



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT**  
**For the week of Oct. 9-15, 2015**

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**Courageous Pediatrics Resident Delivers Baby at 30,000 Feet**

A UCLA doctor's delivery of a passenger's baby girl on a flight from Taiwan to Los Angeles was covered by more than 100 news outlets, including Oct. 14 by ABC News' [Good Morning America](#), [KABC-Channel](#)

7 and many other ABC-TV affiliates, [LAist](#), [Huffington Post](#), [Orlando Sentinel](#), [Latinos Post](#), [PopSugar](#); Oct. 15 by [CNN](#), [RT](#), [UPI Espanol](#), Germany's [BILD](#) and Vietnam's [Hay!](#); and Oct. 12 by the [China Post](#). UCLA pediatrics resident Dr. Angelica Zen was flying home from her Bali honeymoon when the crew asked whether a doctor was on board. Zen was interviewed.

### **Young Adults with Autism Work on Building Social Skills – and Dating**

PEERS for young adults with autism, a Semel Institute program for teaching social skills run by assistant clinical professor of psychiatry Elizabeth Laugeson, was the subject Oct. 12 of a front-page article in the [Los Angeles Times](#). The article also appeared in 16 print or digital outlets, including [The Baltimore Sun](#), [Sacramento Bee](#) and [HoyLA](#). In addition, the program was featured Oct. 13 on [KTTV-Channel 11](#) and in 15 other cities across the country, including Philadelphia, Houston and Detroit.

### **What You Can Learn From Our Ancestors' Sleeping Patterns**

New research by Dr. Jerome Siegel, professor of psychiatry at UCLA's Semel Institute of Neuroscience and Human Behavior and chief of neurobiology research at the Veteran Affairs of Greater Los Angeles Health Care System, into the sleeping patterns of pre-industrial people living today was covered Oct. 15 in the [Atlantic](#), [U.S. News & World Report](#) and [Philly.com](#).

### **Semel Director Discusses Advantages, Obstacles to 'The Well-Tuned Brain'**

Dr. Peter C. Whybrow, director of the Semel Institute and physician-in-chief of the Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital, was interviewed at length Oct. 12 on [Charlie Rose](#).

### **Media Cover Annual Brunch to Benefit Santa Monica's RTC, Stuart House Facilities**

[KABC-TV Channel 7](#) and [Variety](#) Oct. 4 and [People.com](#) and [The Hollywood Reporter](#) Oct. 5 were among the media outlets that covered the annual fund-raising brunch hosted by the Rape Treatment Center at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica. Gail Abarbanel, director of the RTC and its Stuart House facility for sexually abused children, was quoted or referenced in the coverage.

### **UCLA and VA Launch Program to Enhance Cancer Care for Veterans**

The [Ventura County Star](#) Oct. 7 and [Los Angeles Wave](#) Oct. 9 reported on a new collaboration between UCLA and the VA Greater Los Angeles that will provide access to the latest therapeutic cancer clinical trials and state-of-the-art care for veterans. It is the first time that Southern California veterans will have access to these clinical trials directly through the local VA, and it is the nation's first program to bring experimental cancer-related treatments to veterans. Dr. Matthew Rettig, director of the prostate cancer program of the Institute of Urologic Oncology at UCLA; Dr. Fairouz Kabbinavar, co-leader of the program and professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, and Dr. Dennis Slamon, co-leader of the program and director of clinical and translational research at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, were quoted. Rettig and Kabbinavar are also members UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

### **Infectious Diseases Chief Discusses the State of HIV/AIDS in America**

Dr. Judith Currier, chief of the UCLA Division of Infectious Diseases and associate director of the UCLA CARE Center, was featured Oct. 9 on a [Larry King Now](#) panel discussion on the current state of HIV/AIDS in the United States.

### **Biomarker Linked to Sexual Preference**

[Medscape](#) interviewed Oct. 14 Dr. Eric Vilain about preliminary research linking an epigenetic marker to homosexuality in men. Vilain is a professor of human genetics, pediatrics and urology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and director of the UCLA Center for Gender-Based Biology.

### **Alzheimer's Care Program Garners Notice**

The [California Health Report](#) spotlighted Oct. 11 the UCLA Alzheimer's and Dementia Care program, which provides services to both patients and their caregivers. The article highlighted the crucial role played by dementia care managers, specially trained nurse practitioners who serve as the primary contacts with patients and their caregivers. Dr. David Reuben, chief of the division of geriatrics and the program's director, was quoted.

### **Fascinating Spine Surgery Continues to Draw Coverage**

Several CBS affiliates nationwide, including KOVR-Channel 13 (Sacramento) and KBSP-Channel 2 (Palm Springs) aired Oct. 1 a [KCBS-Channel 2](#) report about a patient who suffered a traumatic spine injury after a woman, who was committing suicide by jumping from a building, landed on him. Dr. Sina Pourtaheri, orthopaedic spine surgeon and assistant professor of orthopaedic surgery, was interviewed in the segment, along with the patient.

### **Cardiologist Discusses Heart Health**

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, was featured in the following outlets:

- Oct. 9 in a [Heart Failure Society of America](#) video discussing key sessions, presentations and clinical trial issues from this year's conference.
- Oct. 12 in [HealthDay News](#) on a new U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommendation that high blood pressure levels should generally be confirmed with home or ambulatory blood pressure monitoring before starting treatment for hypertension.
- Oct. 12 in [HealthDay News](#) on a study finding that doctors and nurse practitioners offer comparable outpatient heart care but that compliance with guidelines by patients is poor overall.
- Oct. 13 in [Reuters Health](#) on a study finding that women appear less likely than men to take all the medications needed after a heart attack to help prevent repeat episodes.

### **Health Care Innovations Start with Patients and Staff**

[U.S. News & World Report](#) featured Oct. 15 a Q&A with Katherine Steinberg, director of the Institute for Innovation in Health at UCLA Health, who will be a featured speaker at the upcoming U.S. News Hospital of Tomorrow Conference.

### **Oncology Times Examines How UCLA Patient Care Navigator Unwinds**

Consuela Nance, patient navigator at UCLA Santa Monica Hematology Oncology, was profiled Oct.9 in [Oncology Times](#) as part of a series exploring how cancer care providers spend their summer vacations.

### **Caring for Patients Remotely**

[LifeZette](#) featured Oct. 8 an article on how telemedicine allows patients to check in with their physicians from home, alleviating the need to travel to the clinic and helping to curb hospital readmissions. Dr. Richard Shemin, professor and chief of cardiac surgery at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, commented on the use of a telehealth program with heart surgery patients at UCLA.

### **In-House Smoke-Free Policies**

A project by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health that promotes smoke-free policies for multi-unit housing in some Los Angeles areas was featured Oct. 9 in a [Zócalo Public Square](#) op-ed column.

### **Gay, Bisexual Men Report Higher Rates of Indoor Tanning and Skin Cancer Compared to Heterosexual Men**

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 gay and bisexual men are twice as likely as heterosexual men to report having skin cancer and six times more likely to report having used indoor tanning beds, was highlighted Oct. 8 by [Latinos Health](#).

### **Nurses Could Help Cut Smoking Rates in China**

A two-part study led by Linda Sarna, interim dean for the UCLA School of Nursing, that found nurses can play a pivotal role in helping smokers in China quit was highlighted Oct. 9 by [MedicalXpress](#) and Oct. 12 by [News-Medical.net](#) and [Medical News Today](#).

## **BRIEFS**

Findings from the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health that more than 32 percent of Latino adults in California are obese and 40 percent of Latino adolescents are either overweight or obese, were cited Oct. 8 in an [Eastern Group Publications News](#) article.

Data from the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health showing that nine percent of California's workforce is undocumented was cited Oct. 11 in a [Contra Costa Times](#) op-ed column.

UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center was mentioned Oct. 12 in a Los Angeles [Daily News](#) listing of a concert fundraiser benefitting breast cancer research.

## QUOTABLES

Dr. F. Charles Brunicardi, chief of general surgery at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica and professor and vice chair of surgical services, was quoted Oct. 12 in an [EndocrineWeb](#) story on islet cell transplantation.

Sandra de Castro Buffington, founding director of the global media center for social impact at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted Oct. 9 in an [Animation World Network](#) article about Scout & the Gumboot Kids, a debuting series endorsed by the center for the show's encouragement of children to go outdoors and explore the natural world.

Dr. Shana Alex Charles, faculty associate at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted Oct. 8 in the [Orange County Register](#) about plans by St. Joseph Hoag Health and Cigna to offer Orange County employers affordable health insurance options to provide employees with wider provider networks.

Dr. Jamie D. Feusner, associate professor of psychiatry and director of the Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder Intensive Treatment Program, was quoted Oct. 8 in a [Nature](#) article about the role of brain circuitry in body dysmorphism disorder.

Dean Fisher, director of the UCLA Donated Body Program, commented Oct. 14 in an [Orange County Register](#) article about the use of water cremation, or alkaline hydrolysis, to dispose of human remains.

Dr. Timothy Fong, an associate professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Addiction Psychiatry Fellowship, was quoted Oct. 15 in a [New York Times](#) article about sports betting and fantasy team play.

Dr. 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, was quoted Oct. 13 by [KQED](#) about the challenge of enrolling the remaining uninsured in California.

Dr. Carlos Lerner, associate clinical professor of pediatrics and medical director of the Children's Health Center at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, commented Oct. 8 in a [CBS News](#) online article about the health effects of drinking water that is contaminated with lead.

Dr. Edythe London, professor of psychiatry and molecular and medical pharmacology in the Semel Institute and the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, commented Oct. 13 in a [Medscape](#) article about new evidence showing that teenage smoking may have lasting effects on the ability to concentrate.

Laura Payne, assistant adjunct professor of pediatrics at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was quoted Oct. 13 in a [Cosmopolitan](#) magazine article about cramps during menstrual periods.

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