



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT  
For the week of Dec. 20, 2013 – Jan. 2, 2014**

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**Watch UCLA Health Sciences' 2013 Media Success Stories!**

**Family Celebrates Gift of Life Again and Again and Again**

**Blogger Explores Acts of Kindness after Diagnosis**

**Channel 7 Highlights New Way to Clear Carotid Arteries**

**Toy Drive Organizer Shares His Story on KTLA**

**Channel 7 Features Santa's Visit to Craniofacial Clinic**

**Lung Transplant Allows Woman to Breathe**

**KABC Features Healthy Holiday Foods**

**Huff Post Explores Importance of Enough Sleep**

**Pediatric Patients Prefer Telehealth**

**Robb Report Looks at Executive Health Care Programs**

**Neurosurgeon Describes Actor's Treatment, Recovery**

**Beverly Hills Courier Notes Wounded Warriors Donation**

**Media Reports on Public Health Initiative**

**UCLA, Cedars Partner on Rehab Center**

**Primate Research Records**

**L.A. Times Column Highlights Safety in the New Year**

**New York Times Reports on Concussion Research**

**'Zoobiquity' Benefits People and Animals**

**Exploring Santa Monica NICU's Video-Visit Program**

**Firefighters Deliver Gifts to Pediatric Patients**

**Malibu Weekly Highlights Holiday Tips**

**Korean Times Features Liver Transplant Recipient**

**Care Coordinator Program Profiled**

**Trade Lauds Top Women's Health Programs**

**How Brain Cancer Cells Hide From Drugs**

**Adult Stem Cells Suppress Cancer While Dormant**

**TV Stations Report on State of Cancer Care**

**Pancreas Cancer Linked to Fatty, Caloric Diet**

**Blogging Reduces Breast Cancer-Related Depression**

**Radio Highlights Help for Wounded Warriors**

**BRIEFS**

**QUOTABLES**

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**Watch UCLA Health Sciences' 2013 Media Success Stories!**

The UCLA Health Sciences Media Relations office is pleased to present [highlights from its top television stories of 2013](http://streaming.uclahealth.org/inthenews2013). Please note that we could not include every story from the past year as our media relations staff logged countless hours of news coverage. This is for internal use only and not for rebroadcast. You may need to copy and paste the link into your web browser to play. Happy New Year! <http://streaming.uclahealth.org/inthenews2013>.

**Family Celebrates Gift of Life Again and Again and Again**

More than 100 news outlets syndicated a Dec. 24 [Associated Press](#) story of a family in which the mother and her two sons have all had heart transplants due to a genetic heart condition. The brothers received their new hearts at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA. Dr. Greg Perens, assistant clinical professor of pediatric cardiology at Mattel Children's Hospital, was interviewed. A.P. also produced a video story that aired on multiple affiliates including Los Angeles' [KCBS-Channel 2](#), Austin's [KEYE-Channel 42](#) and Jacksonville's [WAWS-Channel 30](#).

**Blogger Explores Acts of Kindness after Diagnosis**

The [Huffington Post](#) posted a Dec. 28 blog by Dr. Elana Miller, a psychiatry resident with the Semel Institute who also works at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center's emergency department that chronicles her visit to the ER and her subsequent diagnosis.

**Channel 7 Highlights New Way to Clear Carotid Arteries**

[KABC-TV Channel 7](#) reported Dec. 23; [WJMN-TV](#) (Green Bay, Wis.) and [WFRV-TV](#) (Green Bay, Wis.) reported Dec. 25; and [KOTA-TV](#) (Rapid City, S.D.) reported Dec. 29 on a new procedure being performed at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center that is part of a clinical trial to help clear plaque-filled carotid arteries. Dr. Wesley Moore, UCLA study investigator and professor emeritus of vascular surgery, was interviewed.

**Toy Drive Organizer Shares His Story on KTLA**

On Dec. 22, [KTLA-Channel 5](#)'s weekend morning show welcomed 10-year-old Casey Abram into its studio to discuss his fourth annual toy drive benefitting the Chase Child Life program at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA. Abram, who suffers from a rare intestinal disease and is a frequent patient at the hospital, decided that he wanted to help other kids hospitalized during the holidays by collecting and donating toys.

### **Channel 7 Features Santa's Visit to Craniofacial Clinic**

[KABC-Channel 7](#) aired a Dec. 18 segment on a special visit to Mattel Children's Hospital by Santa Claus, who greeted pediatric craniofacial patients and distributed gifts at the UCLA plastic and reconstructive surgery clinic. The annual Christmas Clinic is one of several events held throughout the year to help craniofacial patients feel special.

### **Lung Transplant Allows Woman to Breathe**

The [Ventura County Star](#) ran a Dec. 25 story and [video](#) of a Thousand Oaks woman who suffers from a rare lung condition called alpha-1. She can breathe now thanks to a double lung transplant performed at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center.

### **KABC Features Healthy Holiday Foods**

[KABC-Channel 7](#) aired a Dec. 24 story offering tips for incorporating healthy foods in your diet around the holidays. Dr. David Heber, founding director of the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition, and Susan Bowerman, assistant director of the center, were featured. The story also ran on KOTA-TV (Rapid City, S.D.), WJMN-TV (Green Bay, Wis.), WFRV-TV (Green Bay, Wis.) and KOAM-TV (Pittsburg, Kan.)

### **Huff Post Explores Importance of Enough Sleep**

Dr. Alon Avidan, professor of neurology and director of the Sleep Disorders Program, was featured in a Dec. 29 [Huffington Post](#) article about sleep deprivation and how proper sleep can improve the quality of life in the daytime.

### **Pediatric Patients Prefer Telehealth**

[La Opinion](#) reported Dec. 19 on a pilot program led by the Fit for Healthy Weight program at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA finding that pediatric patients in the obesity clinic liked having their appointments via telehealth technology. Dr. Wendy Slusser, medical director of the Fit for Healthy Weight program at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA and director of pediatric wellness programs at the Venice Family Clinic, was interviewed.

### **Robb Report Looks at Executive Health Care Programs**

Dr. Benjamin Ansell, clinical professor of medicine and director of UCLA's Comprehensive Health Program, was interviewed for a Jan. 1 [Robb Report](#) article about the changing landscape of health insurance and the role of executive health care programs.

### **Neurosurgeon Describes Actor's Treatment, Recovery**

Dr. Neil Martin, chairman of neurosurgery, was interviewed Jan. 1 in an Extra segment about an actor who underwent surgery and recovered after suffering a critical brain injury.

### **Beverly Hills Courier Notes Wounded Warriors Donation**

The Beverly Hills [Courier](#) (page 19) reported Dec. 19 on a \$100,000 donation by the philanthropic organization, The Thaliens, in support of UCLA's Operation Mend. Operation Mend provides returning injured military personnel with access to comprehensive medical and mental health support for the wounded and their families.

### **Media Reports on Public Health Initiative**

Several media outlets reported on the re-opening of a local corner store in Boyle Heights that will now offer more nutritious foods. The store's conversion is part of a strategy with community members to change eating habits and reduce obesity and heart disease among the area's community, and is a collaboration between the UCLA-USC Center for Population Health and Health Disparities and the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. Coverage included Dec. 12 on [KCET.org](#); Dec. 17 in the [Examiner.com](#); and Dec. 18 in the [BoyleHeightsBeat.com](#).

### **UCLA, Cedars Partner on Rehab Center**

The [Beverly Hills Courier](#) reported Dec. 20 that UCLA Health System, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and the health care company, Select Medical, are partnering to open a 138-bed medical rehabilitation facility

in the former Century City Hospital. Dr. David Feinberg, president of UCLA Health System and associate vice chancellor for health sciences, was quoted.

### **Primate Research Records**

The [Associated Press](#) reported Dec. 19, and [KNBC-Channel 4](#) and [KPCC-89.3 FM](#) reported Dec. 20, that an anti-animal research group has filed suit against UCLA, alleging the campus has refused to release records on its use of primates in laboratory experiments.

### **L.A. Times Column Highlights Safety in the New Year**

A Dec. 31 column by Steve Lopez in the [Los Angeles Times](#) discussed ways to stay safe and avoid a visit to the emergency room. Dr. Mark Morocco, clinical professor of medicine and emergency medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, was quoted.

### **New York Times Reports on Concussion Research**

A [New York Times](#) Dec. 25 story focused on research using biomarkers to help diagnose chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), a brain condition that may be associated with concussions in National Football League players. Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging, a professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Longevity Center, was quoted.

### **'Zoobiquity' Benefits People and Animals**

Dr. Barbara Natterson-Horowitz, clinical professor of medicine in the cardiology division at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and director of imaging at the UCLA Cardiac Arrhythmia Center, was interviewed Dec. 30 on the "[Are We Alone?](#)" radio program. She described her research comparing physical and mental disorders in animals and humans, and her book "Zoobiquity," which looks at the species-spanning nature of illness.

### **Exploring Santa Monica NICU's Video-Visit Program**

The Dec. 27 [Santa Monica Daily Press](#) featured UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica's new iPad video project, "I See U Baby," that enables parents and extended families to remotely bond with newborns being cared for in the NICU. The pilot program, now expanding to the Westwood campus, is one of the newest ways UCLA is using technology to make patients and families more comfortable during hospital stays. Leticia Dahlke, NICU assistant director, was quoted.

### **Firefighters Deliver Gifts to Pediatric Patients**

The [Santa Monica Mirror](#) reported Dec. 20 on the Santa Monica Firefighters' annual visit to the Mattel Children's Unit at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica. The firefighters, assisted by Santa Claus, delivered presents and posed for photos with the children and pediatric staff. Laila Ramji, Child Life specialist, was quoted in the story. The Santa Monica Daily Press also ran a front-page photo and caption of the visit.

### **Malibu Weekly Highlights Holiday Tips**

The Dec. 20 [Malibu Times](#) published an article with tips from the Nethercutt Emergency Center at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica on how to avoid holiday-related accidents and seasonal health hazards. Dr. Wally Ghurabi, medical director of the Nethercutt center, was quoted in the print edition.

### **Korean Times Features Liver Transplant Recipient**

The Korean Times on Dec. 9 featured UCLA liver transplant recipient Yong He Kim, who decorated the Rose Parade's Donate Life Float to honor her donor.

### **Care Coordinator Program Profiled**

The [California Health Report](#) reported Dec. 18 on the UCLA care coordinator program, which helps navigate high-risk patients through the healthcare system. Jordan Hall, director of population health management and comprehensive care management for UCLA Medical Group, and Tiffany Phan, a UCLA care coordinator, were quoted.

### **Trade Lauds Top Women's Health Programs**

Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center was listed as one of the top "100 Hospitals With Great Women's Health Programs" by [Becker's Hospital Review](#) in a Dec. 24 edition that recognized hospitals with exceptional programs dedicated to the health and well-being of women.

### **How Brain Cancer Cells Hide From Drugs**

[AANS Neurosurgeon](#) reported Dec. 17 on a Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center study that found a process by which brain cancer cells were able to hide from drugs targeting special features by eliminating those features. The cells then regain these features and become drug sensitive after treatment stops. David Nathanson, assistant professor of molecular and medical pharmacology, was quoted.

### **Adult Stem Cells Suppress Cancer While Dormant**

[Third Age](#) reported Dec. 27 on a Broad Stem Cell Research Center study in which scientists discovered that hair follicle stem cells--the source cells of squamous cell skin cancer--can suppress their growth into cancer cells while dormant. Andrew White, postdoctoral fellow, and William Lowry, associate professor of molecular, cell and developmental biology in the life sciences, were quoted.

### **TV Stations Report on State of Cancer Care**

[WFMZ-TV](#) (Pa.) on Dec. 20; [KSAT-TV](#) (Texas) and [KFDX-TV](#) (Texas) on Dec. 30; and [KCRG-TV](#) (Iowa) on Jan. 2 discussed an Institute of Medicine report on the state of cancer care today. Dr. Patricia Ganz, director of cancer prevention and control research at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, a professor of health policy and management in the Fielding School of Public Health at UCLA and chair of the committee that wrote the report, was quoted.

### **Pancreas Cancer Linked to Fatty, Caloric Diet**

[YottaFire](#) reported Jan. 1 on a UCLA study led by Dr. Guido Eibl, Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center member and professor -in-residence of surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine. The research found that mice given high-calorie diets developed pre-cancer pancreas lesions faster and more often than mice on normal diets. Eibl was quoted.

### **Blogging Reduces Breast Cancer-Related Depression**

KFSN-TV Fresno-Visalia reported Dec. 31 on research by Dr. Annette Stanton, member of the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and professor of psychology and psychiatry/biobehavioral sciences in the David Geffen School of Medicine. The research showed that women who received a website-building workshop and chronicled their experiences with breast cancer online had fewer depressive symptoms six months later. Stanton was quoted.

### **Radio Highlights Help for Wounded Warriors**

Maine's WEGP 1390AM radio program aired a Dec. 23 interview with Melanie Gideon, manager of UCLA's Operation Mend, about the program. Operation Mend offers free reconstructive surgery and other medical services to military members injured in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

## **BRIEFS**

UCLA Health System was cited in a Dec. 30 [Los Angeles Times](#) article about a signed a letter of intent for UCLA Health System to assume the leases of six Motion Picture and Television Fund health clinics.

The [Pasadena-Star News](#) reported Dec. 30 that former state senator Sharon Runner, a UCLA double lung transplant recipient, was one of the riders on the Donate Life Rose Parade float.

## **QUOTABLES**

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, UCLA's Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented Dec. 19 in [HealthDay News](#) about a study showing that Americans still consume too much salt, which can contribute to high blood pressure. The story also ran in [Philly.com](#).

Dr. Jim Hu, professor and Henry E. Singleton Chair in urology and director of minimally invasive urology, commented Dec. 7 in a [CURE Magazine](#) story about robotic surgery to treat prostate cancer.

Dr. Jenny Kim, associate professor of clinical medicine in the division of dermatology, commented in a Dec. 21 [Los Angeles Times](#) story about luxury skin care products.

Dr. Sue McDiarmid, professor of pediatrics and surgery, was quoted Dec. 24 in the [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) and Dec. 27 in an [Associated Press](#) article about a new committee formed to develop national standards and policies for hand and face transplants. McDiarmid is chair of the committee.

Dr. Gerardo Moreno, assistant clinical professor of family medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, commented in [EndocrineWeb](#) about diabetes in older adults.

Dr. Dylan Roby, director of the health economics and evaluation research program at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research in the Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in the Dec. 31 Orange County [Register](#) about the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Roby was also quoted Jan. 4 in [CaliforniaHealthline.org](#) about the shortage of nurses and nursing instructors in California.

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