



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT  
For the week of April 10-16, 2015**

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#### Who Supports the ACA?

[HealthCanal](#) April 14; [KABC-Channel 7](#), [MedicalXpress](#), [Science Codex](#) and [YubaNet.com](#) April 15, and [Inland News Today](#) and [News-Medical](#) April 16 reported on research led by Dr. Gerardo Moreno, assistant professor of family medicine, finding that 59 percent of California physicians support the Affordable Care Act and 77 percent understand the basics of the complex law. Primary care physicians were likelier than specialists to support the law.

#### UCLA's Operation Mend Provides Disfigured Veteran with Life-Changing Surgery

[KCBS-Channel 2](#) and [KCAL-Channel 9](#) April 10 featured the story of a retired Navy officer badly burned while stationed abroad who had limited use of his left hand and third-degree steam burns on 31 percent of his body. UCLA's [Operation Mend](#) changed all that. The program gives wounded service members access to medical care in collaboration with the military. Hand surgeon Dr. Kodi Azari and plastic surgeon Dr. Christopher Crisera, who are co-directors of the program, were interviewed.

#### Popular Science Explores New PTSD Therapy

Research by Dr. Jean-Philippe Langevin, an assistant professor of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was covered in the April edition of [Popular Science](#). His team explored whether deep brain stimulation could help veterans who have failed to respond to other treatments for post-traumatic stress disorder. Langevin was quoted.

#### California First, Ohio Last, When it Comes to Supporting Undocumented Immigrants

A report co-authored by the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health's Dr. Michael Rodriguez, director of the UCLA Blum Center on Poverty and Health in Latin America, and Dr. Steven Wallace, associate director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, that examined state laws and policies supporting undocumented immigrants, was spotlighted April 16 by [The Columbus Dispatch](#), [HealthCanal](#) and [Fusion](#). Rodriguez and Wallace were quoted.

#### LGBT-Competent Physicians Scarce at U.S. Academic Medical Practices

[RedOrbit](#) reported April 16 on research led by Joshua Khalili, a fourth-year student at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, finding that only 9 percent of accredited academic medical practices in the United States have existing procedures to refer LGBT-competent physicians to patients, only 4 percent had any policies in place to identify these physicians, and just 15 percent had a list of LGBT-competent physicians. Khalili was quoted in the coverage.

#### Physician Trade Site Addresses Weight Gain after Bariatric Surgery

HCPLive, a physician trade website, featured an April 10 interview with Dr. Rabindra Watson, assistant clinical professor of medicine in the division of digestive diseases, ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)), regarding a new minimally-invasive procedure to tighten the stomach that can sometimes stretch out several years after having bariatric surgery. The new procedure is offered as part of UCLA's Center for Obesity and Metabolic Health, a multi-disciplinary program that helps patients lose and sustain their weight loss.

#### California, UC Form Partnership for 'Precision Medicine' Project

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#), [California Healthline](#) and other news outlets reported April 14 on an announcement by Gov. Jerry Brown and the University of California on a new "precision medicine" initiative that commits \$3 million to a statewide project to compile already existing patient data and use it to tailor drug therapies and other treatments to individuals' specific needs. The California Initiative to Advance Precision Medicine involves collecting wide swaths of patient data from DNA sequencing,

electronic health records, clinical trials, mobile technology, and environmental, social and behavioral studies. The idea is to process the massive amount of data that already exists and continues to be collected, and use that analysis to fine-tune patient therapies. The California initiative will begin at the five UC medical centers, including UCLA, but expand quickly to include public and private research institutions all over the state, plus biotech and pharmaceutical companies, from large corporations to small startups.

### **U.S. Still Lags Behind Most of the World in Maternal Leave Policies**

Dr. Jody Heymann, dean of the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and founding director of the WORLD Policy Analysis Center, was featured in a story on paid parental leave in [Voice of America](#) April 16. The article quoted Heymann and cited WORLD's research into worldwide gaps in gender rights.

### **How Sugar Hampers the Brain**

A 2012 UCLA rat study demonstrating that a diet high in fructose slows the brain, interfering with memory and learning, was referenced Aug. 14 by Australia's [Sydney Morning Herald](#); April 8 by Pakistan's [Daily Times](#); and April 6 by the [Huffington Post](#). Lead researcher Fernando Gomez-Pinilla, a professor of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted.

### **Local Paper Spotlights UCLA Medical Graduate**

Dr. Sheila Young, who graduated from the joint medical education program at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and Drew University, was profiled April 9 by Long Beach's [Gazettes](#) newspaper. Fluent in four languages, Young, 34, who lived in a homeless shelter as a child and met her husband while volunteering in Haiti after the 2010 earthquake, is a mother of two who is pursuing a career in family medicine and global health.

### **Media Highlights 2015 Taste for a Cure Gala**

[Variety](#) April 10 spotlighted the Jonsson Cancer Center Foundation at UCLA's (JCCF) 20th annual Taste for a Cure event, scheduled for May 1 at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel, hosted by "New Girl" star Max Greenfield. This year's fundraiser will honor Fox Broadcasting president David Madden. All proceeds will benefit cancer research.

### **Breast Cancer Survivor App Developed Now Available to Researchers and Developers**

[Mobi Health News](#) and [Pocket-Lint](#) April 14 and [Inquisitr](#) April 15 reported on the launch of Share the Journey: Mind, Body and Wellness after Breast Cancer, a patient-centered mobile app developed by UCLA and Apple that empowers women to be partners in the research process by tracking their symptoms and successes. UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center was mentioned.

### **UCLA Researchers Develop New Combination Therapy to Fight Melanoma**

[Oncology Nurse Advisor](#) reported April 14 on UCLA scientists who discovered a new triple combination therapy that has shown promising signs of more effectively controlling advanced melanoma than previous treatments with fewer side effects. 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 both quoted.

### **Firefighters Knock Down Blaze**

The [Los Angeles Times](#) and other local news media April 14 covered a fire that broke out early that day inside the School of Dentistry. Nearly 115 firefighters knocked down the blaze around 2:15 a.m., and crews were able to contain the fire to a classroom and office area. No injuries were reported and no faculty or students were threatened by the fire. Investigators were working to find out what may have started the fire.

### **Doctor Discusses Rita Wilson's Breast Cancer**

Dr. Deanna Attai, UCLA breast surgeon based in Burbank and assistant clinical professor of surgery, was interviewed April 14 by [KTTV-Channel 11](#) and [KABC-Channel 7](#) about Rita Wilson's decision to have a double mastectomy after her breast cancer diagnosis.

### **Antibiotic Protects Against Three STIs**

The [BETA](#) blog reported April 13 on new research, published in the journal Sexually Transmitted Diseases, finding that a daily dose of the antibiotic doxycycline could be used as a medication-based chemoprophylaxis for chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis. Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases and of public health and the study's senior author, was quoted.

### **Callie's Cause Raises Funds for Pediatric Epilepsy Research**

[KCBS-Channel 2](#) aired April 10 a story on a local girl with epilepsy who is being treated by UCLA pediatric neurologists. The girl's family has held several fundraising events to raise money for research at UCLA. Dr. Raman Sankar, professor and chief of pediatric neurology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was interviewed.

### **Disneyland Measles Outbreak Over?**

Dr. Jaime Deville, professor of pediatric infectious diseases at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was interviewed April 14 on [KCRW 89.9FM](#) on the possibility that the measles outbreak that started at Disneyland may be winding down.

### **Smart City Growth Means Healthier Neighborhoods**

Dr. Richard Jackson, professor of environmental health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was interviewed April 9 by the [Chicago Tribune](#) about sustainable urban design and the Urban Land Institute's Building Healthy Places Initiative, which he helped develop. He was also interviewed April 10 on [KNPR 88.9FM](#) (Nevada) in a live segment about how walk-able neighborhoods and ones with easy access to healthier food options can reduce obesity in communities.

### **Media Cover Company Website Issue**

The [Los Angeles Times](#) April 10, [New York Times](#) April 11 and others reported on issues related to a company website and a biomarker that has been used in research to study patterns of abnormal protein deposits in the brains of retired NFL players who suffered from concussions.

### **Op-Ed: Housing Is a Social Justice Issue**

An April 12 [Santa Monica Next](#) op-ed by Dr. Fred Zimmerman, professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, illustrated how rising housing costs can drastically affect the health of not just the poor, but the middle class and even the upper middle-class.

### **Website Explores Alzheimer's Disease**

[EMaxHealth](#) April 15 featured an article written by Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging, professor of psychiatry and director of the UCLA Longevity Center, regarding the latest research and treatment for Alzheimer's disease.

### **Trade Publication Explores Zoobiquity**

The March issue of the [AAMC Reporter](#) featured a Q and A with Dr. Barbara Natterson-Horowitz, a clinical professor of medicine in the division of cardiology and co-director of the UCLA Evolutionary Medicine Program. She discussed Zoobiquity, an approach to medicine that explores how animal and human commonalities can be used to help diagnose, treat and heal patients of all species.

### **Oregon Paper Highlights UCLA Liver Transplant Patient**

The [Bend Bulletin](#) (Ore.) ran a story April 16 about a UCLA liver transplant patient going back to work as a Deputy District Attorney.

## **BRIEFS**

The Rape Treatment Center at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica and its accompanying facility for sexually abused children, Stuart House, were referenced in an April 14 [Los Angeles Times](#) article about an upcoming fundraiser hosted by designer John Varvatos.

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 coverage was cited April 14 by [Breitbart](#).

A developer kit for health-related iPhone apps, created in part by researchers at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was released to developers and medical researchers, according to an April 14 [MacRumors](#) article.

## QUOTABLES

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented in an April 14 [HealthDay News](#) story that also ran on [Doctors Lounge](#) regarding a study showing that people who were divorced at some point had a higher heart attack risk than those who stayed married.

Dr. Chandra Ford, assistant professor of community health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted by [Modern Healthcare](#) April 13 in a story about how Medicare has expanded HIV/AIDS screening coverage for beneficiaries.

Dr. Geri-Ann Galanti, a voluntary clinical faculty member and instructor with the Doctoring Program at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted in an April 16 [Medscape](#) article about physicians navigating family dynamics during patient care.

Dr. Shaun Hussain, assistant clinical professor of pediatric neurology and director of the Infantile Spasms Program at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was quoted April 13 in an [International Business Times](#) article about an experimental marijuana-based medicine that may reduce the number of seizures in children and adults with severe forms of epilepsy.

Dr. Joseph Lynch, professor of clinical medicine in the division of pulmonary and critical care medicine, was quoted April 11 in a [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) article about lung transplantation for patients with cystic fibrosis.

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, was quoted in May 4 First for Women magazine article about home remedies that doctors use to treat their own children's skin problems.

Dr. Keith Klein, clinical professor of medicine in the division of nephrology (voluntary), was quoted in an April 13 [Computerworld](#) story about the potential for medical malpractice lawsuits due to issues arising from the complexity of entering patient data into electronic medical records.

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 April 10 by the [Orange County Register](#) in an article about how Congress may debate a bill that could result in stiff Medicare payment cuts.

Dr. Dennis Woo, staff pediatrician at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, commented in an April 11 [Sacramento Bee](#) report on proposed legislation mandating vaccines for children in California public schools.

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