



UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of Feb 5-11, 2016

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Unraveling the Sigh's Origin in the Brain

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Unraveling the Sigh's Origin in the Brain

A Nature study by UCLA and Stanford researchers that pinpointed the origin of the sighing reflex in the brain garnered more than 100 reports, including Feb. 8 by the [Washington Post](#), [Los Angeles Times](#), [National Public Radio](#), [HealthDay News](#), [Popular Science](#) and U.K.'s [BBC](#), [Daily Mail](#) and [The Guardian](#). Co-principal investigator Jack Feldman, a distinguished professor of neurobiology at the David Geffen

School of Medicine and the UCLA Brain Research Institute, was quoted. The finding was also covered by the [Huffington Post](#), [U.S. News & World Report](#), [Fox News](#), [Philadelphia Inquirer](#), [Seattle Times](#), [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [Tech Times](#), [Latinos Health](#), [Bustle](#), [Newser](#), [Quartz](#) and other news outlets worldwide.

New Mom Shares Eye-Cancer Experience

[U.S. News & World Report](#) published a Feb. 11 patient blog from Michelle Martin, a new mom who underwent surgery at the Stein Eye Institute at UCLA after her first eye exam in 10 years recognized a “freckle” on the back of her eye as a rare form of cancer. Thanks to a new therapy pioneered by UCLA retinal surgeon Dr. Tara McCannel, Martin will be able to watch her children grow up. [Ivanhoe Medical Breakthroughs](#) aired a related Feb. 2 TV news segment featuring Martin and McCannel.

BPA-free Plastic No Safer

[Men's Journal](#) reported Feb. 9 on a study by Nancy Wayne, a professor of physiology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, discovering that BPS, the replacement for BPA in plastic, accelerates embryonic development, leading to premature birth in animals. Both chemicals have been linked to early puberty and cancers of the reproductive system in humans.

Virtual Reality Study Highlighted by USA Today

[USA Today](#) reported Feb. 8 on research by Mayank Mehta on how the brain reacts in virtual reality in a wider story on the technology and its potential impacts on users. Mehta is a professor of neurology, physics and astronomy and neurobiology.

UPI Spotlights Study on Parent Coaches

[United Press International](#) reported Feb. 10 on a study that found providing parent coaches improved the efficiency of well-child checkups. The UPI story also appeared on [Big News Network](#). The study was led by Dr. Tumaini Coker, an assistant professor of pediatrics.

Remote Monitoring and Hospital Readmissions

Research led by Dr. Michael Ong, associate professor in residence of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, finding that remote monitoring does not reduce hospital readmissions for heart failure patients but potentially improves their quality of life, was covered Feb. 8 by [MedPage Today](#) and [Examiner.com](#), Feb. 10 by [Medscape](#), and Feb. 11 by [e Science News](#). Ong was quoted in the coverage.

Please Remember to Read Your Medical Records

Research on the ‘OpenNotes’ model in which primary care physicians invite patients to view their electronic medical records to better engage them in their own care, finds that follow-up emailed reminders are critical to keeping patients involved, garnered coverage Feb. 11 in [Examiner.com](#), [Science Codex](#), and [MedicalXpress](#). Dr. John Mafi, the study’s lead investigator and assistant professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, was quoted.

Electric Patch Helps Some People with PTSD

Research by Dr. Andrew Leuchter, a professor of psychiatry and director of the neuromodulation division at the Semel Institute, into the value of Trigeminal Nerve Stimulation for chronic PTSD was covered Feb. 8 by [Fox News](#) and Feb. 9 by [KFDX-TV](#) (Wichita Falls, Texas) and [WFQX-TV](#) (Traverse City, Mich.).

Q & A on Zika with UCLA Expert on WebMD

[WebMD](#) featured Feb. 4 a Q & A on pregnancy and the Zika virus with Dr. Neil Silverman, a clinical professor of obstetrics and gynecology.

The State of Alzheimer’s Research

A [PBS SoCal news](#) segment Feb 5 on the state of Alzheimer’s research featured a lengthy interview with Karen Gyls, professor at the UCLA School of Nursing, and Greg Cole, interim director of the Mary S. Easton Center for Alzheimer’s Disease Research and a professor of neurology and medicine. Gyls discussed her recent [study](#) that looked at the progression of the disease and why some develop Alzheimer’s while others don’t. Cole discussed his work in developing a test for diagnosing Alzheimer’s.

HPV Status Can Determine if Radiation Therapy will be Effective Against Certain Head and Neck Cancers

[Examiner.com](#) reported Feb 9 on new UCLA-led research finding for the first time how radiation treatment transforms cancer cells into head and neck cancer stem cells, which are known to be resistant to radiation therapy when the cancer tests negative for HPV. These findings shed light on why some head and neck cancers fare much worse after radiation therapy despite optimum treatment regimens. Lead investigator Dr. Erina Vlashi, adjunct assistant professor of radiation oncology and member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted.

Health.com Features Stroke Survey

[Health.com](#) reported Feb. 9 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. 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.

MS Expert Pens Op-Ed, is Featured on All Things Considered

An op-ed by Dr. Rhonda Voskuhl regarding new findings in gender and multiple sclerosis appeared Feb. 6 in [Multiple Sclerosis Discovery](#). NPR's All Things Considered ([here](#) and [here](#)) featured Feb. 10 Voskuhl's MS gender research on a pregnancy hormone to prevent relapses in women. The NPR report was aired on more than 100 public radio stations nationwide. Voskuhl is a professor of neurology and director of the UCLA Multiple Sclerosis Program.

Santa Monica Physicians Discuss Safeguards to Prevent Pain-Prescription Abuse

Dr. Simon Dardashti, pain medicine specialist at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica who also practices at UCLA Health-Thousand Oaks, and Dr. Robert Lee, the hospital's chief of podiatry, were featured Feb. 5 in a [KABC-Channel 7](#) segment on the overprescribing of pain medications and safeguards to prevent abuse.

Geriatrician's Column Dissects Pros and Cons of Dietary Supplements

Dr. Chaivat Phuvadakorn, geriatrician with UCLA Health-Porter Ranch and assistant clinical professor of medicine, authored Feb. 5 a column in the [Santa Monica Mirror](#) about dietary supplements.

New Findings on Prostate Cancer Pathways Garner Coverage

[Uro Today](#) reported Feb. 11 on research into two different prostate cancer pathways, in human small cell carcinoma tissue and adenocarcinoma tissue. Study co-author Dr. Jiaoti Huang, professor and director of urologic pathology and a member of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Stem Cell Biology Program and the Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research, was the senior author.

BRIEFS

Data from the California Health Interview Survey, conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was cited Feb. 5 in a [Hanford Sentinel](#) article about the causes of Type 2 diabetes.

QUOTABLES

Dr. Deanna Attai, UCLA breast surgeon based in Burbank and assistant clinical professor of surgery, was quoted Feb.11 in a [PhysEmp.com](#) article on ways social media can enhance doctors' practices.

Dr. Alon Avidan, director of the UCLA Sleep Disorders Center and a professor of neurology, commented Feb. 10 in a [U.S. News & World Report](#) story on how getting a good night's sleep is healthy for the heart. The U.S. News story also appeared on [Yahoo! News](#).

Dr. Jonathan Fielding, professor-in-residence of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, professor of medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and founder and co-director of the UCLA Center for Health Advancement, was quoted Feb. 10 in [TODAY](#) about the health safety of eating at Chipotle in the aftermath of the restaurant chain's reported E. coli outbreaks.

Dr. Michael Irwin, professor of psychiatry and director of the Cousins Center for Psychoneuroimmunology at the Semel Institute, commented Feb. 7 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) article about the rise of interest in tai chi for psychological as well as physical benefits.

Dr. Richard Jackson, professor of environmental health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented Feb 6 in a [New York Times](#) article about lead poisoning in American cities outside of Flint, Mich.

Dr. Michael Jerrett, professor and chair of environmental health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented Feb. 8 in a Los Angeles [Daily News](#) article about the causes of the Porter Ranch gas leak.

Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging and director of the UCLA Longevity Center at the Semel Institute, commented Feb. 5 in an NPR [All Tech Considered](#) piece on conflicting research into the effect that surfing the web has on critical thinking skills.

Dr. Daniel Vigil, health sciences associate clinical professor of family medicine, was quoted Feb. 9 in an [Associated Press](#) story on finding the best fitness app.

Dr. Joanne Weidhaas, director of translational research at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a member of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer and Stem Cell Biology Program, was quoted Feb. 4 in a [Mashable](#) story about President Obama's Moonshot initiative aimed at funding more research to find a cure for cancer.

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