



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of Feb. 15-21, 2013**

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.

NY Times, other Media Report that Governments Fail to Support Children

Patient's Dad Supports UCLA Research to Find Cure for Brain Disease

Nursing Trade Spotlights the Healing Power of Dogs

Local Paper Covers Veteran's Walk for Operation Mend

Physician's Weekly Features UCLA Surgeon

Examiner.com Reports on Stem Cell Advancement toward New Leukemia Treatments

Pharmaceutical Business Review Features FDA Approval of Stem Cell Clinical Trial

Fox News Spotlights Grant to JCCC

Media Targets Virus-Fighting Protein

News Weighs Fast Food Ads and Obesity

KCBS, KCAL Report on Kidney Transplant Patient

Infectious Diseases Expert Pens Column on Parasitic Worms

Santa Monica Patch Spotlights New Initiative to Help Teens with Cancer

Websites Cover Study Exploring High Calcium Levels

UK Newspaper Reports that Nerve Stimulation May Help Depression

ABC News Examines an Addicted Gambler

Media Notes Link between Vaccine and Mental State

Media Covers Research Discovery that Seals Sleep with Half their Brain

New Surgery for Brain Hemorrhage Draws Headlines

KABC Features "Super Bug" Expert

BRIEFS

QUOTABLES

NY Times, other Media Report that Governments Fail to Support Children

The [New York Times](#) Feb. 16 reported on a study by Dr. Jody Heymann, dean of the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and founding director of the World Policy Analysis Center at UCLA, and colleagues that reveals how millions of children across the globe face conditions that limit their opportunities to thrive and reach their full potential. The study was also highlighted Feb. 12 by [Reuters AlertNet](#), the [Huffington Post](#) and the [Independent European Daily Express](#); and Feb. 13 by [CNN.com](#), [Voice of America](#), [RTL](#) (Germany), [Medical Xpress](#), and the [Inter Press Service News Agency](#).

Patient's Dad Supports UCLA Research to Find Cure for Brain Disease

Britain's [Daily Mail](#) reported Feb. 18, and [Huffpost Live](#) reported Feb. 14, on a young girl who underwent a cerebral hemispherectomy — the removal of half the brain — at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA to treat her chronic seizures caused by Rasmussen's encephalitis. The girl's father has started a foundation called the RE Children's Project to raise money to support research to find a cure. The girl's surgeon, Dr. Gary Mathern, professor of neurosurgery and director of the UCLA Pediatric Epilepsy Surgery Program, was interviewed. In addition, [Examiner.com](#) and [Medical Express](#) reported Feb. 19, and [News Medical.net](#) reported Feb. 20 on a recent donation made by the foundation to support ongoing research at UCLA.

Nursing Trade Spotlights the Healing Power of Dogs

The spring edition of [Scrubs Magazine](#) featured a cover story about Danielle Palmieri, a high-risk labor and delivery nurse at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, and her dog, a Chihuahua named Gracie. Both are volunteers with the hospital's animal-assisted therapy program called the People-Animal Connection. Palmieri and Jack Barron, the program's former director, were quoted.

'Walking Man' Helps Operation Mend

[California's Calaveras Enterprise](#) reported Feb. 19 on a Vietnam veteran who walks to raise money for 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 and other medical care for U.S. military personnel severely wounded and disfigured during service.

Physician's Weekly Features UCLA Surgeon

Dr. Jim Hu, associate professor of urology, and his robotic surgeries to remove the bladder were featured Feb. 18 by [Physician's Weekly](#).

Examiner.com Reports on Stem Cell Advancement toward New Leukemia Treatments

[Examiner.com](#) Feb. 16 reported on a study led by Dr. Bruno Peault, professor of orthopedic surgery and member of the Eli and Edythe Broad Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research, and Mirko Corselli, postdoctoral fellow in the department of orthopedic surgery, in which they made a dramatic discovery in the function of how blood stem cells develop and survive in the body that could lead to better understanding and treatment of blood diseases such as leukemia.

Pharmaceutical Business Review Features FDA Approval of UCLA Stem Cell Clinical Trial

[Pharmaceutical Business Review](#) on February 12 reported on the FDA approval of a UCLA Investigational New Drug application to begin using human embryonic stem cells in a clinical trial to treat severe near-sightedness.

Fox News Spotlights Grant to JCCC

[Fox News](#) Feb. 21 featured a story on the Noreen Fraser Foundation grant to UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center to fund research using epigenetics to discover new cancer treatment drugs.

Media Targets Virus-Fighting Protein

[Medical News Today](#) Feb. 14, [MediLexicon](#) Feb. 15, [Healthy Black Men](#) Feb. 16, and [Scicasts](#) Feb. 12 reported on research led by Su-Yang Liu, a student in the department of microbiology, immunology and molecular genetics, identifying a protein with broad virus-fighting properties that potentially could be used as a weapon against deadly human pathogenic viruses such as HIV, Ebola, Rift Valley Fever, Nipah and others designated "priority pathogens" for national biosecurity purposes.

News Weighs Fast Food Ads and Obesity

WAGA-TV (Atlanta) Feb. 14 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, finding 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.

KCBS, KCAL Report on Kidney Transplant Patient

[KCBS-Channel 2](#) and [KCAL-Channel 9](#) Feb. 18 aired a report about Andy Bales, the CEO of the Union Rescue Mission in downtown Los Angeles, who received a kidney donation from his wife, Bonnie, at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center.

Infectious Diseases Expert Pens Column on Parasitic Worms

The [Pasadena Star-News](#) Feb. 20 published a column by Dr. Claire Panosian Dunavan, clinical professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases, about parasitic worms in impoverished countries around the world. The column also ran in the Los Angeles [Daily News](#).

Santa Monica Patch Spotlights New Initiative to Help Teens with Cancer

[Santa Monica Patch](#) Feb. 15 highlighted a new partnership between the Daltrey/Townshend Teen and Young Adult Cancer Program at UCLA's Santa Monica campus and the Matt Cwiertny Memorial Foundation to provide iPods to teens and young adults recently diagnosed with cancer. Dr. Jacqueline Casillas, medical director of the Daltrey/Townshend program and director of the UCLA Pediatric Cancer Survivorship Program, was quoted. The Feb. 16 Santa Monica Daily Press also published a captioned photo from the event.

Websites Cover Study Exploring High Calcium Levels

[Examiner.com](#), [Scrubs Report](#), [Doctor Tipster](#) and [Science Codex](#) Feb. 21 highlighted a study that found unusually high calcium levels in the blood can almost always be traced to primary hyperparathyroidism, an undertreated, underreported condition that affects mainly women and the elderly. The condition, which results from overactive parathyroid glands and includes symptoms of bone loss, depression and fatigue that may go undetected for years, is most often seen in African American women over the age of 50. Study author Dr. Michael Yeh, an associate professor of surgery and endocrinology, was quoted. The study appeared in the Feb. 15 online issue of the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism.

UK Newspaper Reports that Nerve Stimulation May Help Depression

Dr. Christopher M. DeGiorgio, professor of neurology, and Dr. Ian A. Cook, the Miller Family Professor of Psychiatry at the Semel Institute, were featured in the Feb.17 [Telegraph](#) (UK) about their research showing that mild electrical stimulation of a major nerve emanating from the brain can help reduce symptom severity in individuals suffering from depression.

ABC News Examines an Addicted Gambler

Dr. Timothy Fong, an associate professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and co-director of the Gambling Studies Program, was featured in a Feb. 15 news segment on [ABC News](#) World News Tonight about a former mayor of San Diego who gambled away millions of dollars.

Media Notes Link between Vaccine and Mental State

Dr. Michael Irwin, professor of psychiatry and director of the Cousins Center for Psychoneuroimmunology at the Semel Institute, was featured widely in the media regarding his research finding that the vaccine for the viral disease shingles is less effective in elderly individuals who suffer from depression, and that the finding may have implications for other vaccines. Coverage included Feb. 14 in the [Examiner.com](#), [MedPage Today](#), [HealthDay News](#); and [ScienceDaily.com](#); Feb. 15 in [NewsMaxHealth.com](#) and [News-](#)

[Medical.net](#); and Feb. 17 in [PsychCentral.com](#). The HealthDay story ran in [U.S. News & World Report](#), [MSN.com](#), and [Newsday](#).

Media Covers Research Discovery that Seals Sleep with Half their Brain

Jerome Siegel, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and a member of the UCLA Brain Research Institute, and colleagues, was featured Feb. 19 by [United Press International](#) and Canada's [National Post](#) and [Province](#); and Feb. 20 by [Asian News International](#) and the [Indo-Asian News Agency](#), regarding his research revealing the brain chemistry that allows seals to remain half-awake and half-asleep at the same time.

New Surgery for Brain Hemorrhage Draws Headlines

The [Beverly Hills Courier](#) reported Feb. 15 on a UCLA neurosurgery study suggesting that a new endoscopic procedure produces safer and better outcomes than current surgical approaches for patients who suffer stroke due to bleeding in the brain. Dr. Paul Vespa, professor of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and director of the neurocritical care program at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, presented the findings last week at the International Stroke Conference in Honolulu. Vespa and Dr. Neil Martin, chairman of neurosurgery, were quoted. The Feb. 8 [Examiner](#) and Feb. 7 [Scrubs Report](#) also covered the findings.

KABC Features "Super Bug" Expert

Dr. Brad Spellberg, a lead investigator at Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center (LA BioMed) and associate professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, was featured in a Feb. 19 [KABC-Channel 7](#) report about "Super Bugs," bacteria that are resistant to most known antibiotics.

BRIEFS

Dr. Gary Mathern, professor of pediatric neurosurgery and director of the UCLA Pediatric Epilepsy Program at Mattel Children's Hospital, was cited Feb. 21 in a [Santa Maria Times](#) article about a local boy who is recovering well after a hemispherectomy performed by Mathern to treat his uncontrollable seizures.

The UCLA AIDS Institute was mentioned in stories that ran Feb. 14 in the [Contra Costa Times](#) and Feb. 17 in the [Pleasanton Weekly](#) and (San Diego) [Union Tribune](#) about the 12th annual 26-hour student dance marathon, which raised money for the Institute and for several pediatric AIDS organizations.

The UCLA AIDS Institute was mentioned in a Feb. 19 [Brattleboro Reformer](#) (Vermont) article about a radio personality's trip to a school in Uganda.

A Feb 20 [Examiner.com](#) post featured a study from the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition seeking overweight adolescents for a new study. Study researchers Dr. Joanna Yeh, pediatric gastroenterology fellow in the department of pediatrics at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, and Dr. Zhaoping Li, professor of clinical medicine and associate director of the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition, were quoted.

The Feb. 19 [San Francisco Chronicle](#) highlighted a study by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the Fielding School of Public Health about California's aging population and the growing need for more caregivers.

QUOTABLES

Dr. Anne Coleman, Fran and Ray Stark Foundation Professor of Ophthalmology at the Jules Stein Eye Institute at UCLA, commented Feb. 18 in a [Medscape Medical News](#) story about the treatment of open-angle glaucoma.

Dr. Christopher Cooper, professor of medicine and physiology, commented in a Feb. 17 [Lifescrypt](#) article about cold weather tips for patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

Rita Effros, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine and a member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted Feb. 19 in an [NBCNews.com](http://www.nbcnews.com) story about a new study suggesting a link between short telomeres and susceptibility to catching colds.

Dr. Mitchell Fink, professor-in-residence of surgery, was quoted in a Feb. 11 [New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com) article about the use of mice for modeling human disease.

Dr. Mary Hardy, medical director for the Simms/Mann UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology, commented Feb. 11 in a [HealthDay News](http://www.healthday.com) article about the varying potency of Vitamin D supplements.

Dr. Daniel Uslan, epidemiologist at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica and director of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program for UCLA Health, was quoted in a Feb. 11 [Yahoo! Health](http://www.yahoo.com) article examining the effectiveness of hand sanitizers.

=====

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.