

# USC Michelson Center for Convergent Bioscience dedicates new building

*USC's Michelson Hall will serve as a hub for biotech and healthcare research*

An excerpt of the story from the *Los Angeles Business Journal* appears below USC's photo from the dedication.



(from left) Provost Michael Quick, President C. L. Max Nikias, Alya and Gary Michelson, Dornsife Dean Amber Miller, Viterbi Dean Yannis Yortsos *Photo by Gus Ruelas*

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### New \$186M USC Bioscience Building Opens

*Science center funded by \$50 million donation from Michelson family*

By Dana Bartholomew

**USC is betting big on biotech, dedicating** the university's largest campus building to research biosciences.

The 190,000-square-foot Michelson Hall, home to a new Michelson Center for Convergent Bioscience, was heralded last week as a milestone for Southern California biotech.

The \$186 million center aims to serve as a nucleus for collaborative research, uniting dozens of world-class scientists, engineers and medical researchers under

one roof at the University Park Campus for an exponential boost in bio-research power, university officials said.

"Together, Michelson Center researchers will establish a model for innovation in precision medicine that quickly translates from the bench to the bedside in the form of new drug therapies, cures, high-tech diagnostics and biomedical devices," the university said in a statement.

The new research facility, made possible by a \$50 million gift from inventor and orthopedic surgeon Dr. Gary K.

Michelson and his wife, Alya Michelson, will now serve as the cornerstone for biotech at USC – and an anchor for a larger initiative for a Southland tech and biotech corridor.

Gary Michelson was No. 39 this year on the Business Journal's list of wealthiest Angelenos with a net worth of \$1.85 billion.

The initiative by the Alliance for Southern California Innovation, co-founded this summer by tech entrepreneur Steve Poizner, includes nearly two dozen research companies,

universities and venture capitalists who want to make Los Angeles the next tech/biotech hub.

“If you are going to form a global tech hub in the region, you have to pull together,” said Poizner, a former California insurance commissioner and founder of Silicon Valley GPS start-up SnapTrack, in a USC news blog.

Campus administrators have said they hope to stanch the flow of thousands of university graduates hired away by high-tech and biotechnology companies outside of Los Angeles.

Michelson Hall, featuring gothic arched windows, includes a cleanroom lab for dust-free nanotech testing designed to withstand vibrations from a nearby Metro light rail line. The largest building on campus also boasts custom 20-foot-tall electron microscopes, core labs for biological and chemical research and the fastest fiber connectivity on campus, at 100 gigabytes.

Those conducting research inside include biotech maverick Ray Stevens, whose early work led to the development of Tamiflu, a blockbuster anti-viral drug, and cancer moonshot scientist Peter Kuhn, a renowned leader in molecular research.

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### Renovation Realized

The LAC+USC Medical Center in Boyle Heights on Oct. 27 unveiled a \$4.6 million renovation of a half-century-old ambulatory care clinic, the largest in Los Angeles County.

The new clinic features 13,000 square feet of open floorspace surrounded by new exam, consultation and group clinic rooms, with new space for patient education and conferences. It serves more than 30,000 patients a year.

“This beautifully remodeled clinic creates a new experience of care for our patients,” Dr. Mitchell Katz, who oversees the L.A. County Health Agency and its Department of Health Services, which

runs four county hospitals and a network of outpatient clinics, said in a statement. “It is a perfect example of the transformation

we have undertaken in DHS under health care reform to place the patient at the very center of the care team.”



**1-5. Michelson Hall**

**6. President Nikias with Gary Michelson (middle) and Mark Ridley-Thomas of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors**

**7. Gary Michelson and President Nikias (back)**

*Photo 1, by Russ Ono; Photos 2-5, by Caitlyn Vrsalovich; Photos 6-7, by Gus Ruelas*