



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT  
For the week of Dec. 18, 2015-Jan. 7, 2016**

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### **Homicide Rate Cuts Average Male Life Expectancy in Mexico**

A UCLA Fielding School of Public Health study finding that Mexico's high homicide rate significantly reduced overall male life expectancy in Mexico garnered significant national and international media attention. Reports were carried Jan. 5 by [STAT](#), [MedicalXpress](#), [Science Codex](#), [Medical Daily](#), [Science 2.0](#), [Health Canal](#), [La Prensa](#) (San Antonio) and [Latin American Herald Tribune](#); Jan. 6 by the [Associated Press](#), [Newsweek](#), [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#), [The Guardian](#) (U.K.) [Ars Technica](#), [Vocativ](#), [EFE News](#) and [ScienceBlog](#); and Jan. 7 in [Quartz](#), [Latin One](#) and [Think Progress](#). The AP story ran in the New York Times, Detroit News, Palm Beach Post and many other outlets; the EFE News story was carried by Excelsior (Mexico) and other outlets. Hiram Beltrán-Sánchez, a lead investigator on the study and assistant professor of community health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in the coverage.

### **UCLA Expert Tapped for Concussion Commentary**

Dr. Christopher Giza, director of the UCLA Steve Tisch BrainSPORT Program and a professor of pediatrics and neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was featured in widespread coverage about sports brain injuries related to the Will Smith film, "Concussion," Jan. 6 in [Psychiatry Advisor](#) and [Neurology Advisor](#); Jan. 4 on [AllConcussion.com](#); Dec. 30 in a guest commentary in [U.S. News & World Report](#); Dec. 27 in the [Grand Forks Herald](#); Dec. 24 in a [Scientific American](#) "60 Seconds" video; Dec. 23 by the [Ventura County Star](#), the [Orange County Register](#) and the blog, [LifeZette](#); and Dec. 22 by [HealthDay News](#) and [Yahoo! Health](#). The HealthDay report was syndicated by [U.S. News & World Report](#), [WebMD](#), the [Philadelphia Inquirer](#), [Doctors Lounge](#) and the websites of seven TV news stations.

### **FDA Ends Ban on Blood Donations from Gay, Bisexual Men**

Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and of public health at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was featured Dec. 22 in a KPCC 89.3FM "[Take Two](#)" report on the decision by the Food and Drug Administration to end the longstanding ban on blood donations from gay and bisexual men.

### **UCLA Program Helps Local High School Students Get into Shape**

More than 175 CBS News affiliates including [KCAL-Channel 9](#), [WUSA-Channel 9](#) (Washington) and [KPIX-Channel 5](#) (San Francisco) Jan. 1, and [The Osgood File](#) Jan. 4, featured a story on the UCLA Health Sound Body Sound Mind program that provides state-of-the-art gyms in local under-resourced high schools to help promote lifelong physical fitness to students. Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris, a professor of urban planning and associate dean in the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, who led a study finding that the program's curriculum tripled the rate at which students pass a state physical fitness test, was interviewed.

### **Program Helps Those with Autism Better Transition to Adulthood, College**

A TV news report on the PEERS program for young adults with autism aired Dec. 28 in 129 cities across the country, including [WHDH-TV](#) (Boston) and [WRC-TV](#) (Washington). Elizabeth Laugeson, PEERS director and assistant clinical professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was quoted.

### **Late-Night Snacking Could Affect Your Memory**

Research into the effect of late night snacking on memory by Dawn Loh, postdoctoral fellow in the Laboratory of Circadian and Sleep Medicine, and Christopher Colwell, lab director and professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at the Semel Institute, was reported in a range of media outlets, including the [Daily Mail](#) (U.K.) Jan. 4 and the [New York Daily News](#) Jan. 6.

### **Obsessing About Terrorism Harms Mental Health**

[Zócalo Public Square](#) published Jan. 7 an article by Dr. David Eisenman, associate professor of medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and of public health at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, that explains how national terrorism policies and media coverage of terrorism can result in social and psychological harm to people, particularly amongst our most vulnerable people such as minority groups and persons living with disabilities.

### **UCLA Health Physician Pens Column on Colds**

Dr. Leena Nathan, obstetrician/gynecologist at UCLA Health-Westlake Village, authored a Dec. 22 column on cold prevention and treatment that appeared in five editions of [The Acorn](#), a weekly newspaper that serves several Conejo Valley communities.

### **Santa Monica ER Doctor Reminds Residents to Not Drink and Decorate**

Dr. Wally Ghurabi, medical director of the Nethercutt Emergency Center at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, was featured Dec. 21 in a [Santa Monica Mirror](#) story about the pitfalls of drinking while decorating and other holiday safety tips.

### **Young Patient—Not Santa—Delivers These Toys**

[KABC-Channel 7](#) featured Dec. 22 a segment on a 12-year-old boy who does an annual toy drive so that kids who are hospitalized at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA over the holidays will get presents. The generous gift-giver suffers from a rare and chronic disease and is a frequent patient at UCLA. He started the toy drive when he was 5-years-old after he was hospitalized over Christmas.

### **Pop-Up Store Allows Hospitalized Kids to Go Holiday Shopping**

[KCBS-Channel 2](#) and [KCAL-Channel 9](#) spotlighted Dec. 18 the Jim Mora Family Foundation's annual "Count on Me" event that provides an in-hospital pop-up store so that pediatric patients can pick out holiday presents for their family members, at no charge.

### **Providing Support for Medical Staff**

Dr. Nina Shapiro, a professor of head and neck surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and director of pediatric otolaryngology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, published Dec. 28 a blog on [KevinMD.com](#) about the need for medical institutions to have built-in counseling and support systems for medical staff after a patient dies.

### **Physician Buy-In Critical for Adoption of Open Notes**

[FierceHealthIT](#) featured Dec. 24 an interview with Dr. Michael Pfeffer, chief information officer at UCLA

Health, about physicians' willingness to adopt new technology that gives patients greater insight about their care.

### **Bad Habits, Bad Heart**

Dr. Tamara Horwich, co-director of the Barbra Streisand Women's Heart Health Program, and director of Cardiac Rehabilitation at UCLA, was featured Jan. 3 in a [Grandparents.com](#) about the seven common bad habits many people do that can be bad for your heart.

### **New Strategy to Fight Ovarian Cancer**

[Sierra Madre Weekly](#) and [Examiner.com](#) Jan. 6, and [Bioscience Technology](#) and [News-Medical.net](#) Jan. 7 reported on a promising novel method by UCLA scientists to treat gynecologic tumors. Study co-leaders David Eisenberg, professor of biological chemistry and Dr. Sanaz Memarazadeh, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, are members of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and were quoted.

### **Promising Treatment for the Deadliest Form of Brain Cancer**

[Cure Today](#) reported Jan. 6 on a discovery by UCLA scientists involving a chemotherapy drug and a technique called engineered adoptive T cell transfer, which involves extracting and growing immune cells in a laboratory, then reprogramming them to target glioblastoma or brain cancer. Lead investigator Robert Prins, associate professor of neurosurgery and member of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Tumor Immunology Program, was quoted.

### **Different Ages, Different Symptoms from the Same Breast Cancer Drugs**

[AJMC](#) Jan. 3 and the [Pittsburg Post-Gazette](#) Dec. 29 reported on long-term outcomes in postmenopausal women diagnosed with the most common type of non-invasive breast cancer, who had undergone lumpectomy plus radiotherapy. Although anastrozole and tamoxifen were found to be safe and effective and had no detrimental effect on overall quality of life, there were some differences in the type and severity of symptoms the women experienced with each treatment, and these especially differed by age. Study lead Dr. Patricia Ganz, director of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center's Prevention and Control Research program and professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted.

### **Immunotherapy Drug Developed by UCLA Researcher Helps former President Carter Fight Cancer**

[Science Friday](#) by [NPR](#) reported Dec. 6 on the drug Keytruda, which uses the immune system to fight melanoma. Former President Carter was prescribed the drug following his diagnosis and he credits it for shrinking the cancerous tumors on his brain. Dr. Antoni Ribas, director of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Immunology Program and professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology, was interviewed.

### **Brain GPS Study Featured**

[News-Medical.net](#) reported Dec. 18 on a study by Mayank Mehta that found that space-mapping neurons react differently in virtual reality than they do in the real world. Mehta is a UCLA professor of neurology, physics and astronomy and neurobiology.

### **Autism Study Grabs More Coverage**

[The Pakistan Observer](#) reported Dec. 18 on a study by Kay Jann and Danny J.J. Wang that found that brain areas linked to social behaviors are both underdeveloped and insufficiently networked in youths with high functioning autism spectrum disorder. Jann is a postdoctoral researcher in the department of neurology. Wang is an associate professor of neurology and a researcher in the Ahmanson-Lovelace Brain Mapping Center at UCLA.

### **Immunotherapy Better than Chemo for Advanced Lung Cancer**

[Examiner.com](#) Dec. 19 and [Counsel & Heal](#) Dec. 23 reported on research finding that pembrolizumab (Keytruda) is more effective than chemotherapy in treating people with advanced lung cancer. The study also showed that the drug was effective in a wider population of people than previously thought. Senior author Dr. Edward Garon, member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and associate

professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted.

### **\$10 Million Gift Highlighted**

[The Santa Monica Mirror](#) Dec. 28 reported on a \$10 million gift from Wendy and Leonard Goldberg to fund migraine research. Dr. Andrew Charles, a professor of neurology, the Meyer and Renee Luskin Chair in Migraine and Headache Studies and the new director of the UCLA Goldberg Migraine Program, was quoted.

### **Psychiatrist to Lead Major Study Seeking Genetic Links in Depression**

Dr. Jonathan Flint, a professor in residence in psychiatry, was profiled Jan. 3 in the [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) in connection with his recent hiring to work on UCLA's Depression Grand Challenge.

### **Researchers Identify Inherited Sleep, Wake and Activity Cycles**

A study by Nelson Freimer, professor of psychiatry in the Semel Institute and director of the Center for Neurobehavioral Genetics, that linked heritable activity cycles to bipolar disorder appeared Dec. 28 in [News-Medical.net](#), Dec. 30 in [Science 2.0](#) and Jan. 7 in [International Business Times](#), among other media outlets.

### **Semel Study among Year's Top 10 in Psychiatry, Says New England Journal of Medicine**

A study by Dr. Helen Lavretsky, professor of psychiatry and director of the Late-Life Depression, Stress and Wellness Research Program at the Semel Institute, that explored the value of treating depression in the elderly by combining Ritalin was selected Dec. 28 by the [New England Journal of Medicine](#) as one of the top ten psychiatric findings of 2015.

### **Program Reduces Symptoms of Anxiety, Depression in Military Families**

A study that validated the efficacy of the UCLA-administered FOCUS program for military families was covered Jan. 5 by [Military.com](#). Dr. Patricia Lester, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the Nathanson Family Resilience Center, was quoted.

### **New Device That Gives Electrical Currents to Brain Offers New Hope for PTSD Sufferers**

A study by Dr. Andrew Leuchter, a professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and head of the Semel's Neuromodulation Division, into the value of TNS for treating PTSD in civilian populations was reported Dec. 29 by [ABC7News-TV](#) (San Francisco).

### **Daily Exercise: Improving Your Memory**

Research on combining exercise with memory training by Sarah McEwen, an assistant research psychologist at the Semel Institute, was the subject Jan. 2 of a report by [CCTV America](#).

### **Small Talk about Tragedy**

The January issue of [LA Parent](#) (page 46) features an interview with Catherine Mogil, assistant clinical professor at the Semel Institute and director of training and intervention development for the Nathanson Family Resilience Center, who explained how to talk to children about such mass-casualty situations as the recent attack in San Bernardino.

### **Public Health Professor Comments on Nationwide Foodborne Illness News**

Dr. Jonathan Fielding, professor-in-residence of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and founder and co-director of the UCLA Center for Health Advancement, was quoted Dec. 22 by [NBC](#) about the second wave of E. coli outbreaks connected to Chipotle restaurants. His comments were republished by a number of news outlets, including [MSN](#) and [Financial Company Voices](#) Dec. 22, [The Post Recorder](#) and [Oracle Chronicle](#) Dec. 23 and the Web site of [KFDX-TV](#) (Wichita Falls, Tex.) Dec. 24.

### **Reducing the Risk of Sexually Transmitted Infections in China**

A study co-authored by Thomas Coates, professor-in-residence of epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and director of the UCLA Center for World Health, finding that training doctors in

China in prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections significantly reduced infection risk among the population, was covered Dec. 24 in [Health Canal](#).

### **Public Health Professor Sounds Alarm on Looming Alzheimer's Epidemic**

Ron Brookmeyer, professor of biostatistics at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, has received ongoing coverage for his work calling attention to the future epidemic of Alzheimer's in the United States, projecting that cases will nearly quadruple by the middle of this century. Originally published in the Autumn/Winter 2015 issue of [UCLA Public Health Magazine](#), the article was carried by [P&T Community](#) Jan.6 and the [Daily Mail](#) (U.K) Jan. 7.

## **BRIEFS**

Data on the rate of flu vaccinations in the Latino community from the California Health Interview Survey, conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, were cited by several news reports including the [Los Angeles Times](#) Dec. 29, and [Latinos Health](#) and [Seating Chair](#) Dec. 30.

Dr. Jody Heymann, dean of the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and founding director of the WORLD Policy Analysis Center at the Fielding School, was cited Jan. 3 in the [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) for WORLD's data on the number of countries in Europe and Central Asia that provide at least 26 weeks of paid family leave.

## **QUOTABLES**

Dr. Deanna Attai, UCLA breast surgeon based in Burbank and assistant clinical professor of surgery, was quoted Dec 14 in an [ASCO Connection](#) article on social media opportunities for oncologists connecting and learning. She was also quoted Dec.22 in a [MobileHealth.com](#) article on why doctors should be on social media.

Gal Bitan, an associate professor in residence of neurology, commented Dec. 23 in an [ATTN](#) story on Alzheimer's research.

Ron Brookmeyer, professor of biostatistics at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted Dec. 29 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) obituary for renowned biostatistician Norman Breslow, son of former Fielding School dean Lester Breslow. The obituary also ran in [SF Gate](#) and the [Reading Eagle](#).

Melissa Brymer, director of terrorism and disaster programs National Center for Child Traumatic Stress at UCLA, was quoted Dec. 17 by [EdSource](#) and Dec. 20 by [The Trace](#) about coping with the psychological aftermaths of mass casualty situations.

Dr. John M. Criley, professor emeritus of medicine and radiological sciences at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted Jan. 2 in a [Washington Post](#) article debating the usefulness of stethoscopes by cardiologists over how medicine should be practiced. Criley feels that teaching medical students and residents bedside cardiac examinations incorporating stethoscopes is still extremely relevant and an important component of a doctor's examination for the benefit of a patient's medical care.

Dr. William Cunningham, professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and of public health at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted Dec. 24 in a [Kaiser Health News](#) article about social and economic disparities in HIV/AIDS care. The story was republished by a number of news outlets, including: [PBS NewsHour](#), [The Daily Beast](#) and [TheBody.com](#) Dec. 24; [The Reporter](#), [ChicoER](#) and [Monterey County Herald](#) Dec. 26; [KQED](#) Dec. 28 and [CNN](#) Dec. 30.

Dr. Mario Deng, professor of medicine and medical director of the Advanced Heart Failure, Mechanical Support and Heart Transplant program at UCLA, commented Jan. 6 in an [Associated Press](#) story about how quickly heart transplant recipients can return to work following surgery.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, the Eliot Corday Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine and Science, director of the Ahmanson–UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, and co-chief of the UCLA Division of Cardiology, was quoted Dec. 21 in [MedPage Today](#) article about the five game-changing advances in cardiology in 2015. The federally-funded SPRINT trial that found that lives can be saved with aggressive lowering of systolic blood pressure was the most significant among cardiologists contacted. Fonarow was also quoted Jan. 4 in the [Wall Street Journal](#) on research findings that looked for possible reasons why some women suffer from a mysterious ailment known as broken-heart syndrome, which mimics a heart attack but generally doesn't appear to be due to coronary artery disease. Finally, Fonarow appeared in [Healio.com](#) Dec. 30 in a video interview discussing the role of endovascular therapy in improving the treatment of patients with acute ischemic stroke.

Dr. Daniel Furst, professor emeritus of rheumatology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted Jan. 5 in [MedPage Today](#) article that interviewed 13 rheumatologists on what they thought were the most important advances and significant developments – the “game-changers” -- in rheumatology in 2015.

Dr. Maria Garcia-Lloret, associate professor of pediatrics in the division of allergy and immunology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted in [Everyday Health](#) Oct. 21 for an article about how keeping a diary, particularly with hives that come and go, can sometimes be the key to unraveling the mystery of what may cause a person's chronic hives.

Dr. Wally Ghurabi, medical director of the Nethercutt Emergency Center at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, was quoted Jan. 6 in a [Santa Monica Daily Press](#) article on how the rainy weather has impacted Santa Monica residents.

Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and of public health at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted Jan. 4 in a [Newsweek](#) article about an Oklahoma company that has developed a rapid test to diagnose cryptococcal meningitis, a fungal disease of the brain and spinal cord that affects primarily people living with HIV/AIDS and which global health experts consider one of the planet's biggest killers.

Dr. Leonard Marks, professor of urology and director of the UCLA Active Surveillance Program, commented Jan. 1 in an [Allentown \(Pa.\) Morning Call](#) story on using fusion biopsy to diagnose prostate cancer.

Dr. Jesse Mills, associate clinical professor of urology, was featured Dec. 20 in a [Men's Health](#) story on semen.

Catherine Mogil, assistant clinical professor at the Semel Institute and director of training and intervention development for the Nathanson Family Resilience Center, was quoted Jan. 1 in an article in the French newspaper [L'Express](#) and Jan. 1 in [Japan Times](#) about the toll mass casualty events takes on uninvolved children.

Dylan Roby, adjunct associate professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and faculty associate at the Fielding School's UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, commented Jan. 6 in an [Orange County Register](#) story about the potential impact of Oscar, a new health insurance provider through the Covered California health exchange in parts of Los Angeles and Orange counties. He also commented Dec. 21 in the [Orange County Register](#) about Kaiser Permanente's plans to open a new medical school in Southern California.

Dr. Jeffrey Saver, director of the UCLA Comprehensive Stroke Center, commented Jan. 2 in a [MedPage Today](#) story on advances in stroke treatment.

Stuart Schweitzer, professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted Dec. 23 by [KPCC 89.3 FM](#) about the potential impact of an upcoming ballot measure on the price of pharmaceutical drugs in California.

Jerome Siegel, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, commented Dec. 17 in a [New York Times](#) article about the sleep habits of human's evolutionary ancestors.

Dr. Nelson SooHoo, orthopaedic surgeon at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica and professor in residence, was quoted Dec. 25 in a [Wall Street Journal](#) article on hip-replacement outcomes at rural medical centers.

Dr. Rhonda Voskuhl, professor of neurology and director of UCLA's Multiple Sclerosis Program, commented Dec. 22 in a [MedPage Today](#) story on advances in the treatment of multiple sclerosis.

Dr. Roger Woods, professor of neurology, commented Dec. 8 in a [Huffington Post](#) story about how the brains of marathon runners lose some gray matter.

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