



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of Jan. 15-21, 2016**

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Watch UCLA Health Sciences' 2015 Media Success Stories!

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Stroke Survey Continues to Draw International, National Coverage

PrEP as Safe as Aspirin

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Watch UCLA Health Sciences' 2015 Media Success Stories!

The UCLA Health Sciences Media Relations office is pleased to present highlights from some of the [top television news stories of 2015](#). Please note that we could not include every story from the past year as our media relations staff logged countless hours of news coverage. This is for internal use only and not for rebroadcast. You may need to copy and paste the link into your web browser to play. Congratulations to all of the dedicated doctors, nurses, researchers and hardworking staff at UCLA Health who make these stories possible.

<https://vimeo.com/uclahealth/yearinreview2015>

Public Health Professor Discusses Porter Ranch Methane Leak

Comments from Michael Jerrett, professor and chair of environmental health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, about dangerous levels of benzene from the Porter Ranch methane gas leak were featured extensively in the media, including an [Associated Press](#) story which was carried Jan. 14 by the [San Diego Union-Tribune](#), [FOX 11 \(Los Angeles\)](#), [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#), [CBC/Radio Canada](#) and nationwide affiliates for [CBS News](#) and [NBC](#), and Jan. 15 by [Business Insider](#).

Other reports with Jerrett's comments included:

- Jan. 19 on [KPCC 89.3FM](#)
- Jan. 18 in the Los Angeles [Daily News](#)
- Jan. 16 in [The Observer Voice](#) and [NYSE Post](#)
- Jan. 15 in [FOX 11 \(Los Angeles\)](#), [Manufacturing.net](#), and [The Washington Post](#) (and republished by [Napa Valley Register](#))

Stroke Survey Continues to Draw International, National Coverage

AgDay, a national television service that provides news to farmers and ranchers, aired a story on a UCLA-driven survey that found young adults under 45 were unlikely to go to the hospital to seek help for symptoms of stroke. The piece aired Jan. 18 on more than 120 stations nationwide, including [WBUP-TV](#) (Marquette, Mich.), [KLRT-TV](#) (Little Rock, Ark.), [KGET-TV](#) (Bakersfield, Calif.), [KTVO-TV](#) (Idaho Falls, Idaho), [KFFX-TV](#) (Yakima, Wash.), [KBTU-TV](#) (Beaumont, Texas), [KDSM-TV](#) (Des Moines, Iowa) and [KOBI-TV](#) (Medford, Ore.). Other coverage included [Counsel & Heal](#), [WFMZ Online](#), [HaziPatika](#) (Hungary) and [Paperblog](#) (France) Jan. 15; [Health Aim](#) and [KFI 640AM](#) Jan. 17; [My Informs](#) Jan. 18; [Safety+Health Magazine](#) Jan. 20, and [WYTV-TV](#) (Youngstown, Ohio) Jan. 21. Dr. David Liebeskind, a professor of neurology, director of Outpatient Stroke and Neurovascular Programs and director of the Neurovascular Imaging Research Core at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, was featured.

PrEP as Safe as Aspirin

A study suggesting that oral emtricitabine and tenofovir, two HIV antiviral medications used in combination as pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, to prevent infection with HIV, are as safe to use as aspirin, continued garnering media coverage. Stories appeared Jan. 14 in the [Daily Mail](#) (U.K.) [San Francisco Bay Times](#), Jan. 13 in [Männer](#) (Germany), Jan. 17 in [Buzzfeed](#) and [Inquisitr](#), Jan. 18 in [Medical Daily](#), Jan. 19 in [Youth Health](#) magazine and [NXT Wire](#) and Jan. 20 in [UPI](#). The study was conducted and written by Noah Kojima, a second year medical student at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, and 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. Klausner was quoted in the coverage.

Higher Use of Post-acute Care Associated with Higher Hospital Readmission Rates

A study suggesting that some hospitals may be using post-acute care as a substitute for inpatient care, leading to patients being discharged prematurely which in turn results in higher hospital readmission rates, was covered Jan. 20 by [Examiner.com](#), [Becker's Infection Control & Clinical Quality](#), [Home Health Care News](#), [Fierce Healthcare](#), [MedicalXpress](#) and [Science Codex](#); and Jan. 21 by [News-Medical.net](#) and [HealthLeaders Media](#). Study lead investigator Dr. Greg Sacks, a general surgery resident at UCLA and a Robert Wood Johnson/Veterans Affairs Clinical Scholar, was quoted.

UCLA Concussion Research Showcased by STAT News

[STAT News](#) interviewed Dr. Christopher Giza, director of the UCLA Steve Tisch BrainSPORT Program and a professor of pediatrics and neurosurgery at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine and Mattel Children's Hospital, in a Jan. 15 story about the university's role in a national initiative exploring new insights into how to better prevent, diagnose, monitor and treat concussion in athletes. Giza was quoted.

Patient Meets Blood Donors Who Saved His Life

A UCLA Blood & Platelet Center event that introduced a UCLA patient to several of the 27 blood donors who saved his life after he suffered a horrific car accident last April was covered Jan. 17 by [La Opinión](#) and Jan. 15 by the Antelope Valley Press. Patient Jorge Sincuir, a 2011 UCLA alumnus, was quoted in both articles, and blood donor Charles Bolan, a security officer at UCLA Hospital System, was quoted in the Antelope Valley Press. *(PDF of latter available upon request.)*

Cracking Food Allergies

Al Jazeera America featured Jan. 16 a segment ([Part 1](#), [Part 2](#)) on diagnosing and treating food allergies. Dr. Maria Garcia-Lloret, assistant professor of pediatric allergy and immunology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, and Stacey Skura Zedeck, a nurse in the division of pediatric allergy, immunology and rheumatology, were interviewed.

UCLA Health Names President to Oversee Health System

The [Malibu Times](#) Jan. 19 and the [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) Jan. 17 reported that Johnese Spisso has been named president of UCLA Health, chief executive officer of the UCLA Hospital System and associate vice chancellor of UCLA Health Sciences.

UCLA Operation Mend Gets a Boost

[KCBS-Channel 2](#) and [KMEX-Channel 34](#) reported Jan. 14 that LINE-X, a spray-on coating franchise, donated \$50,000 to the UCLA Operation Mend program, which offers advanced surgical and medical treatment, as well as comprehensive psychological-health support for post-9/11-era service members, veterans and their families at no cost.

Geriatrician's Column Focuses on Companionship for Older-Adult Patients

Dr. David Reuben, chief of the UCLA Division of Geriatrics, authored Jan. 15 a column in the [Santa Monica Mirror](#) about a new program that provides geriatric companions for older-adult patients hospitalized at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica.

A New Direction for Autism Research

The [Beverly Hills Courier](#) Jan. 15 and [Science Blog](#) Jan. 20 covered research led by Dr. Kelsey Martin, interim dean and professor of biological chemistry at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, finding that an overlooked region in brain cells houses a motherlode of mutated genes previously tied to autism. Recently published in *Neuron*, the finding could provide fresh drug targets and lead to new therapies for the disorder, which affects one in 68 children in the U.S.

Advanced Thyroid Cancer Rate in Some California Counties is Well above National Average

[KABC-Channel 7](#) reported Jan. 14 on new findings by UCLA researchers that show several parts of California have a high percentage of people with thyroid cancer and the disease is already at an advanced stage by the time it is diagnosed. Study lead author Dr. Avital Harari, member of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and assistant professor of surgery, was quoted.

UCLA Neurologist Blogs for Neurology Now

A blog on exercise and Parkinson's disease by Dr. Allan Wu, an associate professor of neurology, was featured Jan. 18 in [Neurology Now](#).

Two Medical Colleagues Duel over Sumner Redstone's Mental Fitness

Stephen Read and James Spar, who are both clinical professors of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, were the subject Jan. 19 of a [Reuters](#) article about the legal strategy around the competency trial of aging Viacom head Sumner Redstone. Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging and director of the UCLA Longevity Center at the Semel Institute, was quoted.

Ozone's Possible Link to Death from Lung and Cardiovascular Disease

[MedicalXpress](#) Jan. 20 and [EHS Today](#) and [News-Medical.net](#) Jan. 21 reported on research co-authored by Michael Jerrett, professor and chair of environmental health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, suggesting that adults with long-term exposure to ozone face an increased risk of dying from respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.

Discrimination can be Harmful to Your Mental Health

An article about the effects on mental health due to discrimination based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and other characteristics, originally published in the Autumn/Winter 2015 issue of [UCLA Public Health Magazine](#), was carried Jan. 19 by [Madame Noire](#) and [PsychCentral](#).

Stem Cells May One Day be Used to Regenerate Damaged Heart Tissue

[HealthCanal](#) and [BioScience Technology](#) Jan. 13 and the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine's [blog](#) Jan. 14 reported on a study published in the journal *Stem Cell Reports* and a second study published in the journal *Stem Cells Translational Medicine*. The research published in *Stem Cell Reports* uncovered two specific markers that identify a stem cell able to generate heart muscle and the vessels that support heart function. The research published in *Stem Cells Translational Medicine* identified a method that labels and tracks cells up to 40 days after transplantation. Together, the two studies may help in the future application of stem cell-derived therapies for heart disease. Both studies were directed by senior author Dr. Reza Ardehali, associate professor of cardiology in the David Geffen School of Medicine and a member of the UCLA Broad Stem Cell Research Center.

BRIEFS

Data from "The Hidden Poor," a 2015 study conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was cited Jan. 16 by the [Ventura County Star](#) in an op-ed about the need for more affordable housing in and around Ventura County.

QUOTABLES

Dr. Deanna Attai, UCLA breast surgeon based in Burbank and assistant clinical professor of surgery, was quoted Jan. 21 in a [Health News Review](#) article reviewing the accuracy of media coverage on a study examining whether mammograms are worthwhile for elderly women.

Dr. John DiFiori, professor and chief of the UCLA Division of Sports Medicine and Non-Operative Orthopaedics, was quoted Jan. 19 in a [Wall Street Journal](#) article about the growing role of athletic trainers to help teens recover from overuse injuries.

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 Jan. 18 in [Philly.com](#) regarding a study showing that people who live above the third floor in high-rise buildings have a lesser chance of surviving cardiac arrest because of the extra time needed for help to arrive.

Gerald Kominski, professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, commented Jan. 15 in a [FierceHealthcare](#) article about Medicare-approved, third-party transitional care management programs and providers in Southern California.

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, commented Jan. 16 in a MyCentralJersey.com article about the onset of the winter cold and flu season.

Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging and director of the UCLA Longevity Center at the Semel Institute, commented Jan. 19 in a [Hollywood Reporter](http://HollywoodReporter.com) article about the prevalence and perils of sleep deprivation in Hollywood.

Richard Rawson, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and co-director of its Integrated Substance Abuse Programs, was quoted Jan. 19 in a [MHealth News](http://MHealthNews.com) article about the rise of telehealth in the treatment of addiction issues.

Dr. Linda Rosenstock, dean emeritus and professor of health policy and management with a joint appointment in environmental health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented Jan 17 in a [Huffington Post](http://HuffingtonPost.com) article about the global wealth gap between the 62 wealthiest and 3.5 billion poorest individuals.

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UCLA's Health Sciences Media Relations office e-publishes this report weekly. For more information, please call Amy Albin, senior media relations officer, or Enrique Rivero, senior media relations officer, at 310-794-0777. Our office also offers publicity for new research, medical breakthroughs, clinical trial recruitment, inspirational patient stories and more. To identify the appropriate public information officer for your department, visit <https://www.uclahealth.org/Newsroom/Pages/Media-Relations-Directory.aspx>.