



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of Feb. 19-25, 2016**

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Environmental health sciences chair tracks Porter Ranch gas leak

Pesticide mixtures may increase health risks

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Pediatrician discusses whooping cough's return

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Yahoo! News prints op-ed penned by UCLA stroke expert

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Media report on newly discovered gene network that repairs nerves

KTLA highlights pediatric patient visit by former Rams player Eric Dickerson

Santa Monica cardiologist offers simple steps to better heart health

Ozone's possible link to death from lung and cardiovascular disease

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Stem cell gene therapy could be key to treating Duchenne muscular dystrophy

The [Los Angeles Times](#), [ArcaMax](#), the [Eugene Register-Guard](#) and [Science 2.0](#) Feb. 11; [Science Codex](#), [Lunatic Laboratories](#), [MyInforms](#) and [MedicalXpress](#) Feb. 12; [News-Medical.net](#) Feb. 14; [Muscular Dystrophy News Today](#), [Medical News Today](#) and [Cell Therapy News](#) Feb. 15; the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine's [blog](#) Feb. 16, and [Muscular Dystrophy UK](#) Feb. 19 reported on a preclinical study published in the journal *Cell Stem Cell* showing the effectiveness of a newly developed approach that uses CRISPR/Cas9 technology to remove genetic mutations that cause Duchenne muscular dystrophy. The stem cell gene therapy could be applicable for 60 percent of people with Duchenne, which is the most common fatal childhood genetic disease. Study authors include co-senior authors April Pyle and Melissa Spencer and first author Courtney Young, who were quoted in the coverage. Pyle is an associate professor of microbiology, immunology and molecular genetics in the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, Spencer is a professor of neurology in the Geffen School and co-director of the Center for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy at UCLA, and Young is a predoctoral fellow at UCLA. Pyle and Spencer are also members of the UCLA Broad Stem Cell Research Center.

Environmental health sciences chair tracks Porter Ranch gas leak

Michael Jerrett, professor and chair of environmental health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented on the Porter Ranch gas leak in reports Feb. 18 from [KPCC 89.3FM](#) and [Inside Climate News](#), and a live interview Feb. 24 on [KTLA-Channel 5](#), and Feb. 25 on [CNN.com](#).

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, highlighting the failure of regulatory agencies to consider additional health effects of pesticides when they are combined, garnered coverage Feb. 18 from the [Santa Cruz Sentinel](#), [San Francisco Bay Area Independent Media Center](#), [Kern Golden Empire](#), [KFSN-TV](#) (Fresno, Calif.), [Fresno Bee](#), [Phys.org](#) and [Capital Public Radio](#); Feb. 19 from [Central Valley Business Times](#), [EHS Today](#) and [eNews Park Forest](#); and Feb. 23 from [The Nation](#).

Meditating might help older people sleep

Research by Dr. Michael Irwin, a psychiatry professor and director of the Cousins Center for Psychoneuroimmunology at the Semel Institute, into the potential role of meditation in improving sleep among the elderly was reported Feb. 16 by the [Los Angeles Times](#).

Pediatrician discusses whooping cough's return

Dr. James Cherry, a distinguished research professor of pediatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and attending physician of pediatric infectious diseases at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, commented Feb. 22 in the [New York Times](#)' "Well" [blog](#), Feb. 15 on [Nurse.com](#) and Feb. 5 on [CNN.com](#) about a recent study that showed pertussis, or whooping cough, is making a comeback because the current vaccination is not as effective as the previous one. Nonetheless, the vaccine does provide some protection and Cherry stressed that pregnant women should be vaccinated to protect their newborns.

Sleep expert appears as guest on San Francisco NPR station

Dr. Alon Avidan, professor of neurology and director of the UCLA Sleep Disorders Center, was a guest Feb. 22 on National Public Radio's [KQED FM](#) (San Francisco) for a segment on not getting enough sleep and common sleep disorders.

Yahoo! News prints op-ed penned by UCLA stroke expert

An op-ed on the importance of young people knowing the symptoms of stroke authored by Dr. David Liebeskind appeared Feb. 17 on [Yahoo! News](#). 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.

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, finding that follow-up emailed reminders are critical to keeping patients involved, was covered Feb. 19 by [HealthLeaders Media](#), [Becker's Infection Control & Clinical Quality](#) and [Healthcare Informatics](#), and Feb. 25 in [Clinical Leader](#). 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 in some of the coverage.

Media report on newly discovered gene network that repairs nerves

[United Press International](#) and [News-Medical.net](#) reported Feb. 19 on research by Dr. Dan Geschwind, the Gordon and Virginia MacDonald Distinguished Chair in Human Genetics and professor of neurology and psychiatry, showing that a specific genetic mechanism responsible for repairing the peripheral nervous system does not exist in the central nervous system. His research team also found a drug that may aid in the repair of the central nervous system, which may lead to future treatments for people with paralysis.

KTLA highlights pediatric patient visit by former Rams player Eric Dickerson

[KTLA-Channel 5](#) Feb. 22 aired a story about former Rams player Eric Dickerson coming to Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA to visit with sick patients.

Santa Monica cardiologist offers simple steps to better heart health

Dr. Ravi Dave, director of the cardiac catheterization lab at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica and clinical professor of medicine, commented Feb. 21 in a [Santa Monica Mirror](#) article about seven steps to reduce your risk of heart disease.

Ozone's possible link to death from lung and cardiovascular disease

[Imperial Valley News](#) on Feb. 22 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.

Reducing stress in military families

The value of the UCLA-based FOCUS program under Dr. Patricia Lester, associate professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the Nathanson Family Resilience Center, was described Feb. 18 in [US News & World Report](#) and Feb. 19 in [MD Magazine](#).

The best temperature for a good night's sleep

Research into the role of temperature in getting a good night's sleep by Jerome Siegel, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was reported Feb. 22 in the [Wall Street Journal](#).

Safe harbor laws aiding exploited children need better implementation

The [Chronicle of Social Change](#) reported Feb. 23 on new research that found nine states that have enacted safe harbor laws lacked adequate funding for services necessary to aid commercially sexually exploited children. Dr. Elizabeth Barnert, co-author of the study and an assistant professor of pediatrics at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was quoted.

Researching period pain

[The Establishment](#) featured Feb. 23 an interview with Laura Payne, an assistant adjunct professor at the Pediatric Pain and Palliative Care Program at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, on reasons why there has been limited funding into the research of menstrual pain. The article was also published Feb. 24 in [Ms. Magazine](#).

New technology isolates circulating tumor cells

[Examiner.com](#) reported Feb. 23 on a new study by UCLA scientists who pioneered a more effective approach to "liquid biopsies" that has the potential to offer a streamlined and low-cost solution for people diagnosed with cancer. Dino Di Carlo, lead author of the study and director of the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Nanotechnology Program, was quoted.

Parody video based on UCLA-driven stroke survey featured on NewsmaxHealth

[NewsmaxHealth](#) Feb. 26 featured a parody video on stroke awareness that was based on a UCLA-driven survey that found 73 percent of young people would not recognize symptoms of stroke and seek help.

Cancer surgery study highlighted by Imperial Valley News

[Imperial Valley News](#) reported Feb. 18 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, chairman of the UCLA Department of Urology, was senior author.

MS expert outlines research for MD Magazine

The multiple sclerosis research of Dr. Rhonda Voskuhl was highlighted Feb. 24 by MD Magazine ([here](#) and [here](#)). Voskuhl is a professor in the UCLA Department of Neurology and director of UCLA's Multiple Sclerosis Program.

BRIEFS

An upcoming workshop for caregivers of aging loved ones was noted Feb.22 in the Santa Monica Daily Press. UCLA Health's 50-Plus Program is cosponsoring the event.

Steven P. Wallace, chair and professor of community health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and associate director at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, was cited Feb. 25 in a [New America Media](#) article about nationwide demographic shifts in the growing aging population.

Dr. Tomas Ganz, a professor of medicine and pathology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, and Dr. Elizabeta Nemeth, professor of medicine at UCLA, were cited Feb. 25 in a [Philadelphia Business Journal](#) article about the first clinical trial of a new drug under development to treat rare hematological and iron overload diseases. The report referenced the researchers' discovery of Hepcidin mimetic peptides, which led to the drug.

[Xconomy](#) mentioned Feb. 24 that Dr. Dennis Slamon, director of clinical and translation research at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center who discovered the breakthrough breast cancer drug Herceptin, will be the keynote speaker at the Moores Cancer Center Industry/Academia Annual Translational Oncology Symposium in San Diego.

QUOTABLES

Dr. Roshan Bastani, director of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Healthy and At-Risk Populations Program and director of the UCLA Center for Prevention Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted Feb. 24 in a [Youth Health Mag](#) article on the low vaccination rates to combat the human papilloma virus. She was also quoted Feb. 23 in a [CBS News](#) article about a new report from the American Cancer Society that showed cancer deaths have dropped overall for black and white Americans, but a racial divide may still exist, especially among patients diagnosed with breast and colon cancer.

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. 24 in a [HealthDay News](#) story about a study that documented heart size and function in professional basketball players, as basketball players may have among the highest rate of sports-related cardiac arrest in the United States. Fonarow noted the study could serve as a valuable road map and reference for evaluating the hearts of individual athletes and for creating screening programs.

Dr. Matthew Freeby, director of the UCLA Diabetes Center of Santa Monica, associate director of diabetes clinical programs for UCLA Health and assistant clinical professor of medicine, was quoted Feb.

18 in an [Endocrineweb.com](#) article about a study suggesting that the blood pressure-lowering medicine verapamil may also help lower blood sugar levels in those with diabetes.

Dr. Quinton Gopen, an ear surgeon at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, was quoted Feb. 23 by [Conde Nast Traveler](#) about why our ears pop when flying and how to minimize the discomfort.

Dr. Charles S. Grob, professor of psychiatry and pediatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, was quoted in a documentary on psychoactive drugs that aired on Feb. 21 Al Jazeera America's program [TechKnow](#).

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 Feb. 24 in a [Huffington Post](#) article about a vaginal ring that can help protect women against HIV.

Dr. John Mafi, assistant professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, was quoted Feb. 23 in a [HealthDay News](#) story about a study finding that a nerve blocking technique may help ease chronic back pain. He also commented Feb. 23 in another [HealthDay News](#) article about a study suggesting that "mindfulness" could help older adults with back pain.

Dr. Kelsey Martin, interim dean of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was featured Feb. 10 in a [PBS Nova](#) episode about the biology behind memory formation and whether scientists will one day be able to edit and manipulate memories.

Dr. Sanaz Memarzadeh, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology and member of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Stem Cell Biology Program, commented Feb. 25 in a [Today Show](#) report on a lawsuit filed by the family of a woman who died from ovarian cancer, claiming that she used Johnson & Johnson talc-based baby powder for years and it eventually led to her cancer diagnosis.

Dr. Karin Nielsen, a professor of infectious diseases and pediatrics at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine at Mattel Children's Hospital, commented Feb. 19 in the [Los Angeles Times](#), about concerns over the Zika virus affecting the upcoming Olympics in Brazil.

Dr. Antoni Ribas, professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology and director of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Tumor Immunology Program, was quoted Feb. 22 in an [AACR](#) article on indoor tanning use dramatically increasing a person's skin cancer risk.

Dylan Roby, faculty associate at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research in the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented Feb. 18 in a [Becker's Hospital Review](#) article about the implementation of Oscar Health insurance in California.

Dr. Richard Shemin, professor and chief of cardiac surgery at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, commented Feb. 24 in a [MedPage Today](#) article about a study that looked at whether or not taking aspirin before coronary artery surgery was helpful.

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