



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of Nov. 6-12, 2015**

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Multiple Media Outlets Feature Operation Mend

Multiple local and national media outlets featured the participation of Operation Mend, which provides free aid to wounded warriors and their families, in [America's Parade](#) Nov. 11 in New York City. Coverage included:

- [America's Newsroom](#) interviewed Dr. Jo Sornborger, director of psychological health for Operation Mend, and Cpl. Angelica Jimenez, a veteran who suffers from PTSD as a result of injuries she received in Iraq. The video was also featured on [FoxNews.com](#) and [MSN](#).
- The [Today Show](#) featured the Operation Mend team on the plaza and spoke with director Melanie Gideon about the program's mission. The [Today Show](#) also featured Operation Mend during the 9 a.m. hour. Willie Geist discussed his involvement with the group, their mission and shared a photo of the Operation Mend group.
- Veteran James Gentile appeared on the [Kathie Lee & Hoda hour of the Today Show](#) in his Operation Mend hat and sweatshirt alongside his family. Gentile, who walked with UCLA's Operation Mend in the New York City America's Parade and received cosmetic surgery to correct his vision, was also featured on [WDAF-TV](#) and [KSHB-TV](#), both in Kansas City, Mo. In addition, Gentile was featured in the [Kansas City Star](#) about his march with Operation Mend in America's Parade.
- [KTVU-TV](#) in San Francisco featured Michael Bitner, a Marine corporal who walked with UCLA Operation Mend in the New York City America's Parade.
- Marine Staff Sgt. Johnathan Rose was featured in the [Jacksonville Daily News' website](#) about his march with Operation Mend in America's Parade. WTKF-FM in Atlantic, N.C., also interviewed Rose live from New York City about his walk.
- Representatives from UCLA's Operation Mend were featured on [WPIX-TV's](#) live coverage of New York City's Veterans Day Parade, walking in the parade with banners and flags.

Telemonitoring Heart Failure Patients

Research led by Dr. Michael Ong, associate professor-in-residence of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, finding that remote monitoring of patients with heart failure did not reduce hospital readmissions at six months compared with patients discharged from the hospital and treated with usual conventional care, garnered media coverage. Stories ran Nov. 8 in [Medscape](#), an American Heart Association [blog](#) and the [American Journal of Managed Care](#); Nov. 9 in [MedPage Today](#), [Healio](#) and [Cardiology Today](#) and Nov. 10 in [FierceHealthIT](#). Ong was quoted in the coverage. The findings were presented at the annual American Heart Association conference.

Spine Surgeon Recognized as 'Hero of the Week'

Dr. Sina Pourtaheri, orthopaedic spine surgeon at the UCLA Spine Center in Santa Monica and assistant professor of orthopaedic surgery, was recognized Nov. 5 as [KNX 1070AM's](#) "Hero of the Week" for aiding a cab driver who went into cardiac arrest while driving the doctor home from the airport and for a spine surgery he performed on a trauma patient that minimized long-term paralysis.

Wrist Fractures Could Predict Future Bone Breaks

[Examiner.com](#) and [Science Codex](#) Nov. 10 and [Medical News Today](#) and [Bel Marra Health](#) Nov. 11 highlighted research led by Dr. Carolyn Crandall, professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, suggesting that postmenopausal women under age 65 who experience a wrist fracture may be at increased risk for more severe fractures in other parts of the body later in life.

FDA Approves Combo Drug Therapy to Treat Advanced Melanoma

[Examiner.com](#) and [Micro Finance Monitor](#) Nov. 10, [Patch](#) and [Rapid News Network](#) Nov. 11, and [Medical News Today](#) Nov. 12 reported on a combination drug therapy that was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to treat metastatic melanoma. The therapy shows great promise for extending the lives of people with an advanced form of the disease, and it does so without causing a secondary skin cancer, a side effect seen in some patients who took only one of the drugs. Vemurafenib (marketed under the brand name Zelboraf) and cobimetinib (Cotellic), were tested in combination on approximately 495 patients who had BRAF V600, a mutation-positive advanced melanoma. Dr. Antoni Ribas, professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and director of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Tumor Immunology Program, led the study into the drug combo and was quoted in the coverage.

Fielding School Adjunct Professor Discusses His Work on the series “ER”

Dr. Neal Baer, adjunct professor of community health sciences and project scientist at the Global Media Center for Social Impact at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was featured Nov. 8 in a [TV Guide](#) interview about a 1995 television episode of “ER,” written by Baer, that contributed to the lasting cultural impact of the show.

Physical Therapist Discusses Standing Desks

Juliana Plank, a physical therapist at the UCLA Outpatient Rehab Center, was featured Nov. 9 in a report on KPCC 89.3FM’s [“Take Two”](#) about the benefits of standing desks in schools (click on link to “UCLA physical therapist on the benefits of kids’ standing desks”).

Midwife Comments on Labor Pain in Cosmo

Stacie Schurman, a certified nurse midwife with the UCLA Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, was featured Nov. 12 in a [Cosmopolitan](#) article on how to make labor less painful.

Women’s Health Expert Featured on NPR

Dr. Janet Pregler, director of the Iris Cantor – UCLA Women’s Health Center, was featured Nov. 9 on NPR ([here](#) and [here](#)) in a story about marketing products to treat the symptoms of menopause. The report also aired on dozens of NPR affiliates across the country.

Therapy Dogs Help Wounded Warriors

The [Long Beach Press-Telegram](#) highlighted Nov. 10 the UCLA People-Animal Connection’s work with Operation Mend in helping wounded veterans heal from the physical and emotional trauma of war.

Fraternity Supports Young Girl Fighting Cancer

[KCBS-Channel 2](#) and [KCAL-Channel 9](#) reported Nov. 9 on a UCLA fraternity’s unlikely friendship with a 12-year-old girl fighting cancer at Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA. Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity brothers have delivered red roses and pizza, serenaded her with music and written her name in lights on their roof.

Eye Surgeon to Kick Off Prestigious Meeting

[Medscape](#) reported Nov. 9 that Dr. Anne Coleman, the Fran and Ray Stark Foundation Professor of Ophthalmology at the Stein Eye Institute at UCLA, will address the use of big data to make discoveries about cataract surgery in the opening lecture of the American Academy of Ophthalmology’s 2015 annual meeting.

Neurologist Provides Expert Commentary

Dr. Brent Fogel, an assistant professor of neurology and director of the UCLA Neurogenetics Clinic, provided expert commentary Nov. 5 in [Neurology Today](#) on a study of treatment outcomes for patients with autoimmune cerebellar ataxia.

Beverly Hills Courier Covers UCLA Health System Board Meeting

[The Beverly Hills Courier](#) (page 12) reported Nov. 6 on the fourth annual UCLA Health System Board Meeting. Speakers included Henry Gluck, chairman of UCLA Health System Board; Dr. John C. Mazziotta, vice chancellor of UCLA Health Sciences and chief executive officer of UCLA Health; Dr. Antoni Ribas, a professor of medicine and surgery and a member of the Clinical Translational Science Institute, UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Eli & Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine & Stem Cell Research; and Dr. Benjamin Ansell, a professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

Prostate Cancer Treatment Study Featured by Oncology Nurse Advisor

[Oncology Nurse Advisor](#) reported Nov. 9 on a study by Dr. Aaron Laviana that analyzed the costs of treating low risk prostate cancer. Laviana is a fifth year urology resident.

Moorpark Acorn Highlights ANA Award

The [Moorpark Acorn](#) reported Nov. 5 on Dr. Jeffrey Saver winning the American Neurological Association's Soriano Leadership Award. Saver is director of the UCLA Comprehensive Stroke Center.

Geriatrician's Column Looks at Lung-Cancer Screening

The [Santa Monica Mirror](#) published Nov. 6 a guest column from Dr. Maija Sanna, geriatrician at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica and assistant clinical professor of medicine, providing an in-depth look at lung-cancer screening for older adults.

Fielding School Findings on Diabetes Prevalence

Research from the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health was featured Nov. 8 in [The Daily Republic](#) for findings that indicate more than one-third of all hospitalized patients in Solano County, Calif., have diabetes.

Disaggregating Generic Racial Data Helps Show Disparities

The California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was featured Nov. 11 in a [California Healthline](#) article highlighting its nuanced data and conclusions about health disparities among Asian and Latino communities in California. David Grant, CHIS director, was quoted.

Hidden Health Costs of African-American Beauty Products

[CityLab \(The Atlantic\)](#) re-published Nov. 6 an article by Teni Adewumi, a doctoral candidate in environmental health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, that sheds light on the potential health effects of certain hair products and promotes carcinogen-free ingredients that are linked to cancer. The article originally ran in the spring 2015 issue of [UCLA Public Health Magazine](#).

The Built Environment and Public Health

Dr. Richard Jackson, professor of environmental health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was featured Nov. 5 in a guest interview on [Episode 80 of "Talking Headways,"](#) a Streetsblog USA podcast, that discussed the effect of human-made surroundings—buildings, parks, green space and related infrastructure—and their effect on public health.

UCLA Launches Long-Term Depression Initiative

Dr. Nelson Friemer, the Maggie G. Gilbert Professor of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Science and director of the Center for Neurobehavioral Genetics in the Semel Institute, was interviewed Nov. 6 on [KGO-AM](#) (San Francisco) about UCLA's Depression Grand Challenge, to which he is devoting his career.

Better Sleep, Tai Chi May Reduce Inflammation and Improve Health

New findings by Dr. Michael Irwin, professor of psychiatry and director of the Cousins Center for Psychoneuroimmunology at the Semel Institute, into the value of sleep and Tai Chi in reducing illness-inducing inflammation was reported Nov. 5 by [University Herald](#) and [Science Daily](#).

New Device Could Help Reset the Brains of Veterans with PTSD

A clinical trial on a novel device to treat PTSD was the subject Nov. 11 of a piece on [KABC-Channel 7](#). The trial's principal investigator Dr. Andrew Leuchter, a UCLA professor of psychiatry and director of the neuromodulation division at UCLA's Semel Institute, was interviewed. The device was co-invented at UCLA by Ian Cook, who is on leave from his position as a UCLA professor of psychiatry, while working to bring it to market.

BRIEFS

Dr. Richard Jackson, professor of environmental health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was mentioned Nov. 8 in the [South Bend Tribune](#) for his lecture, "Designing Healthy Communities," at the University of Notre Dame.

The benefits of free meditation resources on the UCLA Mindful Awareness Research Center were cited Nov. 10 in a [New York Times](#) op-ed about one man's successful quest to cope with generalized anxiety disorder.

The FOCUS program at the Nathanson Family Resilience Center in the Semel Institute was cited Nov. 6 in a [Huffington Post](#) article about resources for Los Angeles public school children whose parents have served in the military.

Research into the value of patient input by Dr. Kenneth Wells, holder of the David Weil Chair in psychiatry and director of the Center for Health Services and Society of the Semel Institute, was cited Nov. 4 in a [Kaiser Health News](#) article about the federally-funded Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute.

QUOTABLES

Shana Alex Charles, faculty associate at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented Nov. 10 in [WalletHub](#) about the impact of the Affordable Care Act on the number of uninsured adults nationwide. Her comments were re-published Nov. 10 in an article in [Pacific Business News](#) about Hawaii's uninsured rate.

Suzette Glasner-Edwards, an adjunct associate professor at the Semel Institute and a research psychologist in the Integrated Substance Abuse Programs, commented Nov. 12 in a [CBSNews.com](#) article that explored the benefits of providing patients with incentives to make smarter health choices.

Dana Hunnes, a senior dietician at the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and an adjunct assistant professor in the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented Nov. 10 in a [KABC-Channel 7](#) report on a new study detailing the health risks of belly fat.

Dr. Michael Irwin, professor of psychiatry and director of the Cousins Center for Psychoneuroimmunology at the Semel Institute, was quoted Nov. 9 in a [Robb Report](#) article about ways to manage the devastating effects of stress.

Dr. Bruce Kagan, a psychiatry professor in the Semel Institute and chief of staff at the Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital, commented Nov. 10 in a [Huffington Post](#) article about a growing number of military veterans with PTSD who are on death row.

Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and of public health at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted Nov. 5 in an [LA Weekly](#) article about claims that proposed California regulations would require porn performers to wear goggles.

Dr. Andrew Leuchter, professor of psychiatry and director of the Laboratory of Brain, Behavior and Pharmacology at the Semel Institute, commented Nov. 6 in a [Yahoo! Health](#) article about consumer perceptions of generic drugs.

Judith Orloff, an assistant clinical professor of psychiatry in the Semel Institute, commented in a Nov. 6 [Bustle](#) article about strategies for sticking up for oneself in everyday situations.

Dr. Andrea Rapkin, interim chair of the UCLA Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, commented Nov. 9 in a [Prevention Magazine](#) story on 10 myths about menopause.

Dr. Dennis Woo, pediatrician and former chair of pediatrics at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, was quoted Nov. 9 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) article on seasonal allergies and illnesses.

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