



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of March 28-April 3, 2014**

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A New Approach to Huntington's Disease?

New York Times Highlights Hospital-Dependent Patients

News Outlets Herald Cell Metabolism Discovery

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The Scientist Reviews Challenges in Cancer Nanotechnology

Health Site Highlights Study on Detecting Cancer Spread

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UCLA Hospitals Serve up Antibiotic-Free Beef and Chicken

The [Los Angeles Times](#) April 1 and [Yahoo! News](#), [Westwood Patch](#), [Examiner.com](#), the Riverside [Press-Enterprise](#), [Healthcare Times](#), [Seattle Times](#), [Food Service Director](#), [Food Management](#), [Culinary Exchange](#), [Meat Poultry.com](#), [Austin-American Statesman](#), [Boston Globe.com](#), [California Business Journal](#), [Cincinnati Inquirer](#), [MedIndia](#), [KFMB-TV](#) (San Diego), [KFRE-TV](#) (Fresno, Calif.) and others April 2 covered the UCLA Health System launch of antibiotic-free beef and chicken breast offerings at its hospitals, one of the first in Southern California to offer such a healthy alternative to patients, staff and visitors. Dr. Daniel Uslan, assistant clinical professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, and Patricia Oliver, director of nutrition services for UCLA Health System, were quoted in the LA Times article. Dr. David Feinberg, president of the UCLA Health System and associate vice chancellor, was quoted in the additional coverage. Gabriel Gomez, executive chef, UCLA Health System, was featured in a photo that ran with the LA Times story.

A New Approach to Huntington's Disease?

New research finding that tweaking a specific cell type's ability to absorb potassium in the brain improved walking and prolonged survival in a mouse model of Huntington's disease was reported March 31 by [Asian News International](#), [EIN NewsDesk](#), [News-Medical.net](#), [Examiner.com](#), [Health Canal](#) and [redOrbit](#); and March 30 by [Medical Daily](#), [MedicalXpress](#) and [Science Codex](#). Published March 30 in *Nature Neuroscience*, the study was led by Dr. Baljit Khkha, professor of physiology and neurobiology, and Dr. Michael Sofroniew, professor of neurobiology. The ANI report was syndicated by [Yahoo! News India](#), [India NewsTrack](#) and Business Standard.

New York Times Highlights Hospital-Dependent Patients

A New York Times [blog](#) April 3 highlighted a New England Journal of Medicine perspective piece co-authored by Dr. David Reuben, chief of the division of geriatrics, on hospital-dependent patients whose health is so fragile that they repeatedly return to hospital. Reuben was quoted.

News Outlets Herald Cell Metabolism Discovery

[Health News Digest](#) and [Examiner.com](#) April 1, and [HealthCanal](#), [EIN Newsdesk](#), [Drug Discovery and Development](#) and [R&D](#) April 2 covered a study from UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center (JCCC) that explains how viruses reprogram the cells they invade to promote their growth, leading to potential treatments for cancer or even the common cold. Heather Christofk, JCCC member and assistant professor of molecular & medical pharmacology, was quoted.

Leading Oncology Outlet Interviews Breast Cancer Expert

[OncLive](#) April 1 interviewed Dr. Richard Finn, member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer and associate professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology regarding new and existing therapies in breast cancer and the latest advancements to give patients the best available treatment options.

The Scientist Reviews Challenges in Cancer Nanotechnology

[The Scientist](#) April 1 featured a guest editorial by Dean Ho, member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer and co-director of the Jane and Jerry Weintraub Center for Reconstructive Biotechnology, exploring how cancer nanomedicine possesses the versatility required to uniquely overcome some of the most challenging impediments to treatment success.

Health Site Highlights Study on Detecting Cancer Spread

[Oncology Nurse Provider](#) April 1 featured a 10-year UCLA study on sentinel lymph node biopsy for detecting the spread of melanoma to the lymph nodes, which confirmed that patients who had the biopsy technique lived longer without their disease getting worse and were less likely to die from melanoma. Dr. Alistair Cochran, professor of surgery and of pathology & laboratory medicine, was quoted in the coverage.

Hospital Named Among the Top 100 U.S. Hospitals

City News Service and [Patch.com](#) reported April 2 that Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center was listed among the top U.S. hospitals by Becker's Hospital Review. The list was the result of Becker's own research and consideration of nominations, plus a review of the various rankings that are put out each year, including those from U.S. News & World Report, Truven Health Analytics and The LeapFrog Group.

Kidney Cancer Grant Garners Coverage

[Examiner.com](#) and [Phys.org](#) April 1 and [News-Medical.net](#) April 2 reported on a \$3 million grant to Dr. Ira Kurtz to fund research on key kidney proteins. Kurtz holds the Factor Chair in nephrology and serves as chief of the division of nephrology.

Placing Critical Patients in Suspended Animation

Dr. Paul Vespa, director of the neurocritical care program at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and a professor of neurosurgery and neurology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was interviewed March 29 by [NBCNews.com](#) about a new clinical trial placing trauma victims in a state of suspension by inducing hypothermia to help slow down cellular activity.

KTLA Investigates the Science of Sneezing

Dr. Nina Shapiro, a professor of head and neck surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and director of pediatric otolaryngology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, addressed the science behind sneezing in a March 30 [KTLA-Channel 5](#) report.

Extra! Explores Breakthroughs in Brain Surgery

Dr. Neil Martin, chair of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was featured April 2 on [Extra!](#) He described how UCLA researchers are blending technology with medicine to bring new hope to people with spinal-cord injuries, enable surgeons to virtually rehearse procedures and treat people with Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease using brain implants.

Medical Support for International Adoptions and Travel

[KABC-Channel 7](#) and the [Beverly Hills Courier](#) reported March 28 on the new International Adoption and Travel Clinic at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA which reviews potential adoptees' health records, offers medical assessments and provides other support services to parents adopting children from foreign countries. Dr. Nava Yeganeh, clinical instructor in pediatric infectious diseases at Mattel, was interviewed by KABC. Dr. Yvonne Bryson, professor and chief of pediatric infectious diseases at Mattel, was quoted in the Beverly Hills Courier.

Fox News Explains Why Songs Can Get Stuck in Your Head

Dr. Jamie Feusner, associate professor of psychiatry and director of the Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder Intensive Treatment Program, was featured in a March 27 [KTTV-Channel 11](#) news segment about so-called "ear worms," a form of obsessive compulsive disorder where songs become stuck in your mind and play over and over.

Prof Pens Article about the State of Psychiatry

Dr. Joseph M. Pierre, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and the co-chief of the Schizophrenia Treatment Unit at the VA West Los Angeles, wrote an article in the March 24 [Aeon Magazine](#) about the current state of the field of psychiatry, and its evolution to offering a tailored range of interventions for patients.

KNBC Notes that Dentists are Leaving California

Dr. Nadereh Pourat, director of research at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was interviewed March 31 by [KNBC-Channel 4](#) regarding a study showing that the number of dentists licensed to practice in California who opt to reside or work outside the state has been growing since 2008.

NY Times Examines Porn's Impact on Teens

Dr. Rory Reid, a research psychologist and assistant professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was quoted in a March 28 [New York Times](#) column spotlighting the inconclusive results of academic studies that looked at the effect of pornography on teenagers.

NPR Discusses Insurance under the Affordable Care Act

Dr. Dylan Roby, director of the health economics and evaluation research program at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and an assistant professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was interviewed March 30 for an NPR "[All Things Considered](#)" segment on how the Affordable Care Act has affected patients, doctors and insurance companies in California and the nation.

Expansion of UCLA Health in the San Fernando Valley

[San Fernando Valley Business Journal](#) March 24 reported on UCLA Health System's expanding network in the San Fernando Valley. The article referenced UCLA offices in Porter Ranch, Santa Clarita, Westlake Village and Thousand Oaks, as well as planned facilities for Simi Valley, Calabasas and the Burbank-North Hollywood area. Dr. David Feinberg, president of the UCLA Health System and associate vice chancellor, and Dr. Matteo Dinolfo, medical director of the UCLA Department of Medicine's community offices, were quoted.

UCLA Malibu Moves to New Location

[The Malibu Times](#) reported April 2 on the opening of UCLA Health System's new Malibu office. The 4,000-square-foot space, which includes 10 exam rooms, imaging technology and a laboratory, will continue to provide medical care to more than 4,500 Malibu-area residents. Dr. Scott Bateman, longtime family medicine physician at the UCLA Malibu practice, was quoted. His colleagues, Dr. Milica Simpson and Dr. Andrea Shaw, both specialists in internal medicine and pediatrics, were referenced, as was Bateman's daughter, Dr. Ashley Bateman, who practices family medicine at UCLA-Thousand Oaks.

Examiner.com Shows How Socioeconomic Status Can Affect Bone Strength

[Examiner.com](#) reported April 3 on a study led by Dr. Carolyn Crandall, professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, suggesting that social class may play a significant role in how likely middle-aged African-American or Asian women are to suffer bone fractures.

BRIEFS

[MedPage Today](#) March 31 cited an *Annals of Internal Medicine* editorial co-authored by Dr. Judith Currier, chief of the division of infectious diseases, which commented on a study suggesting that men with HIV have a higher risk of developing coronary artery plaque than uninfected men.

Dr. Elizabeth Marcus, assistant professor of pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology and nutrition at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was cited April 1 in a [Medscape Medical News](#) article about the use of probiotics to treat colicky babies.

An April 2 [Tampa Bay Times](#) article included UCLA research that explored the role of curcumin, a chemical found in turmeric spice, and Vitamin D-3 that may enhance the immune system's ability to clear the brain of amyloid-beta, a hallmark of Alzheimer's disease.

[The Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel](#) reported April 2 on a study finding that 40 percent of the world's 50 largest drug companies had at least one board member who held a leadership position at a U.S. academic medical center, including from UCLA.

QUOTABLES

Dr. Carrie Bearden, clinical neuropsychologist and associate professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was quoted in the March 25 [New Scientist](#) magazine about the possible use of stem cells to treat bipolar disorder.

Susan Bowerman, assistant director of the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition, commented in a March 27 [Orange County Register](#) article about the FDA's proposed changes to nutrition labels.

Dr. Peter Butler, professor of medicine in the division of endocrinology and director of the Larry L. Hillblom Islet Research Center, was quoted in a March 31 [Reuters Health](#) report on a new study showing that adoption of healthy behaviors by people newly diagnosed with diabetes can reduce their risk for developing heart disease.

Dr. Andrew Charles, UCLA's Meyer and Renee Luskin Professor of Migraine and Headache Studies and director of the headache research and treatment program in the UCLA Department of Neurology, was quoted in [two](#) March 28 [Los Angeles Times](#) articles about the latest research on migraines and potential new treatments.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented in an April 3 [HealthDay News](#) story about finding heart disease in mummies. He was also quoted March 31 in a [HealthDay News](#) article about an experimental cholesterol-lowering drug and in another [HealthDay News](#) article about the link between poor heart health and Alzheimer's disease risk. He was also quoted in a March 30 [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#) article about research on heart failure and depression and in a March 27 [HealthDay News](#) article about how exercise affects men and women differently.

Nalo Hamilton, assistant professor of nursing, discussed the importance of nurse-led oncology research in a March 24 [nurse.com](#) story.

Nancee Jaffe, a dietician with the UCLA Celiac Disease Program, commented in a March 27 [Santa Cruz Sentinel](#) article about the trend of gluten-free products and baked goods.

Sally Maliski, associate professor of nursing, shared her views on the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in oncology research in a March 31 story on [nurse.com](#).

Dr. William J. McCarthy, an adjunct associate professor in the department of health services, UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in the April 1 [Los Angeles Times](#) about how much food is wasted each day in the L.A. Unified School District.

Dr. Marshall Morgan, professor and chief of emergency medicine at the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and the David Geffen School of Medicine and president of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, commented in a March 16 Los Angeles [Daily News](#) article about moving eligible seniors and disabled residents covered under both Medicare and Medi-Cal into a new managed care program called Cal MediConnect.

Dr. Nicole Prause, a researcher in the department of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was quoted in the April [Monitor of Psychology](#) magazine about her research that examined brain responses to sex-related pictures which suggested there is no such thing as a true addiction to pornography.

Dr. Ivan Rokos, associate clinical professor of emergency medicine, Olive-View UCLA Medical Center and the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, commented in a March 30 [MedPage Today](#) on-camera interview about a study exploring the effectiveness of a highly sensitive diagnostic marker for heart problems that can be obtained upon arrival at the emergency room and its potential utility in identifying specific chest pain patients that may be safe for early discharge from the emergency department.

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