



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of Jan. 16-22, 2015**

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UCLA Experts Discuss Growing Measles Outbreak

Dr. James Cherry, distinguished research professor of pediatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and attending physician of pediatric infectious diseases at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was interviewed about the growing measles outbreak and questions about why a few individuals who have been vaccinated contracted the disease. Interviews included Jan. 22, 21, 17 in the Los Angeles Times; Jan. 22 in the [New York Times](#); Jan. 23 on [KCBS-Channel 2](#), [KCAL-Channel 9](#) and [KTTV-Channel 11](#); and Jan. 19 and 21 on NBC Nightly News. Odeh El-Hamarneh, senior supervisor of the UCLA phlebotomy clinic, was interviewed in the KCBS-Channel 2 and KCAL-Channel 9 stories about a blood test to check a vaccinated person's immunity against measles. Dr. Nina Shapiro, a professor of head and neck surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and director of pediatric otolaryngology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, also spoke about vaccinations with [National Public Radio](#) Jan. 22.

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. 15 by [National Pain Report](#) and [HealthITAnalytics](#); Jan. 16 by the [Telegraph-Forum](#) (Bucyrus, Ohio); Jan. 17 by [Sputnik](#); Jan. 19 by [Tasnim News Agency](#); Jan. 20 by [Forbes](#), [Pharmacy Times](#), [McKnight's](#), [MarketWatch](#), and [Live Science](#); and Jan. 22 by [Science 2.0](#). Reuben was quoted in some of the coverage. The study was published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

Why Dangerous Bacteria Affects Those with Iron Overload Disease

WHNZ 1250AM radio's "[Health, Wealth and Wisdom](#)" show (Fla.) Jan. 20 interviewed Dr. Tomas Ganz, a professor of medicine and pathology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, about iron overload disease and findings of new laboratory research that discovered why those with the disease are vulnerable to a bacterium called *Vibrio vulnificus* and that a medicinal form of the hormone hepcidin could cure the infection. The study was also reported Jan. 22 by [Domain-b](#), Jan. 18 by [Science Codex](#), Jan. 16 by [Sci Guru](#) and [Boas Noticias](#), and Jan. 15 by [BioScience Technology](#). 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.

Remember to Eat Your Walnuts

Research led by Dr. Lenore Arab, professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research and of biological chemistry, suggesting that eating a few walnuts a day may help improve memory, concentration and information processing speed, was covered Jan. 21 by [U.S. News & World Report](#), and Jan. 22 by [CBS News.com](#), the [Business Standard](#), [DNA India](#), [490Live](#) and other outlets.

Children of Melanoma Survivors Need Better Protection from Sun's Harmful Rays

[Examiner.com](#) Jan. 13, [MedicalXpress](#) Jan. 14 and [Skin Inc](#) Jan. 21 reported on a UCLA study that indicates children of melanoma survivors are not adhering optimally to sun protection recommendations. This is concerning as sunburns are a major risk factor for melanoma, and children of survivors are at increased risk for developing the disease as adults. Dr. Beth Glenn, member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center (JCCC) and associate director of the JCCC Healthy and At-Risk Populations Research Program, was quoted in the coverage.

How Does Melanoma Resist New Drug Combo Therapy?

[News-Medical.net](#) Jan.16; [BioScholar](#) and [Patch.com](#) Jan. 17; [Melanoma News Today](#) Jan. 19, and [HCPLive](#) Jan. 20 reported on groundbreaking study results indicating 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.

NPR Addresses Weight Gain after Bariatric Surgery

A Jan. 19 [National Public Radio](#) story featured a new minimally-invasive procedure to tighten the stomach that can sometimes stretch out several years after having bariatric surgery. Dr. Rabindra Watson, assistant clinical professor of medicine in the division of digestive diseases, was interviewed and a patient highlighted. The new procedure is offered as part of UCLA's Center for Obesity and Metabolic Health, a multi-disciplinary program that helps patients lose and sustain their weight loss.

GI Trade Website Covers New Guidelines

A Jan. 21 article on [Healio: Gastroenterology](#) about new guidelines cautioning the preventive use of antibiotics before GI endoscopy procedures, featured comments from Dr. Raman Muthusamy, director of interventional endoscopy and health sciences clinical professor of medicine, division of digestive diseases.

Robb Report Highlights Addiction Research

Dr. Keith Heinzerling, associate clinical professor of family medicine, and Dr. Edythe D. London, professor of psychiatry and molecular and medical pharmacology in the Semel Institute and the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, were quoted in the winter 2015 edition of the [Robb Report](#) about new treatments for battling drug addiction. Heinzerling was quoted regarding his study of the drug Ibudilast to combat methamphetamine, while London was cited regarding her research into the damage addiction does to the prefrontal cortex, the executive decision-making part of the brain.

Extreme Morning Sickness Story Gets Some Play

[Capitol Bay](#) and [WSET-TV](#) (Va.) Jan. 16 and [WJXT-TV](#) (Fla.) Jan. 19 reported on the research of Dr. Marlena Fejzo on the extreme morning sickness condition known as hyperemesis gravidarum. Fejzo is an associate researcher at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

Men's Journal Features UCLA Urologist

The January issue of [Men's Journal](#) featured an article about what men should know about the vagina. Dr. Ja-Hong Kim, associate professor in the division of pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery at UCLA Urology, is quoted.

Beverly Hills Courier Highlights Liver Transplant Study

The [Beverly Hills Courier](#) Jan. 20 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 at UCLA.

CNN.com Discusses Paradox of the Unemployable Unemployed

Aleta Sprague, a researcher/writer with the WORLD Policy Analysis Center at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, co-published a Jan. 19 opinion piece on [CNN.com](#), and the websites for [KESQ-Channel 3](#) (Palm Springs) and [WSEE-Channel 12](#) (Erie, Pa.) about how unemployed Americans face more difficulties finding work the longer they're unemployed.

UCLA Health's Expansion in Santa Clarita Valley Noted

[The Signal](#) Jan. 20 featured the UCLA Health System in an article on the changing healthcare landscape in the Santa Clarita Valley. Dr. Matteo Dinolfo, medical director of the UCLA Department of Medicine's community practices, was quoted in the article, which highlighted medical services currently available in that community as well as plans for future expansion.

Geriatrician's Column Puts Medical Spin on Dizziness

Dr. Maija Sanna, staff geriatrician at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica and assistant clinical professor of medicine, authored a Jan. 16 [Santa Monica Mirror](#) column explaining types, causes and treatment of dizziness.

Trade Website Features Weight Loss Device

A Jan. 21 [Current Medicine TV](#) interview featured Dr. Erik Dutson, chief of minimally invasive & bariatric surgery, surgical director of the UCLA Center for Obesity and Metabolic Health and a clinical professor of surgery. He discussed a newly FDA-approved device that stimulates a nerve to help curb appetite. This nerve normally tells the brain whether the stomach is full or empty, so the device may work by blocking this communication.

Hip Fracture Risk Study Continues Drawing Media Interest

[EmpowHer](#) reported Jan. 17 on research led by Dr. Carolyn Crandall, professor of general internal medicine and health services research, finding that women with moderate-to-severe vasomotor symptoms during menopause showed lower bone mineral density and higher rates of hip fracture than women without the symptoms. Crandall was quoted in the coverage.

Family Income, Expectations Tied to Kindergarten Performance

[Health Day](#) and [Daily Rx](#) reported Jan. 19 on a new study by UCLA and the American Academy of Pediatrics showing that the factors influencing children's readiness for kindergarten include not only whether they attend preschool, but also their families' behaviors, attitudes and values — and that parents' expectations go a long way toward predicting children's success throughout their schooling. Dr. Neal Halfon, the study's senior author and director of the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities, was interviewed.

Helping Children Succeed

[Roll Call](#) published Jan. 19 an op/ed piece by Dr. Neal Halfon, director of the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities, urging government policymakers to focus on ways to help America's children succeed, especially children in the crucial developmental stages of ages 0 through 5 years old.

RedOrbit Examines Viruses

[RedOrbit](#) Jan. 22 posted a UCLA video on five intriguing facts about viruses that included interviews with Dr. Otto Yang, professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases and of microbiology, immunology & molecular genetics, and William Gelbart, distinguished professor of chemistry and biochemistry.

BRIEFS

An article in the January issue of *Self Magazine* highlights a UCLA study that provided some of the first evidence that bacteria ingested in food can affect brain function in humans. Study authors included Dr. Kirsten Tillisch, associate professor of medicine in the division of digestive diseases and Dr. Emeran Mayer, a professor of medicine in the division of digestive diseases and also a professor of physiology and psychiatry.

Analysis by Dr. Richard Jackson, a professor of environmental health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, into the issue of phased fracking was included in the Jan. 9 [Press & Sun-Bulletin](#) (Binghamton, N.Y.), and Jan. 10 in the [Democrat & Chronicle](#) (Albany, N.Y.), [Poughkeepsie Journal](#) (N.Y.), and the website of [WGRZ-Channel 2](#) (Albany, N.Y.).

In a post on the U.S.'s lack of a paid leave policy, [U.S. News & World Report's](#) Data Mine Blog Jan. 16 published a map by the WORLD Policy Forum, part of the WORLD Policy Analysis Center at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.

Beyond the *Acorn* magazine's winter 2015 issue included information on UCLA Health System and its community education programs in the Conejo Valley as part of an article on ways to optimize health and well-being.

Miranda Westfall, program manager and clinic dietitian with the Fit for Healthy Weight Program at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, commented Jan. 18 in an [NBC Today.com](#) article about a study that looked at how often children eat pizza despite its unhealthful quantities of calories, saturated fat and salt.

QUOTABLES

Dr. Alon Avidan, professor of neurology and director of the Sleep Disorders Program, was quoted in the Jan. 16 NBC [Today Show](#) website about drinking alcohol and sleeping. People who drink too much, then sleep, have wake patterns that are mixed between deep sleep and wakefulness, he noted, and alcohol adversely affects the physiology of the brain.

Dr. Susan Babey, a senior research scientist at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in a Jan. 22 [Philly.com](#) article about access to exercise areas.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented in a Jan. 20 [HealthDay News](#) story about research showing that older patients hospitalized with pneumonia may have an increased heart attack risk for years afterwards.

Dr. Peter Galier, clinical professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, was quoted in a Jan. 15 [Medscape](#) story (subscription required) examining whether annual physical exams are necessary.

Dr. Dan Geschwind, a professor of neurology, genetics, and psychiatry, and director of the UCLA Center for Autism Research and Treatment at the Semel Institute, was quoted in a Jan. 20 [HealthCanal.com](#) article about the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium, and UCLA's participation finding that common psychiatric disorders such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and major depression share genetic risk factors.

Dr. Marco Iacoboni, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, and director, UCLA Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Lab in the Ahmanson Lovelace Brain Mapping Center, was quoted Jan.15 in [Time.com](#) as to the reasons why the Charlie Hebdo killings in Paris received so much more attention than the larger Boko Haram massacre in Nigeria. Iacoboni suggested it may be due to a cognitive disconnect, the cultural, anthropological differences that can play a big role in how much we empathize with others.

Dr. Mario F. Mendez, professor of neurology, was quoted in the Jan. 13 [Alzforum.org](#) newsletter about people with frontotemporal dementia (FTD) who may commit crimes. A brain disorder, FTD affects regions of the brain that rein in impulsivity and support inhibition and empathy.

Dr. David Merrill, assistant clinical professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was quoted in a Jan. 20 [Reuters](#) article about the importance of physical activity. While exercise is the most useful aid to maintaining memory and cognitive ability as people age, the combination of physical and mental exercise may offer "synergistic" benefits.

Dr. Alex Ortega, a professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted Jan. 8 on [TakePart.com](#) in a story about community grocery stores trying to revitalize neighborhood food deserts by increasing access to healthy foods.

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