UCLA Medical Center Offers New Scanner for Faster Cardiac Imaging

UCLA Medical Center became the first hospital in the western United States to acquire a 64-slice computed tomography (CT) scanner for imaging of the heart and cardiac arteries.

Manufactured by Siemens, the sophisticated scanner is four times faster and offers higher resolution images than prior technology. The cost of the cardiac scan is reimbursed by insurers who cover angiograms.

Unlike an angiogram, in which the radiologist threads a catheter up a vein from the sedated patient’s groin to the heart, CT scanning is noninvasive and performed on an outpatient basis.

The 64-slice scanner captures 3-D images of the entire cardiac area in only 10 seconds, reducing the amount of time the patient needs to hold his or her breath.

By enhancing patient comfort and using more advanced technology, the scanner produces more accurate images and results in a more definitive diagnosis of early heart disease.

New Biological Chemistry Chair Aims to Energize Department with Young Scientists, Fresh Approaches

By Elaine Schmidt

Dr. Lawrence Zipursky, the newly appointed chair of the Department of Biological Chemistry, vividly recalls when his predecessor, Dr. Elizabeth Neufeld, recruited him to UCLA in 1985 as a young assistant professor. He credits her dynamic 20-year legacy for contributing to the success of his early career.

“Liz was an extraordinary chair who was committed to each faculty member. I found this inspiring,” says Zipursky, now a UCLA professor and investigator with the prestigious Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI). “She rejuvenated the department by taking young faculty seriously when they first arrived. The opinions of junior faculty were really valued.

“Liz’s support made a difference in my career, and it’s important for me to provide this same leadership to other junior faculty,” he adds. “My goal is to find creative young people with exciting new research and convince them to come to UCLA.”

Zipursky’s enthusiasm for fresh perspectives may spring from seeing the world through different eyes—fruit-fly eyes, that is. The multi-faceted orbs of the common Drosophila offer a genetic parallel universe to the human brain, enabling Zipursky to glean unique insights into human disease and brain development.

“You wouldn’t guess it from their appearance, but fruit flies and humans share a large number of related genes that can go awry and cause disease,” Zipursky explains. “Studying how these genes function in the fly eye can lead to new therapies to treat disease in people.”

The fruit-fly eye model also offers practical advantages, which enable scientists to manipulate genes and answer fundamental biological questions difficult to ask in people. What happens, for example, if scientists switch on the eye gene in the fly’s leg? Will the gene start to generate eye tissue in the leg?

Researchers can also eliminate a gene in order to learn its purpose, how it works and whether it controls other genes.

“We can easily remove a single gene from a single cell in one animal, keep everything else the same and watch what happens,” Zipursky says. “Or we’ll identify a gene that’s similar in people and flies, and insert the human version in the eye model to determine whether it performs the same function.”

Zipursky was introduced to the fruit fly model as a Helen Whitney Foundation Fellow at the California Institute of Technology under the tutelage of the acclaimed research pioneer Dr. Seymour Benzer. Now considered a leader in the specialized field himself, Zipursky focuses his research on how nerve cells make connections in the brain.

“The wiring of the brain underlies every system in the body,” he explains. “Yet how does the brain know how to wire itself correctly? It’s an extremely complex question I’ve wanted to study since first arriving at UCLA as an assistant professor.”
Zipursky has made a number of strides in solving this scientific riddle. In 2000, he challenged the dogma that one gene makes only one protein. His laboratory proved that a single gene was able to encode up to 38,000 different proteins on the cell surface.

In 2004, his team showed that these proteins work like advertisements—enabling those proteins that match to identify each other and connect while ignoring those that don’t. His discovery was the first to explain how similar proteins hunt each other down to make the specific connections critical to cellular communication.

“Different proteins have unique recognition patterns,” says Zipursky. “Only those that look the same bind to each other.”

To encourage shared responsibility among faculty and due to the demands of Zipursky’s HHMI commitment, his department agreed to limit the chair’s position to three years. During that term, Zipursky aims to hire a new assistant professor each year.

“UCLA is a great institution,” he observes. “My goal as chair is to make it a better place. We’ll do that by increasing the number of terrific people in the department and cultivating their potential to accomplish important research.”

Zipursky is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. His research has been recognized by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, McKnight Foundation and American Cancer Society. A co-author of the widely acclaimed college textbook “Molecular Cell Biology,” he is an editorial board member of Neuron and The Journal of Neuroscience.

**UCLA Medical Center Rated Best in West for 16th Consecutive Year**

UCLA Medical Center ranks as the best hospital in the western United States for the 16th consecutive year, according to the July 18, 2005, issue of U.S. News & World Report, which published its annual survey of America’s best hospitals.

UCLA is the only Southern California hospital to earn a spot on the magazine’s honor roll, which recognizes hospitals demonstrating excellence across 17 specialties, since U.S. News launched the survey 16 years ago.

UCLA placed in 16 of the 17 specialties, including a No. 1 ranking in geriatrics for the 14th consecutive year. The Stewart and Lynda Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital at UCLA ranked No. 5 in the country and best in the west for the 13th consecutive year.

UCLA’s urology services ranked No. 4 in the nation. UCLA’s Jonsson Cancer Center and Jules Stein Eye Institute also were judged best in the west, with national rankings of No. 8 and No. 5, respectively.

UCLA specialty areas ranked in the top 20 are: cancer (No. 8); digestive disorders (No. 5); ear, nose and throat (No. 9); geriatrics (No. 1); gynecology (No. 7); heart and heart surgery (No. 13); hormonal disorders (No. 11); kidney disease (No. 8); neurology and neurosurgery (No. 9); ophthalmology (No. 5); orthopaedics (No. 6); pediatrics (No. 12); psychiatry (No. 5); respiratory disorders (No. 15); rheumatology (No. 7); and urology (No. 4).
Dr. Stephen Cederbaum, professor of psychiatry, pediatrics and human genetics, received the 2005 Sherman M. Mellinkoff Faculty Award. Considered the School of Medicine’s highest honor, the award celebrates an ongoing commitment to patients and medical education.

Dr. Alan H. DeCherney, professor of obstetrics and gynecology and chief of the division of reproductive endocrinology and infertility, was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, a national resource for scientifically informed analysis and recommendations on issues related to human health.

Dr. E. Carmack Holmes, former chairman, UCLA Department of Surgery, and William P. Longmire, Jr., Professor, is currently executive director of the Center for Advanced Surgical and Interventional Technologies (CASIT) and a professor of thoracic surgery. He was inducted into the Johns Hopkins Society of Scholars – an honor awarded to former post-doctoral fellows at the university who have gained marked distinction in their fields. In addition, Holmes received an honorary membership in the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in Glasgow, Scotland, for his renowned work in surgical oncology and robotics.

Dr. Steve Jacobsen, professor of molecular, cell and developmental biology in the College of Letters & Science and a researcher with UCLA’s Jonsson Cancer Center, received an investigator award from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, which identifies researchers who have the potential to make significant contributions to science. Jacobsen is a leader in DNA methylation research, which is part of gene regulation responsible for normal development. His studies utilize the plant Arabidopsis thaliana.

Dr. Jorge A. Lazareff, associate professor of surgery and director of pediatric neurosurgery, has been selected to hold the newly established Geri and Richard Brawerman Chair in Pediatric Neurosurgery, which will provide leadership in innovative biomedical and psychosocial research of brain metabolism and neurobiology with the goal of treating disorders of the developing central nervous system.

Dr. William L. Oppenheim, professor and chief of pediatric orthopaedics and director of the UCLA/Orthopaedic Hospital Center for Cerebral Palsy, has been named the first Margaret Holden Jones Kanaar, M.D., Chair in Cerebral Palsy, which will provide leadership in innovative research and education related to this disease. Cerebral palsy is one of the leading causes of childhood disability. UCLA’s unique center cares for patients throughout their lives.

Dr. Edward R. B. McCabe, executive chair of pediatrics, was elected vice president (president-elect) of the American Pediatric Society, an organization that advances the study of pediatric diseases and the prevention of illness, and promotes pediatric education and research.

Dr. David B. Reuben, Archstone Foundation Professor of Medicine and chief of geriatrics, has been named president of the American Geriatrics Society, a national organization of nearly 7,000 geriatrics healthcare professionals. Reuben has played an integral role in the organization for the past decade including developing education and policy initiatives.

Dr. Charles Sawyers, professor of medicine and a researcher with UCLA’s Jonsson Cancer Center, received the Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Foundation Award, recognizing Sawyers’ notable research contributions that will lead to improved clinical care for prostate cancer. He also received the David A. Karnofsky Memorial Award and Lecture, bestowed on individuals whose clinical research has helped change the general practice of oncology.

Dr. Margaret L. Stuber, Jane and Marc Nathanson Professor of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, received an honorary doctorate of science from her alma mater, Denison University in Granville, Ohio. Stuber is honored for her contributions to medical education and to the care of families dealing with life-threatening pediatric illness.

Dr. John Timmerman, assistant professor of hematology/oncology and a researcher with UCLA’s Jonsson Cancer Center, received the Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator Award from the Damon Runyon Clinical Research Foundation. Timmerman’s work focuses on developing novel therapies targeting the immune system to treat lymphoma and related cancers.

Dr. Peter Tontonoz, associate professor of pathology and laboratory medicine, received the 2005 Richard E. Weitzman Memorial Award from the Endocrine Society, recognizing an exceptionally promising young researcher. Tontonoz’s work has provided more insight into diseases, such as atherosclerosis, by advancing understanding about how lipids act as signaling molecules in regulating gene expression through nuclear receptors.
Dr. Ernest Wright, professor of physiology and Mellinkoff Professor in Medicine, was named a 2005 Fellow to the Royal Society, an honor considered one of the highest accolades a scientist can achieve next to the Nobel Prize. Wright is honored for his research contributions on the structure, function and genetics of transport proteins, which act as gatekeepers for the body by carrying essential molecules in and out of cells.

Dr. Gail Wyatt, professor in residence at the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior at UCLA, was named a 2005 Woman of Distinction by the American Association of University Women. The award recognizes her clinical work as a sex therapist and educator, and her research into women’s sexual relationships and risk for sexually transmitted diseases. In addition, Wyatt was recognized by the Los Angeles City Commission on the Status of Women and City Councilman Eric Garcetti on United Nation’s Day as an outstanding woman who has empowered women both locally and internationally.

Dr. Lonnie Zeltzer, professor of pediatrics, anesthesiology and psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences and director of the pediatric pain program, received the Jeffrey Lawson Award from the American Pain Society for her outstanding advocacy to improve pain management in children.

Grants
UCLA received a five-year $12.7 million grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which is part of the National Institutes of Health, to support a novel collaborative effort in developing topical microbicides to prevent the spread of HIV. The goal of the effort— involving industry, government and academia—is to produce a product in Phase 1 testing in humans in five years.

Dr. Peter A. Anton, professor of medicine and director, Center for HIV & Digestive Diseases, is the principal investigator.

UCLA received a five-year, $9.7 million grant from the National Institutes of Health directed at understanding the genetic factors in heart disease and metabolic syndrome, a condition characterized by obesity, insulin resistance and atherosclerosis. The grant consists of four projects, bringing together both genetic and biochemical approaches.

Dr. Jake Lusis, professor of medicine, microbiology and human genetics, is the principal investigator. Other key investigators include Dr. Karen Reue, Dr. Paiwi Pajukanta and Dr. Mark Doolittle.

The National Institutes of Health/Lung and Blood Institute awarded a five-year, $12.5 million grant to identify the factors within the heart that influence susceptibility of cell death during a heart attack.

The study goal is to build an understanding of the factors that protect against heart injury that could lead to novel therapeutic strategies. Dr. Peipei Ping, professor of physiology and cardiology and director of the Proteomic Laboratory at the Cardiovascular Research Laboratory, is the principal investigator.

The National Center for Research Resources and National Institutes of Health awarded a five-year, nearly $12 million initiative to support research and development of a Biomedical Informatics Research Network to produce a framework for the collection, analysis, management and visualization of neuroscientific mouse data. The created infrastructure will greatly enhance linkage of multisite, multimodal and adaptive databases into a single system, and resources developed will be available to the scientific community. The effort includes researchers from five major universities around the country.

Dr. Arthur Toga, professor of neurology and director of the UCLA Laboratory of Neuro Imaging, is the principal investigator.

Programs
UCLA Medical Center was awarded with an American Heart Association Get With the Guidelines Coronary Artery Disease Performance Achievement Award for providing exceptional cardiovascular care to patients hospitalized with coronary artery disease.

The UCLA Stroke Center is the first in Los Angeles County to receive designation as a Certified Primary Stroke Center by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations—certifying that the UCLA Stroke Center offers the highest quality of care and follows national guidelines that can significantly improve outcomes for stroke patients.

In Memoriam
Dr. William F. Friedman, former executive chairman of the Department of Pediatrics and senior associate dean for academic affairs, died August 25, 2005. His leadership at UCLA spanned 26 years. A gifted physician and researcher, Friedman conducted work in pediatric cardiology that led to a major advance in treating a common heart defect in premature babies, and his laboratory introduced the use of two-dimensional echocardiography, or ultrasound, to pediatric medicine.

Dr. Milton Howard Miller, professor emeritus of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences, deputy medical director for the County of Los Angeles Department of Mental Health and chair of psychiatry at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, died April 20, 2005. Miller was a champion of quality mental health care to poor and minority communities with a commitment to academic, cross-cultural and public psychiatric programs.
Events

The 6th annual Mattel Party on the Pier!, benefiting Mattel Children's Hospital at UCLA, took place at Pacific Park on the Santa Monica Pier on Sunday, September 25. The fun-filled family event featured celebrity appearances, unlimited rides, carnival booths and prizes, lunch, entertainment, and a silent auction. This year’s celebrity honoree was Patricia Heaton from TV’s “Everybody Loves Raymond.”

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On August 2, a reception and dinner took place at The Regency Club to honor Pamela and George Smith for establishing the Rebecca Smith Chair in A-T Research in the Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine and to present the Chair sculptures to the Smith family and Dr. Richard Gatti, Chair holder.

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On June 23, the UCLA Brain Research Institute hosted a luncheon to introduce Dr. Christopher J. Evans as its new Director, to thank donors and friends for their past support, and to provide an update on brain studies at UCLA.

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On June 12, the Entertainment Industry Men’s Tennis Classic raised nearly $137,000 for the Department of Pediatrics. The Division of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology held its Holiday Luau on December 13.

In Memoriam

Dr. Milly Liu, who joined the Board of Visitors in 1992, passed away on September 17, 2004. She was born in China and received her M.D. degree at National Central University in Nanking in east central China. Her postgraduate studies were conducted at the University of London Institute of Children’s Health. Dr. Liu was an intern at Children’s Hospital, San Francisco, and she did her internship and residency at Stanford University Hospital in pediatrics and residency at the University of Chicago Clinics in pediatrics. In 1956, she started her private practice in Torrance, and nine years later became an attending physician of pediatrics at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. She and her husband, Dr. Steve C. K. Liu, a retired cardiologist, joined The Chancellor’s Associates, The Aesculapians, UCLA Medical Alumni Association, and UCLA Harbor Collegium, among others. Their philanthropy includes gifts to the UCLA Harbor Collegium Library Fund and the Milly and Steve Liu Young Researchers Endowment. Donations may be made to the “Milly Liang Liu, M.D., Memorial Fund” at Los Angeles Biomedical Research at Harbor-UCLA.

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Dr. Ivan N. Mensh, professor emeritus in the Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, passed away April 21 in Rockville, Maryland, at the age of 89. He was recognized nationally and internationally for his leadership in clinical and medical psychology; for his sustained record of scholarly, professional, and educational contributions; and for his service to the University and society. Dr. Mensh was the first head of the Division of Medical Psychology, where he created UCLA’s Medical Psychology Training Program. A pioneer in gerontology, he was one of the first to stress the importance of personality factors in assessing treatment outcome and the need for multivariant approaches to the study of psychopathology and its treatment. The Department’s Medical Psychology Training Program will continue to benefit from the fund that Dr. Mensh and his wife, Frances, established to endow a postdoctoral fellowship in neuropsychology.
Gifts

Dr. Leonard Apt, professor emeritus of ophthalmology and founding director of the Division of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus, created the Leonard Apt Endowed Chair in Pediatric Ophthalmology through a $1-million gift drawn from the trust of Frederic G. Rappaport, his nephew. Recently, Dr. Joseph Demer, a leading authority in the biomechanics of extra-ocular muscle movements, was appointed to the Chair. Demer states, “Dr. Apt’s generosity has created another enduring legacy that I will be proud to showcase throughout the world.” This position complements the Leonard Apt Fellowship in Pediatric Ophthalmology also established by Dr. Apt, the first active faculty member to be responsible for both a fellowship and a chair at UCLA.

The Archstone Foundation has made two grants to enhance the health and well-being of older adults. Dr. Laurence Rubenstein, faculty member of the UCLA Multicampus Program in Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology (MPGMG), received $351,361 to benefit research on fall prevention. Dr. David B. Reuben, holder of the Archstone Foundation Endowed Chair in Geriatrics, directs the MPGMG. The UCLA Center on Aging was awarded $195,000 to extend its Memory Training program over the next two years to a minimum of 1,500 people in populous areas surrounding Los Angeles, and to expand the program nationally through the recruitment of appropriate licensees. Dr. Gary W. Small, Center Director and Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging, has pioneered these courses that develop skills to improve memory retention and the ability to learn and retrieve information.

Recently, Mr. and Mrs. James Bashor made a gift of $1 million to support the UCLA Voice Center for Medicine and the Arts. Dr. Gerald Berke, Center Director and Chief of the Division of Head and Neck Surgery, states, “This meaningful contribution is making it possible to launch a new and expanded Voice Center, which will allow us to reach more patients with a variety of speech, throat, and swallowing disorders, including cancer, as well as to care for the professional voice.” In Los Angeles, known as the “Entertainment Capital of the World,” this resource is especially significant. The Bashors’ generosity is enabling UCLA to upgrade the Voice Center’s capabilities and provide patients with a state-of-the-art, technologically advanced facility, thereby delivering a level of care in voice medicine that was unavailable on the West Coast.

In November 2004, UCLA dedicated the Larry L. Hillblom Islet Research Center. Located adjacent to Warren Hall, it houses the team of Dr. Peter C. Butler, Professor of Medicine, Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Hypertension, and an internationally renowned diabetes researcher. The building was named in recognition of a $3.9-million grant from the Larry L. Hillblom Foundation, which also awarded Dr. Butler a research grant of $2 million. Dr. Butler serves with other leading researchers on the Hillblom Foundation’s Medical Advisory Board. In addition to the dedication, UCLA hosted the annual meeting of the Foundation’s Board of Directors and Medical Advisory Board, as well as two days of scientific sessions at which all current recipients of Hillblom Foundation grants presented papers on their research.

One of DHL’s three co-founders, Mr. Hillblom built this company into the world’s largest global air courier service. By virtue of his will, the Foundation’s funding supports medical research within the State of California, and particularly that conducted by the University of California. The Foundation’s priorities are efforts toward curing, treating, and managing diabetes mellitus and chronic and degenerative diseases associated with aging, especially brain and vision disorders.

The George T. Pfleger Foundation has made significant gifts in support of the Department of Surgery. In 2000, its Board approved more than $1 million to renovate, upgrade, and name the Pfleger Liver Institute at UCLA, reflecting its profound commitment to aid in the quest to find better treatments, and ultimately a cure, for liver disease. Recently, the Foundation created the George T. Pfleger Endowment Fund for Surgery with another major commitment. Says Dr. Ronald W. Busuttil, Department Chair, “The members of the Pfleger Foundation have been instrumental in ensuring that surgical treatments and innovations at UCLA will continue to move forward to benefit patients here and worldwide. Their generosity has created a vital partnership that will help the Department retain its ability to recruit the brightest young faculty, promote cutting-edge research, and teach the next generation of medical students and residents.”

The Resnick Family Foundation has donated $15 million since 1999 to support construction of the UCLA Medical Center Replacement Hospital, which will become the home of the newly named Stewart and Lynda Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital at UCLA in 2007. Mr. and Mrs. Resnick are the owners of Roll International Corporation, a Los Angeles-based firm whose holdings include Paramount Agribusiness, Teleflora, POM Wonderful, Fiji Water, the Franklin Mint, and Suterra. The Resnicks, who both serve on the Executive Board for the Medical Sciences at UCLA, also support other major areas on campus and received The UCLA Medal in 2002.

Gifts totaling $5 million from the Strassburg Living Trust will provide a vital permanent resource for medical student scholarships at the School of Medicine, in memory of Neil, Lorraine, and Leo Strassburg. Financial assistance for students is one of the School’s highest priorities. Mrs. Strassburg was a long-time friend and supporter.

In January 2005, through a bequest from the Estate of Gail Patrick Velde, UCLA received $1,050,000 each for the Brain Research Institute (BRI) and for the Center for Ulcer Research and Education (CURE) within the Division of Digestive Diseases. Pursuant to the terms of the trust, the BRI has established the Gail Patrick Endowed Administrative Chair in Brain Research, and the Division of Digestive Diseases has created the Gail Patrick Fund for CURE - Center for Ulcer Research and Education Foundation.

Cutting the dedicatory ribbon is Mrs. Helen Anderson, mother of the late Larry L. Hillblom. Looking on (left to right): Peter Donnici, chairman of the Larry L. Hillblom Foundation, and Mrs. Anderson’s sons Grant Anderson, director, and Terry Hillblom, vice chairman.
Golden Anniversary of the School’s First Graduating Class

In June 1955, the School of Medicine at UCLA graduated its first class. On April 8-10, 2005, members gathered once again and celebrated their 50 years of collective achievements in the field of medicine. Traveling back to campus from the close proximity of Westwood and the far reaches of Copenhagen, they came to share their memories of a medical school that started in Quonset huts with limited supplies, but with a strong passion for excellence.

Members of the Class of 1955 were joined by some of their faculty and mentors, including: Dr. and Mrs. Sherman Mellinkoff, Dr. and Mrs. Wiley Barker, Dr. and Mrs. David Solomon, Dr. and Mrs. Don Adams, and Drs. Clara Szego and Sidney Roberts.

The Class members have common passions: for medicine, for excellence, to be pioneers in their fields, for humanism as physicians, and for the friendships and bonds they forged 50 years ago. They drove other class members from airports, stopped in other cities to pick up class members, and overall showed how much they care.

The UCLA Medical Alumni Association would like to especially thank Dr. Don Adams, Chair of the 50th Reunion, and his committee: Drs. Robert Hollis, Akira Nishizawa, George Primbs, and Noel Thompson.

In 1955, students attending the School of Medicine paid $160 in fees per semester. Recognizing the tremendous cost of a medical education today, the first class also became the first to endow a permanent scholarship in its name. Brian Jordan ’07, the first awardee, and his wife Kathy were introduced to the Class at the formal dinner. During his comments, Brian said, “I just want to be half the physician that you all are.”

The UCLA Medical Alumni Association sends sincere congratulations to the Class of 1955 and many thanks for this legacy of firsts.


You are a lifetime member of the UCLA Medical Alumni Association (MAA) if you are a School of Medicine M.D. or Ph.D. graduate, past intern or resident, faculty member, or emeritus faculty member.
Giving Back

“We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give.”
—Sir Winston Churchill

Many of our alumni practice this philosophy. They generously contribute their medical talents by giving to others. A graduate of the Class of 2005, Dr. Andy Griffin shared a recent experience that reflects this selfless lifestyle.

Andy and Stasia signed the final papers on a home in New Orleans the Friday before Hurricane Katrina struck. Andy remained in town to board it up, but his new neighbors insisted that he evacuate the area with them. Eight people, seven dogs, two cats, and 11 chickens headed to Lafayette in four cars. Andy worked at the local shelter there, treating people with hyperglycemia, asthma, chest pain, diabetes, intestinal disorders, and so on. He also volunteered at Lafayette’s Cajun Dome, where thousands of evacuees sought refuge. On a daily basis, the makeshift clinic saw nearly 600 adults and children.

Do you have a humanitarian story to share? Contact Patricia Roderick at (310) 267-1837 or proderick@support.ucla.edu.

Why It Matters

The Class of 2005 joined the previous two classes in the tradition of establishing a Class Scholarship Fund immediately upon graduation. This senior class raised the largest amount so far, $3,416, which was generously matched by Dean Gerald S. Levey, Senior Associate Dean Neil H. Parker, and Dr. Benjamin F. Cowan, past president of the MAA. “If we can continue this tradition every year with each graduating class,” says Dr. Cowan, “the growth of these initial endowments will be quite dramatic over time, providing more funds for scholarships.”

REUNION 2006 Is Coming


Mark your calendar for the weekend of May 5–7, 2006, and come enjoy a reunion weekend of R&R (Recreation & Reminiscing) with your medical school classmates. On Friday night, a casual all-classes reception will take place at the Luxe Summit Hotel.

On Saturday, we will host our Distinguished Speakers in the morning (earn CME credit), and during the afternoon, you may enjoy a preview of the future home of Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center or a trip to the Getty Center. That night, individual class dinners will be held in the Faculty Center, giving you lots of time to “catch up” with your classmates. Brunch at the beach on Sunday morning will be the perfect ending to a truly memorable weekend.

SAVE THE DATE: MAY 5–7, 2006