



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of Dec. 11-17, 2015**

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Formerly Conjoined Twins Give Back to Pediatric Patients

[KCBS-Channel 2](#), [KNBC-Channel 4](#), [KABC-Channel 7](#), [KCAL-Channel 9](#), [Univision](#), [Telemundo](#), [Estrella TV](#), [KFI 640AM](#) Dec. 14; [La Opinion](#), [HOY](#), [Seventeen Magazine](#) Dec. 15; [ABC News online](#), [CBS News online](#) Dec. 16 and others featured the story of the formerly conjoined Guatemalan twins, nicknamed the Two Marias, who were separated in a landmark surgery at UCLA in 2002. The twins, now 14, returned to Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA this week to help decorate the rooms of pediatric patients who will be hospitalized over the holidays and to reunite with the doctors and nurses who helped care for them. Dr. Jorge Lazareff, the lead pediatric neurosurgeon; Dr. Henry Kawamoto, the lead plastic and reconstructive surgeon, and Dr. Barbara Van De Wiele, the lead anesthesiologist, were interviewed in the coverage.

Editorial on Hospital Readmission Rates Receives Spotlight

An editorial in *JAMA Surgery* authored by Dr. O. Joe Hines, chief of the division of general surgery, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, accompanied a study suggesting that nearly one in five patients who are readmitted to a hospital after having emergency general surgery are there because they developed a surgical site infection. Hines was quoted Nov. 11 in [HeathDay](#) and the article was picked up Nov. 12 by [CBS News](#), [U.S. News & World Report](#) and [DoctorsLounge](#) emphasizing that the incorporation of electronic health records and the creation of large health systems will facilitate better care for patients readmitted to different hospitals to ensure continuity of care.

Cardiologist Comments on Heart Health

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, the Eliot Corday Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine and Science, director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, and a spokesperson for the American Heart Association, was quoted in the media on heart related news. Coverage included:

- A [HealthDay News](#) article Dec. 9 about the lack of any new medications to reduce the risk of heart failure.
- A [MedicalXpress](#) article Dec. 8 in which he noted it is still unclear whether psychological factors, including having a positive outlook and feeling gratitude, can impact cardiovascular outcomes;
- A [Philly.com](#) article Dec. 8 commenting on a study that suggests inflammation related to allergies could boost cholesterol and blood pressure levels.
- A [Tctmd.com](#) and [Medscape.com](#) article Dec. 8 regarding a study he published that found that at least some use of pulmonary artery catheters in patients who have been hospitalized for heart failure are inconsistent with current clinical trial evidence and current guidelines.
- A [Philly.com](#) article Dec. 15 regarding a study finding that people who develop the painful rash known as shingles appear to face a short-term increase in their risk for having a stroke or heart attack.

Advanced Thyroid Cancer Rate in Some California Counties is Well above National Average

[Reuters](#) Dec. 10, [Fox News](#) Dec. 11, and [Imperial Valley News](#) Dec. 13 reported on new findings by UCLA researchers that show several parts of California have a high percentage of people with thyroid cancer and the disease is already at an advanced stage by the time it is diagnosed. Dr. Avital Harari, member of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and assistant professor of surgery, was quoted.

Immunotherapy Drug Developed by UCLA Researcher Helps Former President Carter Fight Cancer

[The Washington Post](#) reported Dec. 6 on the drug Keytruda, which uses the immune system to fight melanoma. Former President Carter was prescribed the drug following his cancer diagnosis and he credits it for shrinking the cancerous tumors on his brain. Dr. Antoni Ribas, director of the UCLA Jonsson

Comprehensive Cancer Center Immunology Program and professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology, was quoted.

\$10 Million Gift for Migraine Research Continues to Draw Coverage

[MigraineAgain.com](#) Dec. 10, [The Hollywood Reporter](#), [Santa Monica Daily Press](#) and [Beverly Hills Courier](#) Dec. 11, [L.A. Canyon News](#) Dec. 12 and [CBS News](#) and [Migraine.com](#) Dec. 14 reported on a \$10 million gift from Wendy and Leonard Goldberg to fund migraine research. Dr. Andrew Charles, a professor of neurology, the Meyer and Renee Luskin Chair in Migraine and Headache Studies and the new director of the UCLA Goldberg Migraine Program, was quoted.

More Headlines for Prostate Cancer Study

[HealthDay](#) Dec. 4 and the [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) Dec. 13 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 UCLA and a member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

HIV Doctor Explains Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis

Dr. Raphael Landovitz, associate professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases, was featured Dec. 16 in a [Healio: Infectious Disease News](#) video in which he explained the use pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, to prevent infection with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Women's Health Site Measures Bone Health and Marriage

[Women Fitness](#) reported Dec. 15 on a study suggesting that men who marry or are in committed, stable relationships prior to age 25 have weaker bones than those who marry after that age. Study co-authors Dr. Arun Karlamangla, professor of medicine in the division of geriatrics, and Dr. Carolyn Crandall, professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, were quoted.

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 Dec. 14 in a Los Angeles [Daily News](#) story. The article also ran Dec. 14 in the [San Bernardino Sun](#) and on [LA.com](#).

Drought's Impact on Health

[Philly.com](#) published Dec. 11 an article by Sharona Sokolow, a doctoral candidate in the department of environmental health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, on how water conservation measures during a drought can impact human health and described a health impact assessment of California's urban water conservation alternatives she and her team developed addressing those concerns.

Firefighters Deliver Gifts and Good Cheer to Santa Monica Patients

[KCBS-Channel 2/KCAL-Channel 9](#) reported Dec. 14 on the Santa Monica Fire Department's annual visit to UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica to deliver gifts and good wishes to sick children. Chase Child Life specialist Tracy Reyes was interviewed in the segment. The Santa Monica Daily Press published several photos from the event on its front page Dec. 15.

Different Ages, Different Symptoms from the Same Breast Cancer Drugs

[Examiner.com](#) Dec. 10 and [Drug Discovery and Development](#), [MedicalXpress](#) and [Science World Report](#) Dec. 11 reported on UCLA research into long-term outcomes in postmenopausal women diagnosed with the most common type of non-invasive breast cancer who had undergone lumpectomy plus radiotherapy. Although anastrozole and tamoxifen were found to be safe and effective and had no detrimental effect on overall quality of life, there were some differences in the type and severity of symptoms the women experienced with each treatment, and these especially differed by age. Dr. Patricia Ganz, director of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center's Prevention and Control Research program and

professor in the department of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was the study's first author and was quoted in the coverage.

Breast Cancer Researcher Discusses New Cancer Drug

[Cancer Therapy Advisor](#) featured Dec. 10 clinical study findings that were presented at the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium on the breast cancer drug palbociclib, a first-in-class CDK 4/6-specific inhibitor. When it is combined synergistically with tamoxifen in ER-positive breast cancer cell lines progression-free survival in patients improves significantly. Dr. Richard Finn, co-director of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Signal Transduction and Therapeutics program, was interviewed.

Does Surgery Push Cognitive Decline in Elderly?

[MedPage Today](#) featured Dec. 11 comments by Dr. Richard Shemin, Robert and Kelly Day professor at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and chief of cardiac surgery at the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, in a panel article discussing surgery as a risk factor and potential cause of cognitive decline in the elderly.

Local Teen Gets Double Lung Transplant

[KABC-Channel 7](#) Dec. 10 featured the story of a seriously ill Orange County teenager with cystic fibrosis who recently received a life-saving double lung transplant at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center. Dr. David Ross, medical director of the UCLA Lung Transplant program, was interviewed.

Man Celebrates Three Decades with Donor Heart

The [Beach Reporter](#) (page 14) spotlighted the story of a Redondo Beach man who has survived 30 years with the same donor heart he received in 1985. The man recently spoke at the UCLA Heart and Lung Transplant program's annual holiday party attended by patients who have either received, or who are waiting for, a donor heart or lung transplant, as well as the medical staff from the transplant team.

Resilience Against Stress

New findings validating the UCLA-administered FOCUS program to build resilience against stress in the military was covered Dec. 15 by [MedicalXpress](#), [News-Medical](#), [Psychiatry Advisor](#) and [Science Codex](#).

MS Study Featured

[Health News Review](#) Dec. 13 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.

Autism Study Grabs Attention

[Counsel & Heal](#) Dec. 17 reported on a study by Kay Jann and Danny J.J. Wang that found that brain areas linked to social behaviors are both underdeveloped and insufficiently networked in youths with high functioning autism spectrum disorder. Jann is a postdoctoral researcher in the department of neurology. Wang is an associate professor of neurology and a researcher in the Ahmanson-Lovelace Brain Mapping Center at UCLA.

Why are “Duals” Rejecting Cal MediConnect?

Kathryn Kietzman, a research scientist for the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented Dec. 14 in [Physician News Network](#) about her project, which will study why “dual eligibles” are rejecting the new state managed care pilot program, Cal MediConnect.

To Fielding School Student, Digital Literacy is Critical Part of Health Education

Tanya Olmos, a UCLA Fielding School of Public Health doctoral student, was featured Dec. 17 by the [Albert Schweitzer Fellowship Blog](#) for her efforts to increase electronic literacy among Latino adults who participate in health education programs in the San Fernando Valley.

BRIEFS

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. 10 in a [California Health Report](#) article about a CDC study finding that food insecurity is linked to negative health outcomes, such as psychological distress. A version of the article ran Dec. 14 in [California HealthLine](#) and was republished by [Hispanic Trending](#) and [MDLinx](#).

The Dec. 11 issue of the [Beverly Hills Courier](#) (page 18) featured a story on the Beverly Hills Women's Club, which recently created bereavement bags for the Comfort Care program at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, which supports families who have lost a child due to illness.

A report prepared by Dr. Timothy Fong, the co-director of the UCLA Gambling Studies Program and an associate professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was cited widely Dec. 14 in coverage about Pete Rose's unsuccessful quest to be reinstated into Major League Baseball, including articles by the [Associate Press](#) and [Yahoo! Sports](#).

The California Simulation of Insurance Markets, a California health insurance market forecasting model co-developed by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and the UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education, was cited Dec. 11 by [SFBayView.com](#) in anticipation of the mid-December Covered California deadline to enroll, and was republished by [Fontana Herald News](#) and [The Orange County Register](#).

QUOTABLES

Dr. Lisa Dabby, attending physician at the Nethercutt Emergency Medical Center at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, was interviewed Dec. 10 in a [HealthLeaders Media](#) article on alternatives to traditional mitigation techniques and their impact on patient satisfaction.

Dr. Mark DeAntonio, clinical professor of psychiatry and director of adolescent inpatient services at the Semel Institute, commented Dec. 14 in [New York Times](#), [Yahoo! Parenting](#) and [CBS News](#) articles about the toll that anti-Muslim sentiments are taking on U.S. children.

Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases and of public health, was quoted Dec. 11 in a [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) story about the growing rates of gonorrhea and syphilis in San Diego County.

Emanuel Maidenberg, an associate clinical professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and Semel Institute, commented Dec. 17 in a [WJLA-TV](#) (Washington, DC) online article about the best ways to cope with stress brought on by the threat of terrorism.

Dr. Robert Woods, professor of neurology, commented Dec. 8 in a [Huffington Post](#) story about how the brains of marathon runners lose some gray matter.

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