



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT  
For the weeks of Nov.20 - Dec. 3, 2015**

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### **Active Surveillance Study Grabs Headlines**

KPCC 89.3 FM ([here](#) and [here](#)), [United Press International](#), [Oncology Nurse Advisor](#), [HealthCanal](#), [Examiner.com](#), [MedicalXpress](#) and [Science Codex](#) Dec. 1; [Big News Network](#), [NewsMax](#), [Medical News Today](#) and [Prostate Cancer News Today](#) Dec. 2, and [Cancer Network](#), [Telegraph Times](#) and [Examiner Post](#) Dec. 3 reported on a study by Dr. Karim Chamie that found most men on active surveillance for prostate cancer are not being monitored properly. Chamie is an assistant professor of urology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

### **Baby Gets Post-Thanksgiving Heart Transplant**

[KCBS-Channel 2](#) Nov.27, [KCAL-Channel 9](#) Nov. 28, [CBS News online](#) Dec. 30 and the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) Dec. 2 reported on an 8-month-old baby at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA who received a life-saving heart transplant over the Thanksgiving weekend. Dr. Nancy Halnon, assistant professor of pediatric cardiology, was interviewed.

### **Multiple Sclerosis Study Draws Attention**

[MedicalXpress](#) and [Examiner.com](#) Nov. 30; [Medical News Today](#), [News-Medical.net](#) and [International Business Times](#) Dec. 1; [Science News](#) Dec. 2; and [Monthly Prescribing Reference](#) Dec. 3 reported on a study by Dr. Rhonda Voskuhl that found a safe estrogen can help prevent relapses in multiple sclerosis. Voskuhl is a professor in the UCLA Department of Neurology and director of UCLA's Multiple Sclerosis Program.

### **KABC Features Musician Visits to Pediatric Patients**

[KABC-Channel 7](#) Nov. 16 broadcast a story on Musicians On Call visiting pediatric patients at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA. Volunteer musicians give bedside concerts designed to uplift spirits. Kellye Carroll, director of the Chase Child Life Program, commented.

### **Media Interest in Skirball Exhibit Guest Curated by Fielding School Faculty Member Continues**

A call-to-social-action exhibition guest curated by Dr. Neal Baer, adjunct professor of community health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, at the Skirball Cultural Center was featured Nov. 27 in a [Voice of America](#) story. Baer was quoted.

### **Ovarian Cancer Study Continues to Receive Coverage**

[Targeted Oncology](#) Nov. 24 and [Oncology Nurse Advisor](#) Nov. 30 reported on a study by Lily Wu that found an experimental drug can help with a debilitating side effect of ovarian cancer. Wu is a professor of pharmacology, pediatrics and urology and a researcher at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

### **Surgeons Cure Woman of Hearing Noises in Her Head**

The [NW Times](#) reported Dec. 1 on an Indiana woman who traveled to Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center for two surgeries that cured a rare disorder in which she constantly heard her body's noises. Surgeons plugged a tiny hole in her ear canal to stop it from amplifying internal and external sounds into her ears. Dr. Quinton Gopen, an assistant professor of head and neck surgery, was quoted.

### **Smart Devices to Prevent Kids' Asthma Attacks**

A \$6-million NIH grant that will enable a UCLA/USC medical imaging team to create a kid-friendly platform on smart devices to help predict and ward off future asthmatic attacks was covered Dec. 1 by [Healthcare IT News](#), [Mobile Health Intelligence](#) and [Mobi Health News](#) and Nov. 30 by [Healthcare Informatics](#). Principal investigator Alex Bui, a professor of radiological sciences, was quoted.

### **Loneliness May Warp Our Genes, and Our Immune Systems**

Research by Dr. Steven Cole, a professor of medicine and a member of the Cousins Center for Psychoneuroimmunology, linking loneliness and a host of diseases influenced by inflammation, was reported Nov. 30 by NPR's [Shots](#) and [Mic.com](#).

### **Kicking an Addiction? Replace it with Joy, UCLA Expert Advises in New Book**

A new book of approaches to kicking addictions by Suzette Glasner-Edwards, adjunct associate professor of psychiatry at UCLA's Semel Institute, was featured Nov. 27 in the [Beverly Hills Courier](#).

### **Consistent Source of Health Care is Key Factor in Limiting Kids' Repeat Visits to the Hospital**

The [American Journal of Managed Care](#) reported Nov. 27 on a UCLA study which found that having a routine place to receive sick and well care was the most reliable predictor of whether a child would be readmitted to a hospital or emergency room within a month after being discharged. The study also found that parents' level of confidence in their children's continued good health was closely correlated with whether the child would be readmitted. Study co-author, Dr. Thomas Klitzner, professor of pediatric cardiology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA and executive director of the UCLA Pediatric Medical Home Program, was quoted.

### **UCLA Fraternity Members, Athletes Bring Cheer to Pediatric Patient**

[NBC News online](#) Nov. 30 and the [Lompoc Record](#) Nov.13 featured the story of a pediatric patient at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA who was befriended by members of UCLA's Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and members of the UCLA soccer team.

### **Clinical Trial Seeks Heart Disease Patients for Stent Study**

[Examiner.com](#) Nov. 27 focused on a clinical trial that will compare the safety and effectiveness of an investigational naturally dissolving stent with an already-approved metallic stent. Principal investigator Dr. Jonathan Tobis, a clinical professor of cardiology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, and Dr. William Suh, assistant clinical professor of medicine in the division of cardiology, were quoted.

### **UCLA Researcher Designs New Method to Screen Cancer Cells**

[GEN](#) reported Dec. 3 on a new technique to analyze the squishiness of cancer cells since they are more pliable than normal cells. Scientists hope the new method will help make it easier to classify cancer cells which could ultimately lead to better treatments for cancer, diabetes, malaria and other diseases. Amy Rowat, assistant professor of integrative biology and physiology at UCLA and a member of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Nanotechnology Program, was quoted.

### **Potential Therapeutic Targets for Metastatic Prostate Cancer**

[MedicalXpress](#) and [HealthCanal](#) Dec. 2 and the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine's [blog](#) Dec. 3 reported on a study published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences that identified potential therapeutic targets for metastatic prostate cancer. The study was directed by senior author Dr. Owen Witte, director of the UCLA Broad Stem Cell Research Center and member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center. The study's first author was Claire Faltermeier, a medical and doctoral student in Witte's lab.

### **Stem Cell Gene Therapy Clinical Trial for Bubble Baby Disease Draws Attention**

[CBS News](#) Nov. 30 and [Parenting Magazine](#) Dec. 1 featured a story about a UCLA Broad Stem Cell Research Center clinical trial that has cured 23 out of 23 babies with bubble baby disease. The CBS News story ran in 145 markets. The clinical trial is being run by Dr. Donald Kohn, member of the UCLA Broad Stem Cell Research Center and the UCLA Children's Discovery and Innovation Institute at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA.

### **KCBS Calls on UCLA Dietitian to Discuss Health Benefits of Pumpkin**

Erin Morse, chief clinical dietitian for UCLA Health, was interviewed Nov. 23 in a [KCBS-Channel 2](#) segment about the many health benefits of pumpkin, a superfood that most people only regard as a pie-filling or decoration.

### **Solving Dual Eligibles' Opt-Out Puzzle**

[California Healthline](#) Dec. 1, and [Long Term Living](#) and [HealthCanal](#) Nov. 30 reported that the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research in the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health has launched a project to better understand why such a high percentage of seniors have been opting out of joining the Cal

MediConnect program, part of the state's duals demonstration project and Coordinated Care Initiative. Kathryn Kietzman, research scientist at UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and lead investigator for the new project, was quoted.

### **Fewer Adults and Teens in California Smoke**

[The Sacramento Bee](#) Nov. 25 and [California Healthline](#) Nov. 30 reported on a study 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 about 11 percent of California adults and teenagers smoked in 2014 - down from 12 percent a year earlier.

### **Healthy Vending Machine Options Outsell Junk Food**

[PsychCentral](#) reported Nov. 30 on research led by Joe Viana, a doctoral student at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, suggesting that people will choose healthy options over junk food at vending machines when they have the chance.

## **BRIEFS**

A Nov. 18 [Fortune](#) article on the credulity of the supposed sleep habits of some high powered CEOs cited research by Jerome Siegel, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Center for Sleep Research, into the sleeping habits of traditional people.

Dr. Deanna Attai, UCLA breast surgeon based in Burbank and assistant clinical professor of surgery, was noted in a Nov.30 article in [Madison Miles Media](#) as one of the few doctors in the country that effectively utilizes social media to educate patients.

[Becker's Hospital Review](#) noted Dec. 2 that Ninez Ponce, professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and associate director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, was named co-chair of a new [National Quality Forum](#) standing committee that will focus on reducing and eliminating disparities through quality measurement.

Data from the California Health Interview Survey, conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, were cited Dec. 3 in a [Sacramento Bee](#) story about a state assemblyman exiting his elected post a year early, leaving one of the poorest parts of Fresno County, where 30 percent of residents have a hard time putting food on the table, without representation.

Data from California Health Interview Survey, conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, were cited Nov. 27 in a [Long Beach Post](#) story on American Diabetes Month. The story reports rates of hospitalization from the disease varied significantly, depending on residents' ZIP Code and race/ethnicity.

## **QUOTABLES**

Dr. Deanna Attai, UCLA breast surgeon based in Burbank and assistant clinical professor of surgery, was quoted Nov. 25 in an [Oncology Times](#) blogpost on a new study examining the effectiveness of a new procedure to reduce secondary lymphedema in breast cancer patients.

Dr. Alon Avidan, director of the UCLA Sleep Disorders Center, commented Nov. 23 in a [WebMD](#) story on common sleep disorders.

Catherine Carpenter, associate adjunct professor of medicine, nursing and public health, was quoted Nov. 1 in an article in [The Scientist](#) about new research on how fat influences brain neuronal activity in relation to food addiction and obesity.

Shana Charles, a faculty associate in the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research in the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted Nov. 23 in an [International Business Times](#) article about how health insurers are investing in new programs and treatment models designed to provide better and cheaper care to their most expensive clients

Thomas Coates, director of the UCLA Center for World Health and an associate director of the UCLA AIDS Institute, commented Nov. 19 in a report on NPR's "[On Point with Tom Ashbrook](#)" on the current state of HIV therapies.

Dr. Jaime Deville, clinical professor of pediatric infectious diseases and director of the Care-4-Families clinic, was quoted Nov. 22 in a [Long Beach Press-Telegram](#) story about a local hospital celebrating 20 years of zero mother-to-child HIV transmission.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, the Eliot Corday Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, was quoted Nov. 23 in [HealthDay News](#) on a study indicating that a high 'resting' heart rate may be tied to higher odds of early death but, that more research is needed before this can be used as a marker. Fonarow was also quoted Dec. 1 in [HealthDay News](#) on results of a study finding that one in eight American adults still have high cholesterol and that many adults don't meet CDC guidelines, leaving them more susceptible to heart attack and stroke.

Dr. Timothy Fong, an associate clinical professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and co-director of the UCLA Gambling Studies Program, commented extensively on the debate of whether fantasy sports betting is gambling, which would bring it under new regulations. His comments appeared Nov. 20 in the [Los Angeles Times](#), Nov. 23 in the [Wall Street Journal](#) and aired Nov. 25 on [NPR](#).

Dr. Christine Lee, pain-management specialist at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica and assistant clinical professor of anesthesiology, was quoted Nov. 24 in a [U.S. News & World Report](#) story about osteoarthritis and exercise.

Dr. Andrew Leuchter, professor of psychiatry and director of the Laboratory of Brain, Behavior and Pharmacology at the Semel Institute, was quoted Dec. 1 in a [Yahoo! Health](#) article about the increasing pressures to prescribe generic drugs.

Emanuel Maidenberg, director of the UCLA Cognitive Behavior Therapy Clinic and a clinical professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was quoted Nov. 14 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) article about ways to beat bad habits.

April Pyle, associate professor of microbiology, immunology and molecular genetics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a member of the UCLA Broad Stem Cell Research Center, was quoted Dec. 2 in a [HealthDay](#) story about gene editing. The story focused on the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Medicine's Human Gene-Editing Initiative's international summit, taking place Dec. 1 through 3 in Washington, D.C. and the ethics and concerns surrounding gene editing.

Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging and director of the UCLA Longevity Center at the Semel Institute, commented Dec. 2 in a [Dr. Oz's The Good Life](#) article about evidence linking physical activity and cognitive health, especially going into middle age.

Dr. E. Richard Stiehm, an emeritus professor of pediatric allergy and immunology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was quoted Dec. 1 in a [Long Beach Press-Telegram](#) article about primary immunodeficiency disease.

Elana Sussman, a lactation consultant and registered dietitian nutritionist at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was quoted Nov. 24 in a [Yahoo! Parenting](#) story about the benefits of breast feeding for the mom as well as the baby.

Dr. Michael Yeh, associate professor of surgery, was interviewed Nov. 24 by [NBC Nightly News](#) and quoted online Nov. 27 by the [NBC Today Show](#) about thyroid cancer pegged to a story about a reality TV show host who discovered he had thyroid cancer after an astute viewer noticed a lump in the host's neck.

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