Celebrating the legacy of Peter V. Lee, MD

The life and accomplishments of Peter V. Lee, MD, were recently celebrated and honored by the Keck School of Medicine of USC. Lee passed away July 26 at the age of 93. The memorial service was held in Aresty Auditorium at Health Sciences Campus, where family, friends, students and community members gathered to pay their respects to Lee’s legacy.

Lee was an accomplished physician, educator and leader at the Keck School. Well-known for his commitment to social justice, person-centered care and interdisciplinary teaching, he oversaw the creation of the Department of Family Medicine in 1983 and became its inaugural chair. He taught students in medicine, pharmacy, geriatrics, physician assistant studies and nursing about pharmacology and family medicine. Additionally, Lee was a national leader in crafting ways to engage medical students in hands-on learning, including conducting research on best practices in medical education in the early 1960s as well as being one of the creators of the Introduction to Clinical Medicine (ICM) program in 1969.

At the celebration of his life, many told stories about Lee as a mentor, boss and role model. Lee’s son Peter V. Lee, Jr., spoke on behalf of the family, sharing their personal memories. Speakers also included Laura Mosqueda, MD, Robert Tranquada, MD, Samuel Matheny, MD, Peter Katsufrakis, MD, Maureen Strohm, MD and Allan Abbott, MD – all of whom spoke of Lee as a wonderful teacher, friend and mentor.

“It was lovely to see such an impressive array of people from all stages of Dr. Lee’s life gathered in one spot to remember and pay tribute,” said Mosqueda. “He clearly had a wonderful influence on many people, both personally and professionally. His impact lives on.”

Message from the Chair:

This was an exciting quarter for the Department of Family Medicine — our first USC Judith D. Tamkin International Symposium on Elder Abuse was a great success, we inaugurated a program in which community-residing older adults will teach students about aging issues, and we have a record high level of interest among the medical students in Family Medicine.

On a somber note, Peter V. Lee, MD, founding chair of this department, died in July and was celebrated in a memorial service in October. We will honor his legacy through our continued dedication to social justice, passion for medical education, and commitment to high quality medical care delivered with compassion and excellence.

Laura Mosqueda, MD, FAAFP, AGSF

Inside This Issue:

- Student-Senior Partnership Program holds first event
- Family Medicine Interest Group recognized for excellence
USC Judith D. Tamkin International Symposium on Elder Abuse holds first annual event

On Sept. 15, guests were welcomed from across the globe to gather in Los Angeles for the first annual USC Judith D. Tamkin International Symposium on Elder Abuse. In bringing together stakeholders interested in creating a safe and healthy environment for all older adults, this symposium focused on solving dilemmas in research methods in order to move the field forward.

The symposium welcomed the first Tamkin Scholar Award winners, each of whom is in graduate school pursuing an MD or PhD: Elizabeth Bloeman, MPH, João F. Fundinho, MS, and Katelyn Jetelina, MPH. Each scholar is committed to pursuing a career that expands the knowledge in how to prevent and detect elder abuse. At a luncheon on the second day, Georgia J. Anetzberger, PhD, ACSW was honored for her lifetime of work, innovation and inspiration in the field of elder abuse.

During the entire symposium, the meeting rooms were alive with ideas and thought-provoking conversations from the 125 registered participants.

“We want people to contribute and think about these topics and we have just the right people in this room to be working on these issues,” Laura Mosqueda, MD, the chair of the Department of Family Medicine at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, said in her opening address. “We are going to be asking people to work hard in the next few days. This is about solving problems and moving toward solutions.”

The world-renowned speakers inspired the audience through thoughtful discussions that addressed pertinent issues in elder abuse research.

“This and future symposiums will serve as a catalyst for critically needed research in the areas of elder abuse interventions and prevention,” said Julie Schoen, deputy director of the National Center on Elder Abuse. “Having national leadership speak concerning the issues made me more hopeful that the future will hold thoughtful work to impact the abuse and suffering of older adults, both in the U.S. and abroad.”

The Elder Justice Foundation has contributed funds which will allow the publication and dissemination of a white paper that summarizes the symposium, due out in January 2017. Through the generosity of Judith D. Tamkin, the next symposium will be held in 2018.
Family Medicine Interest Group wins Program of Excellence Award

Based on their commitment to engaging students interested in pursuing family medicine, the Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG) at the Keck School of Medicine of USC has received a Program of Excellence Award. The award was presented at the American Academy of Family Physicians Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students in Kansas City July 29. One of only 10 schools to be awarded for overall excellence nationally, the FMIG was also the only recipient from California.

“Attracting medical students to the specialty of family medicine is critical to addressing the ongoing primary care physician shortage,” said Clif Knight, MD, senior vice president for education at the AAFP.

Jo Marie Reilly, MD, is the faculty advisor for the FMIG and has been integral to seeing the program grow.

“The FMIG reflects the tremendous diversity and breadth that a career in family medicine offers,” Reilly said. “I am very proud and impressed by the consistent commitment and dedicated leadership that our FMIG leaders provide in our school.”

Students who join the FMIG are involved in numerous activities that allow them to participate in diverse health care experiences with patients of all ages. The FMIG includes activities such as the Cuddle Club, community health fairs, a geriatrics program, and a fitness initiative Ready, Set, Fit.

Ruth Barber Goodson, co-president of the FMIG, attended the conference and accepted the award on behalf of the program.

Primary Care PA Program wins annual student Challenge Bowl

This year at the annual California Academy of Physician Assistant (CAPA) Challenge Bowl the team of students from the Primary Care Physician Assistant Program made a major comeback to defeat four other California physician assistant student teams.

Held on Oct. 8 in Palm Springs, PA program students Andrew Luna (Class of 2018), Nicole Galle (Class of 2018) and Sarah Nargiso (Class of 2017) were quick on the buzzer, helping redeem themselves in the wild card round after losing in the first bracket. In the end, they defeated teams from Stanford University, Loma Linda University, Marshall B. Ketchum University and Western University of Health Sciences, winning the Challenge Bowl trophy and a check for $250.

This is the fifth time USC has won the trophy in the last eight years.

The team was led by PA faculty members Christopher P. Forest, MSHS, DFAAPA, PA-C and Jennifer Ramos, MPAP, PA-C. The group trained for months and spent hours practicing along with their alternates: Jie Zhuang, Dane Arispe and Matthew Tan. The final score was Marshall -10, Western University 10 and USC 30.
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Student-Senior Partnership Program off to successful start

On Sept. 30, almost 50 students from medicine, physical therapy, social work, occupational therapy, pharmacy and dental gathered for the first day of the new Senior-Student Partnership Program (SSPP). This program is part of the Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP), made possible by a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Partnered with 17 seniors from the community, students work in teams to learn more about healthy aging.

The program begins with an orientation, where students and seniors schedule three home visits over the following months to further examine areas including physical well-being, relationships with the community and memory and cognition.

“I was delighted to see the level of enthusiasm generated as the student teams met their senior volunteer and I look forward to a successful year where the students learn what strategies the seniors are using to stay healthy and involved,” said Bonnie Olsen, PhD, co-faculty lead with Anne Katz, PhD from the USC Suzanne Dwork-Peck School of Social Work.

The excitement at orientation was noticeable as students got to know their senior partners, and met with health care professionals from different disciplines. Additionally, both students and seniors learned from faculty how to best use the time to engage and learn from one another.

The final wrap up will occur on March 24, 2017.