

USC to help test and develop 'Next Generation Internet'

Joining a trailblazing effort to boost internet connection speeds by a factor of 200, USC recently linked up with several major west coast universities and research centers via next-generation fiber optic lines that promise to revolutionize how data is transmitted.

Representatives for USC's Advanced BioTelecommunications and BioInformatics Center (ABBC) participated in groundbreaking ceremonies at Caltech on Nov. 19 and discussed practical medical, collaborative and educational applications that the new system will

make possible.

Joseph A. Bannister, associate director of the USC Information Services Institute and John A. Silvester, vice provost for scholarly technology, also spoke at the groundbreaking ceremony, emphasizing the dramatic capabilities the new network will provide. They said it will create a powerful communication tool linking the Health Sciences Campus, the University Park Campus and the university's facility on Catalina Island. It will make possible a Next Generation Internet Health Sciences/Life

Sciences Testbed aimed at delivering health care and education to partners worldwide.

Frederick George III, ABBC executive director, said that the groundbreaking was the "modern-day electronic equivalent of hammering in the golden spike that opened the transcontinental railroad in the 1880s"—an event that transformed communication and commerce in the U.S.

"With this powerful new internet capability we'll be able to link our sciences staff through electronic

'collaboratoriums,' and eliminate spending on brick and mortar centers."

He said that "collaboratoriums" are in many ways superior to brick-and-mortar centers because researchers are far less limited by geography in the exchange of data and ideas. For example, using the new system, scientists at distant centers can access one another's supercomputers and other resources as quickly as if they were in the same building.

The new network is an experimental academic system to be used by univer-

sities and national labs to refine and develop higher bandwidth technologies that can be applied in industry, health care and education.

The ABBC is now investigating ways to take advantage of the new system to spur development of better telemedicine applications that were previously thought too difficult to implement because of network congestion, George said. Such applications include real-time transmission of patient data, video and diagnostic images.

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Robert Rodriguez assumed post on Nov. 30

New LAC+USC head takes the reins

Robert Rodriguez, the new executive director of LAC+USC Medical Center, assumed his new position on Nov. 30, filling a post that has remained open since 1995.

Rodriguez previously served as chief executive officer of the Lincoln Medical Center in New York, a 609-bed acute care teaching hospital with a level 1 trauma designation.

There, he managed a \$242 million operating budget and a staff of 2,700 employees, 270 physicians and 400 residents.

Rodriguez was responsible for the implementation of corporate program, policies and procedures, regulatory compliance, construction and renovation programs at Lincoln, as well as the

negotiation and management of a \$33 million affiliation contract providing physician services and training and supervision of eight residency programs sponsored by New York Hospital/Cornell Medical College.

Previously, Rodriguez served as chief operating officer at Lincoln and in several senior administrative positions at the State University of New York (SUNY) College at Old Westbury.

Mark Finucane, director of health services for Los Angeles County, praised Rodriguez's experience as giving him "a unique set of skills which I feel will serve the department well during this time of transition."

Rodriguez fills a post vacated by Ed Martinez, who served from 1993-95



Robert Rodriguez

and left the county to work for the American International Health Alliance in Washington, D.C.

—Jon Nalick



HSC magazine wins regional award

The *USC/Norris Cancer Center Report* has received a prestigious Award of Excellence for magazines from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

Cancer Center Report is designed to educate its readers—patients, donors and referring physicians—about the caring treatment and scientific breakthroughs at the USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center and Hospital. The quarterly magazine, produced by the USC Health Sciences Campus Public Relations staff under the guidance of editor Carol A. C. Varma, currently reaches 32,000 readers.

Cancer Center Report was among 24 Award of Excellence winners. The winners were chosen from a field of 365 entries in the CASE District VII region, which includes California, Arizona, Hawaii, Nevada and Utah.

CASE is a nonprofit association of education advancement officers working to enhance education by boosting support for their institutions. Its membership includes 2,900 universities, colleges and independent elementary and secondary schools in the U.S., Canada, Mexico and 27 other countries.

USC opens innovative cancer program for seniors

Old age is often associated with health problems, but when cancer is thrown into the mix the Golden Years can become a nightmare of fear, depression, sleepless nights, conflicting medications, days lost traveling to various doctors and even pain.

Physicians Loren G. Lipson, Derek Raghavan and Jonathan M. Weiner intend to ease that suffering and uncertainty with the opening of the innovative USC Senior Cancer Care Program at USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center and Hospital.

"This is going to make it easier for seniors to get the care they need," Weiner said of the program, which opened to patients on Dec. 1.

Lipson, chief of the USC Division of

Geriatric Medicine, said the program is already being well received, and it's little wonder considering the following statistics:

- The median age of patients with cancer in the United States is 70 and deaths from cancer causes increase with each decade of life. Last year, USC/Norris cared for 1,350 cancer patients over 75.
- Despite the fact that 69 percent of all cancer deaths occur in seniors—who make up but 13 percent of the U.S. population—much of the knowledge of cancer comes from the study of animals and younger people. Those studies are sometimes not applicable to the senior population.
- Currently, the senior population

consumes 35 cents of every health care dollar; 50 percent of all prescription drugs and 60 percent of over-the-counter medications. By 2020, the percentage of people over 65 will increase to 22 percent—accounting for an ever-increasing portion of health care services.

The USC Senior Cancer Care Program at Norris will specialize in multidisciplinary care for cancer patients over 75. Patients over 65 will be accepted into the program if they have one of several health complications—ranging from sleep disorders to dietary concerns.

The program will tap into experts across the board at USC/Norris, USC

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USC researchers offer tips on Surviving Modern Medicine

After more than four years of research, poring over up to 600 scientific studies and interviewing thousands of patients, Peter Clarke and Susan Evans have published *Surviving Modern Medicine: How to Get the Best from Doctors, Family and Friends*.

The how-to guide focuses on the practical steps consumers can take to improve the quality of the care they receive.

"In all of the speaking we've done around the country, we were struck by how demoralized and resigned people were in dealing with the health care system," said Clarke, a professor of preventive medicine and communication and director of the Center for Health and Medical Communication.

"There is so much information and research out there that would allow people to gain confidence and control," he added.

The authors identify five areas critical to effective medical care: getting your doctor to pay attention, making the best medical decisions, seeking the right kind of support, appreciating your caregiver and protecting your choices in critical care situations.

The book provides simple exercises for the reader to practice that can make encounters with health and medical bureaucracy successful.

Although it is written with the patient-reader in mind, Clarke and Evans emphasize that those on the other side of the stethoscope could benefit from reading the book.

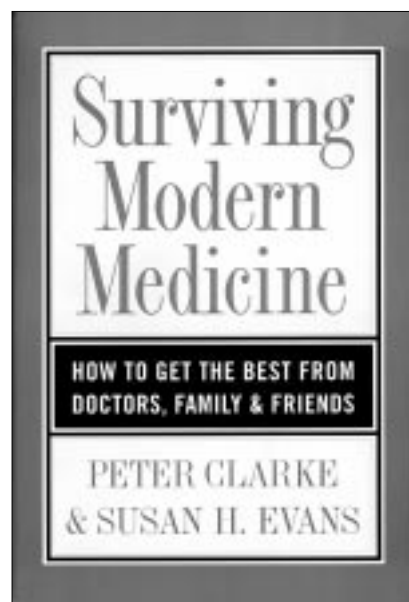
"It's very consumer-friendly, but not physician-mean," said Clarke.

The book gives a step-by-step recipe for constructing a better patient consultation.

"Between one-third and one half of patients do not take their prescription medications appropriately, largely because they leave their physician's office without understanding what they are supposed to do," said Evans, a research scientist at the Institute for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. "Simple interventions by clinicians can improve communication and compliance."

The book points out subtle traps that can undermine decision-making leading to poor outcomes, including how people reach different conclusions when confronted with the same words describing medical risks.

One example they use describes parents who put



The how-to guide focuses on the practical steps consumers can take to improve the quality of the care they receive.

off surgery on their infant because they misunderstood terms the physician used. Physicians advised the parents that the infant's condition was

"common." The parents delayed surgery, expecting the malady to resolve by itself, since ordinary complaints often do. What the physicians failed to appreciate was that commonness to them resulted from seeing a lot of cases referred to their specialty practice. The condition was actually quite rare in the general population and they should have been urging swift treatment. The book shows readers how to clear up such misunderstandings.

The book also offers a tool to help patients make choices involved in critical care.

"Exercises and check lists help patients come to terms with their health care values," said Evans, who is also the principal investigator on a federally funded project on advanced directives. "The book also clarifies the role of the physician versus clergy regarding advanced directives—information that is quite useful for clinicians."

Surviving Modern Medicine is available in bookstores and through internet sellers. Clarke and Evans have been scheduled for an on-line chat session on *Drkoop.com*, the website named for former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop.

—Mary Ellen Stumpfl

'Suicide by cop': Disturbing new trend revealed by USC study of fatal shootings

A new study suggests that more than one in 10 fatal shootings by officers of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) is provoked by a suicide — people who wanted to end their lives and chose to instigate a shooting by threatening a police officer.

The study, whose principal investigators are Deirdre Anglin, associate professor of emergency medicine at the School of Medicine, H. Range Hutson, of Harvard, and Sgt. John Yarbrough of the LASD, was published in the December *Annals of Emergency Medicine*.

The researchers examined 437 officer-involved shootings investigated by LASD over the 11-year period 1987-97 and found that "suicide by cop" accounted for 46 (11 percent) of the total. "This suicide-by-cop phenomenon has attracted a lot of attention recently," said Anglin. "But this is the first study of its kind that goes beyond a simple collation of cases."

Noteworthy are the similarities the researchers discovered in those individuals who decided to end their life in this way. They found that the vast

majority (98 percent) were male and 39 percent had a history of domestic violence. Past history of suicide attempts, as well as a high incidence of alcohol and drug dependency also tended to be characteristic. Approximately 50 percent of the weapons used to threaten officers were firearms, with the overwhelming majority being operative and loaded. Only 17 percent of suicidal individuals used replica firearms to provoke officers. "Previous reports have implied that suicidal individuals are not a legitimate threat to officers or civilians," Anglin noted.

The evidence gathered by the researchers also indicates that suicide by cop appears to be on the rise. Although there were 46 documented cases in the period 1987-97, 13 of these occurred in 1997 alone. Whether this was due to better documentation of cases by officers — or an actual increase facilitated by a "copy cat" effect of suicidal individuals hearing about suicide by cop — is not clear.

But whatever the reason for the escalation of the "suicide by cop phenomenon," the research-

ers see this as a trend with serious implications. Aside from the threat to officers and others posed by these suicidal individuals, there is the psychological impact on the officer to consider. "Many officers second-guess their decision to shoot in such situations," said Anglin. This may be compounded by the fact that deaths linked to this phenomenon are not generally recorded as suicides by coroners and medical examiners. The classification of these deaths as homicides may raise questions of legal liability for the officers involved.

Because law enforcement officers continue to encounter the suicide by cop phenomenon, the LASD was eager to participate in this groundbreaking study. "The Sheriff's Department was particularly helpful," said Anglin. "They had the insight to recognize the importance of the problem, and are now actively developing protocols and implementing strategies to better handle these suicidal individuals in the field." Using less lethal suppression such as Mace, Tasers, bean bag guns are examples.

Awareness of the suicide by cop phenomenon is equally important to health care providers, explained Anglin. "Most medical professionals know little about this phenomenon, and this has an obvious impact on patient care. Health care providers engaged in the resuscitation of individuals shot in these circumstances should be aware that they may be dealing with suicidal individuals. In addition, health care providers involved in the evaluation of potentially suicidal individuals must be aware that suicide by cop is an actual form of suicide."

—Paul Dingsdale

Gynecologic oncology abstracts and case studies sought

Oncology and gynecologic oncology fellows are invited to submit research abstracts or clinical case studies to be considered for presentation at two separate forums hosted by SmithKline Beecham early next year.

Fellows may submit one of the following:

- Basic science or clinical research findings that apply to medical or gynecologic oncology.
- Case studies that illustrate unusual presentations of common oncologic cases or rare oncologic conditions that demonstrate important diagnostic, therapeutic or teaching points.

Examples of research presented last year include the treatment of HIV-related small noncleaved cell

lymphoma using dose-intensive chemotherapy, investigation of the anti-angiogenic effect of camptothecins, and human endothelial cells as cellular vehicles for ovarian cancer gene therapy.

Abstracts will be peer-reviewed and ranked by separate, independent committees based on scientific merit, therapeutic relevance, teaching points and quality. For each category (medical and gynecologic), the 30 highest-ranked abstracts (14 oral presentations and 16 poster presentations) will be chosen for presentation.

Both programs are competitive in nature. Participants will present abstracts to their colleagues and a panel of faculty members will provide feed-

back on study merit and presentation. Faculty members will select the top four presenters at each meeting, who will receive a travel grant from SmithKline Beecham Oncology to attend the national medical oncology meeting of their choice in 1999. First place winners will receive a grant of \$1,000; second place will receive \$750.

The gynecologic oncology forum is scheduled for Feb. 26-28, 1999. Deadline for submissions is Dec. 28, 1998. The medical oncology forum is scheduled for March 12-14, 1999. Deadline for submissions is Jan. 6, 1999.

For abstract guidelines and more information, call John A. Romankiewicz at (973) 376-5655.

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Charities seek donations to give this holiday story a happy ending

The holidays are fast approaching, but there's still plenty of time to spread good cheer with donations to various toy drives and charity efforts around the USC Health Sciences Campus.

Here are a couple of ways to help out: **Care by Sharing**

The USC Office for Women and the Medical Faculty Women's Association are reaching out to the less fortunate on several fronts. They are:

- Christmas bags: Unopened shampoo, soaps, toothbrushes and other daily toiletries are being collected for women at the Los Angeles Mission. This is a good chance to clear out all those hotel toiletries collected, but never used. Monetary donations also are welcome.

- Clothing and supplies: Give new sweatshirts, T-shirts, jeans (large sizes)

or school supplies (binders, paper, folders, notebooks and pens) for teens at "Para Los Niños" in after school and weekend programs.

- Jump start: Monetary contributions also are being collected to help families who could move out of temporary housing if they had the first and last months' rent for a place of their own.

A "jump start" costs about \$700 per family. The families are from USC's low birth weight clinic and are struggling to provide better living conditions for their children.

Many of the families now live in crowded homes—sometimes even in garages.

Make checks payable to Medical Faculty Women's Association. Send all contributions to Erin Quinn, Office for

Women, KAM-100E. Call 442-2554 for more information.

Join Care by Sharing volunteers at a "bag assembly party" on Thursday, Dec. 17, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Mayer Auditorium Lobby.

Adopt-A-Family

The LAC+USC Violence Intervention Program is once again looking for volunteers and donations for its Adopt-A-Family program.

This year's holiday needs include: food gift certificates, food vouchers, canned foods, Christmas stockings, coloring books and crayons, stuffed animals, toys, winter clothing for children, bus tokens and taxi vouchers.

Unwrapped toys and other donations can be dropped off at the VIP office at 1240 North Mission Road, T-11.

For more information call Gina

Sinatra at 226-3961.

Toy Drive

USC Transportation Services is collecting canned food and new or used toys as part of its effort to help local churches and needy families.

Canned goods will be donated to local churches and toys will be used to brighten the holidays of children in Wyvernwood Garden Apartments, a low-income housing development. Donations can be left in designated barrels at the Biggy parking structure and at Eastlake parking lot.

The collection barrels will be out until Dec. 19.

"Unwrapped new or used toys in good condition are always welcome," said Tom Kenna, associate director of transportation services.

—Phil Davis



Phil Davis

Parking lot attendant Cesar Ramirez staffs the booth at the Eastlake Lot—as well as the Transportation Services toy drive barrel.



Jon Nalick

SUPPORTING CANCER SURVIVORS — To aid the community in the fight against breast cancer, the division of oncology has donated a new computer and monitor to a Los Angeles-based cancer survivors' group.

On Dec. 1, the Women of Color Breast Cancer Survivors Support Project received the equipment that they will use to publish a newsletter for survivors and assist in other outreach programs. The group, with about 100 members, reaches as many as 4,000 women each year, educating them on breast cancer risks and awareness and how to perform breast self-exams.

Pictured from left: Nanette White, the group's public relations officer, Carolyn Tapp, group president, Derek Raghavan, USC chief of oncology and associate director of clinical research, and Diane P. Moody, administrator for the USC division of medical oncology.

INTERNET: New technology vastly improves data traffic

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Created by the federally-funded National Transparent Optical Network (NTON) Consortium, the network connects major research and educational centers from Seattle to San Diego. Participants include: JPL, USC, Caltech, the San Diego Supercomputing Center, UC Santa Barbara, and Boeing.

The \$20 million system uses "wavelength division multiplexing" — essentially transmitting multiple colors of light simultaneously through a single fiber optic cable — to cram additional data into the pipeline. Each additional color of light boosts the volume of data the cable can carry in the same way that adding new lanes to a freeway can increase the volume of traffic.

George quipped that the "rainbow of colors employed by the NTON network will create a virtual academic, educational and economic pot of gold" for the university and its partners and will ultimately help revolutionize the way Americans learn, work and interact on the internet.

In theory, the technology can accommodate a data throughput of 100 gigabytes per second—fast enough to transmit about 83 ordinary length novels in a second, George said.

And at the same time, the new technology is expected to drastically reduce the cost of transmitting data. When fully developed and incorporated nationally, it is likely to make telemedicine and tele-education far more commonplace, George added.

—Jon Nalick

SENIORS: Cancer Care Program joins services under single roof

Continued from Page 1

University Hospital and on the Health Sciences and University Park campuses.

It will include a multi-disciplinary oncology clinic; gerontology and geriatric services; support groups; genetic counseling; social service counseling sessions; and support from occupational and physical therapy.

The research aspects of the program will provide valuable data on chemotherapeutic agents in seniors—which can differ from younger patients.

"A main goal is to provide a multidisciplinary approach, which is

crucial in senior care—especially when cancer is involved," Lipson explained. "All activities will be coordinated in a one-stop approach to care."

By joining all services under one roof, the USC Senior Cancer Care Program will be able to coordinate patients' treatment regimens for all of their problems—which should improve outcomes and patients' quality of life.

Joining Lipson, Raghavan and Weiner in their dedication to making the program a seamless operation are: Adrienne Bass, administrator at USC/Norris; Manuela Medeiros, assistant ad-

ministrator for patient care services at USC/Norris; Mary Richardson, administrative director, quality resource and risk management, and the medical faculty at USC/Norris.

A specific team of oncology consultants also has been developed, including Eila Skinner (urologic oncology); Aziz Khan (hematologic oncology); and Oscar Streeter Jr. (radiation oncology).

For more information, call Lipson's office at 442-2960 or the USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center and Hospital at 865-3000.

—Phil Davis



Michael Chiatbaudo

Loren Lipson

Transportation Services offers tips, presents for the holidays

Transportation Services announced several recent changes that affect how university staff, employees and students will get around during December — and also offer people a way to save money on overdue parking citation payments.

"Starting Practice in an Era of Managed Care," an educational series for residents at LAC+USC, continues Tuesday evenings through Dec. 15.

Presented by the Office of the Vice President for Health Affairs, the series is held at the Doheny Auditorium in the Ambulatory Health Center from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. each Tuesday.

The Dec. 8 seminar will focus on career paths for physicians. The Dec. 15 seminar will discuss cost/quality accountability and future trends.

For more information or to register, call 442-2555.

Thomas Kenna, associate director of transportation services, said those changes include:

- a 25 percent reduction in Metrolink prices for monthly passes during the month of December;
- the addition of free shuttles twice a day from the University Park Campus to LAX from Dec. 16 to 22. The shuttles run at 10:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. Contact Sean Callahan at 740-4545 for more information;
- the elimination of Union Station tram service and intercampus shuttles from Dec. 25 to Jan. 4 due to the extended university holiday. Patient shuttles will continue during that period from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Transportation Services will also waive late fees until December 10 on past due parking citations.

LAC+USC promotes video on early HIV detection as part of World AIDS Day

The LAC+USC Comprehensive Maternal Child HIV Management and Research Center marked World AIDS Day by hosting the release of a multilingual video promoting HIV testing and counseling.

The video, filmed on campus at 1640 Marengo St., touches the heart of the center's mission—to curtail the spread

of HIV in families through testing and early intervention.

The video, which feature patients offering personal testimonials about their struggles with the virus, were previewed at a press conference on Tuesday.

They are being produced in five languages—English, Spanish, Chinese,

Korean and Vietnamese—and focus on encouraging women to get HIV counseling and testing to protect their own health and the health of the unborn babies.

Early detection of the virus has been proven to help women living with HIV to have longer lives and reduce the risk of transmission from mother to child.

The videos are the latest installment of the award-winning education series "Women Need to Know," which was started in Los Angeles in 1996.

The video is a collaborative effort between PROTOTYPES, a community-based organization noted for its innovative health and social services for women, and Healthier Solutions, spe-

cialists in marketing and communications programs.

Funding for the video was provided by the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS Program and Policy, and by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

—Phil Davis

Fine art students commissioned to paint pharmacy-themed mural

An interdisciplinary partnership between the School of Pharmacy and the School of Fine Arts is making the UPC campus just a bit more beautiful, while encouraging budding artists.

The two schools are collaborating to create a mural that will be professionally mounted and hung in the newly renovated pharmacy on the first floor of the Gwynn Wilson Student Union Building.

Eight students from a drawing class in the School of Fine Arts presented proposals on their concept for the canvas painting. Three semi-finalists have been selected and the finalist is expected to be chosen in early December.

Students were presented with a background on the history and the future of the pharmacy profession prior to submitting their proposals. "Each artist has come up with a different approach to the project," said Mary Wackerman, director of major gifts for the School of Pharmacy. "We hope the final product will reflect the pharmacy profession."

The student artist who is chosen will be commissioned by the School of Pharmacy to complete the painting and will receive a stipend. Wackerman said that the painting will be in the pharmacy in time for graduation.

Cosmetics gala benefits USC/Norris

Fashion designer Tommy Hilfiger, left, with Melvin J. Silverstein, medical director of the Harold E. and Henrietta C. Lee Breast Center, are seen here at the California Cosmetic Association's Annual Holiday Award Gala on Nov. 20. The event, which raised more than \$50,000 for breast cancer research, prevention and treatment at USC/Norris, celebrated Hilfiger with the Big Orange Award, which honors the most influential leaders in the cosmetics industry.



Calendar

Friday, Dec. 4

Open Enrollment for Staff Benefits. Nov. 2 – Dec. 4. Personnel Office, KAM 409. Info: 740-6037

Monday, Dec. 7

Noon. "Reverse Endocrinology – The Hunt for Orphan Receptor Ligands," Bruce Blumberg, UCI. Norris Tower 7th Floor Conf. Ctr. Info: 442-1145

Tuesday, Dec. 8

8 a.m. Neurology Conference. "M & M Conference," Benjamin Ourmazdi, USC. Univ. Hospital, Troy Room. Info: 226-2639

8 a.m. Pathology Grand Rounds. "Aggressive Angiomyxoma of the Female Pelvis and Perineum," Ronald Paler, USC. GNH 1645. Info: 226-5925

9 a.m. New Staff Orientation, KAM 308. Info: 442-1010

Wednesday, Dec. 9

8 a.m. Medical Grand Rounds. "Myxedema Coma," Jonathan LoPresti and Maged Ayad, USC. GNH 1645. Info: 226-7662

Thursday, Dec. 10

5 p.m. Neurology Conference. "Movement Disorders," Leslie Weiner, USC. KAM 308. Info: 226-2639

Friday, Dec. 11

11 a.m. Hematology Conference. "International Lymphoma Study Group Classification on Malignant Lymphomas: Clinical Correlations," Bharat Nathwani, USC. GNH 7441. Info: 865-3913

Noon. "Are the SERMs, Tamoxifen and Raloxifene, Estrogen Agonist or Antagonists in the Brain," Roberta Diaz Brinton, USC. PSC 104. Info: 442-2860

Monday, Dec. 14

Noon. "Nuclear Regulation of Hormonal Crosstalk," David Rose, UCSD. Norris Tower 7th Floor Conf. Ctr. Info: 442-1145

Tuesday, Dec. 15

8 a.m. Neurology Conference. "More Stroke Case Studies," Glenn Fischberg, USC. Univ. Hospital, Troy Room. Info: 226-2639

9 a.m. New Staff Orientation, KAM 308. Info: 442-1010

Noon. Molecular Biology Seminar. "Chromosome Replication in *S. Cerevisiae*," Oscar Aparicio, MIT. Hedco Aud., UPC. Info: 740-5557

Wednesday, Dec. 16

8 a.m. Medical Grand Rounds. "Rhabdomyolysis," Vito Campese and Amardeep Mann, USC. GNH 1645. Info: 226-7662

Thursday, Dec. 17

5 p.m. Neurology Conference. "Movement Disorders," Leslie Weiner, USC. KAM 308. Info: 226-2639

Friday, Dec. 18

8:30 a.m. Center for Lung Biology Seminar. "Application of Microarray/CD for Studying Airway Epithelial Cell Differentiation," Reen Wu, UCD. GNH 11-321. Info: 442-1217

Monday, Dec. 21

Noon. "Molecular Mechanisms of Cell Type Determination in the Neuroendocrine System," Michael Rosenfeld, UCSD. Norris Tower 7th Floor Conf. Ctr. Info: 442-1145

Tuesday, Dec. 22

8 a.m. Neurology Conference. "Case Pre-

sentation," Richard Rison and Michael Dogali, USC. Univ. Hospital, Troy Room. Info: 226-2639

9 a.m. New Staff Orientation, KAM 308. Info: 442-1010

12:15 p.m. "Everything You Need to Know About Protecting Yourself and Your Patients Against Infectious Diseases," Peter Heseltine, USC. Hoffman Hall, Hastings Aud. Info: (626) 457-4180

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 hscwkly@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.*

Wednesday, Dec. 23

8 a.m. Medical Grand Rounds. "Obesity," Jonathan LoPresti and Robert Nicoloff, USC. GNH 1645. Info: 226-7662

Wednesday, Dec. 30

8 a.m. Medical Grand Rounds. "Acute Tubular Necrosis," Mohammad Akmal and Scott Morey, USC. GNH 1645. Info: 226-7662

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Upcoming event: USC Spectrum will present Derf Reklaw on Friday, Jan. 15 at noon in the HSC Quad. Reklaw is known as a master drummer, flutist, saxophonist, composer and vocal innovator.