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## TODAY - August 31, 2012

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HIGH-TECH DENTISTRY

# School of Dentistry opens Hugh Love Center for Research & Education in Technology

By Herbert Atienza and Heather Reifsnnyder

The Loma Linda University School of Dentistry celebrated the opening of the Hugh Love Center for Research & Education in Technology on August 22.

The Hugh Love Center comprises six operatories and a three-chair open clinic. The 3,000-square-foot center, with equipment provided by several different manufacturers, will enable qualified students, under faculty supervision, to treat patients using the latest in dental technology.

Starting this fall, each fourth-year dental student will treat patients at the Hugh Love Center for at least two weeks. The most recent equipment and operatory models will allow students to integrate their pre-clinical instruc-

tion into a technologically advanced clinical experience, preparing them to effectively incorporate technology into their practices.

In addition to students and faculty, patients will benefit from the center, says Dean Charles Goodacre, DDS, MSD. They will receive optimized care that melds key foundational technical skills with innovative technologies.

The center's name honors alumnus Hugh C. Love, DDS (class of 1961), whose unrestricted trust to the School of Dentistry made possible the renovation of the new space from a former orthodontic clinic on the second floor of Prince Hall, immediately adjacent to the school's group pre-doctoral clinic.

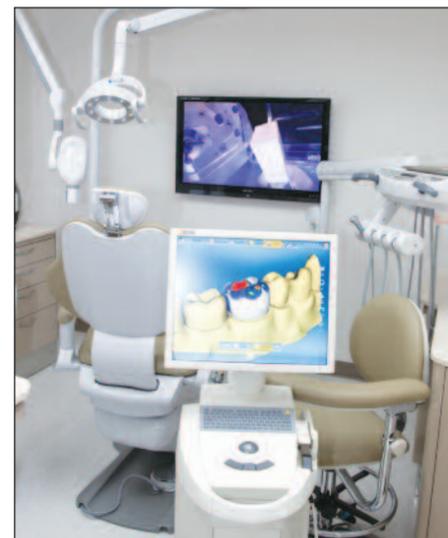
Formidable expenditures are required for a dental school to regularly expose its students to

the latest offerings in dental technology. The Hugh Love Center was made possible by an organization formed to address this dilemma, the Center for Research and Education in Technology (CRET).

An assembly of dental manufacturers, suppliers, and an insurance company, CRET provides the most technologically advanced oral health care equipment to respected dental schools capable of providing adequate space, faculty, staff, and administration to support this innovation in dental education.

Consistent with the school's tradition of innovation, Dr. Goodacre responded in late 2009 to a request for proposals from CRET. This organization conceived a plan whereby the School of Dentistry would supply space, support staff, and integration of technology into the curriculum, while CRET would design the center. And its consortium of dental equipment manufacturers provided the technologically advanced equipment to make the center possible.

CRET founder and president Edward Rossonando, DDS, PhD, and CEO Charles Cohen participated in the center's groundbreaking



One of nine clinic chairs donated by the Center for Research and Education in Technology corporate members to the Hugh Love Center for Research & Education in Technology

ceremony, along with other CRET members, Loma Linda University administrators, and state and local dignitaries.

Mark Supanchick, design specialist, developed plans for the center. Bryan Marshall, DDS, owner of Alliance Healthcare Development and Construction, was the project builder. Joseph Caruso, DDS, MS, MPH, associate dean for strategic initiatives and faculty practices, provided oversight for the project.

CMS VISIT ENDS WELL

# CMS team positive after visiting various Loma Linda health care entities

By Larry Kidder

Representatives of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) were on campus for a two-week visit ending August 9, 2012.

"While here, the CMS surveyors visited many departments and looked at everything from nutritional services to pharmacy," reports Ruthita Fike, MA, CEO of Loma Linda University Medical Center. "Their exit interview with our leadership team was for the most part positive."

Ms. Fike adds, "The surveyors expressed their recognition and appreciation for all we have done to address their concerns."

The medical center is now awaiting a formal report from CMS, which will summarize their findings and discuss any areas where the institution could further improve.

"If there is one takeaway from this experience," she continues, "it is this: over the past two months we have pulled together as a team to make some great—and often not easy—changes in the way we do things here at Loma Linda."

She concludes, "As a result, we have become a better, more-focused, and more-equipped organization ready to serve our community's ongoing health care needs."

◀Ruthita Fike, MA, CEO of Loma Linda University Medical Center, is pleased with the outcome of the recent CMS visit.



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

# Advanced imaging and microscopy core facility celebrates first anniversary

By James Ponder

Sean M. Wilson, PhD, and Steven M. Yellon, PhD, co-directors of the advanced imaging and microscopy core facility at Loma Linda University School of Medicine, are celebrating the facility's first anniversary this year, highlighting its accomplishments.

According to Dr. Wilson, the first year has exceeded expectations in terms of the number of people trained and the number of grants and publications it has helped support.

"The microscopy resources that we have in the advanced imaging and microscopy facility at Loma Linda University are very unique," notes Dr. Wilson. "The facility serves as a research and educational resource for the Inland Empire and beyond."

Dr. Yellon notes that the value of the core facility is indicated by the fact that more than 120 individuals—including LLU faculty,

fellows, and medical and graduate students—trained at the facility during its initial year. They were joined by visiting faculty from other institutions including the Jerry L. Pettis Memorial Veteran's Administration Medical Center, the University of California at Riverside, Western University Health Science Center, California Baptist University, and other educational centers who took advantage of the opportunity to use the high-quality, specialized equipment the facility offers.

In addition, student researchers from a number of LLU programs—such as the Macpherson Summer Research Scholarship, Apprenticeship Bridge to College, Undergraduate Training Program, and Pulmonary and Critical Care Fellowship—gained invaluable firsthand experience at the facility.

Researchers logged a remarkable 2,052 hours of use on the microscopes and image analysis workstations in the facility's first year—the

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INTERNATIONAL FORUM

## SPH professor speaks on chronic diseases at Pan American Forum

By Darcie Moningka

Chronic diseases such as diabetes, cancer, and cardiovascular disease are becoming the leading causes of premature death and disability within the Americas. Hildemar Dos Santos, MD, DrPH, assistant professor of the preventive care program in LLU School of Public Health, represented the school at the Pan American Forum for Action on Non-Communicable Diseases (PAFNCD) meeting in Brasilia, Brazil, May 7-9.

A collaboration of government, private sector, academia, and civil society, this forum is a multi-stakeholder platform from the Pan American

Health Organization (PAHO), with a goal to raise awareness of and promote the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases. This was the first forum meeting to discuss these diseases and the increasing need for preventive activities and policies.

"The fact is that diseases like diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, and others are increasing across all developed and developing countries," says Dr. Dos Santos. "There is a huge need for prevention to be implemented across the American continent."

The meeting specifically focused on three major

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With the South American Division employees, Dr. Hildemar Dos Santos (front row, third from right) attended the Pan American Forum for Action on Non-Communicable Diseases meeting in Brazil to address the need for awareness and control of non-communicable diseases.

FACULTY RECOGNITION

## American Board of Operative Dentistry elects dentistry professor as president

By Doug Hackleman

Clyde Roggenkamp, DDS, MSD, associate professor, department of restorative dentistry at the School of Dentistry, accepted a two-year appointment as president of the American Board of Operative Dentistry (ABOD) at the organization's annual Chicago meeting in February.

He will preside at winter meetings in Chicago, supervise seven ABOD committees, and oversee

the board candidate certification process.

Conceived in 1980 to elevate the art and science of operative dentistry, ABOD sponsors valuable continuing education courses and conducts examinations to determine the proficiency of dentists who voluntarily apply for certification. Board certification has become an important consideration for special remuneration and rank promotions in some branches of military service. Additionally, some graduate training programs promote ABOD certification for their students to achieve added credibility when seeking academic appointments.

Certification requirements culminate in a three-part test—written, clinical, and oral—the latter requiring an extensive photographic portfolio plus mounted, articulated study casts to defend treatment decisions.

As of February 2012, a total of only 84 candidates had achieved board certification. Certified in 1990, Dr. Roggenkamp holds ABOD Certificate # 21. Other certified ABOD members currently teaching at the School of Dentistry are So Ran Kwon, DDS, PhD, MS, associate professor in restorative dentistry; Michael Meharry, DDS (class of 1980), assistant professor in restorative dentistry; and Carlos Chavez, DDS, MS, assistant professor (part time) in restorative dentistry.



Clyde Roggenkamp, DDS, MSD

FACULTY EXCELLENCE

## Dentistry professor wins first place in poster competition at NIH event

By Doug Hackleman

Lincoln Edwards, PhD, DDS, associate professor, dental education services, was awarded first place in the basic sciences poster competition at the recently concluded Network of Minority Research Investigators (NMRI), which was sponsored by the National Institutes of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) in Bethesda, Maryland, April 19 and 20, 2012.

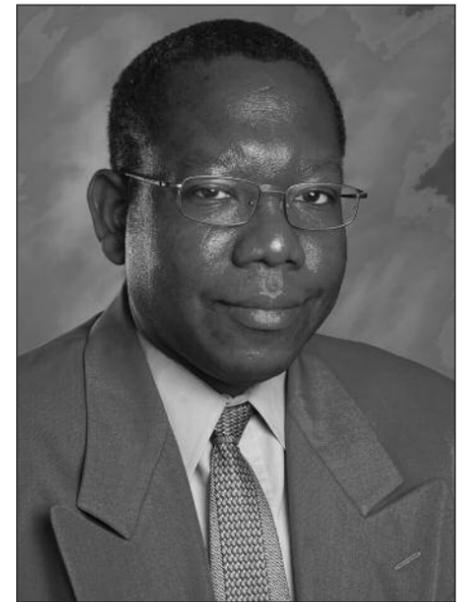
The NIDDK has established a communication network of current and potential biomedical research investigators and technical personnel from traditionally underserved communities to advance scientific knowledge and contribute to the reduction and eventual elimination of racial and ethnic health disparities.

Dr. Edwards is the only person in the 10-year history of NMRI who has won the basic sciences poster competition more than once; he also received the honor in April 2010.

"I am delighted that I was able to represent Loma Linda University very well among such a distinguished group of scientists," Dr. Edwards remarked.

In another succession of awards, Dr. Lincoln

first received a travel award from the American Physiological Society to attend the Experimental Biology meetings in Washington, D.C., in 2011; more recently The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, along with the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, granted Dr. Lincoln a travel award to attend the Experimental Biology meetings in San Diego, April 21-25, 2012.



Lincoln Edwards, PhD, DDS

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

## Third-year pharmacy student attends seminar at University of Utah

By Stephen Vodhanel, PhD

School of Pharmacy student Ashlyn Davies recently returned from a weeklong summer seminar at the University of Utah School on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependencies.

Ms. Davies studied about the pathophysiology of addiction, the current worldwide and national trends in illicit and prescription drug abuse, and approaches to pain management for addicts.

"During the seminar I had the chance to attend 12-step recovery programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Al-Anon, and the Pharmacist Recovery Network that helps pharmacists with various addiction problems," says Ms. Davies, a third-year student in the School of Pharmacy. Al-Anon is a program for friends and family members of problem drinkers.

"Each group session was deeply touching. I could see the real trouble and real pain of people with addictions, as well as the co-dependency issues that addiction lays upon family members and loved ones."

According to its website, the University of Utah School on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependencies is recognized internationally, and it has continually expanded its scope to keep pace with increased awareness of the health and social problems of alcoholism and other drug dependencies.

The website—<[medicine.utah.edu/uas/Introduction.htm](http://medicine.utah.edu/uas/Introduction.htm)>—offers specialized information

for working effectively with substance abuse problems in various professional disciplines and ethnic groups.

Following the seminar, Ms. Davies visited the Wasatch Range, the western edge of the Rocky Mountains.



While attending University of Utah School on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependencies for a summer seminar, LLU School of Pharmacy student Ashlyn Davies took time out to visit the Wasatch Range.

## ALUMNI OUTREACH

## School of Dentistry alumnus volunteers among the Maasai

By Doug Hackleman

Recently, David James Saad, DDS, School of Dentistry alumnus (class of 1989), was featured in the *Chico Enterprise-Record* (April 15, 2012) for a three-week dental service mission trip he took with his wife, Julie Saad, MBA, under the auspices of the National Association of Seventh-day Adventist Dentists (NASDAD).

Dr. Saad assisted at the Maasai Dental Clinic, five miles from the Maasai Mara National Game Park, a wilderness area and game preserve in southwestern Kenya, famous for its big cats.

The clinic, comprising three fully equipped dental operatories, provides free dentistry five days per week. While it employs a staff of local Maasai, the clinic's dentists are volunteers who spend a few weeks at a time, on a rotating basis, mostly from the United States and England.

Despite the rather modern nature of the clinic, it is surrounded by a Maasai population of approximately 50,000 that lives in mud huts. The men carry spears or sticks to defend themselves and their cattle against lions, leopards, and snakes, says Dr. Saad.

Although the Saads stayed in a convenient apartment above the clinic, because of the danger of lions and other wild animals, they could leave the compound—surrounded by an

electric fence—only when a Maasai driver was available to transport them.

Dr. Saad was able to see roughly 15 patients each day, treating infections and extracting many teeth from people who had walked as far as 30 miles to the clinic.

According to Dr. Saad, the oral health of the Maasai is dismal for two reasons: they do not brush their teeth and they eat roots that are rough on their teeth. Furthermore, because their water contains toxically high levels of fluoride, the population suffers from an enamel damaging disease called fluorosis—and some of the worst cases he'd ever seen.

Over the past 23 years, Dr. Saad has made dental mission trips to many parts of the world, including Haiti, the South Pacific, and Mexico. In Haiti, he had patients sit on a rock "in the middle of nowhere" as someone held a flashlight as he extracted teeth to provide pain relief.

As a pediatric dentist, Dr. Saad has a special concern for the many children who have been brought to him for treatment on his overseas mission trips. And after his November 2011 experience in Kenya, he says he would like to return to start an oral hygiene program for the Maasai children.

Dr. Saad believes "that mission work and being the extension of God's hand to alleviate



Dr. Saad works on a patient at the Maasai Dental Clinic, located just five miles from the Maasai Mara National Game Park in Kenya.

suffering anywhere in the world are what truly define Loma Linda University. I am blessed to be able to be a small part of the army of Loma Linda graduates who do their part."

Dr. Saad completed his undergraduate degree at Walla Walla University in 1983, with majors in religion and biology, and then spent time participating in medical research before deciding to pursue a career in dentistry. After graduating from Loma Linda University's School of Dentistry in 1989, he remained as a part-time faculty member for three years before entering the school's advanced education program in dental anesthesiology, from which he earned a certificate in 1994.

Raymond S. Damazo, DDS, and his wife, Gail, built the Maasai Dental Clinic in 2008 within the legal auspices of the nonprofit World Health Dental Organization (WHDO). In

2010 WHDO turned over leadership of the clinic to NASDAD, which operates the clinic in partnership with Loma Linda University for the School of Dentistry.

The clinic is becoming an international teaching center with one faculty member and two senior students cycling through most of the time. Volunteers, such as Dr. Saad, are needed for work at the clinic during the summers when no students are available. The School of Dentistry also seeks volunteer dentists to work with students as adjunct faculty members. It is possible to apply for adjunct faculty member status and be preapproved for a mutually agreed work schedule.

For more information, contact Kirk Hunt (who coordinates the volunteer schedule) at (209) 712-3909 or (209) 334-9072, or by e-mail at <kirk.worldtraveler@kirkhunt.com>.

## HEALTH CAREERS

## Gateway program introduces teens to health careers

By Heather Reifsnnyder

Fifty-seven students and new graduates of area high schools spent the last two weeks of June on campus to learn about careers in the health science field. Called Gateway to the Health Professions, the program inspires teens to know that their aspirations are in reach.

"The idea of working in a hospital, being able to see patients' faces light up as they are treated, and helping those that need me is my ultimate dream," says participant Sarah Ustrell.

The program is for African American, Latino, Native American, and underprivileged students. Together, minorities make up about 25 percent of the United States population, yet they represent less than 10 percent of health professionals. The Gateway program aims to help close that gap. It also targets teens from families who have not attended college.

"I have a passion for one day having a career in the medical field," says Stephanie Arellano. "It's the one thing I have always been sure about."

Others are less sure. Participant Michael Strickland says he would encourage all teens to attend the Gateway program and take lots of notes, even if they aren't positively interested in a health career. During graduation on June 29, several students in this category said they now plan to pursue a health career.

The curriculum not only introduces different

health science careers, but it also teaches lessons on leadership, SAT preparation, study skills, and applying for financial aid in college. The students practice networking, interviewing skills, and résumé building. Additionally, 22 students stayed on for a third week to shadow professionals on the Loma Linda campus.

The program introduces participants to a variety of health professions, some of which they have never heard of before—public health ranking No. 1 in this category. But there were other new discoveries. Aubrey Perez, for example, first heard of physician assistants during the Gateway program. Daniela Salinas learned about radiation technology, which she would possibly like to pursue.

"No one in my family has graduated from college, and I aspire to be the first," Daniela says, "not only to make my family proud, but to make myself proud and prove that I can accomplish my goals."

She is not the only one in this position. Of the 57 participants, only two-thirds have parents who graduated from high school. More than half of the parents didn't attend college. At the conclusion of the program, 93 percent of the students said they plan to go to college. And Salma Amparan is already thinking of the next generation. "I want to be a great influence for my siblings," she says.

The Gateway program is conducted by the LLU Institute for Community Partnerships.

The institute promotes collaboration between the campus and the community to ensure that the university is both relevant and responsive through research, teaching, and service.

"I strongly believe that career pathway programs are some of the most important work that we do on this campus," says Director Juan Carlos Belliard, PhD, MPH, "because they not only transform individuals, but families and communities. Through these efforts we are investing in the future of our community and our workforce."

Participant Jill Fanning wants exactly that. "I pursue life with a smile in hope that I will make a positive difference in our community," she says.

Chase Evans agrees. "I know that I can contribute to society in a positive way. If I could put smiles on multiple faces per day, that would be priceless indeed."

The Gateway program combines three former student mentoring programs: Si Se Puede for Latinos, College Exodus for African Americans, and Partners in Progress for Native Americans.



Daniel Hincapie enjoys a tour of the LLU Medical Simulation Center.

## Big Hearts for Little Hearts celebrates Luke the Lion's birthday in style ...

Continued from page 8  
cles to the party, including a bevy of hot-rodded and restored cars and trucks from the 1930s to 1980s, many of which displayed massive engines and custom paint jobs.

As they have for the last several years, The Wonderelles provided musical inspiration to keep things hopping. Billing themselves as "a wholesome, high-energy, elegant 50s and 60s revue," The Wonderelles wowed the crowd in pink poodle skirts and white blouses and kept

a positive musical pulse flowing throughout the afternoon.

As the group entertained in the driveway, hospital patients and their siblings cut, pasted, and colored to their hearts' content at arts and crafts tables in the hospital lobby.

Guild member Carol Hartnell, whose best-selling book *More Than a Pinch, Less than a Bee Sting* tells the story of a young girl growing up around the time when the polio vaccination was

being developed in the 1950s, decorated the lobby in the style of a 50s diner. Ms. Hartnell's relentless commitment to guild activities is remarkable since she lives in Las Vegas, Nevada, and travels more than 200 miles to Loma Linda in support of events like Luke's birthday.

Ms. Aeberli says the Big Hearts for Little Hearts Loma Linda Guild was founded to raise awareness and support for Loma Linda University Children's Hospital, which provides life-saving care for critically ill or injured children. In addition to Loma Linda, there are Big Hearts for Little Hearts Guilds in the Palm Springs/Coachella Valley area as well as in River-

side. She says Luke's birthday is just one of many events the guilds sponsor throughout the year.

Individuals interested in learning more about the organization and its efforts to benefit the children of the Inland Empire are invited to contact Dolores Aeberli by phone at (909) 783-4327 or by e-mail at <daeberli@roadrunner.com>.

As for Luke, he came fashionably late to the party. When he did arrive, the affable feline hugged and high-fived friends and supporters in the hallway and lobby before venturing out to the driveway to party with Hello Kitty and Elmo the Muppet, to the delight of the children.



A flag-bedecked delivery truck from Stater Bros. Markets marked the festive nature of Luke the Lion's birthday party at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital. Hot rods and vintage automobiles on the left belong to members of Yucaipa's Past Pleasures Car Club.



As the expression on the face of this patient clearly demonstrates, Luke the Lion's birthday party is definitely worth smiling about.



Hello Kitty spent lots of time posing for pictures with her juvenile friends and supporters, such as this LLU Children's Hospital patient.

## Advanced imaging and microscopy core facility celebrates first anniversary ...

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equivalent of 40 hours per week for 51.3 weeks.

The use of specialized microscopes for research is one of the cornerstone techniques of the basic sciences, used to understand the form and function of cells, tissues, and organs. It's also one of the fastest growing sectors in medical research, and one the federal government has proven eager to support.

In fact, the facility was initially funded by a generous grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) with additional support from H. Roger Hadley, MD, dean of the Loma Linda University School of Medicine. The combined funds were \$1.5 million.

"It's important to recognize that although the facility came into being through the NSF grant, it took the commitment of the dean," Dr. Yellon observes. "The NSF recognized the need and it was Dr. Hadley's act in stepping up to help meet the need that brought this to fruition."

The facility opened in 2011 amid high praise from scientists who asserted that it would elevate the school to the ranks of an elite group of academic science institutions by bringing sophisticated high-tech research equipment—notably a Zeiss LSM 710 NLO laser-scanning, multiphoton, confocal microscope—to the campus.

Dr. Wilson points out that while there are other excellent microscopy centers in Southern Cali-

fornia, the closest facility with comparable instrumentation is the City of Hope in Duarte.

"Our facility is expected to have a continued and enduring scientific impact," he says, noting its value in helping scientists understand how the body works, and how disease impacts its function.

"These efforts are expected to help us better understand how the brain and nervous system work as well as offering useful insights into cellular and organ development, aging, and disruption and disease processes," Dr. Wilson adds.

The overwhelming popularity of the facility confronts Drs. Wilson and Yellon with a problem: demand is already outstripping resources.

"Large increases in demand have led us to realize that the facility needs to expand to meet the needs of researchers," Dr. Wilson says. "We routinely work with microscope vendors such as Zeiss, Leica, and Nikon to evaluate new and emerging microscope technologies for future acquisitions for the facility so we can continue to provide cutting-edge resources for the research community."

Dr. Yellon attributes the success of the center to its synergistic origins.

"The center was the coalescing of many common interests among the faculty in basic sciences and led to collaborative research projects and program project grants," he says.

The core facility was conceived in the mind of Lawrence D. Longo, MD, the former director of the Center for Perinatal Biology, who recently turned over the reigns of the center to interim director Lubo Zhang, PhD.

According to Drs. Yellon and Zhang, the 40th anniversary celebration for the Center for Perinatal Biology, which will be held on February 11, 2013, will also honor Dr. Longo, the Loma Linda University School of Medicine alumnus with more than four decades of service to the university.

Looking back, the staff of the facility says the first year laid a solid foundation for a successful future.

"The first year definitely lived up to its billing," Dr. Yellon concludes. "Based upon user information, about half of the extramural support grants on campus use the center, plus the first grant with preliminary studies conducted in the initial year was recently funded. The facility appears to be meeting the needs of our LLU community. That's what a core facility is supposed to do in fulfillment of our vision to support the mission of the university."



Lubo Zhang, PhD, was recently named interim director of the Center for Perinatal Biology at Loma Linda University School of Medicine.



Sean M. Wilson, PhD; Lawrence D. Longo, MD; and Steven M. Yellon, PhD, reflect on the first year of the advanced imaging and microscopy (AIM) core facility at Loma Linda University School of Medicine. Drs. Wilson and Yellon are co-directors of the facility. Although Dr. Longo recently stepped down as director of the Center for Perinatal Biology, he continues as a researcher. He has served the university for more than four decades.

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

## LLU researcher challenges a common treatment for recurrent prostate cancer

By James Ponder

A study conducted by a fifth-year urology resident and researcher at Loma Linda University has found that a frequently prescribed combination of medication and cryotherapy does not combat the recurrence of prostate cancer after radiation treatment any more effectively than cryotherapy alone.

According to Amy Schlaifer, MD, the study evaluated androgen deprivation therapy (ADT) in combination with salvage cryotherapy.

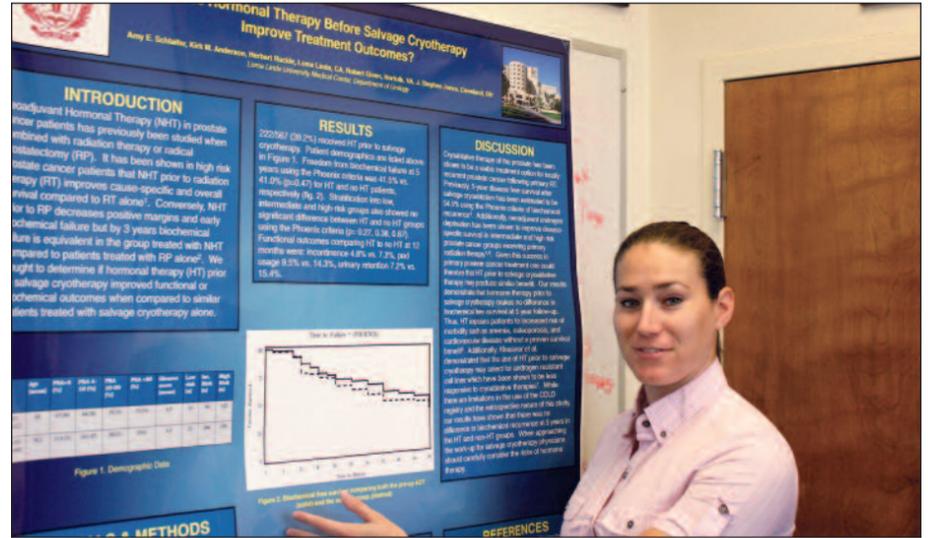
“Androgen-deprivation therapy inhibits the body’s ability to release testosterone,” Dr. Schlaifer explains, “which is good for men. But when they have prostate cancer, suppressing it can keep the cancer from spreading.”

In designing the study, Dr. Schlaifer and her team selected ADT medications with significant side effects for men, such as Lupron and Zoladex, which can have negative effects on wellness and quality of life.

“They’re the most common androgen-suppressing medications,” she reports. “We wanted to find out if they help with survival in conjunction with salvage cryotherapy.”

Unlike ADT, which is administered orally in pill form, cryotherapy is a minimally invasive surgical procedure.

“Thin metal probes are inserted to freeze the tissue around the cancer,” says Dr. Schlaifer. “It is used when prostate cancer recurs following proton or other forms of radiation therapy.”



Amy Schlaifer, MD, a urology resident at Loma Linda University, reviews the findings of a study that evaluated whether androgen deprivation therapy and salvage cryotherapy together are more effective against prostate cancer that recurs after radiation therapy than cryotherapy alone.

Along with colleague Kirk M. Anderson, MD, and mentor Herbert C. Ruckle, MD,

Dr. Schlaifer reviewed the cases of 567 patients listed on the Cryo On-Line Data Registry, a national data bank for patients with prostate cancer, who were treated with cryotherapy.

Of that number, 222 received androgen deprivation therapy prior to cryotherapy, while the control group of 345 received cryotherapy without ADT.

The findings reveal that the combination of ADT and cryotherapy did not improve their biochemical-free survival, when compared to cryotherapy alone at five years.

She is quick to point out that biochemical-free survival refers to the absence of increased prostate-specific antigen and is not an indicator of physical survival in the patient.

Commonly known as PSA, an elevated level of prostate-specific antigen is an indicator that prostate cancer may have returned.

“The percentage of subjects who ended up  
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# WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?

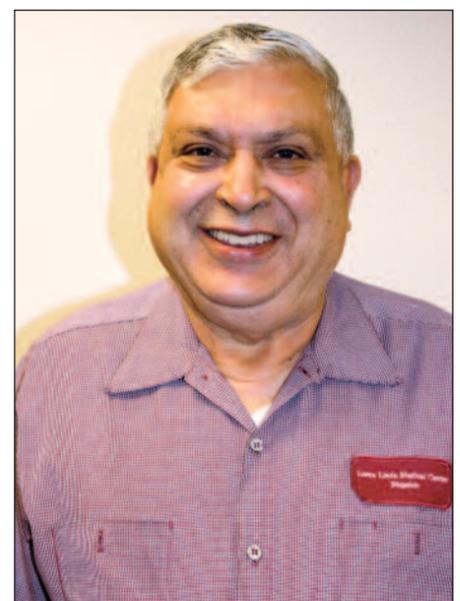
Making a bequest to Loma Linda University, Medical Center or Children's Hospital will impact future generations with quality, innovative health care and education. Making a bequest commitment is the easiest way to make a gift this year without impacting your savings or investments. To learn more about the benefits of making a charitable bequest, contact us today.

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MANY STRENGTHS.  
ONE MISSION.

EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE

## Good Samaritan Awardee



Riaz Barquai, Loma Linda University Medical Center dispatch, recently received the Good Samaritan Award. Individuals receiving this award have been nominated by fellow employees because they represent well the values of the institution.



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY  
Office of Planned Giving

## School of Medicine alumnus solves major diseases in Ethiopia with simple methods ...

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them even further into poverty," Dr. Thomas observes. "At that moment, I resolved to do something about this tragedy."

Dr. Thomas, who is an emergency medicine physician, has done something about it. In 2006, he founded and currently directs the Tropical Health Alliance Foundation, an organization that is not your typical medical mission outreach organization.

The criteria for considering projects to fund can be summed up best by the acronyms SPUD—simple, practical, understandable, doable—and the LPI index—lives positively impacted.

In addition to addressing the conditions of podo and bilateral cataracts, the foundation sponsors projects to treat obstetrical fistulas and uterine prolapses, protect springs in African villages, and send dental students on mission trips.

"We look for widespread public health situations in Africa that are preventable and simple to solve," he informs. "Our foundation seeks to impact the largest number of people possible with the funding we provide. We focus on the beneficiary, rather than the benefactor."

Podo is a perfect example. A form of elephantiasis—but not caused by a parasite or infection—the condition results from walking barefoot on the clay soil at higher elevations in Western Ethiopia.

"Podo is not an infection," Dr. Thomas emphasizes. "It is actually caused by a fiber found in the clay soil that penetrates the skin and makes its way into the lymphatic system, causing severe inflammation, scarring, and blockage of the lymphatic channels."

It is a condition closely related to poverty, since the poorest are often more interested in their next meal than in shoes.

"The obvious answer is to provide shoes," Dr. Thomas suggests. "However, it's not that

simple. Without education, the shoes will most likely be sold to buy food."

Though incurable, podo is treatable. Ceasing barefoot contact with the clay, improving hygiene, and pressure treatments at night can reverse the condition.

"Many individuals with podo believe that it is a communicable disease, or is caused by an evil presence, walking on coffee grounds, or even stepping in frog urine," he advises. "Those afflicted with the condition often withdraw from society, much like the lepers in Bible times."

Dr. Thomas credits Dr. Gail Davey at the Brighton & Sussex Medical School, in England, with raising awareness of podo.

"Less than a decade ago, podo wasn't even included in the World Health Organization's (WHO's) list of neglected tropical diseases—or NTDs," he marvels. "Thanks to Dr. Davey's efforts, podo is now on WHO's radar."

To combat the problem of bilateral cataract blindness in Ethiopia, Dr. Thomas has enlisted the help of James Guzek, MD, an ophthalmologist from the northwestern United States. Dr. Guzek has already made four trips to Ethiopia.

Dr. Thomas' foundation collaborates with the Daughters of Charity, an order of Catholic sisters, founded in France in the 17th century, dedicated to working with the "poorest of the poor." On the team's first trip to Ethiopia to perform cataract surgeries, word spread quickly through the villages and the government was needed to control the crowds.

Dr. Guzek was so dedicated to performing cataract surgery that he barely took off time to sleep—let alone tour the countryside. "Every half hour I sleep or do something else means that I leave someone blind," he told Dr. Thomas.

During their mission trips, the team selects only

those patients with bilateral cataract blindness, repairing one eye to maximize the numbers helped.

More recently, the clinic hired a full-time Ethiopian ophthalmologist, with funding from the Tropical Health Alliance Foundation.

"I'm most excited about our ability to hire a full-time ophthalmologist," Dr. Thomas smiles. "It's nice for teams to travel on medical mission trips, but our impact on the blind population will be greatly multiplied with a full-time Ethiopian ophthalmologist on staff."

In addition, the foundation is sponsoring the training of a nurse ophthalmic surgeon who will also be able to perform cataract surgery in the near future. "Our goal is to restore one good eye to 20,000 patients with bilateral blindness."

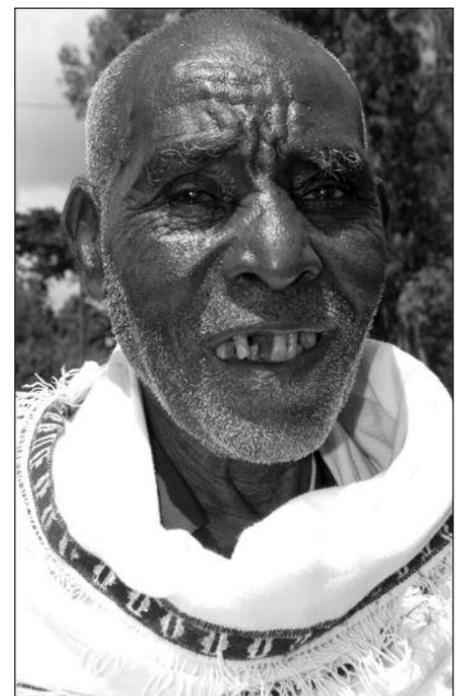
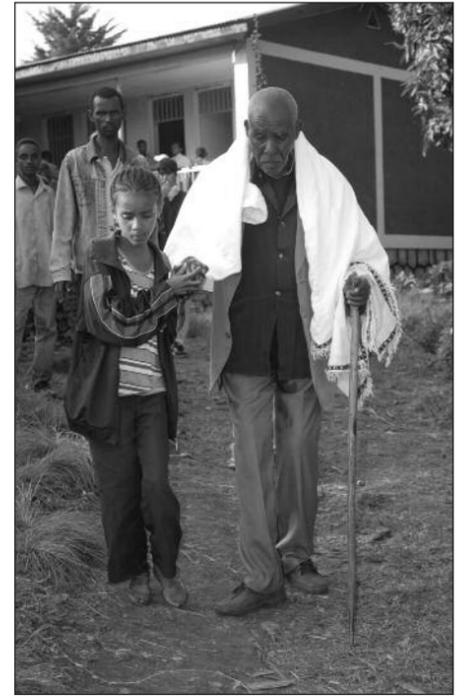
Dr. Thomas recalls an elderly blind gentleman and his dedicated granddaughter that he met during his most recent trip to Ethiopia. She patiently led her grandfather to the clinic and waited with him most of the day for his turn to be evaluated. The next day, they returned to find out that he was a candidate for surgery.

The procedure was performed, the bandages applied, and she once again led him home. The following day, they were at the clinic for removal of the bandages. At first, the grandfather saw a

bright light; then he saw his granddaughter for the first time.

The next day, she was free to return to school and play with her friends. "Her smile returned," Dr. Thomas relates. "That's why I do this."

For more information about the Tropical Health Alliance Foundation and its outreach, visit [www.thaf.org](http://www.thaf.org).



This young girl (top photo) has been assigned to accompany her blind grandfather 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. She even holds his hand during cataract surgery to restore his sight (center photo). Following his surgery, she leads him home (bottom left). The smile on his face reflects his joy at being able to see again (bottom right). His granddaughter can go back to being a little girl, going to school and playing with her friends.

## LLU researcher challenges a common treatment for recurrent prostate cancer ...

Continued from page 5  
having a recurrence was not statistically improved by taking the medications when evaluated against five-year survival rates," Dr. Schlaifer reports.

Specifically, men who received ADT and cryotherapy showed a biochemical-free rate of 41.5 percent versus a 41.0 percent rate for men who received only cryotherapy.

To improve the odds of actual physical survival, Dr. Schlaifer insists that patients who have undergone radiation therapy for prostate cancer need to have their PSA levels checked periodically since cancer may recur after all forms of treatment. If it does recur, closely following the PSA level can allow for early detection and treatment of the recurrence.

"For men in which it does recur," she observes, "it usually happens at or after the one- to two-year mark following treatment." Because recurring prostate cancer tends to be aggressive, Dr. Schlaifer says physicians must carefully monitor

patients who underwent radiation therapy.

The study also found no significant differences in potency rates, erectile dysfunction, or in the development of fistulas—abnormal connections between organs, vessels, intestines, or other structures.

Dr. Schlaifer holds an undergraduate degree in zoology and chemistry from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. "I chose zoology over biology because I wasn't interested in plants and because zoology offers more of a focus on the science of physiology and the workings of the human body," she says.

After receiving her medical degree from the University of Arizona at Tucson, she came to Loma Linda University for a urology residency.

"I wanted to be a surgeon," she concludes, "and found that urology is the most varied of subspecialties in surgery. As a urologist, you can really do a lot for people and make a great impact on their lives."

*Presentations, reports, and actions of the Boards of Trustees for Loma Linda University, Loma Linda University Medical Center, and Loma Linda University Adventist Health Sciences Center*

August 28-29, 2012

**Vision 2020**

**Rachelle Bussell**, senior vice president for advancement, Loma Linda University Adventist Health Sciences Center, spoke on the upcoming **Vision 2020** campaign, which was voted by the Boards of Trustees. The campaign will be in the “silent” phase for approximately 18 months.

Since its founding in 1905, Loma Linda University has had wellness and whole-person care at its core. Loma Linda is building on this legacy by sharpening its focus on these vital areas to improve the quality and longevity of people’s lives—while also addressing the challenges facing our nation’s health care system.

To achieve these goals, Loma Linda University is undertaking Vision 2020, an ambitious expansion of child and adult clinical hospitals and research facilities, and increased support to recruit and retain top faculty and students—all centered on a wellness theme. This will take enormous effort and resources, including major philanthropic support.

The successful completion of this campaign will enable LLUAHSC to enhance the quality of care delivery, to conduct research that will save even more lives, and to continue producing top health care professionals who believe in treating the whole person.

**Other presentations, reports, and actions**

**Duane Dauner**, president of the California Hospital Association, presented his view of the **future of health care**, addressing in particular federal issues, health care financing and delivery systems, California payers and providers, the status of the California Health Care Exchange, and the future of the provider fee.

**Larry Kolonel, PhD**, professor and researcher from the University of Hawaii and former member of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) executive committee, is serving as external consultant/advisor to the Adventist Health Study (AHS). He talked with the Board about **NIH funding trends and special interests**, and also provided his perceptions of AHS-2 and its future. As chair of the external committee for AHS-2, he wanted the Board to know that the committee is very pleased with the progress, and is looking forward to great productivity and exciting findings for not only the Church, but for the world.

**Patrick Morris**, mayor of San Bernardino, shared his perspectives with the Board about Loma Linda University’s involvement in the city and the **proposed San Bernardino campus**, with particular support for educational programs bringing young people into the job market. He also expressed thanks to the institution for being there to assist with health care needs, specifically mentioning the care for children that he encountered as a judge in the juvenile court system through Children’s Assessment Center for abused children—of which LLU is a partner, as well as recent studies by the School of Public Health on the effects of pollution near the rail yards.

The Board of Trustees approved the **purchase of a cyclotron, the build-out of 4,000 square feet of laboratory space**, and a joint venture with **PETNET Solutions, Inc.**, to produce PET radionuclides and radiopharmaceuticals. The Board was pleased to learn of the \$2.4 million award from the Guenther Foundation, which is assisting with the build-out of the lab space.

**Ronald Carter, PhD**, LLU provost, reported on the successful weeklong **Excellence in Science Experiential Education (EXSEED)** program that occurred in June at Loma Linda University. EXSEED is designed to enhance science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education in Adventist K-12 schools with the goal of supporting and empowering K-12 educators in teaching the STEM disciplines within a mission-focused learning context. Forty-six educators locally, regionally, and nationally participated.

The Board learned that 79 clinic locations went live on the new **Loma Linda Electronic Access Portal (LLEAP)** system on July 1 and 2. The LLEAP applications cover scheduling (including check-in and check-out processes), registration, billing, and medical records. Positive feedback has been received from patients regarding My LLU Health, the new patient access portal within LLEAP. Currently, more than 1,300 patients have signed up to use this new service. “Go Live 2” is slated for February 5, 2013.

**New administrative appointments approved**

- **Gary Botimer, MD**, director, Rehabilitation, Orthopaedic, and Neurosciences Institute
- **Gerald Winslow, PhD**, director, Institute for Health Policy & Leadership
- **Lubo Zhang, PhD**, interim director, Perinatal Biology Center
- **Sarah Roddy, MD**, associate dean of admissions and recruitment, School of Medicine
- **Willie Davis, PhD**, chair, department of pharmaceutical sciences, School of Pharmacy
- **Terry Douglas, PhD**, chair, communication sciences and disorders, School of Allied Health Professions
- **Curtis Fox, PhD**, chair, counseling and family sciences, School of Behavioral Health
- **Francis Chan, MD**, vice chair, department of pediatrics

**MILESTONES**

**First physician assistant graduates mark 10-year anniversary during ceremony**

By Heather Reifsnnyder

**T**en years after LLU’s first class of physician assistants graduated, four members of this milestone group were on hand to see the 11th class receive white jackets signifying their entry into the clinical world. The ceremony took place August 13 at the Centennial Complex.

The 31 students in the current class will spend this, the second year of their master’s program, training in hospitals or other medical settings. The first year of the program is spent in classroom preparation.

The School of Allied Health Professions launched the physician assistant program in 2000 under the leadership of former dean Joyce Hopp, PhD, and former LLU president B. Lyn Behrens, MBBS. They were recognized during the ceremony, with Dr. Hopp in attendance.

“Drs. Hopp and Behrens were visionary pioneers in establishing this program at LLU,”

says Yasmin Chene, DHS, MPA, co-chair of the physician assistant department.

The school also recognized members of the first graduating class of 2002. “All graduates from this class are currently working as physician assistants either in direct patient care, teaching, or administrative duties,” Dr. Chene says.

The program has burgeoned since its beginnings. There were 40 applicants for the class of 2002. But the 2012 graduating class was chosen out of 1,229 applicants. Clinical rotation sites have increased from 14 to 129. Today, there are 200 alumni of the program.

The jacketing ceremony featured keynote speaker Roger Scheult, MD, who is a clinical preceptor for the physician assistant program at San Geronio Memorial Hospital, as well as an award presentation to Preceptor of the Year Marcella Hardy-Peterson, who works at Beaver Medical Group.



These 31 students received white jackets for their upcoming year of clinical work. They are reading the physician assistant pledge.

**SPH professor speaks on chronic diseases at Pan American Forum ...**

Continued from page 2

concerns: anti-smoking and anti-alcohol campaigns; a decrease in salt intake to five grams per day; and an increase in physical activity.

Dr. Dos Santos participated in two sessions involving non-communicable diseases. Discussions included suggestions for maximizing cooperation between PAHO and non-government institutions, and promoting health to young children. One example was the collaboration between PAHO, the local government TV channel, and the Sesame Street program designed for non-communicable disease prevention in school districts in Sao Paulo.

“It was good to network with people in different countries who are doing an excellent job in smoking cessation, community health, and children’s health programs,” says Dr. Dos Santos. “I was not aware of such a change of focus from infectious to non-communicable diseases, and I was not conscious of how chronic diseases have affected both developed and developing countries.”

Throughout the meetings, Dr. Dos Santos highlighted the need to educate medical personnel in these areas. “I emphasize that other schools should develop something to educate

health professionals in the field of prevention,” states Dr. Dos Santos. “Otherwise, the medical model of pill-giving will continue to prevail, and prevention will not reach its due status.”

Dr. Dos Santos also emphasized the importance of connecting with PAHO. “No matter what political or economical situations these countries face, these diseases are becoming global,” adds Dr. Dos Santos. “Sanitation and immunization are important in globalization, but epidemics that are growing rampantly are chronic lifestyle-related diseases. We need to participate in this and really be more involved with this organization.”

Following the PAHO meeting, Dr. Dos Santos also visited the South American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. There, he presented a health and longevity lecture to employees of the health care program for Brazilian church workers. While incorporating what Dan Buettner published in his book *The Blue Zones*, Dr. Dos Santos put a special emphasis on the health tradition of the blue zone in Loma Linda. A blue zone refers to a region with the longest life expectancy, due to lifestyle, diet, and outlook. Loma Linda is one of four blue zones in the world.

ALUMNI OUTREACH

School of Medicine alumnus solves major diseases in Ethiopia with simple methods

By Larry Kidder

Loma Linda University School of Medicine alumnus Larry Thomas, MD (class of 1974), approached a woman in Western Ethiopia. She thought he simply wanted to take her photo and kindly obliged.

Dr. Thomas took some general shots, and then moved in closer, focusing on her feet. Both feet were severely swollen and disfigured from a disease known as podo (short for podoconiosis). They were barely recognizable as feet, aside from their anatomical location. He crouched for a better look.

More than three dozen photos later, Dr. Thomas stood to his feet. He wasn't sure exactly what to tell the woman, who had a quizzical expression on her face.

She had clearly concluded that he wanted more than just a tourist's snapshot of an Ethiopian woman in her natural environment.

"What should I tell her?" he remembers wondering. "Should I simply thank her and go on my way?" It was an awkward moment that motivated Dr. Thomas to seriously research this disease that affects four million people in Africa—one million of whom live in Ethiopia.

This awkward moment led to an epiphany for Dr. Thomas. "I realized that I wanted to do something about podo," he says. "I wasn't sure exactly what it would be, but there had to be something I could do to help."

He also noticed another disturbing situation during his travels to the country. "Ethiopia has among the highest incidence of blindness per capita in the world," Dr. Thomas notes. "Of those cases, it's estimated that 80 percent are treatable or preventable." He adds, "Of those treatable, preventable cases, 60 percent are the result of cataracts."

But that isn't the entire tragedy. "When an adult becomes blind in Ethiopia, a family member is typically assigned to stay with the blind person during every waking hour, leading him or her by the hand," he explains.

"In almost every situation I saw, the one leading the blind person was a child," Dr. Thomas details. "From the family's point of view, it makes total sense, since a child is the least useful in the sometimes desperate effort to find food during the day to feed the family."

Dr. Thomas was most bothered by the thought of the childhood that child wasn't experiencing. "The child—most often a young girl—cannot go to school, or even play with friends," he points out.

This point became especially clear one day as he watched a group of laughing children run by a young girl leading her blind and elderly grandfather. She shot a momentary wistful glance at the children, quickly returning to her expressionless and hopeless gaze.

"Blindness affects an entire family, pushing

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Dr. Thomas' encounter with this Ethiopian woman (top right photo) helped him decide that the foot condition known as "podo" was something he wanted to help combat through his foundation. The woman obliged as he snapped numerous photos of her feet (top left photo). Following treatment, she smiles as she is able to wear shoes again—key to preventing podo in the region.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Big Hearts for Little Hearts celebrates Luke the Lion's birthday in style

By James Ponder

Since Luke the Lion, the furry yellow mascot of Loma Linda University Children's Hospital, would never throw himself a birthday party, members of the Big Hearts for Little Hearts Loma Linda Guild hosted a festive celebration on June 20 to thank Luke for everything he does for the children of the Inland Empire.

According to guild president Dolores Aeberli, the party is an annual tradition.

"Luke is very modest," Ms. Aeberli exclaims. "He loves doing good things for the kids, but shuns the spotlight himself. He prefers to work behind the scenes to make sure the hospitalized children have the best experience possible at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital. But the kids love Luke and they also love to party. The way we see it, any excuse to get them out of their rooms and interacting with each other is a good one. Luke's party is always a big hit."



As he entered the lobby of Loma Linda University Children's Hospital, Luke the Lion expressed surprise that so many people had gathered for a party in honor of his birthday. Mr. Lion came to the party with two friends—Elmo the Muppet and Hello Kitty—but kept a lower profile than either of them. He spent most of the afternoon signing autographs and giving high fives to patients and their siblings.

The party featured a classic car show as well as musical entertainment by The Wonderelles. An antique fire truck from the Loma Linda Fire Department and an early Stater Bros. delivery truck, bedecked with American flags, highlighted the car show, which was organized by the Past Pleasures Car Club of Yucaipa. The organization brought a colorful variety of vehi-

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