



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of March 1-7, 2013**

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Zapping Zits with Friendly Bacteria

Bacteria is Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

Prevention Taps Quality Assurance Expert on Choosing the Right Hospital

UCLA Health and Physician Networks

KQED Reports on Alzheimer's Care Program

FOX 11 Spotlights Program to Help Mend Wounded Warriors

Geriatrician Discusses CPR Policies in Senior Living Facilities

Geriatrician Authors Column on Keeping Your Kidneys Healthy

Music Therapy for Alzheimer's Patients

WebMD Explains Hypersexual Disorder

Media Reports on New Risk Gene for Alzheimer's

Sunday Times States Women's Brains More Efficient

The Acorn Examines Immediate Dangers of Childhood Obesity

Connecticut Paper Highlights Social Media's Help in Pushing Research for Rare Disease

Reader's Digest Salutes ENT Who Solved Medical Mystery

Science Blogs Highlight a Happy Peptide

EmpowerHer Adds to Coverage of UCLA Liquid Biopsy

Examiner.com Features Call for Heart Patients for UCLA Stem Cell Study

Websites Highlight Tips for a Healthy Colon

UPI Explains How Vitamin D, Fish Oil Help Battle Alzheimer's

Memory Fitness Exercises Help Seniors

BRIEFS

QUOTABLES

Zapping Zits with Friendly Bacteria

A UCLA study discovering that a friendly strain of bacteria may help protect the skin from pimples was reported March 7 by [Digital Journal](#); March 6 by an [Allure](#) blog and Yahoo's [Shine](#); March 5 by [Nature World News](#); March 4 by the [Boston Globe](#), [Washington Post](#), [Dermatology Times](#), [South China Morning Post](#) and [Futurity.org](#); March 1 by [Ivanhoe](#) Medical Breakthroughs, [BioTechniques News](#), [About.com](#), U.K.'s [The Times](#) (U.K) , [New Scientist](#) and the [Daily Mail](#) (U.K); [Redaktion Wissenschaft](#) (Germany), [Caracol Radio](#) (Venezuela), [Bursada Bugan](#) (Turkey), the [St. Louis Dispatch](#), [Times of India](#), India's [Zee News](#), [eMax Health](#) and [Uproxx](#); Feb. 28 stories by [Scientific American](#), [Huffington Post](#), [WABC-TV](#) (New York), [Red Orbit](#), [Scientias](#) (The Netherlands), [Medical Daily](#), [SVT Umeå TV](#) (Sweden), [MX Australia](#) and [Medill News](#); and Feb. 27 by [KNBC-Channel 4](#), [KTLA-Channel 5](#), [KABC-Channel 7](#), and [Medical News Today](#). Lead author Huying Li, assistant professor of molecular and medical pharmacology and a member of UCLA's Crump Institute for Molecular Imaging, was quoted. Co-author Dr. Noah Craft, director of the Center for Immuno-therapeutics Research at LA BioMed at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, was interviewed on KABC and quoted in Futurity and the St. Louis Dispatch.

Bacteria is Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

The [BBC](#), [United Press International](#), [Medical Express](#) and [Science Daily](#) Feb. 28; [Europa Press](#), [Infection Control Today](#), [Science Newsline](#), [Bioscience Technology](#), [SciTech Daily](#) and [Lab Spaces](#) March 1; [MedIndia](#) March 2; [KPCC FM89.3](#), [Imperial Valley News](#), [io9](#), and [Scope](#) March 3; and the [La Gran Epoca](#) March 4 reported on a study by Dr. Robert Modlin, chief of dermatology and a professor of microbiology, immunology and molecular genetics, and Rosane Teles, a researcher in the dermatology division, showing that certain bacteria can pretend to be viruses when infecting humans, allowing them to hijack the body's immune response and to hide out, unhindered, inside our cells. [Life Extension](#) and [All Voices](#) ran the UPI story. The study appeared in the Feb. 28 issue of Science Express.

Prevention Taps Quality Assurance Expert on Choosing the Right Hospital

An article in the March issue of [Prevention](#) magazine featured expert commentary by Tod Barry, director of quality assurance for Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, on what patients should look for in choosing a hospital to perform elective or planned procedures.

UCLA Health and Physician Networks

An article in the March 4 San Fernando Valley Business Journal about how hospitals are reconfiguring their relationships with physician groups in preparation for health care reform highlighted UCLA Health's recent expansion efforts in Southern California, including the opening of a new clinic in Thousand Oaks and plans for additional clinics in Porter Ranch, Santa Clarita and Calabasas. Dr. Matteo Dinolfo, medical director of UCLA Department of Medicine's community offices, was quoted.

KQED Reports on Alzheimer's Care Program

KQED's [The California Report](#) (San Francisco) ran a March 7 story about the Alzheimer's and Dementia Care program, which provides care and support for patients and their caregivers. Dr. David Reuben, chief of the division of geriatrics and the program's director; Leslie Evertson, dementia care manager; and Patti Davis, who leads the Beyond Alzheimer's support group, were quoted.

FOX 11 Spotlights Program to Help Mend Wounded Warriors

[KTTV-Channel 11](#) March 5 featured a story on UCLA's Operation Mend program which provides reconstructive surgery and other medical services to military personnel wounded in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. The story highlighted a soldier who has been undergoing surgeries and his volunteer Buddy Family that provides him and his family with social support while they are in Los Angeles. Dr. Timothy Miller, professor of plastic surgery, was interviewed.

Geriatrician Discusses CPR Policies in Senior Living Facilities

Dr. Susan Leonard, assistant clinical professor of medicine in the division of geriatrics, commented March 4 in [Associated Press](#) and [KCBS-Channel 2/KCAL-Channel 9](#) stories, and March 5 in a [Bakersfield](#)

[Californian](#) report about an elderly woman who died at an independent living facility after staff declined to perform CPR.

Geriatrician Authors Column on Keeping Your Kidneys Healthy

Dr. Hong-Phuc Tran, staff geriatrician at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica and assistant clinical professor of medicine, authored a March 1 [Santa Monica Mirror](#) column offering tips to keep your kidneys healthy and functioning properly.

Music Therapy for Alzheimer's Patients

Joshua Grill, director of the Sidell-Kagan Alzheimer's Treatment Development Program in the department of neurology, was interviewed March 4 on KPCC 89.3FM's "Take Two" about an organization that provides Alzheimer's patients with iPods customized with their favorite music.

WebMD Explains Hypersexual Disorder

Rory Reid, a research psychologist and assistant professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was featured in a March 5 [WebMD](#) article about hypersexual disorder, and how it may include a number of underlying issues--its possible similarity to obsessive compulsive disorder, or problems related to attention, impulse control, and emotional regulation.

Media Reports on New Risk Gene for Alzheimer's

Paul Thompson, professor of neurology and psychiatry, and a member of the Imaging Genetics Center, Laboratory of Neuro Imaging (LONI), and the Semel Institute, was featured widely regarding his study that discovered a new genetic risk factor for Alzheimer's disease by screening people's DNA and then using an advanced type of scan to visualize their brains' connections. Stories appeared March 4 in the [Examiner.com](#); March 6 in [HealthCanal.com](#), [SciCast.com](#), [alzheimer-riese.it](#) (Italy), [51atgc.com](#) (China); and March 7 in the [International Business Times](#), and the CNBC website [moneycontrol.com](#).

Sunday Times States Women's Brains More Efficient

The March 3 [Sunday Times](#) (UK) and the March 5 Massachusetts [WWLP-Channel 22](#) reported on a study by neuroscientists and colleagues from the UCLA Laboratory of Neuro Imaging showing that in women's brains, the hippocampus, which plays a central role in memory, intelligence and emotion, consumes less energy and uses fewer brain cells on a given task than the same brain area in men.

The Acorn Examines Immediate Dangers of Childhood Obesity

[The Acorn](#) March 1 featured the findings of a study that found obese children are at far greater risk for a variety of other immediate health problems than was previously thought. The study's co-author, Dr. Wendy Slusser, associate professor of pediatrics and medical director of the Fit for Healthy Weight Program at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was quoted.

Connecticut Paper Highlights Social Media's Help in Pushing Research for Rare Disease

[The Darien News](#) (Conn.) Feb. 28 spotlighted the story of a UCLA patient's father who started a foundation to help raise money to fund research into a very rare brain disease called Rasmussen Encephalitis (RE). The group has been successful in advancing their research by collecting samples of RE tissue from around the world by using social media to generate awareness. The girl's surgeon and one of the lead researchers, Dr. Gary Mathern, professor of pediatric neurosurgery and director of the UCLA Pediatric Epilepsy Program at Mattel Children's Hospital, was quoted.

Reader's Digest Salutes ENT Who Solved Medical Mystery

The April edition of Reader's Digest magazine featured a profile of Dr. Quinton Gopen, assistant professor of head and neck surgery, highlighting his diagnosis and successful treatment of a patient whose mysterious condition had mystified other physicians for months. Gopen plugged a tiny hole in one of the patient's ear canals, which had allowed sounds from inside and outside her body to reverberate inside her brain.

Science Blogs Highlight a Happy Peptide

Jerome Siegel, professor of psychiatry in the Semel Institute, and chief of neurobiology research at the Sepulveda Veterans Affairs Medical Center was featured in a March 4 [Scienceblog.com](#) article and March 7 [Examiner.com](#) blog about his research that measured the release of a specific peptide, a neurotransmitter called hypocretin, that greatly increased when subjects were happy but decreased when they were sad, and that may have implications for the treatment of depression.

EmpowerHer Adds to Coverage of UCLA Liquid Biopsy

[EmpowerHer](#) March 5 featured a story on a study led by Hsian-Rong Tseng, associate professor of molecular and medical pharmacology at the Crump Institute for Molecular Imaging and a member of the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and the California NanoSystems Institute, describing dramatic improvements to their NanoVelcro “liquid biopsy” chip for blood samples that safely traps circulating cancer cells for diagnosis and monitoring.

Examiner.com Features Call for Heart Patients for UCLA Stem Cell Study

[Examiner.com](#) February 25 featured a story on an announcement by UCLA stem cell researchers led by Dr. Ali Nsair, assistant professor in residence in the department of cardiology and member of the Eli and Edythe Broad Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research, in which patients’ own blood stem cells will be used to attempt to restore blood circulation to their damaged hearts.

Websites Highlight Tips for a Healthy Colon

The [World Journal \(Chinese Daily News\)](#) March 7, [Examiner.com](#) and [Westwood-Century City Patch](#) March 4, and [EndoNurse.com](#) March 6 ran tips for promoting a healthy colon. Dr. Jim Yoo, assistant professor of surgery and chief of the colon & rectal surgery program, and Dr. Anne Lin, assistant professor of surgery, were quoted. March is colorectal cancer awareness month.

UPI Explains How Vitamin D, Fish Oil Help Battle Alzheimer’s

A March 5 [UPI](#) story that also appeared in [Hispanic Business.com](#) highlighted a study led by Dr. Milan Fiala, a researcher at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, indicating that vitamin D and omega-3 fatty acids may enhance the immune system’s ability to clear the brain of amyloid-beta, a hallmark of Alzheimer’s disease.

Memory Fitness Exercises Help Seniors

Dr. Karen Miller, associate clinical professor at the Semel Institute and Linda Ercoli, director of geriatric psychology for the Division of Geriatric Psychiatry, were interviewed for a March 6 [BBC Radio](#) program about longevity that featured a memory-fitness program that has been shown to help seniors boost their verbal learning and retention skills, which may help lower their risk of dementia.

BRIEFS

A Feb. 28 [Reuters](#) report about a JAMA Internal Medicine study suggesting a link between a certain type of diabetes drug and pancreatitis cited an accompanying commentary written by Dr. Peter Butler, director of the Larry L. Hillblom Islet Research Center, and Belinda Gier, a former post-doctoral fellow in the division of endocrinology.

The UCLA AIDS Institute was mentioned in a March 5 [Lake Stevens Journal](#) (Wash.) story about the 12th annual 26-hour student dance marathon, which raised money for the Institute and for several pediatric AIDS organizations.

A Feb. 28 column in the [Lawyer](#) blog about the benefits of meditation cited a study by researchers at the UCLA Laboratory of Neuro Imaging showing that people who meditate have, on average, more folds in the brain’s cerebral cortex, which has been linked to improved information processing, memory formation and decision making.

Dr. Noah Federman, assistant professor of pediatric hematology/oncology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was cited March 2 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) column about a young cancer patient being treated for a rare cancer at UCLA.

A segment on ABC's "[The Chew](#)" Feb. 28 referenced a study by researchers at UCLA's Center for Human Nutrition indicating that eating half an avocado with a hamburger, rather than a hamburger alone, may help curb the production of compounds that contribute to inflammation in the body, which has been associated with heart disease.

An article published March 4 by Canada's [Postmedia News](#) about criticism of actress Kristen Stewart's appearance at the Oscars cited research by Dr. Marco Iacoboni, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior at UCLA and director of the Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Lab at the UCLA Ahmanson–Lovelace Brain Mapping Center, examining the brain's "mirror neurons," the neural mechanism by which individuals understand the actions, intentions and emotions of others.

QUOTABLES

Dr. Yvonne Bryson, professor of pediatrics and chief of the division of pediatric infectious diseases, was quoted March 3 in a [New York Times](#) article about a young girl who doctors say has been "functionally cured" of HIV infection.

Dr. Andrew Da Lio, professor and chief of plastic and reconstructive surgery, was quoted Feb. 28 in the [Daily Mail](#) (U.K) about recent trends in cosmetic procedures and surgeries over the past year in the United States.

Dr. Jane Deng, assistant professor of pulmonary and critical care medicine, was quoted March 1 in a [Daily Beast | Newsweek](#) article about a recent tuberculosis outbreak in the skid row area of downtown Los Angeles.

Dr. Erik Dutson, associate clinical professor of surgery and chief of metabolic and bariatric surgery, was quoted March 2 in a [Ventura County Star](#) article about psychological barriers to weight loss.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson–UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented March 6 in a [HealthDay News](#) story that also ran on [Health.com](#) about research showing that insomnia may boost heart failure risk. In addition, he was quoted March 7 in another [HealthDay News](#) story that also ran on [U.S. News & World Report](#) about research studying possible seasonal variation in cholesterol levels.

Dr. Jim Hu, associate professor of urology and director of minimally invasive surgery in the urology department, commented March 2 in a [Monterey County Herald](#) article about cutting-edge robotic surgery. The article also appeared in the [Daily Bulletin](#) and [Pasadena Star-News](#).

Dr. Neil Martin, chairman of neurosurgery, was interviewed March 6 by Extra TV about the terminal brain cancer that actress Valerie Harper is fighting.

Dr. Mary Marfisee, medical director of the UCLA School of Nursing's health center at the Union Rescue Mission, was quoted March 1 in a [Daily Beast | Newsweek](#) article about a recent tuberculosis outbreak in the skid row area of downtown Los Angeles.

Dr. Karin Nielsen, clinical professor of pediatrics in the division of infectious diseases and a member of the UCLA AIDS Institute, was quoted March 4 in the [Los Angeles Times](#) and [TakePart](#) articles about a young girl who doctors say has been "functionally cured" of HIV infection.

Michael Prelip, professor of community health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted Feb. 28 in a [Reuters](#) article about research showing that Head Start preschool teachers seem to have a poor grasp of healthy eating habits.

Dylan Roby, director of the health economics and evaluation research program at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research in the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was interviewed March 4 on [Capital Public Radio](#) (Sacramento) about California's efforts to improve the quality and efficiency of healthcare.

Dr. Brad Spellberg, assistant professor of medicine and infectious diseases at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was interviewed March 5 on NPR's "[All Things Considered](#)" about CRE, a "superbug" that is resistant to virtually all antibiotics.

Diana Winston, director of mindful education at UCLA's Mindful Awareness Research Center, was quoted in a Feb. 27 [Huffington Post](#) column on techniques to help people better cope with stress.

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