



Keck School of Medicine department chairs toured the new HCC II building's offices and examination rooms on May 12 after a meeting to prepare the School for a transition in leadership.

Keck School prepares smooth leadership transition

As part of a series of meetings scheduled during Stephen J. Ryan's last 100 days as dean, Ryan met with the Keck School Department Chairs on the morning of May 12 at the newly opened Healthcare Consultation Center II.

The meeting focused on ensuring a smooth transition between Ryan and the newly announced incoming dean, Brian Henderson.

"I met with Brian on Friday, the day after the announcement of his appointment, and again on Tuesday to brief him on various aspects of the school including the budget," Ryan said. "I want to do everything I can to assist Brian as he assumes this leadership position."

Ryan encouraged the chairs to do everything possible to support Henderson for the good of the Keck School of Medicine and emphasized that both of them are committed to doing everything possible to ensure a seamless tran-

sition in leadership.

"In his 13 years as Dean, Dr. Ryan has lead the Keck School of Medicine to the strongest position that it has ever known. We have accomplished a great deal under his leadership. He has developed the foundation upon which to build in the future," said Martin Weiss, chair of the Department of Neurological Surgery. "Dr. Henderson is a figure of international stature who has occupied major positions of leadership in our school and the medical/science community at large. He has the experience and talent to build upon the structure that has been established and to take the school to even greater heights. The faculty is enthusiastically prepared to work with him in this mission."

Ryan will to actively lead the school until June 30. He
See **HCC II**, page 3

'Gene hunter' Patel joins IGM team

Somewhere in the laboratories of the USC Institute for Genetic Medicine, Pragna I. Patel is stalking her prey. Patiently and persistently she explores the human genome in a quest for answers to some of humankind's most unusual diseases.

"We're gene hunters," said Patel, a discoverer of the genes underlying disorders such as Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease, "but when it is feasible, we like to work with our 'catch' — see how the gene is regulated, and how it may be used to design better therapies."

Her pursuits recently landed Patel at the IGM, drawing her away from

her previous faculty position at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, where she was professor of neurology, molecular and human genetics, and neuroscience. Patel is now a professor at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, within the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, as well in the USC School of Dentistry.

Patel's new academic home in Los Angeles is a world away from her beginnings in India, where she grew up the daughter of an organic chemist-geologist-entrepreneur in what she jokingly describes as a

See **PATEL**, page 2

Edward Newton named chair of Emergency Medicine Dept.

Edward Newton, professor of emergency medicine, was named chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine, effective May 1.

Newton has served as interim chair of the department since the previous chair, Gail Anderson, retired in 2002. He had previously served as vice chair for eight years.

David Altman, chief medical officer of the LAC+USC Healthcare Network, praised Newton as "a true leader in the department."

"He's been with LAC+USC [Medical Center] for a long time and he knows it well. He'll be able to provide the continuity and leadership."

Altman added that aside from Newton's expertise and contributions to the field of emergency medicine in published texts, "he has an ability to remain calm in the middle of a storm—which is exactly what happens in our emergency room."

Keck School of Medicine Dean Stephen J. Ryan said, "Ed Newton has done a spectacular job as interim chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine. I was most impressed on meeting with the faculty of the department as to their uniform high regard and support for Ed. They emphasized that with all the changes in L.A. County and in USC, they desire to be represented by a permanent chair rather than by an interim chair."

Ryan added: "I am delighted and share the very high regard of the faculty of emergency medicine for Ed Newton. I encourage all the faculty to join me in wishing Ed the best and in fully supporting him."

The LAC+USC Medical Center houses the busiest emergency department in the nation, seeing about 450 patients daily. Newton said he is both proud and excited to oversee it.

He said the main challenges in his new role would be to deal with the "crisis in access to primary care that has led a lot of people to use emergency departments as their source of primary care. That, plus the fact that a lot of hospitals are closing their emergency departments, and that's putting even more pressure on surviving departments."

Newton said he was eagerly anticipating the department's move in 2007 into the new LAC+USC Medical Replacement Facility, which will provide state-of-the-art treatment areas as well as additional emergency room beds.

"Our goal is to find a way to staff more than double the number of existing beds and incorporate efficiencies from adopting electronic records. Right now,

See **NEWTON**, page 2



Edward Newton



THEY'RE NO. 1!—The departments of Biokinesiology and Physical Therapy and Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy celebrated their top rankings in *U.S. News and World Report* at a reception on May 12. From left, Florence Clark, chair of occupational science and occupational therapy, Vice President for Health Affairs Joseph Van Der Meulen and James Gordon, chair of biokinesiology and physical therapy.

Jon Nailick

PATEL: Researcher tackles broad range of inherited disorders

Continued from page 1

“really boring family of scientists.” Dissatisfied with her rigid master’s degree program in India, she decided to journey to Appalachia—where her sister lived—to earn her doctorate in biochemistry at West Virginia University.

As she proceeded with her postdoctoral training at the Baylor College of Medicine in 1982, studying the rare genetic disorder Lesch-Nyhan Syndrome, she recognized a pivotal movement in medicine—and joined it. “The whole genetic engineering era had just blossomed,” she remembered. “The Nobel Prize for DNA sequencing and recombinant DNA had been awarded; the oncogene had just been discovered.”

Soon she joined Baylor’s faculty within its Institute for Molecular Genetics. Along with co-investigator Jim Lupski, she began searching for the basis behind Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease, or CMT, the most common inherited peripheral neuropathy.

“Within two years, we stumbled upon an unusual mutation in CMT patients. It was so unexpected that we had to use six different approaches to convince our colleagues of our hypothesis,” she said. “There were a dozen

groups around the globe racing to find the genetic basis of CMT. And in our frenzy to publish our fortuitous discovery, we would go to bed at 11 [p.m.] and be up again by 3 [a.m.] to get to the finish.”

Their report of the novel mutational mechanism behind CMT1A, a duplication of 1.5 million base pairs, was published in a 1991 issue of *Cell*. It was immediately made available in a DNA-based test.

And as one disease was demystified, so came others. Neighbor to CMT1A on chromosome 17 was a DNA segment prone to deletion. This deletion was associated with the mental retardation condition called Smith-Magenis Syndrome. “We started enrolling patients from around the world to begin delineating genes that were critical, and present in only one copy in patients,” she said.

Meanwhile, Italian neurologist Massimo Pandolfo had been trying for five years to find the roots of Friedreich’s ataxia, an inherited disease that causes progressive damage to the nerv-



Pragna I. Patel

Larry Kedes

ous system and is the most common inherited ataxia. After he began working with Patel’s team, the neurologist and colleagues happened upon an unexpected genetic finding—one that led to the first DNA-based test for Friedreich’s ataxia in patients.

“That meant that patients who would go from doctor to doctor, without getting a diagnosis, now had a single DNA-based test to tell them if they had it,” Patel said. Patel continues working with diseases such as Charcot-Marie-Tooth to better understand their intricacies.

She also has tackled new targets, such as hypertrichosis—excessive facial hair—and is looking into neurological disorders such as dystonia and tremor. And in a twist that brings her into the USC School of Dentistry, she is now studying the genetic causes of hypodontia, an inherited lack of teeth.

Patel’s latest venture is a ground-breaking study of the genetic variations among people

who speak different Eastern Indian languages, which she hopes will provide an entry point for genetics of complex traits that track within families.

Many of the genetic diseases Patel has studied are rare, occurring in only one person in every 50,000 or so. “That makes them no less important,” she said.

“Most people don’t have an opportunity to make tangible contributions to people with inherited disorders,” she said. “We haven’t found a cure, but for many families who need to understand what the cause of their problem is, we have a DNA test that gives a clearer diagnosis.”

“It’s a huge burden that’s lifted for the families, and I truly feel privileged to have made these contributions.”

—Alicia Di Rado

SERVING UP SCHOLARSHIPS—

Salerni Collegium will host golf and tennis tournaments on June 14 to raise money for scholarships benefiting medical students who otherwise would be unable to attend USC.

The 3rd annual tennis tournament will take place at the Los Angeles Tennis Club and the 21st annual golf tournament will take place at the Wilshire Country Club. For more information or to participate, contact: Elliott Law (323) 442-2361 or at elaw@usc.edu.

Right, Salerni Collegium President George Stoneman with last year’s exhibition players Andrew Park, second-year medical student, and Peter Smith, USC men’s tennis head coach.



University names new Office of Equity and Diversity director

University officials have named Jody Shipper as the new director of the Office of Equity and Diversity, which oversees investigations into matters of sexual harassment, discrimination and other forms of harassment.

Shipper brings more than a decade of human resource and employment law experience to her position as USC. Her previous work included experience as both a director of human resources and as outside counsel on employment matters for a broad range of employers in California.

She has conducted and overseen countless investigations, lectured extensively on inves-

tigative procedures and employment law, and provided counsel to employers on risk management, employment practices and legal compliance. Shipper received her juris doctorate from University of California’s Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco and her bachelor’s degree from Georgetown University.

Shipper began her duties on May 3.

Janis McEldowney, associate senior vice president for administrative operations, announced the appointment May 7 and emphasized the importance of contacting the Office of Equity and Diversity immediately whenever there is reason to suspect that such an incident of sexu-

al harassment or discrimination has taken place.

“Not only is it important to address these complaints quickly, it is important that the investigations be conducted in a manner which is consistent throughout the university, and that those investigations meet the highest standards of fairness, neutrality, due process and discretion to protect the rights of all parties involved and to minimize disruption of the workplace,” McEldowney said.

For questions concerning the services provided by the Office of Equity and Diversity, call (213) 740-5086.

NEWTON: Looks forward to challenges of moving department to new facility

Continued from page 1

we’re planning meticulously our move to that new venue and that’s very exciting,” he said.

Born and raised in Canada, Newton received his medical degree from McGill University in Montreal. He completed his residency in emergency medicine in 1984 and his fellowship in emergency medicine and toxicology in 1985 at

LAC+USC Medical Center.

He served on the faculty of McGill University as an assistant professor of emergency medicine from 1985 until joining the faculty of the Keck School of Medicine as an assistant professor of emergency medicine in 1988. He later served as associate professor and then professor of clinical emergency medicine.

Newton is a member of the American Association of Emergency Physicians, Society for Academic Emergency Medicine, the American College of Emergency Physicians, American Medical Association and the Association of Physicians of Los Angeles County Hospitals Board of Directors.

—Jon Nalick

Be Prepared for Any Emergency...

• USC Web

<http://emergency.usc.edu>

This page will be activated in case of an emergency. Backup Web servers on the East Coast will function if the USC servers are incapacitated.

• Emergency Information

Phone: (213) 740-9233

The emergency telephone system can handle 1,400 simultaneous calls. It also has a backup system on the East Coast.

HSC Weekly

Next Issue: May 21

HSC Weekly is published on Fridays, except for academic holiday periods. Copies are distributed throughout the Health Sciences Campus, University of Southern California. It is written and produced by the staff of Health Sciences Public Relations. Permission to reprint articles with attribution is freely given.

Editor: Jon Nalick

Associate Vice President, Health Sciences

Public Relations: Brenda Maceo

Senior Vice President, University

Relations: Martha Harris

Contributors: Carol Chaplin, Alicia Di Rado, Alfred Kildow, Brenda Maceo, Jon Nalick, Lori Oliwenstein, LaCarol Pratt, Richard Stone and Jon Weiner

(323) 442-2830

FAX: (323) 442-2832

hscwkly@usc.edu

uscnews2.usc.edu/hscweekly/

HBO to host all-star benefit for CHLA

Dozens of celebrities and sports figures will take part in the first HBO All Star Family Sports Jam to benefit Childrens Hospital Los Angeles on Saturday, June 19 at the Barker Hangar in Santa Monica.

The hangar will be transformed into a sports fantasyland featuring star-studded scrimmages, demonstrations and contests in different sports such as hockey, figure skating, basketball, football, baseball, soccer and skateboarding. Billy Crystal and veteran auctioneer Jeff Stokes, will host a live auction featuring very special one-of-a-kind items.

These celebrities are also scheduled to attend: Leonardo DiCaprio, Michael Vartan, Jamie Lee Curtis, Mary Hart, Melissa Gilbert, Esai Morales, Wil Wheaton, and team members from the Los Angeles Galaxy soccer team, Los Angeles Avengers, Los Angeles Kings, the

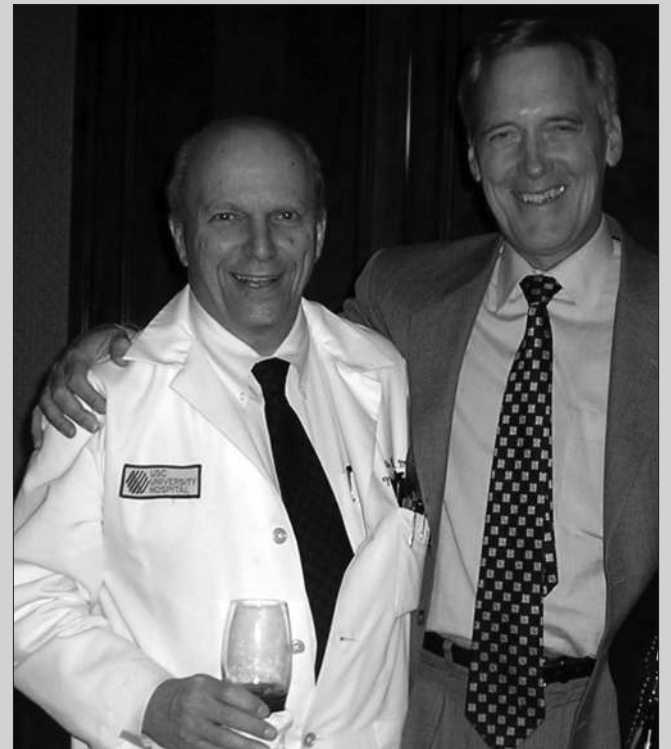
Clippers Spirit dance team and many more. The all-star committee includes these members: Jamie Lee Curtis, Brian and Gigi Grazer, Mary Hart, Jeffrey and Marilyn Katzenberg, Kelly Chapman and Ron Meyer, Leslie Moonves, Edward James Olmos, Michele and Rob Reiner, Robin and Marsha Williams, Jeff Zucker and many more.

Event chair Chris Albrecht, chair and CEO of HBO, says "Childrens Hospital Los Angeles is an exceptional institution that not only focuses on the patient, but also allows the family to be a part of the healing process. One of the things that we need most is to create awareness for this wonderful place of hope and healing. I am extremely proud to sponsor the first ever All Star Sports Jam."

"Childrens Hospital Los Angeles treats the most seriously ill and

injured children in our community, teaches the next generation of pediatricians, and conducts pediatric research that is essential to effectively treat and cure pediatric disease in the future," said Childrens Hospital Los Angeles President and CEO Walter W. "Bill" Noce Jr. "We are enormously grateful to Chris Albrecht and HBO, and the all star committee, who have come together to organize this marvelous day to benefit Childrens Hospital Los Angeles. The proceeds from this event will be used to build a state-of-the-art, 460,000 square-foot new hospital, which will enable us to meet our patient care responsibilities well into the future."

To purchase tickets, call 5B Events at (310) 559-9334. For more information, call Andy Gelb or Kelly Stephens of PMK/HHB at (310) 289-6200.



CELEBRATING DECADES OF SERVICE—The Keck School of Medicine feted Martin Weiss on May 11 to recognize his service as chair of the Department of Neurosurgery—a post he has held since 1978. Above, Keck School Dean Stephen J. Ryan (right) congratulates Weiss during a reception in his honor.

HCC II: Keck School leaders hail opening of new building

Continued from page 1

said it is important to him that he keep Henderson fully informed during these last few weeks.

"I have told Brian how I welcome his advice and input during this transition period," Ryan said, "and that I will be available to him in any way that he deems appropriate during the transition."

Following the meeting, Jeffrey Huffman, president and CEO of USC Care Medical Group, led the chairs on a tour of the new facility.

"This magnificent new building is a strong indicator of the great future that the Keck School of Medicine and its faculty have in front of them," said Ryan. "The HCCII is an enormous stride forward

in our patient-care mission. I appreciate the support of the university and the great leadership of Jeff Huffman. Jeff has worked with the leaders of the university and the department chairs to plan and develop this state-of-the-art facility, which will benefit our patients and faculty physicians for decades into the future."

Weiss said: "This new office building provides comfort and convenience for our patients and provides a more pleasant environment in which they can explore their medical problems. The staff is now able to provide for patient needs in space that is personally enjoyable and professionally outstanding. The

administration should be justifiably proud of this new construction, which contributes significantly to our capacity to provide service to our patients."

At the chairs' meeting, Philip Lumb, professor and chair of the Department of Anesthesiology, also raised the importance of adequate facilities for residency training in the new LAC+USC Medical Center. Ryan charged Joseph Van Der Meulen, vice president for health affairs, to lead, and Lumb and Martin H. Weiss, the Martin H. Weiss Chair in Neurosurgery, to develop a plan to address space issues with L.A. County for the clinical departments.

CHLA staffer honored for volunteer efforts

Cary Kreutzer, community education director of the USC University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles, was among 76 individuals honored by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors at its 22nd Annual Volunteer Awards and Recognition luncheon on April 19.

The ceremony, held in the Grand Hall of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, was in observance of "National Volunteer Week."

The ceremonies were emceed by Supervisor Michael Antonovich and KCAL-TV news anchor Pat Harvey, with KCET-TV's Huell Howser ("California's Gold") delivering the keynote address.

"Volunteerism has always been important to me," Kreutzer said. "The rewards you personally receive from volunteering, knowing you have helped another person, far outweigh any time committed to the activity.

"We all have gifts and knowledge that we can share," she said. "It was an incredible honor to receive the award, but not expected, because I am doing exactly what I was trained to do."

ARCS SCHOLARS—

Officials for Achievement Rewards for College Scientists (ARCS), a nonprofit volunteer organization that provides scholarships to students of high achievement in the natural sciences, medicine and engineering, recently toured the Health Sciences Campus and met with its scholarship awardees. Right, members of ARCS' L.A. Founders Chapter fete Keck School students (from left in the front row) Rasha Germain, Giac Consiglieri, Joell Brinkman, Syed Hossain, Todd Larsen and Benjamin Hom.

Linda Bowling, ARCS President of LA Founders Chapter is kneeling with the students and is between Brinkman and Hossain. Not pictured are these ARCS scholars: Jaron Anderson, Bret Ball and Maryam Ghods.



Jon Nalick



Alexis Bergen

PHARMACY TOUR— Dignitaries from the Tokyo University of Pharmacy and Life Sciences visited the USC School of Pharmacy on April 26 to discuss collaborative educational opportunities. Since 1987, the two schools have partnered to facilitate an exchange program for their respective students. In addition, a School of Pharmacy faculty member has traveled to Tokyo every year to teach a five-week specialty course. From left: Yasuji Kasuya, professor at Tokyo University of Pharmacy and Life Sciences, Toshiaki Osawa, president of Tokyo University of Pharmacy and Life Sciences, and USC School of Pharmacy Dean Timothy Chan.

Calendar

Tuesday, May 18

Noon. Cancer Center Grand Rounds. "Human and Bacterial Hyper-Mutation," Myron Goodman, USC. Norris Tower 7th Floor Conf. Ctr. Info: 865-0801

Noon. Faculty Development Series. "Developing a Career and Professional Development Plan," Vanessa Herrera, USC. KAM 505. Info: 442-2372

12:15 p.m. Psychiatry Grand Rounds. "Plastic Surgery: Body Image and Body Dysmorphism," Marcia Goin, USC. McKibben Hall 156. Info: 226-5572

Wednesday, May 19

7 a.m. Medicine Grand Rounds. "Infective Endocarditis," Robert Larsen, USC. GNH 1645. Info: 226-7591

Thursday, May 20

Noon. "Acute Liver Failure," Kenji Fujiwara, Saitama Medical Univ., Japan. AHC Aud., Room 102. Info: 442-3122

Tuesday, May 25

12:15 p.m. Psychiatry Grand Rounds. "Clinical Case Presentation: A Case of Delirium," William Bondareff and Cindy Kang, USC. McKibben Hall 156. Info: 226-5572

Wednesday, May 26

7 a.m. Medicine Grand Rounds. "Neurocysticercosis," Robert Larsen, USC. GNH 1645. Info: 226-7591

6 p.m. "Large Volume Liposuction," Ginard Henry, USC, and "Soft Tissue Fillers," Lynne Hackaert, USC. Univ. Hospital, Coliseum Room. Info: 442-6481

Friday, May 28

11 a.m. Joint Immunology Conference. "Regulation of Autoantibody-Producing Cells by Different T Cell Populations," Bevra Hahn, UCLA. AHC Aud., Room 102. Info: 442-2337

Notice: **Deadline for calendar submission is 4 p.m. Tuesday** to be considered for that week's issue—although three weeks advance notice of events is recommended. Please note that timely submission does not guarantee an item will be printed. Send calendar items to HSC Weekly, DEI 2510 or fax to (323) 442-2832, or e-mail to lpatt@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/hsccalendar>

Newsmakers

A May 11 *USA Today* Web site story quoted neurologist **Leslie Weiner** in a story about multiple sclerosis.

A May 11 *Wall Street Journal* story looked at new treatments for men suffering from erectile dysfunction. The story included work by voluntary faculty urologist **Harin Padma-Nathan**. The story also appeared in the Associated Press and *San Francisco Chronicle*.

A May 11 *New York Times* story followed several women undergoing IVF treatment. The story quoted fertility expert **Richard Paulson**.

A May 10 *Los Angeles Times* story on running injuries quoted orthopaedic surgeon **C. Thomas Vangsness Jr.**

The May 10 announcement of cancer researcher **Brian Henderson's** appointment as dean of the Keck School of Medicine ran on KFWB-AM, KNX-AM and City News Service.

A May 8 *San Marino Tribune* story highlighted the recent opening of the HCCII facility and quoted USC Care CEO **Jeffrey Huffman**.

A May 5 *Wall Street Journal* Web site story looked at a new colon cancer trial beginning at USC/Norris under the guidance of oncologist **Heinz-Josef Lenz**.

The May issue of Delta Airlines' *Sky* magazine highlighted the mysteries behind human metabolism. The story quoted obesity expert **Peter Pressman**.

The May issue of *Trojan Family* magazine profiled the new Engineering Research Center under the direction of ophthalmologist **Mark Humayun**. Two separate stories focused on an element of the ERC involving pharmacologist **Roberta Brinton** and Doheny Retina Institute ophthalmologist **Eugene de Juan**.

A May 1 *Los Angeles Times* commentary written by **John Hisserich**, associate vice president for health affairs, offered suggestions on how best to use LAC+USC after the new replacement hospital is completed.

An April 30 *San Jose Mercury News* story on items confiscated from a personal trainer quoted pharmacist **Gilbert Burckart**.

An April 30 *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* story looked at air pollution and quoted environmental health expert **Frank Gilliland**.

An April 28 *Forbes* magazine Web site story focused on heart attacks during the holidays and quoted cardiovascular expert **Robert Kloner**.



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

**Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
University of Southern
California**