



UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT

For the week of April 6 - 12, 2012

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The Guardian Spotlights Brain Cells with Good Memory

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L.A. Times, A.P. Mark Passing of Public-Health Visionary

The [Los Angeles Times](#) and [Associated Press](#) ran April 12 obituaries on Dr. Lester Breslow, a former dean of UCLA's Fielding School of Public Health, who was among the first to understand how healthy habits contribute to longevity and quality of life. He died April 9.

AFP Investigates Childhood Obesity Research

The April 9 [New York Daily News](#) and April 6 [Yahoo News](#) syndicated an Agence France Press report on research by Dr. Sherin Devaskar, executive chair of pediatrics at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, finding that low birth-weight babies' risk of becoming overweight during childhood can be reduced by regulating calorie intake during infancy. Devaskar was quoted. The study also appeared April 6 on [Med India](#).

The Guardian Spotlights Brain Cells with Good Memory

Britain's [Guardian](#) reported April 6 about memory research by Dr. Itzhak Fried, professor of neurosurgery, showing that the same single brain cell in the hippocampus fires when an individual views images of, hears about or reads about a particular famous person. Fried was quoted.

Reuters Health Traces Kidney-Donor Demographics

[Reuters Health](#) reported April 9 on research co-led by Dr. Gabriel Danovitch, professor of nephrology and medical director of the kidney and pancreas transplant program, finding that American kidney recipients with non-family live donors tend to be white, better educated and more affluent. Danovitch was quoted. The study was published in the *Journal of Urology*.

Chicago Tribune Examines Sex Addiction

An article in the April 11 [Chicago Tribune](#) about whether compulsive sexual behavior should be recognized as a mental illness by mental health professionals highlighted research by Rory Reid, a postdoctoral scholar in psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at the Semel Institute.

UPI Studies Genetic Pieces of Autism Puzzle

[United Press International](#) reported April 6 on a study co-led by Dr. Daniel Geschwind, UCLA's Gordon and Virginia MacDonald Distinguished Professor of Human Genetics and a professor of neurology and psychiatry, showing that two independent mutations disrupt a single gene in children with autism, but not in their non-autistic siblings or parents.

Column Profiles Heart-Transplant Recipient

The [Los Angeles Daily News](#), [Whittier Daily News](#), [Pasadena Star-News](#) and [San Gabriel Tribune](#) ran an April 5 column by Dr. Claire Panosian Dunavan, clinical professor of infectious diseases, about a former heart-transplant patient who went on to live an athletic, adventurous and healthy life.

Blog Explores Genes Linked to PTSD

An April 11 article in the blog [One Med Place](#) about post-traumatic stress disorder covered a study by Dr. Armen Goenjian, a research professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, linking two genes involved in serotonin production to a higher risk of developing PTSD.

Op-Ed on Lowering Health Costs Draws Interest

[U.S. News and World Report](#) published an April 12 op-ed by Dr. Neal Halfon, professor of pediatrics, health services and public policy and director of the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities, about how the lifelong health trajectories of large populations affect health care costs. The piece also appeared April 6 in the [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) and April 8 in [The Reporter](#) (Vacaville, CA).

Trades Cover Robotic Surgery for Bladder Cancer

[Urology Today](#) and [Modern Medicine](#) on April 11, and [California Healthline](#) on April 6 reported on a study finding that robotic surgery for bladder cancer resulted in fewer deaths and complications than traditional open surgery, but was more expensive. Dr. Jim Hu, director of minimally invasive surgery in the Department of Urology, was quoted.

Heart-Failure Findings Garner Interest

[Heart.org](#) on April 12, [Health Canal](#) and [Science Codex](#), [News Blaze](#), [DG News](#), [Best Syndication](#), [Medical Express](#), [Biomedicine](#) on April 9 and [News Medical](#) on April 10 reported on new research finding that higher blood glucose levels may help patients with advanced heart-failure improve their survival rates. Tamara Horwich, assistant professor of cardiology, and medical student Sofia Tomova were quoted. The study appeared in the March 27 edition of the *American Journal of Cardiology*.

Grant to Study Athletes' Concussions Gets Online Press

The [Westwood-Century City Patch](#) reported April 6 and [Sports Concussions](#) reported April 3 on new funding for the UCLA Brain Injury Research Center, part of a new consortium studying the long-term

effects of sports-related concussions. Dr. Christopher Giza, associate professor of pediatric neurology at Mattel Children's Hospital and professor of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine, was quoted.

Trades Explore Stem-Cell Product Liability

[Medical News Today](#), [Science Daily](#), [Medical Xpress](#), [Stem Cell News](#), [Science Codex](#), [Cell News](#) and [Investor Stem Cell](#) reported April 11 on an article by Stephen Munzer about the risks and rewards of developing and using stem cell products. Munzer is a member of the Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at UCLA.

Onc Live Features Survivorship Expert

An April 10 [Onc Live](#) article about survivorship after cancer diagnosis and treatment featured Dr. Patricia Ganz, director of cancer prevention and control research at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

BRIEFS

[PsychCentral.com](#) cited research by Dr. Andrea Rapkin, professor of obstetrics and gynecology, in an April 12 article about premenstrual dysphoric disorder.

Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA was cited April 9 in the [Toronto Sun](#) and dozens of other media outlets in reports that singer Avril Lavigne visited with pediatric patients at the hospital.

QUOTABLES

Jeff Butler, executive director of clinical services with the UCLA Health System, commented April 11 in the [Los Angeles Times](#) on the dispute between two aviation companies at Van Nuys Airport that could threaten the timely delivery of donated organs to patients at UCLA Health System hospitals.

Dr. Patrick Dowling, chair of family medicine, was quoted April 7 in the [Bakersfield Californian](#) about Health Net offering cross-border health insurance for migrant laborers who move between the U.S. and Mexico.

Linda Ercoli, director of geriatric psychology, was quoted April 6 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) column about how children can help make their aging parents' home lives safer.

Dr. Michael Fishbein, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine, was quoted April 5 in an [International Business Times](#) article about Whitney Houston's death.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented April 10 in [HealthDay News](#) about how people with siblings who have suffered strokes are also at a higher stroke risk. He was also quoted April 10 in [HealthDay News](#) about research on the safety of the blood pressure drug losartan.

Dr. Timothy Fong, associate professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and co-director of UCLA's Gambling Studies Program, was quoted April 9 in a [Minnesota Post](#) column about proposals to expand legalized gambling in Minnesota.

Dr. Mary Hardy, associate physician diplomate at the Simms/Mann-UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology and UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted April 7 in the [Los Angeles Times](#) about the potential health benefits of *shilajit*, an ancient folk medicine from Central Asia and northern India.

David Hovda, professor of neurosurgery and director of the UCLA Brain Injury Research Center, was quoted April 12 in [USA Today](#) about concussions among U.S. troops fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Dr. David Reuben, chief of geriatrics, was quoted April 6 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) column about how children can help make their aging parents' home lives safer.

Gary Small, Parlow–Solomon Professor on Aging and professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was quoted April 9 by [Fortune](#) and CNN Money about young adults entering the job market who have grown up with the Internet and 24/7 digital access.

Paul Thompson, professor of neurology and psychiatry, was quoted April 9 by [Fortune](#) and CNN Money about young adults entering the job market who have grown up with the Internet and 24/7 digital access.

Dr. Dennis Woo, staff pediatrician at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica and associate professor of pediatrics, commented in an April 11 [HealthDay.com](#) story about the use of codeine after tonsillectomies in children.

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