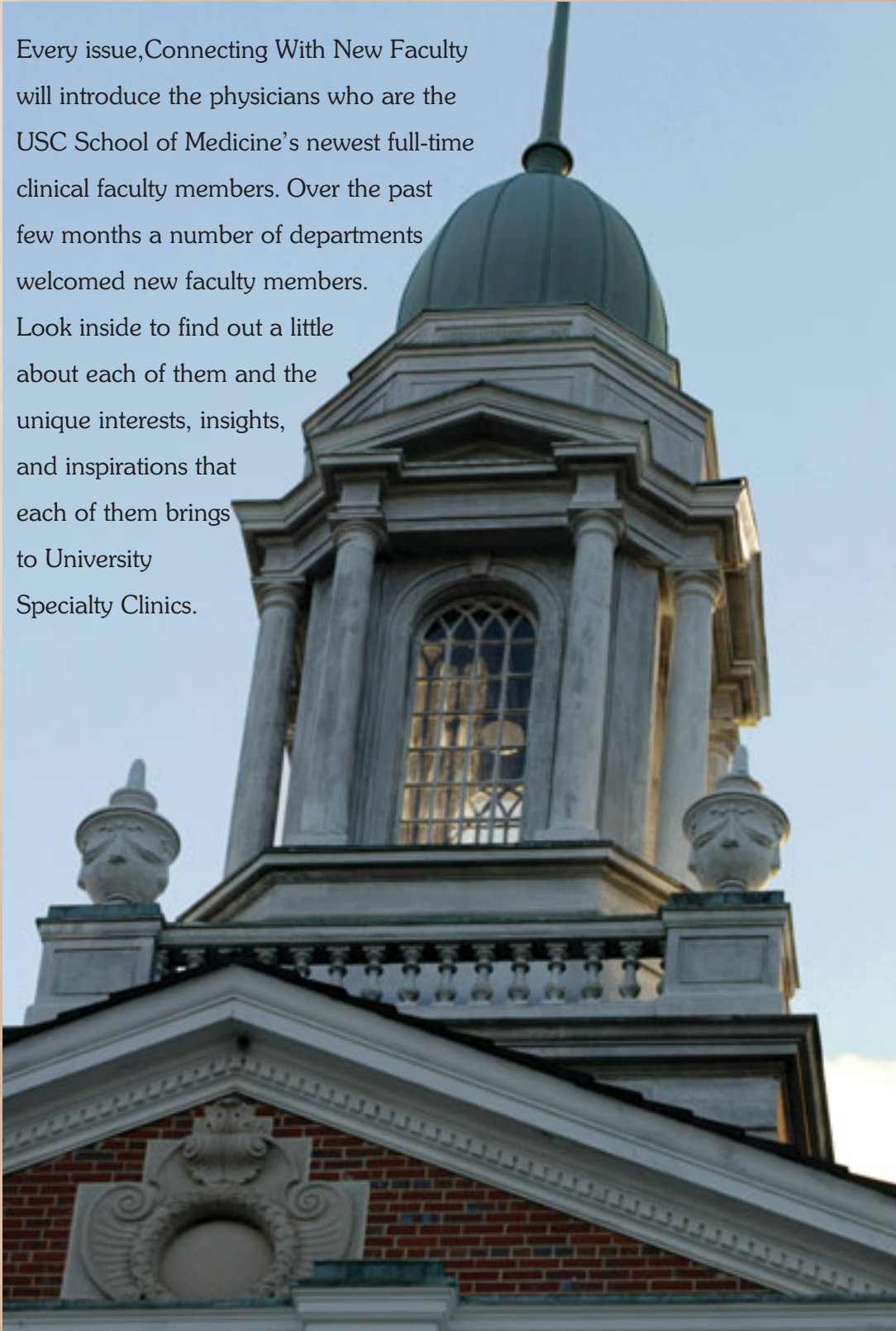


University Specialty Clinics

# Connecting With New Faculty

October 2006

Every issue, Connecting With New Faculty will introduce the physicians who are the USC School of Medicine's newest full-time clinical faculty members. Over the past few months a number of departments welcomed new faculty members. Look inside to find out a little about each of them and the unique interests, insights, and inspirations that each of them brings to University Specialty Clinics.



## Dr. Eric Williams

Assistant Professor of Clinical  
Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Science

### I Wouldn't Have Chosen Another Specialty Because:

I might not have had the time I felt I needed to spend with my patients.

### It's Tough For Me To Admit That:

I can't cure everybody of everything.

### My Passion in Medicine Is:

Working with adolescents to help them develop useful lifelong skills.

### What Frustrates Me Is:

An insurance telephone reviewer three time zones away telling me how to do my job.

### When I Retire, I Want To Say That:

I truly did my best as a doctor.

### Stays In Shape By Teaching Aerobics



## Dr. Malaka Jackson

Assistant Professor of  
Clinical Pediatrics

### I Truly Enjoy:

Meeting new people,  
smiling and laughing.

### Words I Live By:

One kind gesture goes a long way; treat people as you would like to be treated.

### I'm Determined To:

Visit at least one city in every U.S. state and territory.

### What Drives My Work:

The desire to create an environment in which children and families feel comfortable "going to see the doctor."

### Medicine Never Bore Me Because:

Each child and each family is different and can teach me something new.

### Has Found Her Niche Sewing



## Dr. Susan Luberoff

Associate Professor of  
Clinical Pediatrics

### Medicine Fascinates Me Because:

There is so much room for creative thinking.

### The Biggest Professional Challenge I've Faced:

Is teaching parents to be confident in their own instincts and knowledge.

### My Great Inspiration Has Been:

My father, who doesn't wish, but makes life the way he wants it.

### Colleagues Say That I:

Walk too fast.

### I Wouldn't Have Chosen Another Specialty Because:

There is so much humor, freshness and hope in Pediatrics.

Has A Soft Spot For Canine Companions



## Dr. Christian Steen

Clinical Instructor of  
Family and Preventive Medicine

### I Can't Work Without:

Being plugged in: handheld PC on my belt, wireless PC network and Internet access, and an iPod playing in my office.

### I First Thought About Medicine When:

As a child I attempted to jump a chain link fence instead of walking around it. Observing the surgeon sew my arm laceration fascinated me and sparked an early interest in medicine.

### What Amazes Me about My Patients:

Is the number of new things they teach me about life every day.

### In 20 Years I See Myself:

Continuing to play as hard as I work.

Collects Surfboards



## Dr. Jeffrey LaGrasso

Assistant Professor of  
Clinical Surgery

### My Toughest Lesson Learned During Residency:

Was the fact that you cannot make every-one perfect. Sometimes another operation makes things worse rather than better.

### I Can't Work Without:

Music. I always have it on in the operating room and it helps me focused on my work.

### My Greatest Inspirations:

My wife and daughter. Their smiling faces when I walk home through the door are what make me truly happy.

### In 20 Years I See Myself:

Being the chief of a division of plastic surgery and being able to pass on the skills I learned to younger plastic surgeons.



Feels At Home  
On The  
Golf Course

## Dr. Leslie Frinks

Instructor of Clinical  
Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Science

### Medicine Fascinates Me Because:

It's a small window into the remarkable beings we are.

### My Motivation Is:

That every day I have the opportunity to do what I love.

### My Greatest Inspiration Has Been:

My family. They are indestructible and infinitely supportive.

### What Attracted Me To Neuropsychiatry:

The complex interactions of people's experiences, relationships and biology.

### When I Retire I Want To Say That:

I have inspired someone to recognize and reach his or her potential.



Loves To  
Dive Into  
A Good Book

## **Dr. Shilpa Srinivasan**

**Assistant Professor of Clinical Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Science**

### **The Biggest Professional Challenge I've Faced:**

Helping patients overcome the stigma against mental illness.

**A Good Physician Needs To:**  
Have empathy and humility.

### **My Toughest Lesson Learned During My Training:**

There's always more training ahead!

### **What Appealed To Me About USC:**

A congenial and welcoming environment.

### **When I Retire, I Want To Say That I:**

Have given it my all.

### **Finds Relaxation With Yoga**



## **Dr. Stephen Greenberg**

**Associate Professor of Clinical Internal Medicine**

### **Medicine Never Bore Me Because:**

Of the endless varieties of personality and pathology created by the same sets of DNA base pairs.

### **What Amazes Me About My Patients:**

Is how different each one is, both medically and in all other ways.

### **The Turning Point In My Career Was:**

When I realized that the way I could help the most patients was by giving new doctors a better education.

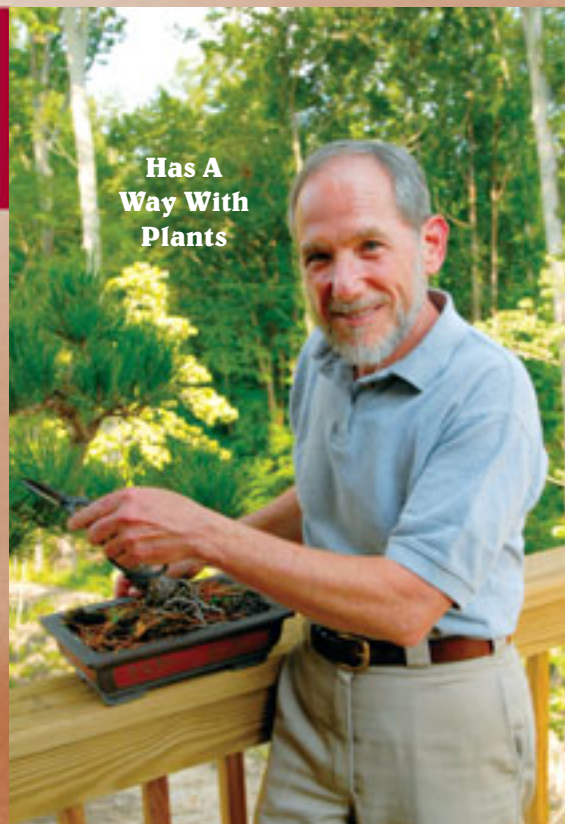
### **I'll Never Forget The Patient Who:**

Told me I was too young to be a doctor.

### **What I'd Want My Epitaph To Read:**

"He done good."

### **Has A Way With Plants**



## Dr. Ellen Humphries

Assistant Professor of  
Clinical Pediatrics

### Words I Live By:

The words of an old Appalachian folk song called "Keep on the Sunny Side of Life." It's not always easy, but always worth trying.

### I'll Never Forget The Patient Who:

Called at 3:00 a.m. to ask me if the salt in Frosted Flakes might be contributing to his high blood pressure.

### I Couldn't Work Without:

Google. For medical and personal information, it is invaluable.

### I Truly Enjoy:

My family. I love being with them - going on vacations, walking the dog, watching movies. Despite having teenagers, we still love being together.

### What Drew Me To Columbia:

To be closer to my parents, who live here, and to get away from the Boston winters.

Has Colorful  
Mementos  
Of Her Peace  
Corps Service



## Dr. Jason Hawn

Instructor of  
Clinical Pediatrics

### What Attracted Me To Pediatrics:

The personalities of pediatricians and the innocence of children.

### I Truly Enjoy:

Interacting with kids on a daily basis.

### The Toughest Lesson Learned During My Residency:

Unfortunately some children develop terminal illnesses, and although we may be limited as physicians to cure them, we can always be there for support and empathy.

### It's Tough For Me To Admit That:

In a lot of ways, I am still a child at heart.

### What Drives My Work:

Watching children develop into mature young adults and being a part of that process.



## Dr. Andrew Freese

Professor of  
Clinical Surgery

**The Turning Point In My Career Was:**  
Realizing I love using both my mind and my hands.

**I Wouldn't Have Chosen Another Specialty Because:**  
The brain and spine remain tremendous mysteries, and diseases that affect them can devastate people's lives.

**I'll Never Forget The Patient Who:**  
Was a police officer who was shot in the head, recovered, and went on to nursing school to become a neurosurgical nurse.

**The Biggest Impact I've Seen On Neurosurgery:**  
The capacity to restore function rather than only remove diseased tissues.

**I'd Like To Think My Patients Say I:**  
Treat them the way I would treat a member of my family.



## Dr. Sara Lindsey

Instructor of  
Clinical Pediatrics

**I First Thought About Medicine When:**  
When didn't I? I have always wanted to be a doctor.

**It Pains Me To See Patients Who:**  
Modern medicine cannot heal.

**I Can't Work Without:**  
Lots of caffeine!

**I Wouldn't Have Chosen Another Specialty Because:**  
Kids are always good for a laugh.

**My Passion In Medicine:**  
To have every patient be my teacher.



# Dr. Helmut Albrecht

Professor of  
Clinical Internal Medicine

Likely To Be  
Found  
In The  
Kitchen



## What Attracted Me To Infectious Diseases:

In times when all mountains have been climbed and all seas have been explored, we face new challenges, never before seen illnesses, or new disease constellations every year.

## Physicians Can Change Lives By:

Trying to preserve what is ultimately most important to everyone, whether you have nothing or whether you are a millionaire: life and health.

## I'll Never Forget The Patient Who:

There have been too many to list that have touched my life in ways I will never forget.

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