Dr. Feig named new Tsai Endowed Chair

Investiture ceremony congratulates new chair holder and honors donors Dr. Fong and Jean Tsai

Pictured from left: Dr. Stephen Feig, professor of radiological sciences and the director of breast imaging at UC Irvine Medical Center, who has been named the Dr. Fong & Jean Tsai Endowed Chair in Women’s Imaging; Dr. Fong Tsai and Dean Ralph Clayman on Oct. 5. Tsai was chair of the Department of Radiological Sciences from 2002-06. Feig is nationally and internationally recognized for his accomplishments in breast imaging research, his leadership in clinical mammography and his dedication to teaching.

Discover
Glucosomine-like supplement blocks autoimmunity in multiple sclerosis

Teach
Apple calls on UC Irvine medical students to share iPad experiences

Heal
American Heart Association honors UC Irvine Healthcare

Support
Changing the world and shaping the future of healthcare
Glucosamine-like supplement suppresses MS attacks

A dietary supplement sold over the counter appears to halt the progress of multiple sclerosis, fending off paralysis in laboratory mice. A study led by Dr. Michael Demetriou (pictured) shows that oral doses of N-acetylglucosamine, similar to the more popular glucosamine, changed abnormal immune cells called T-cells that would otherwise orchestrate immune system attacks on the tissue that insulates nerves. It is these autoimmune attacks that can result in the paralysis seen in many MS patients. “This to my knowledge would be a very simple therapy that is actually getting at the underlying mechanisms causing the disease,” said Demetriou, associate director of UC Irvine’s Multiple Sclerosis Research Center.

More: www.ucimsrc.org

Diabetics’ coronary calcium levels linked to health risks

Notable levels of calcium buildup in coronary arteries can be strong predictors of heart attacks and strokes in people with diabetes and metabolic syndrome, according to a study led by UC Irvine’s Heart Disease Prevention Program. The researchers also found that individuals with diabetes or metabolic syndrome but no evidence of coronary calcium had cardiac-event risks as low as many without these conditions. “Our study points out that there’s a wide range in risk for cardiovascular consequences seen in persons with metabolic syndrome and diabetes and that screening of coronary calcium by heart scans – and, to a lesser extent, carotid arteries by ultrasound – may be helpful in picking out those most vulnerable,” said program director Nathan Wong (pictured).

More: www.heart.uci.edu

Study finds children suffer needlessly after surgery

Are children suffering needlessly after surgery? Dr. Zeev Kain (pictured), professor and chair of the Department of Anesthesiology & Perioperative Care, believes so. In October, he and his UC Irvine colleagues published in the Journal of Pediatric Surgery the first-ever study of chronic postoperative pain in children. Out of 113 youngsters who had surgeries ranging from appendectomies to orthopedic surgery, 13 percent reported pain that lingered for months. Such chronic pain is well understood and treated in adults but has been generally overlooked in pediatric patients. “An operation can be one of the most traumatic events children face,” Kain said, “and many of them experience unnecessary postsurgical pain lasting weeks or months. We hope this study marks a first step toward long-term, definitive solutions.”

More: www.anesthesiology.uci.edu
Apple calls on medical students to share experiences

More than a year after the UC Irvine School of Medicine became the first to implement an iPad-based curriculum, representatives from Apple invited UC Irvine medical students to the company’s Cupertino headquarters to share their experiences using the revolutionary tablet computer. Martin Hoffman, Raja Narayan and Kalpit Shah (pictured) appeared on a MacHealthcare webcast Oct. 18, where they discussed how the iPad is being used as a studying and clinical tool. The three also described how using innovative new apps is enhancing their medical school experience. “To this point, the iPad has opened up new dimensions we didn’t know existed before,” said Narayan, a second-year student. “There’s such great potential, and so much more that can be done.”

More: www.imeded.uci.edu

International interest drives ovarian cancer surgery course

Why would surgeons from Pakistan and South Africa endure days of travel to come to UC Irvine Medical Center? To attend an advanced course in cytoreductive surgery for ovarian cancer. In fact, 30 surgeons from 11 countries representing all continents participated in the two-day professional course to expand their surgical abilities to treat ovarian cancers. Dr. Robert Bristow (pictured), director of gynecologic oncology, said the widespread interest in this cutting-edge course solidified UC Irvine’s position as the leader in advanced gynecological surgical techniques. “It went great,” he said, “better than my wildest expectations. The international turnout augmented the experience and created a very enriching environment for everyone.” The course will return to UC Irvine in 2013.

More: www.roboticoncology.uci.edu/

Courses draw national attention in urologic surgery

As one of the nation’s top-ranked programs, the Department of Urology excels at offering courses to help practicing urologists keep up to date with the latest treatment methods. On Oct. 28, the department hosted two American Urological Association courses that each attracted more than 30 urologists from across the country. One course taught ultrasound theory and practical aspects of laparoscopic and office-based ultrasound for kidney, bladder, prostate and testes. The second was a tissue ablative course that was, according to Department of Urology Chair Dr. Jaime Landman (pictured), “one of the most advanced minimally invasive courses that I have ever seen.” It featured laboratory training laparoscopic kidney ablation, training in radiology on a CT scanner for CT-guided percutaneous ablation and prostate cryoablation training.

More: www.urology.uci.edu
Bunney wins prestigious Sarnat award

Dr. William E. Bunney (pictured), Distinguished Professor of psychiatry & human behavior, has been awarded the prestigious Institute of Medicine's 2011 Rhoda & Bernard Sarnat International Prize in Mental Health for his work enhancing the treatment and understanding of mood disorders. Acknowledging Bunney's research into key biological abnormalities in depression and schizophrenia, the prize – consisting of a medal and $20,000 – was presented at the IOM's annual meeting in Washington, D.C. in October. “Dr. Bunney is a pioneer in the biological approach to understanding mood disorders,” said Chancellor Michael Drake. “We're thrilled that he has been recognized for his contributions to the study and treatment of illnesses that are not only debilitating but potentially fatal.”

More: www.psychiatry.uci.edu

Stamos elected president of colorectal surgery board

Dr. Michael J. Stamos (pictured), chair of the Department of Surgery, has been installed as president of the American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery, which sets standards and maintains certifications for surgeons that specialize in colorectal surgery. He is listed among America's Best Doctors® and is a member of UC Irvine Health's Strategic Plan Steering Committee and its sub-committee on health reform implementation. He has published more than 100 peer-reviewed manuscripts, 30 book chapters and has served as the editor of four textbooks, including the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons' colon and rectal surgery textbook. “I look forward to fulfilling this responsibility to an organization which has assumed increased importance with the new requirements of maintenance of certification for colorectal surgeons,” said Stamos, who was elected to the board in 2006 as a representative of the American College of Surgeons.

More: www.surgery.uci.edu

AHA honors UC Irvine for heart failure care

The American Heart Association has honored UC Irvine Healthcare for providing the highest levels of care for people suffering from heart failure. The association's Get With the Guidelines – Heart Failure Gold Plus Award signifies that UC Irvine Medical Center has achieved at least 85 percent compliance for two consecutive years with AHA-specified standards of care for heart failure patients. “This award recognizes that heart failure patients who come to UC Irvine Medical Center are getting the proper care they need, when they need it,” said Dr. Dawn Lombardo (pictured), director of the hospital's heart failure program. “UC Irvine continues to make our comprehensive care for heart failure patients among the best in the country.”

More: www.healthcare.uci.edu/cs.asp
2012 Calendar of Events

Wednesday, Jan. 25
Dean’s Quarterly Lecture Series
Time: 5-7 p.m.
Location: Gross Hall
Topic: "Researching Ways to Make Memories Last a Lifetime"
Speakers: Dr. Steven Small and Frank La Ferla

Saturday, Jan. 28
UC Irvine Homecoming
Time: 2-5 p.m.
Location: Mesa Road
UC Irvine Campus

Tuesday, Jan. 31
Research Associates Winter Luncheon*
Time: 11:30 a.m.
Location: Beckman Center
Topic: “The Future of Cancer Therapy and Treatment: From the Bench to the Bedside”
Speaker: Hung Fan
*Luncheon fee required

Tuesday, Feb. 7
SOM Alumni Chapter Board Meeting
Time: 6-8 p.m.
Location: Medical Education Bldg.

Friday, March 16
Match Day
Time: 9 a.m.
Location: Medical Education Bldg.

Wednesday, March 28
Dean’s Quarterly Lecture Series
Time: 5-7 p.m.
Location: Gross Hall
Topic: "Stem Cells: Revolutionizing the Treatment of Human Disease"
Speakers: Peter Donovan and Dr. Henry Klassen
For additional information on any of these events, please contact Carley Fox at 949-824-9157 or medi-calsschoolalumni@uci.edu

Saturday, April 14
UC Irvine Health Gala
Time: 5 p.m.
Location: Disney’s Grand Californian Hotel, featuring entertainment by JT and CALIFORNIA DREAMIN’.
For reservations or sponsorship information, contact Patricia Falzon at 714-456-6226 or pfalzon@uci.edu

School of Medicine 2012 Alumni Reunion

The School of Medicine looks forward to welcoming you back to reconnect with old friends and classmates, rediscover UC Irvine and learn about the current state of the School of Medicine at our annual Alumni Reunion on Friday and Saturday, April 13 and 14.

On Saturday morning, visit campus to take advantage of a CME course and see how today’s students are learning patient care in the new Simulation Center in the Medical Education Building. This is a great opportunity to stay abreast of CME requirements and experience just one of the many ways the new medical education building symbolizes UC Irvine’s commitment to innovations in learning. For details regarding the Alumni Reunion visit www.som.uci.edu/alumni/ or contact Carley Fox at 949-824-9157.

The Dean’s Report is published by the UC Irvine School of Medicine – Dean Ralph V. Clayman, M.D.; Assistant Vice Chancellor, UC Irvine Health Advancement Sue Totten; Alumni Relations Associate Director Carley Fox; Editors Tom Vasich and Jenny Tom.
From the Dean

As 2011 concludes, I would like to thank our dedicated faculty, hardworking staff, inspiring medical students and unwavering community supporters of the UC Irvine School of Medicine and UC Irvine Medical Center. As we reflect back on the year and our ongoing mission of Discover. Teach. Heal, here are some highlights:

Discover:
• The UC Irvine School of Medicine was again ranked among the nation’s top 50 medical schools for research, finishing at No. 42, according to U.S. News & World Report.
• A Swiss clinical trial using a human neural stem cell-based therapy for chronic spinal cord injury created by Aileen Anderson and Brian Cummings of the Sue & Bill Gross Stem Cell Research Center enrolled its first patient. The trial – which is being hosted by StemCells Inc. – is the world’s first using human neural stem cells to treat spinal cord injury.
• TechPortal Orange – a medical business/technology incubator occupying 3,100 square feet of laboratory and office space – opened in Shanbrom Hall, the heart of research at UC Irvine Medical Center. The facility will provide resources for both start-ups and faculty interaction with industry.
• A trio of UC Irvine biomedical researchers received a $1 million grant from the W.M. Keck Foundation to develop a nanoscale imaging microscope capable of observing single-cell migration in vivo, which could provide new insight into how cancer cells metastasize in humans.

Teach:
• The iPad iMedEd Initiative enters its second year and will continue through 2015 thanks to the support and vision of John Tu, co-founder and CEO of Fountain Valley-based Kingston Technology.
• UC Irvine’s School of Medicine and Australia’s University of New England School of Rural Medicine are collaborating on a way for students on both continents to participate jointly in real-time medical simulation and telemedicine training.
• The UniHealth Foundation awarded Dr. John Christian Fox, director of instructional ultrasound, a three-year, $700,000 grant to create a four-year handheld bedside ultrasound curriculum.

Heal:
• The Gavin Herbert Eye Institute building is set for completion in 2013, thanks to a generous donation from Gavin Herbert, the founder and former CEO of Allergan Inc., and his mother Josephine Gleis. Once completed, it will be the newest and among the most state-of-the-art eye care and treatment facilities on the West Coast.
• U.S. News & World Report included UC Irvine Medical Center on its “America’s Best Hospital” list for the 11th consecutive year and recognized its programs in gynecology, urology, cancer and nephrology as among the best (i.e. top 50) in the country.
• More than 90 UC Irvine doctors are included in the national “Top Doctors of America” ranking, by far the most in Orange County.
• The U.S. Department of Justice honored Dr. Laura Mosqueda and UC Irvine’s Elder Abuse Forensic Center with a 2011 Award for Professional Innovation in Victim Services. The center was among 10 organizations and individuals recognized nationally for outstanding work on behalf of crime victims.
• Dr. Nitin Bhatia and Dr. Samuel Bederman conducted the first robot-assisted spinal surgery on the West Coast using a Mazor Robotics’ SpineAssist surgical robotic system.

Much of what we accomplished this year could not have been achieved without your engagement. Accordingly, in this issue of the Dean’s Report, we’ve added a fourth section entitled: Support. Your generous contributions to support medical research, education and healthcare have a profound impact on our faculty, students and the Orange County community we serve.

There are several ways you can support the School of Medicine – something as simple as purchasing a personalized Med Ed Building brick or paver in support of our medical students, or going online to www.uc Irvine.edu/SchoolOfMedicine to make a donation to support a specific research fund, or to establish an endowed chair to enable UC Irvine to attract and retain a world-class faculty. Private support plays an important role in our ability to achieve our mission. As state budget reductions continue, philanthropy will be increasingly important to fill the funding gap and thereby maintain the high quality of our academic and clinical mission.

I’d like to thank our supporters who have continued to move our school in a positive direction. I encourage each reader of this newsletter to consider how UC Irvine Health has positively impacted on their lives and the lives of their loved ones in the past year and consider a gift of support.

Again, I thank you for your generosity and wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season. I look forward to working with you in 2012 as we continue to fulfill our mission of Discover. Teach. Heal and thereby bring to the Orange County community one of the finest academic health centers in the country.

Sincerely,

Ralph V. Clayman, M.D.
Dean, School of Medicine
Professor of Urology
Support

Baldoni's giving back

As a family practitioner, Dr. Rudolph Baldoni ’61 sent many patients to the County hospital in Orange in the 1960s.

Although he eventually became an anesthesiologist, Baldoni always remembered the hospital as being in need of repair. Nearly four decades later, he seized the opportunity to support construction of a new university hospital. He showed his appreciation for the training that launched his career and contribute to the university that is now educating one of his grandsons.

A savvy investor, Baldoni made the maximum IRA Rollover Gift to what is now UC Irvine Douglas Hospital. He and his wife, Dorothy, could each donate up to $100,000 from their IRA and count it as their required minimum IRA distribution, without increasing their taxable income or jeopardizing their Social Security benefits. Their gift also went in support of the new Medical Education Building and to aid UC Irvine's teaching programs.

Baldoni looks back on the gift to his alma mater as a wise investment: “Not only was I part of the university’s initiative to build one of the best hospitals in the country, but also my gift went to something that will make a difference for my children and grandchildren.”

For information on tax-free IRA Rollover Gifts for 2011 and other giving options, contact Roland Ho at 949-824-6454 or roland.ho@uci.edu.

Launching Change the World

Changing the world is at the heart of UC Irvine. Students from the School of Medicine are traveling abroad to apply their medical skills in remote areas of underdeveloped countries. To date, our students have participated in the healthcare of citizens in India, Kenya, Vietnam and Peru.

Through their travels the students experience global healthcare firsthand. They gain a greater understanding of the medical and humanitarian needs of developing countries and have the opportunity to offer their skills and assistance. The students who are fortunate enough to participate in this program, embark on a truly life-changing experience. They return to UC Irvine with a renewed sense of purpose. Some begin planning for future trips. Others rethink career goals.

In an effort to offer this outreach opportunity to more students, the School of Medicine is launching “Change the World,” a program to fund students wishing to offer their skills and services abroad. This program can only be funded through philanthropy. It depends upon the support of School of Medicine alumni, parents, and friends. Your gift of $2,500 will enable one student to experience this opportunity of a lifetime. If you would like to become a part of Change the World, contact UC Irvine Health Advancement at 949-824-9157.

Paving the way for the future

There are many ways you can support UC Irvine’s School of Medicine. One is through the commemorative bricks and pavers that line the pathway to the Medical Education Building. Your donation of $400 for a brick or $1,000 for a paver contributes to the School of Medicine and the outstanding education it delivers not only to current students, but also to the many students who will follow in their footsteps. A similar program is underway at Douglas Hospital to create a healing garden. For more information on how you can help pave the way for the future, please contact UC Irvine Health Advancement at 949-824-9157.
Preserving the school’s history

Although the School of Medicine joined the fledgling UC Irvine campus in 1967, its lineage goes back more than 100 years to the very foundations of osteopathic medicine.

And no one has done more to preserve that history than Dr. Victor Passy.

The esteemed alumnus – who received a D.O. in 1959 from the California College of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons and an M.D. in 1962 when the school became the California College of Medicine after the state’s osteopaths merged with the California Medical Association – has played vital roles with the advancement of the medical education and clinical enterprises at UC Irvine.

Few UC Irvine pioneers can match his achievements.

Passy started the otolaryngology department in the School of Medicine and served as its chair from 1967 to 1973 and interim chair during the 1980s. He continues as an emeritus faculty member to this day.

“It was exciting to start the program and see it grow,” he said. “When I first started here, it was still the county hospital. We got the program certified and started the residency program. It was a struggle, but we did well.”

Passy also remains a member and chair of the 41st Medical Trust committee, which was established in 1964 to support the unification of M.D.s and D.O.s and later to support and expand the UC Irvine School of Medicine.

The culmination of his efforts with the 41st Medical Trust, he said, was shepherding the publication of “The Merger: M.D.s and D.O.s in California,” which was written by Drs. Sibylle Reinsch, Michael Seffinger and Jerome Tobis and published in 2009.

The authoritative history of osteopathic medicine in the Golden State also includes a detailed discussion of the chain of events starting with the D.O.-M.D. merger and on through to the creation of a medical school at UC Irvine.

“I’m very proud of the book,” Passy said. “It was a challenge that needed to be met. The book gives you the many aspects about the merger and the ultimate start of our medical school. It was a wonderful effort, and I encourage anyone with an interest in this subject to read this definitive account of an important period of time.”

SOM alumni website: A new way to connect

UC Irvine’s School of Medicine Alumni Chapter has launched a website dedicated to serving more than 5,000 School of Medicine alumni and more than 7,000 resident alumni.

“The site gives our alumni an easy way to remain connected or to reconnect to the latest events at our medical school. It will give alumni an opportunity to receive more communication and support from their alma mater as we enter the school’s most exciting period ever for research, education and clinical care,” said Dr. Rimal Bera ’87, SOM Alumni Chapter president-elect.

The site provides a platform for sharing accomplishments, activities and event news. The “Class Notes” section offers alumni a vehicle for posting activities and accomplishments and connecting with the community. The site also connects alumni to upcoming events, continuing medical education opportunities, the Dean’s Report and more.

All alumni are encouraged to log on and update their contact information. To learn more about the UC Irvine SOM Alumni Chapter, visit us at: www.som.uci.edu/alumni