the burden of stroke in Southern California through prevention and education,” said Nerses Sanossian, director of the Roxanna Todd Hodges Comprehensive Stroke Clinic and Transient Ischemic Attack Program, during his introduction of Ovbiagele.

The lecture, titled “Chronic Kidney Disease and the Risk



Bruce Ovbiagele (left), professor of neuroscience at the University of California, San Diego, and Nerses Sanossian, director of the Roxanna Todd Hodges Comprehensive Stroke Clinic and Transient Ischemic Attack Program, holds a plaque naming the lecture series’ annual speakers.

of Stroke: An Epiphenomenon or a Real Culprit?” was presented as part of the Neurology Grand Rounds.

It was made possible by a \$6 million gift from the Roxanna Todd Hodges Foundation to establish the Roxanna Todd Hodges Comprehensive Stroke Clinic and the Roxanna Todd Hodges Transient Ischemic Attack (TIA) Program.

The stroke clinic provides a multidisciplinary approach to the diagnosis, treatment and care of patients experiencing stroke or acute neurological events and related conditions, while the TIA program focuses on the development of enhanced diagnostic and treatment modalities for preventing stroke.

Among the attendees were Helena Chui, chair of the Department of Neurology; Sanossian; Deborah Massaglia, president of the Roxanna Todd Hodges Foundation; faculty from neurology, neurosurgery, neuroradiology, cardiology, internal medicine, and biokinesiology and physical medicine; and fellows, residents, students, nurses and visiting health professionals from outside medical centers.

Wasserman Foundation gift supports research on chronic sinusitis at USC

By Amy E. Hamaker

Thanks to a recent \$250,000 gift from the Wasserman Foundation, the Keck School of Medicine of USC’s Department of Otolaryngology has new resources for research into chronic sinusitis.

The gift will help support the research of Dale Rice, professor and chair of the Department of Otolaryngology at the Keck School, as he and his team try to discover the role that biofilm plays in chronic sinusitis.

There are more than 29.8 million adults in the United States who have been diagnosed with chronic sinusitis, a condition where the sinuses become inflamed for more than 12 weeks, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Biofilm is a collection of microbes that form a distinct pattern, with towers of microbial cells that are fed by fluid-filled channels. As a result, biofilm is strong—bacteria in biofilm can be up to 1,000 times more resistant to antibiotics than bacteria outside of a biofilm structure. The CDC estimates that more than 65 percent of infections in hospitals are caused by biofilm.

“Our team is focusing on finding better ways

of recognizing when biofilm is present,” said Rice, who also holds the Leon J. Tiber and David S. Alpert Chair in Medicine. “In addition, we’re starting a new study to find a way to more effectively attack biofilm than the methods that are currently available. Most of the expense of this study involves equipment needed in the lab to process the tissue and technicians to do the work. This gift will be a much-needed boon for this research.”

Rica Orszag, executive director of the Wasserman Foundation, said: “Part of the Wasserman Foundation’s mission is to partner with organizations that provide high-quality health care. Dr. Rice’s research at USC has the potential to greatly help those who suffer from chronic rhinosinusitis, and we are happy to support him in his work.”

The Wasserman Foundation was created by Lew and Edie Wasserman in 1952 as a vehicle for their intense dedication to charitable giving. Although widely recognized for their prominence in Hollywood, the couple quietly became community leaders through their awareness and generosity to countless cultural, health and social issues and organizations across the country.

Calendar of Events

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

Tuesday, Aug. 28

Noon. Cancer Center Grand Rounds. “The Challenge of Individualizing Treatments for Patients with Breast Cancer,” Steven Katz, University of Michigan. NRT Aresty Auditorium. Info: (323) 865-0801

Monday, Aug. 27

1 – 3 p.m. USC Global Health Film Screening. “My Husband’s Denial,” Alvim Cossa, filmmaker and activist. SSB 115/116. Info: (323) 865-0419

Wednesday, Aug. 29

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. USC Global Health Theater Workshop. “My Husband’s Denial,” Alvim Cossa, filmmaker and activist. SSB Courtyard. Info: (323) 865-0419

Friday, Aug. 31

11 a.m. Hematology Grand Rounds. “Proposal of a Phase II Pilot Study of WNT Inhibitor in Combination Chemotherapy in Relapsed/Refractory ALL,” Ibrahim Aldoss, USC. IPT C2J103. Info: (323) 865-3950

Noon. Norris Medical Library Technology Lunch Series. “Work with PDFs: Annotate, Extract, Edit!” Amy Chatfield and Emily Brennan, USC. NML West Conference Room. Info: (323) 442-1483

Monday, Sept. 10

Noon. KSOM Research Seminar. “Specificity of Natural Killer T Cells: Innate Lymphocytes Reactive with Microbial as well as Self Antigens,” Mitchell Kronenberg, La Jolla Institute for Allergy & Immunology. NRT Aresty Auditorium. Info: (323) 442-7732

Tuesday, Sept. 11

2 – 3 p.m. “Navigating a New Diagnosis of Breast Cancer: What Does Personalized Medicine Mean?” Debu Tripathy, USC. NRT Ground Floor Jennifer Diamond Library. Info: (323) 865-3520

Wednesday, Sept. 12

3 p.m. The Delphine & James Fahringer MMI Seminar. “The P13P Producing Enzyme and Effector Control Autophagosome Biogenesis and Maturation,” Qing Zhong, UC Berkeley. NRT LG 503/504. Info: (323) 442-1713

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) 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. Info: (323) 442-4065

Thursday, Sept. 27

7 a.m. – 6 p.m. USC Physical Sciences in Oncology Center 2nd Annual Symposium. Various speakers. Registration deadline: Sept. 13. UPC: Davidson Conference Center. Info: (323) 442-3849

Saturday, Sept. 29

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Women’s Cancer Program Annual Awareness Event. “The Latest for Tailoring Care in Women’s Cancers,” various speakers. KAM Mayer Auditorium. Info: (323) 865-3520

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.



Hope Hamashige

Left to right: Fred R. Sattler, professor of medicine, and Jeff Chukwunke, discuss Chukwunke’s research on the use of testosterone supplements to treat obesity in older men. The junior from Rutgers University was one of several undergraduates from around the country who spent the summer at the Keck School of Medicine of USC as part of the Bridging the Gaps Summer Research Program. Students presented posters detailing the results of their research to Keck School faculty on Aug. 3 after eight weeks working with a faculty mentor.

Donation helps fund testicular cancer research at Norris

By Amy E. Hamaker

When John Willis discovered that his 25-year-old son Johnny had testicular cancer, he was understandably devastated. “When something like this happens, it’s enormous, and it’s difficult to try to process it all,” he said.

Johnny knew he had a problem, but at first a local doctor and urologist did not recognize the condition. It was Johnny’s determination that led the Willises to Sia Daneshmand, associate professor of urology (clinical scholar) at the Keck School of Medicine of USC.

“As we went through this process, it quickly became very apparent that Dr. Daneshmand is dedicated to what he does,” said Willis. “He’s so passionate and caring and really helped Johnny believe he would get through this. We thought, ‘What can we do to help in return?’”

That question led Willis, co-founder of tech company Interloc Solutions with Mike Watson, to make a generous donation to help Daneshmand and his team at USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center fully develop a comprehensive database of clinical and tissue sample data from testicular cancer patients.

Daneshmand, who is also director of urologic oncology at USC Institute of Urology, and a renowned testis cancer expert, along with his team have developed a comprehensive institutional review board-approved database that captures clinical data for analysis. USC also houses one of the largest tissue banks for testis tumors led by previous efforts from Sue Martin, director of the Translational Pathology Core Facility of the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. The tissue bank was funded by the Lance Armstrong Foundation. The challenge is to merge

the two to better understand outcomes.

“We work collaboratively with departments of radiology, pathology, molecular epidemiology and medical oncology,” explained Daneshmand. “This helps us better understand modes of presentation, optimal treatment and follow-up regimens, and delineate specific issues related to long term survivors of testicular

cancer, including fertility and hormonal factors.

“We have a team dedicated to testis cancer research, and at any one time we have at least half a dozen ongoing projects, and funding from extramural sources is extremely limited,” he continued. “Philanthropy like the Willis/Interloc donation helps us fund research fellows whose help is invaluable in our mission.”



Tonya Strom

(From left) Hamed Ahmadi, a postdoctoral research fellow; Sia Daneshmand, director of urologic oncology, USC Institute of Urology; John Willis, owner of Interloc Solutions; and Johnny Willis celebrate the donation by John Willis and his company to testicular cancer research at USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center.

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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.