



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

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Got Allergies? Try a Neti Pot.

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Is PTSD Genetic?

A UCLA study linking two genes to a heightened risk for developing post-traumatic stress disorder was covered Jan. 9 by [Voice of America](#), [redOrbit](#), [Examiner.com](#) and [MedicalXpress](#); Jan. 10 by [Medical News Today](#) and Spain's [Diario de Navarra](#); Jan. 11 by [News-Medical.net](#), the [Indo-Asian News Service](#), [Press Trust of India](#), [BioScholar](#) and [Macro Insider](#); Jan. 12 by [Bloomberg Radio](#) and [Health Central](#); Jan. 13 by [KCBS-Channel 2](#) and [Psych Central](#); and Jan. 15 by [Health Aim](#). An ABC News "Medical Minute" by Dr. Timothy Johnson was aired by nearly 60 affiliates nationwide, including Jan. 9 by [KABC-Channel 7](#). Dr. Armen Goenjian, a researcher at the Semel Institute; and Dr. Julia Bailey, an adjunct assistant professor of epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, published their findings in the February issue of the *Journal of Affective Disorders*.

Opioids for Chronic Pain Don't Always Help

Results from a study by a National Institutes of Health panel led by Dr. David Reuben, chief of the UCLA Division of Geriatrics, finding that long-term use of opioids for chronic pain management isn't always the most effective treatment garnered widespread media coverage. Reports were carried Jan. 12 by [TIME](#) magazine, [MedPage Today](#), and the [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#); Jan. 13 by [HealthDay News](#), [Medscape](#), [Science Codex](#), and [Headlines and Global News](#); Jan. 14 by [CBSNews.com](#), [Shape](#) magazine and [Tech Times](#), and other outlets. Reuben was quoted in some of the coverage. The study was published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

Duke Hires UCLA Executive to Lead Health Area

[Modern Healthcare](#), [Charlotte Observer](#), [News & Observer](#), [Triangle Business Journal](#), [Durham Herald Sun](#), [WNCN-TV](#) (Raleigh, N.C.), [WTDV-TV](#) (Durham, N.C.), and [WRAL.com](#) Jan. 13; and [Becker's Hospital Review](#) Jan. 14 reported Duke University's announced that Dr. A. Eugene Washington will become the school's chancellor for health affairs and president and CEO of Duke University Health System. Washington, an internationally renowned clinical investigator and health-policy scholar, currently serves as vice chancellor for UCLA Health Sciences, dean of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and chief executive officer of the UCLA Health System, where he is also a distinguished professor of obstetrics and gynecology and health policy. Washington was quoted in some of the coverage.

UCLA Experts Discuss Measles Outbreak

On Jan. 14, [NBC Nightly News](#) and [KTLA-Channel 5](#) interviewed Dr. Jaime Deville, professor of pediatric infectious diseases at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, and the [Los Angeles Times](#) and [Yahoo! News](#) quoted Dr. James Cherry, distinguished research professor of pediatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and an attending physician of pediatric infectious diseases at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, about the recent outbreak of measles that stemmed from an infected person spreading the disease while at Disneyland.

Researchers Discover Why Dangerous Bacteria Affects Those with Iron Overload Disease

[News Medical.net](#), [Infection Control Today](#), [HealthCanal](#), [Phys.Org](#) and [Examiner.com](#) reported Jan. 14 on new research that discovered why those with iron overload disease are so vulnerable to a bacterium called *Vibrio vulnificus*. Found in warm saltwater, the bacterium causes people to get sick, or die, after they eat raw tainted shellfish or when an open wound comes in contact with seawater. Researchers learned that because iron overload disease causes a deficiency of the iron-regulating hormone hepcidin, excess iron develops in the blood and tissue and provides prime growth conditions for *Vibrio*. The study

also found that minihepcidin, a medicinal form of the hormone hepcidin that lowers iron levels in blood, could cure the infection by restricting bacterial growth. Senior author Dr. Yonca Bulut, a clinical professor of pediatrics at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA and a researcher with the UCLA Children's Discovery and Innovation Institute, and lead author, Joao Arezes, a visiting graduate student from the University of Porto in Portugal, were quoted.

UCLA Patient Battling Rare Brain Cancer Shares Personal Struggles and Coping Methods

The [Los Angeles Times](#) Jan. 14 reported on a woman living with oligodendroglioma, one of the rarest forms of brain cancers for 18 years. The patient explained how she has learned to cope with the life debilitating disease. Dr. Timothy Cloughesy, professor of neurology, director of the neuro-oncology program and a member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, is one of Kaufman's doctors who was quoted.

Corrective Surgery Improves Vision in Both Eyes

New research showing that surgery for crossed eyes may improve vision in both eyes was covered Jan. 13 by [Medscape](#). Lead author Dr. Stacey Pineles, an assistant professor of ophthalmology at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine and Stein Eye Institute, was quoted. Her team's findings were published Jan. 2 in JAMA Ophthalmology.

"Helping U Help Your Community" Contest

[The Patch](#) Jan. 12 featured an online competition to fund projects aimed at transforming health in the Los Angeles region sponsored by the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and UCLA Health System. The public as well as UCLA students, faculty and staff have an opportunity to cast votes in the "[Helping U Help Your Community](#)" contest to fund community-partnered, academic research or service learning projects intended to address the region's critical health needs and impact community health outcomes. Five projects that receive the most votes from Jan. 12-30 will be awarded \$20,000 each in start-up funding.

'Brain Death' Conference Aims to Clarify the Disputed Definition

The Jan. 14 [Jewish Journal](#) featured an interview with Dr. Neil Wenger, professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research and chair of the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center Bioethics Committee, about the ethical and philosophical issues involving brain death and how to help hospital staffs and families deal with end-of-life decisions. Wenger will be part of a Jan. 18 panel discussion on the subject.

How Melanoma Resists New Drug Combo Therapy

[Westside Today](#) Jan.13 and [Daily Mail](#) (U.K.) and [Examiner.com](#) Jan. 15 reported on a study finding that melanoma cells resist the drug combo therapy of BRAF+MEK inhibitors by developing highly unusual changes in certain key cancer genes. These signature changes or configurations not only mark the presence of drug resistant melanoma cells but also indicate potential new ways to shut them off. Dr. Roger Lo, assistant professor of medicine in the division of dermatology and member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was lead author of the study and quoted extensively.

UCLA Recognized for Hi Tech Accurate Prostate Cancer Biopsies

[Reuters](#) reported Jan.15 on a Canadian study that analyzed prostate cancer biopsies and found that men may get better results at an academic medical center than at a community hospital. UCLA was touted for using an MRI scan to locate and examine prostate cancer versus ultrasound technology. Dr. Leonard Marks, clinical professor of urology and member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted.

Researchers Compare Newly Developed Device to Espresso Machine

[Nanotechnology Now](#) Jan. 12 and [Health Canal](#), [Nanowerk](#), and [Controlled Environments](#) Jan. 13 reported on a device called a NanoVelcro Chip, which is the size of a postage stamp and is able to capture cancer cells that break away from tumors and travel in the blood, looking for places in the body to start growing new tumors called metastases. The machine would allow doctors to detect and analyze the cancer so they could tailor treatment for individual patients. Dr. Hsian-Rong Tseng, professor of

molecular and medical pharmacology and member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Nanotechnology Program Area, was quoted extensively.

Social Media Can Track HIV-Risk Behavior

[Fox News Radio](#) reported Jan. 12 on research led by Dr. Sean Young, assistant professor of family medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and executive director of the UCLA Center for Digital Behavior, suggesting that real-time social media like Twitter could be used to track HIV and drug-related behavior to detect potential outbreaks as a tool for prevention efforts, and on a new UC institute for digital prediction.

Regulating Off-Label Use of Drugs

[HealthCanal](#) and [MedicalXpress](#) Jan. 14 spotlighted a paper co-written by Dr. Ryan Abbott, visiting assistant professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, proposing a system to regulate off-label use of drugs and devices combining reporting, testing and enforcement regulations, and allowing interim periods of off-label drug prescription. The recommendations, published in the *Duke Law Journal*, would give patients more treatment options while providing regulators with evidence of the drugs' safety and efficacy.

RRUCLA among Tops for Diabetes Care

A Jan. 14 [Healthcare Global](#) article listed Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center among the top 10 hospitals in the nation providing the best diabetes care.

Urology Times Features Immunotherapy Research

[Urology Times](#) Dec. 31 featured the immunotherapy cancer research of Dr. Arie Beldegrun. Beldegrun is a professor of urology, The Roy and Carol Doumani Chair in Urologic Oncology and director of the UCLA Institute of Urologic Oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

Liver Transplant Study Draws Attention

[SciCasts](#), [Examiner.com](#) and [MedicalXpress](#) Jan. 13, and [HCP Live](#), [Healio](#) and [News-Medical.net](#) Jan. 14 reported on a study by Dr. Vatche G. Agopian which found a new tool to predict postoperative disease recurrence in liver cancer patients who undergo transplant. Agopian is an assistant professor of surgery in the division of liver transplantation.

Prostate Imaging Study Continues to Grab Headlines

[Patch.com](#) Jan. 6, [ScienceBlog](#) Jan. 7, [Radiation Therapy News](#) Jan. 9, [Imperial Valley News](#) Jan. 11 and [Prostate Cancer News Today](#) Jan. 12 cited a study by researchers at UCLA and the University of California, San Diego on a new imaging system that provides more precise information on prostate cancer. Dr. Robert Reiter, a professor of urology at UCLA, was quoted.

Ivanhoe Features Extreme Morning Sickness Research

[Ivanhoe News](#) Jan. 9 cited the research of Dr. Marlina Fejzo in a live chat on the extreme morning sickness condition known as hyperemesis gravidarum. Fejzo is an associate researcher in the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

KPCC Laments Our Loss of Boredom

Dr. Robert M. Bilder, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the Tennenbaum Center for the Biology of Creativity in the Semel Institute, was featured in a Jan. 14 KPCC 89.3FM "AirTalk" segment about the overuse of smartphones, which can lead to a lack of boredom. Boredom has been described as the brain's "default mode" because when bored, the mind starts to wander, looking for stimulation, and can lead to creative thinking.

Yahoo News Reports on the Benefits of Meditation

Dr. Michael Irwin, professor of psychiatry and director of the Cousins Center for Psychoneuroimmunology at the Semel Institute, was featured in a Jan. 7 [Yahoo! News](#) video segment about meditation and the positive, physical changes it can make in the brain and body.

Yahoo! Beauty Highlights Natural Oils

A Jan. 9 [Yahoo! Beauty](#) story spotlighted the trend of using natural oils like Marula and Argan for skin care. The article extensively quoted Dr. Jenny Kim, professor of clinical medicine in the division of dermatology.

An Aspirin a Day? CBS News Pops Question to Santa Monica Cardiologist

Dr. Ravi Dave, professor of medicine and director of cardiology services at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica and community practices, and one of his patients were interviewed in a Jan. 12 [CBS News](#) report about a new study indicating that aspirin may be overprescribed to prevent heart attacks and strokes.

Got Allergies? Try a Neti Pot.

Dr. Marilene Wang, a professor of head and neck surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and director of the UCLA Nasal and Sinus Disease Center, was featured in a Jan. 9 story on [NBC Today.com](#) about whether it's safe to use a neti pot every day to fight congestion and postnasal drip.

A Better Way to Repair Corneas

The [Jakarta Post](#) reported Jan. 14 on a new, minimally invasive way to replace diseased corneal tissue while leaving healthy cells in place. Dr. Anthony Aldave, a professor of ophthalmology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and chief of cornea and external ocular disease at the Stein Eye Institute at UCLA, was interviewed during a recent workshop at the Jakarta Eye Center.

BRIEFS

A 2013 genetic study on the aging of different body parts by Dr. Steve Horvath, professor of human genetics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and of biostatistics at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was referenced in a Jan. 14 [IOL Lifestyle](#) (Africa) article about getting fit for summer.

Dr. Richard Jackson, chair of environmental health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was mentioned in the Jan. 11 [Crain's Detroit Business](#) in a calendar promoting his keynote address at the upcoming MLK Day Celebration in Detroit's Henry Ford Hospital.

Comedian and songwriter Jill Donnelly, a 2014 graduate of the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was referenced Jan. 14 in [The Conversation](#) (U.K.), in an article discussing the use of entertainment and comedy for public health. The article also ran Jan. 15 in [MedicalXpress](#).

The David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA was cited in a Jan. 15 [New York Times](#) article on the rising number of medical schools that rename themselves after a generous benefactor.

QUOTABLES

Gail Abarbanel, director of the Rape Treatment Center and Stuart House at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, was quoted in a Jan. 13 [KPCC 89.3FM](#) story about an increase in reported rapes in Los Angeles during 2014.

Dr. James Cherry, distinguished research professor of pediatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and an attending physician of pediatric infectious diseases at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was interviewed Jan. 14 in a [California Healthline](#) audio report about the rise of whooping cough cases in California.

Dr. Carlene Eaton, author of "Getting into Medical School for Dummies" and a graduate of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was interviewed Jan. 15 by [U.S. News & World Report](#) about choosing a medical school that prepares its students for a career in primary care.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented in a Jan. 13 [HealthDay News](#) story about a Maine town's efforts to reduce the risk of heart disease. The story also ran in [U.S. News & World Report](#).

Dr. Omai Garner, an assistant clinical professor of pathology and laboratory medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, explained the new coding system for lab testing of the human papilloma virus Jan. 13 in [Lab Roots](#), an online news site for scientists.

Dr. Karen Miller, associate clinical professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at the Semel Institute, commented in a Dec. 14 [WebMD](#) article about playing computer games and other strategies to help boost memory.

Ellen Pollack, chief nursing informatics officer for UCLA Health System, was interviewed Jan. 12 in a [Nurse.com](#) article about careers in the field of nursing informatics.

Dr. Nadereh Pourat, director of research at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research in the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted extensively in a Jan. 15 [California Healthline](#) article about ongoing issues affecting Denti-Cal dental patients. The piece was republished Jan. 15 in the [Kitsap Sun](#).

Dr. Robert Pynoos, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and co-director of the UCLA-Duke University National Center for Child Traumatic Stress, was quoted in a Dec. 13 Science News ([subscription](#)) article about children who suffer trauma, which may depend on the "dose response" effect, meaning the closer children are to destruction or danger (the greater their "dose" of tragedy), the more likely they are to suffer serious psychological harm.

Dr. Dylan Roby, assistant professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was interviewed Jan. 12 in a [KPCC 89.3FM](#) news piece on Californians being switched from private health insurance plans to Medi-Cal. His quotes were also republished in [California Healthline](#) Jan. 13.

Dr. Rosalind Vo, a corneal surgeon at the Stein Eye Institute at UCLA, commented in a Jan. 9 story on [NBC Today.com](#) about how lash extensions can dry out your eyes and harm vision.

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