

## Celebrating the lives of those who fight cancer



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Above, Christy Russell, assistant professor of medicine and associate director of the Lee Breast Center at the USC/Norris, hugs a cancer survivor at the Festival of Life held at the HSC Quad on Saturday June 2, 2001. Right, Betsy Mushik speaks with volunteer Alice Wu at an information booth.



## Worthy programs get funds from USC's Good Neighbors

One day each year stands out above all others for Jane Pisano, senior vice president for external relations.

"This is my favorite day of the year at USC," Pisano said during the seventh annual USC Neighborhood Outreach grants ceremony on May 8. "Today we will fund 19 projects with a total of \$590,000."

The grants – made possible by staff and faculty contributions to the Good Neighbors Campaign – support partnerships between USC and the community that "enhance the quality of life for all of us who live and work and learn" in the two USC campus neighborhoods, she said. Employees have invested \$3.3 million in the campaign

since 1995, said Pisano, who chairs the Good Neighbors Campaign.

HSC-related proposals that have received funding for the 2001-2002 school year are:

### **Mission Science (\$58,000)**

Mission Science received a \$22,000 grant for the Health Sciences Campus and a \$36,000 grant for the University Park Campus for after-school, hands-on science and engineering workshops that serve neighborhood elementary students.

In addition to making exhibits out of everyday materials, Mission Science students tackle longer-term projects such as robots, electric cars, pinhole cameras, communications devices and

airplanes.

### **USC Mobile Dental Van (\$49,395)**

Through USC's School of Dentistry, at least 1,000 second-graders attending USC's partner elementary schools receive examinations and X-rays at a critical time, when their first permanent molars are newly erupted and can be treated with sealants to prevent future decay.

### **Choices Unlimited (\$35,450)**

Choices Unlimited is an occupational therapy program for adolescents in the HSC neighborhood. Activities include pre-vocational and leadership training; mentoring and arts and crafts; group

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## Quality of life issues

# Study follows patients after prostate cancer treatment

Men who underwent radiation therapy to fight their prostate cancer report that sexual dysfunction is their most prevalent and longest-lasting quality-of-life issue after treatment, according to a Keck School researcher and colleagues.

The findings, published in the May issue of the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, are among the latest research coming from the vast Prostate Cancer Outcomes Study, or PCOS. Ann S. Hamilton, USC assistant professor of preventive medicine, was the paper's lead author.

Encompassing nearly 500 men who received radiation for localized tumors, the study is one of the nation's largest ever on the quality of life after prostate cancer therapy. Hamilton and colleagues hope the study will help men and their doctors when they need to make decisions about treatment.

The research team, which includes scientists at six universities and the National Cancer Institute, followed up on men from six cancer registries across the country who were diagnosed with the cancer between October of 1994 and 1995. They interviewed the men about their lives at regular intervals after treatment.

Men have several choices for dealing with prostate cancer: surgery, radiation (external or internal, using radioactive beads), hormone therapy or "watchful waiting" (surveillance, but no treatment). The men in this portion of the study were treated with external-beam radiation. Health professionals often recommend radiation therapy for older patients and those who are poor candidates for surgery, but who are young enough that treatment would help ensure a full life span.

Researchers asked men in the study about their bowel, urinary and sexual functions at six, 12 and 24 months after diagnosis.

Consistent with other studies, the research team found that bowel symptoms increased in the months immediately after treatment, but then improved. Urinary function was least affected by radiation therapy, and some patients even had improved urinary function.

Sexual dysfunction, however, wors-

ened over time. The proportion of men feeling that their sexual function was a significant problem progressively increased from 26 percent before diagnosis to 40 percent at 24 months after diagnosis. According to the study, 43 percent of previously potent men were unable to have an erection by the 24-month mark.

Among men younger than 65, the proportion of men experiencing no sexual activity rose from nearly 16 percent before diagnosis to more than 28 percent at 24 months after diagnosis. Among those between 65 and 74, the proportion of those having no sexual activity rose from nearly 27 percent before diagnosis to more than 47 percent after 24 months. However, noted the researchers, men tended to feel better over time about prostate cancer's impact on their lives. At 24 months after diagnosis, about two thirds of the men were delighted or pleased with their treatment, and nearly 90 percent would definitely or probably choose radiotherapy again given the chance.

The PCOS team will continue to follow up on patients to find out more about the quality of life of prostate cancer patients. Other studies have found that the adverse effects of radiotherapy have continued to affect patients' quality of life for up to five years after therapy, they noted.

At USC, Hamilton and Dennis M. Deapen, director of the Cancer Surveillance Program, have been deeply involved in PCOS since it began in 1994. Frank D. Gilliland, associate professor of preventive medicine, was the principal investigator in PCOS at the University of New Mexico before arriving at USC in 1997, and now continues his work here.

Other centers involved in the study include the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, University of Connecticut Health Center in Farmington, Conn., University of Utah School of Medicine, in Salt Lake City, Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center and New Mexico Tumor Registry in Albuquerque, N.M., Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University in Atlanta, and the National Cancer Institute.

—Alicia Di Rado

# Early warning of cancer risk may help save patients' lives

USC medical scientists are leaping forward in time. And no time machine is involved—though their methods are advanced enough to lead them to file for patents on the technology.

The medical researchers are finding ways to predict, at an early age, if a person is likely to develop cancer in the future. That knowledge may be startling to a patient, but consider this: it would give needed, advanced warning and tip off doctors to screen for cancer during its earliest, most treatable stages, before it can wreak havoc.

All this from analyzing a patient's own genetic blueprint—obtained from a simple blood sample. Any cell in the human body can provide the necessary evidence.

The doctors look for something called a polymorphism: a variant of a gene that scientists have found is associated with cancer. A polymorphism is a variation in a gene that accounts for different characteristics from person to person such as one man having brown hair, while another has blond.

"USC is famous for seeking polymorphisms associated with cancer risks," said Heinz-Josef Lenz, associate professor of medicine at the Keck School and scientific director of cancer genetics at USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center.

USC researchers, such as Juergen Reichardt, associate professor of molecular biology and biochemistry, and Gerhard Coetzee, associate professor of urology, already have found polymorphisms associated with prostate, breast and lung cancers, he explained.

Recently, Lenz and his cancer-battling colleagues identified a polymorphism that might tip them off to patients who are likely to suffer from colon cancer at an early age.

The USC/Norris scientists examined a gene that is connected to a special kind of protein in the body called manganese superoxide dismutase, or MnSOD.

The gene signals the body to make MnSOD, one of the body's key chemical fighters against oxidative stress. If the MnSOD gene works well, the MnSOD produced can effectively scavenge and neutralize oxidative radicals that damage human cells.

But if someone is found to have a certain polymorphism of this gene, the body produces a slightly different kind of MnSOD that is less effective, researchers believe. The substance packs less of a protective punch.

People with this polymorphism may not be as shielded from cellular damage as others—and may be more likely to get colon cancer at a young age, according to Lenz.

Lenz explained that the USC research team conducted a test to understand the polymorphism's nuances. They looked at 172 patients diagnosed with colon cancer, and split them into two age groups—with age 40 as the dividing line. Then they analyzed the MnSOD gene in each person.

They found that the group of colorectal cancer patients over age 40 had an equal distribution of each variation (or allele) of the gene—just like the population at large. In contrast, researchers found that 70 percent of those under age 40 with colorectal cancer had one specific, suspicious variation.

And while only 14 percent of the older patients with the cancer had two matching specific, sus-

## Colon cancer patients' genetic makeup can help determine better treatment

Patients' own genes can show whether a longstanding, standard chemotherapy drug for colon cancer is likely to help them—before ever starting treatment, according to a study by USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center researchers.

When physicians who analyzed blood cells from colon cancer patients found a certain genetic twist, patients were more likely to respond well to the common chemotherapy drug fluorouracil, or 5-FU, the researchers wrote in the May inaugural issue of *The Pharmacogenomics Journal*, one of the *Nature* family of journals. The analysis also identified patients who would suffer more severe side effects from the drugs.

The findings mean an easy blood test before treatment may help steer patients toward drugs more effective for them, as well as alert doctors to potential complications from side effects.

Researchers got their cue from a specific feature of a patient's genes, called a polymorphism.

"This is the first time a link was found between a genomic polymorphism, determined from blood cells, and response to chemotherapy—even predicting the genetic profile of the cancer," said Heinz-Josef Lenz, associate professor of medicine and scientific director of the USC/Norris Cancer Genetics program.

It works like this: Human cells have a gene that gives orders to produce a substance called thymidylate synthase, or TS. TS is a key enzyme needed to make DNA.

Tumor cells can feed off the TS, in a way, to reproduce their DNA. When fluorouracil is administered to a patient, though, the drug breaks down in the body, and ideally, its product at-

taches itself to TS, making the TS useless to tumor cells.

But in practice, the drug's effectiveness varies from patient to patient and population to population.

Now, the USC researchers have found what in a patient's genetic makeup makes the drug work better or worse.

The TS gene regularly comes in two forms, or polymorphisms. In one, a string of 28 base pairs (the building blocks of DNA) in the gene repeats itself twice. In the other variation, the string repeats itself three times instead of two.

Each patient has a set of two TS genes. Considering that, the genes can come in an identical pair (either both double repeaters or triple repeaters) or a patient can have one of each type of gene (a double and a triple). In total, three combinations are possible.

The researchers found that patients who had a pair of genes that were both double repeaters responded best to 5-FU. Response means that tumors shrank by half or more. And, Lenz added, these patients also survived longer than other patients. The cells in these patients expressed fewer signals to produce TS, Lenz explained.

Among other patients, those with one of each type of gene—a double repeater and a triple repeater—responded better to 5-FU than those with two triple-repeater genes.

Different ethnic groups tend to have more or less of the triple-repeater polymorphisms, Lenz explained. For example, Asians and African-Americans are more likely to have a triple repeating gene, which means their cells put out more signals to make TS (which, in turn, makes them less responsive to 5-FU). Varying rates of polymor-

phisms among ethnic minorities may indeed explain the differences in toxicities and efficacy of chemotherapy among the ethnic groups, he said.

Using knowledge about each patient's genetic makeup, physicians in the future may be able to recommend alternate medicines such as irinotecan or oxaliplatin, which work differently, to patients who would not likely respond to 5-FU.

Unfortunately, the study also showed that patients with the double-repeater polymorphism—who are most likely to benefit from 5-FU—are also those who experience the most severe side effects from the drug.

"These patients may need closer monitoring under chemotherapy and dose adjustment of their chemotherapy to avoid severe toxicities," Lenz said.

The study, funded through grants from the National Institutes of Health, examined DNA samples and outcome of 77 patients who were participating in clinical trials. Lenz said he hopes the research encourages a prospective study on 5-FU therapy.

In addition, Lenz's team, in collaboration with Robert D. Ladner, cancer researcher at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, has found a transcription factor responsible for TS gene regulation, which could lead to the development of better anti-cancer drugs.

Other study co-authors at USC were Sheeja T. Pullarkat, Yi-Ping Xiong, Vanessa Ghaderi, Jan Stoehlmacher, Sue Ann Ingles, Andy Sherrod, Robert Warren, Denice Tsao-Wei and Susan Groshen.

—Alicia Di Rado



Heinz-Josef Lenz

picious variations, a greater proportion—47 percent—of the under-40 patients had a pair of the specific alleles.

Results suggest that this variation may be associated with an increased risk of

colon cancer at an early age. Lenz said the findings encourage further research: Future studies will monitor healthy, young people to see if study participants with genetic polymorphisms are indeed at greater risk. Already, medical scientists suspect that certain population groups, including Latinos and Asians, are more likely to have such polymorphisms.

If the findings bear out, they could have a major impact on screening guidelines, Lenz noted. In the future, young patients found to have the polymorphism will know they need to get tested for the cancer routinely, and their physicians will be especially vigilant for signs of the disease.

Lenz said MnSOD is not alone as a target for investigation, either.

His group also is exploring the role of the XRCCI gene, a crucial player in DNA repair. The research-

ers are looking at the frequency and significance of polymorphisms in the XRCCI gene and are gathering data to show its potential role in early onset colon cancer.

The XRCCI gene, which gives orders to produce a protein that patches damage in DNA, looks like a promising tool for oncologists seeking the optimal treatments for their patients' cancer, too. "It appears that XRCCI can predict resistance to chemotherapy," Lenz said. By testing for an XRCCI polymorphism in colon cancer patients, doctors may soon know in advance that a particular tumor would resist certain drugs, leading physicians to suggest other more potent drugs for patients instead.

Lenz's team also has another target in its sights: the thymidylate synthase (TS) gene polymorphism (*see box above*). Just as with XRCCI, a TS polymorphism may give physicians hints of patients' outcome with chemotherapy drugs such as fluorouracil (or 5-FU), oxaliplatin and irinotecan (or CPT-11).

That polymorphism is more common among Asians and whites, he said.

"This area of study is growing here at USC, and we want to revolutionize the way cancer will be treated," Lenz said. "We hope these investigations will help protect patients at risk of developing the disease early, and optimize clinical outcomes for patients diagnosed with cancer."

—Alicia Di Rado

## HSC Weekly

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# USC study examines peer pressure, other factors of teen smoking

Not all teen-agers are created equal, at least when it comes to smoking and peer pressure, according to a study led by preventive medicine researchers at the Keck School of Medicine.

White teen-agers are more likely to smoke due to peer pressure from their friends than are teen-agers from other ethnic groups, the researchers reported

in the June issue of *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*, the journal of the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco.

Tobacco use prevention programs may need to be customized to different ethnic groups to be more effective, said Jennifer B. Unger, research assistant professor at the USC Institute for Health

Promotion and Disease Prevention Research and the study's lead author.

The researchers asked 5,870 eighth-graders from 68 schools throughout California about smoking habits and attitudes: whether they had smoked in the last 30 days and whether they were open to trying tobacco. They also asked the students about social influence:

how many of their friends smoked, and how prevalent they believed smoking to be among students their age.

Unger and colleagues then analyzed the responses to see how students' own smoking habits and attitudes related to social influence.

Friends' smoking was less strongly associated with students' smoking and

attitudes among minority students than it was among whites, the researchers found. The link between having friends who smoke and being open to trying smoking was stronger among whites than among African Americans, Latinos and Pacific Islanders. Also, the link between having friends who smoke and smoking in the past 30 days was stronger among whites than among African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos and Pacific Islanders.

Unger and colleagues believe minority teen-agers may be less affected by peer pressure from friends than white students because Asian, Latin-American and African-American cultures tend to emphasize collective communities rather than individualism. Teen-agers from collective cultural backgrounds are less likely to rebel from the social norms of their parents and the larger adult society, the researchers said, so they may be less likely to model themselves after rebellious teen-agers who smoke.

But rebellion seems to be more accepted among white teenagers, they note, possibly because the United States and the Western European countries from which many U.S. whites originate are individualistic cultures.

Still, though white teen-agers might be more likely to choose to smoke because of peer pressure or cigarette offers from peers, they are not necessarily more likely to smoke. Latino and multi-ethnic students were more likely to report they smoked within the last

## OUTREACH: USC supports numerous HSC-area programs

Continued from page 1  
activities and field trips; and entrepreneurial and transition activities and career exploration.

### Reading Is Healthy (\$23,578)

Reading Is Healthy will serve 925 students at Murchison and Griffin elementary schools. USC nursing students work with the youngsters to heighten literacy awareness and improve health habits through one-on-one and small-group reading sessions

### USC Health and Science Expo 2002 (\$11,130)

The USC Health and Science Exposition held on the Health Sciences campus introduces 500 fourth- and fifth-graders to health information, health professions, and basic health and science principles. USC Health Sciences students work with the pupils to develop projects for display at the expo.

### Fuente Initiative (\$14,265)

The Fuente Initiative uses the education resources of the School of Pharmacy to organize local professional and student pharmacists to provide poison prevention and drug-use education to children and parents in the HSC partner elementary schools.

### Folic Acid Education Strategies (\$31,720)

The School of Pharmacy, with Madres del Este de Los Angeles, will develop an



Fifth grade students watch as Darin Gray, shows their class how to construct cotton candy makers from regular objects as part of the Mission Science Program, recently funded by USC's Neighborhood Grants.

effective health communications tool and delivery strategy to increase knowledge of folic acid among low-income, low-literacy Hispanic families.

### USC Healthy Communities (\$20,038)

The USC Healthy Communities Project brings USC health services and information directly to families who live near HSC. The project includes a USC health speakers' series and a large community health fair, which will provide height and weight exams, blood-pressure testing, cholesterol screenings, im-

munizations and other medical screenings that are not readily available to the community.

### Expanding STARS (\$20,800)

The STARS program allows juniors and seniors at Bravo High School to learn science by joining a basic science research team at USC. Expanding STARS brings USC life science graduate students together with high school science students as mentors in USC research labs and in Bravo classrooms.

—Sharon Stewart

See **SMOKE**, Page 4

## HSC Research Awards for March 2001

PARKASH S. GILL  
Medicine  
Sponsor: UCLA  
"Southern California AIDS Malignancy Network: Tissue and Biological Fluid Banks of HIV-Related Malignancies"  
\$262,872

LAURENCE H. KEDES  
Institute for Genetic Medicine  
Sponsor: Agrivax, Inc.  
"Mucosal Vaccine Delivery Systems"  
\$33,592

ANDREA KOVACS  
Pediatrics (LAC+USC Med. Ctr.)  
Sponsor: Public Health Foundation Enterprises, Inc.  
"Title I: Family Support Services"  
\$25,000

ANDREA KOVACS  
Pediatrics (LAC+USC Med. Ctr.)  
Sponsor: Public Health Foundation Enterprises, Inc.  
"Title IV Funding: The Los Angeles Family AIDS Network: A Comprehensive Collaborative Project Serving

Women, Children, Youth and Families"  
\$130,601

JOHN M. LEEDOM  
Medicine  
Sponsor: Rand Corporation  
"A Training Intervention to Enhance Adherence to HAART"  
\$78,488

HEINZ-JOSEF LENZ  
USC/Norris Cancer Center  
Sponsor: City of Hope National Medical Center  
"Phase I Molecular and Clinical Pharmacodynamic Trials"  
\$144,240

ALEXANDRA M. LEVINE  
Medicine  
Sponsor: Bureau of Health Professions  
"Health Careers Opportunity Program"  
\$1,140,000

ALEXANDRA M. LEVINE  
Medicine  
Sponsor: National Institute of Child

Health and Human Development  
"Women's Interagency HIV Study (WIHS)"  
\$2,614,794

CHRISTOPHER POWERS  
Physical Therapy  
Sponsor: Foundation for Physical Therapy  
"The Effects of a Single Intervention Session on Pain Response and Lumbar Segmental Mobility in Persons with Low Back Pain: A Comparison of Spine Mobilization and Active Extension Using Dynamic MRI"  
\$40,000

CHRISTOPHER POWERS  
Physical Therapy  
Sponsor: DJ Orthopaedics  
"Biomechanical Determinants of Patellofemoral Stress"  
\$10,000

DEREK RAGHAVAN  
USC/Norris Cancer Center  
Sponsor: National Cancer Institute  
"Southwest Oncology Group, USC"  
\$170,958

LON SCHNEIDER  
Psychiatry and Behavioral Science  
Sponsor: University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
"Clinical Anti-Psychotic Trials of Intervention Effectiveness"  
\$8,625

WILLIAM B. SCHWARTZ  
Medicine  
Sponsor: The Brookings Institution  
"The Impact of Molecular Medicine on Health Care and on Society Between 2000 and 2050"  
\$140,882

EUGENE SOBEL  
Preventive Medicine  
Sponsor: Department of Defense Medical Research Acquisition Activity  
"Low Melatonin Production During Adulthood: A Possible Genetic Susceptibility Factor for Breast Cancer Incidence (BC996138)"  
\$81,750

RAJINDAR SOHAL  
Pharmacy  
Sponsor: Hill's Pet Nutrition, Inc & Subsidiaries

"SAM Mouse and Antioxidants"  
\$120,000

J.P. VAN DER MEULEN  
Medicine  
Sponsor: National Center for Research Resources  
"General Clinical Research Center"  
\$6,589,694

RUTH WOOD  
Cell and Neurobiology  
Sponsor: National Institute of Drug Abuse  
"Neurobiology of Androgen Reward"  
\$812,917

JOANNE ZAHORSKY-REEVES,  
DONALD V. CRAMER  
Cardiothoracic Surgery  
Sponsor: National Center for Research Resources  
"The Use of Primates for Human Xenotransplantation"  
\$390,391

## Maynard Levenick, clinical faculty member

Longtime Keck School of Medicine clinical faculty member Maynard Norwood Anton Levenick, Jr. died unexpectedly on May 19, 2001, while attending his son's graduation at Boston College. He was 59.

Born in Columbia, S.C., Levenick studied at the University of California, earning a bachelor's degree in chemistry. He graduated with honors from the USC School of Medicine.

Upon completion of his internship at Los Angeles County General Hospital, he volunteered for duty in Vietnam where he served as Battalion Surgeon for the First Air Cavalry Division and earned the Bronze Star and Air Medal.

After his discharge, Levenick commenced his residency in diagnostic radiology at County General; in 1975, he entered private practice with the Metropolitan Radiology Medical Group at the Good Samaritan Hospital.

He remained with this practice for a quarter century. Ever the teacher, he served as voluntary clinical faculty at the Keck School of Medicine, eventually attaining full professorship.

He leaves his wife, Kathleen Edson Levenick, his wife of nearly 30 years, and sons Christopher, 26; Ryan, 24; John, 21; and Brendan, 19. He is also survived by his mother, Mary, of Pasadena, his sister, Marylani Shirey, of Arlington, VA; his brother, Daniel, of Pasadena, and four nieces and three nephews.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Maynard N. Levenick, Jr., M.D., Memorial Scholarship Fund at Loyola High School of Los Angeles.

## USC professor receives clean air award

The Coalition for Clean Air has given this year's Carl Moyer Award to Henry Gong, professor of medicine and preventive medicine and director of the Southern California Children's Environmental Health Center.

The Carl Moyer Award is given out annually by the coalition for scientific leadership and technical excellence.

"I was surprised, honored and pleased, particularly because the award is associated with Dr. Moyer's outstanding reputation," said Gong. He received the award at a luncheon on May 17 held at the downtown Regal

Biltmore Hotel.

Moyer was a renowned mechanical engineer who transcended environmental politics by trying to bridge the gap between industry and environmentalists. He died in 1997.

As director of the Children's Environmental Health Center, Gong is currently looking at the health effects of inhaled outdoor particulates on both healthy individuals and those with asthma.

The Coalition for Clean Air is a non-profit organization dedicated to restoring clean and healthy air to California.

## SMOKE: Peer influences vary widely

Continued from Page 1

30 days or were open to trying a cigarette than were white students. Asian-American and African-American students were least susceptible to smoking.

Most socially based smoking-prevention programs try to teach teens to say no and correct their conceptions about how common smoking is among their peers. "However, if peer influences vary across ethnic groups, these prevention programs may not be equally effective across ethnic groups," the authors said. "The results of this study suggest that ethnic minority adolescents from collectivist cultural backgrounds may smoke for reasons other than peer pressure."

Added Unger: "As the U.S. population becomes increasingly multicultural, it will become increasingly important to develop adolescent smoking prevention programs that will be relevant and effective for adolescents of diverse cultural backgrounds."

Data were collected as part of the Independent Evaluation of the California Tobacco Control, Prevention and Education Program, which was funded by

the state tobacco tax through a contract with the Gallup Organization, USC and Stanford University.

Jennifer B. Unger, Louise Ann Rohrbach, Tess Boley Cruz, Lourdes Baezconde-Garbanati, Kim Ammann Howard, Paula H. Palmer and C. Anderson Johnson, *Ethnic Variation in peer influences on adolescent smoking: Nicotine & Tobacco Research*, Vol 3, No. 2, June, 2001.

—Alicia Di Rado

## Music is the best medicine on June 8

A former Keck School faculty member and LAC+USC Medical Center emergency medicine resident is bringing the musical side of medicine to Los Angeles tonight—and USC community members are invited.

The "Music—The Best Medicine" variety show, featuring performances by about 80 students, alumni and staff members from the Dalhousie University School of Medicine, will take place in Culver City on Friday, June 8.

Proceeds from the show will go to Sojourn Services for Battered Women and Their Children in Santa Monica.

The show will take place at 7:30 p.m. at Culver City Veterans Auditorium, 4117 Overland Ave. in Culver City. Tax-deductible tickets cost \$15 for the general public and \$10 for students and seniors, and are free for children under five. For information or tickets, contact Deirdre Anglin, associate professor of clinical emergency medicine, 226-6675 or by e-mail at [anglin@hsc.usc.edu](mailto:anglin@hsc.usc.edu).

# Calendar

### Monday, June 11

Noon. "Cofactor Expression and Function During Skeletal Muscle Differentiation," George Muscat, Univ. of Queensland, Australia. AHC Aud., Room 102. Info: 442-1145

2 p.m. "Mechanisms of Pathogenic Bacterial Activation of NF- $\kappa$ B Through the I $\kappa$ B Kinase," Joseph DiDonato, Learner Research Inst., Norris Tower 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Conf. Ctr. Info: 865-0644

### Tuesday, June 12

8 a.m. Cancer Center Grand Rounds. "Clinical and Biological Implications of DNA Methylation Changes in Cancer," Peter Laird, USC. Norris Tower 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Conf. Ctr. Info: 865-0800

8:45 a.m. – Noon. New Staff Orientation (Part I), Personnel Services. KAMB-40/42. Info: 442-2315

11 a.m. Endocrinology and Diabetes Grand Rounds. "Management of Gestational Diabetes," Thomas Buchanan, USC. AHC Aud., Room 102. Info: 442-5100

### Wednesday, June 13

7 a.m. Medicine Grand Rounds. "Hepatitis C," Maurizio Bonacini, USC. GNH Room 1645. Info: 226-7591

### Thursday, June 14

9 – 11 a.m. New Staff Orientation (Part II), Personnel Services. KAMB-40/42. Info: 442-2315

### Friday, June 15

8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. 32nd Annual Doheny Days. "Evolution of Treatment for Diabetic Retinopathy," George Baerveldt, American Academy of ophthalmology, DEI third floor conf. room. Info: 442-6427

### Saturday, June 16

8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. 32nd Annual Doheny Days. "Evolution-Based Management of Herpetic eye Disease," Dan B. Jones, Baylor College of Medicine, DEI third floor conf. room. Info: 442-6427.

### Monday, June 18

1:30 p.m. "Modifiable Risk Factors for Obesity: An Epidemiological Approach," Alison Field, Obesity Nutrition Research Ctr. Norris Tower 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Conf. Ctr. Info: 865-0801

### Tuesday, June 19

8 a.m. Cancer Center Grand Rounds. "Not All Cell Cycles are Born Equal," Baruch Frenkel, USC. Norris Tower 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Conf. Ctr. Info: 865-0800

8:45 a.m. – Noon. New Staff Orientation (Part I), Personnel Services. KAM 308. Info: 442-2315

11 a.m. Endocrinology and Diabetes Grand Rounds. "Imaging of the Sella," John Go, USC. AHC Aud., Room 102. Info: 442-5100

12:15 p.m. Psychiatry Grand Rounds. "Rethinking Genetic Determinism in Mice and Men," Daniel Holschneider, USC. Hoffman Hall, Hastings Aud. Info: 226-5551

### Wednesday, June 20

7 a.m. Medicine Grand Rounds. "Mucromycosis," Françoise Kramer, USC. GNH 1645. Info: 226-7591

### Thursday, June 21

9 – 11 a.m. New Staff Orientation (Part

Notice: Deadline for calendar submission is 4 p.m. Tuesday to be considered for that week's issue. Please note that timely submission does not guarantee an item will be printed. Send calendar items to HSC Weekly, DEI 2510 or fax to 442-2832, or e-mail to [lpatt@hsc.usc.edu](mailto:lpatt@hsc.usc.edu). Entries must include day, date, time, title of talk, first and last name of speaker, affiliation of speaker, location, and a phone number for information.

The HSC Calendar is online at  
<http://www.usc.edu/hsc/calendar.html>

USC Health Sciences  
Public Relations  
1450 San Pablo Street  
DEI 2510  
Los Angeles, CA 90033

II), Personnel Services. KAM 308. Info: 442-2315

9 a.m. "Designer Polymer Therapeutics: A Universal Vehicle for Drug, Gene and Transcellular Delivery?" Ruth Duncan, Univ. of Wales. PSC 104. Info: 442-1451

### Friday, June 22

10 a.m. "Animal Operons: Processing of C. Elegans Polycistronic Pre-mRNAs," Thomas Blumenthal, Univ. of Colorado. Norris Tower 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Conf. Ctr. Info: 442-1145

### Tuesday, June 26

8 a.m. Cancer Center Grand Rounds. "Radioguided Surgery," Douglas Reintgen, Moffit Cancer Ctr. Norris Tower 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Conf. Ctr. Info: 865-0800

8:45 a.m. – Noon. New Staff Orientation (Part I), Personnel Services. KAM 308. Info: 442-2315

11 a.m. Division of Endocrinology and Diabetes Grand Rounds. "Endocrine Hypertension," Vincent DeQuattro, USC. AHC Aud., Room 102. Info: 442-5100

12:15 p.m. Psychiatry Grand Rounds. "Update of Patients' Rights in Relation to Seclusion and Restraint," David Engleman, USC. Hoffman Hall, Hastings Aud. Info: 226-5551

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