



UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of June 3-9, 2016

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UCLA physicians exemplify careful implementation of End of Life Option Act

California’s End of Life Option Act took effect June 9, and UCLA physicians took a leadership role in explaining to the media – and the public – just how much personal reflection and institutional introspection is necessary for careful implementation of the law.

- Dr. Neil Wenger, professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research and director of the UCLA Health Ethics Center, was interviewed about California’s aid-in-dying law and UCLA’s policy to implement it June 5 in the [Los Angeles Daily News](#), June 6 in the [Los Angeles Times](#); June 7 on [KPCC 89.3FM’s “Take Two”](#); June 8 on [KNX 1070AM](#) and [KCBS-Channel 2](#); and June 9 on [NBC Nightly News](#).

- Cindy Cain, assistant professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and faculty associate at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the Fielding School, commented on the law [June 5](#) and [June 8](#) in Los Angeles Daily News; June 6 in [Insurance News Net](#) and the [San Jose Mercury News](#); June 5 in [NVS24.com](#); and June 4 in [The Modesto Bee](#) and the Santa Rosa [Press Democrat](#).
- Dr. Thomas Strouse, Maddie Katz Chair in Palliative Care Research and Education and medical director of the Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital at UCLA, discussed the law and UCLA's policy June 9 in a KABC-Channel 7 report.

Explaining what the latest obesity statistics really mean

With the nation's obesity epidemic growing, led by an alarming increase among women, Dana Ellis Hunnes, senior dietician at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and adjunct assistant professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, explained what the latest statistics mean June 7 in an [Associated Press](#) story that was picked up by the [Washington Post](#), [Denver Post](#), [U.S. News & World Report](#), [Las Vegas Sun](#), and [WRCB-TV](#), among others.

Better sleep promotes healing for hospitalized kids

A new program implemented in the pediatric intensive care unit at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA that helps patients get more sleep has received widespread coverage as an innovative model. Dr. Myke Federman, associate clinical professor of pediatric clinical care at UCLA, was interviewed by KABC-Channel 7 on June 8, and was quoted June 1 in a [Kaiser Health News](#) story on the topic. That story was picked up by outlets including [USA Today](#), [PBS.org](#), [Becker's Hospital Review](#), [National Public Radio online](#), [Philly.com](#) and others.

Kiddie pools can pose drowning dangers

[HealthDay News](#) featured May 30 an article on the drowning hazards of both inflatable kiddie pools as well as large backyard pools. The story also 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 featured. The HealthDay story was picked up by [CBSNews.com](#), [Philly.com](#), [US News & World Report](#) and others.

Yoga may be good for the brain

[The Washington Post](#) reported June 6 on the results of a study that found yoga can help with the cognitive decline that precedes Alzheimer's disease. The study was led by Dr. Helen Lavretsky, a professor in residence in the UCLA Department of Psychiatry and a researcher at the Semel Institute.

Art Walk for Venice Family Clinic raises \$700K

[Huffington Post](#) on May 26 highlighted UCLA-affiliated Venice Family Clinic's annual Venice Art Walk & Auctions, which raised \$700,000 to bring quality primary health care to low-income, homeless and uninsured families across Los Angeles. The story also featured Guy Dill, one of the original artists who helped start Venice Art Walk more than 30 years ago.

Teen mom beats odds to earn M.D.

KABC-Channel 7 profiled Dr. Rebecca Lopez, who overcame childhood abuse, parenthood at age 14 and a violent marriage without letting go of her dream to become a doctor. She returned to college at 27 as a mother of three, was chosen as an Albert Schweitzer Fellow and graduated from the David Geffen School of Medicine June 3. Her middle daughter begins college at UC Riverside this fall and plans to pursue a medical career like her mom.

From field worker to physician

The inspiring journey of Luz Corona Gomez, who picked grapes as a child each summer with her undocumented parents in the San Joaquin Valley, was covered June 3 by Telemundo. Dr. Corona Gomez earned her medical degree from the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA's Hippocratic Oath

Ceremony June 3. She plans to practice medicine in her hometown after completing her residency in OB-GYN at Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara.

KNX recognizes UCLA donor as “Hero of the Week”

Peter Heumann, who for 19 years has organized the City of Angels Fun Ride to benefit the UCLA Blood & Platelet Center and raise awareness of the life-saving importance of blood donation, was honored as a “Hero of the Week” June 5 by [KNX 1070, AM](#). The story aired six times.

The teen brain likes social media “likes”

Research that found that social media triggers the same brain circuits as eating chocolate or winning money was covered June 3 by the [Huffington Post](#), June 6 by the [French Press Agency](#), June 8 in an [Economist](#) podcast (from minute from 5:21 to 7:46) and numerous other media outlets. The study’s senior co-author Mirella Dapretto, a professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences, and lead author Lauren Sherman, a researcher at UCLA’s Ahmanson-Lovelace Brain Mapping Center, were quoted.

Santa Monica “companions” make hospital stays less lonely for geriatric patients

[Healthnewsdigest.com](#) reported June 7 on the Companion Care Program in Geriatrics at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica. The program uses volunteer companions to make hospital stays less lonely for elderly patients. Dr. David Reuben, chief of the UCLA Division of Geriatrics, and volunteer Julia Torrano, were quoted.

Santa Clarita physician offers summer-safety advice

Dr. Ramya Malchira, internal medicine specialist with UCLA Health’s Santa Clarita practice, authored a guest column on summer safety in the June edition of Santa Clarita Magazine.

The latest in HIV and AIDS research

Scott Kitchen, associate professor of medicine, was featured May 29 in a [TV Channel One, Russia](#) report on the latest developments in HIV and AIDS research.

Baby sun safety tips

[Consumer Affairs](#) on June 9 and [Epoch Times](#) on June 1 spotlighted tips from Dr. Jay Joo, a clinical instructor of pediatrics, on protecting babies’ delicate skin from the sun.

UCLA led collaboration demonstrates potential treatment breakthrough for advanced brain cancer

[Drug Discovery and Development](#) reported June 7 on the development of a treatment for people with recurrent brain cancers including glioblastoma, the most common and aggressive form of brain cancer. Researchers at UCLA, Cleveland Clinic and UCSD successfully demonstrated that a modified virus combined with an antifungal medication can extend the lives of patients with this deadly disease. Dr. Timothy Cloughesy, lead author of the study and member of UCLA’s Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and director of the UCLA neuro-oncology program, was quoted.

NOTABLE BRIEFS

Dr. Christopher Giza, director of the UCLA Steve Tisch BrainSPORT Program, was cited June 7 in a [Washington Post](#) article about a former linebacker for the San Francisco 49ers who left a promising NFL career due to his concern over repeated concussions.

A medical opinion rendered by Dr. James Spar, a professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences, was cited June 3 in articles in the [New York Post](#) and [Los Angeles Times](#) and in a story from [Reuters](#) about the ongoing legal machinations concerning the mental capacity of media mogul Sumner Redstone.

Leeka Kheifets, professor of epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was cited June 3 by [ABC 10 News \(San Diego\)](#) in a report about a University of California, San Diego building that might be linked to carcinogens.

Data from the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), conducted by UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was cited June 8 in a [Health Affairs](#) blog post about the use of CHIS data in helping hospitals assess how they can benefit the communities they serve.

NOTABLE QUOTABLES

Marie-Francoise Chesselet commented June 5 in an [Aljazeera](#) story about whether Mohammad Ali developed Parkinson's disease because of head injuries he sustained boxing. Chesselet is the Charles H. Markham Professor of Neurology, distinguished professor in the departments of neurology and neurobiology, and interim chair of the department of neurology at UCLA.

Dr. Bruce Dobkin, a professor of neurology and director of the UCLA Neurologic Rehabilitation and Research Program at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, commented June 8 in a [U.S. News & World Report](#) story on the use of whole body vibration for multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's patients.

Dr. Eric Esrailian, co-chief of the UCLA Division of Digestive Diseases at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted May 27 in a [Self.com](#) explaining that "FODMAP" is actually an acronym for "fermentable oligosaccharides, disaccharides, monosaccharides, and polyols."

Dr. Patricia Ganz, director of cancer prevention and control research at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer and distinguished professor in the department of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted during the American Society of Clinical Oncology annual conference June 7 in [Healio: HemOnc Today](#) and June 9 in HealthDay News about a new smart phone lunch cancer app that monitors patients' symptoms and alerts doctors. The HealthDay story ran in [Philly.com](#) and [U.S. News & World Report](#).

Gerald Kominski, professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented June 7 in a [Medscape](#) article about the negative effects of high-cost prescription drugs.

Dr. Sheila Sahni, chief fellow in cardiovascular disease at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, commented in the June issue of the [AARP Bulletin](#) on 15 things people should know about high blood pressure.

Dr. Neil Silverman, a professor of obstetrics and gynecology who has been advising the California Department of Public Health on Zika issues, commented June 7 on [Yahoo!](#) regarding the decision by NBC's Savannah Guthrie to skip covering the Olympics in Rio due to the virus.

Dr. Brennan Spiegel, associate professor of community health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented in a June 2 Associated Press article about the recent murder-suicide on the UCLA campus. The article was republished June 2 by [ABC News](#), [The St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) and [Connecticut Times](#).

Dr. Matthew Torrington, an associate physician at the Semel Institute, commented June 2 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) article about the role of fentanyl in Prince's death.

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