



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of Feb. 12-18, 2016**

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Sleep Apnea Takes Its Toll on Brain Function

Chemical in BPA-Free Plastic No Safer

Unraveling the Brain's Sigh Reflex

Therapy Dog Visit Draws Broadcast, Print Attention

Please Remember to Read Your Medical Records

Santa Monica Educator Suggests Ways to Sweeten Valentine's Day for Diabetics

Exhaustive Medical Records Determine Patterns for Type 2 Diabetes

How Effective Are Brain Games, Exercise in Staving off Dementia?

Advanced Thyroid Cancer Rate in Some Northern California Counties

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

UCLA's East LA Corner Store Makeover Stands as Example for Proposed USDA Regulations

Pesticide Mixtures May Increase Health Risks

UCLA's Healthy Campus Initiative Leaders Kick Off Nutrition Education in HuffPost blog

Microsurgery to Treat Ocular Melanoma

Parent Coach Study Highlighted

Urology Study Grabs Headlines

Live Science Prints Op-ed on Young People Having Strokes

ABC News Features Young Stroke Survey

BRIEFS

QUOTABLES

Sleep Apnea Takes Its Toll on Brain Function

Research by Paul Macey, associate professor in residence of nursing at the UCLA School of Nursing, on the toll sleep apnea has on two critical brain chemicals – GABA and glutamate – was covered Feb. 15 in [Forbes](#); Feb. 13 [Examiner.com](#), [Neuroscience News](#), [Sleep Review Magazine](#), [BioScience Technology](#), [Science Daily](#), [MedicalXpress](#) and [Medical News Today](#); Feb. 13 in [Medical Daily](#); Feb. 14 in [Psychcentral](#); and Feb 15 in [Science World Report](#). Macey was quoted in the coverage.

Chemical in BPA-Free Plastic No Safer

A UCLA study linking bisphenol S, or BPS, a common replacement for the chemical BPA in plastics, to accelerated embryonic development, premature birth and disturbance of the reproductive tract in animals, was covered Feb. 16 by [National Geographic Indonesia](#), Feb. 13 by Australia's [Daily Telegraph](#) and Feb. 12 by [Men's Health](#). Additional coverage included [Gizmag](#), [Plastics Today](#), [Chemistry World](#), Indonesia's [Kompas](#) and [Greenwire](#). Senior author Nancy Wayne, UCLA associate vice chancellor of research and a professor of physiology at the David Geffen School of Medicine, at UCLA, was quoted.

Unraveling the Brain's Sigh Reflex

[CBS This Morning](#) reported Feb. 13 on a UCLA-Stanford mouse study that discovered two clusters of neurons in the brainstem transform normal breaths into sighs important for preserving lung function. Jack Feldman, a professor of neurobiology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, co-led the research.

Therapy Dog Visit Draws Broadcast, Print Attention

[KCBS-Channel 2](#) Feb. 12 and the Santa Monica Daily Press and [Fox 11 News](#) Feb. 13 reported on the People Animal Connection animal-assisted therapy dogs delivering handmade Valentines to patients at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA. The Valentine's Day event is hosted by the hospital's Chase Child Life/Child Development program.

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 [Science Newsline](#), Feb. 12 in [FierceHealthIT](#) and [Medical News Today](#), and Feb. 16 in [CMIO](#). 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.

Santa Monica Educator Suggests Ways to Sweeten Valentine's Day for Diabetics

[HealthDay News](#) published Feb. 12 advice from Debora Nagata, diabetes educator at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, on how loved ones can keep diabetics from feeling deprived without chocolate or high-calorie meals on Valentine's Day.

Exhaustive Medical Records Determine Patterns for Type 2 Diabetes

New research by Ariana Anderson, an assistant research professor and statistician at the Semel Institute, into the value large-scale analysis of electronic health records holds for predicting Type 2 diabetes risk was reported Feb. 16 by [KPCC 89.3FM](#), the U.K.'s [Daily Mail](#) and the [American Journal of Accountable Care](#), and Feb. 17 by [Health Management Data](#).

How Effective Are Brain Games, Exercise in Staving off Dementia?

Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging and director of the UCLA Longevity Center at the Semel Institute, discussed the value of a range of mental and physical activities in preserving memory as we age Feb. 14 in a [Financial Science with Jim Puplava](#) podcast.

Advanced Thyroid Cancer Rate in Some Northern California Counties

[KCRA-TV](#) (Sacramento, Calif.) Feb. 12 and [Capital Public Radio News](#) Feb. 16 reported 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. Senior author Dr. Avital Harari, assistant professor of surgery and member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was interviewed.

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

[AZoCleantech](#) Feb. 18 spotlighted 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.

UCLA's East LA Corner Store Makeover Stands as Example for Proposed USDA Regulations

The UCLA Fielding School of Public Health's 2013 initiative, "[Corner Store Makeover in East L.A.: Proyecto MercadoFRESCO](#)", was featured Feb. 17 in a [Take Part](#) article about the USDA's proposal to require other small grocery and convenience stores to follow the initiative's example by stocking healthier food if they wish to continue to receive public funds through SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). Dr. William McCarthy, Fielding School adjunct professor of health policy and management and a lead on the 2013 project in East LA, was quoted.

Pesticide Mixtures May Increase Health Risks

A February 2016 report released by the Sustainable Technology and Policy Program, based in the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and UCLA School of Law, was featured Feb. 17 by the Center for Investigative Reporting's blog, [Reveal](#). The report highlighted the failure of regulatory agencies to consider additional health effects of pesticides when they are combined.

UCLA's Healthy Campus Initiative Leaders Kick Off Nutrition Education in HuffPost blog

Dr. Wendelin Slusser, associate professor of community health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, co-authored a Feb. 16 article in the [Huffington Post](#) about the health benefits of chocolate. The article was published as part of the UCLA Healthy Campus Initiative.

Microsurgery to Treat Ocular Melanoma

[Ivanhoe News'](#) Medical Breakthroughs ran a Feb. 19 story and [sidebar](#) about Michelle Martin, a new mom who underwent retinal surgery performed by Dr. Tara McCannel, director of the ophthalmic oncology center at the Stein Eye Institute at UCLA, to treat a rare form of eye cancer.

Parent Coach Study Highlighted

[Big News Network](#) and [United Press International](#) Feb. 10 and [Yuma News Now](#) Feb. 12 reported on a study by Dr. Tumaini Coker that found parent coaches improve well-child doctor visits. Coker is an assistant professor of pediatrics at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA.

Urology Study Grabs Headlines

[MedicalXpress](#) and [Science Codex](#) Feb. 16; [Examiner.com](#), [Medical News Today](#) and [News-Medical.net](#) Feb. 17, and [Counsel & Heal](#) Feb. 18 reported on a study by Dr. Hung-Jui Tan about geriatric events such as falling or dehydration impacting the elderly who undergo cancer surgery. Dr. Mark Litwin, chair of the UCLA Department of Urology, was senior author.

Live Science Prints Op-ed on Young People Having Strokes

An op-ed on the importance of young people knowing the symptoms of stroke authored by Dr. David Liebeskind appeared Feb. 17 in [Live Science](#). Liebeskind is 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.

ABC News Features Young Stroke Survey

[ABC News](#) and [WVZN-TV](#) (Fla.) Feb. 14 reported on a UCLA-driven survey that found young adults under age 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.

BRIEFS

The [Miami Herald](#) mentioned Feb. 12 a study co-authored by 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, 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.

A workshop for caregivers of aging loved ones was noted Feb. 16 in the [Santa Monica Mirror](#). UCLA Health's 50+ Program is cosponsoring the event.

QUOTABLES

Dr. Deanna Attai, UCLA breast surgeon based in Burbank and assistant clinical professor of surgery, was quoted Feb. 18 in part two of a [PhysEmp.com](#) article on ways social media can enhance doctors' practices.

Ron Brookmeyer, professor of biostatistics at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented Feb. 12 in the U.K.'s [Daily Mail](#) about the implications of being diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

Dr. Ravi Dave, director of the cardiac catheterization lab at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica and clinical professor of medicine, was quoted Feb. 14 in a [News-Medical.net](#) story about simple ways to reduce heart-disease risk and improve heart health.

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 Feb. 17 in [HealthDay News](#) about a study suggesting that as levels of air pollution rise, so too does the risk for stroke. Fonarow noted that certain types of pollution have been shown to increase inflammation in blood vessels, which in turn may increase stroke risk. Fonarow was also quoted Feb. 11 in [HealthDay News](#) about a study suggesting that people 50 and older who have had recent asthma activity appear to be at an increased risk of abdominal aortic aneurysm.

Dr. Rita Kachru, an assistant professor of allergy and immunology, commented Feb. 12 on a [KPCC 89.3FM](#) report about the possibility that the allergy season is starting earlier and lasting longer.

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 at the Fielding School, commented Feb. 12 in the [Sacramento Business Journal](#) about employers who have self-funded health insurance plans.

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, commented Feb. 17 in a [HealthDay](#) story on a study about older pregnant woman being at risk for stroke. The HealthDay story also appeared in [Doctor's Lounge](#), [Tech Times](#), [U.S. News & World Report](#), [Philly.com](#) and other outlets.

Dr. Jesse Mills, an associate clinical professor of urology and director of UCLA Health: The Men's Clinic, commented Feb. 17 in a [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) story on the release of a study of testosterone supplementation in older men.

Dr. Alison Moore, professor of medicine in the UCLA Division of Geriatrics, was quoted Feb. 12 in a [Thrillist](#) article about nine everyday habits that age you more quickly.

Dylan Roby, faculty associate at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented Feb. 17 in an [Orange County Register](#) story about low enrollment in Covered California health plans. [Bloomberg News](#) also ran the story.

Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging and director of the UCLA Longevity Center at the Semel Institute, was quoted Feb. 12 in a [Marketwatch](#) article about new research that has found a possible decline in the rate of certain dementia cases. He also commented Feb. 14 in a [MedicineNet.com](#) article about new research linking sleep problems with a risk for Alzheimer's Disease.

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