



UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of April 3-9, 2015

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PBS Features Cancer Researcher

What Fighting Breast Cancer Costs

KABC, Other Media Highlight New Tests for Alzheimer's

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PBS Features Cancer Researcher

Dr. Dennis Slamon, professor and executive vice chair for research, department of medicine in hematology/oncology, and director of transitional research at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, appeared March 30 on [PBS TV](#) in a three-part, six-hour series on "Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies." Produced by Ken Burns, the series included the expertise of biomedical scientists, including Slamon, whose discoveries have changed the way doctors treat cancer. It is based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning book by Columbia oncologist Siddhartha Mukherjee.

What Fighting Breast Cancer Costs

A research study co-authored by Dr. Aaron Feinstein, now a resident in head and neck surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, about the costs of treating metastasized breast cancer was reported April 6 by [NBC News.com](#), [HealthDay News](#) and [Science Codex](#); April 7 by [WebMD](#), [Diabetes Insider](#) and the New [Hampshire Voice](#); and April 9 by [Medscape](#) and [Inland News Today](#). Feinstein was quoted.

KABC, Other Media Highlight New Tests for Alzheimer's

Dr. Liana Apostolova, an associate professor of neurology and director of the neuroimaging laboratory at the Mary S. Easton Center for Alzheimer's Disease Research at UCLA, was featured April 2 in a [KABC-Channel 7](#) news segment about her development of a "gold standard" way of measuring atrophy in the brain, a hallmark of the disease. Other outlets featuring the study include [Healio](#) April 6, [Medscape](#) April 1, [PsychCentral](#) and [Drug Discovery & Development](#) March 27 and [Examiner.com](#), [Zee News](#) and [Bioscience Technology](#) March 26.

Media Cover Concussion Study

[The Associated Press](#), [New York Times](#), [Los Angeles Times](#), [CNN](#), [ESPN](#), [Headlines and Global News](#), and many others April 6 covered a study that takes another step toward the early understanding of a degenerative brain condition called chronic traumatic encephalopathy, or CTE, which affects athletes in contact sports who are exposed to repetitive brain injuries. The small study used a new imaging tool and found a strikingly similar pattern of abnormal protein deposits in the brains of retired NFL players who suffered from concussions. Study authors Dr. Jorge Barrio, professor of molecular and medical pharmacology and Dr. Vladimir Kepe, a research pharmacologist in molecular and medical pharmacology, were quoted in some of the coverage. The Associated Press story also ran in UT San Diego, the Augusta Chronicle, the Detroit News, Huffington Post and many others.

HIV Linked to Age-Accelerating Cellular Changes

[Health Canal](#) April 4, [MedicalXpress](#) and [Bioscience Technology](#) April 6; and [Helio-Infectious Disease News](#) and [Medical News Today](#) April 8 reported 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.

California Considers Legislation on Mandatory Vaccinations

[KCBS-Channel 2/KCAL-Channel 9](#) April 8 aired a report on proposed legislation on mandatory vaccines for children in California public schools. Dr. Dennis Woo, staff pediatrician at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, and a family from his clinic were interviewed for the story.

Helping Those with Autism Find Love

The [Deseret News](#) April 3 focused on ways unique programs are helping people with autism conquer the struggles they face when dating. Dr. Elizabeth Laugeson, an assistant clinical professor of psychiatry in the Semel Institute, was interviewed. Laugeson runs the UCLA PEERS program, the [Program for the Education and Enrichment of Relational Skills](#), that teaches basic social skills to high functioning children and teens with autism. It's also a way to help those with autism feel more comfortable in social situations. The program also helps students who have trouble with ADHD, depression and other mental health disorders.

German Medical Web Site Reports on Self-acupressure to Relieve Constipation

[NetDoktor](#) (Germany) reported April 9 on research led by Dr. Ryan Abbott, visiting assistant professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, finding that perineal self-acupressure, a simple technique involving the application of external pressure to the perineum, was an effective treatment for constipation. Abbott is also a researcher and educator at the UCLA Center for East-West Medicine.

Patient Passports Speed Emergency Care For Medically Complex Children

[ED Management](#) profiled April 8 a new tool called the Patient Passport created by medical staff and parents of patients at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA. The passport summarizes the medical history of a child with complex health issues into a one-page document that can be reviewed quickly by staff in the emergency department who are unfamiliar with the patient. Dr. Tanya Arora, assistant clinical professor at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA and chair of the Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA Patient and Family Centered Care Committee, and Kerry Gold, an administrative /pediatric liaison nurse at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, were interviewed.

Income Inequality Affects Access to Breast Cancer Screening Technology

Research on how income inequality affects access to breast cancer screening technology by Dr. Ninez Ponce, professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was featured April 6 in [Health Canal](#); April 7 in [California Healthline](#), [MedicalXpress](#) and [NewsOK](#); and April 8 in the [Herald Journal News](#).

“We Are What We Build”: How Suburban Planning Has Affected American Health

Dr. Richard Jackson, professor of environmental health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was interviewed April 8 by radio station [WFAE 90.7FM](#) (Charlotte, N.C.) on urban sprawl and its effect on obesity, asthma, diabetes and more in the U.S.

Huffington Post Features UCLA Urologist

Dr. Jacob Rajfer, a professor of urology, was featured April 9 in a [Huffington Post](#) story on erectile dysfunction.

Thankful Liver Transplant Recipient Urges Organ Donation

The [Malibu Times](#) April 8 ran a letter to the editor from a man who received a life-saving liver transplant at UCLA. The story cited Dr. Leonard Goldstein, an assistant clinical professor of medicine, and Dr. Ronald Busuttill, executive chair of the surgery department and chief of UCLA's division of liver and pancreas transplantation.

Parents Magazine Rates UCLA Birthing Suites

The April issue of [Parents](#) magazine featured the luxury birthing suites at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center.

Depression Study Continues to Draw Attention

[Medscape](#) April 6 and [HealthCanal](#) April 2 reported on a study that showed electroconvulsive therapy changes the brain's structure. Dr. Katherine L. Narr, an associate professor of neurology, and Dr. Shantanu H. Joshi, an assistant professor of neurology, headed up the study.

BRIEFS

Dr. Ninez Ponce, professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and associate center director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, was mentioned in a [Health Affairs](#) blog post April 2 promoting an upcoming National Press Club forum in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Thomas Belin, professor of biostatistics at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, and psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was mentioned in March 30 [Santa Monica Observer](#) and April 3 [Santa Monica Mirror](#) and [Los Angeles Magazine](#) stories about a team of Santa Monica High School students that picked up more than 40,000 cigarette butts as part of their first place-winning Los Angeles County Science Fair project.

[Al Jazeera America](#) April 6 referenced UCLA Center for Health Policy Research data on soda and sugar-sweetened beverage consumption among children in a story about how more than a million Californians lack reliable access to clean water.

A [New America Media](#) article from April 8 references a joint study by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and UC Berkeley's Center for Labor on how deferred action plans could make hundreds of thousands of undocumented Californians potentially eligible for Medi-Cal.

The [Malibu Times](#) cited April 8 the pediatric epilepsy program at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA in a story about a local girl who is being treated by UCLA pediatric neurologists. The girl's family has held several fundraisers to benefit research at UCLA.

QUOTABLES

Dr. Brenda Bursch, a professor of psychiatry/biobehavioral sciences and pediatrics at the Semel Institute and Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was interviewed by [Lohud, The Journal News](#) for an April 9 story on Munchausen syndrome by proxy.

Dr. Melissa Chun, director of the Vision Rehabilitation Center at Stein Eye Institute at UCLA, was quoted April 4 in a [Los Angeles Business Journal](#) article about a device that provides rudimentary limited sight to blind patients and if it can help improve their quality of life.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented in an April 6 [HealthDay News](#) story regarding a study showing that physically active middle-aged men and women have little chance of suffering cardiac arrest while playing sports.

Dr. Richard Jackson, professor of environmental health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in an April 4 [Business Standard](#) opinion piece that endorsed the need for urban development policies that consider public health.

Dr. Jenny Kim, clinical professor of medicine in the division of dermatology, commented April 5 in a [USA Today](#) story about skin care product labels.

Dr. Daniel Uslan, associate clinical professor of infectious diseases and public health and associate medical director of clinical epidemiology and infection prevention at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, was quoted in an April 2 [Wall St. Journal](#) report on the use of antibiotics in food-producing livestock, which has been linked to antibiotic resistance in humans.

Dr. Daniel Vigil, health sciences associate clinical professor of family medicine, commented in an April 7 [Buzzfeed](#) story about research finding that some dietary supplements contain an amphetamine-like chemical.

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