



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of Jan. 10-16, 2014**

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Racial Disparities in Thyroid Cancer

[Reuters Health](#), [HealthDay News](#), WCHH-TV (Columbus, Ohio), and WJAR-TV (Providence, R.I.) Jan. 14; [News-Medical](#), [Bright Surf](#) and [MDLinx](#) Jan. 10; [Science Daily](#), [Examiner.com](#), [Health Canal](#), [Science Codex](#), [Medical Xpress](#), and [Science Newsline](#) Jan. 9 reported on a study led by Dr. Avital Harari, assistant professor of general surgery, that found that non-white and poor individuals with thyroid cancer were much more likely to be diagnosed with late-stage metastatic disease than other patients. Harari was quoted. The Reuters story ran on [Cure Health](#), [KTBC-TV](#) (Austin, Texas), [WFXS-TV](#) (Wausau, Wis.), and [Doctors Lounge](#). The HealthDay story ran on [MedicineNet.com](#).

Flu Season is in Full Effect

Dr. David Baron, assistant clinical professor (voluntary) at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and executive director of UCLA's Arthur Ashe Student Health and Wellness Center, was interviewed Jan. 12 on [KNX-1070 AM](#) about flu season and the importance of flu vaccinations. Dr. Greg Moran, UCLA clinical professor of infectious diseases, and Dr. Soniya Gandhi, assistant clinical professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases, were quoted on the subject in a Jan. 11 [Los Angeles Times](#) article.

Media Confronts the Really Excitable Teen Brain

Dr. Adriana Galván, assistant professor of developmental psychology, was featured Jan. 13 by [Live Science](#) and Jan. 14 by the [Huffington Post](#) and an [Examiner.com](#) blog on a study she coauthored with Tara Peris, an assistant professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, demonstrating that the brains of adolescents tend to show more excitability and responsiveness to rewards, such as money, than the brains of adults and younger children. Galván was quoted in the coverage.

Ensuring Health Care Quality

The winter issue of Robb Report Health and Wellness features an interview with Shannon O'Kelley, chief operating officer for the UCLA Health System, about the current and future challenges of providing quality health care at top medical institutions.

Robot Saves Lives in Neuro-ICU

The Winter 2014 edition of the Robb Report reports how Dr. Paul Vespa, a professor of neurosurgery and neurology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and director of neurocritical care at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, relies on a life-sized, self-navigating robot to monitor, examine and care for critically ill patients 24/7 in the hospital's neuro-intensive care unit.

Infectious Diseases Expert Discusses Herpes Drug

Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases and in UCLA's Program in Global Health, was featured in a Jan. 15 [MedPage Today](#) report on an investigational drug for genital herpes that blocks viral shedding, thus reducing the chance of transmission.

Is Southern California Ready for the Big Quake?

The Jan. 16 San Bernardino Sun, Daily Breeze and [Riverside Press-Telegram](#), among others, looked at whether Southern California is ready for a big earthquake 20 years after the devastation of the Jan. 17, 1994 Northridge earthquake. Bill Dunne, administrative director for emergency preparedness, safety and security services for the UCLA Health System, and Linda Bourque, founder and senior adviser for the UCLA Center for Public Health and Disasters, were quoted.

Fresno TV Station Features Cancer Care Report

[KFSN-TV](#) (Fresno) reported Jan. 13 on 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, professor of health policy and management in the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and chair of the committee that wrote the report, was quoted.

Online Media Outlets Cite Genetic Research

[Health Canal](#) Jan. 9 and [Today Topics](#) and [Medical Xpress](#) Jan. 10 featured research by scientists Frank Albert and Leonid Kruglyak that developed a novel approach to study how genetic differences affect gene expression.

Geriatrician Pens Column on Healthcare Directives

Dr. Maija Sanna, staff geriatrician at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica and assistant clinical professor of medicine, authored a Jan. 12 [Santa Monica Mirror](#) column advising seniors to develop a 2014 healthcare plan that includes documents that record preferences in case of illness.

Transplant Surgeon Discusses Acetaminophen Toxicity

Dr. Fady Kaldas, an assistant professor of surgery, Jan. 15 discussed on KNX 1070AM the FDA's recommendation to cut acetaminophen dosages in over-the-counter drugs due to potential liver toxicity.

KCBS Notes Southland Chemical Hazards

Tim Malloy, a professor and director of the Sustainable Technology & Policy Program in the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and a professor at the UCLA School of Law, and Fielding School graduate student Ana Mascareñas, were featured in a Jan. 10 [KCBS-Channel 2](#) segment about potential public health hazards linked to chemical facilities across the Southland.

KABC Discusses How to Help People with Schizophrenia

Dr. Keith Nuechterlein, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was interviewed Jan. 15 on the KABC 790AM Bryan Suits show about what parents can do to help their adult children with schizophrenia.

KPCC Cites Pros and Cons of 'Concierge Medicine'

Dr. Dylan Roby, director of the health economics and evaluation research program at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and an assistant professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was interviewed Jan. 14 on KPCC 89.3FM's "[AirTalk](#)" about the growth of concierge medicine, an alternative to health insurance in which individuals pay a "subscription" fee for regular, direct access to a doctor.

Huff Post, NY Radio Explain the Developing Adolescent Brain

Dr. Daniel Siegel, clinical professor of psychiatry at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and co-founder of UCLA's Mindful Awareness Research Center, was interviewed Jan. 9 on WNYC 93.9FM's "[Leonard Lopate Show](#)," and Jan. 10 by the [Huffington Post](#) about his book "Brainstorm: The Power and Purpose of the Teenage Brain," which explores teenage behavior and the development of the adolescent brain.

San Diego Radio Examines Health Reform and the Undocumented

A Jan. 13 story on [KPBS 89.5FM](#) about efforts to expand Affordable Care Act health coverage to California's undocumented residents cited a study by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health estimating that 1.2 million undocumented individuals in the state will be left without health insurance when the legislation is fully implemented.

More Coverage for Nurses Not Smoking

The Jan. 12 issue of the [Imperial Valley News](#) and Jan.13 issue of [NurseZone](#) featured stories on a study led by Linda Sarna, Lulu Wolf Hassenplug Endowed Chair in Nursing at the UCLA School of Nursing, demonstrating the dramatic decrease of nurses smoking. Sarna was quoted in both articles.

Public Radio Covers Skin Laser Lawsuits

[Sound Medicine](#), a program airing on public radio station WFYI-90.1FM (Indianapolis, Ind.) reported Jan. 12 on a study published in JAMA Dermatology that found that lawsuits related to skin laser procedures

when non-physicians are operating the laser are increasing, particularly outside of a traditional medical setting. Lead author Dr. H. Ray Jalian, clinical instructor of medicine in the division of dermatology, was interviewed.

KABC-TV Features Training the Brain

Dr. Gary Small, UCLA's Parlow–Solomon Professor on Aging, professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Longevity Center, was interviewed Jan. 13 on [KABC-Channel 7](#) about his research demonstrating that seniors who engage in game-based brain exercises are able to preserve and even improve their memory, reasoning and cognitive processing.

Daily Mail Highlights Gut and Brain Connection

A Jan. 13 article in Britain's [Daily Mail](#) about how stomach bacteria may affect brain function cited studies on the subject by Dr. Emeran Mayer, professor of digestive diseases, physiology and psychiatry at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and executive director of UCLA's Oppenheimer Family Center for Neurobiology of Stress, and Dr. Kirsten Tillisch, associate professor of medicine in the division of digestive diseases at the Geffen School of Medicine. Mayer and Tillisch were quoted.

Nerve Stimulation May Ease Depression

A column in the Jan. 10 [Hollywood Reporter](#) highlighted a study by UCLA researchers showing that mild electrical stimulation of a major nerve emanating from the brain can help reduce symptom severity in individuals suffering from depression. Dr. Andrew Leuchter, professor of psychiatry and director of the Laboratory of Brain, Behavior and Pharmacology at the Semel Institute, was quoted.

UCLA Stem Cell Scientists First to Track Development of Human Cartilage

[Transbio-TEX](#) Jan. 14 featured research from UCLA's Broad Stem Cell Research Center in which scientists were able to track the development of articular joint cartilage in humans for the first time. The study's leader Dr. Denis Evseenko, assistant professor of orthopaedic surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and head of UCLA's Laboratory of Connective Tissue Regeneration, was quoted.

CIRM Grant Will Fund UCLA Trial on New Anticancer Drug

[KNBC-Channel 4](#) Jan. 15 reported on a California Institute of Regenerative Medicine Disease (CIRM) Team III grant awarded to UCLA for a clinical trial on a new drug that attacks cancer stem cells. The study's leaders, Dr. Dennis Slamon, director of clinical and translational research at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center (JCCC), and Dr. Zev Wainberg, assistant professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology and a JCCC member, were featured in the report.

CBS Highlights Career in Emergency Room Nursing

Suzette Cardin, assistant dean for student affairs at the UCLA School of Nursing, shared career advice in a Jan. 13 Q&A on KCBS-Channel 2's "[Let's Get to Work.](#)"

The Cost of Kids' Ear Infections

[HealthDay News](#) reported Jan. 15 on research led by Dr. Nina Shapiro, associate professor of head and neck surgery and director of pediatric otolaryngology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, showing that treatment of children's ear infections costs the U.S. health care system nearly \$3 billion a year. Shapiro was quoted.

QUOTABLES

Susan Bowerman, assistant director of the Center for Human Nutrition, commented in the Oct. issue of [Health Magazine](#) about the calming effects of foods that contain the amino acid tryptophan.

Dr. Ellen Carpenter, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was quoted in a Jan.8 [New Scientist](#) article about research showing metastatic breast cancer cells can imitate the unique characteristics of neurons in order to enter the brain.

Dr. Ian Cook, the Miller Family Professor of Psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of UCLA's Depression Research Program, was quoted in a Jan. 14 [Huffington Post](#) article on the benefits of pet ownership for individuals suffering from depression.

Kevin Dirksen, clinical ethicist at the UCLA Health System Ethics Center, was quoted in a Dec. 30 [ABC News](#) report about a California girl who is on life support after being declared brain dead following a routine tonsillectomy and a brain dead pregnant woman in Texas who is being kept on life support despite her family's wishes.

Dr. Linda Ercoli, director of geriatric psychology at the Semel Institute, was quoted in the Winter 2014 issue of the Robb Report about adult children dealing with their parents stricken with Alzheimer's.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, UCLA's Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson–UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, was quoted Jan. 13 in a [HealthDay News](#) article about a study showing green tea may interfere with a high blood pressure medication. The story was also picked up by [MSN.com](#).

Dr. Wayne Grody, professor of human genetics, pediatrics, and pathology and laboratory medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and director of the UCLA Diagnostic Molecular Pathology Laboratory, was quoted in an article in the January–February issue of [Discover](#) magazine about the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling that human genes cannot be patented.

Dr. Stacy Pineles, assistant professor of ophthalmology at the Stein Eye Institute at UCLA, was quoted Jan. 14 in a [Reuters](#) article about the serious eye damage that can result from laser pointers.

Mayumi Prins, associate professor of neurosurgery, was interviewed Jan. 10 on [Fox Sports](#) about whether a sports-related brain injury may have contributed to a football player's violent behavior.

Dr. David Reuben, chief of geriatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted Jan. 12 in a [New York Times](#) article about "scribes," individuals who take digital notes for physicians during patient visits, reducing the amount of time doctors spend on clerical work.

Dr. Gary Small, UCLA's Parlow–Solomon Professor on Aging, professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Longevity Center, was quoted in the Robb Report's Winter 2014 Health & Wellness publication about mental activities that can help improve memory.

Dr. Lonnie Zeltzer, professor of pediatrics and director of the pediatric pain program at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was quoted in a Jan. 9 [Reuters](#) article on a study that found that parents who take over-the-counter pain relievers are more likely to give them to their children, with or without medical consultation.

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