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DEAN'S REPORT

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Another \$20 million for USC Norris

Adding to a distinguished legacy of support for leading-edge cancer research and treatment at USC Norris, the estate of philanthropist Henrietta C. Lee includes a gift of \$20 million, bringing Lee's total giving to \$45 million.

Lee, who died of natural causes on June 19 at the age of 94, made a bequest to support research and programs at USC Norris. Prior to the \$20 million gift, Lee gave \$25 million to establish four endowed cancer research chairs and a breast cancer center at the facility.

Keck School Dean Carmen A. Puliafito lauded Lee's generosity. "We are privileged to have known such a generous friend. Henrietta's legacy will be the hope that her generosity gives to patients who will benefit from promising new therapies."

In 1997, Lee made a lead gift to establish the Harold E. and Henrietta C. Lee Breast Center, a 5,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art research and treatment facility located on the first floor of the USC Norris Cancer Hospital. Mrs. Lee's husband, Harold, passed away in 1990.

She also provided funding for four endowed chairs: the Harold E. Lee Chair in Cancer Research, held by Michael Press, professor of pathology at the Keck School of Medicine, and the Henrietta C. Lee Chair in Breast Cancer Research, whose inaugural holder was Melvin J. Silverstein, a former professor of surgery at the Keck School. She also funded the Patricia Jones Chair in Ovarian Cancer and the Dr. Arthur and Priscilla Ulene Chair in Women's Cancer.

In 2002, Lee made a gift to establish the Lee Women's Health Center at USC Norris to create and advance the understanding and care of female-specific cancers and the ability to diagnose and treat by integrating patient care, research, prevention and education.



Henrietta C. Lee



Dean Carmen A. Puliafito (right) is welcomed by Dr. Ron Smith, chair of the Department of Ophthalmology, at the annual reception for new faculty.

Dean marks his first anniversary

Dean Carmen A. Puliafito, M.D., M.B.A., reviewed the following highlights of his first-year accomplishments in a presentation to the Keck School Board of Overseers Oct. 30. Puliafito became dean Nov. 1, 2007.

- ▶ Raised \$116 million in private philanthropy
- ▶ Developed a business plan for the USC academic medical center
- ▶ Recruited four new department chairs and institute directors
- ▶ Developed and won faculty support for an integrated physician practice plan
- ▶ Increased the size of the school's research portfolio
- ▶ Successfully competed for \$27 million construction grant from the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine for stem cell research building
- ▶ Implemented new mission-based budgeting strategy which provides strong incentives for increasing research spending
- ▶ Recruited a new leader for educational programs at the Keck School
- ▶ Began a review of educational programs at the Keck School
- ▶ Successfully achieved agreement in principle with Los Angeles County on a \$112 million contract

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SCHOOL OF MEDICINE **USC**

USC breaks ground on cutting-edge stem cell center

USC became the first of 12 institutions funded by the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) to break ground formally on a facility wholly dedicated to stem cell research.

Groundbreaking ceremonies took place Sept. 3 on USC's Health Sciences Campus. The event featured prominent local and state officials among 300 invited guests.

The \$80 million Eli and Edythe Broad CIRM Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at USC is the product of an innovative public-private partnership between voter-created CIRM, the Keck School of Medicine of USC and the Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation, a Los Angeles-based national philanthropy focused on advancing entrepreneurship for the public good in education, science and the arts.



From left: Center Director Martin Pera, Eli Broad, USC President Steven B. Sample, Edythe Broad, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Dean Carmen A. Puliafito and CIRM's Bob Klein and Alan Trounson symbolically break ground on Sept. 3 for the new stem cell research building.

"We have the best scientists and researchers right here at USC. And with California leading the way in stem cell advances, it's only logical that we create the institutions and facilities around the campus that are going to continue to accelerate stem cell research here in our backyard," said Eli Broad, founder of the Broad Foundation.



Rendering of the Broad CIRM Center, designed by Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Architects LLP.

Dean Carmen A. Puliafito of the Keck School of Medicine called the groundbreaking "a very important step in a mission set by the voters of California to place the state at the forefront of stem cell research."

The five-story Broad CIRM Center will house basic and clinical researchers working collaboratively on stem cell research in basic and discovery stem cell research, preclinical research and preclinical development, and clinical research.

The new 80,000-square-foot facility will become an integral part of a "research triangle" on USC's Health Sciences Campus, working with the Zilkha Neurogenetic Institute and the Harlyne J. Norris Cancer Research Tower.

CIRM was established when voters passed Proposition 71 in 2004 to borrow and spend \$3 billion over 10 years to support stem cell research. The institute awarded USC nearly \$27 million for the new facility earlier this year, supplementing a \$30 million gift made in 2006 by the Broad Foundation. The balance of funding will be raised from private philanthropy.

"We are proud to honor Eli and Edythe Broad for their vision and generosity, which paved the way for this extraordinary facility," Puliafito said. "The facility will be a vital addition to our campus, creating the space for research that holds great promise for advances in patient care."

USC researchers working on the Health Sciences Campus and at Children's Hospital Los Angeles have received \$60 million in stem cell grants from CIRM, ranking USC third in the state in such funding, following Stanford University and the University of California, San Francisco.

"The potential applications for stem cell research and regenerative medicine are breathtaking," Pera said. "This new building will enable USC researchers and their colleagues to convert exciting fundamental discoveries into new therapies."

New chair named for pathology department

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business at UCI, a partnership between the Department of Pathology and the UCI Medical Center.

“Dr. Selsted’s commitment to entrepreneurship will be a catalyst for the advancement of our Department of Pathology, particularly during this time of transformation into a new academic medical center environment,” said Puliafito.

During Selsted’s nine-year tenure as chair of pathology at UC Irvine, total and NIH research funding increased more than four-fold,

with 2007 NIH funding at \$6.6 million. Beyond the department of pathology, Selsted served as associate vice chancellor for research at UCI from 1993 to 1995.

“I’ll be joining a department of truly outstanding faculty,” said Selsted. “I can think of nothing more enjoyable than contributing to the next phase of its mission.”

Selsted succeeds Clive Taylor, chair of the Department of Pathology for the last 25 years.

Dean’s Photo Gallery

① Sept. 10 — Dean Puliafito with Keck students at a reception hosted by Salerno Collegium at the home of Dr. and Mrs. John House.



② Sept. 22 — Dean Puliafito speaks to the news media and honored guests at the Los Angeles County+USC Medical Center Media Day when guests toured the replacement facility prior to opening.



③ Sept. 12 — Dean Puliafito helps first-year medical student Joshua Cban during the annual White Coat Ceremony recognizing entry of the incoming class into the medical profession.



④ Oct. 4 — Dean Puliafito and his wife, Dr. Janet Pine, enjoy a conversation with Dr. Heinz-Josef Lenz at The Doctors of USC tail-gate party prior to kickoff for the USC Trojans — Oregon Ducks football game.



⑤ Oct. 14 — At a USC University Hospital Guild luncheon honoring Harlyne J. Norris, the dean is joined by (from left) Kay Maselter, president of the Guild; Mary Kay Arbuthnot, first president of the Guild; USC President Steven B. Sample; and USC Trustee Harlyne J. Norris.



⑥ Nov. 14 — The dean stands with CNN’s Larry King before a discussion on childhood obesity and cardiovascular disease moderated by the popular television host and featuring Dean Puliafito among the panelists.



Two fall retreats focus faculty on clinical care, research

Clinical Strategic Planning

A USC Sports Medicine Center for athletes of all kinds. A similar USC Center for Performing Arts Medicine for dancers and other performing artists. Enhanced Continuing Medical Education courses. A Women's Cardiovascular Center. A partnership with a downtown hotel to provide lodging for families.



The Keck School of Medicine's Clinical Strategic Planning Retreat brought together more than 100 clinicians and staff to discuss ideas for the future of the school.

These were among the big ideas discussed as more than 100 Keck School of Medicine clinicians gathered Oct. 24 to envision the future of medicine at USC. The program focused on presentations from nine working groups comprised of more than 120 clinical faculty.

"The Clinical Strategic Planning Retreat is a testament to re-envisioning the practice of medicine at the Keck School of Medicine," said Dean Carmen A. Puliafito. "This retreat is the foundation on which we will build a new era for the Keck School as a regional and national leader in integrated, patient-centered health care."

Puliafito described the presentations as indicative of the faculty's clinical leadership and academic strength. Working group topics were: cardiovascular and pulmonary diseases; digestive disorders and surgery; musculoskeletal and sports medicine; transplant; women's and children's health; professional standards; cancer; sensory disorders/vision and hearing; and neuroscience.

Common themes across presentations included: the need for enhanced marketing activities to showcase The Doctors of USC; opportunities to recruit additional faculty experts to grow priority programs; the importance of improved patient access for appointments and communication back to referring physicians; and suggestions for measuring patient satisfaction.

Puliafito summarized the day by pointing out that the retreat represents the beginning of an ongoing clinical strategic planning process with continued faculty input.

Health Sciences and Technology

Faculty from USC's medical and engineering schools gathered for a retreat Oct. 17-19 and explored opportunities for enhanced collaboration.

Already faculty from the two schools have worked together to develop an artificial retina and neuromuscular stimulation to minimize swallowing difficulties in cancer patients — among other projects. However, the schools' two deans see even greater potential.

"Collaboration between Keck and Viterbi can lead to increased research funding and enhanced learning experiences for students," said Keck School Dean Carmen A. Puliafito.

The ultimate goal is to create synergy to leverage and nurture existing partnerships, collaborative grants and research activities.

Areas of potential collaboration include: biomedical imaging, health informatics, regenerative medicine, robotics and microelectronics.

Faculty also discussed different models for a new program between the two schools. Martha Gray, visiting associate dean for health sciences and technology, is advising USC faculty on the creation of a program similar to the Harvard University-Massachusetts Institute of Technology model called "HST" for Health Sciences and Technology. The proposed new program is referred to as "HST @ USC."

"Many important health and medical problems are too big and too complex to be addressed by a single discipline," Gray explained. "Engineers and physicians need to work together in universities, teaching hospitals and research centers."

New chair named for pathology department

After a nationwide search, Dean Carmen A. Puliafito has appointed Michael E. Selsted as Chair of the Department of Pathology at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, effective Feb. 1, 2009. Selsted comes to USC from the University of California, Irvine, where he is professor and chair of the department and holds the Warren L. Bostick Endowed Chair in Pathology.

“Dr. Selsted is ideally suited to lead the Department of Pathology,” said Puliafito. “He is actively involved in teaching, research, patient care, and administration. He has an appreciation for the role of each area of our academic mission.”

Selsted has been a professor of pathology at UCI since 1989. Prior to his service at UCI, he was professor in the division of hematology-oncology at the University of California, Los Angeles David Geffen School of Medicine.

and this is precisely the environment where any serious academic would want to do their work.”

Selsted’s research has focused on defensins, antimicrobial peptides produced by the body that provide a first line of defense against potentially invasive pathogens. He has published more than 130 scholarly articles and has received numerous academic honors, including a National Institutes of Health MERIT (Method to Extend Research in Time) award, which recognizes researchers who have demonstrated superior competence and outstanding productivity in research. The award provides



Michael E. Selsted

“ Dr. Selsted’s commitment to entrepreneurship and excellence will be a catalyst for the advancement of our Department of Pathology, particularly during this time of transformation into a new academic medical center environment.”

—Keck School Dean Carmen A. Puliafito

Dr. Selsted has identified several priorities for the Department of Pathology, including: strengthening the department’s diagnostic infrastructure to meet the growing needs of the academic medical center and increased patient volumes; recruiting new clinical and research faculty to bring new clinical services online and build on the portfolio of research programs within the department; creating new opportunities for collaboration with other departments; and developing new resources to support the residency and fellowship training programs.

“I have been greatly impressed by the academic ascent of USC over the last decade and this is reflected by great achievement on the University Park Campus and at the Keck School of Medicine,” said Selsted. “The students and faculty are outstanding,

support to investigators with impressive records of scientific achievement in research areas of special importance or promise. Fewer than 5 percent of NIH-funded investigators are selected to receive MERIT Awards.

He is a member of the American Society of Clinical Investigation and the Association of American Physicians. In 2008 he was the first recipient of the UCI Chair Award for Excellence in Medical Student Education.

Selsted’s discoveries have resulted in more than 20 U.S. patents, and he has co-founded three biomedical startup companies. In recognition of his accomplishments in university-industry partnering, he was an inaugural recipient of the UCI Innovation Award. Selsted also built a highly successful outreach laboratory

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Dean welcomes alumni, friends to new Los Angeles County + USC replacement hospital

Keck School of Medicine Dean Carmen A. Puliafito ushered in a new era for the medical school's historic affiliation with Los Angeles County+USC Medical Center with an Oct. 5 reception celebrating the 600-bed replacement hospital that opened Nov. 7.

Nearly 500 attended the event including Keck School alumni, faculty, staff, and students joining administrators and staff of LAC+USC.

Puliafito remarked on the special role that LAC+USC has played in the region, over many years of providing high-quality care to all Angelenos, whatever their means. Calling the new public hospi-

back to the very special place that County has played in the history of USC medicine," he said. "So many of the physicians that live and work in California were trained here and [many of the physicians] throughout the United States."

Following Puliafito's remarks, guests were invited to take a sneak peek at the new facility. "Amazing," "Efficient," "Well-organized," and "State-of-the-art" were a few of the words most often overheard in the hallways of the new facility, as guests browsed through the units and waiting rooms.

"This is beautiful," said alumnus Jerry Andes, M.D., class of 1960. "I have a private practice in Fullerton, but I'd rather practice here. This is superior in design and efficient. I'm proud of USC and what they've done and what I see here."

"This is state-of-the-art," said second-year resident Catherine Lin, M.D. "I feel very privileged to provide care at LAC+USC."

Second-year Keck medical student Elliott Birnstein exclaimed: "This is amazing. I can tell a lot of time and effort went into this. The hands-on experience was a big reason I came [to the Keck School] to study and I'm really looking forward to working here."



Keck School of Medicine Dean Carmen A. Puliafito spoke to alumni, faculty, staff and students at an Oct. 5 open house event.

tal "breathtaking," Puliafito said it looked like a hospital serving an upper middle-class community. "No community in the United States has made this level of commitment to its people," he said.

Puliafito reflected upon the longstanding association of the medical school and the medical center dating back to 1885. He reminded the assembled audience that the Keck School of Medicine currently has almost 1,000 residents and fellows working in the hospital.

"Everywhere I go, when I tell people that I have something to do with the USC medical school, the discussion always comes



The 1.5 million-square-foot Los Angeles County + USC replacement facilities have opened nearly 15 years after the 1994 Northridge earthquake rocked Southern California. The project cost \$1.02 billion for construction and equipment.