

College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

- **Elana Gordis**, research assistant professor of psychology, has been awarded \$46,000.00 by the Alcoholic Beverages Medical Research Foundation for research on the role of ANS activation and PTSD in links between maltreatment and adolescent alcohol expectancies and use. (Project duration: 6/1/2005 – 5/31/2007)
- **Charles E. McKenna**, professor of chemistry, has been awarded \$16,600.00 by the Civilian Research and Development Foundation for research on the development of new anti-anthrax agents. (Project duration: 6/9/2005 – 6/8/2007)
- **Gayla Margolin**, professor of psychology, has been awarded \$434,754.00 by the National Institute of Child and Human Development for research on adolescents' exposure to family and community violence. (Project duration: 6/13/2005 – 3/31/2010)
- **Xiaojiang Chen**, associate professor of biological sciences, has been awarded \$417,266.00 by the U.S. Army Medical Research and Material Command for research on maintaining genome stability: the role of helicases and deaminases. (Project duration: 7/1/2005 – 6/30/2008)

Davis School of Gerontology

- **Jon Pynoos**, professor of gerontology, and **Phoebe Liebig**, associate professor of gerontology, have been awarded \$50,000.00 by the American Association of Retired Persons for research on affordable accessible design. (Project duration: 6/1/2005 – 12/30/2005)
- **Kathleen Wilber**, professor of gerontology, has been awarded \$59,539.00 by the Senior Care Action Network for research on the evaluation of the scan health plan chronic care model. (Project duration: 6/1/2005 – 5/31/2006)

Independent Health Professions

- In the spring of 2005, the **USC Department of Biokinesiology and Physical Therapy** partnered with LA's Best, an after school education, enrichment and recreation program; and Griffin, Murchison and Sheridan elementary schools, located in the neighborhoods surrounding the Health Sciences Campus, to establish USC Playground Pals.

An after school program, USC Playground Pals was established to provide physical activity for children who have been identified as having increased blood pressure, increased body mass index, as well as low scores on the President's Test of Physical Fitness.

Ninety-five USC physical therapy students provided one hour of activity for four Tuesdays as part of their coursework in therapeutic exercise. Approximately 400 children from kindergarten through third grade participated.

The USC physical therapy students and faculty ran the program once a week, for one month assisted by staff from LA's Best, who work at the three partner elementary schools. At the end of the month, the USC students provided each school with a booklet of activity selections based on the level of enjoyment and participation from the elementary school students.

Playground Pals, which will be offered every spring, received a \$2,900 grant from the USC Neighborhood Outreach Program. Faculty volunteers to assist with Playground Pals are needed.

Keck School of Medicine

- **Marilyn Ader**, associate professor of physiology and biophysics, has been awarded \$446,934.00 by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases for research on the metabolic effects of atypical antipsychotics. (Project duration: 5/1/2005 - 4/30/2010)
- **Wendy Cozen**, assistant professor of preventive medicine, has been awarded \$81,250.00 by the National Cancer Institute for research on the risk factors for non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma in twins. (Project duration: 5/1/2005 – 4/30/2007)
- **Christopher Haiman** of the Zilkha Neurogenetic Institute has been awarded \$112,740.00 by the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation for research on a comprehensive genomic approach to characterize the role of genetic variation in IGF receptor genes in relation to breast cancer risk: the multiethnic cohort. (Project duration: 5/1/2005 – 4/30/2007)
- **Amy Lee**, professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, has been awarded \$162,500.00 by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases for research on the validation of novel transgenic mouse model for diabetes. (Project duration: 5/1/2005 – 4/30/2007)
- **Jeffrey S. Weber**, associate professor of clinical microbiology, has been awarded \$396,700.00 by the L.A. County Department of Health Services for research on cancer research and care services – Paul N. Somer bequest. (Project duration: 5/17/2005 – 4/30/2010)
- A new Los Angeles County Germ Cell Tumor and Tissue Bank Resource (GTTR) to be based at the Keck School of Medicine has been established with the help of the **Lance Armstrong Foundation (LAF)**. Armstrong, who is the world's best-known cyclist, is a survivor of testicular cancer.

The GTTR will collect, store, and distribute testicular cancer tissue specimens for use by the USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center as well as the larger testicular cancer research community. Having access to an extensive collection of testicular cancer tumor tissue specimens will enable researchers to better understand the molecular and cellular processes involved in the development of testicular cancer tumors and aid in patients' diagnosis and treatment.

The GTTR is designed to facilitate innovative research studies by both junior and senior investigators and to accommodate broader national testicular cancer research priorities as they develop. To facilitate the investigation, a team of physicians and scientists led by **Sue Ellen Martin**, associate professor of pathology, will invite newly diagnosed patients with testicular cancer at USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, LAC+USC Medical Center, Childrens Hospital Los Angeles, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center and Olive View-UCLA Medical Center to contribute snap-frozen tumor tissue specimens as well as formalin-fixed tumor tissues. Testicular cancer patients undergoing surgery at all USC hospitals will be invited to also contribute blood and urine specimens to generate a fresh-frozen serum and urine bank.

The GTTR is funded for three years with a grant of \$330,000 and the potential for future increased funding.

HSC Weekly, 5/20/05

Go to article: <http://uscnews.usc.edu/hscweekly/detail.php?recordnum=11313>

- The **Clarence and Estelle Albaugh Trust** has established a fund to provide medical equipment to the Keck School of Medicine and support research into technologies designed to restore sight to the blind with a gift of more than \$2.5 million.

John Dundas, trustee for the trust, said the late philanthropist Clarence Albaugh, a former USC ophthalmologist and supporter of the Keck School's Department of Ophthalmology, and his wife Estelle established the fund to spur medical research.

The funds will be used, in part, to assist the work of **Mark Humayun**, professor of ophthalmology, biomedical engineering and cell and neurobiology, is creating an artificial retina that shows promise in restoring a measure of sight to the blind.

HSC Weekly, 5/27/05

Go to article: <http://uscnews.usc.edu/hscweekly/detail.php?recordnum=11332>

- **Minnie McMillan**, professor of molecular microbiology and immunology, has been awarded \$212,007.00 by the National Center for Research Resources for research on molecular studies using an automated DNA sequencer.
(Project duration: 6/1/2005 – 5/31/2006)
- Professor Stephen J. Ryan described Albaugh as a man of many talents. With a gift of more than \$2.5 million, the Clarence and Estelle Albaugh Trust has established a fund to provide medical equipment to the Keck School of Medicine of USC and support research into technologies designed to restore sight to the blind.

John Dundas, trustee for the trust, said the late philanthropist Clarence Albaugh, a former USC ophthalmologist and supporter of the Keck School's department of ophthalmology, and his wife Estelle established the fund to spur medical research.

The funds will be used, in part, to assist the work of **Mark Humayun**, professor of ophthalmology, biomedical engineering and cell and neurobiology, who is creating an artificial retina that shows promise in restoring a measure of sight to the blind.

Specifically, Humayun and his team focus on developing a new genre of implantable electronics using state-of-the-art micro- and nanotechnologies. The implant takes images from a camera embedded within a pair of glasses and turns the information into patterns of electrical stimulation to excite the remaining neurons in an eye without rods and cones.

USC News, 6/13/05

<http://www.usc.edu/uscnews/stories/11376.html>

- The Westwood-based law firm Liner Yankelevitz Sunshine and Regenstreif LLP and one of its founding partners, Steve Yankelevitz, are helping find a cure for Parkinson's disease. Following a pledge by Yankelevitz of \$25,000 to support the research of **Mark Lew**, a neurologist at the Keck School, the law firm gave an additional \$100,000. The funds will be used for Lew's clinical research program evaluating the effects of exercise on Parkinson's disease.

HSC Weekly, 6/24/05

<http://uscnews.usc.edu/hscweekly/detail.php?recordnum=11422>

Rossier School of Education

- **Melora Sundt**, clinical associate professor of education, has been awarded \$149,818.00 by the Department of Education for research on the USC Sexual Violence Prevention Program and Evaluation. (Project duration: 6/13/2005 – 6/12/2007)

Viterbi School of Engineering

- **Laurent Itti**, assistant professor of computer science, has been awarded \$112,500.00 by the Human Frontier Science Program for research on the neural substrate of bottom-up and top-down visual attention. (Project duration: 5/1/2005 – 4/30/2008)
- **Jesse Tong-Pin Yen**, assistant professor of biomedical engineering, has been awarded \$365,228.00 by the National Institutes of Health for research on new scanning methods for 3-D breast ultrasound. (Project duration: 5/1/2005 – 4/30/2007)
- **Nenad Medvidovic** and **Viktor Prasanna** are winners of the prestigious Okawa computer science grants for 2005. The Okawa Foundation, established in 1986 by the late Isao Okawa, annually gives \$10,000 in research funding to ten California information sciences researchers.

The prizes will be formally presented to the Viterbi School's two winners at an awards ceremony in San Francisco October 6.

Medvidovic is an associate professor in the department of computer science affiliated with the USC Center for Software Engineering. He specializes in software architecture modeling and analysis; middleware facilities for architectural implementation; product-line architectures; architectural styles; and architecture-level support for software development in highly distributed, mobile, resource constrained, and embedded computing environments.

Prasanna is a professor with appointments in both the departments of electrical engineering and computer science. He specializes in high performance computing, parallel and distributed systems, network computing and embedded systems, including associated security issues.

Viterbi News, 7/6/05

http://viterbi.usc.edu/news/news/2005/2005_07_06_okawa05.htm