



UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT For the week of April 10 - 16, 2009

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PET Study Attracts Widespread Media Attention

L.A. Times Spotlights Teaching Program for Autistic Kids

Class for Autistic Teens Makes Headlines

Discovery Health Special Features Autism Expert

Counter-attack Against Animal Extremists Garners Coverage

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Geriatricians Offer New Ideas on Aging

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PET Study Garners Widespread Media Attention

A study by Dr. Fritz Eilber that showed PET scanning could predict treatment response in sarcoma patients after a single dose of chemotherapy was featured April 15 by KPBS FM (San Diego), the Los Angeles Daily News, KCBS-Channel 2, KCAL-Channel 9, KNBC-Channel 4, City News Service, Asian News International, Contra Costa Times, Hindustan Times and WLS-TV Chicago. The ANI story also appeared in the Times of India and other Indian outlets. Eilber is an assistant professor of surgical oncology and director of the Sarcoma Program at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

"Discovery Could Lead to Better Treatment for Cancer Patients"

<http://www.kpbs.org/news/local?id=14369>

"UCLA Develops Chemotherapy Efficiency Test"

<http://cbs2.com/health/UCLA.Chemotherapy.Cancer.2.985496.html>

"Study Finds Less Invasive Way to Monitor Chemo"

<http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=news/health&id=6762206>

“New Approach Can Tell after a Single Treatment if Chemotherapy is Working”

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Health--Science/New-approach-can-tell-after-a-single-treatment-if-chemotherapy-is-working/articleshow/4406544.cms>

L.A. Times Spotlights Teaching Program for Autistic Kids

The research of Elizabeth Laugeson, associate director for the Parenting and Children’s Friendship Program and director of The Help Group-UCLA Autism Research Alliance, and Judith Piggot, director of the Autism Evaluation Clinic, was featured April 13 by a Los Angeles Times story about new strategies to help autistic children recognize the emotions in others’ faces. The article also mentions two studies at UCLA focused on face-to-face social engagement and facial expression recognition.

“Teaching Autistic Kids to Read Facial Expressions “

<http://www.latimes.com/features/health/la-he-autism13-2009apr13,0,3790823.story>

Class for Autistic Teens Makes Headlines

Elizabeth Laugeson, associate director for the UCLA Parenting and Children’s Friendship Program and director of The Help Group-UCLA Autism Research Alliance, was featured in online stories by the Wall Street Journal on April 7, the San Francisco Examiner on April 10, and US News & World Report on April 14 about a class she designed that teaches social skills to autistic teens.

“Autistic Teens Benefit from Social Classes”

http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/autistic-teens-benefit-social-classes/story.aspx?quid=%7BCFEDD655-5768-480C-BEF5-F45693C03DD7%7D&dist=msr_1

“Autistic, Aspy Gamers Get Tips, Tricks, Hints for Life at UCLA’s PEERS Class”

<http://www.examiner.com/x-6870-SF-Console-Game-Examiner~y2009m4d10-Autistic-Aspy-Gamers-Get-Tips-Tricks-Hints-for-Life-at-UCLAs-PEERS-Class>

“Teaching Teenagers with Autism how to Make Friends”

<http://health.usnews.com/blogs/on-parenting/2009/4/13/teaching-teenagers-with-autism-how-to-make-friends.html>

Discovery Health Special Features Autism Expert

Dr. Daniel Geschwind, professor of neurology and human genetics and director of the UCLA Center for Autism Research and Treatment discussed the latest advances in autism in the Discovery Health special, “Unlocking Autism,” which aired April 8 and will be rebroadcast throughout the month.

Counter-attack Against Animal Extremists Attracts Coverage

The Los Angeles Times, KPCC-89.3 FM’s “AirTalk” and KFI-640 AM reported April 13 on UCLA Pro-Test, a new group of faculty, staff and students demonstrating support for lifesaving medical research involving laboratory animals and showing solidarity with scientists subjected to harassment and violence by anti-animal research extremists. The coverage noted an April 22 rally and the Times piece included a sidebar listing some of the more serious criminal actions claimed by extremists. Chancellor Gene Block and David Jentsch, associate professor of psychology and psychiatry and a leader of UCLA Pro-Test, were quoted in the Times. Jentsch was interviewed on “AirTalk,” and April 14 on KABC-790 AM. KABC-790AM also aired a second April 14 in-depth conversation with Jentsch. Nature posted a Q&A on April 15.

“UCLA Professor Stands Up to Violent Animal Rights Activists”

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-research13-2009apr13,0,5129041.story>

“Timeline of Violence”

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-researchbox13-2009apr13,0,5194680.story>

“Animal Rights vs. Animal Testing”

<http://www.scpr.org/programs/airtalk/>

“Bomb Spurs Research Rally”

<http://www.nature.com/news/2009/090415/full/458813a.html>

MSN Busts Brain Myths

Dr. Istvan Molnar-Szakacs, research neuroscientist at the Semel Institute’s Tennenbaum Center for the Biology of Creativity, was featured in an April 10 Brain & Body column on MSN.com in which he debunked various myths about the human brain.

“Brain Myths—Busted”

<http://health.msn.com/health-topics/articlepage.aspx?cp-documentid=100236538>

Stockton Paper Spotlights Professor Devoted to Latino Health

The April 15 Stockton Record featured a profile of David Hayes-Bautista, professor of general internal medicine and health services research and director of the UCLA Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture, highlighting his four decades of work on Latino health care issues. Hayes-Bautista was quoted.

“Latino Perceptions Turned Upside Down”

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090415/A_NEWS/904150324/-1/A_COMM01

NBC Affiliates Explore Technology’s Impact on the Brain

Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging and a professor with the Semel Institute appeared in a KNBC-Channel 4 segment examining the effects of technology use on the brain. It aired April 13-14 on NBC affiliates across the country. His new book, “iBrain, Surviving the Technological Alteration of the Modern Mind,” was also highlighted.

“Tech Gadget Use”

<http://showroom.multivisioninc.com/share.do?id=103446&key=u9zQ7S92CI4uiyyZlxrCZJZ977i2OZUG&mail=rchampeau@mednet.ucla.edu>

Medical Publication Highlights Racial Cancer Disparities

The online edition of American Medical News reported April 13 on research by Dr. Mitchell Wong, associate professor of general internal medicine and health services research. He blamed racial disparities in cancer survival rates on blacks being more likely to develop cancer in the first place. He also found that African American men live 1.47 fewer years than white men, while African American women live 0.91 fewer years than white women. The study was published in the Journal of General Internal Medicine.

“Black-White Cancer Mortality Gap Starts with Incidence Rates”

<http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2009/04/13/hlsa0413.htm>

Scientific Business Trade Showcases Genetics Research

Thomas Drake, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine, and his Nature Genetics study finding that eight proteins involved in metabolism and immunity could potentially be targeted to treat obesity and high cholesterol, was profiled in the April 9 edition of SciBX, a weekly publication produced by Nature. Jake Lusic, professor of medicine and microbiology, also collaborated on the study.

“Opening up Rosetta”

<http://www.nature.com/scibx/journal/v2/n14/full/scibx.2009.561.html>

Asian Journal, Local News Looks at Asian, Pacific Islander Health Report

The April 15 edition of the Asian Journal highlights a report co-authored by Paul Ong, UCLA professor of urban planning, social welfare and Asian American studies, and Ninez Ponce, professor of health services at the UCLA School of Public Health, that looked at the state of health among California's Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander populations. The report was commissioned by the California Asian Pacific Islander Joint Legislative Caucus. The Whittier Daily News reported the findings on April 10 and KNBC-Channel 4 reported the news on April 9.

“Assembly Member Mike Eng Unveils Report on Unique Health Concerns for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders”

<http://www.asianjournal.com/dateline-usa/15-dateline-usa/1649-assembly-member-mike-eng-unveils-report-on-unique-health-concerns-for-asian-americans-and-pacific-islanders.html>

“Asian Groups Suffer from High Rates of Cancer, other Diseases”

http://www.whittierdailynews.com/news/ci_12109723

Geriatricians Offer New Ideas on Aging

Dr. David Reuben, chief of geriatrics, and Dr. Sonja Rosen, staff geriatrician at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, respectively wrote guest columns on aging and older-adult vaccinations in the April 9 editions of the Palisadian Post and Santa Monica Mirror.

"The Only Constant is Change"

"Vaccines: Your Best Shot for Good Health at 65-Plus"

<http://www.smmirror.com/MainPages/DisplayArticleDetails.asp?eid=9954>

Herceptin Patient Featured on Ohio TV

Three Ohio TV stations aired April 13 stories about a local woman benefiting from the research of Dr. Dennis Slamon, director of clinical/translational research at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center. She had breast cancer and was treating using Herceptin, which Slamon helped to develop. He was cited in the reports.

BRIEFS

An April 4 article on Newsweek.com cited research by Arleen Leibowitz, professor of public policy and a member of the UCLA AIDS Institute, finding that hospitals in states where Medicaid does not pay for male circumcisions are less likely to perform the procedure, potentially leaving low-income children at higher risk for HIV later in life. The article also appeared in the magazine's April 13 edition.

"The Fate of a Million Foreskins"

<http://www.newsweek.com/id/192472>

The May issue of Self magazine noted a UCLA study finding that nearly three-fourths of patients hospitalized for heart attack had cholesterol levels suggesting they were not at high risk for a cardiovascular event.

QUOTABLES

Dr. David Baron, chief of staff at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, commented in an April 10 KNX 1070AM report on doctors and conflicts of interest from outside influences, such as drug companies.

Dr. James Economou, deputy director of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and chief of the surgical oncology division, commented April 13 in the Lexington Herald-Leader about a new director appointed at a Kentucky cancer facility.

"Evers' Goal to Attain National Cancer Institute Designation"

<http://www.kentucky.com/181/story/760045.html>

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Elliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Sciences and associate chief of cardiology, commented April 15 in the Wall Street Journal about an American Heart Association program that helps hospitals follow treatment guidelines to improve care for heart and stroke patients.

The program was modeled in part after a UCLA program designed by Fonarow.

"Guidelines for Heart Care Show Promise"

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123976160649419643.html>

Dr. Bevra Hahn, professor of medicine and chief of rheumatology, commented April 9 in a HealthDay News article about a study linking birth control pills to a higher risk for women of developing lupus.

"Birth Control Pills Linked to Lupus Risk"

<http://health.usnews.com/articles/health/healthday/2009/04/09/birth-control-pills-linked-to-lupus-risk.html>

David Hovda, professor of neurosurgery and director of the UCLA Brain Injury Research Center, was quoted April 15 by USA Today about research by the U.S. Army on the screening of troops for brain injuries.

"Officials: Troops Hurt by Brain-Injury Focus"

http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2009-04-15-researchers-brain-injury_N.htm

Dr. Andrew Leuchter, professor of psychiatry and associate dean of the David Geffen School of Medicine, was quoted April 13 in the Los Angeles Times about companies' aggressive marketing for antipsychotic drugs to fight depression.

"Atypical Antipsychotics: too Hard a Sell?"

<http://www.latimes.com/features/printedition/health/la-he-antipsychotics13-2009apr13,0,4430110.story>

Dr. Carole Lieberman, clinical professor of psychiatry, was quoted April 9 by HealthDay News about a study that examined the correlation between depression and stress at work. The story also appeared on US News & World Report.com

"As Work Stress Rises, So May Depression"

<http://health.usnews.com/articles/health/healthday/2009/04/09/as-work-stress-rises-so-may-depression.html>

Edythe London, professor of professor of psychiatry and molecular/medical pharmacology and the Thomas P. and Katherine K. Pike Chair in Addictive Studies, was quoted April 16 about addiction by CNN.com.

"Relapse a Constant Threat, 'Tweak' Author says"

<http://www.cnn.com/2009/HEALTH/04/16/addiction.tweak.shef.relapse/index.html>

Robert Prins, an assistant professor of neurosurgery, was quoted in an April 14 Sacramento Bee article about brain cancer vaccines.

"Cancer Vaccine Offers Hope"

<http://www.sacbee.com/273/story/1772179.html>

Dr. Dennis Woo, chief of pediatrics at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, commented in an April 10 Fox News Channel report about parents choosing to skip vaccinations for their children because of fears about autism.

"Dose of Danger"

<http://www.foxnews.com/video-search/m/22089404/dose-of-danger.htm#q=vaccinations+%2B+autism>

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