



**CARES
2013**

**Outstanding
Nurse of the Year:
Julieta Wolfsohn-
Hurley, R. N.**



CARES has always joined the Medical Center in its recognition of the LAC+USC Medical Center's "Nurse of the Year," and this year's honoree "is an exceptional Pediatric Critical Care Nurse." In the PICU, she cares for the patient's medical and physical needs and also ensures that the psychosocial needs of the entire family are met. She comes to work with the attitude "Let me make a difference for my patients and facilitate them

getting well." She truly gives her heart and soul to her patients, and sees that they have access to all services: Social Services, Dietary, Pastoral Care and Child Life. She is known in the unit as the "gift giver"—frequently giving clothing and toys to her financially strained patients. A leader, role model and expert resource, she shares her knowledge with new nurses, as well as with the interns and residents. She has volunteered to participate in health fairs in the community—focusing on education for the families with children: immunizations, safety and well child care. She has also precepted at the Annual Skills Validation for the Pediatric Emergency Station, providing her expertise to all nursing staff within the Medical Center. Some of her lectures include: "Kidz Care, Kids & Alcohol, Care of the Autistic Child, and Humpty Dumpty had a Great Fall: Brain and Spinal Cord Trauma in the Pediatric Patient." She has collaborated with

specialized physicians and was instrumental in the development of the pediatric flowsheets for the Critical Care Information System documentation.

CARES wishes to extend appreciation not only to Ms. Wolfsohn, but to the entire dedicated staff of the Nursing Department. Congratulations!

Arts Program Enhances Hospital Experience

The **Medical Center Arts Program** was the recipient of generous grants from the Ray and Wynn Ritchie Evans and Frederick Weisman Foundations. The monies were combined to purchase a projector which is to be installed in the lobby of the Clinic Tower to project a continuing stream of nature and photographic scenes. It is thought that the time spent by families and visitors will be made more pleasant by watching these soothing and calming photographs. Medical Center employees have contributed their photos to be used as the scrolling pictures.



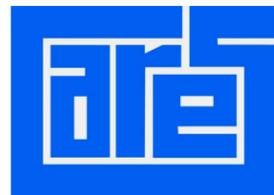
Bears make life more Bearable!

Kathrine M. Russell, Assistant Vice-President-Investments, Certified Financial Planner, Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC, and Financial Advisor to CARES for many years, is a member of Playa Venice Sunrise Rotary Club, an international service organization whose motto is "Service Above Self." When one of the members had her birthday party at a "Build a Bear" store, Kathrine suggested that bears be donated to CARES. The Club members gathered to make "21 of the cutest

bears imaginable—from brides to cowboys to Dodgers, and everything in between. We loved the idea of doing something fun and social, and still doing something good for the community. Each 'bear' costs around \$50, once it has been outfitted. Each person that made a bear also wrote a note to the eventual recipient of the bear, which is included in the 'bear house,' so the pediatric patient will receive a personal note and a birth certificate for their bear."

Thank you, Rotarians, for thinking of the patients at LAC+USC Medical Center!

LOS ANGELES COUNTY/USC
MEDICAL CENTER AUXILIARY



1200 N. State St., Room 1900
Los Angeles, California 90033



Newsletter



**Mindy Halls
CARES 2013 Volunteer of the Year**



Wonderful surprises frequently occur at the CARES Annual Meeting, however this year, CARES President, **Mindy Halls**, received a truly big surprise. Though Mindy was serving as Mistress of Ceremonies at the event, **Weta Mathies**, took over Mindy's podium and made her own announcement that **Mindy Halls** was selected as "CARES Volunteer of the Year." Somewhat baffled by the turn of events, Mindy was amazed at Weta's words and the appearance of her brother and sister who arrived to help her commemorate the event. Serving since July 2010 as CARES President, Mindy has kindly agreed to serve yet another year.

Mindy's devotion to and caring for the patients served at the LAC+USC Medical Center started in 1968 and continued for the next 30 years, the last 25 spent as the administrative assistant to the revered Dr. Sol Bernstein, Medical Director of the LAC+USC Medical Center. There she met the "Love of Her Life" and "Best Friend" **Dr. James Halls**, Chief of the Radiology Dept. He convinced her to leave her position and become Mrs. James Halls. Since then, she has joined Dr. Halls for many wonderful adventures. Their joint love of travel and their 10 grandchildren takes them to many locations and keeps them on the move to maintain the family bonds. She continues her allegiances to the LAC+USC Medical Center through her involvement with USC Medical Faculty Family & Friends - where she holds the position of Historian - and of course, has been a member of CARES since 2004 and has served as Membership Chair and now President. One theme that constantly comes up with Mindy is that she's a "true and loyal" friend. As proof of that, **Susan Curran**, **Margaret Morales**, and **Olivia Lubensky** came to pay tribute to her achievements. The first description of Mindy from her husband was "no one could ever have a better friend." As CARES President, she is appreciative, cooperative, supportive, understanding, organized, and overall easy to be around. CARES Board members and staff consider her to be a true asset to CARES, and thus to the Medical Center. **Thank you, Mindy Halls, for leading the CARES organization so well!**

**CARES Celebrates
"44 Years of Service"**

CARES Annual Awards Meeting, May 1, 2013



Nancy Smiley, Cynthia Berne, Kay Fife, Dr. Lawrence Dorr (Speaker), Agnes Chaney, Karen Santos, Ruth Turner (Event Chair)

Member-ship Chair: Christine Rufolo, Elaine Marshall

Financial VP: Anita Leedom, Richard Brock

Former Nursing Dir.: Olivia Lubensky, Mindy Halls, Susan Curran, Margaret Morales

Dr. & Mrs. James Halls

Chiyung Wu, Nancy Castillo

Top: Alicia Thompson, Cynthia Berne
Left: Victoria Salva, Carol Salva Nidorf

Patient Visitors: Elia Riley (has completed Palliative Care training) and Anna Maria Davalos

Liz Baylen, Dr. Close, Madeline Hall

**Pamelyn Close, M.D.
CARES 2013 Woman of
the Year in Medicine**

Pamelyn Close, M.D., M.P.H., is the Director of Adult and Pediatric Palliative Care (helping seriously ill patients feel better and to have an improved quality of life) at the LAC+USC Medical Center. Following a 20-year career in academic pediatric oncology/hematology with a special interest in solid tumors, Dr. Close completed an additional fellowship in Adult and Pediatric Hospice and Palliative Medicine in 2008. At LAC+USC and as Keck School of Medicine Faculty, she is actively involved in teaching palliative care, ethics and communication skills across the four years of the medical school curriculum and is dedicated to expanding



Dr. Pamelyn Close received her award from Dr. Stephanie Hall, Chief Medical Officer, LAC+USC Medical Center

palliative care teaching/learning opportunities for students, residents and fellows throughout the USC Healthcare System. Currently the Principal Investigator for a \$200,000 Archstone Foundation Grant "Enhancing Spiritual Care for Patients with Life-Limiting Illness at LAC+USC Medical Center," Dr. Close's interests in palliative care also extend internationally. Working with the Union for International Cancer Control and several medical schools in Thailand, she is mentoring a group of grants targeted at the development of Pediatric Palliative Care in Thailand. In her presentation to Dr. Close, Dr. Hall pointed out that when she realized the need and importance of palliative care, she had started the only Palliative Care Department among all the County hospitals, and this is why she is so proud to have Dr. Close running it with such compassion and care.

CARES and Physicians Join Forces!

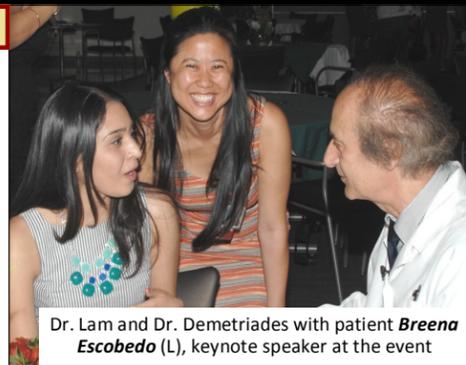
It is tradition for CARES to honor an LAC+USC Medical Center "CARES Woman of the Year in Medicine" at the CARES Annual Meeting. As a result of this tribute, CARES Board of Directors has been made aware of many ways in which CARES can provide support to the patients and their families. Featured here are three of these CARES honorees and the programs that they support and how, due to the support of its donors, CARES is able to significantly improve the lives of the patients--

In 2010, **Maureen McCollough, M.D.**, was honored for her work to better prepare emergency rooms to care for children. Her many accomplishments have been both groundbreaking and lifesaving. Currently, CARES is assisting Dr. McCollough with the Pediatric Preventive Injury Program. CARES is purchasing bike helmets and various other safety items for the home that will be provided free to pediatric patients with referral from a medical care provider. These safety items will also be sold in the CARES Gift Shop. A display case with information about safety and samples of the products will be placed in a prominent hospital area. Also, CARES is developing a program in which a huggable plush bear wearing an LAC+USC Medical Ctr. T-shirt will be available for both pediatric and adult patients when a comfort item will help relieve their anxiety. These bears will also be sold to help support the program: "Buy a bear and at the same time one will be provided to a patient."

Another necessary item in the ER is clothing for patients who have nothing to wear once discharged. The weekends and evenings are the most difficult times to obtain clothing, thus CARES is supplying the medical staff with comfortable sweats to be given to their patients as needed.

In 2011, CARES honored **Dr. Lydia Lam**. Dr. Lam and **Dr. Demetriades**, Trauma Division Chief, have been responsible for the Annual Trauma Survivor Reunion of severely injured or ill patients who went on to defeat great odds to become "miracle survivors."

Dr. Lam and Dr. Demetriades with patient **Breana Escobedo** (L), keynote speaker at the event



Dr. Lam and Dr. Demetriades with patient **Breana Escobedo** (L), keynote speaker at the event

On Saturday, May 11, 2013, the sixth LAC+USC Medical Center Trauma Survivor Reunion brought together previous trauma patients, their families and the healthcare staff that was involved in their care. The event illustrates to the community that the medical staff takes pride in providing the best care for them, regardless of their financial status. Not only is the LAC+USC Medical Center available in times of need, but it seeks to educate in prevention.

This year, CARES assisted with the funding of the reunion and several CARES Board members volunteered before and during the event.

"The Reunion is probably the most gratifying volunteer activity I am honored to participate in. To see our patients and their families return to us - made whole by our trauma teams, is an almost spiritual experience." **Toby Horn**

"It was touching to see how well the survivors and the hospital staff knew each other and how happy they were to be at the event. I was touched by the generosity of the survivors' family and friends."

Agnes Chaney
"This was a really moving event. Many smiles and hugs from survivors, as well as caring words from the doctors, nurses and other professionals who knew the survivors so well. The former patients loved the tributes, the lunch, the flowers, the gift bags and the streaming video. Also hanging on the walls was a big poster board about each patient who came. These contained their before and after picture, with the 'after' one being taken as they checked in. It was an honor for me to be part of all this."

Cynthia Berne
"The Trauma event is such a wonderful

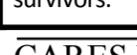
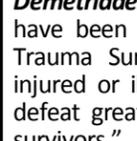
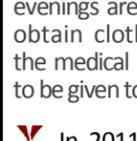
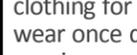
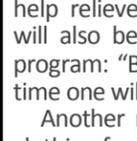
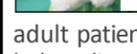
experience. You see first hand how the patients love all the caregivers they met during their stay at the hospital. The faculty and staff should be commended on a job well done." **Norma Zagorsky**

"Thank you so much, CARES, for your support! It was a great year and great turnout! Looking forward to next year!" **Lydia Lam, M.D.**

Dr. Pamela Close, 2013 honoree, working with the Archstone Foundation Grant to the Adult and Pediatric Palliative Care Team and Department of Spiritual Care to enhance care for patients with serious illness, the C.A.R.E. Channel (Continuous Ambient Relaxation Environment) was purchased to provide a peaceful audio/video experience for patients and staff. Set as the default on channel 3 prior to every new admission, the C.A.R.E. Channel provides 70 hours of beautiful non-repeating nature images with tranquil, relaxing music as an alternative to standard television. Rotating to evening skies and star patterns at night, this channel has been embraced as a part of the nursing care plan to help change the environment for patients exposed to the noisy activities of a busy hospital. CARES has offered to take on the sustaining annual license fee to maintain this annually updated channel in support of the care of patients.

In an effort to improve the quality of care at end-of-life for their patients, the Palliative Care team has proposed the renovation of two hospital rooms to serve as "swing" rooms/comfort suites. Focused upon providing a more supportive environment for patients and families, the comfort suites would have a more home-like design, a comfortable sleeping couch for a family member, and other amenities to allow families to focus on their loved ones' needs. Other County hospitals (San Francisco General and Olive View Medical Center) have found comfort suites to provide true improvement in the care of dying patients, not only because of the benefits of the space, but also because staff on these units can receive focused training to provide best practices at the bedside during this special time of life.

CARES looks forward to supporting these efforts in the coming year.



Valentine Mail Appeal -

Heartfelt thanks to the following generous supporters who have donated through 5/31/13:



Lester T. Hibbard, M.D.
"Thank you for your most generous donation to CARES"

(\$1300)

Bonnie Borchardt

(\$1000)

Dr. James J. and Sue Femino

(\$700)

Martha A. Galaif

(\$500)

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Vicki Carlson

Madeline Hall *Dr. Pamela Close

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Weta and Allen Mathies

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Helen Zachario

This symbol next to donor indicates donations made in memory of special persons. An * indicates donations made "in honor of."

An envelope is enclosed for your convenience if you would still like to donate to the CARES Valentine Mail Appeal. **Thank You!**

Donations in honor of **Lawrence Dorr, M.D.**, Speaker at CARES Annual Meeting: **Anonymous, Kathryn Albeen, Linda Cantwell, Joel Castillo, Agnes Chaney, Sue Femino, Mireya Jones, Mona Mapel, Sarah McKinney, Margaret Morales, Karen Santos, Jan Tranquada, and Stephanie Zill**

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