



From left, Rohit Varma, Sean Stevens, Mark and Mary Stevens, C. L. Max Nikias, Niki C. Nikias, Ghada Irani and Arthur Toga attend the opening of the USC Stevens Hall for Neuroimaging.

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**USC STEVENS HALL,  
A STATE-OF-THE-ART  
BRAIN RESEARCH  
FACILITY, OPENS  
ITS DOORS**

The USC Stevens Hall for Neuroimaging opened on the USC Health Sciences Campus with a ceremonial ribbon-cutting on November 17. The building houses the USC Mark and Mary Stevens Neuroimaging and Informatics Institute. Immediately prior to the ribbon-cutting, Arthur Toga, PhD, director of the USC Stevens Neuroimaging and Informatics Institute, was installed as the Ghada Irani Chair in Neuroscience.

C. L. Max Nikias, PhD, president of USC, stressed how the opening of USC Stevens Hall was yet another important step towards fighting the most debilitating neurologic disorders of our time.

“Here we can hope to understand autism and Alzheimer’s and a host of other challenges,” Nikias said. “Here we now have an environment in which an electric sense of possibility is ever-present.”

Mark and Mary Stevens, USC trustees and named benefactors of the building, attended, along with Rohit Varma,

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*Here we now have an environment in which an electric sense of possibility is ever-present.”*

**C. L. MAX NIKIAS**  
USC PRESIDENT

MD, MPH, dean of the Keck School of Medicine of USC and director of the USC Roski Eye Institute.

“The research from Dr. Toga and his colleagues is exactly the type of forward-thinking, translational research that will drive the Keck School’s success,” Varma said. “I am looking forward to the transformative science that will be conducted in this building in the coming years.”

“I designed every facet of USC Stevens Hall bearing in mind the challenges we face in neuroimaging and the tools my team needs to overcome those challenges,” said Toga. “Through the generosity of Mark and Mary Stevens, we have the ideal environment to enable our research.”

## ROHIT VARMA NAMED KECK SCHOOL DEAN

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Rohit Varma, MD, MPH

On November 9, Rohit Varma, MD, MPH, was named dean of the Keck School of Medicine of USC. He also holds the May S. and John Hooval Dean's Chair in Medicine. USC Provost Michael Quick, PhD, announced the appointment on behalf of USC President C. L. Max Nikias, PhD. Varma is also the holder of the Grace and Emery Beardsley Chair in Ophthalmology at the school.

"I am truly honored and privileged to serve as the dean of the Keck School of Medicine of USC, particularly at such an exciting and transformational period for USC and the field of medicine in general," Varma said. "Our academic medical center is at the forefront of delivering precision health care with compassion, conducting groundbreaking research through interdisciplinary collaboration and providing an enriching and holistic educational experience."

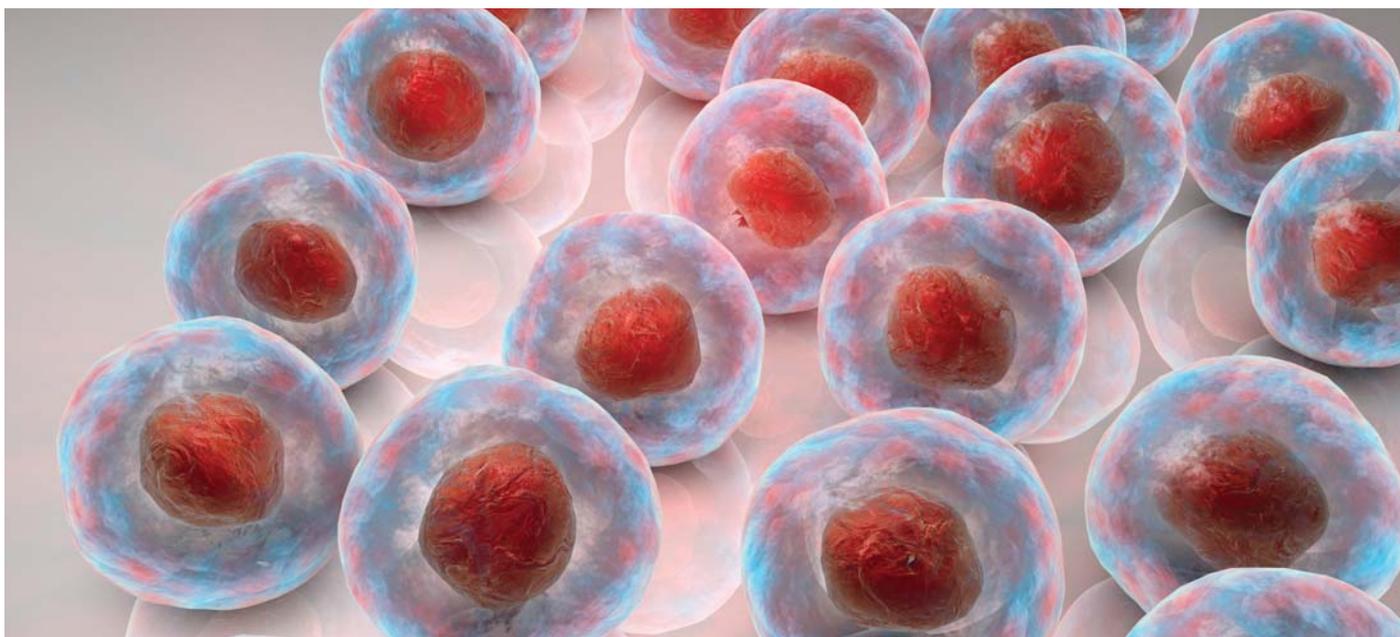
"While we interviewed a number of top candidates for this position, the standout to lead the Keck School of Medicine of USC was Rohit Varma. We are lucky to have had him here," added Provost Quick.

Varma obtained his medical degree at the University of Delhi, India and residency in ophthalmology at the Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute, as well as earning a master of public health degree from Johns Hopkins University. He completed two glaucoma fellowships, one at the Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia and the other at USC.

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*I am truly honored and privileged to serve as the dean of the Keck School of Medicine of USC, particularly at such an exciting and transformational period for USC and the field of human health.*

**ROHIT VARMA, MD, MPH, DEAN  
OF THE KECK SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
OF USC**





From left, USC Provost Michael Quick, David Lee, Professor Terence Sanger, USC President C.L. Nikias, and Interim Dean Rohit Varma are seen at the installation of the David L. Lee and Simon Ramo Chair in Health Science and Technology, held September 29 at the Broad CIRM Center Auditorium.

## TERENCE SANGER NAMED DAVID L. LEE AND SIMON RAMO CHAIR IN HEALTH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Terence Sanger, MD, PhD, was named the David L. Lee and Simon Ramo Chair in Health Science and Technology September 29 at the

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*I am honored for the opportunity to further the vision of David Lee and Simon Ramo.”*

**TERENCE SANGER**  
PROFESSOR

Eli and Edythe Broad Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at USC.

A provost associate professor of biomedical engineering, neurology and biokinesiology at the USC Viterbi School of Engineering and Keck School of Medicine of USC, Sanger also is an electrical engineer, computational neuroscientist and child neurologist.

Sanger is the founder of the USC Health, Technology and Engineering Program and the Sanger Lab, which uses engineering principles to understand childhood movement and to discover new treatments to improve motor function in children with developmental movement disorders.

David Lee, PhD, is a co-founder and managing general partner of Clarity

Partners, a private equity firm, and a founding member of the Keck School’s Board of Overseers. Simon Ramo, PhD, was a USC professor and former chief scientist and technical director of the U.S. intercontinental ballistic missile program. He died on June 27, 2016 at the age of 103.

“I am honored for the opportunity to further the vision of David Lee and Simon Ramo,” Sanger said. “When we bring together the fields of engineering and medicine, we are uniting two languages, two ways of thinking and two types of skills that, together, provide great force to improve health care and the lives of patients.”

## MARK HUMAYUN ELECTED A 2016 FELLOW OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF INVENTORS

Mark S. Humayun, MD, PhD, co-director of the USC Roski Eye Institute and director of the USC Institute for Biomedical Therapeutics, has been elected to the National Academy of Inventors (NAI) 2016 Fellows Program, the highest professional distinction accorded solely to academic inventors. Humayun will attend the NAI Fellow induction ceremony at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston in April.

NAI Fellows are nominated by their peers and chosen based on their prolific contribution in creating or facilitating outstanding inventions that have made a tangible impact on the quality of life,



economic development and the welfare of society.

Humayun merges medicine and engineering to develop treatments for the most debilitating and challenging eye diseases and holds more than 100 issued patents and patent applications, most in the area of bioimplants for ophthalmology. He is a USC professor with joint appointments in ophthalmology, cell and neurobiology

at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, and in biomedical engineering at the USC Viterbi School of Engineering and holds the inaugural Cornelius J. Pings Chair in Biomedical Sciences.

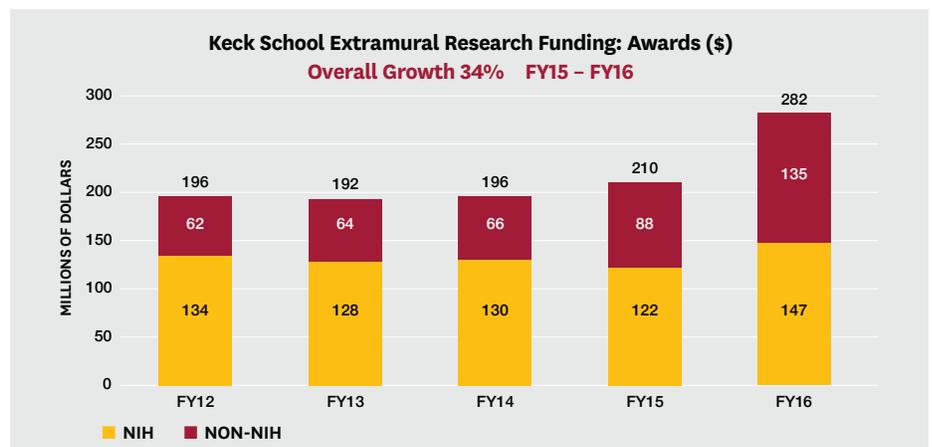
Earlier this year, Humayun received the prestigious National Medal of Technology and Innovation, the nation's highest award for technology achievement, from President Barack Obama.

### Multiple grants awarded to Keck School researchers

Several grants have been awarded recently to researchers at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, including grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Alzheimer's Association and the Foundation Leducq.

"The Keck School's recognition from the NIH and these prestigious foundations continues to highlight the cutting-edge research being done here," said Rohit Varma, MD, MPH, dean of the medical school and director of the USC Roski Eye Institute. "I am pleased that our faculty continue to receive accolades and important financial support to build on our expanding research portfolio."

Researchers received a two-year, \$6 million NIH grant to examine health issues related to asthma and obesity, in part funding an environmental obesity project led by Frank Gilliland, MD, PhD, professor



of preventive medicine, and Carrie Breton, ScD, assistant professor of preventive medicine.

The National Institute on Aging in the NIH awarded Berislav Zlokovic, MD, PhD, director of the Zilkha Neurogenetic Institute and Arthur Toga, PhD, director of the USC Mark and Mary Stevens Neuroimaging and Informatics Institute,

\$12.3 million. NIH's National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke presented Zlokovic with \$3.6 million. The Alzheimer's Association will give Zlokovic and Toga up to \$3 million, and the Foundation Leducq in Paris asked Zlokovic to be the North American coordinator of a multi-institutional transatlantic program, supporting his work up to \$6 million.

## DEAN'S RESEARCH SCHOLAR BRIDGES MEDICINE, ENGINEERING TO REVOLUTIONIZE HEALTH CARE DATA USAGE

Hugh Gordon is a Dean's Research Scholar at the Keck School of Medicine of USC in his fourth year of medical school, with aspirations of becoming a critical care specialist. But the former Google software engineer also is an entrepreneur, co-founding the USC D-Health Lab and an affiliated company that aims to revolutionize the health information sector by tackling the difficulties of working with health care data that is protected by layers of privacy and compliance regulations.

"I co-founded the USC D-Health Lab to make a platform to solve innovation problems within hospitals," Gordon said. "And out of D-Health came



Akido Labs, which is a company that uses software and technology to help hospitals enable innovation through a variety of ways."

Gordon's work at D-Health and Akido Labs was born out of his twin passions, medicine and computer engineering, which he said happened largely as a result of the innovative culture at the

Keck School and its affiliations with Keck Medical Center of USC and Los Angeles County+USC Medical Center.

"The administrators at Keck Medicine are really helpful," he said, citing Keck Medicine's CEO and Senior Vice President Thomas Jackiewicz. "(Jackiewicz) has really fostered an open and innovative culture at Keck."



**844**  
HOSPITALS NATIONWIDE RECEIVED AN "A" GRADE

**2600**  
U.S. HOSPITALS ARE MEASURED

**2x**  
PER YEAR

**30**  
MEASURES OF DATA

## KECK HOSPITAL EARNS "A" GRADE FOR PATIENT SAFETY FROM THE LEAPFROG GROUP

Keck Hospital of USC is one of 844 hospitals nationwide to receive an "A" grade from The Leapfrog Group, a national patient safety watchdog, during the fall 2016 release of Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades. The grade places Keck Hospital of USC among the safest hospitals in the United States.

"Our 'A' hospital safety grade from The Leapfrog Group reflects the daily efforts of our physicians and staff, who make patient safety and well-being a top priority," said Rod Hanners, CEO for Keck Medical Center of USC and COO of Keck Medicine of USC. "We are thrilled that our efforts are being recognized as we continue our commitment in delivering exceptional patient experience."

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade uses 30 measures of publicly available hospital safety data, providing the most complete picture of patient safety, by assigning A-F grades to more than 2,600 U.S. hospitals twice per year. Grades are calculated by top patient safety experts, peer-reviewed, fully transparent and free to the public.

*To see Keck Hospital's full grade, visit [www.hospitalsafetygrade.org](http://www.hospitalsafetygrade.org).*

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## KECK FACULTY AMONG THE WORLD'S MOST INFLUENTIAL RESEARCHERS

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Sir Isaac Newton once referred to the process of discovery as “standing on the shoulders of giants,” meaning that revolutionary science and innovation is built on the work of previous researchers. One measure of a scientist’s influence is the number of times his or her work is cited by others, thus serving as a starting point for yet another discovery.

Thomson Reuters generates an annual Highly Cited Researchers list to fully assess those who have made the most foundational contributions to their field. In total, there are 3,000 authors across 21 different scientific fields. This year, the Keck School of Medicine of USC is proud to lay claim to seven of those researchers.

“This acknowledgement of the Keck School of Medicine’s excellence in research is particularly significant as this research is vital to new disease and treatment discoveries, which ultimately give our patients — and patients around the world — hope for improved outcomes and cures for disease,” said Rohit Varma, MD, MPH, dean of the Keck School of Medicine and director of the USC Roski Eye

Institute. “It is a testament to the Keck School’s growing prominence as a research-intensive academic medical center and I am delighted for my colleagues who have made this important list.”

*The list includes:*

- » Arthur Toga, PhD, provost professor of ophthalmology, director of the USC Mark and Mary Stevens Neuroimaging and Informatics Institute
- » Berislav Zlokovic, MD, PhD, chair and professor of physiology and biophysics, director of the Zilkha Neurogenetic Institute
- » Paul Aisen, MD, professor of neurology, founding director of the Alzheimer’s Therapeutic Research Institute
- » Huaiyu Mi, PhD, associate professor of research of preventive medicine
- » Paul Thomas, PhD, associate professor of preventive medicine
- » Paul Thompson, PhD, professor of ophthalmology, neurology, psychiatry and the behavioral sciences, radiology, psychiatry, and engineering; associate director of the USC Stevens Neuroimaging and Informatics Institute
- » Steve Kay, PhD, provost professor of neurology, biomedical engineering and biological sciences

## Keck School honors donors, scholars at annual luncheon

More than 150 people gathered at the Keck School’s 11th annual Scholarship Luncheon held October 19 to honor the medical school’s donors and provide a chance for the benefactors to meet the students they support. Rohit Varma, MD, MPH, Keck School of Medicine of USC interim dean and director of the USC Roski Eye Institute; third-year medical student Amy Komure; and Senior Associate Dean for Student and Educational Affairs Donna Elliott, MD, EdD, were among the speakers at the event in downtown Los Angeles. Attendees heard updates on the Keck School from Varma and Elliott, while Komure shared her path to medical school and her work toward earning a medical degree and master’s degree in public health.



*Keck School of Medicine of USC third-year medical student Amy Komure, left, and Senior Associate Dean Donna Elliott are seen October 19 at the Keck School’s 11th annual Scholarship Luncheon in downtown Los Angeles.*

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Keck School of Medicine of **USC**

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