

BIOCOM's Electronic Newsletter

Cover Story

> Come to BIOCOM for Our Annual Open House on Thursday, July 24

Public Policy News

> Legislative Roundtable in Orange County, FDA Revises Reviews and IP Update

BIOCOM Events

> Legislative Roundtable with Lori Saldana July 18

Workforce Development

> Science Gala on Nov. 22

Purchasing Group

> PG Update

Deals and Data

> News from Industry Member Companies

Member News

> News from Members
> News from Non-Profit Members

Member Events

> Meet Christine Kehoe and help defeat Prop. 8 in La Jolla tonight

Member List

> Renewing members ... is your company on the list?

About BIOCOM

> Contact and Subscription Information/ Submission Guidelines

Archives:

7/15/2008

[View All Archives](#)

[Print Article](#) [Print Section](#) [Print Newsletter](#)

[RSS](#)

News from Non-Profit Members

[Previous](#) [Next](#)

[Prev Section](#) [Next Section](#)

UCSD Medical Center Recognized by U.S. News and World Report

UCSD Medical Center is the only San Diego hospital ranked among the nation's best in eight specialties in U.S. News & World Report's new 2008 "America's Best Hospitals" issue. Among the five leading California hospitals in the total number of top-ranked specialties, UC San Diego Medical Center has combined innovative treatments and compassionate care to earn recognition in multiple specialties for several years in this annual survey.

UC San Diego Medical Center is recognized among the nation's best in Respiratory Disorders, Cancer, Gynecology, Kidney Disease, Psychiatry, Rheumatology, Urology, and Ear, Nose and Throat in the July 21 issue of "Best Hospitals," due on newsstands July 14. UC San Diego's Respiratory Disorders program, ranked 6th in the nation this year, has ranked among the nation's top 10 programs nine years in a row.

To identify the nation's best hospitals, U.S. News & World Report screened 5,453 medical centers to identify the best in 16 specialties. This year, only 170 hospitals achieved any rankings, and over half of these ranked only in a single specialty. With top rankings in eight specialties, UC San Diego Medical Center is among a distinguished few.

UC San Diego Medical Center operates two hospitals and multiple primary and specialty care outpatient centers in Hillcrest, La Jolla and Scripps Ranch. Ophthalmology services are offered at the UCSD Shiley Eye Center in La Jolla. Advanced cancer care is provided at Moores UCSD Cancer Center, the region's only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center.

UC San Diego Medical Center in Hillcrest recently expanded its 40-bed regional neonatal intensive care unit, adding nine beds in response to increasing numbers of premature and critically ill infants. Further improvements are underway at the Hillcrest facility.

The Sulpizio Family Cardiovascular Center is under construction on the UC San Diego Medical Center, La Jolla campus and a new inpatient tower is in the design stages. The expansion of the La Jolla medical campus will further integrate the groundbreaking research and training programs on the UC San Diego campus with the patient care delivery system, accelerating the process of translating discovery into improvements in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease and injury.

In this year's "Best Graduate Schools" edition, U.S. News & World Report ranked the UCSD School of Medicine (5th) in the nation among public medical schools (14th among all U.S. medical schools), with its AIDS program ranked 6th.

Scripps Scientists Advance Ebola Research

Scientists at The Scripps Research Institute have determined the structure of a critical protein from the Ebola virus, which, though rare, is one of the deadliest viruses on the planet killing between 50 and 90 percent of those infected.

Described in the July 10, 2008 issue of the journal Nature, the research reveals the shape of the Ebola virus spike protein, which is necessary for viral entry into human cells, bound to an immune system antibody acting to neutralize the virus. The structure provides a major step forward in understanding how the deadly virus works, and may be useful in the development of potential Ebola virus vaccines, or treatments for those infected.

There is currently no cure for Ebola hemorrhagic fever. The virus is spread when people come into contact with the bodily fluids of someone who is already infected. Most ultimately die from a combination of dehydration, massive bleeding, and shock. The best treatment consists of administering fluids and taking protective measures to ensure containment, like isolating the patient and washing sheets with bleach.

The new research was made possible by an antibody isolated by Dennis Burton, a Scripps Research professor and one of the study's coauthors. The antibody—shown bound to the Ebola virus spike protein in the current research—was derived from bone marrow of one of the few survivors of the 1995 Ebola outbreak in Kikwit, a city in the southwestern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Kikwit outbreak was particularly deadly, with a higher than 90 percent mortality rate for those infected.

The Scripps Research Institute is one of the world's largest independent, non-profit biomedical research organizations, at the forefront of basic biomedical science that seeks to comprehend the most fundamental processes of life. Scripps Research is internationally recognized for its discoveries in immunology, molecular and cellular biology, chemistry, neurosciences, autoimmune, cardiovascular, and infectious diseases, and synthetic vaccine development.

Scripps Publishes Bi-coastal Research

Working in close collaboration, scientists at The Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California, and in Jupiter, Florida, have identified several new molecules that activate cell receptors responsible for the regulation of a number of key physiological processes. The molecules have the potential to advance drug development.

The study was published as an ASAP Article on July 1, 2008, by the journal ACS Chemical Biology.

The newly published agonists (an agonist is a molecule that improves the activity of another molecule) interact selectively with one of two subtypes of the

Sphingosine 1-phosphate (S1P) receptor system, which helps regulate heart rate, the size of coronary arteries, vessel wall integrity, and lymphocyte trafficking.

La Jolla Allergy Institute Names New Board Members

Richard "Rick" Kornfeld, a San Diego telecommunications executive, and Michael Martin, a Rancho Santa Fe resident and leader in the health care services industry, have joined the Board of Directors of the La Jolla Institute for Allergy & Immunology (LIAI). The Institute is a nonprofit biomedical research institute and one of the world's leaders in immunology research.

Kornfeld, a La Jolla resident, has worked in some of the San Diego region's most notable tech companies, including Qualcomm, Texas Instruments and Linkabit. Most recently, he was executive vice president and chief strategy officer for NextWave Wireless and NextWave Broadband, and currently serves as an advisor to various corporations.

Martin is president of the International Oncology Network (ION), a diversified physician services network whose membership represents about half of the private practice oncologists in the U.S. He brings more than 20 years of executive and health care leadership experience to the LIAI Board.

In addition to Kornfeld and Martin, two other distinguished executives joined the LIAI board earlier this year. One new member is Toshifumi Mikayama, Ph.D., executive officer and vice president of Kirin Pharma Co., Ltd. in Tokyo, Japan, a biopharmaceutical research and development company and parent company of Kirin Pharma USA, Inc. Kirin Pharma USA is an LIAI industry partner, which helps to facilitate the translation of the Institute's discoveries into potential treatments for human disease. The other new board member is Steven Odre, a biotechnology executive who recently retired from Amgen Inc., a major pharmaceutical company, after a 21-year career.

Founded in 1988, the La Jolla Institute for Allergy & Immunology is a nonprofit medical research center dedicated to increasing knowledge and improving human health through studies of the immune system.

[Previous](#) [Next](#)

[Prev Section](#) [Next Section](#)