



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of Jan. 27 – Feb. 2, 2012**

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New York Times Spotlights Operation Mend

Teen Meets Blood Donors Who Saved His Life

ABC World News, Dr. Oz Feature Memory Expert

How Leprosy Dodges the Immune System

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New York Times Spotlights Operation Mend

The [New York Times](#) reported Jan. 30 on Joey Paulk, a soldier aided by UCLA's Operation Mend, a partnership between Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, Brooke Army Medical Center and the Veterans Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System that offers free reconstructive surgery for military personnel severely wounded and disfigured during service. Ronald Katz, founder of Operation Mend and a UCLA hospital board member, and Dr. Timothy Miller, Operation Mend surgical director, were quoted.

Teen's Meets Blood Donors Who Saved His Life

A special UCLA event that introduced teen heart-transplant recipient Donovan Ho to 11 strangers who helped save his life with their blood and platelet donations was covered Feb. 1 by the [Orange County Register](#) and [Nguoi Viet News](#); Jan. 28 by the [Ventura County Star](#) and the Chinese-language [World Journal](#) and Chinese Daily News; and Jan. 27 by [KABC-Channel 7](#), KCBS-Channel 2, KNBC-Channel 4, [KTLA-Channel 5](#), KCAL-Channel 9 and City News Service. Dr. Alyssa Ziman, medical director of the UCLA Blood and Platelet Center, was quoted in the Star. Dr. Juan Alejos, medical director of the pediatric heart transplant program, was quoted by the Orange County Register. Both Ziman and Alejos were featured in the Register's online [slide show](#).

ABC World News, Dr. Oz Feature Memory Expert

Dr. Gary Small, UCLA's Parlow–Solomon Professor on Aging, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Longevity Center, was interviewed Jan. 29 on ABC [World News](#) about brain function during middle age and how to keep our cognitive skills sharp as we get older. The piece aired on 22 ABC affiliates nationwide. Small also appeared Jan. 12 on a Dr. Oz show focusing on Alzheimer's disease and lifestyle factors that may impact brain function later in life. (See link below) <http://showroom.multivisioninc.com/share.do?id=154106&key=GvezMPEatlxH3r4GtFfj1SCPi8IVIKXi&email=rchampeau@mednet.ucla.edu>

How Leprosy Dodges the Immune System

[Asian News International](#), [Eurasia Review](#), [Biomedicine](#), [E Science News](#), [Science Daily](#), [News Blaze](#) and [Examiner](#) reported Jan.29 and [Infection Control Today](#) reported Jan. 30 on new research revealing how a pathogen that causes leprosy is able to evade an attack by the immune system. Dr. Philip Liu, assistant professor of medicine at the Orthopaedic Hospital Research Center and in the department of dermatology, and Dr. Robert Modlin, the Klein Professor of Dermatology and chief of dermatology, were quoted.

Publication Lauds Super UCLA Physicians

More than 250 UCLA physicians were rated among the top doctors in Los Angeles in the recently released 2102 [Super Doctors](#) publication, which recognizes doctors who have excelled professionally and are recognized as leaders within their fields of practice.

PBS Explores Better Health through Urban Design

Dr. Richard Jackson, chair of environmental health sciences at the School of Public Health, was featured Jan. 29 on PBS' "[Tavis Smiley](#)" show. Jackson, who also hosts the PBS show "Designing Healthy Communities," was interviewed about his research linking public health and city design.

Local Papers Run Column on Food Poisoning

The Jan. 29 [Los Angeles Daily News](#) featured a column by Dr. Claire Panosian Dunavan, clinical professor of medicine, division of infectious diseases, about food poisoning. The column also appeared in the [San Gabriel Valley Tribune](#), [Whittier Daily News](#) and the [Pasadena Star-News](#).

Custom Car and Music Video Benefit Military's Wounded

[KTLA-Channel 5](#) reported Jan. 20 on a Camaro convertible donated by General Motors and custom designed by West Coast Customs that raised \$366,000 at auction to benefit UCLA's Operation Mend, which provides free reconstructive surgery to military personnel severely wounded and disfigured during service. Melanie Gideon, Operation Mend's program manager, was interviewed. Operation Mend's first patient, Marine Cpl. Aaron Mankin, was cited Feb. 1 in a [Military Times](#) article about a new upbeat music video that features Mankin and other wounded veterans.

<http://showroom.multivisioninc.com/share.do?id=154054&key=ik1q6lnW4xCTm6bDHAVm3cmQCAWHZEP&email=RMoster@mednet.ucla.edu>

Wall Street Journal Examines New Cancer Drug

The [Wall Street Journal](#) reported Feb. 1 on two new drugs anticipating FDA approval. One compound, MDV3100, was developed at UCLA by Dr. Charles Sawyers, now at Memorial Sloan-Kettering, and Michael Jung, a researcher at UCLA's Jonsson Cancer Center.

Hepatitis Research Garners Web Interest

[Health News Digest](#), [Viral Matters](#), [Inside Informer](#), [Science Daily](#) and [Examiner.com](#) reported Jan. 30; and [Science Codex](#), [Herbal Treatment](#), [Medical Xpress](#), [HCV Advocate](#), [Noticias de Salud](#), [Medical Press](#) and [Infection Control Today](#) reported Jan. 31; and [Sci Tech Daily](#) reported Feb. 1 about a Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center study that identified a cell-permeable peptide that inhibits Hepatitis C. Study leader Dr. Samuel French is an assistant professor of pathology.

Newspaper Studies Health Benefits of Pomegranates

A Jan. 31 [Buffalo News](#) story about how pomegranates may protect against rheumatoid arthritis cited a study by Dr. David Heber, professor of medicine and director of the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition, showing that the antioxidant properties of pomegranate juice are greater than those of blueberry juice, cranberry juice and red wine. Heber was quoted.

AOL's Patch Spotlights Young Patient's New Cookbook

The [Redondo Beach Patch](#) ran a Jan. 29 story about an 11-year-old boy who underwent a bone marrow transplant at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA last year. The young patient is also an aspiring chef who launched a recent cookbook. His physician, Dr. Ted Moore, chief of pediatric hematology/oncology, was quoted.

Examiner Cites Kidney Transplant Survival Rates

[Examiner.com](#) reported Jan. 29 on recent government data finding that the UCLA Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Program had the highest three-year transplant survival rate among patients who underwent the procedure at U.S. centers performing 80 or more transplants per year.

Online Outlets Cover Quality of Life Study

[EmpowHer](#) and [Cancer Kick](#) on Jan. 26 and [Hope 4 Cancer](#) on Jan. 31 reported on a study showing that younger women with breast cancer suffer more mental distress than older women with breast cancer. The study was led by Dr. Patricia Ganz, director of cancer prevention and control research at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Miami Herald Interviews Nutrition Expert

Susan Bowerman, assistant director of the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition, commented in a Jan. 24 [Miami Herald](#) column that originally ran in the Chicago Tribune.

Website Covers Folk Cure that May Counteract Alcohol

A Feb. 2 [Greatist.com](#) article reported on a study by principal investigator Dr. Jing Liang, associate professor of molecular and medical pharmacology, who led a team of UCLA researchers. The finding showed that a component of an ancient Chinese herbal medicine may counteract alcohol intoxication and dependence. Liang was quoted. The study appeared Jan. 4 in the Journal of Neuroscience.

E! News Addresses Salvia Dangers

Dr. David Baron, family medicine physician and former chief of staff at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, appeared in a Jan. 31 [E! News](#) report about the dangers of smoking salvia and similar herbal substances. He was also quoted Jan. 27 by [E! Online](#) about the same topic.

L.A. Times Addresses Blue Shield Dispute

The [Los Angeles Times](#) reported Jan. 27 on an ongoing contract dispute between the UCLA Health System and health insurer Blue Shield of California over reimbursement rates for medical services.

BRIEFS

A Jan. 29 [Los Angeles Times](#) article cited a joint UCLA/VA study finding that a compound that blocks a stress-related hormone caused genetically altered bald mice to re-grow their fur—which could lead to a remedy for stress- and age-related hair loss in humans.

Dr. Gary Mathern, professor of pediatric neurosurgery and director of the UCLA Pediatric Epilepsy Program at Mattel Children's Hospital; Carol Kruse, professor of neurosurgery; and Dr. Harry Vinters, professor of neuropathology, who are working on narrowing down the cause of a rare neurological disorder called Rasmussen Encephalitis, were cited Jan. 19 in a [Darren Patch](#) (CT) article about a fundraising event to support their research.

QUOTABLES

Dr. Peter Butler, chief of endocrinology and director of the Larry L. Hillblom Islet Research Center, was quoted Jan. 31 in a [Reuters Health](#) story about new research linking a diabetes drug to fewer cases of pancreatic cancer in women.

Dr. Helena Chang, director of the Revlon/UCLA Breast Center and a researcher at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted Jan. 30 by the [Los Angeles Times](#) about two New England Journal of Medicine studies suggesting that the cancer drug Avastin in combination with other therapies could help shrink breast tumors before surgery.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, UCLA's Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson–UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented in a Jan. 30 [HealthDay News](#) article about research suggesting that differences in blood pressure between arms could indicate vascular disease. He was also quoted in a Jan. 30 [HealthDay News](#) article about research suggesting that cholesterol-lowering statin drugs equally reduce the risk of heart attack in men and women.

Dr. Timothy Fong, associate professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and co-director of the Gambling Studies Program, was quoted in a Jan. 26 [Associated Press](#) article about the game baccarat.

Mary Hardy, associate physician diplomate at the Simms/Mann–UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology and UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted Feb. 1 in the [Los Angeles Times](#) about the health benefits of massages.

Dr. Stanley Korenman, professor of endocrinology and associate dean of ethics, was quoted in the March issue of *Vanity Fair* about Hollywood stars' use of human growth hormone to maintain their looks and youthfulness.

Dr. Aurelia Nattiv, professor of family medicine and orthopaedic surgery and director of the UCLA Osteoporosis Center, was quoted Jan. 30 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) story about how women can improve abdominal muscle tone.

Dr. Michael Rodriguez, professor of family medicine, commented Jan. 25 in a PBS [News Hour with Jim Lehrer](#) report on the use of “telenovelas” to impart health information to Hispanic viewers.

Shira Shafir, assistant adjunct professor at the School of Public Health and program coordinator for the UCLA Global Health Training Program, was quoted in a Jan. 29 [Canadian Press](#) article about a raccoon parasite turning up in human patients.

Dr. Wendy Slusser, assistant professor of pediatrics at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA and the UCLA School of Public Health, was interviewed Jan. 29 on CBS's "[Evening News](#)" about the Los Angeles Unified School District's efforts to introduce healthier foods into school lunches.

Lynn Sullivan, community programs manager for The BirthPlace at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, was quoted in a Jan. 31 [Associated Press](#) story about the need to prepare pets when a newborn comes home from the hospital. The story appeared on the websites of ABC News, the Washington Post and the Daily Star (Beirut).

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