Match Day celebration brings cheers and joy

Defining moments: Future physicians find residency spots at festive Match Day event

The annual Match Day at the UC Irvine School of Medicine is part of a nationwide program matching students with postgraduate medical-training residencies. At the March 16 celebration, Ellika Sadr (left) learns she will join the family medicine program at UC Irvine. Family, friends and classmates (below) cheer on.

Discover
Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center oncologist makes breakthrough breast tumor treatment discovery

Teach
New School of Medicine master’s program will train early-career doctors for biomedical and clinical research

Heal
SeniorHealth Center medical director Dr. Lisa Gibbs receives UC grant to transform patient-centered care

www.som.uci.edu
**Discover**

**Study shows drug combo better for breast cancer care**

Post-menopausal women with a certain type of metastatic breast cancer may have a new treatment option that could lengthen their lives, according to a study led by UC Irvine oncologist Dr. Rita Mehta (pictured). The findings were presented at the 2011 CTRC-AACR San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium. The combination of the two anti-estrogen drugs anastrozole and fulvestrant extended the median survival time of women with hormone receptor-positive metastatic breast cancer by more than six months compared to those who underwent standard treatment with anastrozole alone.

The results of the Phase 3 trial are particularly exciting because, “these patients have not had a new treatment that gave them an overall survival benefit in more than a decade,” Mehta said. “The next step for researchers would be to try the combination in even earlier stages of breast cancer to test whether long-term cures could be increased at those stages.”

More: www.cancer.uci.edu

**Stem cell center features cutting-edge rehab research**

Computer games and stem cell research may seem unrelated, but at the Sue & Bill Gross Stem Cell Research Center, they fit together like hand and glove — a Music Glove, to be exact. The device, used in stroke rehabilitation studies at the bustling UC Irvine research facility, features sensors attaching the glove to a computer and allows patients to play songs on Guitar Hero by tapping their fingers together. Several cutting-edge rehab programs at the center similarly utilize robotics and computer software that someday could be combined with stem cell-based therapies to accelerate recovery from strokes and spinal cord injuries. Neurologist Dr. Steven Cramer and biomedical engineer David Reinkensmeyer (pictured) moved their existing rehab programs into the first-floor clinical lab space at Sue & Bill Gross Hall and have since become integral to the stem cell research center’s mission.

More: stemcell.uci.edu

**Study employs pet therapy to treat kids with ADHD**

Researchers at the UC Irvine Child Development Center have initiated a four-year, $2.2 million study to learn whether pet therapy can help children with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder improve their social skills and control their symptoms. Center director Sabrina Schuck said she’s already seeing evidence that the children do indeed benefit from being around dogs. “All of these kids have attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder. They’re an aggressive group. A couple of them are at risk of suspension from their school,” she said. “Yet they’re calm and engaged. We’ve heard all of this anecdotal evidence that, ‘Oh, dogs are good for kids with ADHD,’ but there haven’t been any studies. Our goal is to answer these claims with empirical research.” To determine whether dogs really are good medicine, behavioral specialists and teachers hold twice-weekly social skills sessions for 12 children.

More: www.cdc.uci.edu
New master’s program will foster biomedical, clinical research

The School of Medicine has kicked off an innovative master’s degree program in biomedical and translational science that will prepare early-career doctors and scientists to turn basic research findings into new patient treatments. The program – aimed at junior physician faculty members, medical school fellows, residents, fourth-year students and others with a solid foundation in basic science – is one of the first of its kind in the nation and will help develop the skills needed to conduct, interpret, evaluate and apply clinical research. “The recent emphasis by the federal government to speed biomedical discoveries into the healthcare marketplace makes this program particularly timely,” said Sherrie Kaplan (pictured), program director and executive co-director of UC Irvine’s Health Policy Research Institute. “Our curriculum has been developed to meet the increasingly sophisticated demands of the clinical research environment.”

More: www.som.uci.edu/msbats

UC Irvine has received Accreditation with Commendation as a provider of Continuing Medical Education (CME) from the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME). This accreditation (exemplary) is the highest level bestowed by ACCME. The accreditation from ACCME spans six years, and will be valid through 2017. In 2011, Accreditation with Commendation was achieved by only the top 16 percent of all accredited providers and the top 26 percent of all accredited medical schools. “The CME office, under the leadership of Ellen Seaback [pictured], has truly brought significant distinction to UC Irvine School of Medicine,” said Dean Ralph V. Clayman. “Their commitment to UC Irvine Health’s endeavors in education helps us advance medicine much to the benefit of our patients and their communities.”

More: www.med.uci.edu/cme

Diversity in Medicine course addresses healthcare disparities

In America’s ever-evolving healthcare system, issues of diversity and disparities grow more and more significant. To help address them, the School of Medicine hosts an annual “Diversity in Medicine” course that provides information to assist healthcare professionals and medical students in maximizing patient care quality in our diverse society. Co-sponsored by the UC Irvine Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, the 10-session series explores the customs, values and behaviors of various cultures and how these factors affect the way healthcare is delivered. More than 120 students participated in the course this winter, which included discussions on veterans’ health issues, religion and spirituality, healthcare reform and LGBT healthcare. The course also featured a talk by Dr. Joseph Donnelly (pictured), director of For OC Kids, about autism.

More: www.med.uci.edu
Lisa Gibbs given UC Health Quality and Innovation grant

The University of California’s Center for Health Quality and Innovation has awarded a $50,000 fellowship to Dr. Lisa Gibbs (pictured), UC Irvine associate clinical professor of family medicine and medical director of the SeniorHealth Center, to support her project, “Transformation of the Primary Care Practice to the Patient-Centered Medical Home Model.” Gibbs was among 13 University of California researchers from six campuses to receive yearlong UC Health Fellowships which support projects to improve the quality and value of care that UC health centers provide. The HQI award is designed to build leadership skills and address a range of projects including efforts to reduce hospital readmissions, decrease waiting times in emergency rooms and optimize antibiotic use in healthcare facilities. More: www.healthcare.uci.edu/seniorhealth

Oncologist Robert Bristow honored with Di Saia chair

Dr. Robert Bristow was installed as the first chair holder of the Philip J. Di Saia Prestigious Chair in Gynecologic Oncology at a ceremonial event honoring both of them in January (pictured). Funded at $3 million, the Di Saia Prestigious Chair is the highest-funded endowed chair in UC Irvine history. This milestone is testament to the man for whom it is named – the highly respected former chief of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology’s Division of Gynecologic Oncology, who dedicated more than three decades to helping UC Irvine become a leader in women’s cancer care. Bristow, who is also director of gynecologic oncology services for UC Irvine HealthCare, is recognized internationally for pioneering advanced techniques for the management of a variety of gynecological cancers. More: www.healthcare.uci.edu/gynonc

Music to Heal program draws on love of music and caring

UC Irvine medical students are using their love of music to aid patient care. Fourth-year medical student Matt Fradkin (pictured) formed Music to Heal to bring the sound of music to patients’ bedsides in the form of listening, playing and learning. The organization has more than 50 volunteers who perform and teach everything from classical to rap to patients of all ages. So far, Music to Heal has made the rounds at UC Irvine Medical Center and a number of other hospitals. “Research supports the idea that music contributes in important ways to both physical and emotional healing,” said Dr. Johanna Shapiro, professor of family medicine and director of the UC Irvine Program in Medical Arts and Humanities. “Matt recognizes that healing occurs on many levels, and medicine needs to attend to them all.” More: www.musictoheal.org
2012 Calendar of Events

Friday, April 13
School of Medicine alumni reunion weekend
Alumni reunion dinner*
Time: 5 p.m.
Location: UC Irvine Medical Center
* Registration fee required

Saturday, April 14
2012 reunion symposium: Discover.
Teach. Heal.*
Time: 8 a.m.
Location: Tamkin Hall
* Registration fee required

School of Medicine alumni and student luncheon
Time: 1 p.m.
Location: Med Ed Building patio

UC Irvine Health Gala
Time: 5 p.m.
Location: Disney's Grand Californian Hotel,
featuring entertainment by JT and CALI-
FORNIA DREAMIN'.
For reservations or sponsorship information, contact
Lisa Yamamoto, 714-456-3756 or lisa.yamamoto@uci.edu

Wednesday, May 9
Dean's Quarterly Lecture Series
Time: 5 p.m.
Location: Sue & Bill Gross Hall
Topic: “Deceptively simple: Translating physical exercise into new therapies for asthma and obesity”
Speakers: Dr. Daniel Cooper and Shlomit Radom-Aizik

Thursday, May 17
Lauds and Laurels ceremony*
Time: 6 p.m.
Location: Pacific Ballroom, UC Irvine Student Center
Dr. Victor Passy will be honored as the 2012 School of Medicine Distinguished Alumnus
* Registration fee required

Tuesday, June 5
Research Associates Athalie Clarke Award luncheon*
Time: 11:30 a.m.
Location: Pacific Club, Newport Beach
* Luncheon fee required
For additional information, please contact Carley Fox at 949-824-9157 or email foxc@uci.edu.

Homecoming 2012
On Jan. 28, thousands of Anteaters returned to campus for the UC Irvine Homecoming Street Festival. Sponsored by the UC Irvine Alumni Association, the festival was a wonderful event for students, families, and alumni of all ages. Activities included: a Frank Sinatra cover act, a beer garden, carnival games, a balloon artist and interactive school booths. The School of Medicine proudly hosted a booth, where alumni could learn about the last advances at the School Medicine, connect with the School of Medicine Alumni Board, and meet with some of our current medical students. Thank you to all our alumni for participating in this great event, and we hope to see you again next year.
From the Dean

On March 16, almost all 104 of our fourth-year students found a match for their post-graduate residency training. The annual event is filled with emotion as family, friends and our teaching faculty watch our students open their envelopes to reveal the institution to which they have been matched. Many of our students come up to the podium with spouses in one hand and babies cradled in the other as they open their envelopes. For the majority, the ceremony is bittersweet, as this class of students, who have been nurtured together for at least four years here, will move on separately to the nation's leading hospitals to continue their training for at least another three years. A lucky few will stay locally, matching with one of UC Irvine School of Medicine's residency programs.

I'm happy to report many other exciting things are happening in medical education. UC Irvine School of Medicine continues to be accredited by all governing bodies. Most recently, we received word from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) that UC Irvine received full accreditation with all areas in compliance. In addition, we received an Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) – full accreditation with commendation (only 15 percent of institutions obtain this recognition). Lastly, all 54 of our UC Irvine residency and fellowship training programs are fully accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). This triumvirate of accomplishments is a tribute to the medical education faculty at UC Irvine under the outstanding leadership of Dr. Gerald Maguire, senior associate dean of education, and Nancy Koehring, director of graduate medical education.

In the area of research, UC Irvine School of Medicine received $150 million in NIH grants this past year (up from $92 million in 2009), and our ranking this year in US News and World Report is 44 nationwide. We've also launched TechPortal Orange, a biomedical startup incubator to facilitate translation of research ideas into clinically applicable devices and therapeutics. More than 3,000 square feet of open-concept laboratory and private office space in Shanbrom Hall (Building 55 at UC Irvine Medical Center) have been renovated for lease to UC Irvine-based startups and to external companies collaborating with UC Irvine faculty. More information can be found at: www.som.uci.edu/techportalorange.

Keeping up with the “discover” and the “teach” parts of our mission, our commitment to “heal” is as strong as ever and growing. UC Irvine Medical Center, under the leadership of CEO Terry A. Belmont along with the support of University Physicians and Surgeons President Dr. John Heydt and me, has seen a remarkable increase in patient census and our physician productivity. In addition, with the opening of the porte-cochere entry to the hospital and our lovely landscaped Healing Garden, UC Irvine Medical Center has a true campus-like feel. The porte-cochere provides an attractive drive-up entrance to give patients and visitors convenient and covered entry to our world-class facility. The Healing Garden outside the hospital entrance provides a peaceful atmosphere for patients and guests to relax and renew.

Intersecting the garden and leading to the hospital is the “Pathway to Healing,” paved with bricks from donors, many of whom are UC Irvine Medical Center employees and faculty.

One other notable occurrence on the UC Irvine Medical Center campus is the opening of the Podlich Family Conference Center on the top floor of the new clinical Laboratory Medicine Building (Building 54). This beautifully designed space now provides a fitting venue for visiting lecturers, research site visits, chair endowment ceremonies and other notable campus events. We are so very grateful to Bill and Pat Podlich for their vision and support.

Lastly, I do hope to have the opportunity to visit with you at our annual Healing Under the Stars Gala, which will be held April 14 at the Grand Californian Hotel in Anaheim. CEO Belmont and his team have put together a fabulous program which will honor many patients who have received world class care here. Tickets are available at: www.healthaffairs.uci.edu/health-gala. I want to thank you for your continued support of the UC Irvine School of Medicine and our UC Irvine Medical Center. With your ongoing interest and support, we can continue to move forward with our mission to Discover. Teach. Heal. I do hope you have the opportunity to visit us sometime and see all of the exciting and inspiring changes in the teaching, research, and delivery of healthcare that have occurred both in Irvine on our medical school campus and in Orange at our first-class medical center. Kind regards.

Sincerely,

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

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Sincerely,

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

**Honor Dr. Jerome S. Tobis, Support Endowed Chair**

Until his recent passing, Dr. Jerome S. Tobis (pictured) served UC Irvine for more than 41 years and touched the lives of many patients, students, residents and physicians. In 1970, he was invited to become chair of the Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, and in 1980, he became the founding director of geriatric medicine. He also served as chair of the medical ethics committee at UC Irvine Medical Center for 15 years. Tobis was an emeritus professor who had been recalled each year since his retirement. He treated everyone he met with care, respect and dignity. He lived in pursuit of social action for ethics, complementary medicine and social change. Respected and admired by so many, Tobis received numerous honors and awards throughout his career. It is fitting that we recognize him by supporting a proposed Endowed Chair in Biomedical Ethics. If you would like to honor Tobis’ dedication and memory by contributing to this fund, please visit www.uadv.uci.edu/ProposedEndowedChairInBiomedicalEthics.

**Remembering Tommy Hand**

The UC Irvine School of Medicine family mourns the sudden and unexpected passing in January of Tommy Hand (pictured), a third-year medical student and founder and president of the UCI chapter of Physicians for Human Rights. Physicians for Human Rights is a Nobel Peace Prize-winning organization that mobilizes those in the medical field to fight human rights abuses around the globe while working to promote health and justice. Hand believed that medical professionals, with their specialized skills, ethical duties, credible voices and access to vulnerable populations, are in a unique position to monitor, defend and support human rights. He was a dedicated activist and traveled the world supporting this cause. To further his commitment, he was enrolled in UC Irvine’s Program in Medical Education for the Latino Community (PRIME-LC), which is intended to produce culturally sensitive and medically competent physician-leaders who can address the distinctive healthcare issues facing Latinos. Hand’s memory will live on through the many causes he championed, and he remains an inspiration to us all. To make a donation in his honor, please contact UC Irvine Health Advancement at 949-824-9157.

**Shaping the Future of Healthcare**

The UC Irvine School of Medicine depends on the support of its alumni, parents and friends to continue to grow and advance as one of the nation’s top-tier medical schools. Each year, the School of Medicine educates more than 400 medical students and trains more than 600 residents and fellows who are intent upon making a difference. Your generous gifts can have a profound impact on their future – and on the communities where they will practice. In fact, you may be helping promising professionals gain the special knowledge and experience they will need to one day provide the care or make the discovery that heals someone you know. Your gift today will help train tomorrow’s physicians.

There are many ways to support the School of Medicine, from establishing an endowment or making a legacy gift, to naming opportunities or online giving. To learn more about how you can help shape the future of healthcare, please contact UC Irvine Health Advancement at 949-824-9157. For e-giving opportunities, please visit www.uadv.uci.edu/SchoolOfMedicine.
Indebted to UC Irvine

It’s hard to imagine being more active than Dr. Harry W. Herr ’69. In addition to serving as professor of urology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and Cornell University Medical College in New York, he directs bladder cancer research at Sloan-Kettering, where he helped establish a comprehensive bladder cancer program, the first of its kind in New York.

Herr is a noted scholar of Civil War medicine and remains active in historical societies, writing about the history of urology, medicine and science. For these efforts, he received the History Award from the American Urological Association last year.

Along with receiving his medical degree at UC Irvine, Herr served his urologic residency at UC Irvine Medical Center and was professor of surgery here from 1977 to 1979, before moving on to New York.

Over the past three decades, Herr and his colleagues have pioneered many notable advances now established as standards of care. These include combined modality therapy for localized and advanced bladder cancer, improved survival and preservation of fertility in testis cancer patients, the first quality-of-life studies in prostate cancer and renal preservation surgery for kidney cancers, among others.

"On the cutting edge, we have a life-long commitment to defining the molecular biology and immunologic mechanisms of genitourinary cancers in the context with specific targeted therapies," he said.

Herr said his team is beginning to define personalized cancer care by identifying the molecular profiles of tumors in individual patients and testing targeted drugs, combined with surgery, against these tumors. New immunologic strategies are also being applied to local tumors aimed at bladder preservation.

These are part of many multi-center international trials which he participates in as organizer and principal investigator. He has been an author on more than 500 research studies.

“UC Irvine gave me the opportunity to learn medicine, teaching me both the science and humanity of medicine," Herr said. “There are too many professors and colleagues to thank, but their support and encouragement convinced me to pursue a career in academic medicine as a physician, scientist, and surgeon.”

Want to contact Herr? Email him at herrh@mskcc.org.

Alumni News

SOM alumni website: A new way to connect

Visit UC Irvine's School of Medicine Alumni Chapter website often for the latest news and information about the School of Medicine, fellow alumni and upcoming events. “The site features the opportunity for our thousands of alumni to remain connected or be reconnected to the latest events at our medical school,” said Dr. Rimal Bera, SOM Alumni Chapter president-elect. “It gives alumni a great way to receive more communication and support as we enter our most exciting period ever for research, discovery and clinical care.”

The website is a great way to connect to fellow alumni through its Classnotes section, where alumni can post activities, accomplishments and notes of interest. Follow site links to upcoming events, continuing medical education opportunities, the Dean's Report and more. All alumni are encouraged to log on to the site and update their contact information. To learn more about UC Irvine School of Medicine Alumni Chapter, visit the site at www.som.uci.edu/alumni.