

# TOODAY

- LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY
- LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER
- LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
- LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER—EAST CAMPUS
- LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE CENTER
- LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY HEALTH CARE
- FACULTY MEDICAL GROUP OF LLUSM
- FACULTY PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS OF LLUSM



## Unit 1100 dedicated

A dedication ceremony was held for the newly remodeled unit 1100 at Loma Linda University Medical Center—East Campus on January 5, 2005. The ceremony recognized Tom and Vi Zapara for the financial support they provided to remodel the unit, the first phase of remodeling the East Campus into a world-class rehabilitation facility. Mr. and Mrs. Zapara donated \$3.5 million to the project and were present at the dedication.

The remodeled unit has 19 rooms, each with their own

patio/garden to facilitate the healing environment atmosphere promoted at East Campus. Each room is equipped with a custom bed that features an air mattress with three compartments that can be set at different firmness levels. The bed is specifically designed for patients facing rehabilitation and is lower than normal hospital beds for easier access.

Administration dedicated the new rooms for the treatment and care of patients who experience life-changing tragedies and need life-transforming care to treat the whole person.



Tom and Vi Zapara donated \$3.5 million to remodel unit 1100 for rehabilitation patients.

## LLU holds Biology of the Rattlesnakes symposium

The first ever Biology of the Rattlesnakes symposium took place at LLU from January 15 to 18, 2005, bringing more than 300 participants from around the world to learn the latest, cutting-edge discoveries. The event featured more than 100 presentations, a live rattlesnake exhibit, a presentation by Animal Planet's "Venom ER" producer, a radio-telemetry workshop, a banquet, an emeritus panel and much more.

"I genuinely feel that our collective understanding of rattlesnakes and their interaction with humans advanced a huge step during these last few days," shares Sean Bush, MD, emergency physician and envenomation specialist, LLUMC, and associate professor, School of Medicine. "It was almost like 300 brains synapsed together. We really connected the dots between laboratory basic science, field research, and clinical medicine."

A number of events took place during the four-day symposium. Saturday evening, January 15, featured an author's book



William Hayes, PhD (left), associate professor, earth & biological sciences, LLU, speaks with Robert Stebbins, PhD, professor emeritus, University of California, Berkeley, during the book signing event. Dr. Stebbins authored many books including the highly influential *A Field Guide to Western Reptiles & Amphibians*.

signing and social mixer including a slide show of photographs by Manny Rubio, a well-known rattlesnake photographer and author.

"My favorite moment was when Henry Fitch, renowned rattlesnake researcher and author, arrived," says William Hayes, PhD, associate professor, earth & biological sciences, LLU, "I ushered him into the audito-

rium where he saw all these people. When he sat down at his book signing table, he got this huge smile on his face, filled with so much excitement."

The keynote speaker, David Chiszar, PhD, professor at Colorado University, spoke Sunday morning about rattlesnake behavior. His studies have focused largely on the unique feeding specializations of

rattlesnakes. "The audience clearly enjoyed what he had to share," notes Dr. Hayes.

The highlighted event, the Sunday night banquet and emeritus panel, opened with a 30-minute presentation by Janet Klauber, granddaughter of Laurence Klauber, whose two-volume masterpiece, *Rattlesnakes: Their Habits, Life Histories, and Influence on Mankind*, continues to inform and inspire researchers today. The presentation, titled "Laurence M. Klauber 1883-  
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## SPH to present Healthy People 2005 Conference

"Lifestyle Science: Integrating Prevention and Intervention" is this year's theme for Healthy People 2005 presented by the School of Public Health and the American College of Lifestyle Medicine (ACLM). The conference will be held March 8 to 10, 2005, in Wong Kerlee International Conference Center.

"This conference integrates theory, research, practice, and policy issues that underlie the future direction that this nation must take in health care," states Ed Fujimoto, DrPH, CHES, professor & coordinator of preventive care program and committee chair Healthy People 2005 conference. "The presentations of the international experts—Pedersen, Felten, Prochaska, Fenton, Tuomilehto, Esselstyn, and Jenkins—will buttress support for lifestyle interventions as some of the best evidence-based practices in the prevention and treatment of many diseases."

The conference goals are to: enhance and expand the science-based knowledge of lifestyle interventions in disease treatment and prevention; develop an accurate understanding of the need for incorporating lifestyle interventions in disease treatment and prevention; and increase the understanding of the efficacy of lifestyle in disease prevention and control.

Guests include Mark Fenton, MS, host of the PBS series "America's Walking," who will  
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## LLUMC physician continues residency after paralyzing stroke

Hoa Le, MD, knows how to improvise. As an internal medicine resident at Loma Linda University Medical Center, long hours and ill patients continually challenge him to find ways to thwart sickness as his paralysis challenges him to find ways to navigate the three different hospitals he serves.

Only six days after he got married, the 29-year-old physician suffered a spinal infarction on May 30, 2003. The spine stroke seems to be related to a slip and fall on rocks near a beach in Hawaii where he was honeymooning with his wife. During a period of time between 45 to 75 minutes after the fall, he could feel the progressive symptoms of paralysis creeping up on him. After spending several days on the neurosurgery intensive care unit at Maui



Hoa Le, MD, 29, is in the middle of his third year of residency in internal medicine at LLUMC, serving the Medical Center, Riverside County Hospital, and the Jerry L. Pettis Memorial VA Medical Center.

Memorial Hospital, he transferred to LLU Medical Center's 6300 rehab unit. Here he spent

nearly two months as a patient in the same hospital where he had just done part of his first two years of residency serving in the internal medicine department.

A year after leaving Loma Linda's rehab unit, Dr. Le still didn't know what he was going to do.

"There was a huge sense of loss," remembers Dr. Le. "I went from being on call and running to the ICU to not being able to sit up in bed on my own." During his time off he realized the power of choice. "You can choose to do one of three things; passively let yourself fade away; aggressively want to not live; or you can get tired of having a victim mentality. That's what I did. I told myself 'I'm really tired of this—I'm going to take back my life, all of it.'  
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# LLU holds *Biology of the Rattlesnakes* symposium...

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1968: Renaissance Man in San Diego," included a recording of him speaking.

The remainder of the program featured a panel of retired research experts who were honored for their significant contributions in rattlesnake biology. The six-man panel included Henry S. Fitch, PhD, professor emeritus, University of Kansas; Findlay E. Russell, MD, professor emeritus, University of Arizona, and an alumnus of LLU; Robert C. Stebbins, PhD, professor emeritus, University of California, Berkeley; among others.

"The panel members were an inspiration to all of us. Their passion was infectious," expresses Dr. Hayes. "It was very special for us researchers to meet those whose work we've studied."

Twelve sessions encompassed the symposium: Systematics and ecology; Morphology and physiology; Behavior and ecology of California rattlesnakes; Ecology and conservation of Timber rattlesnakes; Rattlesnake venom; Snakebite and treatment; Rattlesnake behavior; Ecology and conservation of southwestern rattlesnakes; Ecology and

conservation of Timber rattlesnakes; Rattlesnake behavior; Ecology of northwestern rattlesnakes; and Ecology & conservation of *Sistrurus*.

Leslie Boyer, MD, medical director for the Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center, presented "Snake Bite: Not just a Young Man's Disease." She shared that older individuals frequently encounter snakes near golf course tee boxes and that aging humans' diminishing vision contributes to garden bites.

The Monday afternoon snakebite session featured Richard C. Dart, MD, PhD, director of Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center, and professor of surgery, pharmacy and medicine, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center.

"His talk on the future of antivenom development was visionary and thought-provoking," notes Dr. Bush, "suggesting that one antivenom is not enough to combat the endless variability of venom."

Co-organizers of the symposium were Dr. Hayes; Dr. Bush; Kent Beaman, MA, research associate, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County; and Michael Cardwell, a retired San Bernardino County deputy sheriff who collaborates with Drs. Hayes and Bush on assorted projects.

Following the Biology of the Pitvipers conference in Texas, 1989, and the Biology of the Vipers conference in Sweden, 2000, the four rattlesnake researchers decided to plan a different snake conference.

"To us, Biology of the Rattlesnakes was the next step," explains Dr. Hayes.

Primary sponsors for the Biology of the Rattlesnakes symposium included Fougera, marketer and distributor of CroFab antivenom, and Red Rock Biologics, marketer and distributor of rattlesnake venom vaccine for dogs.

"Without their generous support," says Dr. Hayes, "we could not have brought in the special guests that made our symposium so memorable."

The organizers hope that a similar symposium will be organized two or three years down the road, as there is a devoted core of rattlesnake researchers eager to exchange ideas. In the meantime, the organizers will focus on editing a peer-reviewed volume (or several) based on papers presented at the symposium.

"I think it was an outstanding symposium," says Alex Figueroa, master's biology student at LLU. "It was stimulating and edifying. It motivated me to do more research and succeed in the field."



Sean Bush, MD (right), emergency physician & envenomation specialist, LLUMC, and associate professor, SM, talks with Findlay Russell, MD, professor emeritus, University of Arizona, during the opening night book signing event. Author of *Snake Venom Poisoning*, Dr. Russell, an LLU alumnus, committed decades to patient treatment and research on rattlesnake bites and venom biochemistry.



A live rattlesnake exhibit, presented by Chris and Christopher Giacoletti of Action Reptiles, entertained symposium participants including Estrella Mociño Deloya and Kirk Setser.



Participants view peer research during the Monday afternoon poster session.



Kent Beaman, MA, research associate, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, and co-organizer of the event, poses for a picture with the Sunday evening presenter Janet Klauber.



An emeritus panel of pioneer rattlesnake research experts included: (from left) Henry S. Fitch, PhD, professor emeritus, University of Kansas; Findlay E. Russell, MD, professor emeritus, University of Arizona, and an alumnus of LLU; and Robert C. Stebbins, PhD, professor emeritus, University of California, Berkeley.



The Sunday evening banquet featured an emeritus panel and a presentation by Janet Klauber, granddaughter of Laurence Klauber, whose two-volume masterpiece, *Rattlesnakes: Their Habits, Life Histories, and Influence on Mankind*, continues to inform and inspire researchers today.