



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of Feb. 24 – March 1, 2012**

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FOX News Highlights 60-person Kidney Chain

Telemundo Covers Dance for Pediatric AIDS Research

Race a Factor in Life Expectancy

Pediatrician Learns to Deal with Death

KPCC Profiles Young Entrepreneur Who Gives Back

KCBS, KCAL Showcases Neurosurgery Patient

Sirius Radio Spotlights Operation Mend

Local Papers Cover First-Responder Pilot Program

TV Stations Explore Depressed Brain's Hyperactivity

HuffPo Examines Contraception Controversy

Magazine Spotlights UCLA Neurosurgery

Parenting Program Helps Reduce Childhood Obesity

Trades Cover Stem Cell Study

San Fernando Sun Runs Healthy Heart Tips

Cardiovascular Business Highlights Heart Research

Velocity Channel Features Operation Mend

Georgia Radio Explores Kids' Breathing Problems

BRIEFS

QUOTABLES

Fish's Impact on Brain Health Grabs Headlines

Research by Dr. Zaldy Tan, a member of UCLA's Easton Center for Alzheimer's Disease Research and a visiting associate professor of geriatrics, linking lower levels of the omega-3 fatty acids commonly found in fish with smaller brain volume and poorer mental acuity among seniors, was covered Feb. 27 by NBC's "Nightly News," the [New York Times](#), [CNN](#), and [Huffington Post](#); Feb. 28 by [ABC News](#), [CBS News](#), the [Wall Street Journal](#), [Time](#), [Health.com](#), [WebMD](#), [MedPage Today](#), [Asian News International](#), [My Health News Daily](#), [Press Association](#) (U.K.), and the [Daily Mail](#) (U.K.). The study was also widely cited in TV news reports; including locally on KTLA-Channel 5 and 40 other stations around the country.

NBC's "Today" Inspects Girl's Death from Inhaling Helium

Dr. Timothy Fong, associate professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was interviewed Feb. 29 on NBC's "Today Show" about a 14-year-old girl who died after inhaling helium.

Survival-Doubling Melanoma Drug Earns Wide Coverage

A Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center study showing that a newly approved drug for metastatic melanoma nearly doubles the median survival time for patients with a common genetic mutation was covered Feb. 23 by the [Pharma Letter](#), [New York Daily News](#) and more than 120 TV stations nationwide; Feb. 24 by the [International Business Times](#), [Health Jockey](#) and the [Herald Sun](#); Feb. 25 by the [International News Network](#); Feb. 27 by the [Times of Malta](#), the [Science Gap](#) and [Innovation Toronto](#); Feb. 28 by [Ivanhoe News](#); and Feb. 29 by [HemOnc Today](#) and Australia's Maitland Mercury. Dr. Antoni Ribas, professor of hematology–oncology, led the research.

FOX News Highlights 60-person Kidney Chain

KTTV-Channel 11's "Studio 11" aired a Feb. 24 interview with Dr. Jeffrey Veale, assistant professor-in-residence of urology and director of UCLA's donor exchange program, and two UCLA patients about the longest paired U.S. kidney exchange chain to date, involving 30 kidneys and 60 people across the country. Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center's kidney transplant team handled 16 of the patients, the largest number of all hospitals participating. (Click to watch story)

<http://showroom.multivisioninc.com/share.do?id=154600&key=WVMPvW5ZvtoT6GXnUXVd7o57aj5j7C7z&email=RChampeau@mednet.ucla.edu>

Telemundo Covers Dance for Pediatric AIDS Research

Telemundo reported Feb. 23 on UCLA's 11th annual 26-hour student dance marathon, which raised money for the UCLA AIDS Institute and other pediatric AIDS organizations.

Race a Factor in Life Expectancy

[The Orlando Sentinel](#), [LA Weekly](#) and [Medical News Today](#) reported Feb. 28, and [Examiner.com](#) reported Feb. 24 on research led by Dr. Nazleen Bharmal, clinical instructor in general internal medicine and health services research, finding that white males live an average of seven years longer than black males and white women outlive their black counterparts by about five years.

Pediatrician Learns to Deal with Death

The [Los Angeles Times](#) published a Feb. 27 column by Dr. Yolanda Reid Chassiakos, assistant clinical professor of pediatrics, on how she deals with the emotions of losing young patients.

KPCC Profiles Young Entrepreneur Who Gives Back

[KPCC 89.3FM](#) aired a Feb. 23 report on a 13-year-old boy who designed two iPhone applications and is donating proceeds of the sales to support the research of Dr. Noah Federman, assistant professor of pediatric hematology-oncology and director of the pediatric bone and soft-tissue sarcoma program at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA. Federman was interviewed.

KCBS, KCAL Showcases Neurosurgery Patient

A woman who had 60 percent of her cerebellum removed by Dr. Nestor Gonzales, professor of neurosurgery and radiological sciences, was profiled Feb. 25 by [KCBS-Channel 2](#) and KCAL-Channel 9, after being honored by Captain Mark Kelly for her courageous response to traumatic brain injury.

Sirius Radio Spotlights Operation Mend

Sirius XM's Doctor Radio program aired a Feb. 21 interview of Dr. Christopher Crisera, medical director of UCLA's Operation Mend Program and associate clinical professor of plastic and reconstructive surgery, and three patients about how Operation Mend has aided their recovery.

<http://showroom.multivisioninc.com/share.do?id=154536&key=lgbxCosBc151b3sEXyFVw0QjVKbrUEAb&email=AAlbin@mednet.ucla.edu>

Local Papers Cover First-Responder Pilot Program

[The San Gabriel Valley Tribune](#) and [Pasadena Star-News](#) reported Feb. 28 and [Firehouse.com](#) reported March 1 about a West Covina Fire Department pilot program using new technology to improve survival rates for patients in cardiac arrest. Created by Dr. Baxter Larmon, director of the UCLA Center for Prehospital Care, the program is being rolled out at Southland fire departments in partnership with UCLA, UC San Diego and the L.A County Department of Health Services. Larmon was quoted.

TV Stations Explore Depressed Brain's Hyperactivity

Research by Dr. Andrew Leuchter, professor of psychiatry and director of the UCLA Laboratory of Brain, Behavior and Pharmacology at the Semel Institute, finding that people with depression show more connections and hyperactivity between multiple brain regions, was covered Feb.23 and Feb. 24 on 26 TV stations nationwide, including NTBX (New York), KTVT (Dallas) and WGN (Chicago).

HuffPo Examines Contraception Controversy

Dr. Linda Rosenstock, dean of the Fielding School of Public Health, was cited Feb. 29 by the [Huffington Post](#), [Congressional Quarterly Today](#) and [Politico Pro](#) about her testimony on insurance coverage of contraceptive services. She chaired an Institute of Medicine panel advising that insurers be required to provide birth control and other women's health services free of charge under health reform.

Magazine Spotlights UCLA Neurosurgery

Chairman Dr. Neil Martin and the life-saving technological advances developed by the UCLA Department of Neurosurgery were profiled in a Feb. 13 feature story by Hewlett-Packard's [Input Output](#) magazine. Martin was quoted.

Parenting Program Helps Reduce Childhood Obesity

The [San Fernando Valley Sun](#) reported Feb. 23 that a new parent-training program reduced obesity risk in low-income, preschool-age Latino children. Dr. Wendy Slusser, associate professor of pediatrics and public health and director of the Fit for Healthy Weight program at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was quoted.

Trades Cover Stem Cell Study

[Investor Stem Cell](#), [Examiner.com](#), [Medical Xpress](#), [Science Codex](#), [Stem Cell Research](#), [Stem Cell News](#), [Stem Cells Therapy](#) and [Stem Cell Research Project](#) reported March 1 on a cell and signaling pathway that prevents blood precursors from premature differentiation in the placenta. Dr. Hanna Mikkola, a researcher at the Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at UCLA, led the research.

San Fernando Sun Runs Healthy Heart Tips

[The San Fernando Sun](#) reported Feb. 16 on tips for maintaining a healthy heart. Dr. Karol Watson, associate professor of medicine, division of cardiology, was quoted.

Cardiovascular Business Highlights Heart Research

[Cardiovascular Business](#) reported Feb. 22 on a study finding that a combination of several guideline-recommended therapies for heart-failure treatment improved survival odds up to 90 percent over two

years. Dr. Gregg Fonarow, UCLA's Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson–UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, was quoted.

Velocity Channel Features Operation Mend

The Velocity Channel's "Inside [West Coast Customs](#)" aired a one-hour special on Feb. 26 about a 2011 Camaro that was customized with input from UCLA's Operation Mend patients and doctors and sold at a [Mecum Auto Auctions](#) to wholly benefit Operation Mend. The show will re-air on March 1 and 2.

Georgia Radio Explores Kids' Breathing Problems

Dr. Nina Shapiro talks about breathing issues in children, and discusses her new book "Take a Deep Breath: Clear the Air for the Health of Your Child" on the [Liz Dalton Show on WGAU Radio](#) (Athens, Georgia).

BRIEFS

A Feb. 26 article in the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) cited the survivorship programs at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

The [San Fernando Sun](#) ran a Feb. 23 calendar listing for the Center for Longevity's Senior Scholar Program, which gives people age 50 and over the opportunity to attend undergraduate classes at UCLA.

QUOTABLES

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson–UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented Feb. 27 in [HealthDay News](#) about unnecessary stent surgery for patients with heart disease. He also commented Feb. 28 in [HealthDay News](#) about statins' slightly increased health risks. [CBS News](#) and [U.S. News & World Report](#) ran the latter report.

B.J. Freeman, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was quoted in a Feb. 28 [Los Angeles Times](#) article about a public school teacher facing disciplinary action over how she dealt with an autistic student.

Dr. Lynn Gordon, professor of ophthalmology at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, commented Feb. 28 in a [Medscape](#) article about proposed labeling for post-surgical anti-inflammatory eye drops.

Shana Alex Lavarreda, director of health insurance studies at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, commented March 1 in the [Los Angeles Times](#) about a dispute between Blue Shield of California and an Irvine physician group.

Dr. Mark Morocco, associate clinical professor of emergency medicine, commented in the Feb. 24 [Oregonian](#) about a girl in Oregon who died after inhaling helium at a party.

Dr. Andre Nel, professor of medicine, pediatrics and public health and chief of nanomedicine, was quoted Feb. 27 in a [domain-b](#) article about the long-term effects of nanomaterials on the digestive system.

Dr. Alan Rapoport, clinical professor of neurology, was interviewed Feb. 29 on CBS's "[The Doctors](#)" about natural remedies for migraine headaches.

Dr. Wendy Slusser, associate professor of pediatrics and public health and director of the Fit for Healthy Weight program at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was quoted Feb. 29 in an [MSNBC](#) article about kids eating too much sugar. [CBS News.com](#) also picked up the story.

Dr. Gary Small, Parlow–Solomon Professor on Aging, a professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Center for Longevity, commented Feb. 27 in [HealthDay News](#) about the physical benefits of "active" video games.

Dr. Preethi Srikanthan, associate professor of endocrinology, was quoted Feb. 27 in a [Medscape Today](#) story about the diabetes drug TAK-875.

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