



UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of March 16 - 22, 2012

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Meditation's Benefits for the Brain Attract Headlines

Donna Karan Healing Program at UCLA

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QUOTABLES

Meditation's Benefits for the Brain Attract Headlines

Research by Eileen Luders, assistant professor of neurology and member of the UCLA Laboratory of Neuro Imaging, suggesting that long-term meditation improves information processing, memory formation and decision making, was covered March 16 in [The Atlantic](#), March 19 by [KABC-Channel 7](#) news and [Men's Fitness](#); and March 20 by Nicaragua's [La Prensa](#).

Donna Karan Healing Program at UCLA

[KCBS-Channel 2](#) aired a March 19 story on fashion designer Donna Karan's Urban Zen Integrative Therapy program, which uses Eastern healing techniques to enhance the care of hospital patients at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center. Suzanne Travis, a nurse at UCLA Medical Center–Santa Monica, and Ellen Wilson, director of therapy services at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, were interviewed. The CBS NewsPath story was picked up by 65 CBS-affiliated stations across the country.

CBS Investigates Woman Who Heard Too Much

Head and neck surgeon Dr. Quinton Gopen was featured in a CBS Newspath segment about a woman who underwent surgery at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center to cure a rare disorder that caused her to hear her heartbeat and other sounds echoing in her ears 24 hours a day. The story aired March 19 and March 20 by CBS affiliates in 34 markets, including Kansas City, Salt Lake City and [Reno](#).

FOX Focuses on Heart Attack

KTTV-Channel 11's "Studio 11" featured an in-studio interview on March 20 with Dr. Karol Watson, associate clinical professor of medicine, division of cardiology, about how men and women may have different symptoms indicating a heart attack.

<http://showroom.multivisioninc.com/share.do?id=154934&key=RNXPYQRhxp00OEmwOZOlwEvqZXzGsfVL&email=RChampeau@mednet.ucla.edu>

Reagan's Daughter Helps Alzheimer's Patients

[KCBS-Channel 2](#) reported March 15 on the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center's new Alzheimer's and Dementia Care program, which was spearheaded by Patti Davis, daughter of former President Reagan. Davis and Dr. David Reuben, chief of geriatrics, were interviewed.

Medical Sites Cover Pancreatitis Study

[Medpage Today](#) and [Medical News Today](#) reported March 13 on a JAMA study and accompanying editorial about the possible benefits of a minimally invasive procedure for the treatment of a severe form of acute pancreatitis in comparison to conventional surgery. Dr. Joe Hines, chief of general surgery, authored the editorial.

Blue Shield, UCLA Continue Talks

The [Los Angeles Times](#) reported March 20 on an ongoing contract dispute between the UCLA Health System and health insurer Blue Shield of California over reimbursement rates for medical services.

Medscape Examines Alzheimer's Research

[Medscape](#) reported March 15 on a study that identified the intracellular mechanisms regulated by vitamin D3 that may help the body clear the brain of amyloid beta, the main component of plaques associated with 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.

HealthDay Explores Alternative Medicine for Sinusitis

[HealthDay News](#) reported March 21 on a study led by Dr. Jeffrey Suh, assistant professor-in-residence of head and neck surgery, suggesting that alternative medicinal treatments such as acupuncture can provide significant relief for patients with sinusitis when combined with standard Western medicine. Suh was quoted.

U.K. Paper Studies 'Seasickness Syndrome'

An article published March 22 in Britain's [Daily Mail](#) about *mal de debarquement* syndrome, an uncommon balance disorder that leaves sufferers feeling seasick, highlighted research on the syndrome by Dr. Yoon-Hee Cha, assistant professor-in-residence of neurology. Cha is quoted.

ANI Covers Dangers of Secondhand Smoke

[Asian News International](#) reports March 22 on a study co-authored by Dr. Lee Goodglick, associate professor of pathology and laboratory medicine and a researcher at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive

Cancer Center, showing that a cancer-causing agent in cigarette smoke affects a protein involved in cell functioning, even when the smoke is secondhand. Goodglick is quoted.

Patch Applauds Dancing Doctors

The Century City-Westwood edition of AOL's [Patch](#) reported March 21 on a flash mob planned by four medical students to surprise their classmates and families at Match Day. Medical student Lissa Yu, one of the organizers, was quoted.

FOX Focuses on Keeping the Brain Sharp

Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging, a professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Longevity Center, was interviewed March 19 on KTVI, a FOX affiliate in St. Louis, MO, about strategies to improve brain function from his book "The Alzheimer's Prevention Program."

Car Show Showcases Operation Mend

The SPEED Network's "Car Crazy" show aired a March 12 interview with Melanie Gideon, manager of UCLA's Operation Mend program, and Army Specialist Joey Paulk, an Operation Mend patient. The pair were interviewed during the 2011 SEMA Auto Show and discussed the Operation Mend Camaro—a 2011 custom-designed Chevrolet Camaro convertible that raised \$366,000 on auction to benefit the program.

Paper Spotlights ENT's Research

[Westside Today](#) ran a March 16 article about an event highlighting the work of Dr. Nina Shapiro, director of pediatric otolaryngology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA and associate professor of head and neck surgery. Guests learned about her research projects, including collaboration with RAND to create food safety guidelines that will create labels to warn of potential choking hazards.

Canadian Paper Features Breast Stem Cell Study

[The Canadian](#) newspaper reported March 19 on a study showing that radiation therapy for breast cancer, despite killing half of all tumor cells during each treatment, transforms other cancer cells into treatment-resistant cancer stem cells. Dr. Frank Pajonk, associate professor of radiation oncology and a researcher at UCLA's Jonsson Cancer Center, led the research.

BRIEFS

The Chase Child Life program at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA was cited March 21 in a [Fiscal Times](#) story about 13-year-old Cameron Cohen, a former patient who donated proceeds from the sale of his iPhone application to help buy electronic and entertainment items for other pediatric patients to enjoy at UCLA.

QUOTABLES

Dr. David Baron, family medicine physician and former chief of staff at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, commented in a March 16 [KNX AM1070](#) report about concerns over antibiotic resistance.

Robert Bilder, Michael Tennenbaum Family Professor of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences at the Semel Institute, was quoted in a March 19 online story on [KBSB](#) (Kansas City, MS) about a link between traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Dr. Jonathan Braun, chair of pathology and laboratory medicine, commented March 22 in [The Scientist](#) about research finding that exposure to bacteria and germs early in life helps shape the immune system, reducing vulnerability to asthma and inflammatory bowel diseases later in life.

Anne Coscarelli, director of the Simms/Mann-UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology, commented March 19 in an [EmpowHER](#) story on the psychosocial impacts of enrolling in cancer clinical trials.

Dr. Sherin Devaskar, physician-in-chief of Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was cited March 18 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) article that highlighted the benefits of children's hospitals.

Dr. Michael Fishbein, chief of decedent pathology and a professor of pathology and laboratory medicine, commented March 22 in an [Associated Press](#) article about the cause of death listed on the coroner's report for singer Whitney Houston.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented March 20 in [HealthDay News](#) about the link between vitamin E and women's heart health.

Dr. Daniel Geschwind, the Gordon and Virginia MacDonald Distinguished Chair in Human Genetics and a professor of neurology and psychiatry, commented March 22 in [Scientific American](#) about research suggesting that defective genes may explain uncontrolled brain growth in children with autism.

Dr. Christopher Giza, associate professor of pediatric neurology and neurosurgery, was quoted March 20 in [MedPage Today](#) on efforts to study the effects of traumatic brain injuries in wounded military personnel.

David Hovda, director of the UCLA Brain Injury Research Center and professor of neurosurgery, commented March 19 in [Nature](#) about whether a brain injury could have played a role in a soldier's killing of civilians in Afghanistan.

Aimee Hunter, visiting assistant professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at the Semel Institute, was quoted March 21 in [Time](#) magazine about using electroconvulsive therapy to treat depression.

Dr. Patricia Lester, associate professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director, Project FOCUS (Families OverComing Under Stress), was quoted in the March 20 [Huffington Post](#) about returning veterans who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder. Lester was part of a discussion sponsored by the Friends of the Semel Institute.

Dr. Stephen Marder, professor-in-residence of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and the Veterans Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, was quoted March 21 in an [Associated Press](#) article about brief reactive psychosis.

Steven Shoptaw, professor of family medicine and director of the UCLA Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, was quoted March 14 in the [Orange County Register](#) about an increase in cocaine use among workers in safety-sensitive jobs.

Dr. Wendy Slusser, professor of pediatrics and public health and director of the UCLA Fit for Healthy Weight program, was quoted March 21 in the [Kern Valley Sun](#) on kids' overconsumption of sugar in food and drinks.

Dr. Eric Vilain, chief of pediatric genetics and director of the UCLA Institute for Society and Genetics, commented March 22 in [The Atlantic](#) about whether humans provide clues that predict their future sexual orientation from a young age.

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