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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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