



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT**  
**For the week of Aug. 28-Sept. 3, 2015**

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**Media Fascinated by Patient's Life-Changing Surgery**

The story of an Indiana woman who suffered for seven months with a rare disorder that forced her to constantly hear the sounds of her eyeballs moving, heart beating, footsteps echoing and food digesting, was reported Sept. 2 by ABC News' ["Good Morning America,"](#) [KCBS-Channel 2,](#) [KCAL-Channel 9](#) and KFI 640 AM's [Bill Carroll Show](#); and Sept. 1 by [KTTV-Channel 11,](#) [KTLA-Channel 5,](#) [KIMT-TV](#) (Rochester, Minn.) and the U.K.'s [Daily Mail](#). Rachel Pyne underwent two surgeries at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center to plug the tiny holes in her inner ears that were causing the noises, as well as severe dizziness and balance problems. Her surgeons, Dr. Quinton Gopen, assistant professor of head

and neck surgery, and Dr. Isaac Yang, assistant professor of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, were interviewed about the minimally invasive approach they have developed to treat semi-circular canal dehiscence, which afflicts an estimated one in half a million people. The “Good Morning America” segment aired on 105 ABC affiliates nationwide, including locally on KABC-Channel 7.

### **Overlooked Poverty among Older Californians**

“The Hidden Poor,” an August 2015 study conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was featured Sept. 3 on [WealthManagement.com](#); Sept 1 in [KPCC 89.3FM](#), [California Healthline](#), [The Suffield Times.com](#), [Lake County Record-Bee](#), [Daily Democrat](#), [New America Media](#), [Merced Sun-Star](#), [Patch.com](#) and translated into Vietnamese on [VietBao.com](#); and Aug. 31 in [The Sacramento Bee](#), [Ventura County Star](#), [Phys.org](#), [MyNewsLA.com](#), [The Times of San Diego](#), [HealthCanal](#), [Inland News Today](#), [YubaNet.com](#), [Sierra Sun Times](#) and the Los Angeles [Daily News](#). D. Imelda Padilla-Frausto, a graduate student researcher at the center and lead author of the study, and Dr. Stephen Wallace, professor and chair of the Fielding School’s department of community health sciences and a study co-author, were quoted in some of the coverage.

### **ESPN Features Stem Cell Scientist and Anti-Bullying Advocate**

Dr. Andrew Goldstein was featured Aug. 30 on [ESPN’s SportsCenter](#), [ESPN’s website](#), [ABC News](#), [Lacrosse Magazine](#), [Advocate.com](#), [Laxlessons.com](#); Aug. 31 on [Out.com](#); Sept. 1 on [outsports.com](#) and [queerty.com](#), and Sept. 3 on [yagg.com](#). The stories cover the friendship between Goldstein and a young man, Braeden Lange, who was struggling emotionally after coming out as gay to his friends and family. Goldstein is a molecular biology researcher with the UCLA Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research and a member of UCLA’s Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

### **HIV Testing Among Older Adults**

[Science Daily](#) Aug. 26; [Biology News Net](#), [Infection Control Today](#), [MedicalXpress](#), and [University Herald](#) Aug. 27; [News-Medical.net](#) Aug. 28, and [Healio](#) Sept. 1 highlighted research led by Dr. Chandra Ford, associate professor, department of community health services, UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, finding that HIV testing gains among older adults have not been sustained over time despite a 2006 recommendation by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that most doctors should automatically screen all their patients, including older adults, for HIV even if they don’t exhibit any symptoms.

### **Media Note how Sleep Apnea Damages the Brain**

Dr. Rajesh Kumar, associate professor in the departments of anesthesiology and radiological sciences, was featured by the media regarding his research showing that sleep apnea—a common disorder that causes frequent interruptions in breathing during sleep--contributes to a breakdown of the blood–brain barrier, which plays an important protective role in limiting harmful bacteria, infections and chemicals from reaching the brain. Coverage ran Sept. 1 on [Newsmax.com](#), [MedicalXpress](#), [HealthCanal.com](#), [Sleepreviewmag.com](#) and [Bioscience Technology](#), and Sept. 2 on [News-Medical.net](#), [Belmarra.com](#) and [Multiple Sclerosis Today](#).

### **UCLA Pilot Programs Grab Headlines**

[MedicalXpress](#) and [Examiner.com](#) Aug. 31, [KPCC 89.3FM](#) ([broadcast](#) and [online](#)) and [News-Medical.net](#) Sept. 1, and the [Santa Monica Daily Press](#) and [Glendale News Press](#) Sept. 2 reported on two pilot programs that are designed to reduce hospital readmissions, ease ER overcrowding and lower healthcare costs. Dr. Baxter Larmon, an adjunct professor of emergency medicine, director of California State Community Paramedic CORE Education and co-principal investigator of the UCLA pilot projects, and Dr. Steven Rottman, an adjunct professor of emergency medicine and principal investigator for the pilot programs, were quoted.

### **Patients Notified of Laptop Theft**

The [Associated Press](#), [KCBS-Channel 2](#), the Los Angeles [Daily News](#), [KPCC 89.3FM](#), [KNX 1070AM](#), [KABC 790AM](#), [KCRW 89.9FM](#) and others reported Sept. 1 that UCLA Health was notifying 1,242 individuals about the theft of a laptop computer containing patient names, medical record numbers and health information.

### **Santa Clarita Specialist Examines Diverticulosis Myths**

[Santa Clarita Magazine's](#) September issue published a guest column from Dr. Sittiporn Bencharit, digestive disease specialist with UCLA Health's Santa Clarita practice, addressing the myths about diverticulosis.

### **Promising New Treatment for the Deadliest Form of Brain Cancer**

[Examiner.com](#) Sept. 1, [MedicalXpress](#) and [News-Medical.net](#) Sept. 2 and [Bio Science Technology](#) Sept. 3 reported on a discovery by UCLA scientists involving a chemotherapy drug and a technique called engineered adoptive T cell transfer, which involves extracting and growing immune cells in a laboratory, then reprogramming them to target glioblastoma or brain cancer. Once they are injected back into a mouse model, they produce an immune response that targets the brain cancer. Dr. Robert Prins, associate professor of neurosurgery, and Dr. Linda Liau, professor of neurosurgery and director of the UCLA brain tumor program, were quoted. Both are also members of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Tumor Immunology Program.

### **FDA Approves Advanced Breast Cancer Drug**

[Onclive](#) reported Sept. 3 on the FDA approval of IBRANCE (palbociclib), a drug to treat women with advanced breast cancer, signaling a new treatment strategy to arrest tumor growth and extend the length of time before the cancer worsens. Dr. Dennis Slamon, director of the Revlon/UCLA Women's Cancer Research Program and Clinical/Translational Research at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted.

### **Expert on Healthy Communities Leads Public Square Discussion**

Dr. Richard Jackson, professor of environmental health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was featured Aug. 28 on [KIII.tv](#) and Aug. 27 in the [Corpus Christi Caller Times](#) about his lecture at a community event about healthy city planning and design in Corpus Christi, Texas. The Corpus Christi Caller Times also published Aug. 30 an [op-ed](#) by Jackson about the role of personal health in city planning public health goals.

### **Overall Well-being Starts with Nutrition**

"Obesity in California," a June 2015 report published by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was featured Aug. 28 in [The San Luis Obispo Tribune](#) in an article about how a healthy diet and lifestyle can lead to overall improved well-being.

### **UCLA Geneticist Recognized for Research Impact**

The [Palisades News](#) profiled on Aug. 19 (pg. 8) Dr. Leonid Kruglyak, a professor of human genetics and biological chemistry at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. He will be honored by the American Society of Human Genetics next month as the 2015 recipient of the Curt Stern Award for outstanding achievement in human genetics.

### **Newman's Own Honors UCLA's Operation Mend**

The [Department of Defense News](#) and [Military Times](#) reported Sept. 2 that the UCLA Operation Mend program, which provides free medical and mental health services to our nation's wounded warriors, received the highest honor and a \$50,000 award at the 16th annual Newman's Own Awards Ceremony held at the Pentagon. Dana Katz, volunteer director of community engagement and Buddy Programs for Operation Mend, accepted the award on behalf of the program and was quoted.

### **Helping Armenian Children to Hear**

Armenia's [Hegt Online](#) reported Aug. 31 about a medical team led by Dr. Akira Ishiyama, professor of head and neck surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA; and Salpy Akaragian, director of international and nurse credentialing at UCLA Health, which performed 10 cochlear implant surgeries on 10 children during a recent mission to Armenia.

## **BRIEFS**

[The Sentinel \(Hanford\)](#) on Aug. 28 cited the California Health Interview Survey, conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, about issues related to the California drought.

The UCLA Fielding School of Public Health's master's program was cited Aug. 30 in [Gazettes Newspapers \(Long Beach\)](#) profile of alumna Ejiro Ntekume and her new leadership role in the Long Beach Community.

Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA was cited Aug. 31 in a [Malibu Surfside News](#) article about two local kids who set up a lemonade stand to raise money for the hospital. Kat Lauer, an assistant in Health Sciences Development, was cited.

Dr. Paul Krogstad, professor of pediatric infectious diseases and of molecular and medical pharmacology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was mentioned Aug. 30 in a [Blue Ridge Now Times-News](#) (N.C.) article about his participation in a recent medical mission to the Philippines.

## QUOTABLES

Dr. Deanna Attai, UCLA breast surgeon based in Burbank and assistant clinical professor of surgery, was quoted Aug. 29 in an [Oncology Times](#) article on whether women with early-stage breast cancer should rethink undergoing treatment.

Kellye Carroll, director of the Chase Child Life program at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, commented Aug. 28 in a [Boston Globe.com](#) article about a nonprofit organization that recycles old crayons and donates them to pediatric hospitals.

Dr. Camelia Davtyan, clinical professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, was quoted Aug. 27 in a [Prevention](#) magazine article on beneficial kinds of inflammation.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, was quoted Sept. 1 in [HealthDay News](#) and Sept. 3 in [Health24](#) in stories on a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) study showing that three out of four American adults have a heart that's "older" than their years, raising their risk for heart attack or stroke. Fonarow also commented Aug. 31 in a [HealthDay News](#) story on a study indicating that people who have total hip or knee replacement surgery face a greater risk for a heart attack during the first month following the procedure.

Dr. Jody Heymann, dean of the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted Aug. 30 in [Andina \(Peru\)](#) about the relationship between quality of life and access to public health insurance coverage for mothers and their children.

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, commented Aug. 31 in the [San Antonio Express-News](#) about the effect of insurance company business decisions on patients and medical professionals.

Dr. Eileen Luders, an assistant professor of neurology, commented Sept. 1 in a [KSL.com](#) story on the effects of meditation on the brain.

Dr. John Stern, director of the Epilepsy Clinical Program and professor of neurology, commented Sept. 1 in [Pharmabiz](#) and Sept. 2 in [Pharmacy Times](#) on an FDA expansion of the use of an anticonvulsant for epilepsy.

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