



UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of April 22-28, 2016

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COVERAGE HIGHLIGHTS

CBS spotlights Duchenne drug

Geriatrician discusses Alzheimer's

Cardiologist comments on heart health and stroke

Stuart House fundraiser remains in media spotlight

Muscle mass protects against heart disease

Adding exercise to health education helps treat addiction

UCLA stroke patient publishes book

Treating pain in kids

Mattel patient to be honored at Kaleidoscope Ball

Shattering stereotypes about nursing and football

SMART lab that will allow aging in place grabs headlines

Neurologist's epilepsy presentation featured in media

UCLA expert featured in ATTN story on pregnancy

Santa Monica urogynecologist featured in patient's story of struggle

Vets' mental health needs on par with non-vets, but treatment lacking

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CBS news spotlights Duchenne drug

KCBS-Channel 2 and hundreds of other CBS News affiliates nationwide, including in Atlanta, New Orleans, Charleston and [Vermont](#), aired an April 25 CBS Newspath segment about a Santa Clarita boy participating in a UCLA clinical trial to test an experimental drug for Duchenne muscular dystrophy. The devastating genetic disorder weakens children's muscles, often restricting them to a wheelchair by age 12 and leading to their deaths by 25. Dr. Stanley Nelson, co-director of the Center for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy at UCLA, was interviewed. [Forbes](#) also reported April 24 on a letter co-written by Nelson with center co-director Carrie Miceli, expressing support for the FDA's approval of an experimental drug for the deadly genetic disorder. Micelli was quoted, and the letter was cited in an April 21 [Wall Street Journal](#) op-ed about Monday's FDA hearing to hear testimony from families with children affected by the disease.

Geriatrician discusses Alzheimer's

Dr. Zaldy Tan, medical director of the UCLA Alzheimer's and Dementia Care program and associate professor of medicine in the division of geriatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was featured April 25 in a KPCC 89.3FM "[AirTalk with Larry Mantle](#)" report about Greg O'Brien, a writer and investigative reporter who is documenting his experiences with Alzheimer's in books and articles. He was also quoted April 19 in an [Xconomy](#) article about how potential new Alzheimer's drugs might affect health systems.

Cardiologist comments on heart health and stroke

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, commented on heart health and stroke in the following outlets:

- April 26 in a [United Press International](#) article about a study that found a slight risk of heart disease in women who work rotating night shifts.
- April 25 in [HealthDay](#) on a study from New Zealand suggesting that eating a healthy diet seems to have protective effects on heart health, but unhealthy foods do not seem to do any harm. Fonarow commented that since the findings were based on questionnaires, clinical trials should be done to confirm the findings.
- April 22 in a [Reuters](#) report on a study of California hospitals which found that less than half of stroke patients who were hospitalized and died within 30 days had been asked about their wishes for lifesaving measures. Fonarow supported the idea that it is important to document patient preferences in the medical record to ensure they do not receive care that is not appropriate given their preference.

Stuart House fundraiser remains in media spotlight

The [Los Angeles Times](#) reported April 22 about the successful fundraiser hosted recently by fashion designer John Varvatos to benefit Stuart House, a unique facility at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica that serves sexually abused children and their families. Previous stories have appeared in the Times, Hollywood Reporter, Forbes.com and Footwear News.

Muscle mass protects against heart disease

Research finding that cardiovascular disease patients with high muscle and low fat mass had the lowest mortality risk compared to those with other body composition subtypes, was highlighted April 22 by [Medical News Today](#) and [Science Daily](#). Dr. Preethi Srikanthan, associate clinical professor of medicine in the division of endocrinology at the David Geffen School of Medicine, was the study's primary investigator.

Adding exercise to health education helps treat addiction

Research by Dr. Edythe London, professor of psychiatry and molecular and medical pharmacology in the Semel Institute and the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, into the value of exercise in treating drug addiction was reported April 27 by [MedicalXpress](#).

UCLA stroke patient publishes book

The [Alabama Ledger](#) published an April 19 profile of Katherine Wolf, a model and new mom who suffered a stroke at 26. Dr. Nestor Gonzalez, a professor of neurosurgery and radiology, performed an emergency 16-hour surgery that saved her life. Wolf and her husband recently welcomed their second child and published a book about her medical crisis and recovery.

Treating pain in kids

[Pain Week](#) and [News-Line for Physician's Assistant](#) reported April 26 on a new book for parents to help children cope with chronic pain called, "Pain in Children and Young Adults: The Journey Back to Normal. Two Pediatricians' Mind-Body Guide for Parents." The book was co-authored by Dr. Lonnie Zeltzer, director of the Pediatric Pain and Palliative Care Program at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, and her husband, Dr. Paul Zeltzer.

Mattel patient to be honored at Kaleidoscope Ball

The [San Marino Tribune](#) featured April 22 a story on a local teenager who will be honored with the Extraordinary Child Award at the Kaleidoscope Ball benefitting the UCLA Children's Discovery and Innovation Institute at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA on May 21. The high school freshman was born with a rare abdominal wall defect and has undergone more than 20 surgeries at the hospital. Despite his medical condition, he has continued to thrive and is active in his school and community.

Shattering stereotypes about nursing and football

The journey of two UCLA School of Nursing students, from the gridiron through nursing school, was featured April 26 on [NCAA After the Game](#). Brandon Rice and Patrick Hill were both standout football players at their respective universities and are now master's students at UCLA. Both were quoted.

SMART lab that will allow aging in place grabs headlines

[News-Medical.net](#) and [Health Canal](#) April 13, [Imperial Valley News](#) April 14 and [Fierce Mobile Healthcare](#) April 19 reported on the new UCLA Center for Systematic, Measurable, Actionable, Resilient and Technology-driven Health, or Center for SMART Health, which will test sensors that will allow the elderly to age in place. Dr. Arash Naeim, an associate professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology and the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA's chief medical officer for clinical research, was quoted.

Neurologist's epilepsy presentation featured in media

[MedPage Today](#) April 18, [Neurology Advisor](#) April 19 and [MD News](#) April 22 reported on a presentation on epilepsy given by Dr. Jerome Engel at the 68th annual meeting of the American Academy of Neurology. Engel was also quoted April 18 in a [MedPage Today](#) story on medications for epilepsy. Engel is the Jonathan Sinay Distinguished Professor of Neurology, Neurobiology and Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences and director of the Seizure Disorder Center at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

UCLA expert featured in ATTN story on pregnancy

Dr. Aparna Shridhar, an assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, was a featured expert April 18 in an [ATTN](#) story on safe sexual positions during pregnancy.

Santa Monica urogynecologist featured in patient's story of struggle

[Public Radio Exchange](#) produced an April 1 podcast on a woman's personal struggle with incontinence. Dr. Amy Rosenman, director of urogynecology at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica and clinical professor of obstetrics and gynecology, commented extensively in the story.

Vets' mental health needs on par with non-vets, but treatment lacking

A study of California veterans' mental health care needs conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was featured April 27 by [Health Canal](#) and the [Sierra Sun Times](#). The study found veteran's mental health needs were similar to nonveterans', but vets had a higher rate of contemplating suicide.

NOTABLE BRIEFS

A study conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health about smoke-free policies in apartment buildings was cited April 27 in a [Courthouse News Service](#) article about a new California bill that would allow landlords to ban cigarette and medicinal marijuana smoking on their properties.

Research conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health was cited April 27 in a [New America Media](#) story about the need for improved dental care access for children of Medi-Cal patients.

Data about mental health 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 April 21 in an [NBC-Bay Area](#) article about the link between high academic expectations and stress among Silicon Valley teens.

A study conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, which found that two-thirds of California's uninsured were deterred by the high cost of health insurance, was featured April 19 in [California Health Report](#). [Hospital Association of America](#) also featured the story.

NOTABLE QUOTABLES

Suzette Glasner Edwards, an adjunct associate professor at the Semel Institute, commented April 20 in an article in [The Influence](#) about the potential for treating marijuana addiction with a pill.

Rita Effros, a professor of pathology, commented April 28 in a [Mic](#) article about a company claiming to reverse the aging process by lengthening telomeres--tiny cap-like structures at the ends of the chromosome that shorten as cells divide.

Julia Heck, associate professor (research) of epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented April 26 in a [FOX News Health](#) article about the role of maternal origin and the potential development of cancers in children.

Romney Humphries, an assistant professor of pathology and laboratory medicine, commented April 26 in the [San Jose Mercury News](#) about health risks facing athletes from the Zika virus and polluted water at the summer Olympics in Rio.

Dana Ellis Hunnes, senior dietician at Ronald Reagan-UCLA Medical Center and adjunct assistant professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted April 21 in [Women's Health](#) magazine about a new non-dairy alternative made from peas.

Connie Kasari, professor of psychological studies in education and psychiatry, commented April 24 in an [Associated Press](#) article about the use of facilitated communication with individuals who have non-verbal autism.

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 April 22 in a [Nerd Wallet](#) article about Obamacare for health care consumers

Elizabeth Laugeson, an assistant clinical professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and the founder and director of the UCLA PEERS Clinic, was quoted April 27 in a [New Scientist](#) article about the appeal of the online game Minecraft to children with autism.

Dr. Zhaoping Li, professor of medicine and chief of the division of clinical nutrition, was quoted April 27 on [Vogue.com](#) about the anti-inflammatory benefits of turmeric when added to one's diet. Separately, Li commented April 27 on [MSN.com](#) about foods that can lead to bloating and suggests maintaining a daily diary of food intake to identify triggers.

Dr. Karin Nielsen, professor of clinical pediatrics in the division of pediatric infectious diseases at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was quoted April 22 in a [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) article about how the move against fetal tissue research could complicate the fight against the Zika virus.

Dr. Eric Vilain, director of the UCLA Center for Gender-Based Biology and a professor of human genetics, urology and pediatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, commented April 20 in a [People](#) magazine feature about an intersex woman who was born with a rare genetic condition that prevented her from developing recognizably male or female sex organs. The [Huffington Post](#) also cited Vilain in an April 26 article about gender self-determination in the Olympics.

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