

Health Disparities Research Symposium recognizes young researchers and their contributions

By Larry Kidder

The Center for Health Disparities and Molecular Medicine (CHDMM)—a collaborative effort between Loma Linda University School of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health—recognized 83 up-and-coming health science researchers during its 16th Annual Health Disparities Research Symposium.

The symposium, held Wednesday, August 3, at the LLU Wong Kerlee International Conference Center, showcased the research projects of young people ranging from high school through post-graduate.

“These poster presentations rival any I’ve seen at scientific meetings around the world,” remarked Roger Hadley, MD, dean of LLU School of Medicine. “These young people are presenting cutting-edge findings with a level of sophistication beyond their years.”

“Our program has two major objectives,” said Marino De Leon, PhD, director of CHDMM, in opening remarks. “We want to both increase the amount of research into minority health issues and grow the numbers of minority health science researchers. We’ve provided 614 internships since we received our first NIH grant nearly two decades ago.”

Gayle Slaughter, PhD, senior associate dean for graduate education and diversity, and professor of molecular and cellular biology, Baylor College of Medicine, in Houston, presented afternoon and evening keynote addresses.

Slaughter shared her personal journey into research, beginning with a childhood epiphany while walking to school on a dirt road in rural Louisiana. At that very moment, she decided she wanted to do something that would make a difference in the world.

She credits her life experiences—both



The 16th Annual Health Disparities Research Symposium recognized the cutting-edge research of 83 up-and-coming young scientists, ranging from high school to post-graduate. They are shown with their faculty mentors, program staff, and the keynote speaker.

positive and challenging—for preparing her for her current role as a champion of young scientists from all socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds.

At Baylor, she has led in the creation of a number of nationally recognized development programs for young scientists—beginning as early as middle school—designed to develop them into competent and confident scientists. Her words were encouraging to the 2016 cohort of young scientists, their family members, and their faculty mentors.

“You may experience times where the way forward is not clear,” she told them, “but be faithful and persevere. God has a plan for you.”

The symposium concluded with recognition for the 83 participants in the 2016 program. Faculty leaders and mentors, as well as keynote speaker Slaughter, congratulated student interns for completing their programs.

A wide range of students interns served on the various research teams, including:

✘ **Apprenticeship Bridge to College**—15 high school students

✘ **Undergraduate Training Program**—18 university students
 ✘ **Medical Training Program**—8 medical students
 ✘ **Initiative for Maximizing Student Development**—15 PhD students
 ✘ **Behavioral health research**—

4 university students
 ✘ **Public health research**—4 university students
 ✘ **Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship**—9 university students
 ✘ **Guest participants**—10 undergraduate, PhD, volunteer, medical students

More than 3,000 attend All Star Appreciation Game at San Manuel Stadium



More than 3,000 fans—including a number of Loma Linda University Health employees—were on hand for the annual All Star Appreciation Game at San Manuel Stadium, held Monday, July 18.

By Briana Pastorino

The Inland Empire 66ers failed to bring home a victory against the Lake Elsinore Storm, but it was a win for the fans who cheered them on.

More than 3,000 people attended the game on July 18, which was All Star Appreciation night for staff, volunteers, and students of Loma Linda University Health.

Members of the Loma Linda family were treated to up to six tickets to share with family and friends to enjoy the summer baseball game.

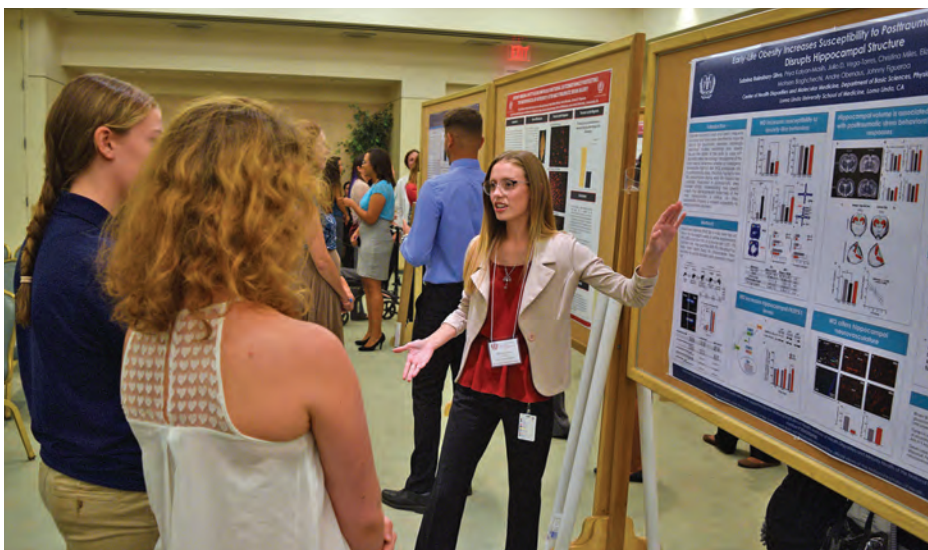
“We care about and appreciate those

individuals who work so hard for us and their education,” said Kerry Heinrich, JD, CEO, Loma Linda University Medical Center. “There needs to be a balance in everyone’s life, and this is one way we hope our Loma Linda family can achieve that as part of living a whole life.”

The game kicked off with a first pitch thrown by Children’s Hospital chief nursing officer Helen Staples-Evans, DNP, MS, RN, the first female to throw the first pitch in the 15-year history of All Star Appreciation.

Recent Loma Linda Academy graduate Corinne Atita, 18, performed the

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Sabrina Rainsbury-Silva, a student at Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Corona, California, explains her research to several symposium guests during the afternoon poster session.

Many Strengths. One Mission.

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Alumnus addresses Republican National Convention

By Heather Reifsnnyder

Ralph Alvarado, MD, a graduate of Loma Linda University School of Medicine, was elected state senator for Kentucky in 2014. On July 20, 2016, he came to the whole nation's attention when he spoke at the Republican National Convention.

"It is an honor to be asked to speak at the convention and to represent

Kentucky on the national stage," Alvarado said.

He was the first Hispanic elected to state office in Kentucky. As a state senator, Alvarado serves as vice chair of the Senate's Health and Welfare Committee. He also holds memberships in the American College of Physicians, the American Medical Association, the Kentucky Medical Association and Clark County Medical Society.

After graduating from Loma Linda University, Alvarado completed his medical residency in internal medicine and pediatrics at the University of Kentucky.

Alvarado currently works for KentuckyOne Medical Group. He also volunteers with Rapha Ministries, a faith-based medical clinic providing free health care in Clark County, Kentucky, to those who cannot afford medical insurance.

He and his wife, Dawn, have been married for 20 years and have two children.



Ralph Alvarado, MD
U.S. Senator from Kentucky

Murrieta neurosurgeon honored for health care excellence

By Larry Becker

Kamal R. Woods, MD, has been recognized by Continental Who's Who among Pinnacle Professionals in the field of health care.

A board-certified neurosurgeon and minimally invasive spine surgeon, Woods is director of the Comprehensive Spine Center at Loma Linda University Medical Center—Murrieta.

After earning his medical degree from Loma Linda University School of Medicine, Woods went on to complete

his neurosurgery residency at Loma Linda. He also completed an enfolded fellowship in complex spine at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

Woods has a singular interest in reformative health care. He is deeply driven to help redefine the way health care is delivered.

"As our society evolves, new opportunities and challenges arise in health care," he says. "We need to anticipate these changes and seek to be simply better."

In practice for five years, Woods has become a global leader in spine care. He

trains surgeons around the world on new, innovative spine procedures.

Woods is considered an expert on the oblique lateral interbody fusion (OLIF) procedure. He is involved in an international study looking at this new procedure which holds promise to make a significant impact on the field.

"Through my ongoing research, I seek to find new ways to advance the quality of care offered to my patients," Woods said. "Each patient deserves the best! I am sincerely committed to providing caring, comprehensive care to each and every patient."

Woods has received a number of awards for his commitment to excellence and for the high level of care he has rendered to thousands of patients.

He was recently recognized as one of "America's Most Honored Professionals" in health care. He was also voted as a "Top 10" neurosurgeon in his region.



Kamal Woods, MD, is director of the Comprehensive Spine Center at Loma Linda University Medical Center—Murrieta.

Blood supplies challenged: your donation can help save a life

By Nancy Yuen

LifeStream vans can be seen parked around Loma Linda University Health campuses on a regular basis.

While it can be easy to miss the blood donation vehicle while rushing by on the way to an appointment, the people who pause to donate blood are helping to maintain the region's blood supply.

This is important when local hospitals, including Loma Linda University Medical Center, need an immediate, significant supply of blood.

According to Don Escalante, public relations specialist, LifeStream, there was an adequate supply to meet the need following the mass shooting in San Bernardino because of the many donors who consistently gave the gift of blood. But now more donations are needed.

Donors can give blood as often as every eight weeks.

The task of ensuring that blood supplies are adequate is being challenged due to the ongoing spread of the Zika virus.

"It can't be quantified how many people are being deferred from donating due to visiting outside the U.S. or Canada or, more recently, being in Miami-Dade or Broward counties, Florida," says Escalante, "but it is a factor in the nationwide blood shortage."

According to media reports, only four states—Alaska, Idaho, South Dakota, and Wyoming—have no reported cases. On August 3, the CDC website reported 433 confirmed cases in the United States; of those, only the cases from Florida were due to local mosquito transmission.

According to Escalante, "Effective August 1, there are five questions we pose to all prospective donors prior to them registering to donate. We ask them to defer from donating if the answer to any of these questions is 'yes.'"

You should not donate if, in the past four weeks, you have:

- ◆ Traveled to Miami-Dade or Broward counties in southern Florida.
- ◆ Been outside the United States or Canada.
- ◆ Been diagnosed with Zika infection.
- ◆ Had two or more symptoms listed following recent travel (within two weeks) to Miami-Dade or Broward counties in Florida, or outside the United States or Canada: fever, joint or muscle pain, eye pain or redness (conjunctivitis), headache, or rash.
- ◆ Had sex with a person who, in the past three months was diagnosed with a Zika infection or has been to Miami-Dade or Broward counties in Florida or outside the United States or Canada.

"In light of these challenges," says Escalante, "we are asking the public to

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LifeStream vans are a regular sight on the Loma Linda University Health campuses. If you see one, stop by and give blood—the gift of life.

More than 3,000 attend All Star Appreciation Game ...

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national anthem.

As guests entered the stadium, they were greeted with a gift bag and were given the chance to win one of 15 prizes in an opportunity drawing.

Two names were drawn each inning through the seventh, and the winner of the grand prize was drawn at the bottom of the seventh. The big winner of the night was employee Maria Franco, who took home a Hawaii vacation package.

Other items given out in the drawings included Universal Studios season passes, a DSLR camera, a kayak, a 10-person tent and a 55-inch flat screen television.

During the third inning, Steve Wendt of 66ers radio online interviewed Scott Perryman, MBA, senior vice president and administrator of Children's Hospital.

"Our employees are a special group of people who dedicate their lives to

children," Perryman, said of his staff. A longstanding baseball fan, Perryman enjoyed the opportunity to share an evening in the stands with his

Loma Linda colleagues.

The Loma Linda University Health marketing department organizes the employee appreciation event every year.



Helen Staples-Evans, DNP, chief nursing officer for LLU Children's Hospital, threw out the first pitch. Above, she is flanked by (from left) 66ers mascot Slick; Ronald Muck, No. 12, pitcher; 66ers mascot Bernie; and Children's Hospital mascot Luke the Lion.

ASI convention provides opportunity to share mission and vision

By James Ponder

Hot weather notwithstanding, the 2016 ASI convention—which was held August 3 through 6 in Phoenix, Arizona—provided valuable opportunities for Loma Linda University Health to share its mission, vision, and values with members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

ASI stands for Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries, and the annual international convention, which is held

in a different city each year, allows for the exchange of ideas vital to a variety of ministry-related objectives. As the premier educational and health sciences entity of the Adventist denomination, Loma Linda University Health has been an active convention participant since 1993.

The combination of hot daytime temperatures and high humidity may have deterred some from attending. This year's 1,961 registered attendees represented a decline from the 2,082 who registered for the 2014 convention

in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Although other guests typically show up for weekend religious services at the event, their numbers are not officially counted. In previous years, estimates for the combined total of attendees and visitors have been as high as 5,000.

Four Loma Linda University Health officials staffed the booth at the Phoenix convention: Elisa Blethen, MBA, assistant professor at LLU School of Public Health; Janya Mekelburg, director of alumni and donor relations for Loma Linda University Health; Tricia Murdoch-Zmaj, MPH, senior development officer for Loma Linda University School of Medicine; and this reporter, a writer and editor in the department of public relations.

An important benefit of hosting a booth is the opportunity to meet and talk with alumni, donors, and potential students on a wide variety of topics. Another is to make new friends by offering convention goers a selection of collateral materials—brochures, publications, gift bags, pens, and DVDs—designed to acquaint them with the mission, vision, and values of the organization.

A virtual reality tour of the new Loma Linda University Medical Center

and Children's Hospital proved to be a big hit with many visitors this year, especially children and teenagers. "Wow!" and "This is so cool!" were frequent expressions as visitors interacted with the technology, directing their three-dimensional view of the new hospitals through a digital headset. Many participants commented that the experience seemed so real they felt they could reach out and touch the walls.

While it can be difficult to assess the full return on investment for participating in the ASI convention year after year, there are significant benefits. Both Mekelburg and Murdoch-Zmaj highlight the importance of maintaining contact with friends and supporters.

"The opportunity to connect with alumni and others interested in Loma Linda University Health is one of the highlights of attending the ASI convention," Mekelburg noted. "Answering questions, updating them on the exciting things happening on campus, and listening to their stories is energizing. Many of our alumni and friends say they specifically look for our booth so they can stop by for a visit."

Murdoch-Zmaj agrees. "By hosting a booth at the ASI convention, Loma Linda University Health is able to reach out to a core group of supporters who may not be aware of events on our campus. Engaging with the members of ASI opens Loma Linda University Health to an international network of Seventh-day Adventists who can support our vision for the future in a variety of ways.

"I was surprised," she adds, "by how many of our booth attendees remarked that they did not know we are building a hospital. Sharing the goals of Vision 2020 is a useful way to reach out to the full spectrum of the Adventist population."

For her part, Blethen says annual participation in the event sometimes yields immediate and tangible results. She points to something that happened when she connected with Jason Blanchard at the 2012 ASI convention in Cincinnati, Ohio.

"The Loma Linda University Health booth was next to a ministry working in Guatemala," Blethen explains.

During slow moments, she told Blanchard about the work of Adventist Health International (AHI), a non-profit corporation headquartered in Loma Linda that upgrades and manages mission hospitals throughout Africa, Asia, and the Americas. While not officially part of Loma Linda University Health, AHI works closely with the Global Health Institute, which is.

"He seemed very interested in the work," Blethen recalls. "I shared my experience at Malamulo Hospital in Malawi and it turns out that he had grown up in Malawi where his father worked at Matandani Adventist Mission." Ironically, Blanchard was very familiar with Malamulo: he had his tonsils removed there when he was 5 years old.

Blanchard was intrigued by the possibility of combining mission service with health care and business management. Over the weekend, Blethen introduced him to Richard H. Hart, MD, DrPH, president of Loma Linda University Health, who told Blanchard that the administrative position had recently been vacated at Malamulo.

"In early 2013," Blethen happily reports, "Jason, his wife Erin, and their two children, Brody and Eve, moved to Malamulo where he is still the CEO of the hospital."



Elisa Blethen, MBA, and Janya Mekelburg helped staff the Loma Linda University Health booth at the 2016 ASI convention in Phoenix, Arizona.

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Through our Vision 2020 campaign, we are embarking on a journey to give hope, provide cures and save the lives of our youngest patients by building a new children's hospital tower.

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UNIVERSITY
CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL

17th annual Nursing Research and Evidence-based Practice Conference attended by 150

By James Ponder

The 17th annual Nursing Research and Evidence-based Practice Conference, held recently in the Wong Kerlee International Conference Center of Loma Linda University Health, was a success, according to Patti Radovich, PhD, director of nursing research at Loma Linda University Medical Center.

The conference attracted 150 attendees and featured 32 poster presentations. The theme for this year's event was "Research and evidence-based practice: impact on the patient experience."

"The overarching goal is to increase and disseminate the amount of evidence-based practice and nursing research being done with all the hospitals of Loma Linda University Health," Radovich noted at the conclusion of the conference. "The presentations this year highlighted the impact nursing has on the patient care experience as we explore new approaches to care based on science."

Keynote speakers Aimee Hoskins, of Vanderbilt University Medical Center, and Jennifer McDonald, of Glendale Adventist Medical Center (GAMC), brought considerable expertise to their presentations. Hoskins spoke on the topic of "Post-intensive care syndrome (PICS): strategies to meet the needs

of the patient during and after critical illness," while McDonald discussed "Putting the patient back in the patient experience."

"Aimee Hoskins joined the ICU delirium and cognitive impairment study group at Vanderbilt in 2011," Radovich observed. "Hoskins discussed how PICS describes new or worsening impairments in physical, cognitive, or mental health status that arise after critical illness and persist beyond acute care hospitalization."

"Research has shown that 60 to 80 percent of patients are functionally impaired with ICU-acquired weakness," she continued, "which may take the form of diffuse, symmetric, or generalized muscle weakness that impairs patients' performance of the activities of daily living. Hoskins also described how 50 to 70 percent of patients are cognitively impaired after ICU stays, with deficits in executive function, memory, and attention. After her talk, several attendees—including some who are not in the critical care field—said they really appreciated her remarks and were able to take something away from her presentation."

Radovich said that as director of customer relations at GAMC, McDonald is responsible for creating and facilitating training for more than 2,000 employees. "She has also worked as a

writer on her own monthly magazine as well as television and film efforts with a concentration in comedy and satire," Radovich observes. "She has spoken on patient satisfaction, quality, diffusing angry customers, and service recovery at GAMC and at several university nursing programs and special events. Her presentation reminded us that in order to perform at the highest level, we need to emphasize triple A leadership: action, alignment, and accountability."

In addition to the keynote speakers, five nursing researchers from Loma Linda University Health updated attendees on evidence-based practice and research:

- ✓ Jennifer Newcombe, DNP, CNS, CPNP-PC/AC, discussed "Nurse-driven feeding protocol in pediatric cardiac surgery patients."
- ✓ Denise K. Petersen, MSN, CHRN, FNP-BC, talked about "30-day readmission risk in heart failure patients."
- ✓ Maria Letts, DNP, FNP, addressed the "Development and implementation of a web-based perioperative interface."
- ✓ Michele Wilson, MS, CCNS, CCRN, reported on how "PICU structured interdisciplinary bedside rounds impacts communication and nursing/family satisfaction."



Aimee Hoskins, from Vanderbilt University Medical Center, provided one of two keynote addresses.

- ✓ Julia Pusztai, PhD, RN, shared her observations on "Listening to the oldest old: varied meanings of spirituality in the experience of aging."

Radovich shared that she and her team are already focused on next year's conference, noting that the goal is to build on the successes of this year's event and to continue to bring in speakers who highlight the importance of innovation and caring.

Overall, the feedback Radovich received from attendees was very gratifying.

"People enjoyed it a lot," she concluded, "and we got wonderful feedback. Several of them said it was the best conference ever. I was pleased to see comments regarding greater understanding and applicability to current health care issues."

Senior VP of finance recognized—again—by leading industry publication

By Heather Reifsnyder and Susan Onuma

The national health care industry is taking notice, once again, of Angela Lalas, MBA, senior vice president for finance at Loma Linda University Health.

For the second time in 2016, Becker's Hospital Review, a leading industry publication, has recognized Lalas for her excellence. The magazine just named her one of 2016's 50 "Rising Star" health care leaders under the age of 40.

According to Becker's, "These administrative leaders have made considerable accomplishments in their relatively short careers. Becker's selected leaders for this list through an editorial review process, including reviews of peer nominations."

Lalas says she attributes this

recognition to, and is thankful for, Christian Seventh-day Adventist education, and credits Loma Linda University Health, as well.

"Working at Loma Linda University Health has not only given me the blessed opportunity to serve and be part of a mission I strongly believe in," she says, "but also to grow, be mentored and inspired by outstanding professionals and role models over the past 10 years. I am thankful to work with an amazing team of highly committed individuals."

Earlier in 2016, Becker's named Lalas one of 2016's 150 hospital and health system CFOs to know.

Loma Linda University Health's president, Richard Hart, MD, DrPH, and executive vice president for hospital affairs, Kerry Heinrich, JD, echo Becker's recognition of Lalas' accomplishments.

Hart says, "Angela truly exemplifies leadership, compassion and professionalism in everything she does. In these times of financial challenges and uncertainty in the health care environment, we are blessed to have her leadership."

Heinrich says, "Angela's leadership and commitment to this organization have been exemplary, and she is an invaluable asset."

As senior vice president of finance for Loma Linda University Health, Lalas oversees financial operations for the six hospitals within the system, including analysis and reporting for Loma Linda University Medical Center and its affiliates.

Before taking on her current role in 2015, she was vice president of finance for the system.

Lalas earned her MBA from



Angela Lalas, MBA

Claremont Graduate University in Claremont, California, and her undergraduate degree in accountancy from Adventist University of the Philippines. She is a licensed CPA in California.

Service learning: a classroom in the community

Contributed report

A Loma Linda University master of public health student writes the following after working with school kids in San Bernardino:

"I am somebody.' Upon hearing this personal disclosure, I was reminded that despite [differences, these] are people with hopes and dreams just like me."

Revelations like this one, experienced by students who have just completed service learning courses, often occur after engaging in the community, according to Brenda Spoelstra, director of Loma Linda University Institute for Community Partnerships.

"Service learning expands the classroom to the community, where learning is bi-directional, between students and community members," says Spoelstra. "The word that describes this

is reciprocity—both parties benefit through a common experience.

"At Loma Linda University, many of our students only have a short amount of time in the community as part of a service learning course, so it is important to have careful preparation and structured activities that keep the students focused on what is important to the community."

Loma Linda University students provide dental care at elementary schools, feed the homeless at a local mission, and introduce kids to performance arts through music lessons.

As nursing students provide mental health care to teens in group homes, and public health students teach after-school programs on nutrition, they learn about important factors. These include the social determinants of health or barriers to accessing health

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At Loma Linda University, service learning takes place throughout the year. Here, students coach a soccer team during a service learning opportunity.

Student testimonies and statistics paint MITHS successes in bright, bold strokes

By James Ponder

A group of high-achieving black high school students exemplified the value of an innovative program started 17 years ago by Leroy A. Reece, MD, an assistant professor at Loma Linda University School of Medicine and obstetrician/gynecologist at White Memorial Medical Center in Los Angeles.

The students attended the closing celebration for the 17th annual MITHS program, which was held July 14 in the Wong Kerlee International Conference Center on the university campus. The acronym stands for minority introduction to the health sciences.

The MITHS program brings selected black Seventh-day Adventist high school students to the campus of Loma Linda University the summer after their junior year for three weeks of intensive classes designed to provide specialized training in medical and health careers as well as bolster their overall academic performance and study habits.

Whether measured in anecdotal testimony or cold, hard statistics, the same glowing picture of incredible, unprecedented success emerged from the event.

The student presentations were nothing if not dazzling.

One after another, the newest graduates of the three-week academic prep course rose to sing the praises of the program and share very individualized stories of how it had permanently reset their goals for the future.

One thing that impressed the student speakers was a trio of 17s connected with the event. This was the 17th annual MITHS program, there were exactly 17 participants this year, and all 17 of them are scheduled to graduate in 2017. The only non-alignment with the 17s was a singing group composed of seven female members of the group, who performed a beautiful a cappella song after



Ricardo J. Whyte, MD (second from right), assistant professor of psychiatry at Loma Linda University School of Medicine, joins a group of MITHS program participants who honored him for his work in helping to organize the summer preparatory course.

announcing their name as The Summer of 2016.

Jasmine Thornhill, a 16-year-old student from Oakwood Adventist Academy in Huntsville, Alabama, was a member of The Summer of '16. Thornhill said she had been influenced to apply to the MITHS program by the annual visits to her school of Ricardo J. Whyte, MD, an assistant professor of psychiatry at Loma Linda University School of Medicine, as well as members of her family and friends who participated in the program in previous years.

Thornhill says she was very impressed by the program. "To me, the level at which the students improved their reading speeds was unfathomable," she exclaims. Thornhill added that the program helped her explore new interests and options as she prepares to pursue a career in medicine.

After attending a presentation by a representative of the School of Religion, Thornhill says she was convinced to add a master's degree in bioethics to

her "must-have degree list." She adds that "I am seriously considering pursuing an MD/PhD degree because of the encouragement of Dr. Wright, one of our anatomy and physiology teachers." Kenneth Wright, PhD, is an associate professor at the School of Medicine.

"One of the unanimous highlights of the trip was the visit to the surgical center," Thornhill continues. "We each took turns using the Da Vinci surgical robot, and saw a hiatal hernia repair surgery performed by a surgeon using the robot."

Other MITHS student participants remarked that they enjoyed learning to suture wounds by practicing on vegetarian hot dogs during the program.

Thornhill concluded by saying that while the program is rigorous and that homework takes a lot of time and effort every night, she feels better prepared to finish her senior year strong and to face the challenges of undergraduate education and medical school as a result of participating in MITHS.

While statistics are sometimes considered a bit boring or uninteresting, the ones presented at this event were just the opposite. In his presentation, David Conkerite, II, program manager for the department of human resource management at Loma Linda University Health, shared the findings of his review of the first 10 years of the MITHS program.

Using data gathered from 1999 to 2008, Conkerite demonstrated that the total number of participants per year have ranged from 15 in 1999 to 21 in 2008. Altogether, there were a total of 175 participants during those years. Although not included in Conkerite's analysis, the 17 MITHS participants this year fell somewhere in the middle.

When Conkerite presented his next statistics, gasps and other expressions of shocked approval rose from all over the room. Using a simple pie chart, he showed that of the 175 MITHS graduates from 1999 to 2008, an amazing 99 percent of them had received a college degree. The effect on the room was spellbinding!

The next slide also employed the pie chart to demonstrate that of the 99 percent who received a college degree, 66 percent had majored in a health science discipline and 34 percent had not.

Conkerite went on to report that of the ninety-nine percent who had graduated with a college degree, 33 percent had gone on to receive a graduate degree (sometimes also called a postgraduate degree), and that of that group, 55 percent got their degree in a health science discipline.

The statistics continued to impress. Conkerite also reported that 45 percent of the ninety-nine percent of the MITHS participants who graduated college had received a doctoral degree, that 32 percent received a master's degree, and 23 percent received an undergraduate degree.

Before showing the final slide in his presentation, Conkerite displayed a bar graph that showed what types of degrees the 58 MITHS participants from 1999 to 2008 who had received a doctoral degree had earned. The numbers break down as follows:

MD degree	29
PhD degree	8
DDS degree	7
DPT degree	3
JD degree	3
PsyD degree	3
PharmD degree	2
DHSc degree	1
DNP degree	1
AuD degree	1

At the end of his presentation, Conkerite motioned in the direction of Reece, citing the MITHS founder's innovation, determination, and faith as driving factors in the success of the program and in encouraging so many young black students to a lifetime of excellence and achievement.

The crowd responded by rising to its collective feet and affirming the humble giant for the vision and dedication that led to the amazing success of the MITHS program.

As the applause subsided, Keith R. Doram, MD, MBA, vice president for medical affairs at Adventist Health, delivered the keynote speech and commended the participants for their hard work and diligence. He encouraged them to believe that little things, like getting enough sleep at night and learning to focus on positive thoughts, can make big contributions to their future success.

New Notice of Privacy Practices now in effect

By Larry Becker

Loma Linda University Health has revised its Notice of Privacy Practices, effective August 1, 2016.

The document outlines the rights to health care privacy to which all patients are entitled.

It also describes the ways that Loma

Linda University Health hospitals, clinics and physicians may use and share an individual's health information, as well as the limitations to how that information is used or shared.

Current patients of Loma Linda University Health can view the updated notice by logging onto their online health information account at <https://mychart.ieccn.org>.

mychart.ieccn.org.

Copies of the new notice are also available at Loma Linda University Health physicians' offices, at Loma Linda University Health's website at <http://home.llu.edu/privacy>, or when a patient registers for treatment at any one of the hospitals or clinics within the Loma Linda system.

Service learning: a classroom in the community ...

Continued from previous page and social services in the community.

"Often there is an increased awareness in our students of not only community needs, but of the community's strengths," emphasizes Spoelstra.

After a memorable shared experience with people in a local, underserved community, a student reflected: "This connection goes to show you that all too often we as people are more similar than different."

Service learning can lead to many discoveries for the student, and stereotypes can be challenged as the students interact with those closest to the issue.

These experiences put a face and soul to homelessness, immigration, single parenthood and other societal challenges where the student's experience seldom gets past the label.

An opportunity is created to acknowledge and strive for reciprocity, which becomes the anchor and a guiding principle in these new relationships.

"I have learned from the youth that I should never give up, and to look on the bright side," wrote a Loma Linda University student. "I should not let anything get in my way and I should try my best in everything that I do. Working with [teen parents] has changed a lot of my views in life and has taught me to be a stronger person."

As they participate in service learning, students gain professional skills through real-world experiences within the community.

These include skills like communication, leadership, and teamwork and other less tangible but important traits such as empathy, initiative, accountability,

excellence, compassion, and an open mind that creates a willingness to listen and learn from the community.

Exposure to people from many racial, ethnic, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds supports development of the nuances in professionalism that are vital in the health care professions.

"Many societal problems are addressed," says Spoelstra, "when organizations and institutions work with communities instead of just in communities."

She continues, "We hope that our students, through their service learning experience, will learn this and take it with them into their personal and professional lives."

Service learning activities are under the direction of the LLU Institute for Community Partnerships.

Compassionate oncologist offers hope to stage IV cancer patients

By James Ponder

It's 3:07 a.m. and Maheswari Senthil, MD, a surgical oncologist at Loma Linda University Cancer Center, looks up from her patient for the first time in 16 hours.

Normally Senthil is home with her family at this hour, but she can't do that and still save the life of her patient, a 57-year-old man who was diagnosed with stage IV colorectal cancer a few months ago.

The disease has metastasized into the lining of his abdominal cavity, or peritoneum.

Until recently, there was little physicians could do for patients with stage IV colorectal cancer. Before meeting Senthil, the man had been told his case was hopeless at another hospital and sent home to die.

But thanks to breakthroughs in translational research, Senthil can offer the man something he desperately needs.

"Patients have no hope if they don't get into the hands of the right physician," she says. "Very few hospitals in the United States offer realistic hope to stage IV patients."

But thanks to two new procedures—cytoreductive surgery and hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIC)—patients of the Loma Linda University Cancer Center can expect much better results. Senthil says that instead of dying in a few weeks or months, the man stands a strong chance of surviving, recovering his health, and living for many more years.

"We have spectacular results at Loma Linda," she reports. "There is a 5- to 7-percent 90-day, postoperative mortality rate nationally. We have a 0 percent



"Patients have no hope if they don't get into the hands of the right physician," says Maheswari Senthil, MD.

mortality rate over the same period."

Senthil subjects the organs in the man's abdomen to heated chemotherapy before removing every cancerous tissue and closing the wound. Right now, she is five-and-a-half hours away from finishing this operation and going home to get some rest. The entire procedure can take 14 to 24 hours and for all of that time, Senthil stands, without a break.

"I recognize the impact of a cancer diagnosis on a patient," she observes. "Having the physician be with them all the way through from the time they are first diagnosed until their therapy is complete helps them stay positive, fight the fight, and do what is needed."

When he awakens, the man will hear Senthil's reassuring voice saying, "I got every last bit of your cancer."

LLUMC–Murrieta listed among Most Wired hospitals in U.S. for second consecutive year

By Larry Kidder

For the second consecutive year, Loma Linda University Medical Center–Murrieta is among the

hospitals nationwide to be included in Hospital and Health Care Magazine's 2016 Most Wired list.

The list was released in the July 2016 issue. According to the magazine's

website, www.hhnmag.com/most-wired, "The annual Most Wired survey is designed to measure the level of IT adoption in U.S. hospitals and health systems, and serve as a tool for hospital and health leadership [sic] to map their IT strategic plans."

The website goes on to explain that Health Forum, an American Hospital Association company, oversees the collection and analysis of Most Wired data, developing industry IT benchmarks based on data practices for operational, financial, and clinical performance in health care delivery systems.

The 2016 list includes hospitals and health care systems "that are ramping

up their efforts to stop hackers, and are also working to boost their capabilities in telehealth and population health." To be considered for the annual list, U.S. hospitals and health systems undergo an extensive screening process that includes an 18-page questionnaire.

Peter Baker, vice president for operations at LLUMC–Murrieta, says, "It is an honor to be recognized as one of the Most Wired hospitals. We are constantly striving to ensure our patients' access to the most current technology for their treatment."

He adds, "We believe that the best technology often leads to quicker results and better outcomes for patients and their families."

Baker concludes, "We are excited to continue our pursuit of the highest standards of care for our community."



LLUMC–Murrieta has once again been listed among the Most Wired hospitals in the July 2016 issue of Hospital and Health Care Magazine. The 106-bed facility is located in Murrieta, California, visible from the I-215 freeway just before it joins the I-15.

LLU research pioneer dies

By Rachel Curtis-Robles and Heather Reifsnyder

Medical entomologist Raymond Ryckman, PhD, helped put Loma Linda University on the map as an institution contributing valuable research to medical science.

The Loma Linda legend passed away July 18 at the age of 99.

After finishing a bachelor's degree in zoology at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1950, Ryckman was recruited to Loma Linda University for a faculty research position in the newly established School of Tropical and Preventive Medicine (forerunner of today's School of Public Health).

At the request of the United States Army, he began researching transmission dynamics of the plague as part of the Army's effort to keep troops safe and healthy while stationed in Southeast Asia.

His funded research efforts played

a major role in the understanding of plague transmission and control, and is still cited today.

After this grant ended in 1955, Ryckman returned to UC Berkeley to complete a master's degree and PhD.

His doctoral research focused on the insect *Triatoma protracta*, which carries and spreads the parasite responsible for Chagas disease, *Trypanosoma cruzi*. His dissertation was published in 1962.

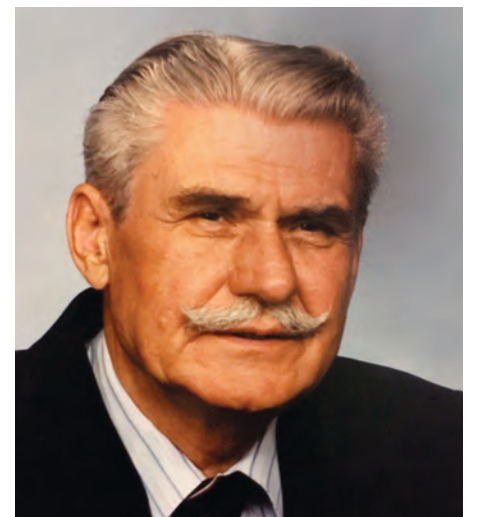
In 1960, Ryckman joined the Loma Linda University School of Medicine department of medical microbiology. He taught and conducted research at Loma Linda University until his retirement in 1987. Other research interests besides triatomine insects included cactiphilic flies and lizard mites.

In recognition of his research, Ryckman was honored in 1972 when a triatomine was named after him: *Triatoma ryckmani*.

He was further honored in 2007 when the Society for Vector Ecology



Ryckman is shown in the prime of his career and in June 1991, four years after retirement.



gave him the Distinguished Achievement Award.

In 2008, he received the University Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor awarded by Loma Linda University.

Ryckman built a considerable publishing legacy during his lifetime. He authored or co-authored approximately 115 publications, and his papers are a rich library of information about every aspect of triatomine and mammalian hosts of *T. cruzi*.

As a service to the scientific research community, Ryckman regularly contributed bibliographies, which, in the age before the Internet and electronic publishing, were a valuable source of information for researchers. He stated

that "a bibliographic monograph is the summation of our historical, cultural, and scientific heritage in a given field of endeavor."

The capstone of his career was the publication of three bibliographies of the world literature concerning Triatominae, Triatominae-borne pathogens and Chagas disease.

Compiled over the course of 16 years, and with a total number of references exceeding 23,000 publications, these bibliographies are a unique and unparalleled contribution to the field of Chagas disease research.

Additionally, after his retirement, he co-authored a book on the life of Edmund Jaeger, a biologist well known

Continued on next page

National Night Out proclaimed 'fun' by kids and 'informational' by mother

By Heather Reifsnnyder

When asked how they enjoyed National Night Out, three kids answered, "Fun!" (said in unison). The event was hosted by Loma Linda University Health on August 2.

The annual event, which takes place at locations across the country, is designed to increase police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie, making the local area a safer place for all.

More than 300 guests attended the local event.

Decked out in fire chief hats as well as junior deputy and junior paramedic badge stickers, the three Chavez children quoted above—Kayla (age 12), Daniel (age 11) and Jasmin (age 8)—listened patiently as their mother, Andrea

Chavez, learned about the proper use of child safety seats from Safe Kids Inland Empire coordinator Michelle Parker, MA, from Loma Linda University Children's Hospital.

The Safe Kids booth was just one of many stops at National Night Out on Loma Linda University Health's campus mall: guests also had the chance to visit with and see demonstrations by representatives of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, including bomb, arson and SWAT officers; search and rescue experts; members from Loma Linda's Fire Department and community emergency response team; the K-9 security team at Loma Linda University Health and more.

John Marshall, director of campus security at Loma Linda University Health, expressed the value of this event,

saying, "This was a fantastic opportunity for Loma Linda University Health to show its dedication to our community's safety and to supporting our law enforcement partners.

"I watched as children, adults, and sheriff's deputies enjoyed each other's

company, took photos together and built community engagement."

The Sheriff's Department served dinner; guests made friends with K-9 officer Wolf, an explosives-detecting and tracking dog; and law enforcement officers demonstrated how they keep residents safe.

This was the first time the Sheriff's Department has held National Night Out at Loma Linda University Health.



Officers chat with two girls who attended National Night Out.

Professor of biochemistry dies

Contributed report

With sadness, Loma Linda University Health announces that R. Bruce Wilcox, PhD, died July 29 after serving the institution for 51 years. The professor of biochemistry will be remembered for his significant contributions to the School of Medicine, according to Roger Hadley, MD, dean.

After joining the faculty of the School of Medicine in 1965, Wilcox filled administrative posts in the department of biochemistry, including three years as executive secretary and 10 years as chair. Under his leadership, the number of faculty in the department doubled.

"Both as a teacher and administrator, Dr. Wilcox had a strong influence on the

development of the School of Medicine's curriculum and the shaping of its basic sciences programs," Hadley says.

Wilcox was a member of the school's curriculum committee and an active voice for the issues and concerns of basic sciences in education. He also represented the School of Medicine and department of biochemistry on the university academic affairs committee.

In 1989, Wilcox became the first chair of the interschool faculty advisory council, the faculty governance body of Loma Linda University.

In recognition of his commitment and steadfast service, Wilcox was the recipient of the University Distinguished Service Award in 2000, honoring "his contributions—characterized always by

excellence—in teaching, research and administration."

A memorial service was held Friday, August 12, at 2 p.m. at Loma Linda University Church.

Those unable to attend who would like to send a note to the family can address it to: Deanna Wilcox and Lisa Butler, 1698 Rose Avenue, Beaumont, California 92223.

The family invites donations to the LLU School of Medicine general scholarship fund in memory of Wilcox.

Donations can be sent to: Office of Philanthropy—Gift Records, Attn: Regina Joseph, P.O. Box 2000, Loma Linda, California 92354.



R. Bruce Wilcox, PhD

LLU research pioneer dies ...

Continued from previous page

for his studies of the desert ecology of the U.S. Southwest.

Ryckman also leaves behind a vast and valuable collection of more than 25,000 insects, which he donated to the Bohart Museum of Entomology at the University of California, Davis.

The collection includes triatomine samples from the numerous colonies he kept, as well as tsetse flies and other parasitic insects.

Raymond Edward Ryckman was born June 19, 1917, and grew up on a farm in rural Wisconsin. He exhibited an early fascination with insects that would inform his later career.

At the age of 24, he was drafted into the Army and served for four years at the hospital at the Presidio Army Base in San Francisco. During this time, he met and married his wife, Evelyn Larson.

A dedicated family man, Ryckman frequently took his wife and three

children on trips for fieldwork across the United States and to Mexico.

He published several articles with his sons as co-authors, and he credited his wife for carefully and patiently reviewing and editing his manuscripts prior to submission.

A memorial service and reception for Raymond Ryckman was held the evening of Monday, July 25, at Emerson-Bartlett Memorial Chapel in Redlands.

A graveside service followed the next day, July 26, at Montecito Memorial Park in Loma Linda.

An alumna's kindness results in extraordinary opportunities ...

Continued from page 8

appear in Rio.

While Lidner Baum nearly didn't attend the fundraising event two years ago, her kindness to a stranger she met that night led to unexpected connections that are leading to future projects, including a Peace Through Healthcare model that she is developing and is

hoping to present at a future forum.

"The Peace Through Healthcare model that I'm working on," she says, "may have found a home as an arm of the existing International Institute for Peace Through Tourism. It will parallel the work of the friends I met at this year's forum who are doing so much to influence change."

Blood supplies challenged: your donation can help save a life ...

Continued from page 2

make an extra effort to give if you are able to in order to ensure that local surgeons and physicians will have ample blood on the shelves for everyday and emergency needs." In addition, healthy individuals at least 15 years of age may donate blood. Fifteen- and 16-year-olds must provide LifeStream with written parental consent.

Parental consent forms are available at any donor center, community blood drive or at www.LStream.org.

All prospective donors should be free of infections or illness, weigh at least 110 pounds, and not be at risk for AIDS or hepatitis. Donors receive a free mini-physical as part of the donation process. Donating blood takes about an hour, yet gives someone a lifetime.

Zika was discovered in Uganda in 1947; while previously considered a mild illness, women who contracted Zika in 2015 in Brazil were linked to cases of microcephaly. It has also been linked to Guillain-Barre syndrome.

Reportable Crimes

The Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1990 requires colleges and universities across the United States to publish interim reports on campus crime activities. Listed below are the crimes reported for Loma Linda University Health for the month of July 2016.

Type of Crime	Number of Crimes	Place of Crime
Narcotics	4	ReLive Thrift; East Campus; Patient Parking Structure (2)
Assault/Battery	1	Emergency Department
Threats	1	Medical Center
Sexual Offense	1	Lot C
Felony Warrant	1	Lot C
Trespassing	1	Emergency Department
Vandalism	1	North Parking Structure

You can assist the Loma Linda University Health department of security in maintaining a safe and secure environment by notifying security immediately at extension 9-1-1 if you see or know about a crime taking place.

An alumna's kindness results in extraordinary opportunities

By Nancy Yuen

From August 5 to 21, the world's top athletes gathered in Brazil to compete in the Olympics. During 16-day event, a singer from the Inland Empire, Rocky Peter Ajoku, was in Rio de Janeiro as part of the Olympic Truce Peace Campaign.

Ajoku's journey to becoming an advocate for the child slavery epidemic began when he was living in Nigeria. His father abandoned the family when Ajoku was just 2 years old.

The family lived without running water, and experienced hunger every day. Even after becoming a child slave, "I never gave up hope," Ajoku says. He immigrated to the U.S. as a teen.

"I met Rocky at a fundraising event in Riverside," says Carla Lidner Baum, DDS, MS. Lidner Baum, who received her DDS degree from the School of Dentistry in 1990, has worked as assistant professor in the school since 1996. The young man's story and his resiliency



Rocky Ajoku performed and spoke at the Nobel Peace Prize Forum through connections he made as a result of the kindness of Carla Lidner Baum, DDS, MA.

inspired her to help.

After completing high school, Ajoku

studied biology at University of California, Riverside. Because he was unable to afford housing, a local donut shop, Freshh Donuts, became his home. He slept in the shop, and spent many hours there studying and singing. It was the shop's baker who gave him his first guitar.

In 2015, at the time of the fundraiser, Ajoku had just auditioned to become an American Idol contestant.

"When I met him," says Lidner Baum, "Rocky had made it through the first rounds of the competition. I bought a guitar for him, bought him a computer and gave him the funds needed to go to American Idol.

"Someone who was helping organize the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize Forum," she recalls, "saw a video that American Idol had aired about Rocky having been a child slave in Nigeria. Rocky was contacted and although he was very excited to be invited to sing at the Nobel Peace Prize Forum, he said that his 'mom' needed to be invited, too.

"The Nobel Peace Prize Forum," says Lidner Baum, "is sponsored by the Nobel Peace Prize Institute in Norway. It's held in America every year and gives America's best strategists the opportunity to focus on the work of the Nobel Laureate of a previous year. Invitees include people from around the world who are working for peace and prosperity."

This year, the forum honored Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Kailash Satyarthi, whose personal mission is to end child slavery and child trafficking. The forum also examined the peace and security implications of, and connections between, human trafficking, migration, refugees, and climate change.

Responding to Ajoku's request, Peace through Commerce, a forum presenter, invited Lidner Baum and Ajoku to be a part of their breakout sessions.

During closing ceremonies, she also appeared with the Nobel Laureate whose work had been highlighted at the Forum, and with Ajoku.

His closing ceremony performance is available on YouTube.

"All three days of the forum will remain forever in my memory as three of the most exciting and meaning-packed days of my life," says Lidner Baum. "I made cherished friendships there that I hope to maintain. Stories I heard at the forum were not unlike the stories of Loma Linda University alumni serving locally and throughout the world of which I am familiar and so proud."

After meeting Ajoku and hearing his story at the Nobel Peace Prize Forum, Louis J. D'Amore, founder and president of the International Institute for Peace Through Tourism, contacted the Olympic Truce Peace Campaign. This resulted in Ajoku's invitation to

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'America's Got Talent' contestants perform for pediatric patients

By Briana Pastorino

The last time Nikki Leonti-Edgar walked through the halls of Loma Linda University Children's Hospital (LLUCH) was more than 25 years ago, when her brother was being treated for cancer.

Recalling the difficult times and somber emotions her family experienced as they watched him endure and ultimately succumb to his illness, the now 34-year-old singer/songwriter returned to Loma Linda to spread some joy through her music.

"Seeing these kids struggling definitely makes it hard to keep it together," Nikki stated, "but knowing we're bringing joy and giving them a moment away from their individual situations makes it a little easier."

Nikki, along with her husband, Ryan, and daughter Jaslyn—who together make up the group Edgar—stopped by the hospital to sing and visit with patients. The trio is currently on the competitive reality series America's Got Talent (AGT).

A Corona, California native, Nikki now lives in Los Angeles with her husband and three children. Her oldest,

Jaslyn, is the only one singing on the show.

Edgar performed five songs for an intimate crowd of roughly 50 patients and staff, during which one young patient took it upon himself to join in. Franco Gonzalez Bucio, 2, from San Bernardino, a lover of all things musical according to his mom, joined the trio with his pint-sized guitar.

Watch the video of Franco and Edgar at www.facebook.com/LLUChildrens (scroll down to the July 26 video entry for the Edgar Family).

"He likes to pretend he can play any instrument," Maria Gonzalez Bucio said of her son, who has been in and out of the hospital since May battling leukemia. "He even likes to serenade the girls on the unit."

Before they departed the hospital, Edgar got input from the patients on what song they should sing for their next performance on AGT.

They also visited with patients on the units who were unable to attend the performance.

The family trio made their debut performance on AGT in June this year and began live shows in August on NBC.

They hope to return to Loma Linda in the near future to sing for patients again.



Members of the family band Edgar were all smiles as they greeted patients prior to their performance at LLUCH Tuesday, July 26. From left are Ryan Edgar, Jaslyn Edgar, Nikki Leonti-Edgar, LLUCH patient Franco Gonzalez Bucio, 2, along with his mom and dad.



Carla Lidner Baum, DDS, MA, speaks at the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize Forum.



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