



Jon Nalick

USC Norris cancer patient Jim Martellotti displays one of his photos, which hangs in the lobby of the cancer hospital.

## USC Norris patient has an eye for soothing images

**By Josh Grossberg**

For patients and visitors to USC Norris Cancer Hospital, the effect of new photographs in the lobby can be subtle, but for the man who took the photographs, they can bring some calm to people during a very stressful time in their life.

It is a situation Jim Martellotti knows well. Not only did he take three of the framed photos strategically located in the hospital's lobby and seating areas, but he's also a longtime cancer patient.

When the lifelong shutterbug heard the hospital was looking to decorate the lobby and some upper floors after a renovation, the 65-year-old Martellotti knew he wanted to be part of it.

"I'm always looking for the beauty in things that would be worth sharing or something beautiful to look at," he said. "You're always looking for what will make a good picture."

To his surprise, three of his submissions were selected for display.

"I'm very happy about that," he said. "They get seen by the most people."

One of the photos — hanging near the admitting desk — shows a wooden bridge surrounded by lush greenery. It was taken at the Huntington Library in San Marino. The other two are near the Harold E. and Henrietta C. Lee Breast Center and feature lush green knolls and serene ponds — shots that were

taken on a business trip to China.

Martellotti was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2001. He was treated successfully at USC Norris, but had a recurrence in 2006 and radiation treatment in 2009. He did not mind the radiation so much; it was the almost 40 commutes back and forth to his home in Tustin that wore him down.

"It was fun at first, except for the drives back and forth," said Martellotti, who owns a precision tool and dye company. Other than [some pain near the end] I was quite interested in the [radiation] machine. I wanted to know what frequency it ran at."

At a hospital function Martellotti met May Bulaon, an administrative assistant at the hospital. She told Martellotti that the facility was looking for pictures to hang on the walls and encouraged him to submit some for consideration.

Bulaon said his pictures

were chosen for specific reasons. The bridge in the picture near the admitting desk is a metaphor for the journey patients are on.

"It's leading to something," she said. "When you look at the picture, it looks like a path. There's a light at the end of the tunnel."

And the two near the breast cancer area are "like a dream. They're just calm and serene," she said. "That's why we chose those pictures."

Martellotti accepted no money for his work. He is just happy that they are displayed where they can lift peoples' spirits. And he enjoys knowing that people will see beauty in something like a flower that they might have overlooked before.

"It's amazing the beauty that's in flowers that, since we see them all the time, we take for granted," he said.

To see more of Martellotti's photographs, visit [www.flickr.com/photos/jimmartellotti](http://www.flickr.com/photos/jimmartellotti).

## Keck Hospital of USC stroke program fetes growth, successes

**By Josh Grossberg**

Keck Hospital of USC has made great strides in the treatment of stroke patients, and on May 22, it was time to thank some of those responsible for making it happen.

During an appreciation reception ceremony — timed to coincide with Stroke Awareness Month — commendations were given to the staffs of 7 South, 7 North and the Evaluation and Treatment Clinic.

"Your teamwork, collaboration and commitment to bringing individual strengths together for the good of our patients is, has always been and will continue to make this program very successful," said Scott Evans, chief executive officer of both Keck Hospital and USC Norris Cancer Hospital.

Stroke Program Coordinator Leslie Tarlow was brought on board to create the program in 2010. At the reception, she noted that it takes a lot of communication to run a successful stroke program.

"This is a real team effort," she said. "It's not one person. Everybody who takes care of patients is as important as any other," she said. "I have to thank all of you."

Also receiving thanks was Deborah Massaglia, president of the Roxanna Todd Hodges (RTH) Foundation. Less than a year ago, the foundation donated \$6 million to establish the RTH Comprehensive Stroke Clinic and the RTH

Transient Ischemic Attack (TIA) program. Both are part of the Stroke and Cerebrovascular Center.

The RTH Stroke Clinic includes outpatient care, inpatient care and research.

The TIA program focuses on the development of enhanced diagnostic and treatment modalities for preventing stroke. TIA patients will be seen at the Evaluation and Treatment Clinic.

"It's incredible the amount of lives that you are touching and helping," Massaglia said. "It's more than I could have imagined a year ago."

Nerses Sanossian, director of the clinic and the program, said the Stroke Transfer Program has been successful in educating community hospital physicians about stroke and providing rapid 24/7 access to USC stroke neurologists.

"We go out to community hospitals and give stroke information," he said. "We provide them with a telephone number that connects to one of our four faculty members, not a resident and not a student."

Treating stroke patients requires the ability to act quickly, as well as a dedicated interdisciplinary team that includes neurologists; neuro-interventionalists; nurses; intake and case managers; physical, occupational and speech therapists; social workers; and more.

Neurologists Benjamin Emanuel and May Kim-

See **STROKE**, page 2

## Fight on for Los Angeles

At a recent Los Angeles County Medical Association mayoral roundtable focusing on health care are, from left: Donald Larsen, chief medical officer and medical director for external health affairs, Keck Medical Center of USC; Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles mayor-elect; Caroline Mosessian, clinical assistant professor and vice chair, administration and finance, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Keck School of Medicine of USC; and Michael Karp, assistant professor of clinical medicine, Keck School. The Keck Medical Center of USC co-sponsored the event, which took place at Good Samaritan Hospital.



Photo courtesy Los Angeles County Medical Association



# New kidney diagnosis center established with \$600,000 gift

By Amy E. Hamaker

Glen Miller could never have guessed that a 15-year-old X-ray from a snowmobile accident would lead him to the USC doctor who would change his life.

“Other than a busted ego, I was basically fine after the accident,” said Miller, CEO of Diversified Financial Management Corp. and one of the founders of the Glen and Wendy Miller Family Foundation, a not-for-profit corporation located in Bannockburn, Ill.

The X-ray became important again, years later when Miller’s doctor found a growth on his kidney after prostate problems. “You can see the growth on the old X-ray, although the emergency room staff hadn’t been looking at my kidneys at the time,” he said.

Miller’s doctor was able to see the growth’s development using the old X-ray and a series of new MRIs, and determined that a specialist was needed to remove it — “...hopefully just the growth.”

Through Lauren Izaks, a friend of his daughter, Miller was put in contact with Inderbir Gill, chairman of the Catherine and Joseph Aresty

Department of Urology and founding executive director of the USC Institute of Urology at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. Quite by coincidence, Gill had successfully removed a growth on that friend’s kidney two years earlier.

“When my wife, Wendy, and I met Dr. Gill, he was wonderfully warm and personable, even though we were total strangers,” Miller recalled. “He cupped my hand with his and said, ‘You’ve come to the right place.’ He showed us exactly how he was going to get the tumor. He told Wendy and me that he was quite confident that he could remove the tumor and leave the rest of my left kidney fully functional. I’ve never had a doctor treat me with such empathy and care.”

Gill was able to find and access the tumor, and after seven and a half hours of laparoscopic surgery, Miller was in recovery from successful tumor removal surgery. Gill indeed was able to remove the entirety of the tumor, leaving the margins clean and 80 percent of Miller’s left kidney intact.

“Six days later, with the biopsy in hand, Dr. Gill’s



Courtesy Glen Miller

Excellent care and kind treatments prompted Glen Miller and his wife Wendy to help establish the Glen and Wendy Miller/Inderbir Gill Kidney Cancer Research Program.

types of kidney masses, and telling the difference between those that are benign and those that are cancerous can be challenging, especially if they’re small. Current evaluation methods can be inaccurate or inconclusive, leading to the possibility of unnecessary surgeries for patients with benign tumors — nearly 40,000 patients nationwide with a newly detected small renal mass go into the operating room each year without a clear-cut diagnosis.

To improve the diagnosis of kidney masses, Gill and his team will build upon existing expertise in electrical impedance analyses (a measure of the opposition to the flow of an electric current through body tissues); micro-bubble enhanced ultrasonography (using an enhanced contrast agent); and high-flow spectrometry (a method of determining the presence of and changes to discrete proteins).

In addition, Gill and his team are working to identify DNA methylation markers that can improve the diagnostic value of noninvasive renal needle biopsies. Proper DNA methylation is crucial to regulating how the body’s cells develop and function.

“Dr. Gill is dedicated to his science and to his patients, and I wanted to help empower him to continue his outstanding work,” said Miller. “I wanted to do something so that 10 years from now when the next Glen Miller comes in, Dr. Gill can do something miraculous for him like he did for me and my entire family.”

associate, Daniel Park, told me, my wife and my daughter that the operation had been ‘curative’ and that I was cancer free. You cannot imagine the joy and relief we all felt.”

It was this experience that prompted a recent \$600,000 gift from the Glen and Wendy Miller Family Foundation to help start a new center in cooperation with the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. The Glen and Wendy Miller/Inderbir Gill Kidney Cancer Research Program will explore a variety of noninvasive and minimally invasive technologies for diagnosing kidney cancer, and will be led by Gill.

“Our USC urology team has worked tirelessly to improve the diagnosis and treatment of kidney cancer, and this generous gift will allow us to make a real difference in improving patients’ lives,” Gill said. “Glen is an amazing person, and through his generosity he’s given an amazing gift to other patients.”

There are many different

‘... I was cancer free. You cannot imagine the joy and relief we all felt.’

—Glen Miller, patient of Inderbir Gill, chairman of the Catherine and Joseph Aresty Department of Urology

## STROKE: Center at USC continues to grow

Continued from Page 1

Tenser presented the plaques to Yolee Casagrande and Deidra Bonner, nurse managers of the teams being recognized. Kim-Tenser thanked the staff for providing such high quality care.

“Your enduring commitment to excellent patient care is a unique and invaluable quality that does not go unnoticed,” she said.

Emanuel said that

the teams have been instrumental in not only increasing the patient count, but also improving their care once they arrive.

“In the beginning it was hard getting patients over here,” Emanuel said. “Now it’s so seamless. If there’s ever a problem, it’s from the sending (hospital). We are never the issue. It’s fantastic.”

With a new stroke center

and acute rehab unit, as well as a recently expanded Evaluation and Treatment Clinic and remodeled neuro ICU, Keck Medical Center is quickly becoming a leader in the field. Since the stroke center opened, stroke transfers have increased 200 percent, Evans said.

“Since then, we’ve seen significant growth and certainly expansion in services,” he said.

The Weekly

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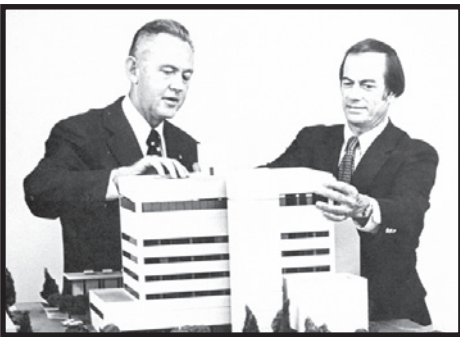
40 USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center

Part of the Keck School of Medicine of USC

As USC celebrates the 40th anniversary of the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, The Weekly will run in each issue through the end of the year items highlighting key moments in the history of the institution.

In 1970, a task force was formed to establish a cancer center at USC. Forty years ago this month, National Cancer Institute Director Frank J. Rauscher Jr. announced the USC Comprehensive Cancer Center as one of eight organizations recognized as comprehensive cancer centers to bring results of research as rapidly as possible to the greatest number of people.

Right, donor Kenneth T. Norris Jr. (left) and Denman Hammond, founding director of the center, display the first architectural model of the new facility in a late 1970s file photo.



# Classmates rally around occupational therapy student diagnosed with cancer

**By Mike McNulty**

With one touch last summer, what was just another day in the life of a Trojan graduate student suddenly became something much more.

“It was the third day of school and I was in class, touching my neck,” recalled Caryn Roach, a student in the entry-level professional program of the USC Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy. “And I felt a big lump.”

When you’re a 30-something student enrolled in the nation’s top-ranked occupational therapy graduate educational program with a bright career ahead of you in a workforce market booming with employer demand, “lump” is the last word you expect to hear, let alone feel.

Soon after, Roach received her diagnosis — Hodgkin’s lymphoma, a type of blood cancer — and she began treatments under the care of Keck School of Medicine of USC faculty oncologists.

With cheery optimism characteristic of many occupational therapists, Roach focused on the positive aspects of her circumstances.

“It’s not perfect,” she said, but “I’m here at USC, and I automatically get a good doctor. My mom’s like, ‘You’re getting your tuition’s worth.’ It’s been the best experience for what it could have been.”

Roach also has a second family — the USC Trojan Family — that would soon be supporting her.

“I’m not lucky that I got cancer, but I think I’m very lucky with the timing of getting cancer,” she said. “I’m at USC. I’m in occupational therapy. I’m surrounded by very caring and supportive people, my classmates and

all of the faculty.”

In late November, her classmates rallied around her. Because hair loss is perhaps the most obvious side effect of cancer treatments, Roach decided to just go ahead with shaving her hair and began wearing a decorative scarf on her head.

In a touching display of solidarity, the entire second-year master’s class organized “Scarf and Hat Day” in response. More than 100 students arrived at school wearing some form of headdress, including beanies and ball caps. Together they posed for a picture at Harry and Celesta Pappas Quad. Front and center was Roach, flexing her biceps and smiling widely.

Roach said that emotional support was not only a gesture to her but a broader reflection of the empathy at the heart of USC



Caryn Roach

occupational therapists, present and future.

“It makes me feel good, and I know that it makes other people feel proud to be a part of this group. Knowing that we’re going to go out, and we’re going to go be OTs, and we’re going to help people make their lives better,” she said. “It just feels good to be a part of that. I don’t know where else you can find a group of that many people that are so caring and so supportive in one place.”

In March, Roach

finished her last scheduled treatment. With more surveillance testing ahead of her, she is technically not yet in remission. But she is already looking forward to ways of leveraging her experience to benefit others in need.

Roach also recently decided to pursue her Doctorate of Occupational Therapy, accepting a clinical residency at the Keck Medical Center of USC with the hopes of working one-on-one with people with cancer.

“I don’t think a lot of people are getting occupational therapy, who have cancer. This is somewhere I can give my input, and it means something. I am here. I’m living it right now,” she said with an unmistakable air of gratitude. “I feel like a cliché, but I think that’s where I need to be because that’s where I can really help people.”

The Weekly NEWSMAKERS

A May 31 story in the *Los Angeles Times* quoted **Mark Urata**, Audrey Skirball-Kenis Chair and chief of the division of plastic and reconstructive surgery at the Keck School of Medicine, about a team of doctors from Keck School-affiliated Children’s Hospital Los Angeles traveling to Jordan to treat Syrian refugees and local children with physical deformities. “Having a facial deformity can be emotionally and socially devastating for kids who simply want to fit in,” Urata said in a statement. “That’s our job: to help them have a normal childhood.”

A May 31 article in the *Beverly Hills Courier* reported that **David Warburton**, professor of pediatrics and surgery at the Keck School of Medicine, and colleagues from Children’s Hospital Los Angeles received a five-year \$1.25 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to continue research on air pollution and provide public health assistance to child health and government agencies in Mongolia. Also mentioned were Keck School professor emeritus **Masato Takahashi** and faculty physicians **Richard Mackenzie**, **Lawrence Ross**, **Stuart Siegel** and **Andreas Reiff**.

A May 30 broadcast on BBC News (U.K.) featured interviews with **Demetrios Demetriades**, professor of surgery at the Keck School of Medicine and director of trauma at Los Angeles County+USC Medical Center, and **Kenji Inaba**, associate professor of surgery and emergency medicine at the Keck School of Medicine, about gun violence in Los Angeles. BBC News (U.K.) quoted **Peep Talving**, assistant professor of surgery at the Keck School, in a second story.

A May 30 article in *La Opinion* quoted **Ismael Nuno**, assistant professor of clinical cardiothoracic surgery at the Keck School of Medicine, about obesity among Latino communities in the U.S.

A May 30 report in *Korea JoongAng Daily* (Korea) noted that **Jae Jung**, distinguished professor and chair of the Department of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology at the Keck School of Medicine, presented a session on the herpes virus and hepatitis C virus in cancer at the inaugural Ho-Am forum on science and medicine.

A May 29 broadcast by Voice of America featured **James Adams**, associate professor of pharmacology and pharmaceutical sciences at the School of Pharmacy. Adams leads hikes into Angeles National Forest to teach about Native American healing practices.

## Researchers, community address critical health needs

**By Paul Karon**

Whether producing movies that change women’s attitudes toward cervical cancer screening, or using mobile technology to keep people with diabetes out of the emergency room, public health research is complex and painstaking work. In many cases, however, the hard part is not the science, but finding the right partners and participants.

The Southern California Clinical and Translational Science Institute (SC CTSI), whose mission is to speed the conversion of research into public health solutions, provides expertise and assistance that not only helps USC’s investigators

conduct their research, but also benefits the university’s neighbors throughout Los Angeles and Southern California.

Five USC-led research teams, whose projects received key support from the CTSI Community Engagement team, presented their studies and findings at the April 24 Community Engagement Dinner meeting. The teams led studies on cultural differences in cervical cancer screening, integration of mental and physical health care, and efficacy of mobile technology use to manage diabetes and childhood obesity, as well as data

collection of the health information of transgender people.

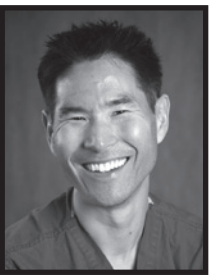
The SC CTSI community engagement efforts serve as a sort of research matchmaker—the team approaches community groups, clinicians and health care providers to discover their most pressing public health needs. Then they identify the right USC researchers and help the investigators shape projects, find funding, carry out the research — and ultimately implement the results in real-world solutions.

For more about the five projects visit <http://tinyurl.com/mo9nl7m>.

## 2013 Keck School of Medicine Faculty Awards



**Harlyne J. Norris**  
*Elaine Stevely Hoffman Award*



**Kenji Inaba**  
*Kaiser Permanente Excellence in Teaching Award Clinical Sciences*



**Jeffrey Canceko**  
*Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award*



**Mikel Snow**  
*Kaiser Permanente Excellence in Teaching Award Basic Sciences*



**Robert K. Ross**  
*Dean’s Humanitarian Award*



**Sara Kreimer**  
*Outstanding Resident Physician Teaching Award*

- Year III Faculty Awards**  
Kim Bader, Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Parul Bhatia, Pediatrics  
Jeffrey Canceko, Internal Medicine  
Jennifer Israel, Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Joerg Zehetner, Surgery
- Year IV Faculty Awards**  
John Go, Radiology  
Nancy Klipfel, Pathology  
Etan Milgrom, Family Medicine and Pediatrics
- Outstanding Teaching as a House Officer**  
Nathan Blue, Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Kim Grant, Surgery  
Sara Kreimer, Pediatrics  
Dave Rosen, Surgery





Above, from left, releasing doves at the June 1 Festival of Life at Harry and Celesta Pappas Quad are: Jonathan Sy, Annette Sy, Jeffrey Hagen, Michael Treadwell, Chaplain Phil Manly and Art Ulene. Right, Festival participant Laurie Miller signs the Festival of Life scroll.



Photos/Lisa Brook

## Festival of Life celebrates triumphs of cancer survivors and their families

**By Josh Grossberg**

It's such a dreaded thing that people often refer to it only by its initial — the C word.

But at the Festival of Life on June 1, the letter stood for a lot more than cancer. There was also courage, care and mostly, celebration.

Hundreds of cancer survivors and their families gathered in the Harry & Celesta Pappas Quad on the Health Sciences Campus to commemorate their success in beating back the disease and to show others that they can do it too.

Now in its 23rd year, the

event is held in recognition of National Cancer Survivors Day. It was hosted by the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center and Hospital.

Like he has for nearly every festival, Art Ulene acted as the master of ceremonies. Ulene, a Norris Cancer Advisory board member who had his own cancer scare several years ago, told the audience that they should embrace their lives.

"There is life — good life — after cancer," he said. "We didn't always treat that as a fact. When I was young, it was considered a death sentence."

The event continues to be more popular with each passing year, said Alicia Syres, director of volunteer services

at the hospital.

Not only was the day for the survivors, but also gave their care providers a chance to see how their patients have progressed.

"It's not just for cancer survivors and their families," Syres said. "It gives staff a shot in the arm. They see these people come back, and it's a real boost for them."

Speakers included cancer survivors. A few letters of thanks were read from former patients who could not attend.

For 64-year-old Lee Woolever, returning to where he had an operation for esophageal cancer was a way to be with people who understood what he went through.

"I somehow feel a connection to the university and hospital," he said. "I get a bit overwhelmed when I see how many people are touched by cancer."

Near the end of the ceremony, the hundreds of people sitting in the quad turned to face the windows at the Norris Hospital a few hundred feet away. They knew that there were people on the other side of those windows who were going through what they had experienced, and they wanted to send a sign of encouragement. They waved and cheered to the unseen patients as a way to know that, despite their fears, there is, in fact, a good life after cancer.

## Calendar of Events

### Tuesday, June 11

**Noon.** Cancer Center Grand Rounds. "A New Window into the Cancer Epigenome – Prospects for Precision Medicine," Peter Jones, USC. NRT Aresty Auditorium. Info: (323) 865-0801

**2 – 3:30 p.m.** Breast Cancer Educational Forum. "Foods That Make a Difference," Debu Tripathy and Carmen Martinez, USC. NRT G501 Jennifer Diamond Resource Library. Info: (323) 442-7808

### Thursday, June 13

**8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.** KSOM Annual MD/PhD Symposium. Various topics and speakers. BCC 1st Floor Conference Room. Info and RSVP: (323) 442-2965

### Friday, June 14

**8:30 a.m.** "Mechanical Ventilation in the Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome: Progress Through Clinical Trials," Roy Brower, Johns Hopkins. IRD 732-734. Info: (323) 226-7593

**11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.** Southern California Environmental Health Sciences Center. "Air Pollution, Lipid Peroxidation and Atherosclerosis," Jesus Araujo, UCLA. SSB 116. Info: (323) 442-1096

**11:30 a.m.** KSOM Research Seminar. "iNKT Cell-Based Immunotherapy for Cancer," Toshinori Nakayama, Chiba University, Japan. MCH 149. Info: (323) 442-7732

### Monday, June 17

**11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.** KSOM Research Seminar. "Implications of the Mitochondrial Life Cycle for Aging in Drosophila and Humans," John Tower, USC. NRT Aresty Auditorium. Info: (323) 442-7732

### Wednesday, June 19

**Noon.** ZNI Seminar. "Molecular Mechanisms of Long-Term Memory Storage," Ted Abel University of Pennsylvania. ZNI 112. Info: (323) 442-2144

### Friday, June 21

**8:30 a.m.** Pulmonary Division Seminar. "Updates in Advanced Bronchoscopy and Interventional Pulmonary," various speakers. IRD 732-734. Info: (323) 226-7593

**1 p.m. – 5 p.m.** Southern California Clinical and Translational Science Institute Program. "Short-Course Introduction to Research in Diverse Urban Populations," Various speakers. NRT LG 503. Info: (323) 442-8281

**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 [ebalauw@usc.edu](mailto:ebalauw@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.

## American Thoracic Society honors Jonathan Samet

The American Thoracic Society awarded its highest recognition, the Edward Livingston Trudeau Medal, to Jonathan M. Samet, professor and Flora L. Thornton Chair in the Department of Preventive Medicine at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, at its annual meeting May 19.

The Trudeau Medal was established in 1926 in honor of the founder and the first president of the American Lung Association. The medal recognizes an individual's lifelong contributions to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of lung disease through leadership in research, education or clinical care.

Samet, who is also director of the USC Institute for Global Health, is an international authority on the effects of smoking and air pollution on health, chairs the Environmental Protection Agency Clean Air

Scientific Advisory Committee and the Food and Drug Administration Tobacco Products Scientific Advisory Committee, and has

contributed to several U.S. Surgeon General's reports. He holds two Surgeon General's medallions among many awards.

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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.