



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of Feb. 21-27, 2014**

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BRIEFS

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Wide Media Coverage about Tylenol Use by Pregnant Women

Dr. Beate Ritz, professor of epidemiology and environmental health sciences, chair of the epidemiology department at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, and a professor of neurology, and colleagues were featured widely in the media regarding their study showing that children of mothers who take the painkiller acetaminophen during pregnancy have a higher risk of attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder and other behavioral issues. Coverage included Feb. 24 by [CNN](#), [CBSNews.com](#), [KCAL-Channel 9](#), [KYW-Channel 3](#) (Philadelphia), [Time magazine](#), [Huffington Post](#), [NBCNews.com](#), the [Toronto Star](#), the [Irish Times](#), [Scienceblog.com](#), [KABC-Channel 7](#), [KGO 810AM](#) (San Francisco), [WBZ 1030AM](#) (Boston), [WNEW 99.1FM](#) (Washington, D.C), the [Los Angeles Times](#), [USA Today](#), [Palm Beach Post](#), [FoxNews.com](#), [Cleveland.com](#), and numerous TV and radio stations nationwide. A Feb. 24 [HealthDay News](#) story was picked up by numerous outlets, including [WebMD](#) and [US News & World Report](#). More coverage occurred Feb. 25 by [The Guardian](#) and [Daily Mail](#) (U.K.), [Al Jazeera](#), [KVRR-Channel 19](#) (North Dakota), and [WJTV-Channel 12](#) (Mississippi), and Feb. 26 by [WMDT-Channel 12](#) (Delaware), [KELO-Channel 11](#) (North Dakota), among others. Zeyan Liew, first author of the study and a doctoral student in epidemiology, and Dr. Daniel Kahn, UCLA assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, were quoted in some of the coverage.

Kidney Donors, Recipients Featured on "The Doctors"

The syndicated program “[The Doctors](#)” Feb. 26 featured a UCLA living donor kidney transplant chain that started when an altruistic donor gave his kidney to a stranger. Sixteen of the 20 chain recipients and donors and Dr. Jeffrey Veale, director of the UCLA Kidney Exchange Program, appeared on the show.

Vitamin A May Help Combat Tuberculosis

[Infection Control Today](#), [North Dallas Gazette](#), [Asian News International](#), [Science Newsline](#), [eScience News](#), [HealthNews Report](#), [Science Codex](#), and [Bio-Medicine](#) Feb. 25, and [Oman Daily Observer](#), [Times of India](#), [New Kerala](#), [Sierra Sun Times](#), [redOrbit](#), [WN.com](#), [MDLinx.com](#), [Indo-Asian News Service](#) and [BrightSurf](#) Feb. 26 reported on UCLA research showing that vitamin A may play an important role in combating TB. The team describes for the first time the mechanism by which vitamin A and a specific gene assist the immune system by reducing the level of cholesterol in cells infected with TB. This is important because cholesterol can be used by TB bacteria for nutrition and other needs. Senior author Dr. Philip Liu, an assistant professor of medicine in the divisions of dermatology and orthopedic surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and Orthopaedic Hospital Research Center; co-first author Elliot Kim, a graduate student in the UCLA Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics at the Geffen School, and co-first author Matthew Wheelwright, a medical and doctoral student at the University of Minnesota who was an undergraduate research assistant in Liu's lab when the research was conducted, were quoted.

Social Media Can Track HIV-Risk Behavior

A Houston Chronicle [blog](#) Feb. 25, [United Press International](#) and [Health Canal](#) Feb. 26, and [domain-b.com](#) and [Medical Xpress](#) Feb. 27 reported on research led by Dr. Sean Young, assistant professor of family medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and co-director for the Center for Digital Behavior at UCLA, suggesting that real-time social media like Twitter could be used to track HIV and drug related behavior to detect potential outbreaks as a tool for prevention efforts.

UC Reaches Tentative Agreement with AFSCME to Avert Union Strike

The [Los Angeles Times](#) and [Santa Monica Mirror](#) reported Feb. 27 that the University of California has reached a tentative agreement with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) for a four-year contract covering more than 8,300 service workers. AFSCME agreed to call off its five-day strike scheduled for March 3-7 at UC campuses and medical centers. The [Los Angeles Times](#) also reported Feb. 20 and [Westside Today](#) reported Feb. 24 on the potential strike, referencing Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica.

Doctors Discuss Mysterious Polio-Like Condition Affecting Children

- Dr. Paul Krogstad, professor of pediatric infectious diseases at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was interviewed Feb. 25 on [KTLA-Channel 5](#) and Fox News Radio about the polio-like condition that has left a number of California children paralyzed.
- Dr. Tanya Altmann, assistant clinical professor of pediatrics at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, discussed the same condition Feb. 26 on [KTLA-Channel 5's](#) morning show.

Reuters Gauges Osteoporosis Screenings

[Reuters Health](#) reported Feb. 26 on research led by Dr. Carolyn Crandall, professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, finding that current osteoporosis screening guidelines may miss two-thirds of women aged 50 to 64. Crandall was quoted.

Media Shines Light on Antiviral

[Examiner.com](#) reported Feb. 27 on research led by Frederic Vigant, a former postdoctoral researcher in the UCLA Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics, finding evidence that photosensitizing a virus's membrane covering can inhibit its ability to enter cells and potentially lead to the development of stronger, cheaper antivirals that will fight a host of tough viruses.

Kids in Hospital Get Valentine's Surprise

The [Malibu Times](#) reported Feb. 20 that 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. Erin Rice, director of the program, was cited.

Upcoming Gala to Benefit Operation Mend

[Variety](#) reported Feb. 20 that the Thaliens, an entertainment industry nonprofit group that raises money for mental health–related causes, will hold an event featuring Smokey Robinson to benefit UCLA's Operation Mend, which provides a range of medical services to U.S. military personnel injured while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

UCLA Residency Program Gets High Rank

[U.S. News & World Report](#) reported Feb. 20 that UCLA Medical Center, Los Angeles has been ranked among the 24 top internal medical residency programs in the U.S. in a large-scale survey.

Brains, Computers and Intelligence

The [Los Angeles Times](#) and [KCBS-Channel 2](#) Feb. 25 featured a profile of James Gimzewski, professor of chemistry and biochemistry and a member of the California NanoSystems Institute at UCLA, highlighting his research on developing robotic systems that mimic the structure and function of the human brain. Gimzewski was quoted.

UCLA Live-Tweets Brain Surgery

An article in [Healthcare Informatics](#) Feb. 18 about the ways in which health care providers and medical centers are using social media in new and innovative ways highlighted a brain pacemaker–implant surgery at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center that was tweeted live, with pictures and video, by the surgical team and hospital staff.

Tissue-Penetrating Light Releases Chemotherapy Inside Cancer Cells

[The National Cancer Institute](#) Feb. 20; [Azonano.com](#), [Examiner.com](#), [BDA Oncology](#), and [Cancer Biology & Therapeutics Lab](#) Feb. 21; [nanowerk.com](#) and [Cancer Facts](#) Feb. 23; [R&D magazine online](#), [WN.com](#), [Medical Device Developments](#), [Angels Hearts International](#), [eWallstreeter](#), and [Biospace](#) Feb. 24; [inagist.com](#) and [FierceDrugDelivery](#) Feb.25; and [Grey Horizon](#) and [Biomarker Research](#) Feb. 26 reported on new nanotechnology developed by scientists at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center that uses tissue-penetrating laser light to release chemotherapy molecules inside cancer cells. Dr. Jeffrey Zink, professor of chemistry and biochemistry, and Dr. Fuyu Tamanoi, professor of microbiology, immunology and molecular genetics, were quoted.

Experimental Treatment Eradicates Acute Leukemia in Mice

[Alaska Native News](#), [Science Daily](#), [Health Medicine Network](#), [Regator](#) , [EmpowerHer](#) , and [Topix.com](#) Feb. 24; [The National Cancer Institute](#), [Biotech Calendar](#), [Medical News Today](#), [Oncology Practice Management](#), [Cancerhelps](#) , [Veooz.com](#), [NewsonFeeds.com](#), [Netkafa.com](#), [NewsFiber.com](#), and [iNooz](#) Feb. 25; [R&D magazine online](#), [WN.com](#), [MDLinx](#) , [MedWorm.com](#), [Flipboard.com](#), and [Ali's Alliance](#) Feb.26; and [News-Medical](#) and [ScienceNewsline Medicine](#) Feb. 27 highlighted a new study from UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center on a new treatment that eradicates leukemia in mice by blocking two important metabolic pathways in the leukemia cells, pathways that are also present in other types of cancer. Dr. Caius Radu, associate professor of the biomedical physics interdepartmental program and molecular and medical pharmacology, and Dr. David Nathanson, assistant professor of molecular and medical pharmacology, were quoted.

Robotic-Assisted Prostate Surgery Offers Better Cancer Control

[Examiner.com](#), [Topix.com](#), and [Healthrender.com](#) Feb. 26; and [Medical News Today](#), [Regator](#), [Veooz.com](#), and [MedBlogs.com](#) Feb. 27 featured a study from UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center that found a cancer control advantage with robotic-assisted radical prostatectomy, or removal of the prostate, over standard open surgery. Dr. Jim Hu, associate professor and Henry E. Singleton Chair in Urology, was quoted in the coverage.

KABC Highlights Diets

A Feb. 24 [KABC-Channel 7](#) story featured Susan Bowerman, assistant director of the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition, who commented on the safety of diets that include a short fast.

Exercise Your Brain by Searching the Web

Syndicated television program "[America Now](#)" reported Feb. 20 on research led by 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, showing that in computer-savvy middle-aged and older adults, searching the Internet triggers key centers in the brain that control decision-making and complex reasoning.

Telemundo Highlights Teen's Heart Transplant

[Telemundo's Buenos Dias Los Angeles](#) Feb. 24 featured the story of a teenage girl who underwent a successful heart transplant at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA and now wants to spread the word about organ donation. Her physician, Dr. Juan Alejos, medical director of the pediatric heart transplant program at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was interviewed.

Treatment Reverses Liver Disease in Kids

[EveryDay Health](#) Jan. 3 featured a new study led by Dr. Kara Calkins, assistant professor of pediatrics in the division of neonatology and developmental biology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, finding that six months of fish oil could safely reverse liver disease in children with intestinal failure who require intravenous nutrition and could decrease the need for liver and/or intestinal transplants.

KPCC Explores Proposed Cuts to Medicare Advantage

Dr. Shana Alex Lavarreda, director of health insurance studies at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research in the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was interviewed Feb. 24 on KPCC 89.3FM's "[AirTalk](#)" about the possible effects of the Obama administration's proposed cuts to Medicare Advantage health plans.

Media Discusses the Developing Adolescent Brain

Dr. Daniel Siegel, clinical professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and co-founder of UCLA's Mindful Awareness Research Center, was interviewed Feb. 21 on [WNYC 93.9FM](#) (New York) and featured Feb. 26 by the [Vancouver Sun](#) about his book "Brainstorm: The Power and Purpose of the Teenage Brain," which explores teenage behavior and the development of the adolescent brain.

Huff Post Notes Integrated Care for Mental Illness, Addiction

A Feb. 21 article in the [Huffington Post](#) about the connections between mental disorders and addiction highlighted the work of Dr. John Tsuang, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and head of the Dual Diagnosis Treatment Program at Harbor–UCLA Medical Center.

The Challenge of Using Marijuana While Driving

Dr. Timothy Fong, associate professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Impulse Control Disorders Clinic, was interviewed Feb. 23 on NPR's "[All Things Considered](#)" about the challenges of implementing laws to determine when a driver has consumed too much marijuana.

NPR Reports on Neglected Kids and 'Indiscriminate Friendliness'

Research by Dr. Aviva Olsavsky, a resident physician in psychiatry at the Semel Institute, and Dr. Nim Tottenham, associate professor of psychology, was featured Feb. 24 on NPR's "[Morning Edition](#)" about how childhood neglect can affect brain structure. Their research found that children who have experienced profound neglect are more prone to a behavior known as "indiscriminate friendliness," characterized by an inappropriate willingness to approach adults, including strangers.

KNX Asks if Pollution Can Affect Babies' Head Size

Dr. Beate Ritz, professor of epidemiology and environmental health sciences, and chair of the epidemiology department at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was interviewed Feb. 26 on [KNX 1070AM](#) about her study showing that pregnant women living near busy freeways in Los Angeles are more likely to deliver babies with smaller heads.

Al-Jazeera America Highlights Testosterone Therapy and Heart Attacks

Sander Greenland, professor of statistics and of epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, and colleagues, were featured Feb. 21 on [Al-Jazeera America](#) regarding their study 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.

Santa Monica Mirror Reports on Physician's Re-Election as Chief of Staff

The [Santa Monica Mirror](#) reported Feb. 23 on Dr. Denise Sur's re-election to a fourth term as chief of staff at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica. Dr. Sur is vice-chair for education in the UCLA Department of Family Medicine and director of its residency program.

Opening of Newest UCLA Health Office Highlighted

The March issue of Business Times, a publication of the North Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce, featured an article on the UCLA-Porter Ranch practice, which was officially unveiled to the community at an open house in January. Dr. Matteo Dinolfo, medical director of the UCLA Department of Medicine's community offices, was quoted.

Med Students Encourage Hispanic Teens to Pursue Medicine

A Feb. 22 health fair organized by second-year students at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA to motivate students at Esteban Torres High School in East Los Angeles to consider careers in health care was covered Feb. 19 by [Impacto USA](#) (page 2) and Feb. 25 by the news wire, EFE. The wire report was syndicated by [EFE TV](#), [MSN Latino](#), [Yahoo! Peru](#) and San Diego's [La Prensa](#). Dr. Arthur Ohannessian, assistant professor of family medicine, and several medical students were interviewed by EFE.

BC Courier Covers Luminary Awards

The Beverly Hills Courier reported Feb. 14 on the UCLA Department of Head and Neck Surgery's Luminary Awards, which honored Jerry and Ann Moss and featured performances by Celine Dion and honoree John Mayer.

Restoring Hand Movement After Paralysis

[Physicians News Network](#) reported Feb. 23 that Dr. Daniel Lu, UCLA assistant professor of neurosurgery and orthopedic surgery, and V. Reggie Edgerton, UCLA distinguished professor of neurobiology and of integrative biology and physiology, have been awarded \$6 million by the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering to explore ways to restore hand function after paralyzing spinal-cord injuries. Lu was quoted.

Stroke and Magnesium Study Highlighted

The [Los Angeles Times](#) Feb. 13 and [WN.com](#) Feb 18 reported on a study that found that while intravenous magnesium does not improve outcomes for stroke patients, the ambulance-transport system the study set in place is quick and efficient enough to allow researchers to study other potential stroke-treatment agents administered within an hour of the onset of symptoms. The study was led by Dr. Jeffrey Saver, director of the UCLA Stroke Center and professor of neurology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, and Dr. Sidney Starkman, co-director of the UCLA Stroke Center and professor of emergency medicine and neurology at the Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

Ob-Gyn Study Cited on Examiner.com

[Examiner.com](#) Feb. 25 highlighted a study by the UCLA Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology that will examine the potential genetic causes of the chronic pain syndrome vulvadynia.

Expert Covers Mass Hysteria

A Feb. 26 [Take Part Live](#) story exploring internet and social media hysteria related to concern about radiation from nuclear incidents, featured an interview with Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging, a professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Longevity Center.

Research on Addiction App Garners Interest

A Feb. 19 article in [TheFix.com](#) about smartphone apps designed to help people overcome addictions highlighted research at the UCLA Center for Behavioral and Addiction Medicine into an app to help adolescents quit smoking. Dr. Steven Shoptaw, professor of family medicine and psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences, and Dr. Keith Heinzerling, associate professor-in-residence of family medicine, were quoted.

Protests Against Animal Research

[Huffington Post](#) reported Feb. 20 on anti-animal research activists protesting outside the homes of UCLA scientists and highlighted a UCLA fact sheet illustrating how the use of laboratory animals in research has improved our understanding of the human body and has resulted in the development of lifesaving procedures and medicines.

Investments That Could Hurt UC

UCLA was cited Feb. 24 in an [Orange County Register](#) article about University of California investments known as interest-rate swaps.

BRIEFS

Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center was mentioned in a Feb. 20 [Los Angeles Times](#) article focusing on a California state auditor review of Los Angeles County's use of revenue from Measure B, a parcel tax to maintain and expand the network of trauma centers and other emergency medical services, and to prepare to respond to acts of bioterrorism.

UCLA Health System was cited in a Feb. 24 [USA Today](#) article on a statement released by the American Academy of Pediatrics that says retail-based clinics are not ideal for providing regular, permanent care for kids' health issues.

An article in the Feb. 26 [Riverside Press-Enterprise](#) about health disparities affecting the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community in Riverside, Calif., cited a study by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research that found that LGBT individuals in Riverside had higher rates of asthma, cancer, depression and other ailments.

A Feb. 4 segment on CSPAN2's "BookTV" highlighted research by scientists at the David Geffen School of Medicine and the UCLA Center for Behavioral and Addiction Medicine showing that the use of methamphetamine is linked to HIV sexual risk behaviors and transmission of infectious diseases.

A Feb. 26 [Los Angeles Times](#) article about a project to measure and report the amount of pollution coming from a Southern California oil refinery cited a study by researchers from the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health that will look at levels of benzene, a carcinogenic compound, in the neighborhood surrounding the refinery.

An Feb. 26 [New York Times](#) article about studies showing little correlation between diabetes medications and pancreatic inflammation highlighted research led by Dr. Peter Butler, professor of medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and director of UCLA's Larry L. Hillblom Islet Research Center, that had initially addressed these concerns. Butler was quoted.

QUOTABLES

Dr. Camelia Davtyan, a clinical professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, commented Feb. 25 in a [KABC-Channel 7](#) news story about the benefits of taking Vitamin D.

Dr. John Di Fiori, chief of the division of sports medicine and non-operative orthopaedics and professor of family medicine, was quoted Feb. 22 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) article that focused on UCLA basketball player Lauren Holiday and her multiple head injuries while on the team. Dr. Di Fiori practices at both the UCLA Family Health Center and Orthopaedic Institute in Santa Monica and is the head physician for UCLA athletics.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, UCLA's Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson–UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, was quoted Feb. 24 in a [HealthDay News](#) article about the health benefits of a vegetarian diet. Fonarow was also quoted in a Feb.24 [HealthDay News](#) article about research showing that seniors who take blood pressure medications may be at higher risk for serious falls. In addition, he commented in a Feb. 25 [HealthDay News](#) article on a study finding that transfusions may be risky during specific heart procedures.

Dr. David Heber, founding director of the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition, commented in the Feb. 24 [San Bernardino Sun](#) about the dispute concerning recommendations of vitamin E and beta-carotene to prevent cardiovascular disease and cancer.

Dr. Paul Krogstad, professor of pediatric infectious diseases at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was interviewed Feb. 26 by NPR's [KPCC 89.3FM](#) for a story on the uptick of intentionally unvaccinated children and new cases of measles cases occurring in California.

Dr. Nina Sharpiro, associate professor of head and neck surgery and director of pediatric otolaryngology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was quoted Feb. 20 in a [Live Science](#) article and Feb. 23 in a [Indo-Asian News Service](#) article about why some wealthy and educated parents decide not to have their children vaccinated.

Dr. Karol Watson, professor of medicine in the division of cardiology and director of the UCLA Barbara Streisand Women's Heart Health Program, commented in a Feb. 25 [NBC.com](#) article on the risk of heart attacks among people who have recently suffered the loss of a spouse or significant other.

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