



Steve Collin

Sheryl Crow performs at the USC Institute of Urology's "Changing Lives and Creating Cures" gala at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel.

Gala celebrates 'Changing Lives and Creating Cures'

The USC Institute of Urology, one of the nation's top-ranked urology programs, honored Derrick Hall, president and CEO of the Arizona Diamondbacks major league baseball franchise, with the inaugural Louis Zamperini Courage Award at its annual "Changing Lives and Creating Cures" gala.

Hall, a Los Angeles native and a prostate cancer survivor and advocate, received the award at the annual event, held Nov. 20 at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills.

"Derrick Hall is a

well-known leader on and off the baseball field," said Inderbir S. Gill, MD, MCh, executive director of the USC Institute of Urology.

"He faced his greatest personal challenge when he was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2011, just as his team was battling for a division title," Gill said. "When he immediately went public, encouraging other men to get tested after age 40, he showcased the courage and resilience that exemplifies the spirit of Louis Zamperini and

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Steve Collin

Dean Carmen A. Puliafito of the Keck School of Medicine and actor and comedian Martin Short listen intently to author Siddhartha Mukherjee during his talk in Mayer Auditorium as part of the Nancy Short Lecture series.

Author discusses advances — and challenges — in cancer treatment

By Hope Hamashige

Cancer has stumped physicians and scientists for thousands of years. Major discoveries have changed our understanding of cancer and how to treat it, but there is still far more to learn.

"Cancer remains the most significant challenge in the history of medicine," said Siddhartha Mukherjee, MD, PhD, assistant professor of medicine at Columbia University.

Mukherjee, the author of a Pulitzer Prize winning best-selling book titled, "The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer," recently spoke before a standing-room-only crowd at Mayer Auditorium as part of the Nancy Short Lecture series, which honors the life of Nancy Short, who died of ovarian cancer in 2010.

Nancy Short's husband, actor and comedian Martin Short, kicked off the lecture by stating that his wife's passing led him to become an advocate for cancer research and education. "The knowledge that can be obtained through lectures like this is enormous," said Short.

To illustrate how far our understanding has

come, Mukherjee pointed to the first recorded case of cancer, written in papyrus, which said there was no way to help patients. He cited advances in treatment in recent years:

- Chemotherapy has changed the prognosis for some patients, most notably for children with leukemia, though not all of them.
- New research, has led to greater understanding of cancer's cellular workings, and new targeted.
- Ongoing experiments with immunotherapy are the "most exciting advance in treatment" in years, according to Mukherjee.

He compared our understanding of cancer to an iceberg, saying that despite all the progress, most of its physiology is still hidden from view. In order to find new and better treatments, scientists must continue to push for more research on the disease.

"Our understanding of cancer physiology is still incomplete," said Mukherjee. "There is still much more to learn about what signals the growth of cancer and how to shut it off."

USC hosts stem cell agency's birthday bash

By Kevin McCormack and Cristy Lytal

Few 10-year-olds have brought 10 potential medical treatments into clinical trials. The California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) is an exceptional 10-year-old, however.

In 2004, the voters of California created CIRM to dispense \$3 billion to fund stem cell research in the state. This year alone, CIRM funding is expected for 10 projects for clinical trials, including ones based at USC.

To celebrate this milestone, CIRM held an event Nov. 20 at the Eli and Edythe Broad CIRM Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at USC. This facility would not



Cristy Lytal

Carmen A. Puliafito, dean of the Keck School of Medicine, introduces panel members at the Nov. 20 event celebrating medical advances resulting from funding by the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine.

exist without funding from CIRM, noted Carmen A. Puliafito, MD, MBA, dean of the Keck School of Medicine of USC.

Puliafito added: "With this funding, our researchers — and researchers in 11 other facilities throughout the state — gained dedicated space to hunt for cures for some of the most pernicious diseases in the world, including heart disease, stroke,

cancer, diabetes, Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease."

Jonathan Thomas, PhD, JD, chairman of CIRM's governing board, called the stem cell agency's first 10 years "a most exciting and historical time in medical research."

Cedar-Sinai's Dhruv Sareen, PhD, praised CIRM for creating a new industry in the state: "What Silicon

Valley has done for technology, CIRM is doing for stem cell research in California."

ViaCyte's Eugene Brandon, PhD, described the company's clinical trials with a small implantable device containing stem cells to treat type 1 diabetes.

City of Hope's John Zaia, MD, mentioned his collaboration with Sangamo BioSciences on a CIRM-funded HIV/AIDS clinical

trial. CIRM also funded the development of a technique for genetic modification of blood-forming stem cells to cure HIV/AIDS, pioneered by Zaia, City of Hope's David DiGiusto, PhD, scientists at Sangamo BioSciences and USC's Paula Cannon, PhD.

Zaia credited CIRM with creating a "climate of research that is relatively product- and milestone-driven."

The head of USC's department, research center and university-wide initiative in stem cell biology and regenerative medicine, Andy McMahon, PhD, FRS, underscored the importance of this HIV/AIDS trial. He also mentioned other USC-led clinical trials that are exploring stem cell-related

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NIH awards \$4.5 million for research co-led by Keck School urologist

By Hope Hamashige
The National Institutes of Health (NIH) recently awarded \$4.5 million to a team of researchers led by Larissa V. Rodríguez, MD, professor of urology and obstetrics and gynecology at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. The grant will fund study of the causes, risk factors and potential treatments for interstitial cystitis, also known as painful bladder syndrome, and other urologic chronic pelvic pain disorders. Rodríguez is co-

investigator with Emeran Mayer, MD, UCLA professor of gastroenterology. They will work with basic science and neurobiologists at USC and UCLA in collaboration with the Laboratory of Neuroimaging at USC and all other NIH-funded sites that comprise the Multidisciplinary Approach to the Study of Chronic Pelvic Pain (MAPP) network. The MAPP research network represents a multimillion research effort by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and

Kidney Diseases and the NIH to better understand the underlying causes of the most common chronic urological pain syndromes (UCPPS). Little is known about the causes of UCCPS and, therefore, there is no reliably effective treatment. But the MAPP study represents a major shift in research strategy. Unlike previous organ-specific research, the MAPP initiative requires investigators to conduct collaborative studies of UCCPS from a broadened

systemic perspective. The MAPP network includes researchers with clinical, epidemiological, and basic science expertise. They study the epidemiology of disease, phenotyping of urological and non-urological symptoms, neuroimaging and neurobiology studies, identification of biomarkers and characterization of pain pathways. The shift in focus is supported by recent epidemiological studies showing that chronic pelvic pain disorders are frequently associated with other chronic pain disorders such as fibromyalgia and chronic fatigue syndrome, which suggests the possibility of common underlying disease processes in these chronic disorders. “We hope that by combining forces with other centers and taking this broad, multidisciplinary approach, we will make progress that will ultimately lead to strategies that will enable us to intervene, both to improve treatment and to prevent the condition from becoming chronic,” said Rodríguez.

Lecture on global health care stresses personalized medicine

By Sharon Brock
Kwang Yul Cha, M.D., founder of the Korean health-care enterprise CHA Health Systems, was the presenter at last month’s Dean’s Distinguished Lecturer Series. Cha’s vision for optimal global health care is to cure disease through the collaboration between hospitals, universities, research institutes and biomedical companies, as well as an emphasis on personalized medicine. Over the last 30 years, Cha Group has opened a network of hospitals affiliated with Cha University School of Medicine throughout major cities in South Korea. Cha Group also operates multiple biomedical and research institutes focusing on pharmaceuticals, medical devices, stem cell research, fertility and anti-aging treatments. With the 2004 acquisition of LA-Hollywood Presbyterian Hospital, the largest privately owned hospital in Los Angeles, Cha Group is on its way to becoming a global leader in health care. “We have optimized the



Korean health care leader Kwang Yul Cha speaks at Dean’s Distinguished Lecturer Series.

bio-industrialization process from bench to bedside by vertically integrating university, research institutes, biomedical companies and medical centers,” said Cha. “They all communicate with each other. They run like one wheel.” Along with advancements in bio-industrialization, Cha places equal importance on the advancement of personalized medicine. In 2010, Cha Group opened CHAUM life center in South Korea. Part medical center, part luxury spa, CHAUM fosters optimal health by treating patients holistically, addressing both body and mind.

At CHAUM, patients start with a thorough diagnostic review, including genetic analysis, cellular testing and advanced scanning. The comprehensive care includes personalized medical treatments, spa therapies, fitness and nutrition programs. The focus of CHAUM is preventative care — to treat patients before they progress into a diseased state. “CHAUM is the future of hospitals,” said Cha. “We need a medical paradigm shift from the passive, post-disease treatment in hospitals, to active, preventative, pre-disease care.” Before becoming a global health-care entrepreneur, Cha was an accomplished reproductive endocrinologist. In 1984, he completed a fellowship in reproductive medicine at USC. Shortly after, he returned to Korea to conduct the world’s first successful completion of adult somatic stem cell cloning. From this groundbreaking foundation, Cha built his enterprise. “From humble beginnings, great things can be achieved,” said Cha.

Eye Institute opens state-of-the-art community facility in Arcadia

By Alison Trinidad
The USC Eye Institute, one of the nation’s Top 10 ophthalmology departments according to *U.S. News & World Report*, celebrated the opening of its new clinic in Arcadia. The state-of-the-art clinic two miles north of its previous location expands services in a 3,161-square-foot space. The ophthalmology clinic has served the San Gabriel Valley community for 20 years and is one of six locations in Southern California where USC Eye Institute experts practice. The Dec. 1 grand opening welcomed 150 people. It was hosted by USC Health Senior Vice President and CEO Tom Jackiewicz, Keck School of Medicine of USC Dean Carmen Puliafito, MD, MBA, and USC Eye Institute Director Rohit Varma, MD, MPH. Arcadia Mayor John Wuo and Chamber of Commerce CEO Scott Hettrick also attended. “Keck Medicine of USC is dedicated to bringing our exceptional medical care to the local communities of greater Los Angeles by expanding our clinic locations. We want to be closer to where our patients live. Two miles is not a far move, but this new location is closer to the soon-to-be-built Metro station, making it more convenient for the local community to receive great patient care,” Jackiewicz said. Varma, who also is professor and chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, is a glaucoma specialist and has dedicated his career to studying the development of eye diseases in minority populations. He is the principal investigator for multiple National Institutes of Health-funded epidemiological studies, including the Chinese American Eye Study. “We specialize in understanding and treating both the common and the most complex and challenging eye diseases that other eye centers may not be able to manage,” said Varma. “Asian-Americans should pay special consideration to eye conditions such as myopia, narrow-angle glaucoma, cataracts, dry eye, diabetic retinopathy, and age-related macular degeneration. We want our community in Arcadia and the surrounding cities to know that we have the expertise in the early diagnosis and treatment of these conditions before they can become blinding.” Other ophthalmologists who will see patients at the Arcadia clinic include Linda Lam, MD (retinal diseases); Bibianna Reiser, MD (corneal disease, cataract and refractive surgery); Jonathan Song, MD (corneal disease, cataract and refractive surgery) and Sandy Zhang-Nunes, MD (oculo-facial plastic surgery).



In December, the 2015 Tournament of Roses queen and court brought holiday cheer to USC Norris staff and patients such as Jesus Acosta.

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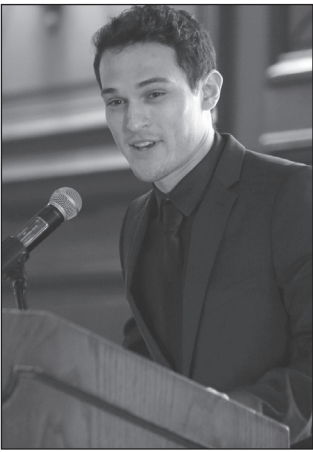
Scholarship winners thank Keck School donors

By Hope Hamashige
Going to medical school was a dream for Eric Arevalo. But he wasn't going to realize that dream unless he got a scholarship.
"I had \$100,000 in student loans when I was applying to medical school," he explained to the dozens of donors to the Keck School of Medicine of USC who were recently feted at the Keck School's annual scholarship luncheon.
When he heard from the Keck School that he was

being awarded the Latino Leadership scholarship, Arevalo said he was shocked and thrilled and wanted to express his thanks to the people who make medical school a possibility for dozens of students every year.
Carmen A. Puliafito, MD, MBA, dean of the Keck School of Medicine, explained that, in spite of the Keck School's top academic reputation, scholarships are an ongoing part of recruiting the best students to the Keck School.

Puliafito added that the funds have been used to create unique programs to help students not just finish medical school, but also to prepare for their careers.
For example, the Keck School has a fellowship program that allows medical students interested in academic medicine to participate in a year of research.
The school also offers financial assistance to medical students who also pursue a master's degree in public health.

Henri Ford, MD, vice dean for medical education, reminded donors that their contributions not only benefit individual students, but that giving to scholarships for medical students is an investment in the community. He noted that many Keck School graduates stay in academic medicine and remain in practice in Southern California.
"There is no greater mission than to create future generations of academic doctors," said Ford.



Eric Arevalo of the Keck School of Medicine of USC describes the importance of scholarships.

Ziva Santop

Institute of Urology hosts major scientific meetings

By Tom DeSanto
In an impressive display of its expanding leadership in urology, the USC Institute of Urology hosted three major scientific meetings in four months.
USC welcomed the 92nd meeting of the Clinical Society of Genito-Urinary Surgeons (CSGUS) to the Aresty Conference Center on the USC Health Sciences Campus from Nov. 20-22. CSGUS is one of the most prestigious societies in the field of urology, with active membership limited to 25 of the top academic urologists in the United States.
The annual meeting began at the star-studded "Changing Lives, Creating Cures" gala, continued with a full day of intensive sessions on all aspects of urological surgery and concluded with a literary discussion featuring Siddhartha Mukherjee, MD, PhD, author of "The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer," which won the 2011 Pulitzer Prize.
On Oct. 23, international thought leaders in urology gathered at USC for the American Urological Association (AUA)

Consensus Conference on the Small Renal Mass. The AUA-accredited course included presentations by more than 30 key opinion leaders and hands-on labs hosted simultaneously in two other cities. AUA was founded in 1902 and has 20,000 members worldwide.
USC also hosted the 7th International Symposium on Focal Therapy and Imaging in Prostate & Kidney Cancer on Aug. 21-23. The educational event covered the latest developments in focal therapy, an emerging minimally invasive cancer treatment. Established in 2008, the symposium is held annually, rotating between the United States and Amsterdam.
"By hosting these important scientific meetings, we share expertise among our colleagues to advance the field of urology," said Inderbir S. Gill, MD, MCh, chairman and professor of the Catherine and Joseph Aresty Department of Urology and founding executive director, USC Institute of Urology.
"Through innovation, we improve life for our patients here in Los Angeles and for others around the world."



Keck School of Medicine Dean Carmen A. Puliafito presents Derrick Hall, president and CEO of the Arizona Diamondbacks baseball franchise, with the inaugural Louis Zamperini Courage Award at the gala.

Steve Cohn

GALA: Stars turn out for USC event

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this award."
Now cancer-free, Hall has become a tireless advocate of cancer-fighting charities and recently formed his Derrick Hall Pro-State Foundation, created to support patients and families battling prostate cancer.
The evening's entertainment showcased comedian Jay Leno and nine-time Grammy winner Sheryl Crow. Actor and comedian Joe Piscopo served as emcee.
The event hosts included USC President C. L. Max Nikias, PhD; Carmen



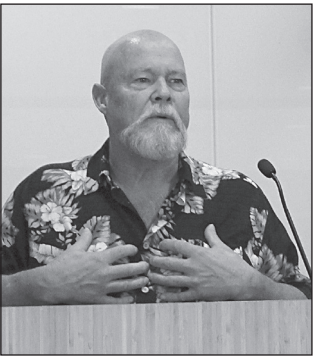
Inderbir S. Gill, executive director of the USC Institute of Urology, lauded Hall's courage.
A. Puliafito, MD, MBA, dean of the Keck School of Medicine of USC; Jeff Small, president and COO of DreamWorks Studios; and Gill. The evening's present-

ing sponsors, Tom and Holly Gores with Platinum Equity, were joined by Tina and Rick Caruso and Randy and Ken Kendrick as honorary co-chairs.
Named for World War II P.O.W. survivor, Olympic athlete, USC alumnus and prostate cancer patient of the USC Institute of Urology, the Louis Zamperini Courage Award embodies the spirit of this hero who faced life's toughest tests and challenges and showcased the courage that survivors need. Zamperini is the subject of the best-selling book, "Unbroken" by Laura Hillenbrand and major motion picture of the same name premiering next month and directed by another example of courage in the face of cancer, Angelina Jolie.
The USC Institute of Urology annual gala event draws more than 500 leading businesspeople, philanthropists, entertainment industry executives, medical and health care professionals, celebrities, media and other VIPs from Los Angeles and around the country to raise awareness and funds for the cancer-fighting robotic and open surgery treatments, research efforts and world-class programs for men's and women's pelvic health issues.

Steve Cohn

CIRM: Stem cell institute reaches milestone

Continued from Page 1
treatments for Alzheimer's disease, the dry form of age-related macular degeneration, knee osteoarthritis and immune damage from chemotherapy.
"I'm personally very excited and hopeful about the future of stem cell research in California," he said. "The public support of our work through Proposition 71 has enabled our own researchers to spearhead important new research programs and to develop new therapeutic approaches. But just as im-



Fred Lesikar describes his recovery from a heart attack.
portant, CIRM funding has brought together powerful, cross-institutional teams that have united research around

Cristy Lytal

the goals of regenerative medicine to treat a host of diseases affecting humanity."
Gay Crooks, MBBS, professor and co-director of the Eli & Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine & Stem Cell Research at UCLA, reported how CIRM-supported clinical trials have benefitted 18 children with "bubble baby disease."
Fred Lesikar from Menifee, CA., shared his story of suffering a heart attack and then enrolling

in a stem cell-based clinical trial, which seems to have improved his health.
"It's not just patients who benefit from these treatments, families do, too," said Lesikar.
The last word was left to Bob Klein, who led the drive to create CIRM: "The genius of the people of this state is reflected in their commitment to this cause," he said, "and we should all be eternally grateful for their vision in supporting research that will save and transform people's lives."

Calendar of Events

Friday, Dec. 12

11 a.m. Microbiology Seminar. “Conflicting Roles of Molecules in Liver Cancer: Paradigm or Paradox,” Gen-Sheng Feng, University of California, San Diego. NRT LG 503/504. Info: Aileen Calimlim, (323) 442-1710, calimlim@usc.edu

11 a.m. Jane Anne Nohl Division of Hematology and Center for the Study of Blood Diseases Grand Rounds. “Coordination of Mouse Hematopoietic Stem Cells In Vivo,” Rong Lu, PhD, USC Keck School of Medicine. LAC+USC Medical Center Inpatient Tower, Conference Room D. Info: Carolyn Castellanos, (323) 865-3913, Carolyn.castellanos@med.usc.edu

Noon. Tobacco Center of Regulatory Science (TCORS) Talk. “Tobacco Control in Indian Country: Intersections of Culture, Science, Policy,” Patricia Nez Henderson, Black Hills Center for American Indian Health. SSB301. Info: Lilit Aladadyan, (323) 442-7223, aladadya@med.usc.edu

Noon. Southern California Clinical & Translational Science Institute Discussion. “Research During an Epidemic: Should Experimental Drugs and Vaccines for Ebola be Put through Randomized Controlled Trials?” Alexander M. Capron, Keck School of Medicine of USC. NRT LG503/4. Info: Ray de Mesa (323) 442-8281, ecde@sc-ctsi.org, http://sc-ctsi.org/, RSVP: http://bit.ly/1xTOozO

Noon. The Saban Research Institute Seminar. “Research Seminar, Bad Diet, Bad Water, Bad Stem Cells: Understanding and Reversing Environmental Enteropathy,” Sean R. Moore, MD, MS, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center. Saban Research Building, First Floor Auditorium, CHLA, 4661 Sunset Blvd. Info: Harleen Gill, (323) 361-8626, hgill@chla.usc.edu

Thursday, Dec. 18

9 a.m.–2 p.m. HTE@USC Workshop. “HTE@USC Orthopaedics and Engineering Technologies: A Theme-Focused Technology Collaborative Workshop,” CHP 224. Info and RSVP: Nadine Afari, nafari@usc.edu, http://hte.usc.edu

6 p.m. Orthopaedic Surgery Grand Rounds. “Alignment In TKA: Does Accuracy Count If We Don’t Know The Target,” Henry D. Clarke, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine. Aresty Auditorium. Info and RSVP: Sylvia Suarez, (323) 226-7204, sylvia.suarez@med.usc.edu

Friday, Dec. 19

8:30 a.m. Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine Seminar. “Future of Sleep Apnea Therapy,” Atul Malhotra, UCSD. 2020 Zonal Ave., IRD 734. Info: Elva Rubio, (323) 226-7923, elvarubi@usc.edu

Wednesday, Dec. 24

8:30 a.m. Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine Lecture. “Pain, Agitation and Delirium,” Santhi Iyer-Kumar, USC. 2020 Zonal Ave., IRD 734. Info: Elva Rubio, (323) 226-7923, elvarubi@usc.edu

Tuesday, Jan. 27

Noon. Dept. of Medical Education Seminar. “Faculty Development Seminar — Recognizing and Referring Learners in Difficulty,” Donna Elliott, USC. Norris Medical Library East Conference Room. Info and RSVP: Cris Argosino, (323) 442-2746, meded@med.usc.edu

Wednesday, Jan. 28

Noon. Dept. of Medical Education Seminar. “Faculty Development Seminar — Motivating Learners,” Julie Nyquist and Stephanie Zia, USC. Norris Medical Library East Conference Room. Info and RSVP: Cris Argosino, (323) 442-2746, meded@med.usc.edu

Thursday, Jan. 29

Noon. Dept. of Medical Education Seminar. “Faculty Development Seminar — The Myth of Multitasking,” Dixie Fisher and Win May, USC. Norris Medical Library East Conference Room. Info and RSVP: Cris Argosino, (323) 442-2746, meded@med.usc.edu

Notice: Calendar submissions must be received at least 10 days before an issue’s publication date to be considered. Please note that timely submission does not guarantee an item will be printed. Entries must include day, date, time, title of talk, first and last name of speaker, affiliation of speaker, location and a phone number or email address for information.

Submit calendar items at tinyurl.com/calendar-hsc.

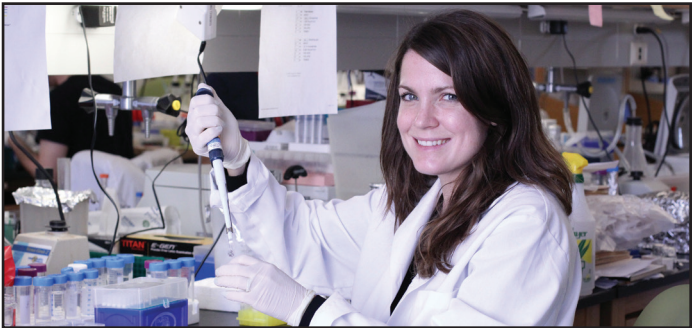
Stem cell researcher receives Broad Fellowship

By Cristy Lytal

What makes stem cells develop into kidneys? Lori O’Brien, PhD, a postdoctoral research associate in the laboratory of Andy McMahon, PhD, FRS, has received the first Broad Fellowship to help answer this question.

O’Brien is the first of a series of Broad Fellows, exceptional senior postdoctoral researchers at the transition point to starting their own stem cell laboratories. The fellowship was funded in part by a \$2 million gift from The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation to the Eli and Edythe Broad Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at USC. The gift also supports core research facilities and innovative projects.

“One component of this money is to provide senior postdoctoral fellows with a year’s worth of funding and their own lab support,” said McMahon, director of USC’s stem cell research center. “This enables our most promising young scientists to become the next generation



Cristy Lytal

Lori O'Brien is researching self-renewal of embryonic stem cells.

of innovators in regenerative medicine.”

The unanimous choice of the external review committee, O’Brien’s project explores how key genes are “turned on” or “turned off” through a process called epigenetic regulation. Turning off specific genes in kidney stem cells prompts them to self-renew, or divide and give rise to more stem cells. These stem cells self-renew until they receive the signals to undergo specialization or differentiation into nephron cells, which form the functional unit of the kidneys.

O’Brien is focusing on an epigenetic regulator called Phf19, which encourages embryonic stem cells to self-renew, and may have a

similar effect on kidney stem cells. She earned a bachelor’s degree in bacteriology and a PhD in biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. As a postdoctoral researcher, she has studied kidney development at Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard University and USC.

“I’m honored to have been chosen, and thank The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation for their generous contribution to establish the award,” said O’Brien. “This fellowship will help establish my career as an independent scientist dedicated to understanding kidney stem cells, so that we can utilize this knowledge to develop regenerative therapies for patients.”

New stem cell course brings together science and fiction

By Linda Xu

USC is offering a new two-unit class in spring 2015, MEDS 380 Stem Cells: Fact and Fiction, which will explore contemporary topics in stem cell biology and innovative future applications that can close the gap between scientific reality and science fiction predictions.

The class will be an elective for a minor in health care studies, but it is open to all majors who have taken or have credit for a general biology course. MEDS 380 will incorporate aspects of the liberal arts with hard sciences such as biochemistry and organic chemistry.

“This is almost a course that students couldn’t even fathom because science students are so used to the regular chemistry, biology, organic chemistry and all the typical pre-health classes,” said Erin Yamauchi, program specialist for the health care studies minor.

Yamauchi welcomed the involvement of Gage Crump, PhD: “We had a professor who has significant background in stem cells

and who also wanted to incorporate his interest in science fiction to really develop students’ understanding of how science and the creations of science — research and discovery — relate to a larger context, to literature and social issues,” she said.

A USC Stem Cell researcher, Crump looks

forward to the interdisciplinary effects of the course.

“There’s been a real initiative to try to have collaborative efforts with people in other schools throughout USC, particularly the arts department, because these ideas of stem cells, genetic engineering and regeneration capture the public’s attention,” he said.

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