

News of the Center

Best in the West!



For the fourth consecutive year, UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center is the best cancer center in the western United States, according

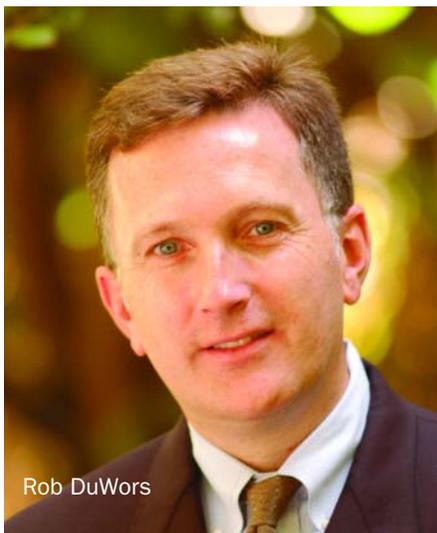
to a *U.S. News & World Report* survey of 2,550 board-certified physicians from across the country.

The ranking is included in the magazine's July 28, 2003, annual guide to America's best hospitals. UCLA's Jonsson Cancer Center is one of six California cancer centers named among the top 50 nationwide, and the only one to make the top 10.

Judith C. Gasson, director of the Jonsson Cancer Center, said the *U.S. News & World Report* ranking reflects the excellent medical care and cutting-edge research available to patients with cancer at UCLA.

"Our scientists and oncologists are committed to the very best in cancer research and patient care," said Gasson, who also is a scientist. "We are gratified by this recognition from our colleagues and delighted to be ranked the best cancer center in the west for the fourth year in a row."

Overall, UCLA's Jonsson Cancer Center ranked eighth in the nation. Of the five other California cancer centers listed in the top 50, the University of California, San Francisco ranked 17th, Stanford University Hospital ranked 18th, the University of California, Davis ranked 40th, the University of California, San Diego ranked 41st and City of Hope ranked 42nd.



Rob DuWors

Rob DuWors joined the senior leadership of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center in August, becoming the new deputy director for administration and finance.

DuWors comes to the Jonsson Cancer Center from the University of California, San Francisco, Cancer Center and Research Institute, where he served as associate director of administration and finance for five years. Prior to that, DuWors worked for 11 years as a management services officer in the UCSF epidemiology and biostatistics department.

"I was attracted to the Jonsson Cancer Center as soon as I met (director) Judy Gasson," DuWors said. "Her leadership, vision and energy are compelling. The research being done here is really impressive and its potential is almost limitless."

DuWors is the only non-academic member of the cancer center's policy-making and management team. His responsibilities encompass financial management, personnel management, systems development, organization planning, space and facilities management, program planning and development and capital improvements. He oversees a budget of \$40 million.

"We're thrilled to have Rob join our staff," Gasson said. "His considerable talents have already made him a valuable member of our administrative team."

As deputy director for administration and finance, DuWors serves on the cancer center's seven-member Director's Council and is a member of the Director's Administrative Review Committee.

DuWors, a Westwood resident, holds bachelor's and master's degrees in public

administration from the University of San Francisco.

A dog lover, DuWors spends his spare time reading, hiking, painting and spending time with his longtime partner, Tom Coates, and with family and friends.

Mary A. Hardin joined the media relations staff at UCLA's Jonsson Cancer Center in March, after a long tenure at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena.

Hardin writes news releases about novel laboratory discoveries and experimental cancer treatments, and works with national and local media seeking cancer experts.

As a senior media relations specialist at JPL, Hardin managed all media relations activities related to NASA's Mars missions, including writing and editing news releases, compiling press kits, arranging news conferences, supervising media training and producing and directing video clips and documentaries.

A graduate of the University of Southern California, Hardin began her career as a reporter's assistant at KCBS Channel 2 in Los Angeles. Following that, she spent two years as an anchor and producer at the CBS affiliate in Odessa, Texas. She then worked at the Patriot Ledger newspaper in Quincy, Mass., before returning to Los Angeles and joining the JPL staff.

Hardin is one of two members of the Jonsson Cancer Center media relations staff, working with Kim Irwin, who has served as director for the last five years.

"When my father was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor in 1996, I discovered that gathering information about his disease helped me cope through that experience," Hardin said. "Now, working at the cancer center, I'm able to use my journalism skills to translate the exciting research being done here into information the public can understand and appreciate."

A resident of Playa del Rey, Hardin also practices and teaches the holistic bodywork techniques of polarity therapy and craniosacral therapy. ★