



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of Feb. 27-March 5, 2015**

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BRIEFS

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New Leadership Continues to Receive Coverage

The [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) and [California Healthline](#) March 2 reported that Dr. David Feinberg, president of the UCLA Health System, CEO of the UCLA Hospital System and associate vice chancellor of UCLA Health Sciences, will become the new president and CEO of the Danville, Pa.-based [Geisinger Health System](#) on May 1. It was also noted that Dr. John Mazziotta, an associate vice chancellor for health sciences at UCLA, [will take on](#) the role of vice chancellor for health sciences, CEO of the UCLA Health System and serve as dean of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, succeeding Dr. A. Eugene Washington, former vice chancellor and dean of the medical school, who will lead Duke University's health system.

Santa Monica Papers Cover Hospitalist's Election as Chief of Staff

The March 2 [Santa Monica Mirror](#) and March 5 [Santa Monica Daily Press](#) reported that Dr. Roger Lee was elected chief of staff for 2015 at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica. Lee is co-director of the UCLA Hospitalist Program and serves as chair of the hospital's medicine department.

No FDA Approval for Medical Devices at Center of Bacterial Infections

The [Los Angeles Times](#) March 3, [CNN](#) and [KCBS-Channel 2](#) March 4, among many other news media, covered the fact that a piece of medical equipment blamed for endoscope-related patient bacterial infections at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and other hospitals across the U.S. was never approved for sale to hospitals by the Food and Drug Administration, according to reports.

Many Could See Higher 2015 Tax Bills Due to Payback of ACA Subsidies

Dr. Gerald Kominski, professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, was interviewed by [Kaiser Health News](#) in a Feb. 26 story on how certain middle-class taxpayers may have to pay back excess Obamacare subsidies they received in previous years. The story also ran Feb. 26 in [The California Report](#); [Chicago Daily Herald](#), [Daily Beast](#), [Heartland.org](#), [Jackson Free Press](#), [Kitsap Sun](#), and [WebMD](#); and Feb. 28 in [Hays Post](#) and [Salina Post](#).

Daily Mail Reports on Self-acupressure to Relieve Constipation

The [Daily Mail](#) (U.K.) Feb. 26 reported on research led by Dr. Ryan Abbott, visiting assistant professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, finding that perineal self-acupressure, a simple technique involving the application of external pressure to the perineum, was an effective treatment for constipation. Abbott is also a researcher and educator at the UCLA Center for East-West Medicine.

Training Haitian Physicians to Circumcise Babies

Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases and of public health, was featured in a February 6 [Jewish Independent](#) article about training Haitian physicians to circumcise newborn boys to help fight the spread of HIV and STDs.

Infectious Disease Doctor Comments on HIV Research

Dr. Judith Currier, chief of the UCLA Division of Infectious Diseases, was quoted in several MedPage Today articles about research findings that were presented at the annual Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections:

- A [Feb. 27](#) article about a study finding that a particular statin reversed the buildup of artery-hardening plaque in HIV-positive people.
- A [Feb. 28](#) story on findings that HIV patients being treated with the integrase inhibitor raltegravir (Isentress) or with protease inhibitors appeared to gain similar lean mass and central and peripheral fat with either type of drug.
- A [March 1](#) story on research that found that 17.6 percent people with HIV who were on the stop-smoking drug Chantix were more likely to kick the habit than were people taking placebos.

Preventing Peanut Allergies

Dr. Tanya Altmann, assistant clinical professor of pediatrics at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was an in-studio guest March 2 on [KTLA-Channel 5](#) to discuss new findings that showed introducing peanut products to babies may help prevent peanut allergies.

Los Angeles Times Features Entrepreneur with Asperger's

Dr. Susan Bookheimer, Joaquin Fuster professor of cognitive neuroscience in the department of psychiatry and director of the Staglin IMHRO Center for Cognitive Neuroscience at the Semel Institute, was featured in a Feb. 27 [Los Angeles Times](#) article about an entrepreneur with Asperger's disease, a mild form of autism, who invented an inexpensive electric bicycle. Bookheimer was quoted about the characteristics of the disorder.

NPR Reports on New Strategy for Treating Geriatric Depression

Dr. Helen Lavretsky, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the Late-Life Depression, Stress, and Wellness Research Program, was featured in a March 2 [NPR](#) news segment about treating geriatric depression, a risk factor for developing dementia or Alzheimer's disease, with two different depression medications to accelerate treatment response.

KFI Explains Stephen Hawking's Longevity

Dr. Martina Wiedau-Pazos, associate professor of neurology and director of the UCLA ALS Clinic and Research Center, was interviewed Feb. 26 on the [KFI 640AM](#) Bill Carroll Show about Stephen Hawking, the 73-year-old theoretical physicist who has beaten the odds and lived with Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), for 52 years.

You Can't Cheat the App

Mobile health technology being developed by the UCLA School of Nursing and the Wireless Institute on changing eating and activity habits of African American women was spotlighted March 4 in [The Network](#). Jo-Ann Eastwood, associate professor of nursing and lead researcher, was featured in the story.

The Doctor Will Tweet You Now

[Onc.Live.com](#) reported March 3 on opportunities for oncologists on social media sites. Dr. Deanna Attai, UCLA Health System breast surgeon based in Burbank and assistant clinical professor of surgery, was featured in the article. She has thousands of followers on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, her blog and other social media platforms, and moderates a weekly breast cancer support group on Twitter.

Sickle Cell Disease Study Reveals Encouraging Results

[HealthNewsDigest.com](#) March 2, [Examiner.com](#) March 3, and [Medical NewsToday](#) and [HealthCanal.com](#) March 5 reported on a study published in the journal *Blood* describing a novel stem cell gene therapy method that corrects the mutation in the gene that causes sickle cell disease. The method could one day provide a one-time, lasting treatment for the disease, which occurs most frequently in African American and Hispanic Americans. The study was directed by UCLA Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research member Dr. Donald Kohn. Kohn is a professor of pediatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, professor of microbiology, immunology and molecular genetics in the life sciences and member of the UCLA Children's Discovery and Innovation Institute at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA.

Physician Returns Home after Treating Ebola Patients in West Africa

A March 2 [Los Angeles Times](#) story about medical workers' experiences being quarantined after returning from relief work in areas affected by Ebola in West Africa featured comments by Dr. Matthew Waxman, associate clinical professor, department of emergency medicine, Los Angeles County Olive View-UCLA Medical Center, who recently returned from providing patient care at the Ebola Treatment Center in Lunsar, Sierra Leone.

Prevention Magazine Highlights Probiotic Yogurt Study

The March issue of Prevention Magazine highlighted a study that showed for the first time that ingesting probiotic bacteria can affect brain function in humans. Study author Dr. Kirsten Tillisch, associate clinical professor of medicine in the division of digestive diseases, was cited.

NBC-4 Spotlights Virtual Neurosurgery

[KNBC-Channel 4](#) aired a March 2 segment on a virtual-reality software that enabled Dr. Neil Martin, chair of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, to practice complex cases prior to entering the operating room to ensure the utmost precision and most successful outcomes. Martin and two of his patients were interviewed. The segment re-aired on multiple NBC affiliates nationwide.

Neurosurgeon Nationally Honored for Teaching Excellence

The [Lodi News-Sentinel](#) published a March 5 profile of Dr. Isaac Yang, an assistant professor of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, who was honored by the American Medical Student Association with its National Golden Apple Award for Teaching Excellence. A former Lodi resident, Yang received the award at the association's 65th Annual Convention in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 28.

A Sprinter Fights to Prove She's a Woman

Dr. Eric Vilain, a professor of human genetics, pediatrics and urology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and co-director of the UCLA Center for Society and Genetics, was featured in a Feb. 26 article by [Vox](#) about a female runner from India who was banned from competing in the Olympics due to a naturally elevated level of testosterone.

Researcher Identifies Disease Markers, Leading to More Personalized Treatment Plan

[Examiner.com](#) March 4 and [Drug Discovery and Development](#) March 5 reported on a new method to identify genetic markers for many diseases, marking a significant step toward a new era of personalized medicine, custom-made to each individual's DNA and RNA. The technique, called GIREMI (pronounced Gir-REMY), will help scientists to inexpensively identify RNA editing sites, genetic mutations and single nucleotide polymorphisms -- tiny variations in a genetic sequence -- and can be used to diagnose and predict the risk of a wide range of diseases from cancers to schizophrenia. Dr. Xinshu (Grace) Xiao, associate professor of physiological science and member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, is the lead author and was quoted extensively.

School Bus Study Draws Media Interest

[Health News Digest](#), [Examiner.com](#), [Scrubs Report](#), [Environmental News Network](#), KCRW 89.9FM, [Science Daily](#), [Product Design and Development](#) and [MedicalXpress](#) March 2, and [Science 2.0](#) and [School Transportation News](#) March 3 reported on a study by Dr. Yifang Zhu, an associate professor in the department of environmental health sciences in the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, that found air filters reduced pollutants inside school buses by 88 percent.

Sleep a Matter of Life and Death

Studies by Dr. Ronald Harper, a distinguished professor of neurobiology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, and Dr. Michael Irwin, a professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, are featured in the April edition of Discover Magazine in an article on how sleep apnea damages the brain and increases the risk of depression.

Cardiologist Discusses Heart Studies

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented in Health Day News stories about findings in heart research:

- A [March 4](#) article about a study showing possible heightened mortality risk with a specific heart rhythm medication.
- A [March 3](#) story that also appeared in [U.S. News & World Report](#) on a study showing that eating fried foods may increase heart failure risk.
- A [March 2](#) story that appeared on [Philly.com](#) about research that coffee consumption may reduce the risk of developing clogged arteries.
- A [Feb. 26](#) story about a study showing that 20 percent of people with heart disease don't respond to cholesterol-lowering medications.

Fielding School Commentary on Income Inequality and Health Sparks Media Discussion

Dr. Linda Rosenstock, Dean Emeritus of the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, and FSPH alumna Jessica Allia Williams, co-wrote a commentary in the American Journal of Public Health underscoring the adverse impact of income inequality on people's health. It was featured Feb. 26 by [MedicalXpress](#) and [MyScience.us](#), and March 1 by [Imperial Valley News](#). In addition, a March 3 opinion piece in [Forbes](#) cited the report when debating if socioeconomic inequality actually contributes significantly to health disparities.

Anti-Pollution Documentary in China Goes Viral, But Will It Make an Impact?

Dr. Zuo-Feng Zhang, professor of epidemiology and associate dean for research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, and Dr. Yifang Zhu, associate professor of environmental health sciences, were featured in [Voice of America Chinese](#) March 5 for their reaction to the online video "Under the Dome," which highlights China's serious air pollution problem and has been viewed more than 200 million times in less than a week.

BRIEFS

Spanish-language newspaper [Hoy](#) Feb. 15 cited 2009 [California Health Interview Survey](#) data about how one in five people older than 45 has been diagnosed as diabetic in Los Angeles' Boyle Heights zip code 90033.

A story in the March 2 [Pacific Standard](#) on food deserts in California's Central Valley references food environment and community income data by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research.

The UCLA World Policy Analysis Center at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health was mentioned as a partner in a March 3 [LooktotheStars.org](#) post announcing an upcoming Clinton Foundation report on gender gaps worldwide.

Dr. David W. Baker, alumnus of the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was announced by [McKnight's](#) March 4 as the new executive vice president of healthcare quality evaluation in the Joint Commission.

QUOTABLES

Dr. Robert M. Bilder, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the Tennenbaum Center for the Biology of Creativity in the Semel Institute, was featured in a Feb. 26 [Entertainment Weekly](#) article about the actress Geena Davis, who participated in a study about creativity that Bilder runs. The study seeks to define the molecular, cellular, and cognitive mechanisms that result in cognitive enhancements that explain the unusual levels of performance in gifted individuals, including extraordinary creativity.

Dr. Robert Cherry, chief medical and quality officer for the UCLA Health System, was quoted in a March 2 [Wall Street Journal](#) article that focused on a study on four services that rate U.S. healthcare facilities and show wide discrepancies; 27 hospitals rated among the best in one list rank among the worst in another.

Dr. Paul Chung, chief of general pediatrics at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, commented March 5 in a [GaysWithKids.com](#) article about the things parents should think about when deciding whether or not to circumcise their boys.

Kathryn Kietzman, research scientist for the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was interviewed Jan. 31 by the [Los Angeles Times](#) about California's managed care health program for vulnerable disabled and senior Californians.

Dr. Melinda Maggard-Gibbons, professor in residence in surgery, commented in a Feb. 25 [New York Times](#) story about a study of nearly 3,000 obese women that found that weight-loss surgery lowered the risk for some pregnancy complications like gestational diabetes and miscarriage.

Dr. Beate Ritz, chair of epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted March 2 in the [Columbia Chronicle](#) about a possible correlation between air pollution and suicide risk.

Dr. Dylan Roby, assistant professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was interviewed March 5 by [International Business Times](#) about government support given to hospitals that function as teaching facilities.

Dr. Daniel Vigil, health sciences associate clinical professor of family medicine, was quoted March 4 in a [KPCC 89.3FM](#) story about why adult vaccination rates are so low and which vaccinations adults should get.

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