



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT  
For the week of March 20-26, 2015**

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#### **Media Highlight New Tests 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 widely by the media about two of her research studies. One study showed 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 other was the development of a "gold standard" way of measuring atrophy in the brain, another characteristic of the disease. Coverage included March 12 on [MyFoxLA.com](#); March 13 on [Scicasts.com](#); March 15 on [ImperialValleyNews.com](#); March 25 on [HealthCanal](#), [MedicalXpress](#), and [MyNewsLA.com](#); March 26 on [News-Medical.net](#), [Newkerala.com](#), [Domain-B](#), [WestsideToday](#), [NeurologyAdvisor](#), and [Medical News Today](#). Apostolova was also interviewed March 26 on [KPCC 89.3FM](#).

#### **Medically Unnecessary Advanced Imaging Studies in the ER**

[MedPage Today](#) and [HealthDay News](#) March 24, and [Newsmax Health](#) March 25 reported on research led by Dr. Hemal Kanzaria, an emergency medicine physician at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and a Veterans Affairs/Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar. The study provides insights into why physicians order radiology tests they consider "medically unnecessary" and offers potential solutions to overcoming this problem. The HealthDay story also ran on [Philly.com](#), [Doctors Lounge](#), [Physicians News Digest](#), [Health24](#) and [MedicalXpress](#).

#### **Doctors Discuss Angelina Jolie-Pitt's Decision to Remove Ovaries**

Dr. Sanaz Memarzadeh, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted in March 24 stories on [KPCC 89.3FM](#), [KNX 1070AM](#), [Access Hollywood](#), [ABC23.com](#), and [KFI 640AM](#) about actor/director Angelina Jolie-Pitt's decision to remove her fallopian tubes and ovaries in a preventive surgery against ovarian cancer. In addition, Dr. Deanna Attai, UCLA breast surgeon based in Burbank and assistant clinical professor of surgery, commented on [KTTV-Channel 11](#) March 24 about whether other women should consider the surgery to reduce their risk of ovarian cancer.

#### **Science Magazines Cover Probiotic Study**

A Feb. 17 [Scientific American](#) article that also ran in [Nature](#) featured the impact of microbes on the interactions between the brain and gut. The story included a UCLA study that provided the first evidence that bacteria ingested in food can affect brain function in humans. Dr. Emeran Mayer, professor of medicine in the division of digestive diseases who is also a professor of physiology and psychiatry, and Dr. Kirsten Tillisch, associate professor of medicine in the division of digestive diseases, were quoted.

#### **New York Times Spotlights Mindful Awareness Class at Local Museum**

Diana Winston, director of mindfulness education at the UCLA Mindful Awareness Research Center, was featured in a March 20 [New York Times](#) article about a free Mindful Awareness session she teaches each Thursday at the Hammer Museum in Westwood.

#### **Story on Doctor Shortage Goes Nationwide**

A March 9 [KNBC-Channel 4](#) interview with Dr. Clarence Braddock, vice dean for education at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and chief medical education officer for UCLA Health System, about the projected U.S. physician shortage by 2025 was syndicated by more than 60 ABC, CBS, FOX and NBC affiliates nationwide, including markets in Baltimore, Milwaukee and Kansas City. UCLA medical students Nima Sassiri, Rebekah Rogers and Jessica Pasquawere also were interviewed.

#### **HIV Linked to Age-Accelerating Cellular Changes**

[Examiner.com](#) and [HIV Plus](#) magazine reported March 25 on research suggesting that the virus that causes AIDS accelerates age-related epigenetic changes by about 14 years. Epigenetics are changes to the DNA that in turn lead to changes in expression of gene levels without altering the inherited genetic code. These epigenetic changes affect biological processes. The study was published in the peer reviewed on-line journal PLOS ONE. Study co-author Dr. Beth Jamieson, professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and director of the UCLA Flow Cytometry Core, was quoted in the coverage.

### **Public Health Experts Comment on Failed Fast Food Ordinance**

Dr. Alex Ortega, professor of public health at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in a March 19 [Associated Press](#) story about a zoning ordinance in South L.A. restricting the opening of new fast-food restaurants that did not curb obesity or improve diets of local residents. In addition, Dr. Michael Prelip, Fielding school associate dean of practice across the life course and professor of community health sciences, also spoke to [NBC Nightly News](#) March 22 about the complexity of the obesity epidemic in relation to the failed ordinance.

### **ECMO Helps Save Heart Patient**

[KABC-Channel 7](#) March 24 featured a heart attack patient whose life was saved with the use of a device called ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation) that took over the function of his heart and lungs, allowing him to be stabilized to receive a needed stent to open the blockage to his heart. Dr. Eric Savitsky, professor of emergency medicine at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and Dr. William Suh, clinical assistant professor of medicine in the division of cardiology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, were interviewed. Additional outlets covering the story included [WFRV-TV](#) (Green Bay, Wis.), [KSAT-TV](#) (San Antonio, Texas), [WFMZ-TV](#) (Philadelphia), [WNDU-TV](#) (South Bend, Ind.), and [WTAJ-TV](#) (Altoona, Pa.), among many others.

### **Bone Fracture Risk with Weight Gain and Loss**

[U-T San Diego](#) reported March 24 on research led by Dr. Carolyn Crandall, professor of general internal medicine and health services research, finding that the risk of bone fractures increases with both weight gain and loss in older women. The study was published in the British Medical Journal.

### **Should Physicians Discuss Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals with Patients?**

Dr. Stanley Korenman, professor of medicine in the division of endocrinology and associate dean for ethics, was featured in an article in the March issue of [Endocrine Today](#) examining whether endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) pose a threat to humans.

### **HealthLeaders Media Counts Hispanic Physicians**

A study led by Dr. Gloria Sanchez, associate clinical professor of family medicine, finding that the rate of Hispanic physicians per 100,000 population has fallen by 22 percent since 1980 even as the Hispanic population has grown by 243 percent, was highlighted in a March 26 [HealthLeaders Media](#) story. Sanchez was quoted.

### **Creating a Safer and Lower Cost Method to Target Pancreatic Cancer**

[Nanotechnology Now](#) March 23, [Controlled Environments](#) March 24, and [Bioscience Technology](#) March 25 reported on researchers at California NanoSystems Institute and UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center (JCCC) that combined their nanotechnology expertise to create a new treatment that may solve some of the problems of using chemotherapy to treat pancreatic cancer. Dr. Huan Meng, adjunct assistant professor of nanomedicine and Dr. Andre Nel, professor in the departments of medicine and pediatrics, were quoted. Meng and Nels are JCCC members.

### **Combination Therapy Fights Melanoma**

[News-Medical.net](#) March 20 and [Immuno-oncology News](#) March 25 reported on a new triple combination therapy that has shown promising signs of controlling advanced melanoma more effectively and with fewer side effects than previous treatments. Dr. Antoni Ribas, professor of medicine in the division of hematology/ oncology and director of the tumor immunology program area at UCLA's Jonsson

Comprehensive Cancer Center, and Dr. Siwen Hu-Lieskovan, clinical instructor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology, were quoted.

### **Drug Combo Can Reduce Bladder Cancer Tumors**

[EIN News](#) and [Global Newswire](#) March 24 and [News-Medical](#) March 26 reported on experimental drug AR-42 and cisplatin. When taken in combination, AR-42 was able to kill bladder cancer cells and also improve the efficacy and overall response rate of cisplatin, which could result in lower toxicities in patients. Dr. Arnold I. Chin, assistant professor of urology and member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted.

### **More Health Websites Note Similar Causes for Two Disorders**

Dr. Jamie Feusner, associate professor of psychiatry and director of UCLA's Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder Intensive Treatment Program, and Wei Li, a graduate student in Feusner's lab, were featured March 9 by [redOrbit.com](#), [Medical Daily](#), [News-Medical.net](#), and [BioscienceTechnology](#) regarding their study finding that people with anorexia nervosa and body dysmorphic disorder have similar irregularities in their brains that affect their ability to process visual information.

### **Media Report on Latinos and Access to Health Care**

Dr. Alex Ortega, a professor of public health at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was featured March 19 by [MedicalXpress](#) and the [Sierra SunTimes](#), and March 20 in [News-Medical.net](#), [FierceHealthPayer.com](#), and [ctnews.com](#) about his study of Latino access to health care, the difficulties they still have in accessing health care despite the passage of the Affordable Care Act, and the need to provide coverage for the undocumented.

### **Health Site Explores Body's Biological Clock**

[Medical Daily](#) reported March 25 on a study by Dr. Steve Horvath, a professor of human genetics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a professor of biostatistics at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, finding that different organs of the body age at different biological speeds.

### **Health Care Cost Study Cited**

[Health Data Management](#) reported March 20 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.

### **Medical Marijuana for Pediatric Patients**

[PBS's SoCal](#) program aired March 20 a show on medical marijuana and discussed the use of a controversial cannabis oil to help children with epileptic seizures. Dr. Shaun Hussain, assistant clinical professor of pediatric neurology and director of the Infantile Spasms Program at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was a guest.

### **WebMD Focuses on Hair Health**

Dr. Carolyn Goh, assistant clinical professor of medicine in the division of dermatology, was featured in a March 20 [WebMD](#) story on shampooing, hair and scalp health.

### **Medi-Cal Could Expand Under Obama Deportation Relief Plan**

Dr. Nadereh Pourat, professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, was quoted in a March 25 [Los Angeles Times](#) article that showcases UCLA/UC Berkeley research on the potential impact of President Obama's deportation relief plan on Medi-Cal registration numbers. [California Healthline](#) also ran a synopsis of the article March 26.

### **Blue Shield of California Loses Tax-Exempt Status**

[Here and Now](#) March 19 interviewed Dr. Shana Alex Charles, director of health insurance studies with the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, for her insight into how Blue Shield's loss of the tax-exempt status in the state could impact the company and its customers.

## BRIEFS

UCLA Health was noted in a March 20 [KPCC 89.3FM](#) segment on a Los Angeles County public health department announcement that it has joined with dozens of hospitals to adopt standardized guidelines for their emergency departments to avoid over prescribing opioid pain medications.

UCLA's Operation Mend program was cited in a March 24 [Military Times](#) article that featured Operation Mend patient Army Capt. Mark Wise. Wise will take on what's been called the "toughest footrace on Earth" — the infamous [Marathon des Sables](#), a six-day, 156-mile jaunt through the sands, rocky bluffs and stones of the Sahara Desert in an effort to raise awareness about Veterans' causes.

## QUOTABLES

Dr. Peter Butler, director of the Larry L. Hillblom Islet Research Center, was quoted in a March 26 [WebMD](#) article about how diabetes affects the brain.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented in a March 26 [HealthDay News](#) story that also ran on [Philly.com](#) regarding a Centers for Disease Control report on an increase in deaths in the United States due to high blood pressure.

Dr. Christopher Giza, director of the UCLA Steve Tisch BrainSPORT Program and professor of pediatrics and neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was quoted in a March 20 [Huffington Post](#) article comparing the health risks of cycling to football.

Dr. Alison Grimes, director of the UCLA Audiology Clinic and assistant clinical professor in head and neck surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, commented in a March 17 [AARP.org](#) article and slideshow about practical strategies to help employees manage their hearing loss in the workplace.

Dana Hunnes, senior dietician at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, commented in a March 22 [NBC.com](#) story that also ran on the website for NBC affiliate [WRCB-TV](#) (Chattanooga, Tenn.) about how plant-based pea protein is becoming the latest food trend.

Dr. Gerald Kominski, director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in a March 20 [Los Angeles Times](#) article about Blue Shield of California acquiring Monterey Park-based insurance company Care1st. The article was republished March 24 by [FierceHealthPayer.com](#).

Dr. Elizabeth Laugeson, an assistant clinical professor of psychiatry in the Semel Institute and director of The Help Group - UCLA Autism Research Alliance, was quoted in the March 23 [Washington Post](#) about the social needs of adults with autism. Her PEERS program (Program for the Education and Enrichment of Relational Skills), that teaches basic social skills to high functioning children and teens with autism, was also cited.

Dr. Leena Nathan, obstetrician/gynecologist at UCLA Health-Westlake Village, was quoted extensively in the December issue of [Men's Journal](#) in an article on what men should know about breasts.

Dr. Michael Ong, associate professor in residence of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, commented March 23 in the [San Bernardino Sun](#) and March 24 on KPCC 89.3FM's "[AirTalk](#)" about a California Department of Public Health ad campaign called "Wake Up" that educates the public about the dangers of e-cigarettes.

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