



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of Feb. 14-20, 2014**

Note: Website links may expire without notice. Some sites require password registration. If you cannot access a story or would like to obtain a copy, please call 310.794.0777.

Kids in Hospital Get Valentine's Surprise

Stroke Study Garners Headlines

Media Reports on New Strategy to Identify Cause of Bipolar Disorder

“Crystal Ball” Blood Test for Heart Transplant Patients Draws Media Attention

NPR Highlights Bone Health Research

Bakersfield Californian Highlights New Telemedicine Program for MS

National Geographic Investigates the Brain at Work

Local Radio Covers Rwandan President’s Lecture

Medical News Sites Examine Technique for Detecting Melanoma Spread

Pesticide Study Continues to Draw Interest

Media Reports on the Developing Adolescent Brain

Medical Website Highlights Latest Advances in Treating MS

The Digitally Altered Brain

Antidepressant May Help Alzheimer’s Patients

Better 'Door-to-Needle' Times for Strokes

Heart Disease Risk and Calcium Supplements

Whittier Paper Profiles Young HIV Researcher

New Mom Meets Strangers Who Saved Her Life

Making Artificial Heart Valves Safer

UCLA Crowdfunding Platform Launched

Can Pollution Affect Babies' Head Size?

Testosterone Therapy and Heart Attacks

QUOTABLES

Kids in Hospital Get Valentine's Surprise

[KTLA-Channel 5](#), [KABC-Channel 7](#) and [Annenberg TV News](#) Feb. 13 and the [Beverly Hills Courier](#) (page 14) Feb. 14 reported that three canine teams from UCLA's People–Animal Connection, an animal-assisted therapy program, visited pediatric patients at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA and brought them handmade Valentine's cards. The Valentine's Day event was hosted by the hospital's Child Life/Child Development department and the handmade Valentine's Day cards were created and donated by members of Dollies Making A Difference, a group of women who create one-of-a-kind dollies and teddy bears to send to children all over the world. Once a year, the women clear their work table to create Valentine's cards.

Stroke Study Garners Headlines

The [Los Angeles Times](#) and [Scrubs Report](#) Feb. 13; [HealthDay News](#), [Third Age](#) and [Health Canal](#) Feb. 14; [MedPage Today](#) Feb. 15; [Practice Update](#) Feb. 17, and [Healio](#) Feb. 18 reported on a study led by Dr. Jeffrey Saver, professor of neurology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and director of the UCLA Stroke Center, that found that giving stroke patients intravenous magnesium within an hour of the onset of symptoms did not improve outcomes. Saver was quoted in the coverage.

Media Reports on New Strategy to Identify Cause of Bipolar Disorder

Research by Dr. Carrie Bearden, associate professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, and colleagues, that used a new combination of brain imaging and testing to identify about 50 brain and behavioral measures that are both under strong genetic control and associated with bipolar disorder, was featured Feb. 13 by [World News Network](#) and [ScienceDaily](#); Feb. 14 by [News-Medical.net](#), [Examiner.com](#), [MedWirenews.com](#) and [Scrubs Report](#); Feb. 15 by [PsychCentral.com](#), and Feb. 16 by [HealthCentral.com](#).

“Crystal Ball” Blood Test for Heart Transplant Patients Draws Media Attention

[Science Newsline](#), [World News Network](#), [Biomedicine](#), [Medical Xpress](#), and [Scrubs Report](#) Feb. 18; and [MDLinx](#), [News-Medical](#), and [Health Canal](#) Feb. 19 covered a study showing that a blood test commonly used to determine whether heart transplant recipients are rejecting their new organ can also predict potential rejection-related problems in the future – months before such an event may occur. Dr. Mario Deng, medical director of UCLA's Integrated Advanced Heart Failure–Mechanical Support–Heart Transplant Program and the study's principal investigator, was quoted.

NPR Highlights Bone Health Research

The KMBH 88FM (Harlingen, Texas) program “It's Your Health” Feb. 16 reported on two studies led by Dr. Carolyn Crandall, professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research. One study suggested that men who marry or are in committed, stable relationships prior to age 25 have weaker bones than those who marry after that age. The other found that current osteoporosis screening guidelines may miss about two-thirds of women aged 50 to 64. Crandall commented.

Bakersfield Californian Highlights New Telemedicine Program for MS

The Feb. 12 [Bakersfield Californian](#) highlighted a new telemedicine program between the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Kern Medical Center and the UCLA Health System to bring access to MS specialty care to the uninsured and underinsured. Dr. Barbara Giesser, professor of neurology and medical director of the Marilyn Hilton MS Achievement Center at UCLA, was cited as the physician who will be providing care to patients.

National Geographic Investigates the Brain at Work

The February issue of [National Geographic](#) explored research from the UCLA Cognitive Neurophysiology Laboratory that unravels how individual nerve cells in the brain process what the eyes see and how the brain stores that information. Photos accompanying the article captured a team led by

Dr. Itzhak Fried, professor of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, as the researchers implanted electrodes in the [brains](#) of patients and observed the [nerve cells](#) at work.

Local Radio Covers Rwandan President's Lecture

[KPFK News](#) reported Feb. 12 on a lecture by Rwandan president Paul Kagame at an event co-sponsored by the UCLA Center for World Health. Kagame described his country's strides in overcoming the horrific massacre that divided the central African nation 20 years ago. Dr. Thomas Coates, director of the UCLA Center for World Health, was quoted.

Medical News Sites Examine Technique for Detecting Melanoma Spread

[News-Medical.net](#) and [Skin Cancer News](#) Feb. 14 featured a UCLA study into the use of sentinel lymph node biopsies to detect the spread of melanoma to the lymph nodes. The study confirmed that patients who underwent the procedure lived longer without their disease getting worse and were less likely to die from the cancer. Dr. Alistair Cochran, professor of surgery and pathology and laboratory medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted in the coverage.

Pesticide Study Continues to Draw Interest

[Innovations Report](#) Feb. 4 and [Lake County News](#) Feb. 11 featured a study that linked certain pesticides to increased risk of Parkinson's disease. Dr. Jeff Bronstein, professor of neurology and director of movement disorders at UCLA, and Dr. Beate Ritz, professor of epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, led the study.

Media Reports on the Developing Adolescent Brain

A book by Dr. Daniel Siegel, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and co-founder of the Mindful Awareness Research Center, that explores teenage behavior and the development of the adolescent brain, was featured in the Feb. 16 [Bowling Green Daily News](#) (Kentucky). Siegel was also interviewed Feb. 15 on [WNYC radio](#). The book is titled "Brainstorm: The Power and Purpose of the Teenage Brain."

Medical Website Highlights Latest Advances in Treating MS

Dr. Barbara Giesser, professor of neurology and medical director of the Marilyn Hilton MS Achievement Center at UCLA, was featured in a Feb. 18 [MedPage Today](#) video about the latest treatments available for Multiple Sclerosis.

The Digitally Altered Brain

A Feb. 13 [Huffington Post](#) column about young people and electronic devices cited research by Dr. Gary Small, UCLA's Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging and director of the UCLA Longevity Center, on the social and neurological impact of so much "screen time" and so little face-to-face human contact.

Antidepressant May Help Alzheimer's Patients

Dr. Gary Small, UCLA's Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging and director of the UCLA Longevity Center, penned an editorial that was covered by [MedPage Today](#) and [Medscape](#) Feb. 18; and [Reuters Health](#) Feb. 19 pegged to a JAMA study about an antidepressant showing promise in easing the agitation that people with Alzheimer's disease often suffer.

Better 'Door-to-Needle' Times for Strokes

[MedPage Today](#) Feb. 17 and [Cardiology Today](#) Feb. 19 reported that the American Stroke Association's "Target: Stroke" initiative led by Dr. Gregg Fonarow, UCLA's Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, has helped to improve the quickness with which stroke patients are treated at the hospital following the onset of symptoms. Fonarow was quoted in the coverage.

Heart Disease Risk and Calcium Supplements

An NBC Newschannel story that aired Feb. 16 on [WBAL-TV](#) (Baltimore) and Feb. 13 on [WSFA-TV](#) (Montgomery, Ala.) covered women's heart disease risk from taking calcium supplements and featured an interview with Dr. Karol Watson, professor of medicine in the division of cardiology and director of the UCLA Barbra Streisand Women's Heart Health Program.

Whittier Paper Profiles Young HIV Researcher

The [Whittier Daily News](#) ran a Feb. 18 profile of Derek Hernandez, a UCLA student who was involved in research into the use of social media for HIV prevention that is being conducted by researchers in the UCLA Department of Family Medicine. Hernandez is a recipient of a National AIDS Memorial Grove Young Leadership Scholarship.

New Mom Meets Strangers Who Saved Her Life

The [Santa Clarita Valley Signal](#) reported a Feb. 17 story about a UCLA patient who met seven strangers whose blood and platelet donations saved her life after she hemorrhaged following the birth of her son. The meeting took place at the UCLA Blood & Platelet Center's annual donor-recognition luncheon on Jan. 31.

Making Artificial Heart Valves Safer

The [Conversation](#) reported Feb. 18, and Britain's [Guardian](#) reported Feb. 19, on research by UCLA scientists and colleagues showing that they can reduce the risk of blood clots in patients with artificial heart valves by coating the valves with a catalyst that uses the patient's own blood to make an anticoagulant.

UCLA Crowdfunding Platform Launched

An article in the Feb. 20 [Los Angeles Times](#) about the growing use of online crowdfunding to support scientific research highlighted the newly launched UCLA Spark, a university website that aims to attract critical fundraising support for innovative projects by UCLA faculty and official student organizations. Edward Miracco, a UCLA postdoctoral fellow in biochemistry, was quoted.

Can Pollution Affect Babies' Head Size?

[KNX-1070 AM](#) reported Feb. 19 on a study led by Dr. Beate Ritz, professor of epidemiology and environmental health sciences and chair of the epidemiology department at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, showing that pregnant women living near busy freeways in Los Angeles are more likely to deliver babies with smaller heads. Ritz was interviewed.

Testosterone Therapy and Heart Attacks

[Al-Jazeera America](#) reported Feb. 19 on a study by Sander Greenland, professor of statistics and of epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, and colleagues showing that men over the age of 65 and men under 65 with a history of heart disease are twice as likely to have a heart attack after beginning testosterone therapy. Greenland was also featured Feb. 14 on [WXIN-Channel 59](#) (Indianapolis) regarding his study.

QUOTABLES

Dr. Christopher Cooper, professor of medicine in the division of pulmonary and critical care medicine and of physiology, commented in a Feb. 18 [Lifescrypt](#) article on strategies for preventing flare-ups of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in cold weather.

Dr. Gabriel Danovitch, medical director of UCLA's kidney and pancreas transplant program, was quoted in a Feb. 16 [Los Angeles Times](#) article about a new study that found an increased risk of kidney failure in donors in the 15 years following their organ donation.

Dr. Richard Jackson, professor and chair of environmental health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in a Feb. 13 [Huffington Post](#) article about the connection between the 'built' environment and public health.

Dr. Sandra Loo, associate professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was quoted Feb. 16 on [NBCnews.com](#) about a study suggesting that children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder may be able to learn how to focus better by using a computer game that trains the brain to pay attention.

Dr. Michael Prelip, professor of community health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in a Feb. 19 [Los Angeles Times](#) article about the licensed trucks that sell fresh produce and other items in Latino neighborhoods of Los Angeles.

Dr. Dylan Roby, director of the health economics and evaluation research program at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and an assistant professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in a Feb. 18 [Boston Globe](#) op-ed about health care fraud. Separately, Roby was quoted Feb. 14 on [Forbes.com](#) about the Affordable Care Act.

Dr. Kirsten Tillisch, associate professor of medicine in the division of digestive diseases and director of the neuroimaging core at The Gail and Gerald Oppenheimer Family Center for Neurobiology of Stress, commented in Dr. Oz's The Good Life magazine on the role of bacteria in healthy digestion and food sensitivities that may affect the gut.

Dr. Paul Vespa, professor of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and director of Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center's neuro-intensive care unit, was quoted in a Feb. 20 [Associated Press](#) article about a family caring for a son who is in a persistent vegetative state.

Dr. Steven Wallace, associate director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted Feb. 15 in an [Associated Press](#) article about a bill in the California Senate that aims to provide health insurance and health insurance subsidies for the state's undocumented immigrants.

UCLA's Health Sciences Media Relations office e-publishes this report weekly. For more information, please call Roxanne Moster, director of Health Sciences Media Relations, or Enrique Rivero, senior media relations officer, at 310-794-0777. Our office also offers publicity for new research, medical breakthroughs, clinical trial recruitment, inspirational patient stories and more. To identify the appropriate public information officer for your department, visit www.uclahealth.org/mediacontacts.