



UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of Feb. 13 - 19, 2009

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Reuters, BBC Investigate Gene Therapy to Combat HIV

Stroke's "Golden Hour" Draws Headlines

Media Highlights Studies that Examine Benefits of Tea and Coffee in Preventing Stroke

HealthDay Highlights Benefits of Taking Vitamins in Preventing Stroke

LA Times, Fox News, KABC Report on HPV Vaccine

MSN.com Asks if Homework is Good or Bad for Kids

ABC Examines Blood Injections to Treat Injuries, Arthritis

Washington Post Explores Internet's Impact on Brain

Community Paper Spotlights New Endowed Chairs

Palisadian Post Profiles Surgical Missions in Peru

Iowa Paper Chronicles Medical Book Drive

San Diego Radio Focuses on Plight of Uninsured Patients

Business Trades Cover New Contract for UC Service Workers

Magazine Highlights Herceptin Research

Forbes Profiles Clinical Trial Patient

BRIEFS

QUOTABLES

Reuters, BBC Investigate Gene Therapy to Combat HIV

Reuters reported Feb. 15 and BBC News, HealthDay News, Asian News International, Agence France-Presse, WebMD and many other outlets reported Feb. 16 on a trial led by Dr. Ronald Mitsuyasu, director of UCLA's Center for Clinical AIDS Research and Education, finding that gene therapy has the potential to be developed into a safe and effective treatment for HIV. Mitsuyasu was quoted.

"Gene Therapy Holds Promise for HIV"

<http://www.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=624149>

"HIV Gene Therapy Trial Promising"

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/7883023.stm>

"Gene Therapy Shows Modest Efficacy for HIV Infection"

http://www.cpmag.com/reuters_article.asp?id=20090216drqd002.html

'Major Advance' in HIV Gene Therapy

<http://www.webmd.com/hiv-aids/news/20090216/hiv-gene-therapy-major-advance>

Stroke's "Golden Hour" Draws Headlines

HealthDay News, NBC News Channel, MedPage Today and Doctor's Guide News were among outlets reporting Feb. 18 on a new study showing that patients who reached the hospital within the "golden" first hour after suffering a stroke were more likely to receive the clot-busting drug called tissue plasminogen activator (tPA). Lead author Dr. Jeffrey Saver, director of the UCLA Stroke Center, was quoted.

"Fast Arrival at Hospital after Stroke Pays Off"

<http://health.usnews.com/articles/health/healthday/2009/02/18/fast-arrival-at-hospital-after-stroke-pays-off.html>

"The First Hour Critical to Stroke Victims"

<http://www.14wfie.com/Global/story.asp?S=9866301&nav=3w6r>

"ASA: Arrival within Golden Hour Improves Likelihood of Getting tPA"

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/MeetingCoverage/ASA/12957>

"Stroke Patients Who Reach Hospitals within "Golden Hour" Twice as Likely to Get Clot-busting Drug"

<http://www.docguide.com/news/content.nsf/news/852571020057CCF685257561006EFBEF>

"Recognizing Signs of a Stroke"

<http://abclocal.go.com/wabc/story?section=news/health&id=6665552&rss=rss-wabc-article-6665552>

Media Highlights Studies that Examine Benefits of Tea and Coffee in Preventing Stroke

HealthDay, WebMD, MedPageToday, MSNBC and the NBC News Channel reported Feb. 19, and the New York Daily News reported Feb. 20, on two separate UCLA studies that examined the health benefits of drinking tea or coffee in reducing the risk of stroke. Lenore Arab, professor of biological chemistry, general internal medicine and health services research, found that three cups a day of green or black tea can reduce stroke risk by 21 percent. Dr. David Liebeskind, associate neurology director at the UCLA Stroke Center, found that symptoms of transient ischemic attack or stroke are "far less common" in people reporting intake of more than six cups of coffee per day. Both researchers presented their findings at the American Heart Association's international stroke conference and Arab's study was published in the journal *Stroke*.

"Tea, Coffee May Reduce Stroke Risk"

http://www.webmd.com/stroke/news/20090219/tea-coffee-may-reduce-stroke-risk?src=RSS_PUBLIC

"Coffee or Tea Consumption May Lower Stroke Risk"

<http://www.forbes.com/feeds/hscout/2009/02/20/hscout624289.html>

"Coffee May Lower Stroke Risk"

http://www.14wfie.com/Global/story.asp?S=9873523&nav=menu54_5

"ASA: Daily Cups of Tea Could Help Prevent Stroke"

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/MeetingCoverage/ASA/12964>

"Tea May Thwart Strokes, Sez Prof"

http://www.nydailynews.com/lifestyle/health/2009/02/19/2009-02-19_tea_may_thwart_strokes_sez_prof.html

"Lowering Your Risk for Stroke"

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29288266/>

HealthDay Highlights Benefits of Taking Vitamins in Preventing Stroke

HealthDay on Feb. 19 reported on a new UCLA stroke study that found taking recommended doses of B-complex vitamins to reduce levels of homocysteine, an amino acid that increases artery disease risk, may lower ischemic stroke patients' risk of recurring stroke and other future vascular events. The study was presented at the American Stroke Association's International Stroke Conference. Lead author, Dr. Bruce Ovbiagele, associate professor of neurology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and director of the Olive View-UCLA stroke program, was cited.

"Good Adherence to Therapy May Benefit Stroke Patients"

<http://www.modernmedicine.com/modernmedicine/Modern+Medicine+Now/ASA-Good-Adherence-to-Therapy-May-Benefit-Stroke-P/ArticleNewsFeed/Article/detail/582674?contextCategoryId=40126>

LA Times, Fox News, KABC Report on HPV Vaccine

David Grant, director of the California Health Interview Survey, administered by the Center for Health Policy Research in the School of Public Health, was featured in a Feb. 18 Los Angeles Times article about Center research that found that more than a quarter of adolescent girls in California had received the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. The story was also covered in news segments on KABC – Ch. 7 and KTTV – Ch. 11.

“Cervical Cancer Vaccine Gains Acceptance in California”

<http://www.latimes.com/features/health/la-me-hpv18-2009feb18,0,2999684.story>

“Cervical Cancer Vaccine Study”

http://www.myfoxla.com/dpp/news/local/Cervical_Cancer_Vaccine_Study20090218

MSN.com Asks if Homework is Good or Bad for Kids

Istvan Molnar-Szakacs, a researcher at the UCLA Tennenbaum Center for the Biology of Creativity at the Semel Institute, was featured in a Feb. 19 article on MSN.com about the value of homework. Molnar-Szakacs discussed how the brain develops in young children, and how learning may aid in developing neural connections.

“Homework: Too Much, Too Soon?”

<http://health.msn.com/kids-health/articlepage.aspx?cp-documentid=100233221>

ABC Examines Blood Injections to Treat Injuries, Arthritis

ABC News.com reported Feb. 18 on some doctors’ use of a solution of a patient’s own blood to heal injuries faster. The article quoted Dr. Nick Shamie, associate clinical professor of orthopaedic surgery and neurosurgery, and a member of the UCLA Spine Surgery Center, and featured UCLA research results.

“New Idea: Healing Injuries, Arthritis with Blood”

<http://www.abcnews.go.com/Health/PainNews/Story?id=6895441&page=2>

Washington Post Explores Internet’s Impact on Brain

A Feb. 17 Washington Post article examined the influence of the Internet on the brain, including a UCLA finding linking surfing online to increased brain function in older adults. Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor of Aging at the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior, was quoted.

“The Online Male Takes a Licking and Keeps on Clicking”

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/02/16/AR2009021601009.html?wprss=rss_technology

Community Paper Spotlights New Endowed Chairs

The Feb. 13 Westwood/Bel Air View featured The Shapiro Family Charitable Foundation’s \$2 million pledge to The UCLA Foundation to fund two endowed chairs. Both positions will enhance the research, teaching, patient care and public service mission of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. Dr. Gerald S. Levey, vice chancellor for UCLA Medical Sciences and dean of the David Geffen School of Medicine, was quoted.

“A New Chair for UCLA”

<http://www.westsidetoday.com/m2-535/bel-air-westwood-news.html>

Palisadian Post Profiles Surgical Missions in Peru

The Palisadian Post on Feb. 19 spotlighted the volunteer work of Dr. Juan Alejos, professor of pediatric cardiology at Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA, and Dr. Dan Levi, assistant professor of pediatric cardiology at UCLA. The doctors lead medical missions in Peru to help children with cardiac disease through the Hearts with Hope Foundation founded by Alejos.

“A Local Cause with Lots of Heart”

http://www.palisadespost.com/content/index.cfm?Story_ID=4660

Iowa Paper Chronicles Medical Book Drive

The Sioux City Journal reported Feb. 2 on Operation Medical Libraries, a partnership between medical schools at UCLA, UC San Diego and UC Irvine; hospitals; physicians; and the U.S. military to collect and distribute medical textbooks and journals to medical professionals in Afghanistan and Iraq.

<http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/articles/2009/02/02/news/top/887c925968d08a3186257551001b66f6.txt>

San Diego Radio Focuses on Plight of Uninsured Patients

Dylan Roby, a senior researcher at the Center for Health Policy Research in the School of Public Health, was interviewed Feb. 13 on San Diego's KPBS-89.3 FM about a San Diego County policy that requires uninsured patients seeking county medical care to sign a contract allowing the county to place a lien on their property.

"Lien Rule Scares Some Away from County Medical Services"

<http://www.kpbs.org/news/local/id=13818>

Business Trades Cover New Contract for UC Service Workers

The Feb. 13 Sacramento Business Journal and San Francisco Business Times covered news that the UC service workers' union has approved a new contract featuring \$64 million in total wage increases over five years for 8,500 Employees.

"UC Service Workers Approve New Contract"

<http://sacramento.bizjournals.com/sacramento/stories/2009/02/09/daily70.html?surround=lfm>

"UC Service Workers Ratify Contract"

<http://www.bizjournals.com/sanfrancisco/stories/2009/02/09/daily91.html?surround=lfm>

Magazine Highlights Herceptin Research

Research by Dr. Dennis Slamon to develop the breast cancer drug Herceptin was featured in the December/January issue of Mamm Magazine. Slamon is director of clinical/translational research at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

"Herceptin's First Success Story"

Forbes Profiles Clinical Trial Patient

A patient whose melanoma was successfully treated in a clinical trial at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center was featured as one of six people with advanced cancers who had amazing responses to experimental therapies.

"Six Miracle Cancer Survivors"

http://www.forbes.com/2009/02/11/cancer-cure-experimental-lifestyle-health_0212cancer.html?partner=contextstory

BRIEFS

Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital was referenced in a Feb. 19 New York Times article about the benefits of newborn screening for genetic disorders.

"Screening for Rare Genetic Disorders Now Routine in Newborns"

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/19/health/18screening.html?_r=1&ref=health

UCLA Medical Center was mentioned in a Feb. 14 story on KBAK-Channel 29 (Bakersfield) about a local teenager who is awaiting a heart transplant at UCLA after suffering a heart attack.

"Taft Teen Needs Heart Transplant"

<http://www.bakersfieldnow.com/news/local/39622627.html>

QUOTABLES

Brett Abrahams, a postdoctoral researcher in human genetics, commented Feb. 12 in a KCBS-Channel 2 report about a recent court ruling denying a link between pediatric vaccinations and autism.

"Actress Unconvinced about Court's Autism Ruling"

<http://cbs2.com/thepulse/vaccines.immunizations.autism.2.933696.html>

Dr. Jennifer Anger, assistant professor of urology, commented Feb. 18 in an MSNBC website article about the prevalence and treatment of bed-wetting in adults.

“Bed-Wetting Blues: Millions of Adults Suffer, Too”

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29244829/page/2/>

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science, commented Feb. 18 in a HealthDay News story regarding a study finding that a DNA test could make prescribing a widely used anticoagulant safer by predicting the lowest effective dose. He also provided advice in the March issue of Best Life about when to take a statin based on LDL and C-reactive protein levels.

“Genetics May Help Fine-tune Warfarin Dosage”

<http://www.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=624234>

David Grant, director of the California Health Interview Survey, administered by the Center for Health Policy Research in the School of Public Health, was quoted Feb. 18 by the Los Angeles Times about Center research finding that more than a quarter of adolescent girls in California had received the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine.

“Cervical Cancer Vaccine Gains Acceptance in California”

<http://www.latimes.com/features/health/la-me-hpv18-2009feb18,0,2999684.story>

Dr. Wayne Grody, professor of pathology, human genetics and pediatrics, commented Feb. 17 in Popular Science about how science and scientists are inaccurately depicted on TV and in the movies.

“Does Hollywood Really Need to Get the Science Right?”

<http://www.popsci.com/node/32215?page=>

Dr. Randolph Hecht, a gastroenterologist and medical oncologist at UCLA’s Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, commented Feb. 13 in the Wall Street Journal on Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s release from the hospital after being operated on for pancreatic cancer.

“Justice Ginsburg’s Cancer Treatment Takes Unusual Turn”

<http://blogs.wsj.com/health/2009/02/13/justice-ginsburgs-cancer-treatment-takes-unusual-turn/>

Dr. Felix Leung, professor of medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted in a Feb. 13 Wall Street Journal article about sedation-free colonoscopies.

“Take a Deep Breath...”

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123445383000677755.html>

William McCarthy, adjunct associate professor of health services at the UCLA School of Public Health, was quoted Feb. 11 in the Malibu Times about a potential smoking ban in Malibu’s outdoor public areas.

“Council Considers Outdoor Smoking Ban”

<http://www.malibutimes.com/articles/2009/02/11/news/news2.txt>

Dr. Arash Naeim, director of the geriatric oncology program at UCLA and a researcher at UCLA’s Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted Feb. 16 in a Los Angeles Times article about the cost of cancer treatments.

“Cancer Patients Facing Costly Treatment can Benefit from Frank Talks with Doctors”

<http://www.latimes.com/features/health/la-he-yourmoneynew16-2009feb16,0,2912484.story>

Dr. Aurelia Nattiv, director of the Osteoporosis Center at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, was quoted in a Feb. 16 Los Angeles Times article about cycling and bone loss.

“Cyclists at Risk for Bone Loss”

<http://www.latimes.com/features/health/la-he-cycling16-2009feb16,0,1785648.story>

Dr. Judith Orloff, assistant clinical professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was quoted in Feb. 13 by the Buffalo News about financial problems and unemployment increasing the incidence of mental illness.

“Hard Times are Pushing Many into Mental Illness”

<http://www.buffalonews.com/cityregion/story/578181.html>

Steve Wallace, professor of community health sciences at the School of Public Health, and associate director of the Center for Health Policy Research, was quoted Feb. 13 by the Sacramento Bee about Sacramento County's decision to prohibit illegal immigrants from receiving care at county health clinics. He also was quoted in the Feb. 13 Los Angeles Times about elderly immigrants facing economic hardships in the U.S.

"Clinic Access Limits Decried"

<http://www.sacbee.com/273/story/1621927.html>

"Elderly Immigrants find Life in the U.S. a Tough Go"

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/politics/cal/la-me-elderly-immigrants12-2009feb12,0,5905186.story>

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