



UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT

For the week of 12 -18, 2010

Note: Website links may expire without notice. Some sites require password registration. If you cannot access a story or would like to obtain a copy, please call 310.794.0777.

=====
Californians Lack of Health Insurance Draws Wide Coverage

Colon Cancer Finding Garners Headlines

20/20 Documents Schizophrenic Children's Struggles

Yahoo News Reports on Brain Abnormalities, Prenatal Meth Exposure

Philadelphia Inquirer Explains How Hormone May Help Women with MS

OBITUARY: Leena Peltonen-Palotie, Founding Chair of Human Genetics

Modern Medicine Weighs Pros, Cons of Mail-Order Pharmacies

Nursing Trade Gives Ink to Op/Ed Penned by UCLA Experts

Jewish Journal Spotlights Med School Dean Who Steps Down After 15 Years

Channel 7 Highlights GERD Treatment

TV Affiliates Explore Magnet Use in Heart Care

S.M. Daily Press Drills Down on Hospital's Disaster Exercise

Community Paper Covers Award to Breast Cancer Advocate

KABC-TV Covers Miss California USA's Visit with Pediatric Patients

Audiology Publication Links Air Pollution, Ear Infections

Baby Sling Dangers Highlighted in MomLogic Article

BRIEFS

QUOTABLES
=====

Californians Lack of Health Insurance Draws Wide Coverage

The Associated Press reported March 15, the Los Angeles Times and a New York Times blog reported March 16, and U.S.News & World Report, the San Diego Union-Tribune and KCRW-

89.9 FM reported March 17 on a study by the Center for Health Policy Research in the School of Public Health that showed nearly two million Californians lost their health insurance during 2008 and 2009, and that more than 8 million residents are now uninsured. E. Richard Brown, the center's director, and Shana Alex Lavarreda, the center's director of health insurance studies, were quoted in the Times; Lavarreda was also interviewed on KCRW. Coverage also included March 17 reports by the San Francisco Chronicle, Reuters and Sacramento Bee, and March 16 by the San Jose Mercury News, the Inland Valley Daily Bulletin, the Examiner, KTLA-Channel 5 and California Healthline.

"About 1 in 4 in California Lack Health Insurance"

http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/comments_blog/2010/03/about-1-in-4-in-california-lack-health-insurance-a-ucla-study-finds.html

"Study Finds Almost 1 in 4 Uninsured in California"

<http://prescriptions.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/03/16/study-finds-1-in-4-uninsured-in-california/>

"Health Buzz: Nearly 1 in 4 Californians Lacks Health Insurance Coverage"

<http://www.usnews.com/health/managing-your-healthcare/diabetes/articles/2010/03/17/health-buzz-nearly-1-in-4-californians-lacks-health-insurance-coverage.html>

"The Growing Ranks of California's Uninsured"

http://www.kcrw.com/news/programs/ww/ww100317obama_and_israel_cal

Colon Cancer Finding Garners Headlines

A study by Jonsson Cancer Center researcher Dr. Katherine Kahn about elderly colorectal cancer patients not receiving aggressive chemotherapy was featured March 16 by the Los Angeles Times, Reuters, the Money Times, WYSR-TV (NY), WRAL-TV (NC), ModernMedicine.com, MedPageToday.com and HealthDay News, among others. Voice of America highlighted the study March 18. The HealthDay story also appeared in Business Week. Kahn is a professor of medicine and a researcher at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

"Elderly Not Treated Aggressively for Colorectal Cancer"

http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/booster_shots/2010/03/elderly-not-treated-aggressively-for-colon-cancer-study-says.html

"Age Likely a Factor in Colon Cancer Chemotherapy"

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE62F5XV20100316>

"Older Colon Cancer Patients Less Likely to Get Chemo"

<http://www.businessweek.com/lifestyle/content/healthday/637052.html>

"Study: Doctors Less Likely to Give Chemo to Older Colon Cancer Patients"

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/health/Study--Doctors-Less-Likely-to-Give-Chemo-to-Older-Colon-Cancer-Patients-88392627.html>

20/20 Documents Schizophrenic Children's Struggles

Dr. Mark DeAntonio, clinical professor of psychiatry and director of adolescent inpatient services at the Semel Institute, was featured in a March 12 ABC News 20/20 program that profiled three young girls, all diagnosed with different forms of childhood schizophrenia, and all admitted for treatment multiple times to UCLA's Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital.

"Inside the World of Childhood Schizophrenia"

<http://abcnews.go.com/2020>

Yahoo News Reports on Brain Abnormalities, Prenatal Meth Exposure

Elizabeth Sowell, professor of neurology, was featured in a March 16 Yahoo News article by the Oregonian and All Headline News on March 17 about her study showing that the effects of prenatal methamphetamine exposure may be more damaging to children's brains than alcohol exposure.

"Brain Damage Linked to Prenatal Meth Exposure"

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20100316/hl_afp/healthuscrimedrugs;_ylt=A0wNdOuAqKBLd4kA71qqQLN;_ylu=X3oDMTJwNjA1MGdnBGFzc2V0A2FmcC8yMDEwMDMxNi9oZWZsdGh1c2NyaW1lZlZ1Z3MEcG9zAzEyBHNIYwN5bl9hcnRpY2xiX3N1bW1hcnlfbGlzdARzbGsDYnJhaW5kYW1hZ2Vs

"Moms Who Use Meth Harm Babies' Brains"

http://www.oregonlive.com/health/index.ssf/2010/03/moms_who_use_meth_harm_babies.html
"Methamphetamines May Be Worse for Developing Babies than Alcohol"
<http://www.allheadlinenews.com/articles/7018128868>

Philadelphia Inquirer Explains how Hormone May Help Women with MS

Dr. Rhonda Voskuhl, professor of neurology and director of the UCLA Multiple Sclerosis Program, was featured in a March 12 Philadelphia Inquirer story about her ongoing research on the use of the female sex hormone estriol as a treatment for women with multiple sclerosis.

"A Researcher's Unrelenting Pursuit of an MS Therapy"

http://www.philly.com/inquirer/home_top_left_story/20100312_A_researcher_s_unrelenting_pursuit_of_an_MS_therapy.html

OBITUARY: Leena Peltonen-Palotie, Founding Chair of Human Genetics

The Scientist published a March 17 obituary on Leena Peltonen-Palotie, founding chairwoman of the Department of Human Genetics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. Dr. Gerald Levey, dean emeritus of the school and distinguished professor of medicine, who hired her to lead the newly created department, was quoted.

"Human Geneticist Dies"

<http://www.the-scientist.com/blog/display/57220/>

Modern Medicine Weighs Pros, Cons of Mail-Order Pharmacies

Modern Medicine reported March 15 on research by Dr. Kenrik Duru, assistant professor of general internal medicine and health services research, finding that patients who mail-order their prescriptions are likelier to adhere to their regimen than patients who buy them at "brick-and-mortar" outlets. The study was published in American Journal of Managed Care.

"The Pros and Cons of Mail-Order Pharmacy"

<http://www.modernmedicine.com/modernmedicine/article/articleDetail.jsp?id=661462&sk=&date=&%0A%09%09%09&pageID=2>

Nursing Trade Gives Ink to Op/Ed Penned by UCLA Experts

A March 17 opinion piece authored by Katherine Brown-Saltzman, co-director of the UCLA Health System Ethics Center, and Dr. Tom Rosenthal, chief medical officer of the UCLA Health System and associate vice chancellor of the David Geffen School of Medicine, took an in-depth look at the issues surrounding end-of-life care and the health care reform debate.

"Balancing Hope & Harm"

<http://nursing.advanceweb.com/Regional-Articles/Features/Balancing-Hope-Harm.aspx?prg=22>

Jewish Journal Spotlights Med School Dean Who Steps Down After 15 Years

The March 15 Los Angeles Jewish Journal featured a profile of Dr. Gerald S. Levey, distinguished professor of medicine and holder of the Lincy Foundation Distinguished Service Chair, highlighting his 15-year tenure as vice chancellor for medical sciences and dean of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. Levey and Dr. David Feinberg, CEO of the UCLA Hospital System and associate vice chancellor, were quoted.

"UCLA Med Sciences Leader Steps Down"

http://www.jewishjournal.com/health/article/ucla_med_sciences_leader_steps_down_20100316/

Channel 7 Highlights GERD Treatment

KABC-Channel 7 on March 17 highlighted a stomach wrapping surgical technique used to treat severe acid reflux disease. Dr. Mary Maish, associate professor of surgery and surgical director, UCLA Center for Esophageal Disorders, was interviewed along with a UCLA patient.

"Alternative Treatments to GERD Show Promise"

http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/health/your_health&id=7336018

TV Affiliates Explore Magnet Use in Heart Care

An Ivanhoe Broadcast news story highlighted how cardiologists are using magnets to help guide treatment to stop irregular heart rhythms. Dr. Kalyanam Shivkumar, professor of medicine and

radiological sciences and director of the UCLA Cardiac Arrhythmia Center & EP Programs, was interviewed. The story aired March 15 on WCTV (Florida) and March 16 on KOTA-TV (South Dakota).

"Magnets Guide Hearts Back Into Rhythm"

<http://www.wctv.tv/medicalminute/headlines/87707372.html>

S.M. Daily Press Drills Down on Hospital's Disaster Exercise

The March 18 Santa Monica Daily Press ran a front-page story about a disaster drill held by Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital in collaboration with other community agencies. Dr. Wally Ghurabi and Elizabeth George, medical director and unit director of the hospital's Nethercutt Emergency Center, respectively, were quoted, as was William Dunne, director of emergency preparedness.

"Preparing for the Worst"

http://www.smdp.com/Articles-c-2010-03-17-69262.113116_Preparing_for_the_worst.html

Community Paper Covers Award to Breast Cancer Advocate

The Advocate, a local Massachusetts paper on March 17, ran an article on Dr. Susan Love, clinical professor of surgery, who will receive the Woman of Distinction Award for her breast cancer work from Miss Hall's School, a prestigious college preparatory school for girls.

"Miss Hall's Award"

http://www.advocateweekly.com/optionsineducation/ci_14692359

KABC-TV Covers Miss California USA's Visit with Pediatric Patients

KABC-Channel 7 on March 12 featured a visit by Miss California USA Nicole Johnson, who spent time visiting with pediatric patients at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA.

"Miss California Visits Patients"

<http://showroom.multivisioninc.com/sharePlay.do;jsessionid=CE4056A87BECD8069083CF5808A29456>

Audiology Publication Links Air Pollution, Ear Infections

Healthy Hearing on March 14 reported on a study by UCLA researchers and colleagues that found a correlation between improvements in air quality over the past decade and a reduction in cases of ear infections in children. Study co-author Dr. Nina Shapiro, director of pediatric otolaryngology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA and an associate professor of surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted.

"Improved Air Quality Linked to Fewer Pediatric Ear Infections"

<http://www.healthyhearing.com/releases/45899-improved-air-quality-linked>

Baby Sling Dangers Highlighted in MomLogic Article

In a March 12 article for MomLogic, Dr. Nina Shapiro, director of pediatric otolaryngology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, reviewed new warnings from the Consumer Product Safety Commission that warn parents against the potential dangers of baby sling carriers.

"Could Your Baby Sling Kill?"

http://www.momlogic.com/2010/03/baby_sling_deaths_cpsc_warning.php

BRIEFS

A March 12 article in the Sarasota Herald Tribune about the exceptional acoustical qualities of a 5,000-year-old Maltese temple chamber cites a study by Dr. Ian Cook, the Miller Family Professor of Psychiatry at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, showing that brains of individuals exposed to sound in the frequency range that resonates best in the Maltese temple had significant activity in areas associated with emotional processing, empathy and social behavior.

"Parrish Woman Explores an Enigmatic Historical Site"

<http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20100312/ARTICLE/3121019/2416/NEWS?p=4&tc=pg&tc=a>

[

Sam Harris, a neuroscientist at the Semel Institute, was mentioned March 15 in the Pasadena Star News and San Gabriel Valley Tribune about a debate about the existence of God.
"Panel of Renowned Authors and Thinkers Discuss Existence of God at Caltech Debate"
http://www.sgvtribune.com/rds_search/ci_14676053?IADID=Search-www.sgvtribune.com-www.sgvtribune.com

The UCLA Family Commons, a family wellness center located in Santa Monica, that's part of the Semel Institute, was cited in the March 13 Boston Globe about the rise in the number of family therapists and life coaches.
"Communication Breakthrough"
http://www.boston.com/lifestyle/family/articles/2010/03/13/family_feuding_some_say_its_time_to_call_in_the_coach/

In a March 16 story about a local Reach Out and Read program, the Gaylord Herald Times (MI) cited a study by the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities that found more than half of Michigan children are read to by their parents on a daily basis, higher than the national average.
"OMH Celebrates Reach Out & Read Program"
http://www.gaylordheraldtimes.com/articles/2010/03/16/news/local_news/doc4b9fa3c2350f4896877968.txt

Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA was cited in the March issue of Skin Inc. magazine which highlighted a December holiday toy drive held at a local nail salon which benefited the hospital.
"Happenings: The Hot List"

QUOTABLES

Dr. David Baron, chief of staff at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, commented in a March 17 KNX 1070AM report about proposed cuts in Medicare payments to physicians.

Dr. Benjamin Bengs, orthopaedic surgeon at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital and assistant professor of orthopaedic surgery, was quoted in a March 12 HealthDay.com story about high-impact sports and knee replacements.
"High-Impact Sports Might Not Harm Knee Replacements"
<http://www.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=636909>

Dr. Prosper Benhaim, associate professor of orthopaedic and plastic surgery, was quoted March 15 in a New York Times article about a new drug treatment for Dupuytren's contracture, a disorder that causes the fingers to curl immovably into the palm.
"Bringing Movement Back to Clenched Hands"
<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/16/business/16handbar.html>

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented March 16 in a HealthDay News article about the greater risk for heart attack, stroke, heart failure and death found in men who suffer from both cardiovascular disease and erectile dysfunction.
"Erectile Dysfunction Plus Heart Disease Raises Death Risk"
<http://www.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=637034>

John Froines, professor of environmental health sciences at the School of Public Health and director of the Center for Occupational and Environmental Health, was quoted in the March 12 San Luis Obispo Times about concerns over a potentially hazardous fumigant used by strawberry growers.
"Alarm about Fumigant Raised"
<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/2010/03/11/1063922/alarm-about-fumigant-raised.html>

Dr. Neal Halfon, professor of pediatrics, public health and public policy at UCLA and director of the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities, commented on the trend to offer healthier foods at movie theaters in a story that appeared March 15 on KKKFX-Channel 11 (Santa Barbara), San Francisco Business Times and the California Chronicle.

"Movie Theaters Asked to Offer Healthier Snacks at Concession Stands"

http://sanfrancisco.bizjournals.com/sanfrancisco/prnewswire/press_releases/national/Nevada/2010/03/15/LA70751

Dr. David McAllister, professor of orthopaedic surgery and chief of sports medicine, was quoted March 15 in a Los Angeles Times health blog about soccer player David Beckham's Achilles tendon injury.

"Oh Snap: Beckham's Achilles Injury is Bad, but Not Uncommon"

http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/booster_shots/2010/03/oh-snap-beckhams-achilles-injury-is-bad-but-not-uncommon.html

Virgie Mosley, a manager of the patient liaison program at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, was quoted in a March 15 Los Angeles Times article about systems hospitals have in place to register patient complaints.

"Hospital and Nursing Home Complaints Have an Ear"

<http://www.latimes.com/features/health/la-he-practical-matters-20100315,0,2670976.story>

Shannon Rhodes, a researcher in epidemiology at the UCLA School of Public Health, was cited in a March 12 Reuters article about new research on smoking and Parkinson's disease risk.

"Smoking Years Key Factor in Lower Parkinson's Risk"

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6294XH20100310>

Dr. Beate Ritz, professor of epidemiology at the School of Public Health, was quoted in a March 12 Reuters article about new research on smoking and Parkinson's disease risk.

"Smoking Years Key Factor in Lower Parkinson's Risk"

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6294XH20100310>

Dr. Richard Rosenthal, clinical professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute was quoted in the March 11 Riverside Press-Enterprise about California's first statewide conference on problem gambling.

"Gambling Experts Question Online Poker, an Idea Promoted by Inland Tribe"

http://www.pe.com/localnews/politics/stories/PE_News_Local_W_casino12.47a3011.html

Tony Strickland, an associate clinical professor of neurology, was quoted in the March 4 Neurology Today about the need for baseline neuropsychological testing for all athletes in order to effectively monitor treat concussions in sports.

"School Sport Concussions Draw National Attention as More States Draft Return-to-Play Laws"

http://journals.lww.com/neurotodayonline/Fulltext/2010/03040/School_Sport_Concussions_Draw_National_Attention.1.aspx

=====

UCLA's Health Sciences Media Relations office e-publishes this report weekly. For more information, please call Roxanne Moster, director of Health Sciences Media Relations, or Elaine Schmidt, senior media relations officer, at 310-794-0777. Our office also offers publicity for new research, medical breakthroughs, clinical trial recruitment, inspirational patient stories and more. To identify the appropriate public information officer for your department, visit www.uclahealth.org/mediacontacts