

## Regents act to reinstate contributions to UCRP

The UC Regents in March approved a series of actions aimed at ensuring the sustainability of the UC Retirement Plan (UCRP).

The Regents approved:

- A targeted funding level of 100 percent over the long term, and for University and UCRP member contributions at the levels necessary to maintain funding within a range of 95 percent to 110 percent.
- The resumption of UCRP contributions effective July 2007, subject to collective bargaining and completion of the budget process.

Although the ongoing cost to fund the UCRP is 16 percent of covered earnings, active employees will not make 16 percent contributions to the Plan. The Regents have adopted the approach of a multi-year contribution strategy under which contribution rates will be shared between UC and active employees and will increase gradually over time to achieve full funding of UCRP's current normal cost.

### Retirees will not contribute

The planned changes will have no effect on the pension benefits that retirees are now receiving from UCRP. When contributions are reintroduced, they will be required only of active employees who are members of UCRP, and not retirees.

Both the University and UC employees will be asked to make contributions for the ongoing funding of the UCRP for the first time since the early 1990s. For represented employees, the reinstatement of contributions to the UCRP is subject to the collective bargaining process.

Keeping the UCRP fully funded ensures future retirement benefits for all UCRP members and avoids the funding issues and problems that have affected so many other defined benefit pension plans across the nation.

### Updates

At future meetings, The Regents are expected to hear specific recommendations as to how costs will be shared between active UCRP members and the University.

To keep informed, visit UC's special website, "The Future of the UC Retirement Plan" ([universityofcalifornia.edu/news/ucrpfuture/welcome.html](http://universityofcalifornia.edu/news/ucrpfuture/welcome.html)), which is updated with the latest information. The site is also accessible via the At Your Service website ([atyourservice.ucop.edu](http://atyourservice.ucop.edu)). ↗

## New At Your Service Online site

In mid-May, UC HR/Benefits is scheduled to launch the new *At Your Service Online* which contains all of the elements currently found on *Your Benefits Online* but with easier navigation and improved features. The website includes personalized Health and Welfare information (Plan information), beneficiary designations, contact information, security preferences, and links to other sites.

In November, *At Your Service Online* will be used for Open Enrollment changes. To sign in to the new site, go to At Your Service ([atyourservice.ucop.edu](http://atyourservice.ucop.edu)) and look for the new "Sign In" button. ↗

## Confused about Medicare Part D?

UC retirees who are enrolled in a UC-sponsored medical plan can ignore the May 15 deadline for enrolling in Medicare Part D. UC's plans have made arrangements to coordinate with Medicare Part D on your behalf. More information about the UC plans' Medicare Part D coverage, including a chart outlining each plan's benefits, is available on the At Your Service website ([atyourservice.ucop.edu](http://atyourservice.ucop.edu)). ↗

# LANL transition update

*Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) retirees will see few changes when the management of the Lab transitions to Los Alamos National Security, LLC, or LANS, on June 1.*

Retirees will continue to receive their monthly pension benefit in the same manner they do now, from the University of California Retirement Plan or Public Employees' Retirement System. Pension benefits in the plans will not change.

As part of the contract between LANS and the Department of Energy, health care and other insurance coverage for LANL retirees will be provided through LANS after the transition. However, UC will continue to deduct the insurance premiums and/or pay Medicare Part B reimbursement, if any, through the monthly pension check until the end of 2006. This will allow LANS more time to develop the systems and procedures to handle this premium payment function beginning in 2007.

Insurance coverage for medical (through UnitedHealthcare plans or Blue Cross Core NM), dental (through Delta Dental), legal (through ARAG) and AD&D (through American Home) will

continue through LANS beginning June 1. Retirees enrolled in any other medical plan or PMI Dental will need to change plans; LANS will contact them about their options. Retirees will also be receiving new medical insurance cards around June 1. Any changes that may affect coverage (for example, moving out of the Select EPO service area or family changes) should be reported to LANS beginning June 1.

LANS and UC are planning joint local meetings specifically for LANL retirees in May. See the resources listed below for announcements, dates and locations of these meetings.

The websites also provide additional information about the transition that may be of interest.

The LANL Transition website: [transition.lanl.gov](http://transition.lanl.gov)


The LANS website: [www.lansllc.com](http://www.lansllc.com)

The UC Customer Service Center: 1-800-888-8267 



## 2006 retiree benefit payment schedule

### UCRP monthly retirement, survivor, and disability benefit payments

The following chart lists the mailing dates (direct deposit statements and checks) and the date direct deposit funds are posted to accounts. 

Benefit Payment for this Month	Mailing Date of Direct Deposit Statements/ Checks	Date of Direct Deposit/ Date of Check
June	June 28	June 30
July	July 28	August 1
August	August 30	September 1
September	September 27	September 29
October	October 30	November 1
November	November 29	December 1
December	December 28	Direct deposit: 1/2/07 Check date: 1/1/07



# Medicare Corner

## Out-of-pocket costs prescription drug coverage

As a result of Medicare Part D (prescription drug coverage), The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have mandated that the UC medical plans track the annual out-of-pocket costs incurred by retirees with Medicare for prescription drugs. Once a UC-sponsored medical plan member spends the annual out-of-pocket amount on co-payments or coinsurance, your Plan will pay more and you will pay less.

The out-of-pocket (OOP) totals differ from medical plan to medical plan:

- Health Net and PacifiCare each have a \$2,000 OOP
- Kaiser, Western Health Advantage, Blue Cross PLUS and Blue Cross PPO each have a \$3,600 OOP
- High Option, Core California, and Core New Mexico each have a \$1,000 OOP

Please note that some expenses do not apply toward the out-of-pocket total. For additional details on the totals or expenses that do not apply toward the total, contact your medical plan directly.

## Monthly prescription drug statements

Retirees with Medicare may have begun receiving statements from their plan with summaries of monthly prescription drug activity. These statements will help in determining each retiree's out-of-pocket totals for Medicare Part D. Please note that the statements have been designed by CMS and therefore may include terminology that is not used by UC-sponsored plans.

## Evidence of Coverage booklets

Most of the UC-sponsored Medicare Part D Evidence of Coverage booklets are still being drafted and approved by CMS. In the coming months, once the booklet is available, it will be posted on the At Your Service website ([atyourservice.ucop.edu](http://atyourservice.ucop.edu)). ↗

## Medical plan survey

In the coming weeks, a reminder letter will be sent to those who were selected but have not responded to a survey to measure member satisfaction with the UC-sponsored medical plans. The initial notice was sent in March and was mailed to approximately 12,000 faculty, staff, retirees and their family members.

Survey results for all plans will be available in the fall. Retirees can use the results from the survey to evaluate plans for Open Enrollment for 2007 and to help them decide which medical plan may best meet their health care needs. ↗



## Family member verification audit

In early May, notification of the annual family member verification audit was sent to some employees and retirees. Please check your mail to see if you were selected to verify your family member eligibility for Health and Welfare benefits. The deadline for returning documents is June 30, 2006. If you did not receive a notice, you are not required to provide any documentation. ↗

## Cost-of-living adjustment

For the following retirement or disability dates, the July 1, 2006 cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) rate for UCRP Members or benefit recipients will be:

Retirement on or before July 1, 2002	<b>2.01%</b>
Retirement on July 2, 2002 up to and including July 1, 2003	<b>2.29%</b>
Retirement on July 2, 2003 up to and including July 1, 2005	<b>2.01%</b>

UCRP provides an annual COLA that generally matches the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) up to 2 percent, plus 75 percent of the CPI increase in excess of 4 percent to a maximum COLA of 6 percent. The average increase in the Consumer Price Index for urban consumers (CPI-U) in the metropolitan areas of San Francisco and Los Angeles from February 2005 to February 2006 was 4.01 percent. ↗

# Tell us what you think

## Open Enrollment information & the internet

During the past two years, we have successfully transitioned to online retiree Open Enrollment change actions. We are interested in taking further advantage of the technological benefits that the internet provides, one of which is significant cost savings over the expense of paper communications and U.S. mail.

We would like to move in this direction by sending you a general Open Enrollment summary this year instead of the detailed booklet that we have sent in previous years. Detailed information will be online at the *At Your Service* Open Enrollment website. You will also be able to review your current benefit enrollments online.

We would like to hear from you about your ability to use our online resources, and invite you to complete the questionnaire on this page.

### Respond by June 15

If you would like to provide input, please complete the questionnaire at right and mail it to the address given. You may email us your responses if you prefer. Please note that we must receive responses by June 15. ✂

## UC Retiree Questionnaire Open Enrollment Communications & Online Access

**Please send your responses to us by June 15, 2006**

**By U.S. mail (please address envelope) to:**

N. Cheever  
University of California, HR/Benefits  
300 Lakeside Drive, 12th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

**By email to:**

norman.cheever@ucop.edu

1. Do you have access to a computer and the internet, either via your own computer or that of relatives, friends, or other resources?

**Yes**

**No**

2. How able would you be to go online to read detailed Open Enrollment information and to see your current benefit enrollments instead of receiving this information in the mail?

**Completely able**

**Not able/have no access**

**Able, but with difficulty**

**Not certain**

3. Please feel free to make any other comments. Thank you!



## New Dimensions

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Editor: Steven Ong  
steven.ong@ucop.edu

Design: Kathy Kirkpatrick

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
HUMAN RESOURCES AND BENEFITS  
P.O. Box 24570  
Oakland, CA 94623-1570

Associate Vice President:

Judith W. Boyette

Executive Director, Client Relations and  
Diversity: Kay Miller

Associate Director, Communications:  
Andy Evangelista

Periodicals Manager/Editor:  
Norm Cheever

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In conformance with applicable law and University policy, the University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer. Please send inquiries regarding the University's affirmative action and equal opportunity policies for staff to Director of Diversity and Employee Programs, University of California Office of the President, 300 Lakeside Drive, Oakland, CA 94612 and for faculty to Director of Academic Affirmative Action, University of California Office of the President, 1111 Franklin Street, Oakland, CA 94607.

## Retiree Association Contacts

Use this listing if you're interested in joining an association, or to inform your association of an address change. If you have questions about your UCRS retirement benefits, call the UC Customer Service Center at 1-800-888-8267.

### Berkeley

Emeriti and Retirees:  
UCB Retirement Center  
510-642-5461

### Davis

Emeriti: Charles E. Hess  
530-758-0671, cehess@ucdavis.edu  
Retirees: Charles Lacy  
530-756-4372, calacy@ucdavis.edu

### Irvine

Emeriti: Kivie Moldave  
949-824-6204, emeriti@uci.edu

### LANL

Retirees: Mary Mariner  
505-672-1950  
Chuck Mansfield  
505-662-2115

### LBNL

Retirees: Bud Larsh  
510-724-1202, almonlarsh2@juno.com

### LLNL

Retirees: Lawrence Livermore Employee  
Services Association  
925-422-9402

### Los Angeles

Emeriti and Retirees:  
Emeriti/Retirees Relations Center  
310-825-7456, emeriti@errc.ucla.edu

Note to associations: To update a listing, write to Steven Ong at *New Dimensions* (email: steven.ong@ucop.edu).

### OP & Regents

Retirees: Karl Droese  
925-376-0468, kdroese@comcast.com

### Riverside

Emeriti: Dericksen Brinkerhoff  
951-682-329  
dericksen.brinkerhoff@ucr.edu  
Retirees: Sal Martino  
714-854-0220, sal.m@adelphia.net

### San Diego

Retirees: Suzan Cioffi  
858-534-4724, RetireeLink@ucsd.edu  
retirement.ucsd.edu

### San Francisco

Emeriti: Dr. Dorothy Rice  
415-476-2771  
Retirees: Frances Larragueta  
415-731-3109

### Santa Barbara

Emeriti and Retirees: Roxanne Estrada  
Emeriti/Retiree Relations Center  
805-893-2168  
roxanne.estrada@hr.ucsb.edu

### Santa Cruz

Emeriti: Stanley D. Stevens  
831-475-9172, sstevens@library.ucsc.edu  
Retirees: Maxine Lane  
831-426-8353



University of California  
Human Resources and Benefits  
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Oakland, CA 94623-1570

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UC Customer Service Center: 1-800-888-8267

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## Comments or questions?

Write *New Dimensions* at:

University of California, Human Resources and Benefits  
P.O. Box 24570, Oakland, CA 94623-1570

Email: [steven.ong@ucop.edu](mailto:steven.ong@ucop.edu)

### For Benefits questions:

UC Customer Service Center: 1-800-888-8267

Website address: [atyourservice.ucop.edu](http://atyourservice.ucop.edu)

## Retiree Newsletter on Audio Cassette

**T**his newsletter is available on audio cassette tape for visually impaired and disabled retirees. If you are interested, call *New Dimensions* at 1-800-239-4002, extension 79836, and leave your name, address, and phone number. Please indicate that you want to receive *New Dimensions* on tape and future *New Dimensions* recordings will be sent to you. Please note that audio cassette tapes are generally mailed four weeks after each *New Dimensions* mailing.

