



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of March 13-19, 2015**

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Health Care Cost Study Continues to Grab Attention

[Science Daily](#) March 10; [HealthCanal](#) March 12; [Healthcare Daily](#), [Medical News Today](#) and [Urology Times](#) March 13; [Fierce Health Finance](#) March 16; [National Center for Policy Analysis](#), [Prostate Cancer News Today](#) and [Healio](#) March 17, and the [Independent Review](#) March 18 reported on Dr. Alan Kaplan's study that described cost across an entire care process for a common condition called benign prostate hyperplasia. Kaplan is a resident physician in the UCLA Department of Urology.

Gender Inequality Around the World

Dr. Jody Heymann, dean of the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and director of its WORLD Policy Analysis Center, was featured in a blog post on NPR station [WPSU.org](#) (Pa.); a March 10 [Reading Eagle](#) (Reading, Pa.) article, and a March 13 [Rome News Tribune](#) (Rome, Ga) article, reprinted from the Los Angeles Times, regarding a Center study, "[Closing the Gender Gap](#)," which shows that more than 170 countries still have legal barriers preventing women and girls from experiencing the same rights, protections and liberties as men and boys. The report coincided with a United Nations session to evaluate the global community's progress on gender equality in the 20 years since 189 countries adopted the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#). The WORLD Policy Center was also referenced in a March 13 [Newsweek.com](#) article that also addressed gender issues, and a March 13 [Upworthy.com](#) article.

KPCC Notes Danger of "Safety-Net" Hospitals Closing

Dr. Gerald Kominski, director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research in the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was featured in March 15 [KPCC 89.9FM](#) and March 16 [KXJZ 90.9FM](#) (Sacramento) reports about the dangers of so-called safety-net hospitals that primarily serve the poor closing from a lack of funding.

Cardiologist Discusses Latest Heart Research

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented in the following:

- A March 17 [HealthDay News](#) story on new guidelines recommending that many patients who are at low risk for heart problems don't need to have additional screening tests such as EKGs and stress tests.
- A March 16 [HealthDay News](#) story that also ran on [U.S. News & World Report](#) on a study about removing blood clots from a patient's heart arteries during an angioplasty, a procedure to open blocked arteries.
- A March 15 [HealthDay News](#) story that also ran on [U.S. News & World Report](#) about research showing that adding an experimental new biologic drug to conventional cholesterol-lowering drugs may result in better cholesterol control and reduced risks of heart attack and stroke.
- A March 15 [HealthDay News](#) story that also ran on [U.S. News & World Report](#) on new research showing that CT scans may help doctors better diagnose heart disease in patients with chest pain, compared to standard tests.

Local TV Spotlights Brain Injury Awareness Day

[KCBS-Channel 2](#) broadcast a March 18 story highlighting an event by the UCLA Department of Neurosurgery's Brain Injury Research Center to raise awareness of traumatic brain injury, or TBI. The segment featured popular actor Larry Miller and Ironman athlete Greg Parks, who both recovered from TBIs at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center. The story re-aired on [KCAL-Channel 9](#).

Sickle Cell Disease Study Continues to Receive Coverage

[Drug Discovery & Development](#) March 16 and [BioQuick News](#) March 17 reported on a study published in the journal *Blood*. The study describes 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 Americans 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 in the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine, professor of microbiology, immunology and molecular genetics in Life Sciences at UCLA and member of the UCLA Children's Discovery and Innovation Institute at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA.

Iyengar Yoga Used to Help Kids with Chronic Pain

Dr. Subhadra Evans, adjunct assistant professor with the UCLA Pediatric Pain Program at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was interviewed March 12 in a [Yoga U](#) article about the benefits of Iyengar yoga in helping pediatric patients who suffer from chronic pain.

KCAL Reports on Simple Blood Test for Alzheimer's

Dr. Liana Apostolova, an associate professor of neurology and member of the Mary S. Easton Center for Alzheimer's Disease Research, was featured in a March 12 [KCAL-Channel 9](#) News segment about her study showing that a simple blood test could be developed to confirm the presence of beta amyloid proteins in the brain, which is a hallmark of Alzheimer's disease. The KCAL report was picked up by numerous CBS affiliates including WABC-Channel 7 (New York), KGTV-Channel 10 (San Diego), and WTVF-Channel 5 (Nashville, Tenn.).

Forever Young: Meditation Preserves Brain Tissue, Additional Media Notes

A study by Dr. Eileen Luders, assistant professor of neurology, and Dr. Florian Kurth, a post-doctoral scholar in the UCLA Brain Mapping Center, was featured in a March 18 [Examiner.com](#) article. The research compared MRI brain images of people who meditate compared to those who don't, and found that, on average, people who meditate have less age-related atrophy in the brain's gray matter, the tissue that contains neurons.

KCBS Radio Highlights Study about Latinos and Health Care

Dr. Alex Ortega, a professor of public health at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was interviewed March 19 by KCBS 106.9FM (San Francisco) about the Affordable Care Act, the difficulties Latinos still have in accessing health care, and the need to provide coverage for the undocumented.

UCLA Researchers Develop New Combination Therapy to Fight Melanoma

[HealthCanal](#), [Clinical Oncology](#) and [Examiner.com](#) March 18 reported on UCLA scientists who discovered a new triple combination therapy that has shown promising signs of more effectively controlling advanced melanoma than previous treatments and also with fewer side effects. Dr. Antoni Ribas, professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and director of the tumor immunology program area at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, and Dr. Siwen Hu-Lieskovan, clinical instructor of hematology and oncology, were quoted.

New Study Reveals Effective Treatment Program for Breast Cancer Survivors with "Chemo Brain"

[MedicalXpress](#) and [redOrbit](#) March 17 reported on UCLA researchers who developed a program that could improve the day-to-day lives of women with breast cancer by addressing post-treatment cognitive difficulties, sometimes known as "chemo brain," which can affect up to 35 percent of women after chemotherapy and radiation treatments. Dr. Patricia Ganz, director of cancer prevention and control research at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, and Dr. Linda Ercoli, associate clinical professor of health sciences at the UCLA Semel Institute, were quoted.

Cancer Pioneer Partners with Apple on Mobile App to Track Breast Cancer Survivors' Experiences

[Sleep Review](#) March 16 and [Virtual-Strategy Magazine](#) March 17 reported on Apple Inc. launching "Share the Journey: Mind, Body and Wellness after Breast Cancer," a patient-centered mobile app that empowers women to be partners in the research process by tracking their symptoms and successes. Dr. Patricia Ganz, director of cancer prevention and control research UCLA's Jonsson and Comprehensive Cancer Center and professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted.

Urology Chair Featured Guest on KFI

The [Bill Carroll Show](#) on KFI 640AM March 19 featured Dr. Mark Litwin discussing a procedure to re-open a male urethra and the first ever penis transplant in South Africa. Litwin is chair of the UCLA Department of Urology.

Modern Healthcare Spotlights New Clinician Scholars Program

[Modern Healthcare](#) reported March 16 on the new National Clinician Scholars Program, which will educate nurses and physicians to serve as leaders, researchers, and change agents in health care,

community health, and public policy. The innovative program fills the gap left after the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) ended its Clinical Scholars program for physicians. This new program, however, expands on the RWJF program by including nurse scientists. Dr. Carol Mangione, Barbara A. Levey, M.D. & Gerald S. Levey, M.D. Endowed Chair at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and co-director of the program, was quoted.

Gift for Pancreatic Disease Research Cited

The [Santa Monica Daily Press](#) reported March 17 on a \$5 million gift to UCLA and the naming of the UCLA Agi Hirshberg Center for Pancreatic Diseases. Hirshberg established the Hirshberg Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research in 1997 in memory of her late husband, Ronald S. Hirshberg, who died of pancreatic cancer at age 54.

HealthCanal Reports on Liver Cancer Study

[HealthCanal](#) reported March 13 on a study by Dr. Vatche G. Agopian which found a new tool to predict postoperative disease recurrence in liver cancer patients who undergo transplant. Agopian is an assistant professor of surgery in the division of liver transplantation at UCLA.

Hormonal Therapy for Endometrial Tumors Discussed on OnLive

[OnLive](#) March 13 featured Dr. Sanaz Memarzadeh discussing hormonal therapy for endometrial tumors. Memarzadeh is an associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology and the director of the Gynecologic Oncology (GO) Discovery Lab at UCLA.

BRIEFS

A survey co-designed by UCLA researchers was mentioned in a Feb. 22 Bangkok Post article on the challenges faced by groups seeking to provide essential health services for ethnic communities in Myanmar.

The David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA was cited in a March 19 [Fortune](#) article on philanthropists, including entertainment mogul David Geffen, who donate to causes to make life better for the less fortunate.

A study conducted by researchers at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and the California Department of Public Health was featured in a March 13 [Medical NewsToday](#) article that showed California adults and children from communities receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed) reported eating more fruits and vegetables than their counterparts who did not receive education about healthy eating.

QUOTABLES

Dr. Sally Frautschy, professor of neurology and a member of Mary S. Easton Center for Alzheimer's Disease Research, was quoted in a March 11 [Wall Street Journal](#) article about a study that used ultrasound to clear brain plaques and restore memory in a mouse model of Alzheimer's.

Dr. Shaun Hussain, assistant clinical professor of pediatric neurology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was quoted March 14 in an [International Business Times](#) article about the lack of regulatory oversight of medical marijuana.

Dr. Emanuel Maidenberg, director of the UCLA Cognitive Behavior Therapy Clinic, and a clinical professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was quoted March 5 in a [Yahoo! News](#) report about the Boston bombers and strategies people can use to overcome things we fear.

Dr. Larissa Mooney, assistant professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, member of the UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs at the Semel Institute, and director, UCLA Addiction Medicine Clinic, was quoted in a February 19 [U.S. News & World Report](#) health segment about a class of drugs called Benzodiazapines that are useful for the treatment of acute anxiety and insomnia, but that can also be addictive.

Dr. George Slavich, an assistant professor of psychiatry and a member of the Cousins Center for Psychoneuroimmunology at the Semel Institute, was quoted in a March 16 [U.S. News & World Report](#) article about the possible role of chronic inflammation and depression.

Dr. Lawrence Taw, assistant clinical professor of medicine, UCLA Center for East-West Medicine, commented in the March/April issue of WebMD Magazine regarding expert tips for handling symptoms of chronic fatigue.

Dr. Daniel Vigil, health sciences associate clinical professor of family medicine, commented in a March 13 [KPCC 89.3FM](#) report about how much water one should drink when running a marathon.

Dr. Sean Young, assistant professor of family medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and executive director of the University of California Institute for Prediction Technology, commented in a March 17 [KGO 810AM](#) (San Francisco) report on a new Twitter feature that allows users to compile harassment reports.

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