

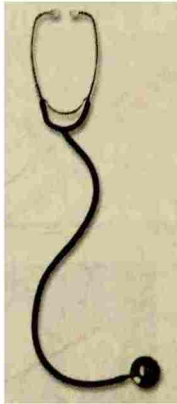
HEALTH BITS

NO AVERAGE GRAD • A

woman who lost both legs and an arm as a child is poised to become a doctor for children. Kellie Lim, who became a triple amputee at age 8

because of bacterial meningitis, will graduate from UCLA's medical school Friday. She plans to focus on childhood allergies and infectious disease. The Michigan native, 26,

does not use a prosthetic arm and performs most medical procedures – including giving injections and taking blood – with one arm.



VACCINE DISTRIBUTION • The timeline for getting new vaccines to poor countries that need them most is being shortened from decades to less than two years, an alliance of U.N. agencies and government and private groups have said. Vaccines for diseases such as hepatitis B, measles and polio have typically taken 15 to 20 years from the time they are developed in Western countries until they are available in poor countries.

STAPH INFECTIONS • Drug-resistant staph infections have spread to the urban poor in the U.S., rising almost seven-fold in recent years in some Chicago neighborhoods, a study finds. Researchers said the crowded living conditions of public housing and jails may speed up the person-to-person spread of infection. Called methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus, or MRSA, these staph germs can cause skin infections that in rare cases have led to pneumonia, bloodstream infections and a painful, flesh-destroying condition.

WEB-SITE SURPRISE • Breaking with long-held medical tradition, a Torrance physicians group has become one of the first and largest health organizations in the U.S. to make prices for procedures easily available to the public. HealthCare Partners Medical Group put an itemized price list on its Web site last week, with little fanfare. "It feels like the right thing to do," said Robert Margolis, chief executive of the medical group. > AP