

# USC recognized for AIDS awareness

## Cultural Council gives bronze statue to university at Koger Center

BY JESSICA CLANTON  
THE GAMECOCK

The Cultural Council of Richland and Lexington Counties unveiled an AIDS Awareness Sculpture on Monday to commend the University of South Carolina on its progress in AIDS and HIV awareness.

"We thought it was important to show our appreciation for all that USC does for HIV and AIDS education and prevention," said Scott Lindenberg, public relations and marketing coordinator for the Cultural Council of Richland and Lexington Counties.

USC President Andrew Sorensen, who once served as executive director of the AIDS Institute at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, participated in the unveiling of the bronze

sculpture of a 5-foot-2-inch woman holding a quilt with the seal of the AIDS Benefit Foundation of South Carolina.

"Sorensen's leadership in the public health arena is good for the school and the AIDS and HIV cause, making it a perfect topic for us to promote educationally and prevent in the lives of students," said Larrell Wilkinson, project coordinator for the HIV testing at the Health and Wellness Center.

Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the USC Health and Wellness Office will work in conjunction with the Richland Community Health Association to provide free HIV/AIDS testing to the USC community and public.

"Getting tested is so important because students should know what their status is if they have practiced unsafe sex or have any

other risk factors related to the HIV infection, so that they can access and receive treatment as soon as possible," said Marcous Gardner, program director for the Health and Wellness Office.

The testing takes about five minutes and requires only a valid picture ID. The office expects 200 to 250 people to come for the test, which is taken with a cotton swab that absorbs enzymes from the mouth.

"The Orasure test has been proven to be 99.97 percent effective in determining a positive or negative test and is safe and efficient," said Wilkinson. "We should receive the test results back in about two weeks."

The testing comes during the Sexual Responsibility Week sponsored by the USC Health and Wellness Center.

"We want to challenge every-

one to come out and get tested because, here in South Carolina, approximately 15 percent of the reported cases of new occurrences of HIV are in young people ages 20 to 29," Wilkinson said. "Greenville, Charleston and Columbia are in the top 100 in the nation in metro area rankings for cases of HIV in terms of their population, and HIV is the number one cause of death in people, ages 24 to 44, in the nation."

"Some people might look at those numbers and say that they aren't in that age range," Wilkinson said. "But HIV can progress with in months or years, so what we are trying to do is educate and promote safe behavior and try to prevent the spread of AIDS."

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## Stadium

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

gether and start working on what an agreement would look like," McGee said.

In June 2002, USC met with the new Bombers' owners to begin discussions about the new stadium.

No final plans have been made yet about how to finance the new stadium. McGee said the city has proposed an increase in the hospitality tax, as well as getting money from both USC and the Bombers to finance the stadium. However, the proposal has yet to be brought up to the City Council for review.

The idea of USC possibly having to shell out money for the stadium leaves some students uneasy.

"For a school with a budget crisis, we sure can throw around a lot of money," said Zeke Walton, a fourth-year biology student.

Sarge Frye Field, which is known more for its atmosphere and on-campus access, has been under a few renovations in the

past. Some think that a move away from campus could hinder students' ability to go to the games. However, McGee said that was one of the stipulations that had to be agreed on before USC would enter into any proposals.

The stadium had to be adjacent to USC's campus "or we were not going to do it," McGee said.

Others think the upgrade to a new stadium could bring some improvements to the program.

"It'll be good for recruitment," said Marc Medlin, a fourth-year hotel, restaurant and tourism management student.

McGee said he does not foresee any problems with USC's relationship with the Bombers but that there are a few details both parties have to hammer out.

"We have to figure out things like practice facilities, coordination of practice times, space for our baseball offices, staffing, advertising — there's a whole list of things we've been talking about," McGee said.

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## Depo-Provera®

### Contraceptive Injection

medroxyprogesterone acetate injectable suspension

**DEPO-PROVERA®** Contraceptive Injection (medroxyprogesterone acetate injectable suspension, USP)

**This product is intended to prevent pregnancy. It does not protect against HIV infection (AIDS) and other sexually transmitted diseases.**

**What is DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?**  
DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection is a form of birth control that is given as an intramuscular injection (a shot) in the buttock or upper arm once every 3 months (13 weeks). To continue your contraceptive protection, you must return for your next injection promptly at the end of 3 months (13 weeks). DEPO-PROVERA contains medroxyprogesterone acetate, a chemical similar to (but not the same as) the natural hormone progesterone, which is produced by your ovaries during the second half of your menstrual cycle. DEPO-PROVERA acts by preventing your egg cells from ripening. If an egg is not released from the ovaries during your menstrual cycle, it cannot become fertilized by sperm and result in pregnancy. DEPO-PROVERA also causes changes in the lining of your uterus that make it less likely for pregnancy to occur.

**How effective is DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?**  
The efficacy of DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection depends on following the recommended dosage schedule exactly (see "How often do I get my shot of DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?"). To make sure you are not pregnant when you first get DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection, your first injection must be given **ONLY** during the first 5 days of a normal menstrual period; **ONLY** within the first 5 days after childbirth if not breast-feeding and, if exclusively breast-feeding, **ONLY** at the sixth week after childbirth. It is a long-term injectable contraceptive when administered at 3-month (13-week) intervals. DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection is over 99% effective, making it one of the most reliable methods of birth control available. This means that the average annual pregnancy rate is less than one for every 100 women who use DEPO-PROVERA. The effectiveness of most contraceptive methods depends in part on how reliably each woman uses the method. The effectiveness of DEPO-PROVERA depends only on the patient returning every 3 months (13 weeks) for her next injection. Your health-care provider will help you compare DEPO-PROVERA with other contraceptive methods and give you the information you need in order to decide which contraceptive method is the right choice for you.

The following table shows the percent of women who got pregnant while using different kinds of contraceptive methods. It gives both the lowest expected rate of pregnancy (the rate expected in women who use each method exactly as it should be used) and the typical rate of pregnancy (which includes women who became pregnant because they forgot to use their birth control or because they did not follow the directions exactly).

Method	Lowest Expected	Typical
DEPO-PROVERA	0.3	0.3
Implants (Norplant)	0.2*	0.2*
Female sterilization	0.2	0.4
Male sterilization	0.1	0.15
Oral contraceptive (pill)	-	3
Combined	0.1	-
Progestogen only	0.5	-
IUD	-	3
Progestasert	2.0	-
Copper T 380A	0.8	-
Condom (without spermicide)	2	12
Diaphragm (with spermicide)	6	18
Cervical cap	6	18
Withdrawal	4	18
Periodic abstinence	1-9	20
Spermicide alone	3	21
Vaginal Sponges	-	-
used before childbirth	6	18
used after childbirth	9	28
No method	85	85

Source: Trussell et al. *Obstet Gynecol.* 1990;76:558-567.  
\*From Norplant® package insert.

**Who should not use DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?**  
Not all women should use DEPO-PROVERA. You should not use DEPO-PROVERA if you have any of the following conditions:

- if you think you might be pregnant
- if you have any vaginal bleeding without a known reason

## Birth control you think ABOUT just 4 x a year.

- if you have had cancer of the breast
- if you have had a stroke
- if you have or have had blood clots (phlebitis) in your legs
- if you have problems with your liver or liver disease
- if you are allergic to DEPO-PROVERA (medroxyprogesterone acetate or any of its other ingredients).

**What other things should I consider before using DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?**  
You will have a physical examination before your doctor prescribes DEPO-PROVERA. It is important to tell your health-care provider if you have any of the following:

- a family history of breast cancer
- an abnormal mammogram (breast x-ray), fibrocystic breast disease, breast nodules or lumps, or bleeding from your nipples
- kidney disease
- irregular or scanty menstrual periods
- high blood pressure
- migraine headaches
- asthma
- epilepsy (convulsions or seizures)
- diabetes or a family history of diabetes
- a history of depression
- if you are taking any prescription or over-the-counter medications

**This product is intended to prevent pregnancy. It does not protect against transmission of HIV (AIDS) and other sexually transmitted diseases such as chlamydia, genital herpes, genital warts, gonorrhea, hepatitis B, and syphilis.**

**What if I want to become pregnant after using DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?**  
Because DEPO-PROVERA is a long-acting birth control method, it takes some time after your last injection for its effect to wear off. Based on the results from a large study done in the United States, for women who stop using DEPO-PROVERA in order to become pregnant, it is expected that about half of those who become pregnant will do so in about 10 months after their last injection; about two thirds of those who become pregnant will do so in about 12 months; about 83% of those who become pregnant will do so in about 15 months; and about 93% of those who become pregnant will do so in about 18 months after their last injection. The length of time you use DEPO-PROVERA has no effect on how long it takes you to become pregnant after you stop using it.

**What are the risks of using DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?**  
**1. Irregular Menstrual Bleeding**  
The side effect reported most frequently by women who use DEPO-PROVERA for contraception is a change in their normal menstrual cycle. During the first year of using DEPO-PROVERA, you might have one or more of the following changes: irregular or unpredictable bleeding or spotting, an increase or decrease in menstrual bleeding, or no bleeding at all. Unusually heavy or continuous bleeding, however, is not a usual effect of DEPO-PROVERA; and if this happens, you should see your health-care provider right away. With continued use of DEPO-PROVERA, bleeding usually decreases, and many women stop having periods completely. In clinical studies of DEPO-PROVERA, 55% of the women studied reported no menstrual bleeding (amenorrhea) after 1 year of use, and 68% of the women studied reported no menstrual bleeding after 2 years of use. The reason that your periods stop is because DEPO-PROVERA causes a resting state in your ovaries. When your ovaries do not release an egg monthly, the regular monthly growth of the lining of your uterus does not occur and, therefore, the bleeding that comes with your normal menstruation does not take place. When you stop using DEPO-PROVERA your menstrual period will usually, in time, return to its normal cycle.  
**2. Bone Mineral Changes**  
Use of DEPO-PROVERA may be associated with a decrease in the amount of mineral stored in your bones. This could increase your risk of developing bone fractures. The rate of bone mineral loss is greatest in the early years of DEPO-PROVERA use, but after that, it begins to resemble the normal rate of age-related bone mineral loss.  
**3. Cancer**  
Studies of women who have used different forms of contraception found that women who used DEPO-PROVERA for contraception had no increased overall risk of developing cancer of the breast, ovary, uterus, cervix, or liver. However, women under 35 years of age whose first exposure to DEPO-PROVERA was within the previous 4 to 5 years may have a slightly increased risk of developing breast cancer similar to that seen with oral contraceptives. You should discuss this with your health-care provider.  
**4. Unexpected Pregnancy**  
Because DEPO-PROVERA is such an effective contraceptive method, the risk of accidental pregnancy for women who get their shots regularly (every 3 months [13 weeks]) is very low. While there have been reports of an increased risk of low birth weight and neonatal infant death or other health problems in infants conceived close to the time of injection, such pregnancies are uncommon. If you think you may have become pregnant while using DEPO-PROVERA for contraception, see your health-care provider as soon as possible.  
**5. Allergic Reactions**  
Some women using DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection have reported severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reactions known as anaphylaxis and anaphylactoid reactions. Symptoms include the sudden onset of hives or swelling and itching of the skin, breathing difficulties, and a drop in blood pressure.

**6. Other Risks**  
Women who use hormone-based contraceptives may have an increased risk of blood clots or stroke. Also, if a contraceptive method fails, there is a possibility that the fertilized egg will begin to develop outside of the uterus (ectopic pregnancy). While these events are rare, you should tell your health-care provider if you have any of the problems listed in the next section.  
**What symptoms may signal problems while using DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?**  
Call your health-care provider immediately if any of these problems occur following an injection of DEPO-PROVERA:

- sharp chest pain, coughing up of blood, or sudden shortness of breath (indicating a possible clot in the lung)
- sudden severe headache or vomiting, dizziness or fainting, problems with your eyesight or speech, weakness, or numbness in an arm or leg (indicating a possible stroke)
- severe pain or swelling in the calf (indicating a possible clot in the leg)
- unusually heavy vaginal bleeding
- severe pain or tenderness in the lower abdominal area
- persistent pain, pus, or bleeding at the injection site

**What are the possible side effects of DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?**  
**1. Weight Gain**  
You may experience a weight gain while you are using DEPO-PROVERA. About two thirds of the women who used DEPO-PROVERA in clinical trials reported a weight gain of about 5 pounds during the first year of use. You may continue to gain weight after the first year. Women in one large study who used DEPO-PROVERA for 2 years gained an average total of 8.1 pounds over those 2 years, or approximately 4 pounds per year. Women who continued for 4 years gained an average total of 13.8 pounds over those 4 years, or approximately 3.5 pounds per year. Women who continued for 6 years gained an average total of 16.5 pounds over those 6 years, or approximately 2.75 pounds per year.  
**2. Other Side Effects**  
In a clinical study of over 3,900 women who used DEPO-PROVERA for up to 7 years, some women reported the following effects that may or may not have been related to their use of DEPO-PROVERA: Irregular menstrual bleeding, amenorrhea, headache, nervousness, abdominal cramps, dizziness, weakness or fatigue, decreased sexual desire, leg cramps, nausea, vaginal discharge or irritation, breast swelling and tenderness, bloating, swelling of the hands or feet, backache, depression, insomnia, acne, pelvic pain, no hair growth or excessive hair loss, rash, hot flashes, and joint pain. Other problems were reported by very few of the women in the clinical trials, but some of these could be serious. These include convulsions, jaundice, urinary tract infections, allergic reactions, fainting, paralysis, osteoporosis, lack of return to fertility, deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolus, breast cancer, or cervical cancer. If these or any other problems occur during your use of DEPO-PROVERA, discuss them with your health-care provider.  
**Should any precautions be followed during use of DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?**  
**1. Missed Periods**  
During the time you are using DEPO-PROVERA for contraception, you may skip a period, or your periods may stop completely. If you have been receiving your DEPO-PROVERA injections regularly every 3 months (13 weeks), then you are probably not pregnant. However, if you think that you may be pregnant, see your health-care provider.  
**2. Laboratory Test Interactions**  
If you are scheduled for any laboratory tests, tell your health-care provider that you are using DEPO-PROVERA for contraception. Certain blood tests are affected by hormones such as DEPO-PROVERA.  
**3. Drug Interactions**  
Cytadren (aminoglutethimide) is an anticancer drug that may significantly decrease the effectiveness of DEPO-PROVERA if the two drugs are given during the same time.  
**4. Nursing Mothers**  
Although DEPO-PROVERA can be passed to the nursing infant in the breast milk, no harmful effects have been found in these children. DEPO-PROVERA does not prevent the breasts from producing milk, so it can be used by nursing mothers. However, to minimize the amount of DEPO-PROVERA that is passed to the infant in the first weeks after birth, you should wait until 6 weeks after childbirth before you start using DEPO-PROVERA for contraception.  
**How often do I get my shot of DEPO-PROVERA Contraceptive Injection?**  
The recommended dose of DEPO-PROVERA is 150 mg every 3 months (13 weeks) given in a single intramuscular injection in the buttock or upper arm. To make sure that you are not pregnant at the time of the first injection, it is essential that the injection be given **ONLY** during the first 5 days of a normal menstrual period. If used following the delivery of a child, the first injection of DEPO-PROVERA **MUST** be given within 5 days after childbirth if you are not breast-feeding or 6 weeks after childbirth if you are exclusively breast-feeding. If you wait longer than 3 months (13 weeks) between injections, or longer than 6 weeks after delivery, your health-care provider should determine that you are not pregnant before giving you your injection of DEPO-PROVERA.

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