



UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of June 10-16, 2016

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Terrorism researcher on mental health toll of Orlando shootings

Health care advice: “Always ask the cash price”

The teen brain likes social media “likes”

Social media is a new medical vital sign

Transparency fosters patients’ trust in their doctors

Baby sun safety tips

Dealing with moodiness in children, teens

UCLA expert featured in Self magazine

Parkinson’s study grabs attention

Prostate cancer study draws headlines

FSPH's Dr Jonathan Fielding writes op-ed about opioid abuse

Designing healthy communities

UCLA Health practices recognized for high-quality care

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UCLA physicians explain risks and reality of Zika

As the Zika virus continues its domination of public health fears – and headlines – UCLA physicians are helping shape the media’s understanding of the disease, as well as the reality of its risks.

- 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 featured in a variety of stories about Zika, the Olympics and Zika-linked birth defects:
 - June 14 in [The New York Times](#) and [Buzzfeed](#), and June 15 in [Parent Herald](#) and [Health 24](#), about a World Health Organization statement that the Olympics should proceed in Brazil, where it will be midwinter and the threat of contracting the mosquito-borne Zika virus will be minimized.
 - June 15 in [The Wall Street Journal](#) and [STAT](#) about a New England Journal of Medicine study finding that, among 616 women in Colombia infected with Zika in their third trimester, none had babies with any overt birth defects.

- June 10 on NPR's "[All Things Considered](#)" about things people should know when traveling to areas with Zika.
- Dr. Neil Silverman, a professor of obstetrics and gynecology who has been advising the California Department of Public Health on Zika issues, was interviewed for a June 15 [Associated Press](#) story on Zika's impact on the fetus and the timing of when the mothers were infected. The AP story also appeared in the [U.S. News & World Report](#), [ABC News](#), [Calgary Herald](#), [Daily Mail](#) (UK), [Fox News](#), [San Jose Mercury News](#), [Houston Chronicle](#), and more than 100 other print and broadcast outlets nationwide.

Terrorism researcher on mental health toll of Orlando shootings

Melissa Brymer, director of terrorism and disaster programs at the UCLA–Duke National Center for Child Traumatic Stress, was interviewed for a June 13 story on [CBSNews](#) and for a June 14 article in the [Christian Science Monitor](#) about how to cope with fear in the wake of the Orlando shootings.

Health care advice: "Always ask the cash price"

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, was featured June 10 in several articles about the potential benefits of paying cash for health services even if you have health insurance. His comments appeared in the [Los Angeles Times](#), [The Fiscal Times](#) (republished by [Yahoo! Finance UK](#)), [Business Insider](#), [MSN](#), [ArcaMax](#) and [InBusiness](#).

The teen brain likes social media "likes"

Research showing that social media triggers the same brain circuits as eating chocolate or winning money was featured June 14 in the [New York Times](#). Lead author Lauren Sherman, a researcher in the UCLA Ahmanson-Lovelace Brain Mapping Center, was quoted. The study's senior co-author is Mirella Dapretto, a professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at the Semel Institute.

Social media is a new medical vital sign

[Fast Company](#) published June 15 an article by Sean Young, associate professor-in-residence of family medicine and director of the UCLA Center for Digital Behavior and the University of California Institute for Prediction Technology, detailing how social media such as Twitter can track peoples' health and lead to actionable medical care. The article itself was the subject of a June 15 story in [Elite Daily](#).

Transparency fosters patients' trust in their doctors

[Engaging Patients.org](#) published June 16 an article by Dr. John Mafi, assistant professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, detailing how patients' trust in their doctors improves when they can review their medical records, such as through the OpenNotes initiative in which physicians invite their patients to read their online visit notes.

Baby sun safety tips

[HealthDay News](#) June 15 and [Consumer Affairs](#) June 9 featured guidelines on protecting babies' delicate skin from the sun and included tips from Dr. Jay Joo, a clinical instructor of pediatrics at UCLA Health. The HealthDay story was published by [US News & World Report](#), [Philly.com](#), [UPI](#), [MedLinePlus](#) and others.

Dealing with moodiness in children, teens

David Miklowitz, a psychiatry professor in the division of child and adolescent psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of UCLA's Child and Adolescent Mood Disorders Program, offered strategies for dealing with moodiness in children and teens in separate articles published in the June print edition of [LA Parent](#) (page 18) and May 22 on the [LA Parent](#) website.

UCLA expert featured in Self magazine

Dr. Alexander Chiang, assistant clinical professor in the department of obstetrics and gynecology, was a featured expert in a June 14 [Self](#) magazine story on the benefits of women skipping their period when they're on the pill.

Parkinson's study grabs attention

[News-Medical.net](#), [Drug Target Review](#), [Science Daily](#) and [Health Canal](#) June 15, and [UPI](#), [R & D Magazine](#), [YubaNet](#), [Parkinson's News Today](#) and [BioScience Technology](#) June 16 reported on a study by Dr. Jeff Bronstein that found a possible protective strategy for pesticide exposure-related Parkinson's disease. Bronstein is a professor of neurology and director of movement disorder research.

Prostate cancer study draws headlines

[Health Imaging](#), [Science Codex](#), [BioScience Technology](#), [News-Medical.net](#), [Science Daily](#) and [MedicalXpress](#) June 10; [SiFy News](#) June 12; [SciCasts](#) and [Asian News International](#) June 13; [Nature World News](#), [Optics](#) and [BioOptics World](#) June 14; [DotMed](#) June 15, and [Photonics.com](#) June 16 reported on a study by Dr. Leonard Marks that found laser ablation can be used safely to treat prostate cancer. The ANI story appeared in the [Times of India](#) and almost a dozen other media outlets. Marks is a professor of urology and director of the UCLA Active Surveillance Program.

FSPH's Dr Jonathan Fielding writes op-ed about opioid abuse

Dr. Jonathan Fielding, professor-in-residence of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, wrote an op-ed published June 13 in the [Bakersfield Californian](#) about addiction to prescription painkillers as a public health crisis.

Designing healthy communities

Dr. Richard Jackson, professor of environmental health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was featured June 10 on [Idaho Public Television](#) discussion about the ways in which the built environment can negatively affect our health, and why as a physician he's so concerned.

UCLA Health practices recognized for high-quality care

[The Thousand Oaks Acorn](#) reported June 16 on UCLA Health's recent national recognition for excellence in patient-centered care. Dr. Samuel Skootsky, chief medical officer, UCLA Faculty Practice Group and Medical Group, was quoted in the story, which noted that 20 clinics – 19 primary care and one pediatric practice – received the accolade.

NOTABLE QUOTABLES

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 June 9 during the American Society of Clinical Oncology annual conference on [Forbes.com](#) and [Cancer Network.com](#) about a new smart phone lung cancer app that monitors patients symptoms and alerts doctors.

Dr. Barbara Giesser, a professor of neurology and medical director of the Marilyn Hilton Multiple Sclerosis Achievement Center at UCLA, commented June 15 in an [Everyday Health](#) story on the timing of taking drugs to treat MS.

Dr. Janet Pregler, director of the Iris Cantor-UCLA Women's Health Center, was quoted June 15 in a [WebMD](#) article on the latest treatments for the effects of menopause.

Dr. Antoni Ribas, director of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Tumor Immunology Program and a professor of medicine in the division of hematology oncology, was quoted June 9 during the American Society of Clinical Oncology annual conference on [Targeted Oncology.com](#) about a phase I study which tested pembrolizumab (Keytruda) in combination with dabrafenib (Tafinlar) and trametinib (Mekinist) with results showing a manageable toxicity profile in patients with BRAF V600-mutant melanoma.

Dr. Thomas Strouse, medical director at the Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital and the holder of the Maddie Katz Chair in Palliative Care Research and Education, commented June 13 in the NBA blog [Monday Morning Tip](#) about the contributions that Lakers forward Metta World Peace has made in terms of cheering up patients at the hospital and reducing stigma around mental illness.

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