

Launching USF Health

Better health is the core value

The room was abuzz as the inaugural USF Health Convocation began Sept. 27. While many of the hundreds who filled the auditorium had already heard hints of the concept, most had not yet been exposed to essence of what USF Health is and will be. *(Continued on page 3)*

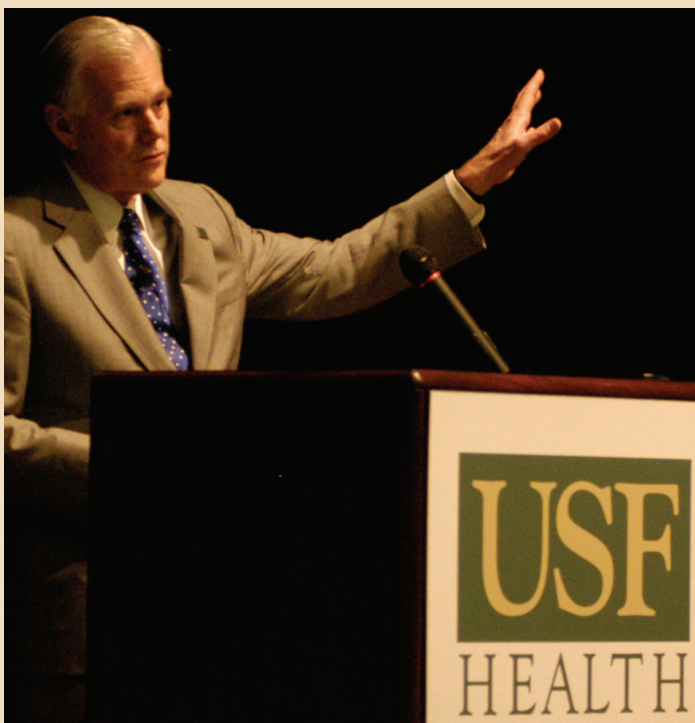


Photo by Eric Younghans

Dr. Michael McGinnis, senior scholar at the Institute of Medicine, puts the USF Health vision in perspective: we can set the pace nationally.

Dr. Audrey Nelson earns national patient safety award

The National Quality Forum of the Joint Commission on Accreditation for Healthcare Organizations has awarded USF's Audrey L. Nelson, RN, PhD, the Eisenberg Patient Safety and Quality Award.

Dr. Nelson, adjunct director for clinical research at the USF College of Nursing and director of the Patient Safety Research Center at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital, earned the Individual Achievement award for her work with patients in both clinical practice and research.

Her ability to bring people together around a certain project that ultimately improves the life of patients is the foundation for her work. One such project is her work in safe patient handling and movement for health care providers, which has been used as a model by both the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and the American Nurses Association. In addition, she helped design a specialized chair for moving patients.

The award will be presented in October in Washington, DC.

Green tea extract may prevent Alzheimer's brain damage USF team provides first evidence

By Anne DeLotto Baier

USF researchers have found that green tea may offer another potential health benefit -- protecting the brain against the ravages of Alzheimer's disease.

In an article published Sept. 21 in the *Journal of Neuroscience*, USF researchers report that a component of green tea prevented Alzheimer's-like damage in the brains of mice genetically programmed to develop the neurodegenerative disease process. The component, called epigallocatechin-3-gallate (EGCG), is a major antioxidant in green tea and has been widely studied for its reported protection against certain cancers.

Now the USF team provides the first evidence that EGCG decreases production of the Alzheimer's-related protein, beta-amyloid, *(Continued on page 4)*

Dr. Rony Francois named Florida Secretary of Health



After a press conference announcing his being named Secretary of the Florida Department of Health, USF public health professor and USF alumnus Rony Francois, MD, PhD, (right) takes a moment for the cameras with Gov. Jeb Bush and Dr. Donna Petersen, dean of the USF College of Public Health.

"After considering several outstanding candidates for this position, I am certain Dr. Francois is the right person to guide our state on a wide array of public health issues," Gov. Bush said.

Dr. Francois, 47, was an assistant professor of public health and directed the Public Health Practice Program at USF, a program that prepares health professionals for leadership roles in the public and private sectors. He earned his medical degree, his master's degree in public health and his PhD in toxicology from USF.

He began his new role Sept. 19.

Lending a helping hand

USF Health helps victims of Hurricane Katrina

USF Health helped victims of Hurricane Katrina in many personal and group efforts.

Steve Morris, MD, RN, (at left in photo below) project director for the Disaster/Bioterrorism Training Program at the USF College of Nursing, gives a tetanus shot to a Florida Department of Law Enforcement officer, at a Hurricane Katrina command center in Biloxi, Miss. In the hurricane's aftermath, Dr. Morris was deployed for 12 days with a team of more than 1,000 FDLE officers. Armed with vaccines donated by the College of Medicine and medical supplies from CON, he evaluated and treated law enforcement officers and other first responders conducting search and rescue operations along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. He also spent a day with Tampa surgeon and COM alumna Sylvia Campbell, MD, providing humanitarian assistance to hurricane victims. "The devastation was enormous – far beyond

what the scope of what the media can demonstrate by photos or television," said Dr. Morris, whose brother's Biloxi home was damaged by the flooding.

In addition, faculty and staff throughout USF Health helped by donating much needed items to a collection effort. Three vans full of toiletries, packaged food, blankets and more were gathered from collection sites at Harbourside, Tampa General, Colleges of Nursing, Public Health, and Medicine and the School of Physical Therapy. Loading up these goods in above photo are, from right: Yara Rios, internal communications manager for USF Health; Ernesto Zota, of USF Health receiving; Peggy Smith, dean's office at COPH; and Elizabeth Peacock, branding assistant for USF Health. These donations were combined with the USF collections, which were quickly delivered on semi trucks to affected regions.



(((In the News)))

Steve Morris, MD, RN, project director of the Bioterrorism/Disaster Training Program at the College of Nursing, was interviewed about his recent deployment to Biloxi, Miss, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina for the Sept. 30 broadcasts of *Fox 13 News*, *ABC Action News Ch. 28* and *Bay News 9*.

USF and All Children's Hospital pediatrician **Rani Gereige, MD**, commented for the Sept. 29 *News Channel 8* on backpack safety guidelines to help young students prevent back and shoulder pain.

St. Petersburg
Times

Stephen Klasko, MD, MBA, dean of the College of Medicine and vice president for USF Health, commented in the Sept. 28 *St. Petersburg Times* on the change in culture that has accompanied the transition from the USF Health Sciences Center to USF Health. Medical student **Samuel Crane** and public health student **Desirae Narallah** were mentioned in the article.

Kudos to USF doctors who comprise the majority of the recently released **Best Doctors in America** list aired on the Sept. 23 *Bay News 9* broadcast.

Robert Hauser, MD, director of the USF Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders Center, discussed the first medication to treat moderate to severe Restless Legs Syndrome Sept. 22 on *News Channel 8*.

Thomas Mason, PhD, director of the Global Center for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Action, commented on the emotional toll and long recovery process following disasters such as Hurricane Rita Oct. 1 in the *Beaumont Enterprise*. He was also featured Sept. 21 in *Steve Otto's Tampa Tribune column* on the importance of community-based communication in disaster planning.

CNN

A USF Health study indicating that an ingredient in green tea protected mice from Alzheimer's-like brain damage was picked up Sept. 21 by *Reuters* newswire and published or aired by more than 50 media outlets worldwide, including the *Associated Press*, *BBC News* and *CNN News*. Locally, senior study author **Jun Tan, PhD, MD**, of the Department of Psychiatry, was interviewed by *Fox 13 News*. *News Channel 8* and *ABC Action News Ch. 28* mentioned the study results.

Richard Roetzheim, MD, professor of family medicine, was featured in a Sept. 21 *Temple*

Terrace News story on the importance of screenings for early diagnosis of prostate cancer.

Eric Coris, MD, director of the Division of Sports Medicine, commented on getting optimal nutrition out of pregame meals for athletes in the Sept. 20 *Tampa Tribune*.

abc NEWS

Michel Murr, MD, USF and TGH bariatric surgeon, was featured in a Sept. 20 *Associated Press* story (and picked up by *ABC News*) on how morbidly obese seniors increasingly opt for gastric bypass surgery.

John Sinnott, MD, director of Infectious Diseases, was quoted in a Sept. 20 *Miami Herald* story on whether the bird flu spreading through Asia might be the next flu pandemic to hit America.

The announcement of **Rony Francois, MD, MPH**, assistant professor at the College of Public Health, as Florida's new Secretary of Health received statewide coverage, including in the Sept. 15 *Associated Press*, *St. Petersburg Times*, *Tampa Tribune*, *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*, and *Miami Herald*.

Compiled by Susanna Martinez, smartin1@hsc.usf.edu, and Anne DeLotto Baier, abaier@hsc.usf.edu.

From pediatrics to geriatrics



Free interview for expectant moms

The USF Department of General Pediatrics is offering expectant mothers a free pre-natal appointment to interview a pediatrician as they choose a doctor for their babies.

Appointments are for USF pediatricians at the new comprehensive clinic at the USF Medical Clinic, Tampa campus, including Lori Bowers, MD; Maria Cannarozzi, MD; Hugo Narvarte, MD; and Antoinette Spoto-Cannons, MD.

For more information, call 813-974-2583.

Geriatric Outpatient Clinic Expertise for the elderly

The Geriatric Outpatient Clinic is a service designed to meet the healthcare needs of the older person.

The clinicians, board certified geriatricians and geriatric nurse practitioners are faculty members of USF with special expertise in the management of patients with multiple diagnoses, functional limitations, geriatric syndromes such as pain, incontinence, dementia, falls, disease prevention and health promotion.

Every senior is different, and in need of individualized and comprehensive health screening to uncover potential problems before they become more challenging limitations.

The Geriatric Outpatient Clinic will provide an assessment to each of its patients and offer a treatment plan to help promote optimal health and independence.

Call 813-974-4115 for more information or to make an appointment.



The Health Revolution Now Has A Local Address

USF HEALTH IS ...

A philosophy, an enterprise and a foundation.

It means our guiding value is making life better by improving health along its entire spectrum, from the environment, to the community, to the individual.

As an enterprise, it combines the teaching, research and service of the colleges of public health, medicine, nursing, school of physical therapy, and the USF physicians.

USF Health is the foundation of patient-centered care in the Centers for Advanced Healthcare.



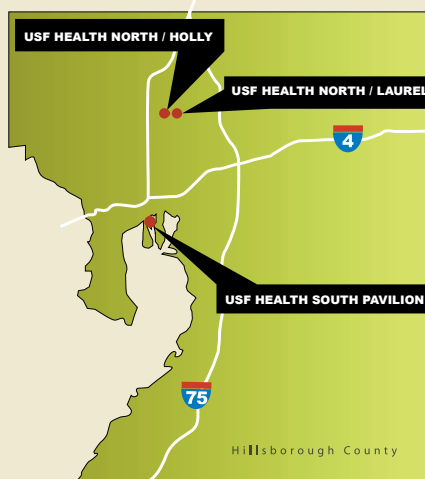
Implementing USF Health in the Centers for Advanced Healthcare

Health

Learning

Service

Quality



Safety

Outcomes

Research

Relationships

Making Life Better
through Research, Education & Healthcare™

Convocation

(Continued from page 1)

The crowd heard from deans of the three colleges as they conveyed their excitement. They watched a video, which provided further insight and testimonials from students and faculty.

And they heard an endorsement from Institute of Medicine's Michael McGinnis, MD, MPP, as he put the vision into a national perspective, saying that USF Health can chart

a new course for how health is taught in the community and in Florida and charged us to set the pace for how health is taught at the national level.

An indoor picnic followed the convocation.

To hear more about USF Health, visit www.hsc.usf.edu and be sure to link to the video.

Among the tools available are USF Health logos (on the website), PowerPoint templates, and an identity standards manual (due out next month) offering brand identity guidelines for printing stationery and business cards.

Uninsured children hospitalized for injury die at higher rate than children with coverage

Uninsured children hospitalized for injury died at more than twice the rate of children with private and public coverage, according to a new report on childhood injury in Florida. Uninsured children include those without insurance coverage and recipients not charged for care.

The report, *Childhood Injury in Florida, 2002: A Report on Hospital Care & Prevention Information*, is a collaboration of All Children's Hospital, USF Health, the

Florida Initiative for Children's Healthcare Quality, and the Florida Suncoast SAFE KIDS Coalition.

"The difference in death rates does not

necessarily mean that care is different for insured and uninsured children," said lead investigator Jean Lee, MS, RN, a former intensive care unit nurse and doctoral candidate at the University of South Florida College of Nursing.

"It could be that uninsured children are dying at a higher rate because they are more severely injured before they arrive at the hospital."

"How much of this is due to increased severity is difficult to assess because injury severity measures specific to children are not well developed," said USF pediatrician, Lisa Simpson, MB, BCh, MPH, who holds the All Children's Hospital Guild Endowed Chair in Child Health Policy.

The report illustrates the far-reaching impact of childhood injuries in Florida. Injuries – both intentional and unintentional – were the principal

reason for nearly 11,000 hospitalizations costing an estimated \$194 million in 2002. Of these children, 131 died in the hospital. The figures do not include children treated in emergency rooms and released.

Children with public coverage, such as Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program, accounted for 34 percent of the \$194 million in hospital charges (\$66.6 million), and

For a copy of the report, contact Jean Lee at jlee@hsc.usf.edu

uninsured children comprised 8 percent (\$16.1 million), said co-primary investigator Robyn Cheung, PhD, an outcomes researcher at the Pediatric Clinical Research Center in St. Petersburg.

Falls were the leading cause of injury hospitalizations in Florida children overall, followed by motor vehicle accidents.

Green tea

(Continued from page 1)

which can accumulate abnormally in the brain and lead to nerve damage and memory loss. This reduction in beta-amyloid was observed both in cell cultures and a mouse model for Alzheimer's disease. EGCG appears to block the initial process by which the Alzheimer's-related protein is formed in brain cells.

After treating Alzheimer's mice for several months with daily injections of pure EGCG, the researchers observed a dramatic decrease -- as much as 54 percent -- of brain-clogging Alzheimer's plaques.

"The findings suggest that a concentrated component of green tea can decrease brain beta-amyloid plaque formation," said senior study author Jun Tan, MD, PhD, director of the Neuroimmunology Laboratory at the Silver Child Development Center, USF Department of Psychiatry.

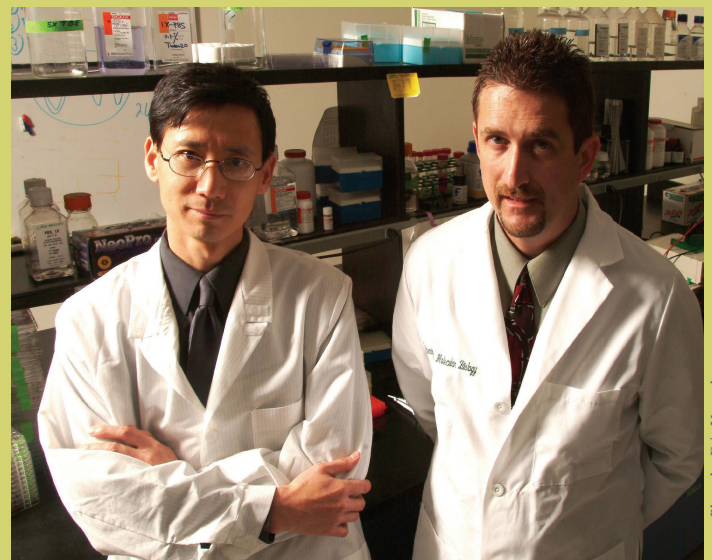
"If beta-amyloid pathology in this Alzheimer's mouse model is representative of Alzheimer's disease pathology in humans, EGCG dietary supplementation may be effective in preventing and treating the disease."

Green tea contains many antioxidants, including those known as flavonoids that can protect against free radical damage to the brain. However, Dr. Tan and colleagues demonstrated that other flavonoids in green tea actually oppose naturally-occurring EGCG's ability to prevent the harmful build-up of beta-amyloid. Thus, Dr. Tan said, drinking green tea would not likely have a beneficial effect through the same mechanism that EGCG works.

"This finding suggests that green tea extract selectively concentrating EGCG would be needed to override the counteractive effect of other flavonoids found in green tea," said study co-author Doug Shytle, PhD.

"A new generation of dietary supplements containing pure EGCG may lead to the greatest benefit for treating Alzheimer's disease."

Dr. Tan said humans would likely need 1500 to 1600 mg of EGCG daily to approximate the injection dosage that benefited the Alzheimer's mice. The USF researchers plan to study whether multiple oral doses of EGCG can improve memory loss in Alzheimer's mice as well as reducing their Alzheimer's plaque burden.



Senior author Dr. Jun Tan (left) and co-author Dr. Doug Shytle have found an element in green tea that may help protect brains against the ravages of Alzheimer's disease.

"If those studies show clear cognitive benefits," Dr. Tan said, "we believe clinical trials of EGCG to treat Alzheimer's disease would be warranted."

Kavon Rezai-Zedah, a PhD candidate in the USF Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology was first author of the study. Other authors were Nan Sun, MS; Takashi Mori, PhD; Huayan Hou, MD; Deborah Jeanniton, BS; Jared Ehrhart, PhD candidate; Kirk Townsend, PhD; Jin Zeng, MS; David Morgan, PhD; John Hardy, PhD; and Terrence Town, PhD.

The study was supported by the Johnnie B. Byrd Sr. Alzheimer's Center & Research Institute, USF College of Medicine faculty start-up funds, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, and the Alzheimer's Association.