



UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of April 16 - 23, 2010

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BBC Inspects Stem Cells Engineered to Kill HIV

New Scientist, LiveScience Chronicle First Recording of Human Mirror Neurons

Local TV Highlights Toddler's Heart Transplant

New Scientist Reveals Inner Workings of Brain

Science Magazine Explores Careers in Autism Research

KABC Examines the Cost of Cleaner Produce

L.A. Daily News Showcases Online Autism Program

Spanish TV Tours NICU to Promote "March for Babies"

Ivanhoe Examines Magnet Use in Heart Care

S.M. Daily Profiles Hospital's Award-Winning Nurse

Washington Post Covers Stress on Military Families

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Fat Gene's Link to Brain Tissue Loss Draws Wide Headlines

Paul Thompson, professor of neurology and a member of the Laboratory of Neuro Imaging, appeared in news stories on April 19 about his research finding that a gene known to cause weight gain in more than

a third of the U.S. population is linked to brain tissue loss. Coverage included reports by Reuters, Yahoo News, the Drudge Report, KABC-Channel 7, National Public Radio blog, New Scientist, London Telegraph and the Daily Mail. The research was also cited in 21 TV news segments on television stations around the country.

“Fat Gene Makes Bodies Larger, Brains Smaller”

http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/health/your_health&id=7395021

“Gene Makes People Fat, Raises Alzheimer’s Risk”

<http://www.nationalpost.com/life/health/story.html?id=66ffe786-e1f4-4a08-8919-9e4e1002110d>

“Fatness Gene May Thin Your Brain”

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn18791-fatness-gene-may-thin-your-brain.html>

“Obesity Gene Makes Bodies Larger, Brains Smaller”

http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/2010/04/obesity_gene_makes_bodies_larg.html

BBC Inspects Stem Cells Engineered to Kill HIV

BBC TV aired an April 22 report about a Los Angeles HIV vaccine trial that highlighted research led by Scott Kitchen, assistant professor of hematology/oncology and a member of the UCLA AIDS Institute. The findings demonstrated that human stem cells can transform into cells that target and kill HIV-infected cells. Kitchen was quoted.

“U.S. HIV Vaccine Trial Calls for More Volunteers”

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/8636429.stm>

New Scientist, LiveScience Chronicle First Recording of Human Mirror Neurons

New Scientist magazine reported April 17 and LiveScience.com reported April 16 on the success of Roy Mukamel, a postdoctoral fellow in the lab of Dr. Itzhak Fried, professor of neurosurgery and psychiatry, and his colleagues in making the first recording of mirror neurons in human beings. Coauthor Marco Iacoboni, professor of psychiatry, was also quoted.

“Empathetic Mirror Neurons Found in Humans at Last”

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg20627565.600-empathetic-mirror-neurons-found-in-humans-at-last.html>

“Mirror Neurons Allow Us to Understand Each Other”

<http://www.livescience.com/health/mirror-neurons-100416.html>

Local TV Highlights Toddler’s Heart Transplant

KCBS-Channel 2 and KCAL-Channel 9 on April 16 profiled the story of a 2-year-old girl who finally got a heart transplant after waiting for eight months. Dr. Juan Alejos, medical director of the pediatric heart transplant program at Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA, was interviewed.

“2-Year-Old Gets the Heart She Needs”

<http://www.cbs2.com/video/?id=132446@kcbs.dayport.com>

New Scientist Reveals Inner Workings of Brain

Images created by Paul Thompson, professor of neurology and a member of the UCLA Laboratory of Neuro Imaging (LONI), appeared in a March 31 New Scientist pictorial that showed the human brain’s white matter, largely composed of the fatty myelin sheaths around neurons that reveals the brain’s connections. LONI colleagues David Shattuck, associate professor of neurology, and Arthur Toga, lab director and professor of neurology, were cited. Thompson was also quoted in an accompanying article on the integrity of the brain’s white matter and its possible connection to creativity. He also commented in an April 4 New Scientist article about a possible correlation between IQ and the quality of myelin around neuron fibers.

“The Brain’s Other Half: Picturing the White Matter”

<http://www.newscientist.com/gallery/mg20527535-500-slow-thinking/1>

“Picking our Brains: Why Are some People Smarter?”

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg20627541.700-picking-our-brains-why-are-some-people-smarter.html>

Science Magazine Explores Careers in Autism Research

The Semel Institute's Susan Bookheimer, the Joaquin Fuster Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience; Dr. Shafali Jeste, assistant professor of psychiatry; and postdoctoral scholar David Sharinyan appeared in an April 23 Science Magazine article about research and researchers of autism spectrum disorders. UCLA's Center for Autism Research and Treatment, was highlighted.

"Translating the Puzzle of Autism into Treatment"

http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career_magazine/previous_issues/articles/2010_04_23/caredit.a1000042

KABC Examines the Cost of Cleaner Produce

William McCarthy, adjunct associate professor of health services at the School of Public Health, appeared in an April 16 KABC-Channel 7 news story about products consumers can use to remove pesticides and dirt from fruits and vegetables.

"Are Produce Cleaners Worth the Extra Price?"

http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/food_coach&id=7391188

L.A. Daily News Showcases Online Autism Program

The Los Angeles Daily News reported April 21 on a new program launched by UCLA, Washington University in St. Louis and the Interactive Autism Network to encourage families with autistic children to participate in an online network for research and support. Dr. Stanley Nelson, professor of human genetics and psychiatry at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted.

"UCLA Part of Program Asking Families to Participate in Autism Study"

http://www.dailynews.com/health/ci_14929880

Spanish TV Tours NICU to Promote "March for Babies"

Univision-Channel 24, Telemundo-Channel 52 and KRCA-Channel 62 aired April 19 reports on a tour of Mattel Children's Hospital's neonatal intensive care unit by former Miss Universe Dayanara Torres and Dr. David Feinberg, CEO of the UCLA Hospital System and local chair for the Los Angeles March for Babies. NICU medical director Dr. Uday Devaskar introduced families whose infants are cared for in the unit.

Ivanhoe Examines Magnet Use in Heart Care

An Ivanhoe Broadcast news story explored how cardiologists use magnets to help guide treatment to stop irregular heart rhythms. Dr. Kalyanam Shivkumar, professor of medicine and radiological sciences and director of the UCLA Cardiac Arrhythmia Center & EP Programs, was interviewed with a UCLA patient. The story aired April 16 on the ABC affiliate in Fresno.

"Magnets Guide Hearts Back Into Rhythm"

http://abclocal.go.com/kfsn/story?section=news/health/health_watch&id=7385267

S.M. Daily Profiles Hospital's Award-Winning Nurse

The April 17 Santa Monica Daily Press profiled Barbara Browning, a nurse at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, who was honored by the American Red Cross of Santa Monica at its Red-Tie Affair dinner. Her photo from the dinner also appeared in the April 19 edition, and her award was noted in the April 22 Santa Monica Mirror.

"Nursing Star Receives Red Cross Award"

http://www.smdp.com/Articles-c-2010-04-16-69444.113116_Nursing_star_receives_Red_Cross_award.html

"Proud Moment"

http://www.smdp.com/Gallery-1852.113116-3077.113116_PROUD_MOMENT.html

"Red Cross Honors Humanitarians"

<http://www.smmirror.com/MainPages/DisplayArticleDetails.asp?eid=12396>

Washington Post Covers Stress on Military Families

The April 20 Washington Post reported on research by Patricia Lester, assistant professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior at UCLA, that found that children of soldiers deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan experience heightened levels of anxiety and that the anxiety persists even after the deployed parent returns home.

"Wars' Toll on Military Kids"

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/04/19/AR2010041903165.html>

MedPageToday Spotlights Breast Cancer Research

Research by Dr. Mary Sehl, a postdoctoral student in hematology/oncology, suggesting that Herceptin may target cancer stem cells and benefit women without the mutation to which the therapy is targeted was highlighted April 18 by MedPageToday.com.

"AACR: Are Cancer Stem Cells Vulnerable to Trastuzumab?"

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/MeetingCoverage/AACR/19625>

Seattle Station Investigates Alzheimer's Myths

KOMO-TV (Seattle) News reported April 19 on an Alzheimer's Regional Conference address by Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging and professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, examining the myths and misinformation associated with Alzheimer's disease. Small was quoted.

"The Truth about Brain Health"

<http://www.komonews.com/news/consumer/91138814.html>

NIMH Highlights Research Award

The research of Carrie Bearden, assistant professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was highlighted by the April 2010 Inside NIMH newsletter for her research grant that will examine velocardiofacial-DiGeorge syndrome, a disorder that represents the most common known genetic risk factor for the development of psychotic illness.

"Message from the NIMH Director"

http://www.nimh.nih.gov/research-funding/newsletter/2010-april-inside-nimh.html?WT.mc_id=e_in_0410_staff

Technology Review Reports on Antidepressants, Suicide

Aimee Hunter, a research psychologist at the Semel Institute, was featured in an April 22 Technology Review article about her research that uses quantitative electroencephalography (QEEG) to predict which people might be most susceptible to antidepressant-induced suicide.

"Brain Images Predict Suicide Risk"

<http://www.technologyreview.com/biomedicine/25171/?a=f>

Blog Covers Pharmaceutical Compensation

California Watch blog reported April 21 on the online disclosure by pharmaceutical company Pfizer Inc. of compensation received by California university medical centers in the last six months of 2009 for research, consulting, speaking engagements and other expenses.

"Hundreds of California Doctors, Universities Receive Pfizer Pay"

<http://www.californiawatch.org/watchblog/hundreds-california-doctors-universities-receive-pfizer-pay>

BRIEFS

The April 18 edition of The Olympian (WA) ran a brief article on Cameron Cohen, who created an iPhone application and is donating some of the revenues to UCLA's hospitals in Westwood and Santa Monica.

"Kid Writes iPhone App for Charity"

<http://www.theolympian.com/2010/04/18/1209941/kid-writes-iphone-app-for-charity.html>

The April 18 Los Angeles Times cited research by Susan Ettner, professor of general internal medicine and health services research, finding that women and people with diabetes and dementia are the most likely seniors to reach their annual Medicare drug coverage limit. The article also ran April 18 in the Contra Costa Times.

"When Will the Healthcare Law Lower Drug Costs?"

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nation-and-world/la-na-healthcare-qa19-2010apr19,0,2837704.story>

The May issue of Runner's World cited the work of Dr. Aurelia Nattiv, professor of family medicine and director of the UCLA Osteoporosis Center, in helping runner Meb Keflezighi, 2010 New York Marathon winner and past Olympic Silver Medalist, recover from a pelvic fracture.

Video of Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA was shown during a NBA playoffs game between Los Angeles and Oklahoma City. Lakers players Pau Gasol and Shannon Brown visited pediatric patients as part of the NBA Cares program. The segment aired April 20 on TNT.

QUOTABLES

Dr. David Baron, chief of staff at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, commented April 21 on KNX 1070AM about new ethical guidelines for physicians and stricter rules for disclosing ties to pharmaceutical companies and medical-device manufacturers.

Susan Bowerman, assistant director of the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition; Dr. Nina Shapiro, director of pediatric otolaryngology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA; and Dr. Dennis Woo, staff pediatrician at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, were quoted in an April 19 WebMD article about debunking common myths on habits that are bad for your health.

"Health Rules You Can Bend"

<http://women.webmd.com/features/health-rules-you-can-bend>

Dr. Patricia Ganz, director of cancer prevention and control research at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted April 19 in USA Today and the Wall Street Journal about research comparing two popular breast cancer drugs.

"Study: Bone Drug Lowers Breast Cancer Risk 38% in High-Risk Women"

http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2010-04-20-raloxifene20_ST_N.htm

"Old Line Treatment Bests Lilly Drug in Breast-Cancer Prevention"

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704671904575193912314355570.html?mod=WSJ_latest_headlines

Suzette Glasner-Edwards, clinical psychologist and a member of the Integrated Substance Abuse Programs at the Semel Institute, was quoted April 19 on ABCNews.com about criteria determining whether a behavior can be termed an addiction.

"Study Shows Links between Tanning and Addictive Behavior"

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/MindMoodNews/tanning-addiction-study-suggests-link/story?id=10419575>

Gerald Kominski, associate director of the Center for Health Policy Research in the school of Public Health, was quoted April 18 by the Los Angeles Times about and the so-called "doughnut hole" where seniors have to pay more for their medications.

"Healthcare Law Hits Home in Complex Ways"

<http://www.latimes.com/features/health/la-na-healthcare-home-front18-2010apr18,0,4223197.story>

Dr. Neil Martin, chair of neurosurgery, was interviewed in an April 15 Extra "Lifechanger" segment about ways to enhance your memory.

"Mind Games to Help Your Memory"

http://extratv.warnerbros.com/2010/04/mind_games_to_help_your_memory.php

Jack Needleman, associate professor of health services at the School of Public Health, was quoted April 20 in the San Francisco Chronicle about a new law that limits the number of patients assigned to a nurse.

"Pioneering Law on Nurses Found to Save Lives"

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/04/20/BABC1D12SV.DTL#ixzz0lfZUo1Dt>

Dr. Anita Nelson, professor of obstetrics and gynecology, was quoted April 19 in a Los Angeles Times story about lawsuits against the birth control pills, Yaz and Yasmin.

"Birth Control Pill Concerns Bring Lawsuits but Few Solid Answers"

http://www.latimes.com/features/health/la-he-yaz-20100419,0,2206417_full.story

Dr. Bruce Ovbiagele, associate professor of neurology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and director of the Olive View–UCLA stroke program, commented in an April 22 MDiTV story about why some stroke survivors discontinue their medications.

“Why Stop Taking Your Stroke Medication”

<http://www.mditv.com/#/home/4>

Dr. David Pegues, a hospital epidemiologist in the division of infectious diseases, commented April 19 in the Los Angeles Times on the use of the chemical triclosan in antibacterial products.

“FDA is Reviewing the Use of Antibacterial Products Containing Triclosan”

<http://www.latimes.com/features/health/la-he-closer-20100419-20,0,7890670.story>

Dr. David Talan, chief of emergency medicine at Olive View–UCLA Medical Center, was quoted April 19 by the Los Angeles Times and April 20 by United Press International about a conflict between a Los Angeles charter school and the parents of a student who pricked himself with a syringe found on campus.

“Needle Poke Turns into Big Problem at L.A. Charter School”

<http://articles.latimes.com/2010/apr/19/local/la-me-needle-20100420>

“Too Late to Test Syringe that Pricked Boy”

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2010/04/20/Too-late-to-test-syringe-that-pricked-boy/UPI-69971271772698/

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