



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of Feb. 1-7, 2013**

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Health, Science Websites Feature Study on Alzheimer's and Vitamin D, Omega-3s

KABC Highlights Santa Monica's New Initiative to Make Kids' ER Visits Less Painful

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L. A. Times Commemorates World's First Pediatric Ophthalmologist

The Feb. 6 [Los Angeles Times](#) published an in-depth obituary on Dr. Leonard Apt, a founding faculty member of the Jules Stein Eye Institute at UCLA and an international pioneer in pediatric ophthalmology, whose innovations saved the eyesight of millions of children around the world. Dr. Sherwin Isenberg, the Laraine and David Gerber Professor of Ophthalmology at the Jules Stein Eye Institute and vice-chair of the department of ophthalmology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted.

Health, Science Websites Feature Study on Alzheimer's and Vitamin D, Omega-3s

[Asian News International \(ANI\)](#), [Yahoo News](#), [Net News Publisher](#), [SciTechDaily](#), [Lab Spaces](#) and [Biosciences Technology](#) reported Feb. 6, and [Examiner.com](#), [Science Daily](#), [Medical News Today](#), [Innovations Report](#), [Doctor's Guide](#), [Health Canal](#), [Medical Express](#), [Health News Report](#), [News Blaze](#), and [Science Blog](#) reported Feb. 5 and on a new study that pinpointed how vitamin D3 and omega-3 fatty acids may enhance the immune system's ability to clear the brain of amyloid plaques, one of the hallmarks of Alzheimer's disease. Study authors quoted include Dr. Milan Fiala and Dr. Mathew Mizwicki, researchers with the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. The study was published Feb. 5 in the *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*.

KABC Highlights Santa Monica's New Initiative to Make Kids' ER Visits Less Painful

A Jan. 31 report on [KABC-Channel 7](#) profiled the new "Ouch-less ER" concept being implemented for children treated at the Nethercutt Emergency Center at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica. Dr. Lisa Dabby, staff emergency physician, and Katie Kolbeck, child life specialist, were interviewed.

Wall Street Journal Highlights New Clot Busting Device

Dr. Reza Jahan, associate professor of radiology and a member of the UCLA Stroke Center in the department of neurology, was featured in a special Feb. 7 Wall Street Journal (not available online) section that highlighted five breakthrough medical technologies for 2013. Jahan discussed the SOLITARE Flow Restoration Device developed at UCLA that removes stroke-causing blood clots from brain arteries.

KNBC Reports on an Early Form of Alzheimer's Disease

Dr. John Ringman, associate professor of neurology and a member of the Mary S. Easton Center for Alzheimer's Disease Research, was featured in a Feb. 1 [KNBC-Channel 4](#) news segment about his research into an inheritable form of early-onset Alzheimer's, and his collaboration in a clinical trial to test a new drug to stop the disease.

CBS Spotlights Neuro-ICU Robot

CBS NewsPath distributed a TV segment spotlighting Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center's neuro-ICU robot, which allows doctors to visit the patient's bedside 24/7 from the comfort of their home or office computer. Nearly 100 CBS affiliates, including [KCBS-Channel 2](#) and [KCAL-Channel 9](#) in Los Angeles, aired the story on Feb. 4 and Feb. 5. Dr. Paul Vespa, director of neurocritical care and professor of neurosurgery and neurology, and neuro-ICU patient Kevin Sittner, were interviewed.

Study Finds Brain Damage in NFL Players

A brain-imaging study in which UCLA researchers found elevated levels of the Alzheimer's disease-related tau protein in the brains of retired football players who had suffered one or more concussions was highlighted Feb. 1 by [CNN.com](#), and [NewsMaxHealth](#); Feb. 2 by the [Orange County Register](#) and Feb. 3 by [CNN's "Sanjay Gupta MD"](#), [MSNBC's Melissa Perry Harris Show](#) and [KABC-TV Channel 7](#). Study authors include: Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging, a professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Longevity Center, and Jorge Barrio, professor of molecular and medical pharmacology. Small was quoted in the coverage.

RedOrbit, other Media Weigh Fast Foods Ads and Obesity

[RedOrbit.com](#) and [Times of India](#) Feb. 1, and [Casual Munch](#) Jan. 31 reported on a study by Dr. Lenard Lesser, a former physician with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars program in the department of family medicine, that found that the more outdoor fast-food ads there are in a given neighborhood, the more likely neighborhood residents are to be overweight. Lesser was quoted.

Public Health Expert Comments on Affordable Care Act

Dylan Roby, director of the health economics and evaluation research program at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research in the Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted Jan. 31 in [California Healthline](#) and Feb. 1 in the USC Annenberg [Reporting on Health](#) website, a [Modern Healthcare](#) article and in an interview on [KCBS 740AM](#) (San Francisco) regarding the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the costs that will be associated with the lack of coverage for undocumented immigrants. Separately, Roby commented in the Feb. 5 [Ventura County Star](#) about a provision in the ACA that tobacco use can be used as a rating factor for increasing individual insurance premiums in 2014 and beyond.

Nature Highlights UCLA Liquid Biopsy Technology

The journal [Nature](#) Feb. 6 highlighted promising NanoVelcro technology developed at UCLA in an article about new ways to detect cancer cells circulating in blood, or liquid biopsy. Hsian-Rong Tseng, associate professor of molecular and medical pharmacology at the Crump Institute for Molecular Imaging and a member of the California NanoSystems Institute and the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center was quoted extensively in the article, which also featured a graphic of the NanoVelcro chip.

KNBC Reports on New Test for Arterial Blockages

[KNBC-Channel 4](#) Feb. 6 aired a report about a new 3D non-invasive test performed at Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center (LA BioMed) that can see patients' hearts and arteries without pain, risk or discomfort. Dr. Matthew J. Budoff, professor of medicine in the division of cardiology and a lead investigator, commented.

Health Site Examines HIV Conspiracy Fears

[Medical News Today](#) Feb. 1 carried an article on research led by Chandra Ford, assistant professor of community health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, finding that lack of trust in the government and AIDS-related conspiracy theories often deter at-risk older adults from taking HIV tests.

Trade Highlights Intervention for Prescribing Meds

[MedAdNews.com](#) reported Feb. 4 on research led by Dr. Derjung Tarn, assistant professor of family medicine, outlining a simple intervention aimed at helping physicians improve how they communicate crucial information about prescription medications to their patients. Tarn was quoted.

Examiner.com Reports on Social Media and HIV Prevention

[Examiner.com](#) reported Feb. 6 on research led by Sean Young, assistant professor of family medicine, finding that Facebook and other social media could be useful tools in AIDS and STD prevention.

Infectious Disease Expert Explores Treatments for Monkey-borne Infections

The [Pasadena Star-News](#) Feb. 6 posted a column by Dr. Claire Panosian Dunavan, clinical professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases, about a woman who was treated for rabies and Herpes B after being bitten by a macaque monkey while vacationing in Bali.

Dem Bones Belong to an English King

Dr. Stanley Nelson, professor of human genetics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, explained in the Feb. 4 [Los Angeles Times](#) how scientists used mitochondrial DNA analysis to confirm that a skeleton unearthed in England belonged to King Richard III.

Local Media Cover Union Rally

[KCBS-Channel 2](#), [KCAL-Channel 9](#), [KABC-Channel 7](#) and [KNX 1070AM](#) Jan. 31 covered statewide protests that UCLA employees and students took part in on campus over pension reform issues. Patrick Hale, a radiology technician, was interviewed.

BRIEFS

The UCLA AIDS Institute was cited in a Feb. 7 [San Gabriel Tribune](#) story about the 12^h annual Dance Marathon to raise money for pediatric AIDS/HIV research.

QUOTABLES

Dr. James Cherry, professor of pediatric infectious diseases at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was interviewed Feb. 3 in [L.A. Parent](#) magazine reviewing vaccination guidelines for pregnant women to help prevent whooping cough.

Melissa Dunbar-Forrest, manager of the kidney and pancreas transplant program, was quoted Feb. 5 in a [Huffington Post](#) article about the challenges of finding a heart for infants who need a transplant.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, UCLA's Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented in a Feb. 4 [HealthDay News](#) article that also ran on [WebMD](#) about new research indicating that men taking calcium supplements may have an increased risk of dying from cardiovascular disease.

Tanya Paparella, assistant professor of psychiatry and director of the Early Childhood Partial Hospitalization Program in the Semel Institute, was quoted Feb. 6 in [Time.com](#) about the little boy who was held hostage in an underground bunker. He reportedly has Asperger's syndrome and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, and the article discussed how best to ensure his recovery from a psychological perspective.

Dr. Dinesh Rao, assistant professor of pathology and laboratory medicine, was quoted Feb. 5 in a [Gawker](#) column addressing whether blood transfusions can help patients get rid of HIV.

Dr. Antoni Ribas, professor of medicine in the division of hematology-oncology and member of Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted in the February 2013 issue of [More](#) magazine in an article about genetically targeted cancer treatments.

Dr. Beate Ritz, chair and professor of epidemiology in the Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted Feb. 6 in the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) about the danger of air pollution and its negative impact on fetal growth and development.

Dr. Gary Small, UCLA's Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging, a professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Longevity Center, commented Feb. 1 in a [Psychiatric News](#) story about a new study finding that a gene associated with Alzheimer's disease risk may be active at birth.

Dr. Malcolm Taw, assistant clinical professor of medicine at the UCLA Center for East-West Medicine, commented Jan. 25 in a [Time.com](#) article about home remedies and integrative medicine approaches to easing flu symptoms.

Steven P. Wallace, associate director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and chair of community health sciences at the Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in a Feb. 5 [Los Angeles Times](#) column about a nonprofit mobile clinic that provides free eye exams and glasses to Los Angeles schoolchildren.

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