The USC Clinical Science program recently joined 10 other elite programs as inaugural members of the Founders' Circle of the new Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System (PCSAS). This new system is gaining considerable attention with recent articles in *Science, Nature, Newsweek* and an op-ed piece in the *Washington Post*.

The current publicity comes from a monograph titled "Current Status and Future Prospects of Clinical Psychology: Toward a Scientifically Principled Approach to Mental and Behavioral Health Care", published in the APS journal *Psychological Science in the Public Interest*. The introduction states, "This major new PSPI report aims to address this state of affairs and achieve for the field of clinical psychology what the Flexner Report accomplished for medicine nearly a century ago. Distinguished clinical researchers Timothy Baker (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Richard McFall (Indiana University), and Varda Shoham (University of Arizona) document the urgent need for reforming clinical psychology training in order to ensure that mental health treatment rests on firm empirical foundations. Among their recommendations is a new accreditation system that will help regulate and standardize clinical psychology training programs. Training programs vetted by the new Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System (PCSAS) will emphasize high-quality, rigorous, and science-based training to ensure that mental health care consumers will consistently receive empirically-proven treatments. Patients and their families will be the direct beneficiaries of this new accreditation system, but the benefits will also extend to insurers and to the public’s welfare more generally."

USC is pleased to be at the forefront of this movement. As stated in the *Washington Post*, "The Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System is designed to recognize only graduate programs that deliver high-quality, science-based, doctoral clinical training. This system... is intended to "brand" clinical psychologists so that the public, licensing boards and others can identify those who have been trained to use scientifically validated treatments." Beth Meyerowitz is on original Board of the PCSAS. Margy Gatz has been a strong advocate USC” inclusion in the Founders’ Circle. Gayla Margolin is a member of the inaugural Review Committee. The new system began reviewing applications this November.

**The complete article can be found at: [http://www.psychologicalscience.org/journals/index.cfm?journal=pspi&content=pspi/9_2](http://www.psychologicalscience.org/journals/index.cfm?journal=pspi&content=pspi/9_2)**

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**Kudos to the USC Clinical Science Program**

*SGM 501*

**Wednesday Morning Coffee and Pastry**

9:00 AM—11:00 AM

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**Newsletter at a glance**

- Kudos to USC Clinical Science Program
- Wednesday Coffee
- Did you know?
- Poster Day Dec 9
- Colloquia
- GASP Announcements
• Dr. Zhong-Lin Lu has been invited to become an Associate Editor for *Psychological Review*, starting in January 1, 2010. He will be covering submissions related to perception, attention, and neuroscience for the journal.

• Jennifer Labreque (Dr. Wendy Wood, advisor) has received an award from the Graduate Professionalization initiative to support the Social Psychology Brown Bag Talk Series.

• Dr. Miranda Barone received the USC 2009 Widney Alumni House Award for her "loyalty, support, and dedication to the University." Dr. Barone is a member of the Trojan Affiliates, a philanthropic organization that raises scholarship monies for USC students.

• Dr. Zhong-Lin Lu was part of a group that in 2008 initiated a bi-annual International Workshop on Perceptual Learning. The first workshop, organized by Zhong-Lin Lu (USA), Cong Yu (China), Dov Sagi (Israel), and Takeo Watanabe (USA), was held at Beijing Normal University in Beijing, China, from October 15, 2008 to October 19, 2008. The workshop brought together more than 20 world-class investigators from many complementary disciplines – psychophysics, neurophysiology, functional imaging, computational neuroscience, and perceptual rehabilitation, all contributors to the study of the functions, mechanisms, and applications of perceptual learning.

Following the workshop, they invited all the participants and many other investigators on perceptual learning who could not attend the workshop for various reasons to contribute to a Special Issue of Vision Research on perceptual learning. They received about two-dozen submissions. Because of the large number of manuscripts, the special issue will be published in two volumes. The first volume of the *Vision Research Special Issue on Perceptual Learning* was published in October, 2009. The second volume will be published in February, 2010.


POSTER DAY—WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 9
SGM 9th Floor—1 pm—3 pm

The following 3rd year Psychology Students will have posters of their research projects

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elizabeth Ahern</th>
<th>Shan Luo</th>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Chereji</td>
<td>Mayuko Onuki</td>
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<td>Michelle Feng</td>
<td>Ricardo Reyes</td>
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<td>Jason Goldman</td>
<td>Phillip Sayegh</td>
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<td>Zhinsen Jiang</td>
<td>Jennifer Talevich</td>
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<td>Jennifer Kellough</td>
<td>Xiaokun Xu</td>
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<td>Keiko Kurita</td>
<td>Linli Yang</td>
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This is also our Department Holiday Gathering! Come enjoy some Pizza and support the students!
If you are interested in being involved in GASP events you are encouraged to show up and join in the fun!

**Upcoming GASP Events**

Dec 10, 4-5pm, GASP and Preparing Future Faculty are organizing a workshop on using **RefWorks**, which is reference management software freely available to USC students, and is supported by the USC Libraries. It will take place in **Leavey Library's Learning Room A**. For questions regarding this session, please feel free to contact Jason at jggoldma@usc.edu.

For up-to-date department calendar items visit: [http://college.usc.edu/psyc/around_the_department/departmental-calendar.cfm](http://college.usc.edu/psyc/around_the_department/departmental-calendar.cfm)