

**RESEARCH NEWS:
APRIL 15-MAY 9, 2005**

April 15, 2005

Smoking Damage May Jump Generations

A child whose grandmother smoked while pregnant may have double the risk of developing childhood asthma as a child whose grandmother did not smoke, according to researchers from the Keck School of Medicine.

Published in the April issue of the journal *Chest*, the study suggests that tobacco's harmful effects on the lungs can be passed down through generations, from grandmother to grandchild, even when the child's mother appears unaffected.

"This is the first study to show that if a woman smokes while she is pregnant, both her children and grandchildren may be more likely to have asthma as a result," said the study's senior author, **Frank D. Gilliland**, professor of preventive medicine at the Keck School. "The findings suggest that smoking could have a longer-lasting impact on families' health than we had ever realized," he said.

Go to article:

<http://uscnews.usc.edu/hscweekly/detail.php?recordnum=11205>

Study Shows Diuretics More Effective Than Newer Drugs in Stemming Heart Problems

A Keck School of Medicine cardiologist has helped bring diuretics back to the forefront as the key, first-line therapy to reduce heart disease in patients with high blood pressure.

The latest results from the Anti-hypertensive and Lipid-Lowering Treatment to Prevent Heart Attack Trial, or ALLHAT—which compared therapies for the prevention of heart disease—were published in the April 6 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA). **L. Julian Haywood**, professor of medicine in the division of cardiovascular medicine at the Keck School, was one of the paper's co-authors and has served on ALLHAT's steering committee.

ALLHAT is the first large-scale trial—with 33,357 participants, all hypertensive and older than 55—to compare diuretics, calcium channel blockers, and angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors as initial therapies in a population with large numbers of African-American participants.

Go to article:

<http://uscnews.usc.edu/hscweekly/detail.php?recordnum=11206>

Keck School Hosts Major NCI Cancer Forum for Science Writers

Reporters from media including the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Pasadena Star-News*, *KPCC* radio and several major Chinese newspapers came to the Keck School of Medicine and the USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center in February for a National Cancer Institute (NCI) Science Writers' Seminar. It was the first time the NCI held one of its well-respected and well-attended seminars away from the NCI campus.

The seminar, "Cancer and Your Genes," featured researchers from USC/Norris, as well as the NCI, UCLA's Jonsson Cancer Center and the City of Hope National Medical Center, who spoke to the gathered science writers about their ongoing research endeavors in fields ranging from thyroid cancer and epigenetics to the ethics of genetic counseling.

USC/Norris Cancer Center director **Peter Jones** spoke briefly about why the bench-to-bedside approach of comprehensive cancer centers—of which there are 39 in the country—is crucial in the fight against cancer.

Go to article:

<http://uscnews.usc.edu/hscweekly/detail.php?recordnum=11208>

NEW WEB SITE - USC/Norris Cancer Center

The USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center recently unveiled a new Web site at www.usc.edu/norris to better reflect its focus on cutting-edge cancer research. The re-design precedes a visit by a National Cancer Institute team, which is reviewing USC/Norris for renewal of its NCI Cancer Center Core Support Grant. The new USC/Norris site is the result of collaboration between the staff of USC ISD Web Services and USC Health Sciences Public Relations and Marketing.

Go to article:

<http://uscnews.usc.edu/hscweekly/detail.php?recordnum=11209>

New Executive Health Administration Program Launched

A new Executive Master of Health Administration program has been launched by the USC School of Policy, Planning and Development. The two-year Executive MHA is designed to accommodate the schedules of full-time, mid- to senior-level professionals, enabling them to work while earning their degrees.

"The Executive Master of Health Administration is a customized executive educational program that builds upon the experience of even the most seasoned health professional," said **Glenn Melnick**, director of the School's programs in health management and policy.

"From physicians or other healthcare providers interested in acquiring business acumen, to hospital staff or health-plan administrators operating in an increasingly complex environment, all will benefit from the knowledge and analytical skills gained through interaction with the field's leading thinkers, policymakers and practitioners," Melnick said.

The program also will advance the School's commitment to preparing students for the extraordinary challenges facing health-care professionals, said **Daniel Mazmanian**, the School's C. Erwin and Ione L. Piper Dean and Professor.

Jeffrey Huffman, president and CEO of USC Care Medical Group Inc., agreed. "As a USC MHA alumnus myself, I can assure you that the professionals who earn this degree will gain the knowledge necessary to create a distinct advantage in the health-care marketplace.

Go to article:

<http://uscnews.usc.edu/hscweekly/detail.php?recordnum=11210>

Go to Web site:

www.usc.edu/schools/sppd/emha

April 22, 2005

AACR Meeting Highlights Work of USC Researchers

In presentations of research ranging from the role of DNA methylation in both cancer and embryonic development to successful reformulations of existing lymphoma treatments, researchers from the Keck School of Medicine of USC and the USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center showed their scientific strength at the 96th Annual Meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) in Anaheim, April 15 through April 20.

Go to article:

<http://uscnews.usc.edu/hscweekly/detail.php?recordnum=11226>

April 28, 2005

Scholars Publish Child Sex Abuse Policy Recommendations in *Science*

USC Law professor **Thomas Lyon** and other leading scholars nationally have recommended key changes in child sexual abuse research. The group says abuse should be recognized as a public health problem that requires multidisciplinary efforts to improve prevention and treatment. Their recommendations are reported in a recent *Science* journal article. "The Science of Child Sexual Abuse" calls for the creation of a new center on child abuse and interpersonal violence to be housed at the National Institutes of Health.

The researchers found that the scientific study of child sexual abuse is under-funded, obscured by contentious forensic controversy and fragmented by discipline.

"From public health, economic, ethical and scientific perspectives, we recommend interdisciplinary consensus panels and increased intellectual investment in child sexual abuse research, prevention, intervention and education," the authors advised in the April 22 article.

Go to article:

<http://lawweb.usc.edu/news/releases/2005/AbusePolicy.html>

April 29, 2005

Patti Davis Favors Hope Against Alzheimer's

It is important not to lose hope in the face of Alzheimer's disease, said Patti Davis, daughter of the late President Ronald Reagan, at a gathering of health-care professionals and researchers attending a conference at USC titled "The Many Faces of Dementia: From Prevention to Treatment."

Go to article:

<http://www.usc.edu/uscnews/stories/11196.html>

May 2, 2005

Patients Face Undiagnosed Depression

Nearly one-fourth of low-income minority women with cancer suffer from depression, but few are diagnosed or treated for it, according to a study published in the May issue of the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*.

Twenty-four percent of women met standard criteria for major depressive disorder, said **Kathleen Ell**, professor of social work at the University of Southern California and lead author of the study. That figure doubles the percentage found existing research of middle- and upper-class, predominately white women.

Go to article:

<http://www.usc.edu/uscnews/stories/11253.html>

May 6, 2005

USC Researchers Reveal Key findings at ARVO Conference

In more than a dozen presentations of scientific papers and scores of poster presentations, scientists and physicians from the Keck School and USC's Doheny Eye Institute described their advances in the field of ophthalmology at the annual meeting of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., May 1–5.

Go to article:

<http://uscnews.usc.edu/hscweekly/detail.php?recordnum=11275>

Keck School Radiologists Pursue Multiple Trials to Fight Breast Cancer

Keck School of Medicine radiologists are conducting a flurry of clinical trials to look for answers to some of the most vexing challenges to women's breast health: detecting tumors that are difficult to discover in dense breast tissue, and making breast cancer imaging more accessible and affordable.

"There's a lot going on in our section—a lot of work to push technology forward in women's imaging," said **Yuri Parisky**, associate professor of clinical radiology and director of new technologies at the Harold E. and Henrietta C. Lee Breast Center at USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Go to article:

<http://uscnews.usc.edu/hscweekly/detail.php?recordnum=11276>

May 9, 2005

USC Researchers Present Findings on Previously Blind Patients Who Detected Light, Identified Objects and Perceived Motion with an Artificial Retina.

Researchers from USC and the Doheny Eye Institute's Doheny Retina Institute have presented data on the first six patients implanted with an intraocular retinal prosthesis – more popularly referred to as artificial retina – developed and manufactured in partnership with Second Sight Medical Products Inc., of Sylmar California.

Go to article:

<http://www.usc.edu/uscnews/stories/11286.html>

