



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT**  
**For the week of Feb. 26-March 3, 2016**

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**HIV patients feel infectious despite low viral loads**

**Everyone's important in the O.R.**

**How the "period paradox" keeps women down**

**Better way to treat abscesses: add antibiotic to conventional approach**

**Medicare charges, payment study draws attention**

**Stroke survey continues to attract coverage**

**STAR Program gets the star treatment**

**Brain stimulation patch offers hope for treating PTSD**

**Exhaustive medical records determine patterns for type 2 diabetes**

**New "Elder Index" fact sheet from UCLA Fielding School of Public Health**

**Pesticide mixtures may increase health risks but are still unregulated by California**

**Inspiring college kids to understand the aging process**

**Local ABC, CBS news spotlight teen's recovery from TBI**

**New findings in glaucoma surgery**

**BRIEFS**

**QUOTABLES**

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**HIV patients feel infectious despite low viral loads**

[Healio](#) reported Feb. 29 on research led by Dr. Raphael Landovitz, associate professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases and associate director of the UCLA Center for Clinical AIDS Research & Education, finding that just 10 percent of HIV patients reported feeling noninfectious about one year into antiretroviral therapy despite having a high rate of viral suppression. The findings were presented at the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) 2016 conference. Landovitz was quoted.

**Everyone's important in the O.R.**

Medpage Today's [KevinMD blog](#) published Feb. 29 an article authored by Dr. Nina Shapiro, discussing the important role that technicians and other support staff play in executing a safe and successful surgery. Shapiro is 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

#### **How the “period paradox” keeps women down**

[Huffington Post](#) March 1 featured 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 originally published Feb. 23 in [The Establishment](#).

#### **Better way to treat abscesses: add antibiotic to conventional approach**

A UCLA study published in the New England Journal of Medicine indicating that use of a specific antibiotic in addition to surgically draining an abscess gives patients a better chance of recovery and resulted in fewer recurring infections and fewer people passing on the infection to other members of the household was covered March 3 by [examiner.com](#), [thedoctorweighsin.com](#), [Helio.com](#) and [News-Medical.net](#). Dr. David Talan, the study's lead author and a professor in the department of emergency medicine and department of medicine, division of infectious diseases, at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and Olive View–UCLA Medical Center, and Dr. Gregory Moran, clinical professor of emergency medicine at the Geffen School, chief of the department of emergency medicine at Olive View–UCLA and one of the study's authors, were quoted.

#### **Medicare charges, payment study draws attention**

[Science Daily](#), [MedicalXpress](#) and [Science Codex](#) March 2 and [Medical News Today](#) March 3 reported on a study by Dr. Jonathan Bergman that found inflated Medicare charges and variations in payment patterns in surgical care. Bergman is an assistant professor of urology and family medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and the Greater Los Angeles Veterans Administration.

#### **Stroke survey continues to attract coverage**

The [Daily Herald](#) Feb. 25 reported 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.

#### **STAR Program gets the star treatment**

Dr. Linda Demer, a professor of medicine, physiology and bioengineering, was featured Feb. 24 in [The AMA Wire](#), the journal of the American Medical Association. Demer discussed the success of UCLA's Specialty Training and Advanced Research (STAR) Program, which allows medical students to work on their doctorate while serving their residencies after they complete medical school. Demer, director of the program, noted that most medical schools in the country train their physician-scientists while they are attending medical school.

#### **Brain stimulation patch offers hope for treating PTSD**

Research by Dr. Andrew Leuchter, a UCLA professor of psychiatry and director of the neuromodulation division at UCLA's Semel Institute, into the value of Trigeminal Nerve Stimulation for PTSD was covered Feb. 25 by [WKMG-TV](#) (Orlando, Fla.), Feb. 26 by [Reuters TV](#) and Feb. 29 by [WTAJ-TV](#) (Central Pennsylvania).

#### **Exhaustive medical records determine patterns for type 2 diabetes**

New research into the value large-scale analysis of electronic health records holds for predicting type 2 diabetes risk by Ariana Anderson, an assistant research professor and statistician at the Semel Institute, and Mark Cohen, a Semel Institute professor in residence, was reported March 2 in the [Pharmaceutical Journal](#).

#### **New "Elder Index" fact sheet from UCLA Fielding School of Public Health**

Research and commentary from 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, about the health of "hidden poor" elders in California was featured in several news media outlets. Coverage included [Health Canal](#) March 3; [The Times Herald](#) and [Examiner.com](#) March 2; [KNCO 830AM](#) (Nevada County, Calif.) March 1; and [Sierra Sun Times](#) and [Annenberg TV News](#) Feb. 29.

### **Pesticide mixtures may increase health risks but are still unregulated by California**

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 regulation agencies to consider additional health effects of pesticides when they are combined, was covered Feb. 25 by [WorkSafeDocs](#).

### **Inspiring college kids to understand the aging process**

USA Today published a Feb. 29 [Kaiser Health News](#) story showcasing a UCLA course that helps undergraduate students gain empathy for the elderly and encourages them to pursue careers working with seniors. Rita Effros, a professor of pathology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, who leads the course with Paul Hsui, an assistant professor of epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted, as well as guest speaker Dr. David Reuben, the chief of geriatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

### **Local ABC, CBS news spotlight teen's recovery from TBI**

The remarkable recovery of a teenager who was hospitalized at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center with a traumatic brain injury after her car collided with a fire engine nine months ago was reported March 2 by KCBS-Channel 2, [KABC-Channel 7](#) and [KCAL-Channel 9](#). Her physician, Dr. Manuel Blanco, an assistant professor of neurosurgery and neurology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was interviewed.

### **New findings in glaucoma surgery**

[Ophthalmology Times](#) reported Jan. 31 on a recent lecture presented by Dr. Anne Coleman about low intraocular pressure after glaucoma surgery. Coleman is the Fran and Ray Stark Foundation Professor of Ophthalmology at the Stein Eye Institute in the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, as well as a professor of epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.

## **BRIEFS**

The [Daily Xtra](#) mentioned March 2 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.

UCLA TIES for Families, a Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA-based program that reduces barriers to the adoption of special needs children, was cited Feb. 26 in a [Huffington Post](#) story about a single man's journey to adopting a son.

A study by UCLA researchers that found a significant reduction in anxiety levels and blood pressure in heart patients who spent 12 minutes with a dog from the animal-assisted therapy program was cited Feb. 29 in a [New York Times](#) "Well" blog about turning a pet dog into a therapy dog.

## **QUOTABLES**

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. 29 in [MedPageToday](#) regarding a study showing that guidelines for medical prescription therapies

are often not followed before surgery of an implantable device in the heart to correct life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias, and may be impacting survival rates. In an accompanying editorial, Fonarow called the findings "astonishing," and said the implication is that "some patients who may have responded to medical therapy . . . are needlessly receiving a costly and invasive device therapy." He was also quoted March 2 in a [HealthDay News](#) article about a study finding that one alcoholic drink might temporarily bump up heart and stroke risk but that within 24 hours, that same beverage may be generally protective. Fonarow noted that alcohol has complex effects on heart health.

Janet C. Frank, adjunct associate professor of community health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and faculty associate at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, commented Feb. 29 in a [California Health Report](#) article about the lack of vision among higher education and government in ensuring an adequate supply of trained geriatrics professionals for the nation's aging population.

Michael Jerrett, professor and chair of environmental health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented Feb. 25 in a [CNN](#) article on the decision of some Porter Ranch residents to return to their homes after reports that the gas leak from the Aliso Canyon natural gas facility was halted. The article was republished by [KCCI](#) Feb. 25.

Jerome Siegel, a professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, commented Feb. 26 in a [Huffington Post](#) article about the science and misconceptions around the human tendency to wake with a jolt.

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