



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of March 8-14, 2013**

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Media Reports on Peptide Linked to Positive Emotions

Operation Mend's 'Buddy' Program

Wall Street Journal Follows International Medical Graduates

Music Network Spotlights UCLA Daltrey/Townshend Teen and Young Adult Cancer Program

Conejo Valley Press Spotlights New UCLA-Thousand Oaks Medical Practice

Ventura County Star Covers UCLA Stem Cell Symposium

UCLA Urologist Raises Prostate Cancer Awareness on KCAL News

Health Sites Report on Community-wide HIV Prevention Efforts

Infectious Disease Expert Addresses Childhood Earaches

NYT Scrutinizes Advertising and Obesity Study

Study Finds Brain Damage in NFL Players

PTSD Heightens Other Health Risks

Vitamin D, Fish Oil to Help Battle Alzheimer's

NPR Notes that Governments Fail to Support Families

South China Morning Post Reports that Meditation Strengthens the Brain

BBC Touts Memory Fitness Exercises for Seniors

Media Notes Link between Air Pollution, Autism

KPCC Highlights California and the Affordable Care Act

Media Highlights New Brain Scan that IDs Alzheimer's Risk Gene

Anaphylactic Reactions in Kids

Immediate Health Concerns with Childhood Obesity

Research Center for Improved Dental Care & Education

Doctors and Drug Endorsements

Infectious Disease Expert Explains Superbugs

BRIEFS

QUOTABLES

Media Reports on Peptide Linked to Positive Emotions

Jerome Siegel, professor of psychiatry and director of the Center for Sleep Research at the Semel Institute, was featured widely in the media regarding his research that found that hypocretin, a peptide neurotransmitter in humans, is increased during positive experiences, suggesting it could be useful in potential treatments for depression. Coverage included March 8 in [The Press Trust of India](#), [Indo-Asian News Service](#), [News-Medicalnet.com](#), [Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology News](#), and [HealthCanal.com](#), and March 9 in [PsychCentral.com](#).

Operation Mend's 'Buddy' Program

A [KPCC-89.3 FM](#) story on March 13 about UCLA's Operation Mend, which offers free reconstructive surgery and other medical treatment for U.S. military personnel severely wounded and disfigured during service, highlighted Operation Mend's "buddy" family program, which pairs wounded veterans undergoing treatment with Los Angeles-area families who provide comfort, care and support. Dana Katz, Operation Mend's "buddy" family coordinator, was quoted.

Wall Street Journal Follows International Medical Graduates

The [Wall Street Journal](#) March 14 published an article about the shortage of primary care physicians that spotlighted the International Medical Graduate program, which helps Spanish-speaking doctors who earned their medical degrees in Latin America prepare for their medical residency exams in the United States. Dr. Patrick Dowling, chair of the department of family medicine and co-founder of the program, was quoted.

Music Network Spotlights UCLA Daltrey/Townshend Teen and Young Adult Cancer Program

Dr. David Feinberg, president, UCLA Health and CEO, UCLA Hospital System, appeared in a March 5 [Fuse TV](#) feature on Teen Cancer America and the UCLA Daltrey/Townshend Teen and Young Adult Cancer Center. The segment included an interview with a young adult cancer survivor at UCLA who benefited from the program.

Conejo Valley Press Spotlights New UCLA-Thousand Oaks Medical Practice

The [Ventura County Star](#) March 9 and the [Moorpark Patch](#) March 12 carried stories on the ribbon-cutting and open house marking the opening of the newest UCLA Health medical practice. Dr. Matteo Dinolfo, medical director of the UCLA Department of Medicine's community offices and associate professor of internal medicine, was quoted in both articles about the new office, which provides Conejo Valley residents with better access to UCLA's physicians and services.

Ventura County Star Covers UCLA Stem Cell Symposium

The [Ventura County Star](#) March 8 reported on a stem cell symposium given at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks that featured talks by William Lowery and Hanna Mikkola, both associate professors of molecular, cell and developmental biology at the Eli and Edythe Broad Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research, and Steven Peckman, associate director for administration and planning at the Broad Center.

UCLA Urologist Raises Prostate Cancer Awareness on KCAL News

Dr. Mark Litwin, chairman of the UCLA Urology Department, appeared March 12 on [KCAL-Channel 9](#) with former Los Angeles Dodgers great Steve Garvey to discuss and raise awareness about prostate cancer.

Health Sites Report on Community-wide HIV Prevention Efforts

[Medical News Today](#) and [MediLexicon](#) March 8 reported on research led by Thomas Coates, director of UCLA's Center for World Health and an associate director of the UCLA AIDS Institute, finding that a series of community efforts in Thailand and Africa boosted HIV testing and helped reduce new HIV infections.

Infectious Disease Expert Addresses Childhood Earaches

The [Pasadena Star-News](#) March 8 ran a column by Dr. Claire Panosian Dunavan, clinical professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases, about treating childhood earaches.

NYT Scrutinizes Advertising and Obesity Study

The [New York Times](#) March 8 carried an opinion piece about a study by Dr. Lenard Lesser, a former physician with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars program in the department of family medicine, suggesting that the more outdoor fast-food ads there are in a given neighborhood, the more likely neighborhood residents are to be overweight.

Study Finds Brain Damage in NFL Players

Georgia's [WTOC-Channel 11](#) reported March 11 on a brain-imaging study in which UCLA researchers found elevated levels of the Alzheimer's disease-related tau protein in the brains of five retired football players who had suffered one or more concussions. Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging, a professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Longevity Center, was interviewed.

PTSD Heightens Other Health Risks

The [Associated Press](#) March 10 and [MedPageToday](#) March 12 highlighted research by Dr. Ramin Ebrahimi, clinical professor of medicine in the division of cardiology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and the Veterans Affairs of Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, and colleagues showing that military veterans who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder are at higher risk for insulin resistance and metabolic syndrome than veterans without PTSD. Ebrahimi was quoted.

Vitamin D, Fish Oil to Help Battle Alzheimer's

A March 11 [WMGG 1470AM](#) (Florida) report 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. Fiala was interviewed.

NPR Notes that Governments Fail to Support Families

Dr. Jody Heymann, dean of the Fielding School of Public Health and founding director of the World Policy Analysis Center at UCLA, was featured in a March 13 NPR "[Tell Me More](#)" broadcast regarding her study of nearly 200 countries that found that children and families across the globe face conditions that limit their opportunities to thrive and reach their full potential.

South China Morning Post Reports that Meditation Strengthens the Brain

Eileen Luders, assistant professor of neurology at the UCLA Laboratory of Neuro Imaging, was featured in a March 11 [South China Morning Post](#) article about her research 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.

BBC Touts Memory Fitness Exercises for Seniors

Dr. Karen Miller, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, and Linda Ercoli, director of geriatric psychology for the department of psychiatry, were interviewed March 5 on [BBC Radio](#) about 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.

Media Notes Link between Air Pollution, Autism

Dr. Beate Ritz, professor and chair of epidemiology at the Fielding School of Public Health, and Ondine von Ehrenstein, assistant professor of community health sciences at the school, were featured March 11 by [KNX 1070AM](#), and March 12 by the [Huffington Post](#), [KNSD-Channel 7](#) (San Diego), and other NBC affiliates, regarding their study that found that babies exposed to traffic pollution in the womb have an increased risk for autism.

KPCC Highlights California and the Affordable Care Act

Dylan Roby, director of the health economics and evaluation research program at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the Fielding School of Public Health, was interviewed March 11 on [KPCC 89.3FM](#) about California's approach to implementing the health insurance provisions of the Affordable Care Act for undocumented immigrants.

Media Highlights New Brain Scan that IDs Alzheimer's Risk Gene

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 by the media regarding his study that used DNA screening and an advanced type of brain-visualization scan to discover a new genetic risk factor for Alzheimer's disease. Thompson and Neda Jahanshad, a graduate student researcher at LONI, were cited in several of the reports. Coverage included March 6 in an [Australian Broadcasting Corp.](#) news segment; March 7 by the [Indo-Asian News Service](#) and the [Fars News Agency](#) (Iran), and March 12 by [Domain-b](#).

Anaphylactic Reactions in Kids

Dr. Maria Garcia Lloret, associate professor of pediatric allergy and immunology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was interviewed Feb. 28 by [Lifescrypt](#) for an article on life-threatening allergic reactions in children.

Immediate Health Concerns with Childhood Obesity

The [Thousand Oaks Acorn](#) March 14 featured a recent UCLA 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.

Research Center for Improved Dental Care & Education

[Examiner.com](#) Mar. 7; [DrBicuspid.com](#), [DentistryQ.com](#) Mar. 8; the [Santa Monica Mirror](#) Mar. 9; and [NapaValleyRegister.com](#) Mar. 11 reported on the \$5 million pledge that the UCLA School of Dentistry received from a periodontist to establish the Mick and Mary Dragoo Periodontal and Implant Clinical Research and Patient Care Center. The gift will create a leading site for clinical research, patient care and education in periodontology and implantology.

Doctors and Drug Endorsements

An article in the March 11 [Los Angeles Daily News](#) and the March 13 [Contra Costa Times](#) about doctors endorsing the benefits of certain pharmaceuticals cited UCLA's guidelines on the matter.

Infectious Disease Expert Explains Superbugs

Dr. Brad Spellberg, an infectious disease specialist at the Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center and a UCLA associate professor of medicine, appeared on the March 11 [Dr. Oz Show](#), March 8 on NPR's "Talk of the Nation" and March 7 on [The Diane Rehm Show](#) on WAMU radio to discuss ways to combat antibiotic-resistant superbugs in the wake of warnings about the spread of a "nightmare" bacteria.

BRIEFS

The UCLA AIDS Institute was mentioned in a March 10 [Gainesville Sun](#) (Fla.) story about the 12th annual 26-hour student dance marathon, which raised money for the Institute and for several pediatric AIDS organizations.

An article published in the March 4 [Postmedia News](#) (Canada) about criticism of actress Kristen Stewart's appearance at the Oscars cited research by Marco Iacoboni, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, concerning the brain's "mirror neurons," the neural mechanism by which individuals understand the actions, intentions and emotions of others.

Massachusetts' [WWLP-Channel 22](#) reported March 12 on a study by neuroscientists 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.

Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center was cited March 13 in a [Tribune-Review](#) (Pittsburgh) article about the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center's first lung transplant patient whose donor lungs were delivered by an experimental organ preservation device. The article noted that UCLA performed the nation's first transplant using the device last year.

QUOTABLES

Dr. John Belperio, associate clinical professor of pulmonary and clinical care medicine, commented March 13 in [Time.com](#) and March 14 in the [Los Angeles Times](#) on living with only one lung since the newly elected Pope had one removed when he was younger.

Dr. Benjamin Bengs, orthopaedic surgeon at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica and assistant professor of orthopaedic surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, commented March 3 in an [Arthritis Today](#) article about a study showing the wide variation in costs for hip replacement surgeries.

Dr. Ravi Dave, clinical professor of cardiology at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, was quoted March 7 in a [HealthDay](#) story on research showing that defibrillator patients who lose weight fare worse than those who maintain their weight. The article also ran in [U.S. News & World Report](#).

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, UCLA's Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, was quoted March 12 in a [HealthDay](#) article about research suggesting that a widely prescribed antibiotic may slightly raise the risk of death in patients with heart problems.

Marco Iacoboni, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was quoted in a March 12 [Pacific Standard](#) magazine article about people's attention spans when tweeting while watching a live performance. Iacoboni commented about the brain's "mirror neurons," which will respond when observing another individual as if the observer was performing the same action.

Dr. Lorraine Kelley-Quon, a general surgery resident at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and lead author on a study that looked at congenital malformations associated with assisted reproductive technology, was quoted March 12 in a [San Francisco Chronicle](#) article about whether children conceived through in vitro fertilization have infertility issues when they grow up and start their own family.

Dr. Jenny Kim, associate clinical professor of medicine in the division of dermatology, commented March 11 in an [NBCNews.com](#) article reporting on a study about aspirin and melanoma risk.

Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases and the UCLA Program in Global Health, was quoted March 10 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) story about efforts to break the city away from the Los Angeles County Public Health Dept. and initiate a health agency of its own.

Dr. Albert Lai, assistant clinical professor of neuro-oncology, was quoted extensively March 7 by [Health Bistro](#) in a story about the announcement by actress Valerie Harper that she has terminal brain cancer.

Dr. Neil Martin, chair of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was featured March 7 on CBS "The Doctors" commenting on the case of a young boy who developed seizures and died on his 12th birthday after school bullies hit him in the face.

Dr. Marc Nuwer, professor of neurology and a member of the UCLA Seizure Disorder Center, was quoted in a March 7 ABC [Good Morning America](#) segment about a seizure suffered by actress Kelly Osbourne. Nuwer commented on the reasons why a person suffering a minor seizure could be held overnight in a hospital for observation.

Tanya Paparella, associate professor at the Semel Institute and director of UCLA's Early Childhood Partial Hospitalization Program, was quoted in a March 2 [Palm Beach Post](#) article about families struggling with autism.

Dr. Nick Shamie, orthopaedic spine surgeon at the UCLA Spine Center in Santa Monica and associate professor of orthopaedics and neurosurgery, was quoted March 11 in a [Women's Health Magazine](#) blog about a study comparing walking to other forms of exercise for treatment of chronic lower back pain.

Dr. Richard Shemin, professor and chief of cardiothoracic surgery at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, was quoted March 14 in the [Los Angeles Times](#) and March 13 in the [Huffington Post](#) in articles about the newly elected Pope, who only has one lung, and the health effects of living with one lung. Shemin's quote from the Huffington Post was also cited March 13 in the [Epoch Times](#) and March 14 in the [Digital Journal](#).

Dr. Gary Small, Parlow–Solomon Professor on Aging, a professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Longevity Center, was interviewed for a BBC radio series [\(1\)](#) [\(2\)](#) on longevity.

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