



UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT

For the week of Jan. 17-23, 2014

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Entertainment Media Spotlight Luminary Gala

The UCLA Department of Head and Neck Surgery's first inaugural Luminary Awards was held Jan. 22 and attended by an estimated 700 guests. Honoring singer-songwriter John Mayer and featuring performances by Mayer and Celine Dion, the event was widely covered Jan. 23 by [People Magazine](#), [People.com](#), [Hollywood Reporter](#), [Variety](#), [E! Online](#), [London's Daily Mail](#), [LA Confidential magazine](#), [Haute Living](#), [Yahoo! Movies](#), [Yahoo! Philippines](#), [Fashion Magazine 247](#), [Guest of a Guest](#), [Celebrity Gossip](#), [Gossip Center](#) and [Music Television](#), among others. [Variety](#) Jan. 22, [Pblcty.com](#) Jan. 21, the January edition of [Angelino](#) and the Dec. 30 [Pasadena Star-News](#) all included calendar listings for the event that was also hosted by Wayne Newton. Dr. Gerald Berke, professor and chair of the UCLA Department of Head and Neck Surgery, was quoted in some of the coverage.

Kids' Ear Infections Cost Millions

The [Beverly Hills Courier](#) Jan. 17; [ABC News Radio](#) and [eMax Health](#) Jan. 13; [United Press International](#) and [Imperial Valley News](#) Jan. 12; [Milwaukee's Journal Sentinel](#), [Examiner.com](#), [Infection Control Today](#) and [News-Medical](#) Jan. 10; and [Science Daily](#) and [Medical Xpress](#) Jan. 9 reported on research led by Dr. Nina Shapiro, 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.

Health Policy Experts Discuss the Affordable Care Act

- Dr. Gerald Kominski, director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research in the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, and Dr. Dylan Roby, director of the health economics and evaluation research program at the Center, were both quoted in a Jan. 24 [CaliforniaHealthline.org](#) article about newly enrolled people in the Low Income Health Plan of the Affordable Care Act and their use of emergency departments for their primary healthcare.
- Kominski was quoted in a Jan. 22 [Contra Costa Times](#) article about the number of Californians enrolling in health insurance plans as part of the Affordable Care Act.
- Roby was quoted in a Jan. 19 [Los Angeles Times](#) article about how the implementation of the Affordable Care Act in California will affect undocumented residents; Jan. 21 on the [KPCC 89.3FM](#) Larry Mantle show about so-called "narrow networks"—the trend by insurance companies to only offer a few health care providers to people enrolling in the Affordable Care Act, and Jan. 22 in an [Orange County Register](#) article about the statewide surge in people signing up under the Affordable Care Act.

Pioneering Cancer Researcher Remembered

The [Los Angeles Times](#) Jan. 17, [New York Times](#) Jan. 20 and the [Boston Globe](#) Jan. 21 featured obituaries remembering the life of Dr. Donald Morton, a renowned cancer surgeon and researcher who in the 1970s, while working as chief of surgical oncology and UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, helped develop the sentinel lymph node evaluation, which saves the U.S. healthcare system more than \$3.8 billion per year in the treatment of melanoma and breast cancer, as well as preventing countless unnecessary surgeries.

Media Measure Bone Health and Marriage

A study suggesting that men who marry or are in committed, stable relationships prior to age 25 have weaker bones than those who marry after that age garnered media coverage, including Jan. 21 on [KNX 1070AM](#), [Examiner.com](#), and [HealthCanal](#); Jan. 22 by [Medical Xpress](#), [MDLinx](#), and [EIN](#); Jan. 23 by [ANI](#) and [WWJ 950AM](#) (Detroit). Dr. Arun Karlamangla, professor of medicine in the division of geriatrics and a study co-author, and Dr. Carolyn Crandall, professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, were quoted in the coverage.

Websites Cover New Heart Failure Risk Calculator

[MDLinx](#) and [MedIndia](#) on Jan. 23; [Examiner](#), [Bio-Medicine](#), [DocGuide News](#), [Science Daily](#) and [Medical Express](#) on Jan. 22 covered a new "risk calculator" developed by UCLA researchers that helps predict

heart failure patients' chances of survival for up to five years and can assist doctors in determining whether more or less aggressive treatment is appropriate. Study authors Dr. Tamara Horwich, assistant professor of medicine in the division of cardiology; Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson–UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center and UCLA student researcher Jennifer Chyu were quoted.

Respiratory Risks from Wildfire

UCLA health experts commented on potential respiratory problems related to the Colby wildfire, particularly for those with asthma or heart disease.

- Dr. Mark Morocco, clinical professor of medicine and emergency medicine, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center Emergency Department, was interviewed Jan. 16 on KTTV-Channel 11's "Studio 11" news program. His interview also appeared in the station's [10 p.m. news](#) broadcast as well.
- Dr. John Belperio, professor of pulmonary and critical care medicine at the Geffen School, commented Jan. 16 on [KABC-Channel 7](#).

Healthways to Partner with UCLA in Heart Disease Program

The [Nashvillepost.com](#) Jan. 16, [Zacks.com](#) Jan. 21 and [CBOE-TV](#) Jan. 22 noted that UCLA Health System has entered into an agreement with Healthways to bring the Dr. Dean Ornish Program for Reversing Heart Disease to southern California.

KPCC Explains Popularity of Gambling on Casino Buses

Dr. Timothy Fong, associate professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and co-director of the Gambling Studies Program, was interviewed Jan. 22 on [KPCC 89.3FM](#) about the growing danger of poorly regulated casino tour buses.

NPR Reports on Diabetes, Latinos, and a Push toward Healthier Eating

Dr. Alex Ortega, a professor of public health at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, and director of the [UCLA–USC Center for Population Health and Health Disparities](#) (CPHHD), was featured in a Jan. 21 [NPR](#) report about the high rates of diabetes in the Latino population, and the CPHHD's efforts to convert local markets in Latino neighborhoods to offer healthy food choices.

Huff Post on the Developing Adolescent Brain

Dr. Daniel Siegel, clinical professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and co-founder of the Mindful Awareness Research Center, was featured Jan. 21 in a [Huffington Post](#) article about risky behavior among teens. The article highlighted his book "Brainstorm: The Power and Purpose of the Teenage Brain," that explores teenage behavior and the development of the adolescent brain.

Profiling Hollywood's Go-to Scientist

The American edition of the [Voice of Russia](#) aired a Jan. 17 segment on Dr. Wayne Grody, a professor of pathology and laboratory medicine, pediatrics and human genetics, and his work as a scientific consultant to screenwriters, directors, and others in the entertainment industry. Grody is also collaborating with the Smithsonian on an exhibition exploring Hollywood and Genetics.

CBS Examines Gene Therapy for Vision Loss

Dr. Steven Schwartz, the Ahmanson Professor of Ophthalmology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and chief of the retina division at UCLA's Stein Eye Institute, was interviewed Jan. 16 on CBS "[Evening News](#)" about the potential for gene therapy to improve sight in those with genetic vision loss, age-related macular degeneration and other disorders.

Scientist Uncovers Body's 'Biological Clock'

KPCC 89.3FM's "[Loh Down on Science](#)" reported Jan. 22 on a discovery by Dr. Steve Horvath, professor of human genetics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and professor of biostatistics at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, of a "biological clock" embedded in our genomes that allows scientists to accurately gauge the age of diverse organs, tissues and cell types.

KABC Interviews UCLA's Top Liver Transplant Surgeon

[KABC-Channel 7](#) Jan. 20 reported on the FDA limiting acetaminophen dosages in prescription drugs. Dr. Ronald Busuttil, executive chair of the surgery department and chief of UCLA's division of liver and pancreas transplantation, was interviewed.

Heart Screening Catches Hidden Problems

[WFMZ-Channel 69](#) (Philadelphia) Jan. 16; Green Bay's [WJMN-Channel 3](#) (Green Bay, Wis.) Jan. 14; [KCRG-Channel 9](#) (Cedar Rapids, Iowa) Jan. 13, and others, aired a report on an infant heart screening used at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA that can help detect hidden heart problems in newborns before they are sent home from the hospital. Dr. Gregory Perens, assistant clinical professor of pediatric cardiology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was interviewed.

Daily News Highlights Connection between Diet and Poor Health

An article in the Jan. 18 [Los Angeles Daily News](#) about Americans living longer but facing more years of bad health because of chronic diseases resulting from poor diet cited the work of Dr. Patrick Dowling, chair of the department of family medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. Dowling and a UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica patient were quoted.

Racial Disparities in Thyroid Cancer

[North Dallas Gazette](#) Jan.16 and [Kaiser Health News](#) Jan. 17 reported on a study led by Dr. Avital Harari, assistant professor of general surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, which 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.

Helping Philippine Typhoon Victims

The [Santa Monica Mirror](#) reported Jan. 16 that Elena Dahl, a registered nurse at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, was part of a group of nurse volunteers heading to the Philippines to help victims of the recent typhoon. Dahl was quoted in the article.

Health Reform and Medical Costs

A column in the Jan. 21 [Los Angeles Times](#) about how the Affordable Care Act is affecting health care costs referenced the UCLA Division of Geriatrics. Dr. David Reuben, chief of the division, was quoted. Letters to the editor including one from retired UCLA Vice Chancellor Alan Charles in response to the column appeared in the Jan. 23 [Los Angeles Times](#).

BRIEFS

The Jan.21 [U-T San Diego](#) referenced a study by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the Fielding School of Public Health about the number of Latinos in California signing up for health coverage under the Affordable Care Act. The study estimated that nearly half of the 2.6 million state residents eligible for subsidized health care are Latino.

Dr. Noah Federman, assistant clinical professor of pediatric hematology and oncology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was cited Jan. 23 in an [Orange County Register](#) column about the author's past affiliation in helping to raise awareness for Federman's program and the hospital.

QUOTABLES

Susan Bowerman, assistant director of the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition, was quoted Jan. 18 in a Los Angeles [Daily News](#) article about the chronic health problems Americans face because of poor diet.

Dr. Anthony Butch, director of the UCLA Olympic Analytical Laboratory, was quoted Jan. 17 by New Jersey's [NJ.com](#) about a professional football player's arrest and possible suspension for using synthetic marijuana.

Dr. Gregory Cole, professor of neurology and associate director of the Mary S. Easton Center for Alzheimer's Disease Research, was quoted in a Jan. 22 [HealthDay](#) article about a study showing that taking fish oil may guard against a loss of brain cells.

Dr. Anne Coleman, Fran and Ray Stark Foundation Professor of Ophthalmology at the Stein Eye Institute at UCLA, was quoted Jan. 17 by [Medscape Medical News](#) (subscription required) about how visual field tests sometimes miss early glaucoma damage.

Dr. Christopher Crisera, associate clinical professor of plastic surgery at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, was interviewed Jan. 22 in a [KCBS-Channel 2](#) story about the value of having a medical tattoo artist work with patients to create the finishing touches, such as filling in scars, after they have undergone reconstructive surgery.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, UCLA's Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, was quoted Jan. 21 in an [NBC News.com](#) article about research showing that heart attack victims admitted to the hospital during the evening and weekend are more likely to die than those admitted at other times. He also commented in a Jan. 20 [HealthDay News](#) story that was picked up by multiple outlets on research showing how sunlight may help lower blood pressure. In addition, Fonarow commented in a Jan. 17 online [Men's Journal](#) article about the health benefits of magnesium.

Dr. Wally Ghurabi, medical director of the Nethercutt Emergency Center at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, was quoted in a Jan. 17 [Santa Monica Daily Press](#) cover story on the 20-year anniversary of the Northridge earthquake, which also caused considerable damage in Santa Monica.

Dr. David Heber, founding director of the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition, was quoted Jan. 18 in a Los Angeles [Daily News](#) article about the chronic health problems Americans face because of poor diet.

Dr. Elizabeth Marcus, assistant professor of pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology and nutrition at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was quoted Jan. 14 in a [Medscape](#) article about the use of probiotics to prevent colic and reflux in babies.

Dr. Mayumi Prins, associate professor of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted Jan. 21 by London's [Daily Mail](#) about young female soccer players staying in the game despite suffering head injuries on the field.

Dr. Sammy Saab, professor of medicine in the division of digestive diseases and of surgery, was quoted in a Jan. 21 [Bottom Line Daily Health News](#) article about new treatments for hepatitis C.

Dr. Daniel Siegel, clinical professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and co-founder of UCLA's Mindful Awareness Research Center, was quoted in a Jan.20 [Sacramento Bee](#) column about the benefits of mindfulness meditation.

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