

\$1.4 million grant targets tobacco use

Education about tobacco industry marketing in the Latino community and advocacy about second-hand smoke are only a few of the upcoming public health campaigns launched through a new \$1.4 million state grant to the Hispanic/Latino Tobacco Education Network, based at USC.

California's Tobacco Control Section granted the money to the network in July as an extension to a \$2 million grant that ended last year. Lourdes Baezconde-Garbanati, assistant professor for research in preventive medicine at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, directs the network.

Participants in the statewide network just completed their 10th year of educating Latino communities about tobacco's effects on health, and they plan to keep going. "This new grant will allow us to continue serving Hispanic communities all over the state of California," Baezconde-Garbanati said.

The network is based at the USC Institute for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Research, and aims to develop leaders among Latinos—especially youth—who advocate for Latino health statewide through efforts to discourage tobacco use.

Through a campaign called "Regale Salud" (Spanish for "give the gift of health") the network plans to target environmental tobacco smoke indoors and outdoors. Anti-tobacco experts will work with labor unions, employers, apartment buildings and public housing projects to explore how to implement voluntary controls on second-hand smoke.

Another campaign dubbed "Dinero Sabio" ("smart money") will shine light on tobacco marketing and sponsorship of Latino organizations, businesses and other groups for community and cultural events.

Other initiatives include a multi-cultural conference in 2002 that will bring together African Americans, Africans, American Indians, Asians and Pacific Islanders, and Latinos to discuss tobacco issues, as well as workshops to teach cultural skills for interacting with Latino community groups. The network also will provide Latino organizations with technical assistance and training on tobacco-control issues.

In addition, the network will continue awarding small grants to community-based organizations to create innovative tobacco-control programs throughout the state, and will keep up its partnerships in developing ethnic media campaigns in California.

The Tobacco Control Section, part of the California Department of Health Services' Cancer Control Branch, was created to implement programs to reduce tobacco use.

Programs are funded through a state surtax on cigarettes authorized by the California Tobacco Tax and Health Promotion Act of 1988 (Proposition 99).

—Alicia Di Rado



Jon Nallick

THEY'RE BA-ACK—Students filled the HSC Quad during lunch Tuesday as classes resumed for the new academic year.

Keck School neurosurgeon receives top international honor

The Secretariat of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (WFNS) in Geneva, will award USC neurosurgeon Michael L.J. Apuzzo its William Beecher Scoville Prize at opening ceremonies of the Federation's September 2001 World Congress in Sydney, Australia.

The WFNS is the world's largest neurosurgical society, comprised of more than 90 societies throughout the world. The Scoville Prize is awarded every four years to the neurosurgeon who is considered to have made the principal contribution to the "art and science of neurosurgery on an international scale." In deter-

mining the recipient, eight nominees from each continent are nominated to an international panel of academic and political luminaries.



Michael L.J. Apuzzo

William Scoville was a Yale neurological surgeon who made numerous contributions to the practical and intellectual content of the field of neurosurgery. He continues to be remembered for important innovations in operative instrumentation and his novel ideas related to intracranial and spinal neurosurgery.

Apuzzo, a former Scoville pupil, is the Edwin M. Todd/Trent H. Wells, Jr. Professor of Neurological Surgery and radiation oncology, biology and

physics at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. Since beginning his faculty course at USC in 1973, he has focused on refining cerebral surgery concepts, advanced neuro-oncology, and the transfer of aerospace technology to the operating room and other areas of patient care.

Apuzzo has been an ardent advocate of the international exchange of ideas and the concept of unified global education. He is editor of the journal *Neurosurgery*, and an initiator of electronic and digital informational exchange within the neurosurgical field.

In October, he will be the Honored Guest Laureate of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons at its 51st annual meeting in San Diego.

—Jon Weiner

USC/Norris joins international prostate cancer study

USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center will participate in the world's largest prostate cancer prevention study, researchers recently announced.

USC/Norris is part of the Southwest Oncology Group, a cluster of centers participating in the Selenium and Vitamin E Cancer Prevention Trial, or SELECT. Researchers seek healthy male participants age 55 and older for the study, which will determine if the two dietary supplements can protect against prostate cancer. The National Cancer Institute (NCI) oversees the study.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer (other than skin cancer) in men.

More than 400 sites in the United States, Puerto

Rico, and Canada are recruiting participants for SELECT, which will take up to 12 years to complete and will include a total of 32,400 men.

"SELECT is the first study designed to look directly at the effects of vitamin E and selenium, both separately and together, in preventing prostate cancer," said Eila Skinner, associate professor of clinical urology at the Keck School and SELECT's principle investigator at USC/Norris. "Previous research involving vitamin E and selenium suggested that these nutrients might prevent prostate cancer, but we don't know for sure. When SELECT is finished we will know whether these supplements can prevent prostate cancer."

This year, physicians will diagnose prostate cancer in about 198,100 Americans, and more than 31,500 men are expected to die of the disease. In California, 17,500 men will get prostate cancer and 2,800 men will die of it. Risk factors include being over age 55, being African-American, or having a father or brother with prostate cancer.

Because the disease tends to hit African-American men at a younger age, they will be eligible to enroll in the study at age 50, compared to age 55 for others. There is no upper age limit for participation. Selenium and vitamin E, both naturally occurring nutrients, are antioxidants. They can

See **PROSTATE**, Page 2

Cardiologist Vincent DeQuattro, professor of medicine, 67

Vincent DeQuattro, professor of medicine at the University of Southern California and a 35-year member of the Keck School of Medicine faculty, died Aug. 17 in Hawaii, after a heart attack during an ocean snorkeling excursion. He was 67.

Vito Campese, a friend and colleague for more than 25 years, described DeQuattro as an warm and engaging physician who maintained strong personal relationships with his patients and their families.

"He was just a wonderful human being, a fun person full of life who enjoyed every minute. And he had a laugh that was unique, a crackling loud laugh that was devastating—it could knock you over. We'll all miss his warm personality," Campese added.

Howard Hodis, also a longtime colleague, added that DeQuattro "was the kind of guy who would put his arm around you and make you feel good about yourself, about life, and make you feel like a member of the family. In my mind, that was his biggest personality characteristic."

"His loss is a great loss to his family, his friends, to USC and the field [of cardiology]. Everybody's going to miss him," Hodis added.

DeQuattro, a dedicated physician and researcher whose pride in his Italian and Irish

immigrant heritage played a key role in how he lived his life, was born in Lawrence, Mass. in 1933. He attended Central Catholic High School in Lawrence before moving to Pasadena California where he graduated from Pasadena High School.

He earned his bachelor's degree at the University of California at San Francisco and, in 1960, earned his medical degree at George Washington University Medical School in Washington D.C.

DeQuattro completed his residency in internal medicine at the LAC+USC Medical Center and performed his fellowship in cardiovascular disease at LAC+USC Medical Center and White Medical Center in Los Angeles.

From 1964 to 1966, he served in the U.S. Public Health Service as a clinical associate and senior assistant surgeon at the Experimental Therapies Branch of the NHI-NIH.

In 1964, he also joined the Keck School of Medicine as an assistant professor of medicine and held several positions in the years that followed, including serving as chief of the Hypertension Service at LAC+USC Medical Center since 1974. In 1984, he received the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award from George Washington University.

DeQuattro was a member of the Fourth Joint



Vincent DeQuattro, in an undated photo

National Committee on Detection, Evaluation and Treatment of High Blood Pressure in 1988 and an author of the report of the Sixth Joint National Committee in 1997.

He was a member of the High Blood Pressure Council of the American Heart Association, the American Society of Hypertension, the International Society of Hypertension and a fellow of the American College of Cardiology and the American College of Physicians.

Author of more than 140 peer reviewed articles and more than 40 chapters in medical texts, DeQuattro's research focused on the causes, prevention and treatment of hypertension and heart failure.

A South Pasadena resident, DeQuattro was also active in community service, most notably in helping run Little League and Babe Ruth Baseball programs and managing teams in South Pasadena from 1968 to 1976.

DeQuattro was the son of Louis P. and Esther G. DeQuattro. He is survived by his wife, Dr. De-Ping (Deborah) Li DeQuattro, assistant professor of research medicine at the Keck School of Medicine, stepdaughters Sarah Li and Victoria Xu, his children Michael, Vincent Jr., John, Gina Chandler, (children of his deceased wife Jeanette), and Kimberly DeQuattro (daughter of Eiko); four grandchildren, Sophia, Vincent III (children of Vincent DeQuattro, Jr. and Mendy McIntyre); Jacqueline and Christopher (children of Gina and Dan Chandler), and brothers Paul and Jim and sister Jo'Ann DeQuattro.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, August 24, 2001 at 7 p.m. at Holy Family Church, 1501 Fremont, South Pasadena. Visitation is scheduled for Friday, August 24, 2001 from 2 to 5 p.m. at Cabot & Sons Mortuary, 300 N. Fair Oaks, Pasadena.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations be made to the White Memorial Medical Center Charitable Foundation in memory of Vincent DeQuattro, M.D.

Contributions can be mailed to 1720 E. Cesar Chavez Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90033.

—Jon Nalick

Magazine names three from USC as 'top black physicians'

Three physicians on the faculty of the Keck School of Medicine of USC have been named tops in their fields by *Black Enterprise* magazine. Orthopedic surgeon Lytton Williams, radiologist Oscar Streeter Jr. and cardiologist L. Julian Haywood were named in the magazine's list of Top 100 Black Physicians. The list appears in the magazine's August issue.

Williams specializes in spinal surgery and focuses on spinal reconstruction. Many of the procedures he performs are with the help of recent inventions—many of his own making—which he believes may have helped his being chosen by the magazine.

"I love creating the inventions," he says. "I've been doing spines for 22 years. I've seen the development and used all of the other inventions and that puts me at an advantage to know what the market needs and where we're headed."

Currently he's performing total disc replacement surgery using discs made of titanium and plastic.

Streeter says his community outreach probably helped him make the list

"Partly I think I was picked because I do work at USC, participate in clinical trials and do a lot of community work. I think that reflects well on the university. It's always been encouraged," Streeter



USC physicians Lytton Williams, Oscar Streeter Jr., and L. Julian Haywood appear in the August issue of *Black Enterprise*.

said. "That's a positive reflection on my chairman, Zbigniew Petrovich, who's allowed me to do this for 11 years."

Having three doctors represented on the list reflects well on the university, said LAC+USC cardiologist, Julian Haywood. "USC has very talented minority faculty and should make a strong effort to broaden its component of minority faculty to serve the very diverse population that we are fortunate to have."

Haywood says the stimulating environment at LAC+USC, which helps him teach, learn and conduct clinical trials all in a single facility, likely helped him make the list of top physicians, in addition to his unique contributions to medical literature.

It is the first time since 1988 that the magazine has published such a list and was marked by a July luncheon and press conference at Howard University, a preeminent educator of African American physicians.

—Jon Weiner

PROSTATE: Study will examine effect of four pill combinations

Continued from page 1

neutralize toxins known as free radicals that might otherwise damage the genetic material of cells and possibly lead to cancer. These nutrients were chosen for study due to results of two previous large cancer prevention trials.

Study investigators hope to follow each participant for at least seven years.

Study participants in Los Angeles will visit USC/Norris once every six months.

Upon enrollment, they will be assigned ran-

domly to receive one of four combinations of pills daily: vitamin E and selenium, vitamin E and placebo, selenium and placebo, or two placebos.

Men may be eligible if they are age 55 or older (age 50 or older for African-American men), have never had prostate cancer and have not had any other cancer—except non-melanoma skin cancer—in the last five years, and are generally in good health.

Other local SELECT sites include City of

Hope in Duarte and UC Irvine.

Those interested in joining the study at USC/Norris may call Teresa Snyder at 865-0459.

For more information about the study or prostate cancer, call the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service at 1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237), visit NCI's Web site at <http://cancer.gov/select> or visit the Southwest Oncology Group Web site at <http://swog.org> and choose SELECT.

—Alicia Di Rado

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Editor: Jon Nalick
Executive Director of Public Relations: Brenda Maceo
Director: Brenda Maceo
Vice President, University Public Relations: Martha Harris

Contributors: Chrissie Castro, Alicia Di Rado, Alfred Kildow, Brenda Maceo, Jon Nalick, Lori Olivenstein, LaCarol Pratt, Richard Stone, Mary Ellen Stumpf, Jon Weiner and Carol Varma

323/442-2830
FAX: 323/442-2832
hscwkly@hsc.usc.edu
www.usc.edu/hsc/info/pr/

Research implicates protein in type-2 diabetes

Sure, cells in the pancreas produce insulin—but diabetes investigators from the Keck School of Medicine of USC are hunting down the role that a second, less-familiar substance secreted by these same cells plays in type-2 diabetes.

Besides producing insulin, beta cells in the pancreas secrete a protein called human islet amyloid polypeptide, or IAPP.

In healthy people, this protein is released along with insulin into the blood, where it is thought to work as a hormone that helps regulate blood sugar. When it is released in people with type-2 diabetes, though, the protein starts to form thread-like chains, becoming an abnormal, insoluble deposit known as amyloid.

At the same time, beta cells begin to self-destruct through a process known as apoptosis, according to research presented at the American Diabetes Association's 61st Annual Scientific Sessions in June.

Scientists have long known that as many as 90 percent of type-2 diabetes patients are found to have plaques made up of stringy protein—amyloid deposits—in the pancreas after death. So, it makes sense that IAPP might play a part in killing off beta cells.

"IAPP appears only to be harmful when it forms abnormal aggregates, leading to beta cell death," said Peter Butler, USC professor of medicine and chief of the division of endocrinology, who set up the most recent studies to confirm that observation.

Butler noted that people with type-2 diabetes have a reduced number of beta cells, even though scientists recently found that beta cells can regenerate. Why doesn't the pancreas replace lost beta cells in those with type-2 diabetes?

"We wanted to see if the cells that are trying to divide and repair the lost beta cells are, themselves, particularly vulnerable to cell death from IAPP aggregates, as we suspected," Butler explained. "If this is the case, it would explain why the beta cell population remains low."

Butler and colleagues set out to determine how forms of IAPP are toxic to cells (for example, if cell death happens through apoptosis, a sort of cellular suicide), how quickly cell death occurs and which cells are most vulnerable.

They put living cells in a solution of abnormal IAPP aggregates and observed that cells began to die six to 12 hours later. The researchers found that the IAPP aggregates were most toxic to actively replicating cells, as suspected; and of the cells that died, about 90 percent perished through apoptosis.

Yet, normal human beta cells pro-

duce IAPP. Why doesn't IAPP kill beta cells in healthy people free from type-2 diabetes?

Butler theorizes that beta cells in healthy people are able to channel IAPP through the cell without it forming the toxic form of the protein.

People vulnerable to type-2 diabetes, Butler said, may have a genetically decreased capacity to traffic IAPP. That poses no problem if they only produce small amounts of the protein, as is true in athletic and lean people. However, with increasing weight and sedentary lifestyle—well known risk factors for type-2 diabetes—the amount of IAPP from each beta cell increases dramatically.

Microscope video supports protein-diabetes link

Robert Ritzel sees life and death in a simple petri dish.

At first glance, the clear, round plastic container seems ordinary and still. But within it, once-vital human cells are dying—and that's good news.

Their deaths give further life to the pioneering work of a team of Keck School diabetes researchers, and advance scientific knowledge about how cells in the pancreas, called beta cells, decline and fail in people with diabetes.

Ritzel, a postdoctoral fellow in the lab of Peter Butler, USC professor of medicine and chief of the division of endocrinology, steadfastly monitors experiments designed to test his theories on beta cells. And he is using a one-of-a-kind gizmo he concocted at USC to do it.

"It costs as much as a Ferrari," Ritzel said of the creation, "and it took about 10 months to get it working."

It is a video microscope, and it allows Ritzel and his colleagues to watch and record what happens to individual living beta cells over time. That sounds simple enough, but no one has yet been able to do it in a dependable way—until now.

Human beta cells sit in the petri dish, which lies on the viewing platform of a powerful inverted microscope. A thin metal plate on the dish conducts current and keeps cells consistently warm, while tiny tubes usher oxygen and carbon dioxide into and out of the dish, enveloping cells in a supportive environment.

A camera hooked up to the microscope snaps electronic photographs of the cells every few minutes and records them on a computer. When the photos are played back on a computer monitor in succession, they become a sort of cellular movie, showing cells repro-



Butler believes that it is under these conditions that cells begin to accumulate abnormal aggregates of IAPP, which in turn lead

to beta cell destruction, in people genetically vulnerable to type-2 diabetes.

In a second study, Butler and colleagues showed that IAPP aggregates also seem to disrupt the integrity of groups of islet cells. (Islets of Langerhans are clusters of beta cells and other cells found in the pancreas.)

Researchers used a novel technique to produce a video image of living islets. They applied IAPP aggregates to the islets, then watched what happened.

ducing and dying.

That matters because experiments done with the technology may provide hard proof that Ritzel, Butler and their colleagues are on the right track in their investigations to understand why the number of beta cells decline in people with diabetes.

Beta cells make up a portion of cell clusters in the pancreas known as the islets of Langerhans. These beta cells produce insulin, but also secrete a protein called human islet amyloid polypeptide, or IAPP.

A small amount of this protein is released along with insulin into the blood, where it is thought to help regulate blood sugar.

Ritzel and Butler theorize that in people with type 2 diabetes, a form of this protein actually damages beta cells, while in healthy people, it is transported away from beta cells before it becomes harmful.

The capacity to deal with IAPP might vary according to a person's genetic makeup, Ritzel said.

To illustrate, obesity is widely recognized as a major risk factor for diabetes, he noted, "yet 80 percent of obese people do not get diabetes. We think the difference may be how they handle the peptide, based on their genetic makeup."

But if beta cells can reproduce, why can't the body replace the cells killed by IAPP? Butler and his team theorize that IAPP hurts vital, reproducing cells the most. Over time, cells fail both to appropriately expand and meet increased requirements for insulin caused by obesity.

Proving that idea to the scientific community, though, is where Ritzel's gizmo comes in.

When Ritzel first applies a solution of IAPP to the beta cells in his dish,

Through the time-lapse video, researchers saw that applying IAPP caused the human islets to grow larger, like a swelling sponge. At the same time, clustered cells became less attached to each other, and cells on the surface of the cluster began to detach themselves.

Researchers propose that the small IAPP chains can hurt the islets by disrupting their integrity. The mechanism is consistent with previous studies indicating IAPP aggregates disrupt membranes.

Such research may help medical scientists who are venturing into the world of islet cell transplantation. Some physicians have transplanted islets from healthy donor pancreases into the liver of patients with type-1 diabetes, so that the new donor cells

begin to produce insulin. But in addition to the challenges of rejection faced in organ transplant operations, such patients face another problem: the body's immune system may continue to attack the transplanted islet cells the same way it destroyed the original islet cells.

"This newly found mechanism of islet disruption may contribute to human islet vulnerability after islet transplantation," Butler noted. "The more we know about how islets fail, the more successful we may be in keeping them functioning."

Researchers in the apoptosis study included Robert A. Ritzel and Chand Sultana. Authors of the second study included Ritzel, Marianna Torok and Ralf Langen.

—Alicia Di Rado



Alicia Di Rado

Researcher Robert Ritzel replenishes a dish containing human beta cells before returning the plate to a video microscope set up in an endocrinology division lab.

cells continue to divide as usual. But after six hours, the video images get interesting.

"You can see that this cell just divided," Ritzel said, pointing at the computer monitor. But after the cell splits in two, the new cells seem to disintegrate.

"They just fell apart."

The videos show it consistently. About 50 percent of cells that are actively dividing undergo apoptosis, or cellular suicide, while only 5 to 6 percent of non-dividing cells die.

Something about the process of cellular division makes the cells vulnerable to IAPP, Ritzel said. When human cells become abnormal, they are programmed to self-destruct through apoptosis—a normal, healthy process that ordinarily protects the body from diseases such as cancer. In this case, though, it means the death and decline of beta cells, which characterizes diabetes—or at least that is what the group is trying to show.

"This tool gives us the opportunity to study living tissue in real time," Ritzel noted. "Then analysis follows and so far the results support our hypothesis."

Ritzel, who is on a postdoctoral fellowship funded by the German government, is excited about pushing on the cutting edge of diabetes research. IAPP was not his initial field (he worked clinically on diabetes and in clinical diabetes research in Germany for four years before joining Butler's lab), but today he proudly notes that the group is one of only a handful in the nation pursuing the role of IAPP in diabetes.

Many people have contacted the lab, wanting to visit and see the time-lapse video microscopy setup for themselves.

"We're now working on finishing our first paper including experiments with the novel microscope setup," he said. "Then we'll be able to share experiences with everyone."

—Alicia Di Rado

Pharmacologist mixes research, teaching with native American wisdom

As they walk into Jim Adams' class, a group of his students gaze at his artistry—an immense Cux, a Chumash Indian headdress, made of luxuriant black hawk feathers and a Pach, a traditional Chumash hand-woven skirt made of tree fiber.

If Adams wasn't already an associate professor of pharmacology, he might be mistaken for an aspiring artisan—or perhaps a medicine man—for he has become an expert in California Native American culture. After further inspection by the class, Adams begins his lecture on local medicinal plants by sharing the quiet history of California Native Americans

The Chumash, he explained, populated California's central and southern coast for 13,000 years prior to the Spanish missionaries gain control of their lands. They revered medicinal plants due to an important legend that tells how when their homeland, the Channel Islands, became too crowded, Xoy, the creator god, solved the problem by dividing the tribe into two.

"Half of the tribe walked across a

rainbow bridge to the top of Mount Pinos near Santa Barbara," he explained. As they crossed the bridge, some fell into the sea.

Xoy took pity and changed them into dolphins. The Mount Pinos people became the Ka'ikiku, or brothers of the dolphins, and the people of the islands became the Molmolokiku. Xoy asked them to create plants for the Ka'ikiku to use for survival. When they were done, he took the Molmolokiku with him into the afterlife. "The Chumash still pray to their kin before each plant's use," Adams said, "since it is viewed as an ancestral offering."

Adams uses the story to illustrate the rich spiritual history of medicinal plants in California, and their traditional and modern uses. As pharmacists, knowing common uses along with the active ingredients of a plant can be of great benefit.

Willow, he said, is found in streambeds across Southern California and contains a form of aspirin. The Chumash Indians chewed on it to alleviate head and tooth aches. Yerba mansa, also known as swamp

root or lizard tail, was used as a tea to treat cuts and sores, venereal diseases, asthma, kidney and urinary tract disorders, and as a bath for arthritis.

Washtiqoliqol, or California Rose, was made into a tea to help babies with colic, teething and constipation. The petals were also dried and crushed into baby powder.

Adams became intrigued with medicinal plant use while reading a book about Chumash Indian legend. He was on the hunt for a drug that mitigated brain injury associated with stroke, and a legend in which a plant was used to awaken people from near death sounded promising.

Though he has yet to find exactly what plant this legend was founded on, it hasn't stopped him from investigating. Like carefully collected clues, he keeps hundreds of photos of each species and variety of native plants he has come across in California wrapped tightly in a binder. With his findings, he plans to write a book in which native uses and associated legends are placed beside their pharmacological context.

For Adams, teaching the uses and

sacredness of medicinal plants is a natural progression of learning about them.

"The first thing a native does with a medicinal plant is pray," he said. "I have embraced that respect for medi-

cine, and I think my students also understand that connection. It's a special lesson that they just don't get in their everyday pharmacology class."

—Christie Castro

Calendar

Tuesday, August 28

12:15 p.m. Tuesday Speakers' Forum. "Clinical Case Presentation: A Legal Dilemma," Akikur Mohammad, USC. Hoffman Hall, Hastings Aud. Info: 226-4945

Wednesday, August 29

7 a.m. Department of Medicine Grand Rounds. "Testicular Cancer," Derek Raghavan, USC. GNH 1645. Info: 226-7591

4:30 p.m. Cardiology Interventional Journal Club. Shahbudin Rahimtoola, USC. GNH 7420. Info: 442-5482

Thursday, August 30

Noon. Cardiology Core Curriculum Lecture. "Congenital Heart Disease I," Ruben Acherman, USC. GNH 7420. Info: 442-5482

Thursday, September 13

Noon. Liver Disease Research Seminar "CXC Chemokine in Angiogenesis," Robert Strieter, UCLA. AHC Aud., Room 102. Info: 442-1800

Thursday, September 20

Noon. Liver Disease Research Seminar "Genetically Engineered Human Pancreatic Beta Cell Lines," Fred Levine, UCSD. AHC Aud., Room 102. Info: 442-1800

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. 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.

Students laud faculty for dedication to classroom

Recognizing several faculty members for their excellence and dedication in teaching, the USC chapter of the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) held its faculty awards ceremony on Aug. 10.

Tara Waterman, president of the Keck School's AMSA chapter, said the awards recognize teachers whose extraordinary dedication of time and care in the preparation of lectures reflected "a true commitment to medical student education."

Award recipients for the 2000-2001 academic year were:

- Ruth Wood, associate professor of cell and neurobiology, who was named Best New Faculty Lecturer Award for her "interactive, engaging, and dynamic" endocrine/reproductive physiology lectures;

- Mark Selleck, assistant professor of cell and neurobiology, who received the Best New Faculty Learning Aid Award for his PlayDoh models of the pelvis and perineum;

- Austin Mircheff, professor of physiology and biophysics, who received the Best Established Faculty Learning Aid Award for his gastroin-

testinal physiology hand-outs, and

- Roscoe Atkinson, assistant professor of clinical pathology, who received the Best Established Faculty Lecture for his auditory neuroanatomy lecture and for creating a "phenomenal" accompanying DVD presentation of the auditory neuroanatomy.

In addition, the Multidiscipline Lab Staff received the Most Significant Contribution to Medical Education Award for troubleshooting and solving lecturers' technical glitches during lectures.

—Jon Nalick

PDA fair on Sept. 10 shows what's new in handhelds

The Norris Library is sponsoring a "PDA Fair" Sept. 10, but it has nothing to do with public displays of affection.

The fair, which runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. is designed to familiarize people interested in purchasing personal digital assistants, such as the Palm Pilot, with their use and also to teach owners of PDAs about new uses and applications now available.

The outdoor exhibit will be held in front of the Norris

Medical Library and formal product demonstrations will be provided in the library's microcomputer classroom and conference room.

The event is free and open to all USC students, staff and faculty. For more information, visit the Web site at www.usc.edu/nmi/spotlight/index.html or e-mail pcorley@usc.edu.

—Jon Nalick

MFWA offers mini-grants for women faculty members

The USC Medical Faculty Women's Association Research Fund has a limited number of research "mini-grants" available to women faculty of the Health Sciences Campus.

The maximum award is \$3,000. Proposals are currently being accepted for seed money for preliminary work on new ideas, short-term interim funding and—under spe-

cial circumstances—attendance at a research workshop or course.

The deadline for submission of a proposal is September 1. Application forms may be obtained from the Office for Women, Keith Administration building (KAM), Room 100F and from the Norris Medical Library, MFWA Reserve Box #32. For more information, call 442-2554.

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

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