



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT**  
**For the week of Jan 23 – 29, 2009**

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**Common Chemicals' Link to Infertility Draws Headlines**

The research of Dr. Jorn Olsen, chair of the department of epidemiology at the School of Public Health, offering the first evidence that perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs) may be linked to female infertility, was reported Jan. 28 and Jan. 29 by the Web sites of many news outlets, including ABC News, Scientific American, WebMD and HealthDay News, as well as Bloomberg News and the BBC. PFCs are widely used in food packaging, pesticides, clothing, upholstery, carpets and personal care products.

"Common Chemicals Linked to Infertility"

<http://www.abcnews.com/Health/WomensHealth/Story?id=6753022&page=1>

“Common Chemicals known as PFCs Linked to Infertility in People”

<http://www.sciam.com/blog/60-second-science/post.cfm?id=common-chemicals-known-as-pfcs-link-2009-01-28>

“Common Chemicals May Delay Pregnancy”

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/01/29/AR2009012901776.html>

### **UPI, HealthDay Toast Alcohol's Benefit to Healthy Seniors**

A study led by Dr. Arun Karlamangla, associate professor of geriatrics, finding that moderate alcohol consumption may prevent healthy seniors from developing physical disabilities was covered Jan. 22 by United Press International and HealthDay News, and Jan. 23 by Post Chronicle.com and the Bell Gardens Sun. The HealthDay article also appeared on the Web sites for the Washington Post, MSN, BusinessWeek, Yahoo Health and others.

“Light Alcohol May Help Cut Disability Risk”

[http://www.upi.com/Health\\_News/2009/01/22/Light\\_alcohol\\_may\\_help\\_cut\\_disability\\_risk/UPI-53901232681758/](http://www.upi.com/Health_News/2009/01/22/Light_alcohol_may_help_cut_disability_risk/UPI-53901232681758/)

“Moderate Alcohol Consumption May Protect Against Disabilities”

<http://health.msn.com/health-topics/aging/articlepage.aspx?cp-documentid=100231733>

“Light Alcohol May Help Cut Disability Risk”

[http://www.postchronicle.com/news/health/article\\_212202423.shtml](http://www.postchronicle.com/news/health/article_212202423.shtml)

### **HealthDay, Channel 4 Explore Groups' Terrorism Fears**

KNBC-Channel 4 and HealthDay News reported Jan. 22 and Jan. 28, respectively, on a study led by Dr. David Eisenman, assistant professor of general internal medicine and health services research, finding that disabled individuals and some minority groups were more likely to overestimate the threat of a terrorist attack against the United States. He was quoted in both stories.

“Terror Fears Tougher on Minorities, Disabled”

<http://www.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=623388>

### **KPCC Investigates Suspect Searches via Familial DNA**

Dr. Edward McCabe, physician-in-chief at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA and co-director of the UCLA Center for Society, the Individual and Genetics, was interviewed Jan. 22 on KCRW-89.9 FM's “Which Way, LA?” about the center's Jan. 25 symposium on the social, ethical and legal issues surrounding the use of DNA databanks and the mining of familial DNA by law enforcement agencies. (Interview occurs toward end of program on bank nationalization.)

“Should America's Banks be Nationalized?”

[http://www.kcrw.com/news/programs/ww/ww090122should\\_americas\\_bank](http://www.kcrw.com/news/programs/ww/ww090122should_americas_bank)

### **NY Daily News Explores Nicotine Addiction**

Edythe London, the Thomas P. and Katherine K. Pike Chair in Addiction Studies at the Semel Institute, was featured in a Jan. 23 New York Daily News online column about the psychological and physiological challenges involved in quitting smoking.

“Why Can't President Barack Obama 'Just Say No' to Smoking?”

[http://www.nydailynews.com/lifestyle/health/2009/01/23/2009-01-23\\_why\\_cant\\_president\\_barack\\_obama\\_just\\_say.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/lifestyle/health/2009/01/23/2009-01-23_why_cant_president_barack_obama_just_say.html)

### **UPI Reports on Circumcision and Medicaid**

United Press International reported Jan. 28 on research by Arleen Leibowitz, professor of public policy and a member of the UCLA AIDS Institute, finding that hospitals in states where Medicaid does not pay for male circumcisions are less likely to perform the procedure, potentially leaving low-income children at higher risk for HIV later in life. The January issue of the American Journal of Public Health published the study.

“Less Circumcision if Not Medicaid Covered”

[http://www.upi.com/Health\\_News/2009/01/28/Less\\_circumcision\\_if\\_not\\_Medicaid\\_covered/UPI-35241233189754/](http://www.upi.com/Health_News/2009/01/28/Less_circumcision_if_not_Medicaid_covered/UPI-35241233189754/)

### **L.A. Times, Web Outlets Feature Stem Cell Study**

The Los Angeles Times reported Jan. 26 on work by Amander Clark, a member of the Broad Stem Cell Research Center, to reprogram human induced pluripotent stem cells into the precursor cells that become sperm and egg. The study also was cited on States News Service, ScienceDaily.com, the MedGuru (India), Reason.com and ScienceMode.com.

"Adult Stem Cells May Aid the Infertile"

[http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/booster\\_shots/2009/01/adult-stem-cell.html](http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/booster_shots/2009/01/adult-stem-cell.html)

"Human Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells Reprogrammed into Germ-cell Precursors"

[http://www.themedguru.com/articles/human\\_induced\\_pluripotent\\_stem\\_cells\\_reprogrammed\\_into\\_germ\\_cell\\_precursors-86120323.html](http://www.themedguru.com/articles/human_induced_pluripotent_stem_cells_reprogrammed_into_germ_cell_precursors-86120323.html)

### **Magazine Spotlights Robotic Cardiac Surgery**

The February issue of Your Health magazine (Coachella Valley) profiled Dr. Richard Shemin, professor and chief of cardiothoracic surgery, and the da Vinci Surgical System he utilizes when performing robotic heart surgery.

"Da Vinci's Portrait of Surgery"

### **Philly TV Examines Compulsive Gambling**

Dr. Timothy Fong, an assistant professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and co-director of the Gambling Studies Program, appeared Jan. 26 in a segment on CNPH-Ch. 8 (Philadelphia) about compulsive gambling.

### **Illinois Newspaper Cites Kidney Cancer Study**

The Bellville News Democrat reported Jan. 27 on a Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center study about tailored treatment for kidney cancer that extends survival. Dr. Arie Belldegrun, professor of urology and a researcher at UCLA's Jonsson Cancer Center, led the research.

"Cancer Treatment Individualized"

<http://www.bnd.com/yourlife/story/628631.html>

### **State Media Cover Service Workers Union Agreement**

News outlets across California picked up the news on Jan. 29 that the University of California reached a tentative agreement on Jan. 28 on a new five-year contract representing more than 8,500 service workers after 18 months of negotiations.

"UC Reaches Contract Agreement with Service Workers"

[http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci\\_11577149](http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_11577149)

"UC and Service Workers Union Agree on Contract"

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/01/28/BAKB15J3V2.DTL>

### **Actor Recalls Portraying UCLA Oncologist**

Harry Connick Jr. describes his portrayal of Dr. Dennis Slamon, director of clinical/translational research at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, in the Lifetime TV film "Living Proof." Stories published Jan. 24 in the Times-Leader (PA) and Jan. 25 in the San Francisco Chronicle, Winnipeg Sun, Edmonton Sun, Sudbury Star (Canada) and Jan. 27 in Scripps News focus on a new movie in which Connick is starring.

"Connick, Zellweger in 'New in Town' "

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/01/23/PKQ2159KOE.DTL&type=movies>

"The Big Chill"

<http://www.thesudburystar.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=1403495>

"Zellweger Learns Lesson about Endurance"

[http://www.timesleader.com/entertainment/Zellweger\\_learns\\_new\\_lesson\\_in\\_endurance\\_01-25-2009.html](http://www.timesleader.com/entertainment/Zellweger_learns_new_lesson_in_endurance_01-25-2009.html)

### **Web Press Highlights Healthy Heart Tips**

KARE-Channel 11 (Minneapolis) reported Jan. 28 and The Examiner reported Jan. 29 on tips for maintaining a healthy heart from Dr. Karol Watson, UCLA associate professor of cardiology, and Dr. Thomas Klitzner, professor of pediatric cardiology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA.

"Protect Your Heart in this Bad Economy"

[http://www.kare11.com/news/health/takekare/takekare\\_article.aspx?storyid=538004&catid=20](http://www.kare11.com/news/health/takekare/takekare_article.aspx?storyid=538004&catid=20)

“Broken Heart? Blame the Economy”

<http://www.examiner.com/x-2083-NY-Consumer-Affairs-Examiner-y2009m1d28-Broken-heart-Blame-the-economy>

### **Trade Highlights Hospital’s Room Service, Cafeteria**

FoodService Director’s Jan. 15 issue ran a feature on nutrition services at the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, including daily room service for patients, new menu offerings and the unique cafeteria design. Patti Oliver, director of nutrition services, was quoted, and executive chef Gabriel Gomez and food ambassador Marili Cortez appeared in photos.

“New Building, Service”

[http://www.fsdmag.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=105746](http://www.fsdmag.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=105746)

### **BRIEFS**

The Jan. 27 Chronicle of Higher Education reported that at least 27 universities earned more than \$10 million in 2007 from licensing the rights to vaccines, drugs, medical devices and other intellectual property, according to a report released yesterday by the Association of University Technology Managers. Ten universities earned more than \$50 million each from license income in 2007. Other top earners included the University of California system (\$97.6-million). Thirty-eight companies started up in 2007 with the UC system’s research.

“Research and Inventions Earn Big Bucks for American Universities”

<http://chronicle.com/daily/2009/01/10230n.htm>

The San Diego Union-Tribune noted Jan 27 that the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center was listed among the “Top 100 hospital to work for” in a new magazine called “Nursing Professionals.” The list was compiled from a survey on job satisfaction that the magazine sent to 25,000 randomly selected hospital nurses throughout the country. Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center was listed as No. 55.

“UCSD Medical Center, Scripps La Jolla Named Among ‘Top 100 Hospital to Work for’”

<http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/jan/27/n96746174837-bn27nurses/>

The Jan. 27 Washington Post and Jan. 29 Elmwood Park Elm Leaves (IL) cited a book by Dr. Gary Small, director of the UCLA Center on Aging, called “The Memory Bible,” as the basis for brain fitness classes taught at local senior centers.

“Brain Fitness Classes Keep Seniors Mentally and Socially Active”

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/01/26/AR2009012601849.html>

“Brain Exercise May Pay Off in Good Health”

[http://www.pioneerlocal.com/elmwoodpark/lifestyles/health\\_family/1399836\\_on-webalzheimers-012909-s1.article](http://www.pioneerlocal.com/elmwoodpark/lifestyles/health_family/1399836_on-webalzheimers-012909-s1.article)

An obituary of Dr. John Menkes, who established the pediatric neurology program at UCLA in 1966, was published in the Jan. 2 edition of Neurology Today.

“Distinguished Pediatric Neurologist John H. Menkes, MD, Dies at 79”

<http://www.neurotodayonline.com/pt/re/neurotoday/pdfhandler.00132985-200901020-00004.pdf;jsessionid=JCPVWG25MNdzW1H6WXzZx21vnh2PyzFxLgfF2hxfzwVWW6XLCpY!-348297060!181195629!8091!-1?&nav=search&searchid=1&index=1&results=1&count=10>

The research of David Teplow, professor of neurology, was cited in a Jan. 23 Newsweek.com article about his research showing that naturally occurring compounds in red wine can inhibit the development of proteins that deposit in the brain and form the plaques associated with Alzheimer’s disease.

“Four More Reasons to Drink Red Wine”

<http://www.newsweek.com/id/181242>

A story in the Jan. 25 Los Angeles Times about a decline in pediatric health services in Los Angeles County cited forthcoming research by the Center for Health Policy Research in the School of Public

Health on the shortage of hospital beds for pediatric patients in California. Dylan Roby, a senior researcher at the center, was quoted.

“Pediatric Care Shrinks across California”

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-pediatric-hospital25-2009jan25.0.5643218.full.story>

## QUOTABLES

Dr. Juan Alejos, associate professor of pediatric cardiology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, commented in the February issue of Reader's Digest about health risks associated with obesity in children.

“The Family Guide to a Healthy Heart”

<http://www.rd.com/living-healthy/family-heart-health-guide/article116696.html>

Dr. David Baron, chief of staff at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, commented in a Jan. 27 KNX 1070AM report about octuplets born at a local hospital.

E. Richard Brown, professor of health services and director of the Center for Health Policy in the School of Public Health, was quoted in the Jan. 27 Modesto Bee about the impact of unemployment on people's ability to maintain healthcare coverage.

“Health Care too Costly for Jobless”

<http://www.modbee.com/business/story/578500.html>

Dr. Ian Cook, Miller Family Professor of Psychiatry at the Geffen School of Medicine and director of the Depression Research Program at the Semel Institute, was quoted Jan 27 on KNX 1070 AM about how to cope with the mental distress people feel in times of financial hardship.

Dr. John DiFiori, chief of sports medicine, and Dr. Christopher Giza, assistant professor of neurosurgery, were quoted Jan. 29 in a Los Angeles Times article about sports-related concussions being linked to degenerative brain disease.

“Repeated Concussions Lead to Severe Brain Disease, Research Shows”

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-sci-concussion28-2009jan28.0.7204581.story>

Dr. Paul Finn, director of magnetic resonance research and professor of radiological sciences at the David Geffen School of Medicine, and Dr. John Mazziotta, chair of neurology and director of the Ahmanson-Lovelace brain mapping center at the David Geffen School of Medicine, commented Jan. 25 in an online ABC News story about how the range in scanner magnet quality and radiologists' expertise can lead to different MRI results. A lengthier broadcast segment aired Sept. 24 on ABC's “Good Morning America.”

“All MRIs Are Not Created Equal”

<http://abcnews.go.com/GMA/story?id=6355703&page=1>

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science, commented Jan. 27 in a HealthDay News report linking certain heart failure drugs and a risk of bone fractures in postmenopausal women. He commented in a second HealthDay story about the value of monitoring blood levels of a biomarker in older people with chronic heart failure.

“Some Heart Failure Meds May Raise Fracture Risk in Women”

<http://www.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=623447>

“Monitoring Protein Didn't Improve Heart Failure Outcomes”

<http://www.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=623475>

Dr. Hillel Laks, professor of cardiothoracic surgery, was quoted Jan. 28 by MedPage Today on the success rates of pediatric heart transplants using donated hearts that were initially rejected.

“STS: Children Survive and Thrive with Initially Refused Hearts”

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/MeetingCoverage/STS/12637>

Dr. Alan Rapport, clinical professor of neurology, was quoted Jan. 20 on PennLive.com about a promising new drug to treat migraine headaches.

“Americans with Debilitating Migraines ‘Don't have to Suffer”

[http://www.pennlive.com/bodyandmind/index.ssf/2009/01/americans\\_with\\_debilitating\\_mi.html](http://www.pennlive.com/bodyandmind/index.ssf/2009/01/americans_with_debilitating_mi.html)

Richard Rawson, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and associate director of its Integrated Substance Abuse Programs, was quoted Jan. 28 by the Riverside Press Enterprise about drug addiction.

“Caution Urged over Children's Health Study”

[http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE\\_News\\_Local\\_S\\_cocaine-side29.9ad4b8.html](http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_S_cocaine-side29.9ad4b8.html)

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