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Nahas Named Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

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Samar Nahas, M.D., was named chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

By Iqbal Pittalwala

Samar Nahas, M.D., UCR Health Division Director of Gynecologic Oncology, has been named the chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology effective July 1.

Nahas earned her Canadian Board in obstetrics and gynecology from the University of British Columbia, Canada. She completed fellowship training in gynecologic oncology at the University of Manitoba, Canada.

Nahas completed a second fellowship in advanced laparoscopic and robotic surgery in gynecologic oncology at the Mayo Clinic, Scottsdale, Ariz. She also earned a master's degree in public health from Johns Hopkins University.

She practices at both the Riverside University Health System – Medical Center and Riverside Community Hospital. Nahas previously worked as a member of the teaching faculty for medical students and residents at Trillium Health Partners Hospital affiliated with the University of Toronto, and she is also a member of the teaching faculty at the Laparoscopic Institute of Gynecologic Oncology in San Francisco.

Drinking Alcohol While Pregnant Could Have Transgenerational Effects

New study by UCR psychology professor finds that prenatal ethanol exposure (from maternal alcohol consumption during pregnancy) causes abnormalities in the brain and behavior that may be passed on for many generations

By Mojgan Sherkat

Soon-to-be mothers have heard the warning – don't drink while pregnant. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued numerous statements about the dangers of alcohol consumption during pregnancy, as it can lead to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) in newborns.

Despite this, many women drink during pregnancy, a choice that scientists have known for years could hurt these mothers' children. Today, there is a new reason why an expectant mother should put down that glass of wine – drinking alcohol during pregnancy will not only affect her unborn child, but may also impact brain development and lead to adverse outcomes in her future grand- and even great-grandchildren.

The new study by Kelly Huffman, psychology professor at UC Riverside, titled "Prenatal Ethanol Exposure and Neocortical Development: A Transgenerational Model of FASD," was published in the journal *Cerebral Cortex*.

"Traditionally, prenatal ethanol exposure (PrEE) from maternal consumption of alcohol, was thought to solely impact directly exposed offspring, the embryo or fetus in the womb. However, we now have evidence that the effects of prenatal alcohol exposure could persist transgenerationally and negatively impact the next-generations of offspring who were never exposed to alcohol," Huffman said.

Previous work from the Huffman Laboratory at UCR has shown that PrEE impacts the anatomy of the neocortex, the part of the brain responsible for complex behavior and cognition in humans, and that PrEE can lead to abnormal motor behavior and increased anxiety in the exposed offspring. Huffman and a group of UCR students have extended this research by providing strong evidence that in utero ethanol exposure generates neurobiological and behavioral effects in subsequent generations of mice that had no ethanol exposure.

Read the full story: ucrtoday.ucr.edu/48203.

UC Riverside Launches \$10 Million Highlander Venture Capital Fund

Fund will make seed capital available for university, regional entrepreneurs

By John D. Warren

UC Riverside has created a \$10 million Highlander Venture Fund (HVF).

The Highlander Fund, created with Silicon Valley's Vertical Venture Partners, will provide seed capital to qualified opportunities within the university for students and faculty members, and entrepreneurs from Riverside County. The fund will target technologies that can be matched with a targeted vertical market such as health-care, energy, the environment, agriculture, and other areas of expertise at UCR.

"Having access to capital is the lifeblood of startups. The creation of the Highlander Fund is just another example of how UC Riverside is leading the transformation of the entire entrepreneurial ecosystem," said Michael Pazzani, the vice chancellor for research and economic development at UCR. "Our creative faculty and student populations bring new and exciting innovations to the marketplace every week. This new fund will help satisfy the pent-up demand for capital necessary to bring these high-quality technologies to the marketplace sooner."

The announcement marks the realization of the university's Research and Economic Development vision to aid entrepreneurs from concept to fruition. It comes on the heels of the October launch of the Entrepreneurial Proof of Concept and Innovation Center, or EPIC, and the recent revamping of the ExCITE Accelerator.

Typical funding will be between \$100,000 and \$500,000, said Larry Morgan, the director of EPIC. Morgan said the fund will help accelerate commercialization of technologies and create new jobs.

The UCR Foundation committed \$2 Million to the fund.

Read the full story: ucrtoday.ucr.edu/48185.

Molecular Biochemist Named to German National Academy of Sciences

Katayoon Dehesh, known for her work on how stress signals are sensed in plants, joins an academy whose past members include Charles Darwin and Albert Einstein

By Aurelia Espinoza

Katayoon Dehesh, the director of the Institute for Integrative Genome Biology (IIGB) and the Ernst and Helen Leibacher Endowed Chair in Botany and Plant Sciences at UC Riverside, has been elected to the Leopoldina, the German National Academy of Sciences.

Founded in 1652, the Leopoldina is one of the oldest academies of science in the world, with a membership that has included such luminaries as Marie Curie, Charles Darwin, Albert Einstein, and Max Planck.

Dehesh, a professor of molecular biochemistry, joined UC Riverside in July 2016. Previously she was the Paul Stumpf Endowed Chair in Plant Biochemistry at UC Davis.

She will join the Organismic and Evolutionary Biology section of the Leopoldina, in line with her primary research interests in deciphering the molecular and biochemical regulatory mechanisms underlying stress-induced responses that ensure organismal integrity and environmental adaptation. Specifically, her lab examines how stress signals are sensed in plants and the mechanisms by which they integrate targeted processes.

“We are all incredibly proud that Katie has been elected to the German National Academy of Sciences, the Leopoldina,” said Natasha Raikhel, former director of IIGB and the Center for Plant Cell Biology. “It is a very rare and special privilege and honor. Katie’s enthusiasm and passion for her science is equaled only by her devotion to helping young scientists succeed. She is fearless and stands up for principles in both science and in life. For this and many other reasons, Katie is a visionary leader for the IIGB.” Dehesh will travel to Germany in May 2018 to formally accept the honor.

Read the full story: ucrtoday.ucr.edu/48022.

History/Social Sciences Instructional Materials Now Available for Review

This invitation is open not just to educators but also to interested students, faculty, staff, and community members

By Melanie Ramiro

California’s textbook adoption process is ready to take its next step forward – but first, the State Department of

Education needs your input.

All of the history/social science instructional materials currently up for consideration are now available in Room 217, the Learning Resources Display Center (LRDC), on the second floor of Tomás Rivera Library. These materials are intended for use by elementary and middle school students, ranging from kindergarten through eighth grade.

“The LRDC provides a way for all interested parties to have some input into the textbook adoption process,” said Christopher Martone, UCR Library’s coordinator of Education Services and one of the State Board-appointed reviewers for History/Social Sciences instructional materials.

“If you want to review any of the materials, you can make an appointment to meet Christopher in Education Services,” explained Christina Cicchetti, Education/Reference librarian. “He will make the materials available for your review.”

This invitation is open not just to educators but also to interested students, faculty, staff, and community members. After reviewing the materials, patrons can submit their comments directly to the California State Department of Education by following these instructions.

“California has a network of Learning Resource Display Centers throughout the state,” Cicchetti added. “We serve Riverside County specifically, but anyone could come from anywhere to use our LRDC.”

Read the full story: ucrtoday.ucr.edu/48262.

Did You Know?

Use Your Parking Permit at Other UC Campuses

Did you know that your campus parking permit can be honored at other UC campuses? That means you can attend meetings at other UC schools, or invite UC colleagues to UCR, and not have to worry about paying for hourly parking.

That’s because all 10 campuses participate in a parking reciprocity program. Best option before visiting a campus, though, is to read on permit reciprocity.

Faculty and staff who work at another UC and pay for a long term (quarter or annual) parking permit issued from that campus, may receive up to five days of complimentary parking each fiscal year at UC Riverside.

UC colleagues can obtain a complimentary UCR parking permit by presenting their valid faculty or staff parking permit along with a photo identification at the main campus kiosk or the Parking Services Building. All vehicles are required to have a valid UCR parking permit to park in any UCR campus lots.

Locations to pick-up a complimentary parking permit are:

- Parking Services Building: Located on campus at 683 W. Linden Street
- University Kiosk: Located on W. Campus Dr., South of University Avenue

Reciprocity of parking permits is not extended to students.

For full details and more information on parking reciprocity at other campuses: parking.ucr.edu/permits/reciprocity.html.

Twilight Tours Planned at Botanic Gardens

The Friends of the UCR Botanic Gardens are holding two “Twilight Tours” at the Botanic Gardens. The docent-led tours are scheduled for Friday, July 14 and Friday, August 18 at 6:30 p.m.

The strolls last about 90 minutes and are followed by refreshments on the patio. The cost is \$7 for Friends of UCRBG members and \$10 for non-members. There is a nominal fee for parking on campus.

Reservations are required. Please call 951-784-6962 or email ucrbg@ucr.edu to make your reservation. Send your check payable to “UC Regents” to University of California, 2460 Geology, Attn: Twilight Tour Event, Riverside, CA 92521. Please specify which tour you plan to attend. You may also pay at the door by check or with exact change only.

If you go:

- Friday, July 14: 6:30 p.m.
- Friday, August 18: 6:30 p.m.
- Cost: \$7 for Friends of UCRBG members; \$10 for non-members.
- Reservations: (951) 784-6962 or email ucrbg@ucr.edu
- For more information: www.gardens.ucr.edu.

Awards & Honors

Entomology Professor Receives Teaching Award

William Walton, a professor of entomology, has been selected as the recipient of the 2017 Western Region Award for Excellence in College and University Teaching in the Food and Agricultural Sciences. He will be recognized at the Western Region Joint Summer Meeting in Portland, Ore., on July 12.

The award, given by National Institute of Food and Agriculture at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, recognizes exceptional and innovative teaching in college and university agricultural and food science programs. Recipients exhibit “sustained, meritorious and exceptional teaching” that is “fundamental to recruiting and retaining the scientific and professional expertise essential to the future growth and progress of our nation’s food and agricultural system.”

Each nominee is judged on teaching quality; philosophy of teaching and teaching methodology; service to the teaching profession and professional growth in teaching; professional growth and scholarly activity; and service to students.

‘Start the Adventure Award’ Goes to LaSharon McLean Perez

LaSharon McLean Perez, assistant director of Education Abroad at UC Riverside, was recognized for the time, effort, and devotion she gives to UC Riverside students looking to study in another country.

During a ceremony in Los Angeles last month, McLean Perez was presented with the award by GoAbroad.com, an organization that focuses on connecting students who want to travel, with companies offering international programs. GoAbroad just celebrated its 20th anniversary.

GoAbroad gave her the STA Travel (Start the Adventure) Award, which acknowledges a person who has made traveling more accessible to students. The award also recognized McLean Perez's "Off the Beaten Path Scholarship," which she created to help offset costs for students who wanted to study in nontraditional countries such as Nepal, Ghana or Samoa.

McLean Perez, a UCR alumna, has traveled to more than 20 countries and 47 U.S. states. She has studied in Italy and completed two Master's programs in Australia.

Graduate Student Awarded a 'SMART' Fellowship

Anu Venkatesh, a graduate student in the Neuroscience Ph.D. program, has been awarded a fellowship from the Department of Defense Science, Mathematics & Research Transformation (SMART) program.

The program provides opportunities for students pursuing undergraduate or graduate degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines to receive full scholarships gain employment upon degree completion.

Recipients receive full tuition and education related fees, a stipend, summer internships, and post-graduation civilian employment at Department of Defense research facilities.

For more information about the program and to apply, visit smart.asee.org.

Research & Scholarship

UCR Researchers Invited by EPA to Help China Reduce Marine Emissions

Researchers from UCR's College of Engineering-Center for Environmental Research & Technology (CE-CERT) joined more than 100 Chinese, American and European experts on emissions from ports and marine vessels at the "U.S.-China Green Ports and Vessels Initiative Workshop," which was held in Tianjin, China.

The workshop was sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the China Ministry of Environment Protection (MEP), and the China Ministry of Transport (MOT). It aimed to strengthen China's ability to reduce emissions from harbor crafts, fishing boats, and ocean-going vessels.

Kent Johnson, associate research engineer at CE-CERT, and Jiacheng (Joey) Yang, a graduate student in Johnson's research group, were the only participants from a university in the United States. They were invited by the EPA because of CE-CERT's experience in marine engine technology and measurements.

Johnson presented information on the pathways for future ocean-going vessels to meet much lower emissions using cleaner fuels and advanced engine design. Yang's presentation was in Chinese and covered the best practices in measuring emissions from shipping vessels. One outcome from the meeting was that UCR may soon be leading workshops in Los Angeles for the Chinese and others on measuring emissions from ocean-going vessels.

