

USC employees show they're very good neighbors

Who gives better gifts, USC employees or Santa Claus?

USC employees just might get the nod. The money they contribute every year to the Good Neighbors Campaign supports programs that have a lasting impact on the lives of thousands of children and families living near the Health Sciences and University Park campuses.

Leaders of the 2000-2001 Good Neighbors Campaign began sharing that message with their colleagues on Wednesday, the official kickoff date for the month-long drive. Funds raised through the campaign go to support USC Neighborhood Outreach grants.

This year, the Neighborhood Outreach grants support eight programs based at the Health Sciences Campus. More than \$172,500 was earmarked for these local projects, which are partnerships between USC faculty, staff members and students and community schools and organizations. Overall, 20 Neighborhood Outreach grants worth \$548,000 were given to programs at both campuses.

The projects range from Mission Science, a school-based program that makes science fun and exciting, to Taming the SAT, which helps local high school students prepare for the crucial college entrance exam.

One such project, the USC School of Dentistry's Preventive Dentistry Sealant Project (one of 92 programs awarded a Neighborhood Outreach grant since



Lori Ollivstein

NO TRICKS, BUT LOTS OF TREATS—Thanks to the involvement of staff and patients campus-wide, Halloween was a day of smiles and sweets for the children from the USC HSC Child Care Center, who started their trick-or-treating a little early.



1994) has boosted the chances that neighborhood children will have strong, disease-free teeth for the rest of their lives, said Norwood Street School Principal Rita Flynn.

USC dentistry faculty and students apply a dental sealant to the teeth of every second-grade student at Flynn's school. "This program for our children

—many of whose parents are at the poverty level—may have the greatest impact of any of the Neighborhood Outreach grants."

Charles Goldstein, section chair of community dentistry and public health for the School of Dentistry, agreed.

"With the combination of fluoride—See **NEIGHBORS**, Page 3

USC/Norris patient gives \$1 million for research

Praising the "impressive" cancer research and patient care provided by the USC/Norris, Nevada businessman and cancer survivor Elton Barrett has given \$1 million to support the research and program expansion of Robert Beart, Jr., professor of surgery and chief of the division of colon and rectal surgery.

Barrett, 83, came to the USC/Norris for treatment three years ago in failing health after receiving unsuccessful treatment in Nevada. Under Beart's care, Barrett underwent two operations, recovered and has remained in good health since.



Robert Beart, Jr.

After a series of operations here in Nevada, my doctors had just given up. So my sons asked our family doctor who he would send his family members to under similar circumstances and he said 'Dr. Beart.' Later, when I asked my surgeon that question, he said the same thing—"Dr. Beart at USC," Barrett said.

Barrett said both his treatment and

the top-level research being performed at the USC/Norris prompted him to make his gift.

"I probably wouldn't be alive today without Dr. Beart and the operation I had at the Norris. I'm impressed with the research they're doing there and I know it is going to have a useful future" in helping others survive cancer, he said.

Beart is the Charles W. and Carolyn Costello Professor of Surgery and a pioneer in the treatment of colorectal diseases.

—Jon Nalick

Grant from Department of Defense

USC gets \$2.2 million for prostate cancer study

Keck School researchers' investigation into the roots of prostate cancer got a big boost recently, earning a \$2.2 million Prostate Cancer Center Initiation Award from the Department of Defense.

As part of the grant, Gerhard Coetzee, associate professor of urology, Richard Cote, professor of pathology and urology, and Juergen Reichardt, associate professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, are investigating the progression of prostate cancer. Ronald K. Ross, professor and chair of preventive medicine, coordinates the project.

The American Cancer Society estimates that one in five men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer during his lifetime. It is now the second-leading cause of cancer deaths among men.

Yet the cancer remains an enigma. One poorly understood issue, for example, is why some men who have the initial seeds of the cancer later develop aggressive cancer, while other similar men remain free from the disease, Ross said.

"If you took 1,000 men who are 60 years old, pathologists would say that 50 percent of them or more have occult, or very early stage, prostate cancer," Ross said. "Yet only a fraction of those progress and become invasive. Occult disease is common, but clinical disease is much less common."

And statistics seem to follow racial lines. Among racial and ethnic groups, the rate of occult prostate cancer is about the same, but rates of actual prostate cancer incidence and mortality is higher in some than in others. It is highest in African-American men and lowest in Asian-American men.

Why? No one is sure. But it points to a need to better comprehend the cancer's development.

"What we really need is to be able to say that we know which lesions will progress, and which won't," Ross said.

Along those lines, Coetzee is looking into the role of the androgen receptor gene, and Reichardt is examining the importance of the steroid 5-alpha-reductase type 2 gene. Both genes are involved in the activity of androgens, male hormones that are critical to normal—and abnormal—prostate growth.

"The molecular genetics of prostate cancer progression are not well understood, and no clear single pathway of consecutive genetic changes has yet emerged," Coetzee said. "It is very

'There is a real need for novel treatments. Mostly, clinical treatment of advanced prostate cancer focuses on counteracting the effects of male hormones such as testosterone. The problem is that the therapy nearly always loses effectiveness over time.'

likely that progression will have a strong genetic component, so the identification of genetic markers for the transition to advanced disease carries tremendous public health implications."

The researchers look at whether the two genes are mutated frequently during prostate cancer progression, and how that affects the genes' function.

Reichardt's target—the steroid 5-alpha-reductase type 2 gene—encodes an enzyme that converts testosterone to dihydrotestosterone (DHT), the most potent androgen in the human body. Androgens appear to drive growth of many prostate cancers, much like estrogen drives many breast cancers.

In 1999, Reichardt and colleagues showed that African-American and Latino men who carried a simple germline, or inherited, mutation in the gene face five times the risk of developing prostate cancer than those without the mutation.

The new grant will allow him to examine somatic changes in the gene—those mutations that are not inherited,

See **DOD**, Page 2

Cancer survivors, USC/Norris leaders gather to celebrate NCI core grant renewal

More than 250 patients, friends and supporters of the USC/Norris Cancer Center and Hospital gathered on Monday evening, October 23, to celebrate the renewal of the Cancer Center's core grant from the National Cancer Institute.

The event was held pre-opening at the new El Cholo restaurant in Pasadena.

"USC/Norris is a place that treats not only the cancer, but the patient and family's emotional health as well," said Ron Corradini, a former patient and member of the USC/Norris Development Board. "That's why I support the

Norris."

During his brief remarks at the event, Corradini told the crowd gathered that he had helped friends through the treatment process at USC/Norris, and had also undergone a radical prostatectomy for prostate cancer at USC/Norris under the care of surgeon John Stein.

"It has been six months since the surgery—I ran three miles this morning and I feel great," said Corradini, who was met with supportive applause from the group.

Derek Raghavan, chief of oncology, also addressed the special kind of care that is offered at USC/Norris. "It's what

attracted me to come out here from Buffalo, said Raghavan. "There are many cancer centers that are nearly twice the size of Norris that are conducting far fewer treatment protocols than those taking place at the Norris."

Raghavan also informed the crowd that the reviewers who granted USC/Norris the renewal on its core grant gave USC/Norris a "superior" rating.

Director of Development Bill Watson said that Monday's event was to allow supporters of the USC/Norris an opportunity to celebrate the part they play in the success of the cancer center.

"We couldn't run the programs and



Lorna Reed, David Balfour, Eleanor Randall, Ronald Corradini, and Marlowe Dawn were among the attendees at the celebration.

support the high caliber of physicians and scientists that we have at USC/Norris without this additional commit-

ment of time and financial support from our donors," added Watson.

—Brenda Maceo

USC/Norris takes breast health education to community with 'Breast Health Day 2000'

Breast Health Day 2000—held for the first time at the Ritz-Carlton in Pasadena—attracted a new breed of visitor to the annual USC/Norris-sponsored program: those who have yet to learn first hand about the Doctors of USC.

Traditionally held on the Health Sciences Campus, the event was this year planned as an outreach to San Gabriel community members who have not previously been acquainted with the facilities and services offered at the USC/Norris Cancer Center.

Those who attended enjoyed a solid day of breast health education, with lectures and discussions on genetic research, surgical techniques, imaging, nutrition, cancer prevention and alternative medicine.

Several vendors also were on site to offer products and services to cancer survivors. There was also a segment offering a reliable guide to internet health sites, presented by Oscar E. Streeter, Jr., associate professor of radiation oncology at the Keck School of Medicine.

"Many attendees said they appreciated that the doctors explained complicated information understandably," said Jennifer Fagnani, director of marketing for USC University Hospital and USC/Norris Cancer Hospital.

In addition to the amiable response to the doctors, there was also positive feedback about the survivors panel, where cancer survivors sat with visitors for a panel discussion on the reality of cancer from a patient's perspective.

The USC/Norris Cancer Center event has increasingly generated positive responses from those involved, including the many in attendance who have never had breast cancer, nor have had family with it. The majority Saturday's attendees also had never before been to a breast health event.



Surgeon Randy Sherman and Breast Center donor Henrietta Lee peruse health information at the event.

Fagnani said they chose the San Gabriel Valley because of the many USC alumni in the area. Fagnani and other organizers also hoped that they would reach the part of the community who might benefit from the USC/Norris Cancer Center services, but who are not familiar with the facilities.

Among the day's attendees was Mrs. Henrietta C. Lee, who in 1998, gave \$5 million to USC/Norris for the establishment of the Harold E. and Henrietta C. Lee Breast Center and the Harold E. Lee Chair in Cancer Research.

—Christie Castro



Visitors examine products available through the Image Enhancement Center.

DOD: Research could lead to better treatment

Continued from Page 1

but rather, are caused by environmental factors—to see how they affect tumor progression.

"The grant will enable us to look at what kind of novel genetic changes may occur in the tumor itself," Reichardt said. "Someone may have a germline mutation that makes them predisposed to the cancer, but other mutations have to happen to produce prostate cancer."

Down the line, Reichardt hopes that tests for genetic markers will lead to personalized medicine to battle prostate cancer: more effective or customized drugs and more individualized dosages. Coetzee, meanwhile, is determining the type and the frequency of somatic mutations (those occurring in the prostate) in the androgen receptor gene and their relation to the clinical stage of prostate cancer.

The androgen receptor, his line of research for the last six years, is a protein within prostate cells that attracts, binds and translates the effect of the male hormone into prostate cell proliferation. If the receptor works more "efficiently" in one man than another, or in one prostate cell than another, the individual (or cell) may be exposed to an increased effect of androgen. That, in turn, can result in a prostate (or cell population) that is more susceptible to cancer development.

Coetzee's lab was the first to demonstrate how variation of this gene affects predisposition to prostate cancer. But the new research from this grant will lead to further understanding of how the protein works during the process of prostate cancer progression (not just in predisposition to the disease). This in turn will lead to more precise diagnoses and development of targeted treatment strategies.

Today, there is a real need for novel treatments. In most cases, clinical treatment of advanced prostate cancer focuses on counteracting the effects of male hormones such as testosterone. Such so-called "hormone therapy" can shut down the effects of testosterone, effectively slamming the brakes on cancer growth—at least at first. The problem is that the therapy tends to lose effectiveness over time in nearly all cases. Coetzee and his fellow scientists believe mutations in the androgen receptor gene may contribute to the cancer becoming resistant to the hormone therapy by providing the cancer cell with the capacity to overcome the treatment.

The new grant will allow him to examine the frequency and, more importantly, the effects of

somatic mutations in the receptor gene, he said.

Cote leads the third part of the project in which the grant will assist investigation into a series of new cellular and molecular markers with potential for predicting prostate cancer progression. The markers will be examined in tumor tissues from men in the Hawaii-USC Multiethnic Cohort Study, spearheaded at USC by Brian Henderson, professor of preventive medicine.

Tumor tissues come from African-American, Asian-American, Latino and white patients in the study.

Researchers hope to establish which of these potential markers are associated with more advanced tumors, and whether differences exist in these markers among prostate tumors from men in various racial and ethnic groups.

"The idea is to get leads on promising areas for future research," Ross said. "Once identified as a cancer center, we will focus on those markers that look most important."

—Alicia Di Rado

HSC Weekly

Next issue: Nov. 10

USC: *Time Magazine's* College of the Year 2000

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NEIGHBORS: USC employees contributed \$2.6 million over six years

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tion, regular cleanings and sealant, it's possible to have 100 percent prevention of tooth decay," he said. "Without these services, many children wind up with missing teeth and worse."

Goldstein recalled a child from an area school whose life improved with dental care.

"He had decay in his front teeth, and he never smiled," Goldstein said. "After we fixed all his teeth, he not only smiled, but, according to the school principal, his grades went from D's to B's in one semester."

USC employees have contributed more than \$2.6 million to the campaign during the past six years. USC Neighborhood Outreach, a nonprofit corporation, distributes the money to partnerships that make a positive, visible impact in the neighborhoods near the two campuses. Donations are tax deductible.

So how can USC faculty and staff members get involved with the Good Neighbors Campaign?

The easiest way to participate is through a monthly payroll deduction, either through a percentage deduction from pay or a fixed dollar amount contribution.

Employees should watch their mailboxes for forms and brochures about the program, and departmental campaign leaders will schedule meetings with faculty and staff members to answer questions about the campaign. The campaign deadline is Nov. 30.

Contributions to the Good Neighbors Campaign have steadily increased over the years because employees see the positive results of their contributions, said Rose Washington, assistant vice president for civic and community relations.

When the campaign began six years ago, Jane Pisano, senior vice president for external relations and Good Neighbors Campaign chair, "had to convince people that this was a good thing," Washington said. "Now we don't have to do that. More people are taking ownership. They realize the benefits of the program, not only to the community, but to the university."

The 2000-2001 campaign goal is \$675,000, or 12 percent more than last year, said Washington.

Pisano said the goal is ambitious but within reach. "Our Good Neighbors Campaign is a people-to-people program with peers asking each other to contribute to something that is making a difference for the university and the neighborhood," she said.

HSC-area programs reap the benefits of USC's giving

Improving Life by Promoting Value-based Health Education (\$8,632)

The School of Pharmacy, Keck School of Medicine and the cancer genetics unit at USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center sponsor an initiative focusing on teenagers and consumption of vitamin B6, or folic acid. A series of focus groups will build on the relationship between five partner high schools and USC.

Expanding STARS—Sharing the Power of Science with Neighborhood Youth (\$30,000)

This project builds on the decade-long success of the Science, Technology and Research (STAR) program. Students will engage in hands-on science experiments in the laboratory of a USC scientist.

Taming the SAT (\$29,550)

Workshop leaders will help about 400 sophomores and juniors at Bravo Medical Magnet High School, LAUSD/USC MaST Magnet High School and Foshay Learning Center to prepare for the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT).

Like many of their counterparts in more affluent areas, the teenagers will participate in sessions that unveil the mysteries of the SAT.

Choices Unlimited II (\$37,345)

Choices Unlimited II builds on a successful occupational therapy program run at various community centers and schools during the last four years. Beginning as a pre-vocational and leadership training program for teenagers in Boyle Heights, the program has expanded to provide arts and crafts, mentoring, field trips and entrepreneurial training.

Mission Science (\$26,500)

USC Mission Science is an after-school hands-on science workshop for youngsters that teaches



Irene Fertik

Senior nursing student Alice Lee reads to a group of second-graders at Murchison Elementary School. The volunteers read from books with quirky health-related titles such as "The School Nurse From the Black Lagoon."

fundamental science concepts in fun and creative ways. In the past, students reconnected the bones of a beached baby gray whale, tinkered with old telephones, radios, computers and typewriters and participated in recycling projects. The workshops encourage students to play with equipment, observe results and discover underlying scientific concepts. The grant continues the existing program at Murchison Street elementary and starts new workshops at Griffin Avenue and Sheridan Street elementary schools.

Neighborhood Schools Fuente Initiative (\$23,369)

The School of Pharmacy and three neighborhood elementary schools have launched a pilot program to educate children and their parents about proper prescription drug use and household poison prevention. The project also provides professional education to neighborhood pharmacists.

Reading Is Healthy (\$40,912)

This second-year project takes USC nursing students to schools near the Health Sciences Campus. Organizers aim to stress the importance of reading and improve the health habits of hundreds of local schoolchildren and their families. Nursing students will visit dozens of K-3 classes at Murchison and Griffin elementary schools, reaching more than 1,000 students each semester to draw connections between literacy and health.

USC Health and Science Expo 2000 (\$14,416)

The USC Health and Science Exposition exposes parents and children living around the Health Sciences Campus to health information, health professions and basic health and science principles through an essay contest, science exhibits developed by the children and a daylong fair.

Contributions fund programs such as Reading Is Healthy, a popular and successful literacy-based health education project that brings USC nursing student into Murchison and Griffin elementary schools.

USC nursing student Yannett Sanchez, for one, reads to kindergarten-through-third-grade stu-

dents from health-related children's books once a week as part of the Reading is Healthy program last year.

She said the Good Neighbors-funded project expanded her education.

"It opened my eyes," said Sanchez. "When children get into the habit of reading books and use

them not only to increase their knowledge, but to incorporate the information into their lives, they create healthy lifestyles."

For information, contact Washington at (213) 740-7400 or visit the Good Neighbors web site at www.usc.edu/ext-relations/unipark/gnc.html

—Sharon Stewart and Alicia Di Rado

USC group shows there's more than meets the eye at telemedicine conference

For attendees at a telemedicine conference held in West Los Angeles, USC's Advanced Bio-Telecommunications and Bio-Informatics Center (ABBC) offered a truly eye-opening display of technology.

The group offered conference participants a chance to see telemedicine in action, by providing free eye health screenings to volunteers willing to stare briefly into a digital video camera. Photos taken of their eyes were later reviewed by physicians dozens of miles away, said Steven Stumpf, ABBC director of projects management.

Interested passers-by at the ABBC booth were also able to participate in videoconferencing linked to project sites in East Pasadena, downtown LA and South Central LA, where local primary care physicians carried out live consultations over the internet with USC physicians from family medicine to psychiatry.

Co-sponsored by the Health Information Management Systems Society and the California Telehealth and Telemedicine Center (CTTC), the three-day event included presentations on physically building telemedicine

networks and managing healthcare information.

"This conference provides the ABBC with an opportunity to let the health care audience in Southern California know USC is the regional leader with a proven record applying telecommunications to medicine," Stumpf said. "Our goal is to collaborate with regional partners to deploy telemedicine projects to improve healthcare for underserved populations."

For the free eye screenings, medical images were uploaded to the ABBC webserver where volunteer eye special-

ists reviewed the images, making notes on electronic medical record software developed by ABBC director of technology Dave Mann.

Volunteers are able to review their own screening results anonymously

online. "We have done this before at six other shows over the past three years," said ABBC executive administrator Rod Zalunardo, "and it is always a huge hit."

Did We Say That?

A listing for available grants in the Oct. 13 issue of the *HSC Weekly* listed an incorrect campus phone number for information on grants from the James H. Zumberge Research & Innovation Fund.

The correct number is (213) 740-6559.

Calendar

Open enrollment for employee benefits continues through Dec. 1

Benefits-eligible USC employees will see some changes in their medical and dental plans in 2001, including the addition of six hospitals to the USC Network Health Plan, a new third-party administrator for the USC health plans, and a new pharmacy-benefits manager.

Also in 2001, dental benefits will be expanded — but employee contributions to health and dental plans will also rise, said Lisa Macchia, director of Health Plans.

The open-enrollment period, which continues through Dec. 1, is the only time benefits-eligible employees can change coverage for the calendar year 2001. (The exception is when an employee experiences a "life event": for more information, see "Your Benefits for 2001," distributed through home department coordinators at the end of October.)

The list of participating hospitals in the USC Network Plan will grow to include Antelope Valley Hospital, Lancaster; Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital, Valencia; Riverside Community Hospital, Riverside; St. Luke Medical Center, Pasadena; San Antonio Community Hospital, Rancho Cucamonga; and St. Bernardine Medical Center, San Bernardino.

"More and more USC employees are living outside the immediate Los Angeles area and have requested that hospitals in their areas be added to the Network," Macchia said. The expansion of Network providers in 2001 will bring the total number of Network hospitals to 31.

Meanwhile, employee contributions for health plan coverage will rise, with the increase ranging from a dollar or two per month for single employees enrolled in HMOs to \$18 per month for a family enrolled in the USC Network, a preferred provider plan.

However, co-payments for prescription drugs will stay at 2000 levels, and the maximum annual benefit for the Delta Dental Plan will be increased from \$1,000 per covered person to \$1,500.

"The \$1,000 maximum has been in effect for a long time, and a number of people requested an increase," Macchia said. As a result of the change, the dental benefit co-payment will rise, with the increase ranging from \$1 per month to \$11 per month, depending on the plan and the number of dependents.

Good news for new employees is that the one-year waiting period has been eliminated for becoming eligible for dental benefits, either through Delta Dental, or the alternative, the dental HMO ConcordiaPLUS.

Meanwhile, Stockton-based Delta Health Systems (not affiliated with Delta Dental) on Oct. 1 became the new third-party administrator for the USC Network Plans and Plan C, replacing UICI of Dallas, Tex. Macchia said the change was made to improve the accuracy and timeliness of benefit payments.

On Jan. 1, the pharmacy benefits manager for the Network Plans will change as well, to SYSTEMED, a division of Merck-Medco. The new plastic identification cards that Network subscribers will receive later this year will have Merck-Medco's PAID Prescriptions logo, a nationally recognized symbol that makes filling prescriptions easier across the country, Macchia said. SYSTEMED also offers a mail-order program for prescriptions.

"The changes we made last year have, by and large, stood us in good stead this year and kept premiums and employee contributions down," she said. "USC, like the rest of America, has an aging population. And as we get older, our health care needs increase. The best thing we can all do to keep health care costs down is to take good care of ourselves."

All of the new health-plan rates and changes are outlined in the annual benefits booklet, "Your Benefits for 2001." For more information about benefits fairs and open enrollment, call the Office of Benefits Administration at 740-6027 or send e-mail to benefits@usc.edu.

Monday, Nov. 6

8 a.m. Monthly Faculty Breakfast Gathering. The Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and the Associate Dean for Scientific Affairs extend a breakfast invitation to all KSOM Faculty. Edmondson Faculty Ctr. Info: 442-1607

11:45 a.m. "Update on Stroke Therapy 2000," Gene Sung, USC. Norris Tower 7th Floor Conf. Ctr. Info: 442-5793

Noon. "Shp-2 Tyrosine Phosphatase in Signaling Pathways that Control Cell Growth, Differentiation, Migration and Death," Gen-Sheng Feng, Burham Inst. AHC Aud., Room 102. Info: 442-3146

Tuesday, Nov. 7

8 a.m. Neurology Grand Rounds. "Paraneoplastic Disease," Myrna Rosenfeld, Univ. of Arkansas. Univ. Hospital, Troy Room. Info: 226-2639

11 a.m. Division of Endocrinology and Diabetes Grand Rounds. "Mesenchymal Stem Cells: Regulation of Differentiation, Changes During Aging and Potential Use in the Treatment of Bone Loss," Moustapha Kassem, Aarhus Amtssygehus, Denmark, AHC Aud., Room 102. Info: 442-2809

12:15 p.m. Tuesday Speakers' Forum. "An Evidence Based Update on Drugs for Alzheimer's Disease," Lon Schneider, USC. Hoffman Hall, Hastings Aud. Info: 226-4945

Wednesday, Nov. 8

Noon. Interdisciplinary Frontiers in Biological, Cultural and Medical Anthropology. "Reinventing Anthropology: Why it is Time for Cultural Biography," Gelya Frank, USC. Social Sciences Building B40, UPC. Info: (213) 740-1900

Thursday, Nov. 9

10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Molecular Biology Mini Symposium: At the Interface of Replication, Recombination & Repair. "RecA and Stalled Replication Forks," Michael Cox, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison; "Eukaryotic DNA Polymerases Involved in Error-Free and Error-Prone Damage Bypass," Satya Prakash, Sealy Center; and "What Happens When Polymerases Encounter Obstacles in the Template DNA," Phillip Hanawalt, Stanford Univ. GERO Aud., UPC. Info: (213) 740-5557

Noon. Research Seminar Series. "Protein Kinase D: A Target for Protein Kinase C," Enrique Rozengurt, UCLA. AHC Aud., Room 102. Info: 442-1800

Friday, Nov. 10

2 p.m. "Application of Gene Technologies to Targeted Drug and Gene Delivery to the Brain," William Pardridge, UCLA. PSC 112. Info: 442-1451

Saturday, Nov. 11

8:30 a.m. "Intraocular Inflammatory and Related Neoplastic Diseases," Ron Green; Ron Smith; Robert Wang; and Ehud Zamir,

USC. DEI Third Floor Conf. Ctr. Info: 442-6427

Tuesday, Nov. 14

8 a.m. Neurology Grand Rounds. "Three New Anticonvulsants for 2000," David Ko, USC. Univ. Hospital, Troy Room. Info: 226-2639

11 a.m. Division of Endocrinology and Diabetes Grand Rounds. "Testosterone Dose Response Relationships," Shalinder Bhasin, Charles Drew Univ. AHC Aud., Room 102. Info: 442-2809

4 – 6 p.m. "Science vs. Soul: A Nun's Visit to the Neurologist," Leslie Weiner, USC. AHC Aud., Room 102. Info: 442-1130

Wednesday, Nov. 15

Noon. USC Alzheimer's Disease Research Center Lecture Series. "Sex Steroids and Dementia," Victor Henderson, USC. Univ. Hosp., Salemi Room. Info: 442-3715

Thursday, Nov. 16

Noon. Research Seminar Series. "Mitochondria and Apoptosis: Stepping Stones on the Path to Cell Death," Doug Green, La Jolla Inst. AHC Aud., Room 102. Info: 442-1800

12:30 p.m. "Current Understanding of Immune Reconstitution and Future Prospects for Immune Therapy for HIV Infected Patients," Alan Lee Landay, St. Luke's Medical Ctr. Hoffman Hall, Hastings Aud. Info: 442-2337

Tuesday, Nov. 21

8 a.m. Neurology Grand Rounds. "Vascu-

lar Aspects of Stroke Management," Scott Selco, USC. Univ. Hospital, Troy Room. Info: 226-2639

11 a.m. Division of Endocrinology and Diabetes Grand Rounds. "Diabetic Nephropathy," Vito Campese, USC. AHC Aud., Room 102. Info: 442-2809

12:15 p.m. Tuesday Speakers' Forum. "Suicidal Behavior in Trauma Victims," John Brier, USC. Hoffman Hall, Hastings Aud. Info: 226-4945

12:15 p.m. Tuesday Speakers' Forum. "Neuropsychiatric Aspects of Epilepsy," Mario Mendez, UCLA. Hoffman Hall, Hastings Aud. Info: 226-4945

Noon. Interdisciplinary Frontiers in Biological, Cultural and Medical Anthropology. "Human Nature and Human Freedom," Chris Boehm, USC. Taper Hall - 215, UPC. Info: (213) 740-1900

Noon. Research Seminar Series. "Models of Autoimmune Hepatitis," Marlon Peters, UCSF. AHC Aud., Room 102. Info: 442-1800

Tuesday, Nov. 28

8 a.m. Monthly Faculty Breakfast Gathering. The Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and the Associate Dean for Scientific Affairs extend a breakfast invitation to all KSOM Faculty. Edmondson Faculty Ctr. Info: 442-1607

Wednesday, Nov. 29

8 a.m. Monthly Faculty Breakfast Gathering. The Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and the Associate Dean for Scientific Affairs extend a breakfast invitation to all KSOM Faculty. Edmondson Faculty Ctr. Info: 442-1607

Thursday, Nov. 30

8 a.m. Monthly Faculty Breakfast Gathering. The Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and the Associate Dean for Scientific Affairs extend a breakfast invitation to all KSOM Faculty. Edmondson Faculty Ctr. Info: 442-1607

Monday, Dec. 4

8 a.m. Monthly Faculty Breakfast Gathering. The Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and the Associate Dean for Scientific Affairs extend a breakfast invitation to all KSOM Faculty. Edmondson Faculty Ctr. Info: 442-1607

Heger honored for work with abuse victims

Gov. Gray Davis will honor USC's Astrid Heger this month for her work with victims of abuse.

Heger, associate professor of clinical pediatrics and executive director of the LAC+USC Violence Intervention Program, was chosen to receive a Governor's Victims Services and Restitution Award. Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca nominated Heger for the

award, and she was selected from among a pool of distinguished advocate nominees for the honor by a panel representing state agencies that serve victims of crime.

Davis will present a plaque to Heger at a ceremony at the state capitol later this month. Heger is one of six recipients to be honored in the "Outstanding Service to Crime Victims" category,

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