



UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of Jan. 15 - 21, 2010

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Media Tap UCLA Experts in Aftermath of Haiti Earthquake

L.A. Times, HealthDay Cover Med Students' Views on Alternative Medicine

Washington Post Spotlights Low Circumcision Rates, Greater HIV Risk

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CBS Show "The Doctors" Features Pediatric Orthopedist

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Media Tap UCLA Experts in Aftermath of Haiti Earthquake

Dr. David Baron, chief of staff at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, commented in a Jan. 14 KNX 1070AM report about the health crisis in Haiti following the earthquake.

Alina Dorian, assistant director of the Center for Public Health and Disasters in the School of Public Health, was quoted in a Jan.15 Los Angeles Times article about the difficulty of bringing aid to a country that has no healthcare infrastructure.

"In Haiti, Aid Workers Face a Dual Challenge"

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nation-and-world/la-sci-haiti-health15-2010jan15,0,2898639.story>

Dr. Mark Morocco, assistant professor of medicine and associate residency director of emergency medicine, commented extensively in a USA Today article about the health crisis resulting from the earthquake in Haiti.

"Haiti's Health Crisis Deepens as Recovery Efforts Continue"

http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2010-01-19-haitihealth19_ST_N.htm

Kimberly Shoaf, associate director of the Center for Public Health and Disasters in the School of Public Health, was featured in a Jan. 14 KNBC-TV Channel 4 segment about the challenges facing the recovery effort in Haiti and the implications for a similar-sized Los Angeles earthquake. In addition, she was featured in two Jan. 14 CBSNews.com articles about the increased danger of disease the victims of Haiti will be facing post-earthquake, and in a Jan. 14 Associated Press story about surviving the earthquake which appeared in a number of newspapers, including the Ottawa Citizen, Orlando Sentinel, and the Chicago Tribune.

"Haiti's Misfortune Offers Quake Lessons for Southland"

http://www.nbclosangeles.com/station/as-seen-on/Haiti_s_Misfortune_Offers_Quake_Lessons_for_Southland_Los_Angeles.html

"Key Challenges Confront Haiti Recovery"

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/01/14/world/main6096638.shtml>

"Haiti 'In Shambles,' with Help Scarce"

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/01/14/world/main6096356.shtml>

"Haiti Quake Toll Likely Thousands"

<http://www.theolympian.com/topstories/story/1100871.html>

Dr. Steven Rottman, director of the Center for Public Health and Disasters in the School of Public Health, was featured in a Jan. 14 KABC-TV Channel 7 segment about the challenges facing doctors as they try to bring aid to the earthquake victims in Haiti. In addition, Rottman was also featured in a Jan. 21 online Popular Mechanics article about the myth that dead bodies are a dangerous health risk for the living.

"Doctors Faced with Immense Challenges in Haiti"

http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/health/your_health&id=7219708

"How to Handle the Dead in Haiti"

http://www.popularmechanics.com/science/health_medicine/4343222.html?nav=RSS20&src=syn&dom=yah_buzz&mag=pop

L.A. Times, HealthDay Cover Med Students' Views on Alternative Medicine

The Los Angeles Times and HealthDay News on Jan. 20 reported on a joint UCLA–UC San Diego survey that found nearly three-quarters of medical students feel that conventional medicine would benefit by integrating more complementary and alternative ideas and therapies. Study authors Ryan Abbott, a researcher with the UCLA Center for East-West Medicine and Michael Goldstein, a senior research scientist at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and a professor of public health and sociology, were quoted. The HealthDay story was picked up by BusinessWeek and KMIR-TV in Palm Springs.

"Future Doctors Support Integrated Therapies"

http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/booster_shots/2010/01/alternative-medicine-doctors.html

"Medical Students Supportive of Alternative Medicine"

<http://www.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=635105>

Washington Post Spotlights Low Circumcision Rates, Greater HIV Risk

A Jan. 19 Washington Post article about circumcision cited a study by Arleen A. Leibowitz, professor of public policy at the School of Public Affairs and a researcher at the UCLA AIDS Institute, that found that in states where Medicaid does not pay for routine male circumcision, hospitals are only half as likely to perform the procedure, and that this disparity could lead to an increased risk of HIV infection among lower-income children later in life. Leibowitz was quoted.

"Debate on Circumcision Heightened as CDC Evaluates Surgery"

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/15/AR2010011503106.html?hpid=sec-health>

Alzheimer's Expert Appears on Dr. Oz Show

The Dr. Oz Show on Jan. 14 focused on Alzheimer's disease and featured Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging, a professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Center on Aging. Small was highlighted in several segments covering Alzheimer's warning signs, risks and strategies to help alleviate age-related memory loss.

"Dr. Oz Show: Alzheimer's Disease"

<http://showroom.multivisioninc.com/share.do?id=120669&key=ApjTqDFz5Jd7KXcPga4mWpmQf8gdKj5a&email=RChampeau@mednet.ucla.edu>

CBS Show "The Doctors" Features Pediatric Orthopedist

Dr. Anthony Scaduto, chief of pediatric orthopaedics, was a guest in a Jan. 18 segment of "The Doctors" about the potential causes of limping in toddlers.

"The Doctors"

<http://showroom.multivisioninc.com/share.do?id=120788&key=A88PsWfdQO1a0YUSznb4jnZ0NbF3K5Gj&email=rchampeau@mednet.ucla.edu>

HealthDay News Studies Drug-resistant HIV Strains

HealthDay News reported Jan. 14 on a study by Sally Blower, professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences and director of the UCLA Center for Biomedical Modeling, and colleagues showing that new drug-resistant strains of HIV could emerge in San Francisco over the next five years that would threaten efforts to control the pandemic. Blower was quoted.

"Evolving Strains of HIV May Cause Wave of Drug Resistance"

<http://health.yahoo.com/news/healthday/evolvingstrainsofhivmaycausewaveofdrugresistance.html>

Westside Today, Scientific Trade Cover Researcher's Award

The Beverly Hills, Brentwood and Malibu editions of Westside Today reported Jan. 18 on Dr. Stephen Young, professor of medicine and human genetics, receiving a 2010 Ernst Jung Medical Award from the Jung Foundation for Science and Research for his pioneering research into lipid metabolism and progeria syndrome, a genetic disease that leads to hair loss, heart attacks, strokes and other aging-related conditions. ASMB News also covered Young's award on Jan. 12.

"Young Pioneers: And Wins the 2010 Jung Award"

<http://www.westsidetoday.com/n2127/young-pioneers-and-wins.html>

"ASMB Member Stephen Young Garners Medical Award"

<http://www.asmb.org/News.aspx?id=5660>

Local Paper Highlights Researcher's Award to Study Cancer Metabolism

The Beverly Hills, Brentwood and Malibu editions of Westside Today on Jan. 20 reported that Heather Christofk, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Institute for Molecular Medicine at UCLA, assistant professor of molecular and medical pharmacology and a researcher with the UCLA Jonsson Cancer Center, has received a 2010 Damon Runyon-Rachleff Innovation Award from the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation to study how glucose metabolism is altered in cancer, which leads to tumor growth.

"Heather Christofk, Ph.D. Gets Damon Runyon-Rachleff on Her Research Side"

<http://westsidetoday.com/s7-2144/heather-christofk-ph-d.html>

KPCC Explores Ways to Change Who You Are

Dr. Daniel Siegel, clinical professor of psychiatry, was a featured guest Jan. 18 on KPCC 89.3FM's AirTalk discussing his latest book and ways people can deal with traumatic memories, undesirable or counterproductive behavior, and irrational fears.

"Personal Transformation through Psychotherapy"

<http://www.scpr.org/programs/airtalk/2010/01/18/personal-transformation-through-psychotherapy/>

HealthDay, Trade Cover Safety of Drug for Diabetics with Heart Failure

HealthDay News on Jan. 15 and Endocrine Today on Jan. 18 reported on research by Dr. Tamara Horwich, assistant professor of cardiology and Dr. Gregg Fonarow, director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, on how a drug often used to treat Type 2 diabetes, is safe for use in patients who also have advanced heart failure. BusinessWeek ran the HealthDay story.

“Diabetes Drug Looks Safe for Heart Failure Patients”

<http://www.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=634906>

“Metformin Deemed Safe for Patients with Diabetes, HF”

<http://www.endocrinetoday.com/view.aspx?rid=60063>

Pediatric ENT Doc Cautions on the Dangers of Sharp Objects for Mom

Dr. Nina Shapiro, director of pediatric otolaryngology at Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA, authored a Jan. 19 article for MomLogic on the dangers of sharp items, including the less obvious ones like chopsticks or straws.

“Chopsticks, Drumsticks, Forks, and Knives ...”

http://www.momlogic.com/2010/01/chopsticks_drumsticks_forks_and_knives_childrens_brain_injuries.php

L.A. Times Features Column on Saving a Baby’s Life

Dr. Linda Reid Chassiakos, clinical assistant professor of pediatrics, authored a narrative about saving the life of a newborn baby in a Jan. 18 Los Angeles Times article.

“2 Pledges Made to Save a Small Life”

<http://www.latimes.com/features/health/la-he-practice18-2010jan18,0,7242411.story>

PBS Explains Mirror Neurons

Marco Iacoboni, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, and director, Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Lab in the Ahmanson Lovelace Brain Mapping Center, was featured in a Jan. 12 online segment of the PBS program “The Human Spark.” Iacoboni discussed the role of mirror neurons with the show’s host, Alan Alda.

“Why Would Mirror Neurons Be Especially Important for Human Beings to Possess?”

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/humanspark/video/web-exclusive-video-mirror-neurons/404/>

Asian News International Explores Mail-order Pharmacies

Asian News International reported Jan. 18 on a study showing that patients who ordered medications by mail were more likely to stick to their doctor-prescribed drug regimens than those who purchased medicine from brick-and-mortar pharmacies. Lead researcher Dr. O. Kenrik Duru, assistant professor of general internal medicine and health services, was quoted. KCAL-Channel 9 aired a Jan. 14 report on the study.

“Mail-order Pharmacies Use Helps Patients Adhere to Medication Regimen”

http://www.dnaindia.com/health/report_mail-order-pharmacies-use-helps-patients-adhere-to-medication-regimen_1336268

BRIEFS

The Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center hosted the launch of “Patient Safety First...a California Partnership for Health,” a major patient safety initiative on Jan. 19 that was covered by the Los Angeles Times and other trade publications on Jan. 20. Anthem Blue Cross, along with California’s three regional hospital associations, and the National Health Foundation, announced a joint three-year, \$6 million effort to improve the quality and consistency of care Californians receive. Hosting the event was Dr. David Feinberg, CEO of the UCLA Hospital System.

“Insurer Anthem Invests in Hospital Initiative to Improve Safety, Cut Costs”

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-medical-care20-2010jan20,0,842770.story>

Mid-Valley News on Jan. 20 covered an upcoming five-week UCLA Memory Training class, sponsored by the UCLA Center on Aging, designed to help participants with age-related memory loss.

“UCLA Offers Memory Training Course Never Forget Names or Faces Again”

http://www.midvalleynews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3575:westwood-&catid=1:news&Itemid=185

Research on the percentage of adults and children who are obese from the Center for Health Policy Research at the School of Public Health was cited in a Jan. 20 Riverside Press Enterprise article about a

federal grant program for Riverside and San Bernardino counties to tackle such chronic conditions and reduce health care costs.

“Stimulus Money Could Help Inland Area Fight Chronic Diseases”

http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_W_healthy21.46ba04c.html

QUOTABLES

Gail Abarbanel, director of the Rape Treatment Center at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, was quoted in a Jan. 16 Los Angeles Times article about the Los Angeles Police Department’s growing backlog of untested DNA evidence.

“DNA Backlog Grows with LAPD Lab Hiring on Hold”

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-lapd-dna16-2010jan16,0,980659.story>

Gregory Cole, professor of neurology and associate director of the Mary S. Easton Center for Alzheimer’s Disease Research, was quoted in a Jan. 18 HealthDay News story about the symptoms that precede Alzheimer’s disease.

“Frequent Mental Lapses May Precede Alzheimer’s”

<http://www.healthfinder.gov/news/newsstory.aspx?docID=635085>

Dr. Ravi Dave, staff cardiologist at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital and associate professor of medicine, was quoted in a Jan. 19 WebMD story about omega-3 fatty acids and heart disease.

“Omega-3s May Slow Aging in Heart Patients”

<http://www.webmd.com/heart-disease/news/20100119/high-omega3-levels-may-slow-aging-in-heart-patients>

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson–UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented Jan. 21 in a HealthDay News article about a study reporting that twenty percent of U.S. children have abnormal lipid levels, an indication of too much bad cholesterol, high triglycerides and too little good cholesterol.

“1 in 5 U.S. Kids has High Cholesterol”

<http://www.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=635235>

Dr. Jamie Feusner, assistant professor of psychiatry and director of the Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder Intensive Treatment Program, was quoted in the Jan. 25 issue of People Magazine on the probable link between body dysmorphic disorder and plastic surgery.

“Heidi Montag: Addicted to Plastic Surgery”

Dr. Leeka Kheifets, professor of epidemiology at the School of Public Health was quoted in the Jan. 14 Argonaut newspaper about a possible new underground power line project by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. Kheifets was a speaker at the meeting, and was quoted regarding the potential health problems resulting from long-term exposure to magnetic fields from high-voltage transmission lines.

“Department of Water and Power Agrees to full EIR for Proposed Scattergood-Olympic Power Line Project”

http://www.argonautnewspaper.com/articles/2010/01/14/news_-_features/area/a1.txt

Gerald Kominski, professor of public health and associate director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, was quoted in a Jan. 20 Los Angeles Times article about a new initiative by health insurance company Anthem Blue Cross to improve patient safety and cut costs. The event was hosted by the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center.

“Insurer Anthem Invests in Hospital Initiative to Improve Safety, Cut Costs”

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-medical-care20-2010jan20,0,842770.story>

Dr. Peter Lawrence, professor and chief of vascular surgery, commented Jan. 18 in the Victoria Advocate about the health impact of new regulations by the Transportation Airport Security, including passengers

not being able to leave their seats an hour before landing. The story originally ran in the Los Angeles Times.

"Steps for Air Safety Bring Health Worries"

<http://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/2010/jan/18/bc-travelbizla-business/?business&business-wire>

Dr. Bruce Ovbiagele, associate professor of neurology and director of the Olive View–UCLA stroke program, was quoted in a Jan. 19 TheHeart.org article about stroke patients who fail to continue taking their medications.

"Use of Preventive Medications Declines Rapidly after Stroke"

<http://www.theheart.org/article/1041121.do>

Robert Prins, an assistant professor of neurosurgery and a researcher at the UCLA Jonsson Cancer Center, was quoted in the Jan. 15 Riverside Press-Enterprise about the lack of evidence that certain environmental factors may cause brain cancer.

"California Presumes Job Hazards Put Firefighters at Risk"

http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_W_cancer16.38fdb75.html

Dr. Perry Shieh, assistant clinical professor of neurology at the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, commented in a Jan. 21 article by the Daily News about a new movie focusing on Pompe disease, a genetic disorder that results in an enlarged heart and poor muscle tone.

"Movie Raises Awareness of Pompe Disease"

http://www.dailynews.com/health/ci_14231535

Dr. Christopher Saigal, associate professor of urology and a researcher with the UCLA Jonsson Cancer Center, commented in a Men's Fitness Magazine article about tips for a healthy prostate.

Dr. Eric Vilain, professor of human genetics, pediatrics and urology and director of the Center for Gender-Based Biology, commented in a Jan. 21 New York Times article about a recommendation by the International Olympics Committee to treat athletes whose sex seems ambiguous as a medical concern and not one of fairness in competition. He also commented Jan. 16 in a New York Times article on the challenges of testing for and defining gender at the Olympics.

"I.O.C. Panel Calls for Treatment in Sex Ambiguity Cases"

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/21/sports/olympics/21ioc.html?hp>

"Gender Testing Hangs Before the Games as a Vexing Mess"

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/16/sports/olympics/16ioc.html>

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