



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of June 26-July 2, 2015**

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Got Acne? Lay off the B12

A study led by Dr. Huiying Li, an assistant professor of molecular and medical pharmacology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, suggesting that vitamin B12 supplements tweak how genes behave in the facial bacteria of some people who normally enjoy clear skin, leading to pimples, garnered wide media interest. Stories ran June 25 by [CBS News](#), [Health magazine](#), [Food World News](#), [Jewish Business News](#), [Counsel & Heal](#) and [Ask Men.com](#); June 26 by [Examiner.com](#); June 27 by [Asian News International](#); June 29 by [Yahoo! News UK](#), [Agence France Presse](#), [KNBC-Channel 4](#), [KTLA-Channel 5](#) and [Indo-Asian News Service](#); June 30 by [Time](#), [International Business Times](#), [Health Canal](#) and the [Pharmaceutical Journal](#); July 2 by [Christian Today](#) and dozens of other TV, radio, print and online news outlets nationwide.

Memory Study Draws Wide Attention

[New York Times](#), [Science](#), [NPR](#), [Reuters](#), [Science Codex](#), [Science Daily](#), [MedicalXpress](#), [Examiner.com](#), [News 14](#), [Daily Mail](#) (U.K), [Motherboard](#) and [Press TV](#) reported July 1 on a study by Dr. Itzhak Fried that found that neurons in a specific brain region play a key role in rapidly forming memories about every day events. The NPR story was picked up by nearly 50 affiliate stations across the country. Fried is a professor of neurosurgery and psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior.

Stem Cell Gene Therapy to Eliminate HIV Shows Promise in Preclinical Studies

[HealthCanal](#), [Drug Discovery & Development](#) and [BioScience Technology](#) reported July 1 on a study published in the journal *Molecular Therapy*. The research used a stem cell gene therapy method originally developed at UCLA to decrease HIV levels by 80 percent to 95 percent in a humanized mouse model. These results strongly suggest that the method may be feasible and effective in treating chronic HIV infection in humans in the future. The study was directed by UCLA Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research members Dr. Scott Kitchen and Dr. Jerome Zack. Kitchen is an associate professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and member of the UCLA AIDS Institute and Center for AIDS Research. Zack is a professor of medicine and of microbiology, immunology and molecular genetics at the Geffen School and co-director of the UCLA AIDS Institute and Center for AIDS Research, and is affiliated with UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Media Tap Health Policy Expert

Dr. Gerald Kominski, director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in the following news articles:

- A June 28 [Los Angeles Times](#) article about short-term health policies.
- A July 1 [Ventura County Star](#) article about the similarities between public and private health insurance.
- A July 1 [Politifact.com](#) article about how the Affordable Care Act has affected California's uninsured population.

Wounded Veteran Launches Comedy Career

[KNBC-Channel 4](#) featured June 28 UCLA's Operation Mend program that provided reconstructive surgeries to Bobby Henline, an Iraq war veteran who survived an Improvised Explosive Device attack that left him with severe burns covering almost 40 percent of his body. Dr. Timothy Miller, professor emeritus of plastic surgery at UCLA, was interviewed. In addition, the story featured Henline's Operation Mend Buddy Family that provides social support when he is in town for treatments. Henline, who does stand-up comedy, was also interviewed by [KENS-Channel 5](#) and [WOIA 1200AM](#) in his hometown of San Antonio to promote his upcoming comedy shows over the 4th of July weekend.

UCLA Researchers Find Encouraging Results in Partial Breast Irradiation Treatment for Breast Cancer Patients

[Medscape](#) July 1, [Medpage Today](#) June 29, [MedicalXpress](#) and [News-Medical](#) June 26, and [Examiner.com](#) June 25 reported on a new study by UCLA scientists who found that women diagnosed with breast cancer and treated with partial breast radiation after the surgical removal of the tumor saw no increase in cancer recurrence or difference in cosmetic outcomes compared with women who received radiation of the entire breast. The study is one of the largest ever done on partial breast irradiation. Dr. Mitchell Kamrava, assistant clinical professor of radiation oncology and member of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Molecular Imaging Program Area, was quoted.

Legalizing Same-Sex Marriage Indicates Improved Mental Health for Couples

Research about the mental health benefits of being able to marry legally conducted by Richard Wight, a researcher in the department of community health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was covered June 26 in [LiveScience.com](#); June 27 on [CNN's](#) website and in a [Yahoo! News](#) article; June 28 in [The Times of India](#); June 29 on New Orleans network websites [WDSU News](#) and [KION Right Now](#); and June 30 in [The Asian Age](#).

Brain Scan Can Predict Who Responds Best to Certain Treatment for Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder

Research by Dr. Jamie Feusner, an associate professor of psychiatry and director of the Semel Institute's Adult OCD Program, on the value of brain scans in determining treatment for OCD was covered June 25 by [United Press International](#), June 26 by [MedicalResearch.com](#) and [Philly.com](#), and June 29 by [Medical News Today](#).

Hispanics and Blacks Disproportionately Affected by Mental Health Issues, Chronic Disease

Dr. Gail Wyatt, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, and Dr. Honghu Liu, a professor at the UCLA School of Dentistry and former UCLA psychology professor, were quoted June 29 in [Medical News Today](#) and [Latin Post](#) and June 30 in [CaliforniaHealthline](#) about their research into life experiences that put low-income black and Hispanics at higher risk for mental health issues and chronic disease.

Cocaine Could Boost HIV Infection Risk

[EDGE Media Network](#) reported June 26 on research led by Dr. Dimitrios Vatakis, assistant professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and director of the UCLA/CFAR Virology Core Laboratory offering further evidence that cocaine use disrupts the immune system, making people who use it more likely to become infected with HIV. The new study builds on previous research from Vatakis and others. Vatakis was quoted in some of the coverage.

UCLA Patient Receives Successful Heart Transplant after Using Experimental Total Artificial Heart

[MedicalXpress](#) reported July 1 and [Health Canal](#), [News-Medical](#), [Daily News Analysis](#), [The Health Site](#) and [Scientific Computing](#) reported July 2 on a female patient at UCLA who was the first in the world to be successfully bridged to a heart transplant after using an experimental version of a total artificial heart designed for smaller patients. Dr. Abbas Ardehali, a professor of cardiothoracic surgery and director of the UCLA Heart and Lung Transplant Program, and Dr. Mario Deng, professor of medicine and medical director of the Advanced Heart Failure, Mechanical Support and Heart Transplant program at UCLA, were quoted.

3D-Printed Model Helps with Heart Procedure

[News-Medical](#), [MedGadget](#), and [Examiner.com](#) featured July 2 a story about UCLA doctors using a 3-D printed model to guide a tricky heart valve replacement procedure. The patient was not a candidate for traditional surgery due to his unique anatomy and previous surgeries. Doctors practiced with a 3-D model of the patient's heart before the actual minimally-invasive procedure to make sure the valve would fit. Dr. Jamil Aboulhosn, director of the Ahmanson/UCLA Adult Congenital Heart Disease Center and the Streisand/American Heart Association Endowed Chair in the Division of Cardiology, and Dr. Daniel Levi, a pediatric cardiologist and director of UCLA's congenital interventional catheterization laboratory, were quoted.

Pediatrician Addresses Vaccination Legislation

Dr. Alice Kuo, director of the UCLA Medicine-Pediatrics Comprehensive Care Center at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, was featured in a June 25 "[Which Way L.A.?](#)" report on KCRW 89.9FM about a new California law making vaccinations mandatory for schoolchildren unless there is a medical reason to not do so. The bill also ends exemptions for personal and religious reasons.

Digestive Diseases Expert Discusses Gut Reactions

Dr. Emeran A. Mayer, professor of medicine in the division of digestive diseases and director of the Gail and Gerald Oppenheimer Family Center for Neurobiology of Stress, was featured in a June 29 NPR "[On Point with Tom Ashbrook](#)" report on how gut bacteria influences emotions.

Meditation Study Continues to Draw Interest

[Globo TV](#) (Brazil) June 28 and [Success.com](#) June 25 reported on a UCLA study on meditation being good for the brain. The study was led by Dr. Florian Kurth, a postdoctoral fellow at the UCLA Brain Mapping Center, and Dr. Eileen Luders, first author and assistant professor of neurology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

Study Reveals Bone-Building Protein's Impact on Bone Stem Cells

[MedicalXpress](#) June 30 and the [California Institute of Regenerative Medicine blog](#) July 1 reported on a study published in the journal *Nature Communications*. The research shows that administering the bone-building protein NELL-1 intravenously stimulated significant bone formation in preclinical animal models. These results could one day have an impact on the development of a treatment for osteoporosis, traumatic bone injuries or bone loss in humans. The study was directed by co-senior authors Dr. Kang Ting, chair of orthodontics and the division of growth and development in the UCLA School of Dentistry, and Dr. Chia Soo, professor and vice chair for research in the UCLA Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery in the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and member of the UCLA Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research.

Long-Acting Antipsychotic Medication May Improve Treatment for Schizophrenia

Promising findings by Dr. Kenneth Subotnik, an adjunct professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, into the efficacy for recently developed cases of schizophrenia of a long-acting injectable form of a common drug was reported June 26 by [Psychiatry Advisor](#).

Causes, Treatments of Gambling Addiction

Dr. Timothy Fong, an associate clinical professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and the co-director of the UCLA Gambling Studies Program, was interviewed June 28 on [KTTV-Channel11](#) about the roots, tolls and remedies of gambling addiction.

Report on Closing a Newtown Elementary School Highlighted

A report by Dr. Melissa Brymer on the prudence of closing a school in Newtown, Mass. in 2016, the same year that the new Sandy Hook Elementary School opens, was highlighted in the June 25 [Newtown Bee](#) and [NewTimes.com](#). Brymer, the director of terrorism and disaster programs at the Semel Institute, has served as the school district's trauma advisor since the 2012 shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

When Being Too Eligible Isn't Enough

Kathryn G. Kietzman, researcher at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, authored a July 30 article on ReportingonHealth.org about the unique difficulties experienced by patients who are simultaneously eligible for Medicare and Medicaid.

California Health Interview Survey Gets Media Attention

The California Health Interview Survey, the largest statewide health survey in the U.S. and conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, received media coverage for its data contributions to a range of public health issues. It was featured June 29 in [Highland News](#) about the high rate of obesity and subsequent number of adults with diabetes in San Bernardino County; June 29 in [MDLinx.com](#) and [BrightSurf.com](#) articles about California's high asthma rate; and June 26 in [MedicalXpress](#) about California's overall high obesity rate. Dr. Joelle Wolstein, research scientist at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in MedicalXpress.

Triple Combo Drug for Melanoma Shows Promise

[Targeted Oncology](#) reported June 30 on results of a study on a triple combination therapy that shows promising signs of more effectively controlling advanced melanoma than previous BRAF + MEK inhibitor or BRAF inhibitor + immunotherapy combos alone, and with increased immune response and fewer side effects. Dr. Antoni Ribas, professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology and director of the tumor immunology program area in UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, presented the findings during ASCO's 2015 annual meeting and was mentioned in the article.

Melanoma Patient Returns to Normal Life Activities, Thanks to Immunotherapy Drug

[Examiner.com](#) June 29 and [MedicalXpress](#) June 30 reported on the miraculous recovery of Tom Stutz, 71, a UCLA patient diagnosed with metastatic melanoma in 2012. Stutz was near death when he enrolled in a Phase 1 clinical trial on an immunotherapy drug pembrolizumab (Keytruda), now approved by the FDA. Nearly three years later, the tumors in his lungs, liver and spine have shrunk by more than 85 percent and he's back to living a normal life. Dr. Antoni Ribas, professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology and director of the tumor immunology program area in UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center; Dr. Steven M. Dubinett, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine; Dr. John Timmerman, associate professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology; and Dr. Edward B. Garon, associate clinical professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology and director of the thoracic oncology program, were quoted. All are members of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Immunotherapy Drug Keytruda Has Better Patient Outcome than Counterpart

[Clinical Oncology](#) reported June 26 on a collaborative study led by UCLA doctors finding that pembrolizumab (Keytruda) improved tumor responses, duration of responses and extended the patient's life with less severe side effects compared to the current standard of care treatment with ipilimumab (Yervoy) for people with advanced melanoma. Dr. Antoni Ribas, professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology and director of the tumor immunology program area in UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted.

BRIEFS

[Sun Chronicle](#) (Mass.) June 28 cited a UCLA Sleep Center study that found that about 85 percent of teens and pre-teens don't get the required 8 to 9 hours of sleep a day.

The July edition of [Santa Clarita Magazine](#) reported that UCLA Health's Santa Clarita offices are now offering same-day appointments in several specialties.

Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center was mentioned July 1 in reports about a woman rescued from a ravine in Malibu and brought to the hospital's emergency department, from which she was discharged later that night. Media coverage included the [Associated Press](#), [KABC-Channel 7](#) and others

QUOTABLES

Dr. Raj Batra, associate professor in the department of medicine and a member of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center's Signal Transduction and Therapeutics Program Area and Cancer and Stem Cell Biology Program Area, was quoted in the July edition of [Genome Magazine](#) about scientists trying to find the genetic biomarker linked to Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), the eventual discovery of which could lead to a new treatment, therapy or even a cure. Batra also shared his own personal struggles with ASD, after two of his sons were diagnosed with the developmental disability.

Dr. Ronald Busuttil, executive chair of the surgery department and chief of the UCLA Division of Liver and Pancreas Transplantation, was quoted June 22 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) report on the importance of organ donation.

Dr. Anthony Butch, director of the UCLA Olympic Analytical Laboratory and a professor of pathology and laboratory medicine, was quoted June 23 by [MMA Fighting](#) and June 24 by [ESPN.com](#) about the three-year suspension of middleweight boxing champion Alexander Shlemenko, due to a failed drug test.

Dr. James Cherry, a distinguished research professor of pediatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and attending physician of pediatric infectious diseases at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, commented June 24 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) article about a deadly complication of the measles known as SSPE, or subacute sclerosing panencephalitis. Cherry was also interviewed June 30 by [KCBS-Channel 2](#) on the passing of SB 277 which requires all public school children in California to be vaccinated.

Dr. Jonathan Fielding, professor-in-residence of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted June 30 in a [ThinkProgress.org](#) article about the importance of immunizations for infants, in the context of healthcare policy responses to anti-vaccine activists.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented June 30 in a [HealthDay News](#) story about a study on treatment for atrial fibrillation. In addition, he commented June 29 in a [HealthDay News](#) article that also ran on [Philly.com](#) regarding a study that shows PTSD may raise women's odds of a heart attack. Fonarow also commented July 1 in a [HealthDay News](#) story about research showing that menopausal women are at lower heart disease risk than men of similar age.

Dr. Christopher Giza, director of the UCLA Steve Tisch BrainSPORT Program and a professor of pediatrics and neurosurgery at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine and Mattel Children's Hospital, commented July 1 in a [USA Today](#) story about soccer's international governing body's three-minute concussion evaluation protocol following two players' head-on collision during the Women's World Cup.

Dr. Ray Jalian, assistant clinical professor of medicine in the division of dermatology, commented in the July 1 health and wellness issue of the [Robb Report](#) regarding techniques to rejuvenate the face.

Dr. Nadereh Pourat, professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, was quoted June 26 in [California Healthline](#) about how the Supreme Court ruling on the Affordable Care Act provides a renewed sense of security and confidence to advocates, especially in California, where the state budget is a focus of advocacy.

Dr. Jeffrey Saver, director of the UCLA Stroke Center and professor of neurology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted June 29 in [Nasdaq.com](#) and [MarketWatch](#) stories about new American Heart Association/American Stroke Association stroke treatment guidelines recommending the use of stent retriever technology - in conjunction with the current standard of care, IV-tPA, as a first-line treatment for eligible patients.

Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor of Aging, professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Longevity Center, commented in the July 1 health and

wellness issue of the Robb Report in a Q/A addressing if exercise can increase mental concentration. He also commented June 29 on [KFI 640AM](#) about the state of research into the higher incidence of Alzheimer's disease in women than in men.

Mark Suarkeo, prosthetist orthotist in the UCLA Rehabilitation Services Department, commented June 25 in a [Voice of America](#) report on the use of 3-D printing to create prosthetics.

Dr. Denise Sur, vice chair of the department of family medicine and former chief of staff at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, was quoted in the July 1 health and wellness issue of the Robb Report on the health benefits – both mental and physical -- of gardening.

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