



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of March 2 - 8, 2012**

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Surgery for Stubborn Epilepsy Garners Headlines

A multi-center study led by Dr. Jerome Engel, professor of neurology and neurobiology, and director of the UCLA Seizure Disorder Center, showing that for people with drug-resistant epilepsy, early surgical intervention followed by antiepileptic drugs stops seizures, improves quality of life, and helps avoid decades of disability, received wide coverage, including: March 6 on [MSN.com](#), [Yahoo News](#), [WebMD](#), [MedPageToday.com](#), and [Examiner.com](#); March 7 by [ScienceDaily.com](#) and [ScienceNewsline.com](#); and March 8 on [News-MedicalNet.com](#).

Operation Mend Spokesman Honored, Notes MSNBC

[MSNBC](#) reported on March 2 that the White House honored Marine Cpl. Aaron Mankin, an Operation Mend patient and spokesman, for his service and work with the program, which provides free reconstructive surgery and other services to soldiers disfigured in Afghanistan and Iraq. Mankin and Dr. Timothy Miller, professor of plastic surgery and surgical director of Operation Mend, were interviewed.

KPCC, ANI Explore New Approach to Parkinson's Prevention

Research by Dr. Jeff Bronstein, professor of neurology and director of the UCLA Movement Disorder Program, and Gal Bitan, associate professor of neurology, using "molecular tweezers" in a zebrafish model to prevent the toxic accumulation of proteins in Parkinson's disease, was covered March 1 by NPR-affiliate [KPCC](#) 89.3 FM and the [Examiner.com](#); March 2 on [ScienceFreaks.com](#), [MedicalExpress.com](#), [NewsMedical.com](#) and [NewsBlaze.com](#); and March 3 on [Asian News International](#) and [Newstrack](#) India.

EFE News Examines Healthy Weight for Kids

The Spanish news service [EFE](#) reported Feb. 28 on a parent-training program that reduced the risk of low-income, preschool-age Latino children becoming overweight. 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 interviewed.

Young Philanthropist Attracts Coverage

The April edition of [Family Circle](#) magazine profiled 13-year-old Cameron Cohen, a former UCLA patient, who is raising funds 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. Cohen will donate a portion of the proceeds from two iPhone apps he developed to Federman's research. He was also interviewed Feb. 24 on [KNBC-Channel 4](#) and Feb. 21 on [KCBS-Channel 2](#) and [KCAL-Channel 9](#).

HealthDay Explores Race, Life Expectancy

[HealthDay News](#) reported March 1 and [LiveScience.com](#) reported March 5 on a UCLA study examining life-expectancy disparities between whites and blacks. Dr. Nazleen Bharmal, clinical instructor in general internal medicine and health services research, was quoted.

Doc Preps for 26th Marathon

[KTLA-Channel 5](#) aired a March 2 interview with Dr. David Ross, medical director of the UCLA Lung and Heart-Lung Transplant Program, who will run his 26th Los Angeles Marathon this month. Ross runs each marathon in honor of one of his patients.

L.A. Daily News Explores Dog Bites

A March 8 column in the [Los Angeles Daily News](#) by Dr. Claire Panosian Dunavan, clinical professor of medicine, division of infectious diseases, provided advice on how to avoid dog bites.

Examiner, KPBS Cover Barriers to Affordable Care

A study by Daphna Gans, a research scientist at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the Fielding School of Public Health, was featured Feb. 29 by the [Examiner](#) and March 2 by NPR-affiliate [KPBS](#) 89.5 FM (San Diego). Her research suggests that language barriers could prevent more than 100,000 eligible California residents from accessing affordable health coverage through the state's Health Benefit Exchange.

Miami Herald Examines Chemo Brain

A March 3 [Miami Herald](#) story about the cognitive and memory problems that can occur after chemotherapy for breast cancer cites the research and experience of Dr. Karen Saywitz, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute. She was quoted.

Eating Fish Keeps Your Brain Young

Research by Dr. Zaldy Tan, a member of UCLA's Easton Center for Alzheimer's Disease Research and a visiting associate professor of geriatrics, was featured in a Feb. 29 [Examiner](#) report and a March 2 [Globe and Mail](#) article. He showed that lower blood levels of omega-3 fatty acids commonly found in fish were associated with smaller brain volume and poorer performance on tests of mental acuity among seniors.

Clot-Removal Device Attracts Press

[Neurology Reviews](#) reported March 7 and [Gizmag](#) reported Feb. 26 on a clinical trial co-led by Dr. Jeffery Saver, professor of neurology and director of the UCLA Stroke Center, and Dr. Reza Jahan, associate professor of radiology, finding that a new device for removing blood clots in stroke patients dramatically outperformed the standard mechanical treatment. Saver was quoted.

Media Report Double-Lung Recipient's Discharge

The [Signal](#), [Sacramento Bee](#), [Los Angeles Times](#), [Victorville Daily Press](#) and [Santa Clarita Radio](#) reported March 6 on California Sen. Sharon Runner's discharge from Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center following a double lung transplant. Dr. David Ross, medical director of the UCLA Lung and Heart-Lung Transplant Program, was quoted, and surgical director Dr. Abbas Ardehali was cited.

Pediatric Heart Surgeon Mentors UCLA Athlete

[Fox Sports West](#) ran a Feb. 29 story on Dr. Brian Reemtsen, chief of congenital heart surgery and a former Bruin football player, who has been helping prepare UCLA track and field athlete Taylor Hobson for medical school.

Radio Show Hosts Pediatric ENT

[WGAU 1340AM](#) (GA) interviewed Dr. Nina Shapiro, director of pediatric otolaryngology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA and associate professor of head and neck surgery, on Feb. 24 about common breathing issues in young children.

Hand-Transplant Expert on Sirius Radio

Sirius XM's "Doctor Radio" program aired a March 5 interview with Dr. Kodi Azari, chief of reconstructive transplantation and hand surgeon for Operation Mend. He discussed both programs and hand transplantation.

<http://showroom.multivisioninc.com/share.do?id=154760&key=ePKRafzTqTdYErKs4D0zVbNvFHRvqhor&email=RMoster@mednet.ucla.edu>

NCI Spotlights New Teen Cancer Program

The March 6 [National Cancer Institute Cancer Bulletin](#) ran an interview with The Who's lead singer, Roger Daltrey, about the launch of the UCLA Daltrey/Townshend Teen & Young Adult Cancer Program, one of the first of its kind in the U.S. Dr. David Feinberg, president of the UCLA Health System, CEO of the UCLA Hospital System and associate vice chancellor for health sciences; and Dr. Jacqueline Casillas, program director and associate professor of pediatrics, were quoted.

AMA Spotlights Medical Home-Assessment Tool

[American Medical News](#) reported March 5 on research led by Dr. Robin Clarke, a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar in general internal medicine and health services research, suggesting that an assessment tool measuring whether a community health center functions as a "medical home" does not adequately evaluate diabetes care. Clarke was quoted.

"The Doctors" Look into Migraine Relief

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

Hospital Trade Examines Revenue Issues

The March issue of Hospital Access Management explored strategies to prevent revenue loss and the skills needed by patient access staff to address changes in coverage due to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Bernadette Lodge-Lemon, director of revenue cycle for the UCLA Health System, and Helen Contreras, director of patient access services, were quoted.

Cardiology Pub Features Stroke, Heart-Failure Findings

A study by Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, showing that Medicare beneficiaries with acute ischemic stroke have a higher risk of death was covered March 2 by [Cardiology Today](#). The publication also ran a [March 7](#) story on his research suggesting that combining several key guideline-recommended therapies for the treatment of heart-failure patients lowered their two-year risk of death.

Websites Cover Alzheimer's Study

[EMaxHealth](#), [Medicalxpress](#) and [ScienceCodex](#) reported March 6 on intracellular mechanisms regulated by vitamin D3 that may help the body clear the brain of amyloid beta, the main component of plaques linked to Alzheimer's disease. Dr. Milan Fiala, a researcher at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and the Veterans Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, was quoted.

Web Sites Feature Melanoma Resistance

[Examiner.com](#), [Science Codex](#) and [Genome Daily News](#) on March 6; [Hope for Cancer](#), [National Cancer Institute](#) and [Biomechanism](#) on March 7; and [Live Science](#), [Bioresearch Online](#), [Medical News Today](#), [Health News Daily](#) and [SciTechDaily](#) on March 8 reported on a study by Dr. Roger Lo that uncovered a new resistance mechanism to a melanoma drug. Lo is an assistant professor of dermatology and molecular/medical pharmacology and a Jonsson Cancer Center scientist.

Irish Outlets Explore Breast Cancer Research

Dr. Dennis Slamon, director of clinical/translational research at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center talked about the future of breast cancer research on Feb. 28 in the [Irish Times](#) and [RTE Radio](#) (Ireland) and March 1 in [OnLive](#).

Sri Lankan Paper Cites Prostate Cancer Study

Sri Lanka's [Daily News](#) reported March 8 on a study finding that a low-fat diet with fish oil supplements helped slow the growth of cancer cells in prostate tissue. Dr. William Aronson, clinical professor of urology and a Jonsson Cancer Center researcher, was quoted.

BRIEFS

Research by Dr. Eric Vilain, professor of human genetics, on a gene linked to male development was cited March 7 in a [Medical Xpress](#) article about men's response to stress.

Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA was cited March 1 in a [KFSN-Channel 30](#) (Visalia) story about a 3-year-old girl who returned home after a successful bone marrow transplant.

The Santa Monica Daily Press ran a March 1 photo from the dedication ceremony for UCLA Health System's new outpatient surgery and medical building.

QUOTABLES

Dr. Gabriel Danovitch, medical director of the kidney and pancreas transplant program, was quoted March 6 in an [Epoch Times](#) article about the use of prisoners for organ harvesting in China.

Dr. Camelia Davtyan, clinical professor of general internal medicine and health services research, was quoted March 7 in the [Chicago Tribune](#) about five symptoms that should prompt one to seek medical attention. The article also ran in the [South Florida Sun-Sentinel](#).

Dr. Edmond Hewlett, associate professor at the School of Dentistry, was quoted Feb. 29 in a [U.S. News & World Report](#) article about the questionable benefit of some over-the-counter health products.

Shana Alex Lavarreda, director of health insurance studies at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in a March 2 [Los Angeles Times](#) article about the health care reform law. Lavarreda was also quoted in a March 1 [Times](#) article about Blue Shield suing a group of doctors in Orange County.

Dr. James McGough, professor of clinical psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Clinic, was quoted in a March 5 [ABC News.com](#) article and an ABC News [radio](#) report about very young children being diagnosed and treated for ADHD.

Dr. Kouros Nouri-Mahdavi, assistant professor of ophthalmology at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, commented March 5 in a [Medscape](#) article about research suggesting that what glaucoma patients actually see differs from visual field test results.

Dr. Janet Pregler, director of the Iris Cantor-UCLA Women's Health Center, was quoted March 6 in an [ABC.com](#) article on a new study suggesting that estrogen-only hormone replacement therapy might lower the risk of breast cancer for postmenopausal women who have had hysterectomies.

Dr. Sammy Saab, associate professor of medicine and surgery, commented March 2 in a [KCBS-Channel 2/KCAL-Channel 9](#) story about a new drug that helps eradicate hepatitis C. The report aired on CBS affiliates across the country.

Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging and a professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was quoted March 7 in a [USA Today](#) story on iPad upgrades.

Arthur Toga, professor of neurology and director of the UCLA Laboratory of Neuro Imaging, was quoted in a March 6 [New York Times](#) article about ways retirees can keep mentally active.

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