

# USC scientist accused of data misuse

Allegations against Berislav Zlokovic were made by a small group of researchers.

By CORINNE PURTILL AND MELODY PETERSEN

A star neuroscientist at USC is facing allegations of misconduct after whistleblowers submitted a report to the National Institutes of Health that accused the professor of manipulating data in dozens of research papers and sounded alarms about an experimental stroke medication his company is developing.

The accusations against Berislav V. Zlokovic, professor and chair of the department of physiology and neuroscience at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, were made by a small group of independent researchers and reported in the journal *Science*.

The report identifies allegedly doctored images and data in 35 research papers in which Zlokovic is the sole common author. It also raised questions about findings in Phase II clinical trials of a drug called 3K3A-APC, an experimental stroke treatment sponsored by ZZ Biotech, the Houston-based company Zlokovic co-founded.

Preclinical data appeared to have been manipulated, the report authors allege. In addition, the Phase II results appear to contain errors that would skew interpretation of the data in favor of the drug.

An attorney for Zlokovic said the neuroscientist takes the accusations “extremely seriously” and was “committed to fully cooperating” with a USC inquiry into the matter. However, he said his client could not comment on the allegations while the review was pending.

“Professor Zlokovic would normally welcome ad- [See Zlokovic, A10]



## Feathered friends are just fine

A newly rescued turkey named Joy is playful with Stephanie Guarda, 34, above, of L.A., reaching for her eyeglasses. On Thanksgiving Day, people visited animals at Gentle Barn in Santa Clarita. Guests are welcome to hug the cows, rub the pigs, and feed and gently hold the turkeys. At right, Angelenos Seren Desamito, 3, and Ray Desamito feed corn to Joy.



Photographs by FRANCINE ORR Los Angeles Times

# TRUCE, HOSTAGE RELEASES ARE SET TO BEGIN

After delay, cease-fire in Gaza and captive-prisoner exchange appear back on track.

By WAFAA SHURAF, NAJIB JOBAIN AND JACK JEFFERY

DEIR AL BALAH, Gaza Strip — A four-day cease-fire in Gaza between Israel and Hamas was set to begin Friday morning, Qatar said after a daylong delay extended the agony for those hoping for some relief from the deal, which is to bring the release of dozens of hostages held by militants and Palestinians imprisoned by Israel.

The diplomatic breakthrough promised some relief for the 2.3 million Palestinians in Gaza who have endured weeks of Israeli bombardment, as well as families in Israel fearful for the fate of their loved ones taken captive during Hamas’ Oct. 7 attack that triggered the war.

The cease-fire was originally set to begin Thursday morning, but it appeared to hit a snag the night before when Israel’s national security advisor, Tzachi Hanegbi, announced a one-day delay without providing a reason.

On Thursday, Qatari Foreign Ministry spokesman Majed Ansari announced the cease-fire would start at 7 a.m. Friday.

He said the two sides had exchanged lists of those to be released, and the first group of 13 women and children held by Hamas would be freed Friday afternoon. He did not say how many Palestinian prisoners would be freed, but officials have said three would be freed for every hostage.

Increased aid for Palestinians will start to enter Gaza “as soon as possible,” Ansari said. The hope is that the “momentum” from this deal will lead to an “end to this violence,” he told reporters.

Israeli airstrikes continued Thursday. In the afternoon, a strike leveled a residential building in the Nuseirat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip. At least 12 people were killed, according to officials at nearby Al Aqsa Hospital.

One resident, Hosni Moharib, said his wife and [See Mideast, A4]

# Why Kamala Harris loves Gen Z

WASHINGTON — Vice President Kamala Harris prefers Gen Z to millennials.

“I love Gen Z,” she told a crowd of donors at the Ritz-Carlton in Boston earlier this month while reflecting on her “Fight for Our Freedoms” college tour, which took her to campuses in eight states in September and October.

The threats of gun violence, climate change and rollbacks of abortion rights are “a lived experience” for young people, she said, “and they are not going to be patient about us getting something done. And I love that about them.”

Over the last year, Harris, 59, has fo-

She’s out front on key issues for young voters. But can she get them to support Biden in 2024?

By Courtney Subramanian

cused on energizing young voters, who were essential to her victory with President Biden in 2020 and will be key to the two Democrats’ reelection bid next year.

Biden won roughly 60% of 18- to 29-year-old voters in 2020. But young voters have since soured on the oldest-ever president, who turned 81 on Monday.

An NBC News poll released Sunday indicated Biden had the support of only 42% of voters aged 18 to 34, compared with 46% who supported former President Trump, a Republican, in a hypothetical general election.

The poll indi- [See Harris, A6]

# For Oakland A’s fans, the A stands for angry

As the team plans its move to Las Vegas, many are bitter about its billionaire owner.

By HANNAH WILEY

OAKLAND — For years, everyone could spot Daniel Real on the road by the big white Oakland Athletics sticker he had plastered on his truck.

Real said his family roots in Oakland date back roughly 150 years, so growing up to become a “die-hard” fan of the baseball team just came naturally.

“I’ve been out there so much. That place means a lot to me,” said Real, speaking of the Oakland Coliseum, where the A’s play, while pouring drinks from behind the counter of George & Walt’s, a bar on College Avenue where the TV is usually tuned to baseball during the season.

But the hometown team Real grew up with is a shadow of its former self. The roster, once top-notch, is now hardly the same caliber as decades past. Attendance

by the raucous fan base has dwindled.

Soon, the team will be gone from Oakland entirely.

In a decision that has been years in the making, Major League Baseball owners last week unanimously approved relocating the A’s — Oakland’s last professional sports franchise — to Las Vegas. The Seals, an NHL team, left in 1976. The NBA’s Golden State Warriors made San Francisco their home in 2019 and the NFL’s Raiders headed to Sin City three years ago.

Many A’s fans see the decision as a callous and greedy business play by the team’s majority owner, billionaire John Fisher. Grieving A’s supporters argue Fisher sabotaged the team by trading good players, raising ticket prices and halfheartedly working with city officials to keep the A’s in Oakland while planning to move the team all along.

“Fisher is a billionaire. He doesn’t need to be doing this,” Real said. “I’m just bitter about the whole thing. I might not even watch baseball that much anymore.”

For loyal fans, who have [See Oakland, A10]



JED JACOBSON Associated Press

**FANS WALK** inside the Oakland Coliseum before an Athletics game in June, some wearing T-shirts imploring the team’s owner to sell it rather than relocate.

‘[John Fisher is] betraying a lot of people, a lot of hardworking people who live and die for the A’s.’

— DANIEL HENNESSEY, bartender in North Oakland

## Oregon drug law facing backlash

Resistance to decriminalization grows after rise in public drug use and deaths. **NATION, A5**

## Five days of chaos at OpenAI

A look at why the top AI developer fired and rehired CEO Sam Altman. **BUSINESS, A7**

## Ex-lawmaker is fined \$100,000

A onetime backer of William Brough filed a complaint against him. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

**Weather**  
Partly sunny.  
L.A. Basin: 68/51. **B6**



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