



UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
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Canadian news highlights study on Zika's link to birth defects

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UCLA physician helps nation understand risks, realities of Zika

Dr. Neil Silverman, a UCLA professor of obstetrics who has been advising the California Department of Public Health on Zika issues, is continuing UCLA physicians' leadership in explaining the risks and realities of Zika to the public via the media. Silverman commented May 20 in an [Associated Press](#) story about a change in the classification of pregnant Zika patients, which tripled the statistical number of patients. Silverman also commented May 20 in a [Wall Street Journal](#) on the same subject. The AP story also appeared in the [Washington Post](#), [Los Angeles Times](#), [ABC News](#), [Orange County Register](#), [Daily Mail](#) (UK), [San Jose Mercury News](#), [Chicago Tribune](#), [Detroit News](#), [Kansas City Star](#), [Ottawa Citizen](#), [Boston Herald](#) and dozens of other outlets worldwide. Silverman also was a guest May 20 on [KPCC's Air Talk](#) to discuss the CDC changes. He was also quoted May 25 in an [AP](#) story on a New England Journal of Medicine study finding that pregnant women infected with Zika stand a 1 to 14 percent chance of having a baby with birth defects.

Canadian news highlights study on Zika's link to birth defects

[CBC News](#) (Canada) reported May 24 on research presenting strong evidence that the Zika virus can cause a range of abnormalities in pregnant women infected with the virus — with the effects manifesting any time during pregnancy. Some of the abnormalities noted have not been reported in connection with the virus. Study senior author Dr. Karin Nielsen, professor of clinical pediatrics in the division of pediatric infectious diseases at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted.

People magazine profiles two scientists' fight against rare fatal disease

Stan Nelson and Carrie Miceli, two of the three co-directors of the Center for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy at UCLA, were profiled in a May 24 "Heroes Among Us" feature by [People](#) magazine about their research to save boys born with the deadly genetic disease, including their 15-year-old son, Dylan Miceli-Nelson. UCLA is the only center west of Ohio conducting scientific research and offering boys with Duchenne access to state-of-the-art care and clinical trials. Nelson, Miceli, Miceli-Nelson and Rachelle Crosbie-Watson, the center's education liaison, were interviewed in the story and the online video. The article also was featured on [Yahoo! News](#).

Nature study IDs how brain links memories over time

The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) and [PsychCentral](#) reported May 23 on a new Nature study by Alcino Silva, a professor in neurobiology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute. The findings, on how the brain connects memories over time, may help lead to new therapies for people who suffer from age-related memory loss.

Santa Monica staff plan garden wedding to make ICU patient's dream come true

[KCBS-Channel 2/KCAL-Channel 9](#) aired May 23 segments detailing how ICU staff members and many others at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica helped an ailing patient realize his dream of walking his engaged daughter down the aisle. ICU nurse Michele Maines and Nursing Supervisor Kathleen Shinn were quoted in the story, as were the patient, bride and other family members.

Thriving after an opioid addiction

[US News & World Report](#) on May 26 published an op-ed about ways to rebound from an opioid addiction, written by Suzette Glasner-Edwards, an adjunct associate professor in the Semel Institute. It also appeared on [Yahoo! News](#).

Fielding School research reveals funding change for AIDS relief

Research conducted by Corrina Moucheraud, assistant professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, assessing a decline in federal funding for PEPFAR, President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, was featured May 23 by [Edge Media Network](#); May 5 by [MDLinx](#); May 3 by [MedicalXpress](#), [Kaiser Family Foundation](#) and [Ooyuz](#); and May 2 by [Oxford Virtual](#).

Muscle mass protects against heart disease

BYU Radio's [Top of Mind with Julie Rose](#) reported May 18 on 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. Dr. Preethi Srikanthan, associate clinical professor of medicine in the

division of endocrinology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and the study's primary investigator, was interviewed.

To operate or not to operate: a serious question with no clear answers

[Daily Kos](#) on May 19, and [Science Daily](#) and [Science Codex](#) on May 20, highlighted research led by Dr. Greg Sacks, a general surgery resident at UCLA and a Robert Wood Johnson/Veterans Affairs Clinical Scholar, that found wide variances in surgeons' decision to operate or recommend an alternative treatment option. The study suggests that the decision depends as much on how surgeons perceive the world as it does on the patient's diagnosis.

Fielding School dietician writes Huffington Post op-ed on dangers of ocean plastic

[The Huffington Post](#) published May 23 an op-ed by Dana Ellis Hunnes, senior dietician at Ronald Reagan-UCLA Medical Center and adjunct assistant professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, about the health effects of ocean pollution.

New California law allows physician assisted aid in dying

A policy brief about California's new aid in dying law by Cindy L. Cain, faculty associate at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was featured May 19 by [MedicalXpress](#) and [Bioportfolio](#).

Fielding School research reveals inadequate mental health care for California veterans

[The American Journal of Managed Care](#) featured May 21 research from the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health suggesting that 76 percent of California's veterans who are in need of mental health care receive inadequate treatment or none at all.

Disparities in California children's dental health

[Inquirer.net](#) highlighted May 20 research from the California Health Interview Survey, conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, finding that 9 percent of California kids have never seen a dentist.

The Advocate highlights the Fielding School's Neal Baer's life work

Dr. Neal Baer, adjunct professor of community health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and co-director of FSPH's Global Media Center for Social Impact, was profiled in a May 17 article in [The Advocate](#) detailing how his personal narratives inform his work.

Kaleidoscope Ball raises \$3.5 million for pediatric research

[HauteLiving](#), [MSN.com](#), [InStyle](#), [LATfusa.com](#) and other media reported May 23 on the 4th annual Kaleidoscope Ball which raised \$3.5 million for the Children's Discovery and Innovation Institute at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA. Actress Kate Hudson received the Kaleidoscope Award for her contributions to children's health. Lori and Michael Milken received the hospital's highest honor, The Philanthropic Leadership Award. WWE wrestler Eva Marie presented the Extraordinary Child Award to a 15-year-old UCLA patient named Jake Shuster.

Pediatrician discusses gun safety with parents

BYU Radio's [Top of Mind with Julie Rose](#) show interviewed May 25 Dr. Alice Kuo, an associate professor of internal medicine and pediatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and chief of UCLA Medicine-Pediatrics, on the topic of discussing gun safety in the home as part of a larger discussion with parents about safety topics during a child's check-up.

Lack of savings impacts child health

The [American Journal of Managed Care](#) reported May 16 on a new UCLA study that found that children in households with less than three months of savings had a substantially higher risk of obesity and chronic illnesses — and worse overall health — than children in households with more money set aside, even if the families were earning an adequate income. Lead researcher Dr. Adam Schickedanz, a clinical instructor in pediatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a Robert Wood Johnson clinical scholar, was quoted.

Kiddie pools can be dangerous

[News-Medical.net](#) featured May 24 an article on the drowning hazards of both inflatable kiddie pools as well as large backyard pools and offered tips on keeping kids safe. Dr. Nina Shapiro, a professor of head and neck surgery and director of pediatric otolaryngology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was quoted.

Workaholism tied to psychiatric disorders

Research by Cecilie Schou Andreassen, a visiting scholar at the Semel Institute, that found a link between several psychiatric disorders and workaholism was reported May 25 by [Science Daily](#).

Oregon's got a gambling problem

Dr. Timothy Fong, an associate professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and co-director of the Gambling Studies Program, commented May 23 at length on gambling friendliness and gambling addiction in a range of states, particularly in Oregon, on [Jefferson Public Radio](#).

Alcohol: the most celebrated—yet most harmful—drug in society

Suzette Glasner-Edwards, an adjunct associate professor of psychiatry in the Semel Institute and clinical psychologist with Integrated Substance Abuse Programs, discussed May 10 in [EpochTimes](#) the multiple underappreciated risks associated with alcohol use and abuse.

NOTABLE BRIEFS

Data on the "hidden poor" from the California Health Interview Survey, conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, were cited May 23 in a [Marin Independent Journal](#) article about the economic footing of seniors in Marin County.

Research from the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health establishing that more than half of all Californians have diabetes or prediabetes was cited May 22 by [MedPage Today](#), May 18 by the [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) and May 18 in a [KQED](#) article about public health initiatives in Fresno.

Dr. Paul Chung, associate professor of pediatrics and health policy and management, was cited May 20 in a [Huffington Post Politics](#) article on efforts to pass the Healthy Families Act, which would allow for paid sick days.

NOTABLE QUOTABLES

Gilbert Gee, professor of community health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented May 20 in a [Huffington Post](#) article about inconsistencies with federal reporting about the health of Asian-Americans.

Connie Kasari, a professor of human development and psychology in the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies and in the Semel Institute, commented May 19 in a [Washington Post](#) article that explored the use of facilitated communication with individuals on the autism spectrum.

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 May 25 in a [Medical Economics](#) article about the effects of single-payer healthcare.

Dr. Carlos Lerner, associate clinical professor of pediatrics and medical director of the Children's Health Center at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, commented May 24 in a [USA Today](#) article about an Australian study that found the practice of letting babies cry it out until they drift off to sleep does not

cause long term emotional or behavioral harm. Lerner commented that parenting styles differ and parents should do what works best for them.

Dr. Sheila Sahni, chief fellow in cardiovascular disease at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, commented May 16 in a [Reuters Health](#) report about a study which found that silent heart attacks strike more men but kill more women. Sahni noted that, because, silent attacks are hard to detect, people should seek help if they experience any symptoms that are out of the ordinary.

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