HSC News

USC University of Southern California

APRIL 21 • 2017

PUBLISHED FOR THE USC HEALTH SCIENCES CAMPUS COMMUNITY

VOLUME 4 • NUMBER 8



From left, USC President C. L. Max Nikias, Mark Humayun and Rohit Varma are seen at the Academic Honors Convocation, held April 17 on the University Park Campus.

Humayun receives top university honor

By Leigh Bailey

The best of the best gathered at Town and Gown on the University Park Campus recently to celebrate notable achievements among both faculty and students. The Academic Honors Convocation was held April 17 and recognized several faculty members from the Keck School of Medicine of USC.

USC President C. L. Max Nikias, PhD, presented the Presidential Medallion, the university's highest honor, to Mark S. Humayun, MD, PhD, "for his distinction in the fields of ophthalmology and biomedical engineering, his transformative approach to the treatment of blindness, and his profound influence on patient care." Humayun is co-director of the USC Gayle and Edward Roski Eye Institute and director of the USC Institute for Biomedical Therapeutics, University Professor of Ophthalmology and Cornelius J. Pings Chair in Biomedical Sciences.

"Professor Humayun's pioneering medical breakthroughs have given hope to countless people suffering from previously incurable conditions," Nikias said. "In awarding him the Presidential Medallion, we recognize his exceptional talent for innovation, the visionary leadership he brings to the practice of ophthalmology, and his longstanding dedication to the USC community." In 2016, President Barack Obama presented Humayun with the National Medal of Technology and Innovation in honor of his lifelong dedication to bridging medical science

and engineering to restore sight. "Mark's advances in science and technology have set ever-higher standards in the field of ophthalmology and biomedical engineering," said Rohit Varma, MD, MPH, dean of the Keck School and director of the USC Roski Eye Institute. "He is a leader in advancing the USC Roski Eye Institute's most ambitious goal of eliminating blindness and is very deserving of the university's highest honor."

Humayun holds more than 100 issued patents and patent applications — most in the area of bioimplants for ophthalmology. His innovative work is best exemplified by the development of the Argus II, the only Food and Drug Administration-approved retinal prosthesis system that allows those with certain blinding diseases to regain some useful vision. "USC has been a home which has allowed me to do what I wanted to do — pursue a dream to restore sight to the blind," Humayun told

\$6.9 million NIH award to fund lung cell research

By Erica Rheinschild

Zea Borok, MD, professor of medicine, chief of the Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine and director of the Hastings Center for Pulmonary Research at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, will be tackling ambitious research on lung cell regeneration, thanks to a multimillion-dollar grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI).

The seven-year, \$6.9 million grant will support research that could translate into new treatments for common lung diseases such as pulmonary fibrosis or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Borok is exploring how cells in the alveoli, the tiny air sacs in the lungs where gas exchange takes place, regenerate.

See AWARD, page 2



Dicardo Carraeco III

Road closures part of campus beautification

By Douglas Morino

The USC Health Sciences Campus Beautification Project, a multiyear effort to give the campus a more pedestrian-friendly, park-like feel, continues to move forward.

As part of the project, sidewalks are being widened, new signage and new lighting is being installed, trees are being planted and buildings are being constructed.

"The Health Sciences Campus is in the midst of a transformation to provide a patient-friendly environment of exceptional care for many years to come," said Tom Jackiewicz, MPH, senior vice president and CEO of Keck Medicine of USC.

See **CONVOCATION**, page 3

See CLOSURES, page 3

USC Norris marks visit from Joint Commission surveyors

By Douglas Morino

Surveyors from the Joint Commission visited USC Norris Cancer Hospital earlier this month, reviewing policies and procedures to ensure the highest level of safe patient care is being delivered.

Joint Commission surveys are data-driven, patient-centered and focused on evaluating care processes. Surveyors visit hospital sites every three years and show up unannounced. The surveys are detailed reviews of hospital facilities, policies and procedures.

"We performed exceptionally," said Rod Hanners, COO of Keck Medicine of USC and CEO of Keck Medical Center of USC. "The surveyors were very meticulous and challenged us to be our best. I'm very proud of our faculty, nurses and staff who rose to the occasion."

The Joint Commission surveyors were complimentary of physicians, nurses and staff at USC Norris and Pasadena location, Hanners added.

"The surveyors felt everyone was very engaged, passionate and collaborative," Hanners said.

The Joint Commission is an independent, not-for-profit organization that accredits health care organizations across the country. Joint Commission accreditation is recognized as a symbol of exceptional quality that reflects an organization's commitment to meeting high performance standards.

Earlier this year, Joint Commission surveyors reviewed the policies and procedures at Keck Hospital of USC, which earned high marks.

USC Norris physicians, nurses and staff will now focus on continuing to ensure world-class, compassionate care is delivered to all patients, Hanners added.

"As with any survey, there were some areas of opportunity identified," Hanners said. "We will embrace these opportunities to get even better."



A survey team from the Joint Commission visited USC Norris Cancer Hospital in early April.

New USC Chan Division leader talks transition, research

By Mike McNulty

Grace Baranek, PhD, is the newly appointed associate dean and chair of the USC Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy. She had previously been at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she was associate chair for research in UNC's Department of Allied Health Sciences and professor in their Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy. The proud Chicagoan, who arrived on campus in February, spoke with *HSC News* about her appointment, the assets at USC Chan and what she's learning about life in Los Angeles.

What inspired you to take the "leap" from the university where you matured during the past 20 years to a new leadership role at a new institution?

I was very happy where I was, but the leadership opportunity at USC Chan was so enticing. As a private university in a large metropolitan area, USC offers unparalleled resources, particularly a large faculty with tremendous expertise in so many innovative areas of practice, research and education. Knowing that a stellar senior leadership team was in place also helped my decision to become a Trojan!



Grace Baranek

the fields of occupational science and occupational therapy?

USC Chan has such a broad reach, both locally and globally. Our educational programs span all levels, from the undergraduate minor to the PhD, and that breadth enables us to reach an array of students who embody the core values of the field and can go on to make an impact on the health and well-being of society in extraordinary ways. As a renowned scientist who has previously been principal investigator on multimillion-dollar federal grants researching sensory features of children with autism spectrum disorder, what is on the near-term agenda for your line of research?

First is assembling a strong team of scientists, including potential interdisciplinary collaborators on campus and stakeholders in the community. I'll be building upon my previous research in early identification of and intervention for infants at-risk for the disorder, with the intention of scaling up to larger, multi-site research projects. Eventually, I'm hoping to translate findings to clinical and community settings, in hopes of establishing a more sustainable impact on children's participation in everyday activities and routines.

You succeed Florence Clark, PhD, USC Chan's previous leader of more than 25 years; what have you learned from her as she passes the leadership torch on to you?

Dr. Clark has been a tremendous leader and role model for our whole field! She has been able to push occupational therapy beyond its comfort zones and expand the boundaries of what were once considered traditional models. She's shown me how to leverage strengths and align resources in order to realize a vision of USC Chan well into the future.

In the short time that you have been on campus, what stands out as particularly unique about USC within

AWARD: Research to focus on alveolar cell repair, leading to new lung disease therapies

Continued from page 1

"Without alveolar cells, you can't breathe properly, or you can go into respiratory failure and die. That's the endpoint of a lot of common lung diseases," Borok said.

Borok's research program is using different methods, including stem cell research, to learn more about how these cells are maintained and repair themselves.

"Understanding the mechanisms that promote — or prevent alveolar epithelial cell regeneration will provide valuable insight into how the lungs repair themselves after injury and could open the door to new therapies for lung diseases like pulmonary fibrosis," Borok said.

Pulmonary fibrosis, which primarily affects people 50 years of age and older, is a progressive disease that causes scarring in the lungs. Symptoms include shortness of breath or a dry cough. Its cause is unknown.

"The median survival rate for pulmonary fibrosis is three to five years, and current treatments are limited. New drugs have been developed that will stabilize, but not cure, the condition. Lung transplantation is the only other option. There is a tremendous need for new therapies," Borok said.

The NHLBI's R35 grant program, which was launched in 2016, offers

stable multiyear funding for emerging and outstanding researchers. By funding an investigator's overall research program rather than a specific project, the grant is designed to provide more opportunities for pursuing novel research.

USC is one of four institutions in California to be awarded an R35 grant from the NHLBI in 2017.

"This generous grant from the NIH is a recognition of Dr. Borok's exceptional contributions to alveolar epithelial cell research, and it will enable her to chart new territory in this field of study," said Rohit Varma, MD, MPH, dean of the Keck School of Medicine and director of the USC



Zea Borok

Gayle and Edward Roski Eye Institute. "We are looking forward to seeing where the science takes her."

Calendar of Events

Friday, April 21

6:30 a.m. Department of Anesthesiology Grand Rounds. "Professionalism in Anesthesiology: Challenges and Opportunities for Physicians in Training," Judi Turner, MD, UCLA. McKibben Lecture Hall. Info: Renee Meadows, (323) 409-6856, rmeadows@usc.edu

11:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Master of Science in Global Medicine Symposium. "Global Citizenship Roundtable." McKibben Lecture Hall, MCH 249. Info: (323) 442-3141, msgm@med.usc.edu, http://keck.usc.edu/msgm

Saturday, April 22

8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Department of Medicine/Rheumatology Lecture. "10th Annual Rheumatology Community Seminar." Mayer Auditorium. Info: Gabby Gutierrez, (323) 442-1946, gagutier@usc.edu

Saturday, April 22-Sunday, April 23 All day. USC. "2017 Los Angeles

All day. USC. "2017 *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books." University Park Campus. Info: latimes.com/festivalofbooks

Monday, April 24 9 a.m.-1 p.m. SC CTSI Workshop. "REDCap Database Solutions Workshop: Electronic Data Capture." Children's Hospital Los Angeles, 4551 Sunset Blvd. Info and RSVP: Juan Ruiz, Juan.Ruiz@med.usc.edu Department of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery Seminar. "Key Factors Contributing to Spatial Hearing and Listening Effort in Cochlear Implant," Ruth Litovsky, PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Eli and Edythe Broad CIRM Center Auditorium. Info: Jacqueline Jimenez, (323) 442-5579, jimenez1@med.usc.edu

5 p.m.-7 p.m. Keck School of Medicine of USC Humanities, Ethics, Art, and Law Program. "Artist and Researcher at Hoyt Gallery," Ted Meyer, artist in residence. Hoyt Gallery, KAM basement.

shop. **5:30 p.m.** Department of Ophthalmology Grand Rounds. Nadim Ras, MD. HC4 Conference s, Room, 6th Floor. Info: John Daniel /P: john.daniel@med.usc.edu, http://eye.keckmedicine.org Seminar Series. "Understanding the Role of Mitochondria in Neuronal Development and Disease," Bingwei Lu, PhD, Stanford University. Herklotz Seminar Room, ZNI 112. Info: Emily Chu, (323) 442-3219, Emily.Chu@med.usc.edu, http://www.usc.edu/zni

Thursday, April 27-Saturday, April 29

7 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Department of Orthopaedic Surgery Continuing Medical Education. "The Masters Series: Techniques in Arthritis Surgery." Sheraton Grand Los Angeles. Info: Chelsea Michel,

Saturday, April 29

8 a.m.-4 p.m. Department of Medicine: Division of Endocrinology, Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery Continuing Medical Education. "Annual Southern California Pituitary Symposium at USC." Aresty Auditorium. Info: Chelsea Michel, (323) 442-2555, usccme@usc.edu

Wednesday, May 3

Noon. The Saban Research Institute Seminar. "Beyond Transcription Factors: Discovering Novel Regulators of Cardiogenesis," Todd Evans, PhD, Weill Cornell Medical College. Saban Research Building Auditorium, 4661 Sunset Blvd. Info: Sandy Wang, (323) 361-7489, tecpad@chla.usc.edu, http://chla.org/tecpad

Noon. Department of Medicine, Division of Cardiovascular Medicine Grand Rounds. "The Greatest Medical Breakthrough of Our Time: How Our Past Creates the Present," James S. Forrester, MD, David Geffen School of Medicine. Herklotz Seminar Room, ZNI 112.

Friday, April 21-Saturday, April 22

6:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m. Department of Surgery, Division of Colorectal Surgery Continuing Medical Education. "Keck Medicine of USC Colorectal Symposium: An Update and Comprehensive Review." Aresty Auditorium. Info: Chelsea Michel, (323) 442-2547, usccme@usc.edu, https://cmetracker.net/KECKUSC/ Catalog

Tuesday, April 25

Noon. USC Immigrant Health Initiative, USC Center for Health Equity in the Americas and USC Institute for Global Health. "Lecture: Health Issues in Asylum Seekers," Cynthia Willard, MD, MPH, Program for Torture Victims. Tutor Campus Center (TCC) 350/351. Info: Larissa Puro, (323) 442-7233, global.health@usc.edu, http://globalhealth.usc.edu/healthissues-asylum/

3:45 p.m.-5 p.m. USC Caruso Department of Otolaryngology

Wednesday, April 26

Noon. The Saban Research Institute Seminar. "What Can Be Learned from a Drop of Urine: Metabolomics at its Earliest — Discovery of Bile Acid Synthesis Disorders Translated to a Successful Life-Saving Therapy," Kenneth D. R. Setchell, PhD, Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Saban Research Building Auditorium, 4661 Sunset Blvd. Info: Sandy Wang, (323) 361-7489, tecpad@chla.usc.edu, http://chla.org/tecpad

Noon. Zilkha Neurogenetic Institute

(323) 442-2555, usccme@usc.edu, https://cmetracker.net/KECKUSC/ Catalog

Friday, April 28

7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Department of Pediatrics and USC Center for Excellence in Research Workshop. "Educational Scholarship and Research: A Primer for Medical Educators." Page Conference Room, CHLA. Info and RSVP: Marianne Ward, (323) 361-7566, mward@chla.usc.edu

8:30 a.m. Hastings Center for Pulmonary Research Seminar. "Rogue Repairers: Fibroblast Phenotypes in Lung Development and Fibrosis," James Hagood, MD, University of California, San Diego. IRD 734. Info: Elva Rubio, (323) 409-7184, elvarubi@usc.edu

Thursday, May 4

8 a.m.-5 p.m. USC Roski Eye Institute Symposium. The California Club, 538 South Flower St. Info and RSVP: Mayra Ornelas, mayra.ornelas@med.usc.edu, http://bit.ly/2pf1rQg

Noon. Keck Medicine of USC and USC Cancer Survivorship Advisory Council Talk. "The UNSPEAKABLE Series," Samantha Dunn. Eli and Edythe Broad CIRM Center Auditorium. Info and RSVP: Mary Aalto, (323) 442-7805, mary.aalto@med.usc.edu

Notice: Calendar items are due at least 10 days before publication date. Timely submission does not guarantee publication in print. See more calendar entries at *hscnews.usc.edu/calendar-of-events*. Submit items at *tinyurl.com/calendar-hsc*. Include day, date, time, title of talk, first and last name of speaker, affiliation of speaker, location and a phone number/email address.

Speaker discusses brain-computer interface at lecture

By Amanda Busick

standing-room-only audience filled the Herklotz Seminar Room to hear Bin He, PhD, Distinguished McKnight University Professor of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Minnesota, the most recent speaker in the Keck School of Medicine of USC Dean's Distinguished Lecturer Series.

His presentation, "Dynamic Mapping and Interfacing with the Brain: From EEG to BCI," took place April 10 at the Zilkha Neurogenetic Institute on the Health Sciences Campus.

He's lecture explained the methods his team has used to improve noninvasive imaging of electrical activity in the brain with electroencephalogram (EEG) and functional MRI and how these imaging tests relate to the team's work with brain-computer interface (BCI). Their BCI research has demonstrated that people can noninvasively control a flying robot or a robotic arm, which advances the possibilities for noninvasive brain-controlled neuroprosthetics.



Mark Humayun, left, moderates a discussion with Bin He during the Dean's Distinguished Lecturer Series, held April 10 on the Health Sciences Campus.

"The narrow definition of BCI," He explained, "is really to record or detect the mental state, or what the intention is of the subject's brain, and then use that in a controlled environment to

control a computerized device, machine or robot."

He went on to demonstrate the results of their BCI experiments, showing video of a subject making a small drone fly using noninvasive EEG cap. Applications for this technology include controlling a computer for communication, or controlling a robotic arm, wheelchair and other computerized devices.

Rohit Varma, MD, MPH, dean of the Keck School and director of the USC Gayle and Edward Roski Eye Institute, introduced He at the event, noting that the research by He and his team has applications in many different medical specialties.

"His team has studied not just the brain, but also the heart, and has developed new ways of imaging the electrical activity of the heart. This has helped people with various afflictions, including arrhythmias," Varma said. "One of his truly extraordinary innovations has been the brain computer interface research, which has really enhanced our ability to understand how the brain functions. The use of this interface in having thoughts control the movement of a robotic arm is truly revolutionary."



The HSC Beautification Project aims to bring a more pedestrian-friendly look and park-like feel to the Health Sciences Campus.

CLOSURES: Traffic delay, parking shortage expected

Continued from page 1

As construction continues across the Health Sciences Campus, patients, faculty and staff are reminded to be aware that there may be some traffic delays.

Patients can access hospitals through Norfolk and Alcazar streets off Soto Street. Additionally, patient parking is available in the Keck Hospital structure and through the valets in front of Keck Hospital and USC Norris Cancer Hospital.

The following closures are expected: 8 p.m. Friday, April 21 – Sunday, April 23: Intersection closure at San Pablo and Alcazar streets.

8 p.m. Friday, April 28 – Sunday April 30: Intersection closure at San Pablo and Norfolk also are advised of the following notices that could impact traffic and are scheduled to begin in June:

There will only be one-way traffic on San Pablo Street. Construction will occur on pedestrian sidewalks on the west side of the street, opposite Keck Hospital of USC.

Motorists traveling north on San Pablo Street will not be allowed to make left turn to Alcazar Street.

Pedestrian sidewalks will be open on the east side of San Pablo Street, near Keck Hospital.

The San Pablo tram stop will be relocated to the east side of San Pablo Street, in front of

HC2 The San Pablo/Eastlake tram stop will be relocated to the south side of Eastlake Avenue, in front of USC Norris.

CONVOCATION: Tom Buchanan, Mikel Snow, Inderbir Gill honored

Continued from page 1

the audience in accepting the award. "I have been forever an optimist when it comes to envisioning ways to improve the lives of patients with the most debilitating medical problems, and I will continue to work diligently to help patients for whom there currently is no foreseeable cure."

Also among the honorees at the event held was Thomas Buchanan, MD, professor of medicine and vice dean for research at the Keck School, who received the Associates Award for Creativity in Research.

Buchanan, who also is director of the Southern California Clinical and Translational Science Institute, co-director of the Diabetes and Obesity Research Institute and endocrine division chief, received the award "for his dedication to improving lives, and for his crucial role in the fight against diabetes."

"Tom has been a tireless champion in supporting the Keck School's efforts to enhance our reputation as a top-notch research institution and is the Keck School's most highly NIH-funded investigator," Varma said. "He

for all of our faculty members to promote creativity in their research."

The 2017 Associates Award for Excellence in Teaching was presented to Mikel Snow, PhD, professor of cell and neurobiology (educational scholar) and Lt. Col. Earle and Patricia M. Smith Professorship in Neurogenetic Research. Snow was honored "in recognition of his unique approach to medical pedagogy, and his commitment to the academic success of his students."

Inderbir S. Gill, MD, chair of urology, associate dean for clinical innovation and a past recipient of the Presidential Medallion, was recognized as a Distinguished Professor "for his mastery of the art of healing, and his efforts to advance surgical technology."

Stanley Azen, PhD, professor emeritus of preventive medicine, was presented with the USC Faculty Lifetime Achievement Award, "in tribute to his pioneering efforts in biostatistics, and his enduring enthusiasm for medical inquiry." Azen is one of the "founding fathers" of the Keck School graduate programs in the Department of Preventive

streets.

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BEYOND EXCEPTIONAL MEDICINE

Elizabeth Graddy, vice provost of academic and faculty affairs, presents Tom Buchanan, above left, and Mikel Snow, above right, with Associates Awards.

HSC Newsmakers

A roundup of news items related to Keck Medicine of USC, which may include philanthropic donations, research grants, publication in academic journals and mentions in the news media:



Tyler Toth explains his poster as part of the Keck School of Medicine of USC's annual Medical Student Research Forum and Poster Day, held April 4 on Pappas Quad.

Students discuss research projects for Poster Day

SEVERAL DOZEN STUDENTS PRESENTED some of their latest research projects recently as part of the Keck School of Medicine of USC's annual Medical Student Research Forum and Poster Day. The April 4 event included oral presentations from the Dean's Research Scholars and Wright Research Scholar, as well as poster presentations from second-year medical students at Harry and Celesta Pappas Quad. Visitors were able to ask questions about the students' research, as well as learn about some of the latest discoveries being explored by Keck School students.



Cartoonist Roz Chast shares her story of coping with loss and Alzheimer's disease during the Visions and Voices event held March 30.

the Health Sciences Campus. The lecture was co-sponsored by the Keck School of Medicine of USC's Program in Medical Humanities, Arts, and Ethics, the USC Pacific Center for Health Policy and Ethics, and the USC Levan Institute for Humanities and Ethics.

The book was Chast's way of processing what she had learned about the end of life, a topic she and her parents, George and Elizabeth Chast, had dutifully avoided for decades. Chast said that in creating the book, she wanted to remember her parents: their mannerisms and expressions, the funny moments in addition to the hard moments that come with caring for elderly parents with dementia.

The lecture also included a discussion about the role of health professionals at the end of life, as she discussed her parents' health decline and their slow acceptance of caregivers' help.

"I really felt like I wanted to be as up front as I could be about the experience and be honest about the terrible parts as well as the good parts," Chast said. "This was what my parents were like; they were really unique. I just felt like, to sugarcoat everything would be more disrespectful to them."



First-year pharmacy student Godfred Marfo speaks at the USC School of Pharmacy Scholarship luncheon, held March 30

Pharmacy students thank scholarship donors at luncheon

"THROUGH YOUR SUPPORT, YOU ALLOW young people to achieve their dreams," said Dean Vassilios Papadopoulos, DPharm, PhD, as he welcomed guests to the USC School of Pharmacy Annual Scholarship Luncheon on March 30. The event enables students to meet and thank the benefactors who help make their paths to pharmacy careers possible. Papadopoulos reported that 130 donors funded scholarships in 2016-17. While not all could attend, the Health Sciences Campus Pappas Quad still brimmed with donors, alumni and appreciative students. — Michele Keller

Study: Potassium-rich foods aid hypertension

By Erica Rheinschild

I drew her."

By Melissa Masatani

Roz Chast hadn't planned on drawing her mother after she died. The longtime New Yorker cartoonist had spent the past decade chronicling her parents' final years, writing down their conversations and animating her parents' everyday life. But by the time Elizabeth Chast died in 2009, she had stopped talking - so Roz Chast spent their last months together by sketching her mother.

"When a person in a place

happen — her companion had

to get the hospice person, the

hospice person had to get the

head nurse, the head nurse had

to do this, somebody calls the

to happen and I was just left

with my mother for about 15

minutes," Chast said, "and I

thought, 'this is the last time

and many more hilarious

and heartbreaking cartoons

from her memoir, Can't We

Talk About Something More

Pleasant?, during a Visions and

Voices event held March 30 on

I'm going to see my mother,' so

Chast shared those drawings

funeral home, everything starts

like this (hospice) dies, all

of this official stuff starts to

Eating potassium-rich foods like sweet potatoes, avocados, spinach, beans, bananas — and even coffee could be key to lowering blood pressure, according to Alicia McDonough, PhD, professor of cell and neurobiology at the Keck School of Medicine of USC.

"Decreasing sodium intake is a well-established way to lower blood pressure," McDonough said, "but evidence suggests that increasing dietary potassium may have an equally important effect on hypertension."

Hypertension is a global health issue that affects more than one billion people worldwide. The World Health Organization estimates that hypertension is responsible for at least 51 percent of deaths due to stroke and 45 percent of deaths due to heart disease. McDonough explored the link between blood pressure and dietary sodium, potassium and the sodium-potassium ratio in a review article in the April 2017 issue of the American Journal of Physiology – Endocrinology and Metabolism. The review looked at population, interventional and molecular mechanism studies that investigated the effects of dietary sodium and potassium on hypertension. McDonough's review found several population studies demonstrating that higher dietary potassium (estimated from urinary excretion or dietary recall) was associated with lower blood pressure, regardless of sodium intake. Interventional studies with potassium supplementation also suggested that potassium provides a direct benefit.

McDonough reviewed recent studies in rodent models, from her own lab and others, to illustrate the mechanisms for potassium benefit. These studies indicated that the body does a balancing act that uses sodium to maintain close control of potassium levels in the blood, which is critical to normal heart, nerve and muscle function.



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Cartoonist discusses caring for elderly parents at end of life

Amir H. Kashani named to 'Rising Stars' power list

RECOGNIZING THE MOST influential people around the globe in ophthalmology, The Ophthalmologist named Amir H. Kashani, MD, PhD, of the USC Gayle and Edward Roski Eye Institute to its annual Power List 2017, announced April 12. The Power List, which publishes in April, is an international celebration of ophthalmology's thought leaders and inspirational talents, and this year focuses on the "rising stars" in Amir H. Kashani the field. More than 36,000 readers



across Europe and North America vote for their peers for inclusion in this annual list. "I'm extremely honored to be included in this accomplished list of ophthalmologists and to be seen by The Ophthalmologist readers as one of the innovators in the field," Kashani said. - Sherri Snelling

HSC News

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