



UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of April 24 – April 30, 2009

Note: Website links may expire without notice. Some sites require password registration. If you cannot access a story or would like to obtain a copy, please call 310.794.0777.

Nat'I, Local Media Tap UCLA Experts for Swine Flu Developments

Media Explore Genetic Origins of Autism

Associated Press Profiles Army Sergeant Helped by UCLA's Operation Mend

CBS, Reuters Feature Class for Autistic Teens

Medical Trade Looks at Controversy over Dartmouth Atlas Stats

Extra Reports on High-Tech Neurosurgery

Trades Examine PET Sarcoma Study

LA Times Highlights Column by Emergency Physician

National Public Radio Marks Landmark AIDS Study's 25th Anniversary

Dana Point Times Spotlights Journey of Pediatric Heart Transplant Recipient

NPR, New Scientist Cover Rally to Support Medical Research

HealthDay News Explores Pomegranate Juice and Cancer Progression

Reuters Eyes Trans Fats in the Media

BRIEFS

QUOTABLES

Nat'I, Local Media Tap UCLA Experts for Swine Flu Developments

As the swine flu, also known as H1N1, spreads across the United States, national and local news media tapped UCLA medical and public health experts to explain developments in the nationwide public health emergency.

Dr. Larry Baraff, professor of pediatrics and emergency medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and associate director of UCLA's Emergency Medicine Center, was interviewed April 27 on KPCC-89.3 FM's "AirTalk" about the current swine influenza outbreak.

"UCLA Doctor Talks about Swine Flu Outbreak"

<http://www.publicradio.org/columns/kpcc/kpccnewsinbrief/2009/04/ucla-doctor-talks-about-swine.html>

Dr. David Baron, chief of staff at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, was an in-studio guest April 29 on KCAL-Channel 9 to answer questions about the H1N1 virus (swine flu). Dr. Baron also demonstrated proper hand-washing techniques in a later KCAL newscast. Dr. Baron also

commented in KNX AM1070 reports April 27 and April 28 on growing concerns about the virus and whether anti-viral drugs should be used as a preventive measure.

“Ward Off Swine Flu with Proper Hand Washing”

<http://cbs2.com/video/?cid=71>

Alina Dorian, assistant adjunct professor in the School of Public Health, was featured April 30 on the NBC show Extra Lifechangers about how to avoid contracting the swine flu virus.

“Avoiding the Spread of Swine Flu”

http://extratv.warnerbros.com/2009/04/avoiding_the_spread_of_swine_f.php

Dr. Pete Galier, internal medicine specialist at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and associate professor of medicine, commented in an April 28 Fox News Channel report about the outbreak and in an April 29 KTLA-Channel 5 segment on ways to prevent the spread of germs.

<http://www.ktla.com/swineflu>

Dr. Wally Ghurabi, medical director of emergency services at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, was quoted in an April 29 Santa Monica Daily Press story about local reaction to the flu threat.

“Swine Flu Breeds Caution Locally”

http://www.smdp.com/Articles-c-2009-04-29-53251.113116_Swine_flu_breeds_caution_locally.html

Dr. Peter Katona, associate clinical professor of infectious diseases at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was interviewed April 27 for an ABC News story about swine influenza cases in the United States and in a Los Angeles Daily News article. Katona also was quoted in an April 28 Los Angeles Times article about the U.S. government’s response to a feared swine flu outbreak in 1976, and on the same day in a FOXNews.com article about the current swine influenza outbreak and was quoted April 26 in a Health News article about the current flu outbreak. He was also quoted in an April 30 Los Angeles Times article on making sure health information obtained comes from trusted sources.

“WHO Raises Pandemic Alert for Swine Flu”

<http://www.abcnews.go.com/Health/ColdandFluNews/story?id=7436935&page=1>

“Swine Flu ‘Debacle’ of 1976 is Recalled”

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-sci-swine-history27-2009apr27,0,1182080.story>

“Updated: Experts Say Swine Flu Outbreaks a Serious Situation”

<http://www.healthnews.com/alerts-outbreaks/experts-say-swine-flu-outbreaks-a-serious-situation-3017.html>

“Health Experts Uncertain if Swine Flu Outbreak is Pandemic”

http://www.dailynews.com/news/ci_12240660

Robert Kim-Farley, professor-in-residence of epidemiology at the UCLA School of Public Health, was quoted in an April 28 USA Today article about Internet searches for information on swine influenza, and interviewed April 27 on KCRW 89.9 “Which Way L.A.?” He was also quoted in an April 30 Los Angeles Times article on making sure health information obtained comes from trusted sources.

“People Tap Internet for Swine Flu Info”

http://www.usatoday.com/tech/webguide/internetlife/2009-04-28-internet_N.htm

“H1N1 Virus Gone Viral: Swine Flu Updates and Resources Online”

<http://www.latimes.com/features/health/la-hew-flu-social-media30-2009apr30,0,2835402.story>

Dr. Scott Layne, professor of epidemiology and environmental health sciences at the UCLA School of Public Health and a member at UCLA’s California NanoSystems Institute, was quoted April 27 in two New York Times Q&As, April 27 and 30 in two Los Angeles Times articles, and April 28 on KNX 1070 AM about the current swine influenza outbreak.

“Readers’ Questions: The Swine Flu Outbreak”

<http://consults.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/04/27/readers-questions-the-swine-flu-outbreak/>

“From Travel Restrictions to Face Masks, Experts Address Readers’ Questions”

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/28/health/28primer.html?_r=1

“Swine Flu’s Next Move Impossible to Predict”

<http://www.latimes.com/features/health/la-sci-swine-explain27-2009apr27,0,3803534.story>

“Scientists see this Flu Strain as Relatively Mild”

<http://www.latimes.com/features/health/la-sci-swine-reality30-2009apr30,0,3606923.story>

Media Explore Genetic Origins of Autism

A study by UCLA researchers and colleagues that identified an important gene variant linked to autism was reported by Reuters, WebMD, and CBS news affiliates on April 28, the London Times, Press Trust of India and U.K. Press Association on April 29 and by United Press International on April 30. Study co-author Dr. Daniel Geschwind, professor of neurology and human genetics at the Semel Institute, and director of the Center for Autism Research and Treatment, was quoted in the print, wire and web stories. Study co-author Brett Abrahams, a researcher in the department of neurology, was interviewed by CBS. The CBS story ran on KCBS-TV Channel 2 and 80 affiliate stations in Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, Wisconsin, Kansas, Colorado, Iowa, New York, Massachusetts, South Carolina, Georgia, Washington D.C., and Virginia, among others.

“Researchers Find First Common Autism Gene”

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20090428/hl_nm/us_autism_genes;_ylt=A9G_R3gLcfhJFNsA5QzVJRIF

“CBS Story: Gene Variant for Autism”

<http://showroom.multivisioninc.com/share.do?id=106202&key=b4s2IsFiEPpBSGXYrdvYzB8twKiDAV0j&email=rchampeau@mednet.ucla.edu>

“Biggest Autism Study Identifies Gene Variations behind Condition”

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/health/article6188340.ece

“Gene Variants Hold New Clues to Autism”

<http://www.webmd.com/brain/autism/news/20090428/gene-variants-hold-new-clues-to-autism>

Associated Press Profiles Army Sergeant Helped by UCLA’s Operation Mend

The Associated Press on April 26 published two articles and a video about Operation Mend, a collaborative effort between UCLA and the Brooke Army Medical Center in Texas to aid wounded military personnel. The story profiled an army sergeant who has been undergoing reconstructive facial surgery through Operation Mend. Ronald A. Katz, the UCLA board member who initiated the project; Dr. Timothy Miller, chief of reconstructive and plastic surgery at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center; and Dr. Christopher Crisera, assistant professor of plastic surgery, were quoted in the coverage. The A.P. story ran in hundreds of media outlets across the country including the Washington Post, Houston Chronicle and San Francisco Examiner.

“Injured Soldier Gets New Face—and Anonymity”

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/04/26/AR2009042602033.html>

“A Special Program to Mend Wounded Warriors”

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/6391920.html>

Video Link: “Injured Soldier Gets New Face, Confidence”

http://video.ap.org/?t=By%20Section/U.S.&q=0426dv_blow_n_up_soldier&f=you

CBS, Reuters Provides Widespread Coverage for Class for Autistic Teens

Elizabeth Laugeson, a clinical instructor of psychiatry, associate director for the UCLA Parenting and Children’s Friendship Program and director of The Help Group – UCLA Autism Research Alliance, was featured April 24 in a CBS Newspath segment about a class she designed that teaches social skills to autistic teens that ran on 78 CBS affiliates, including KCAL and KCBS, Los Angeles; and stations including Dallas/Fort Worth; Green Bay, WI; Tampa Bay, FL, and Washington DC. A Reuter’s article appeared on April 27.

“UCLA Designs Special Class for Teens with Autism”

<http://www.truveo.com/UCLA-Designs-Special-Class-For-Teens-With-Autism/id/3224809362>

“Class Helps Autistic Teens Gain Social Skills”

<http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSTRE53Q3NO20090427>

Medical Trade Looks at Controversy over Dartmouth Atlas Stats

The April 27 American Medical News focused on the health system reform debate occurring on Capitol Hill. The article indicates that as Congress begins work on national health system reform legislation, the Dartmouth Atlas Project’s estimates of unnecessary health spending are gaining traction. Dr. Tom Rosenthal, chief medical officer, Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, was quoted saying the Medicare claims used by Dartmouth researchers do not capture some unique demographic and workload issues facing higher-spending hospitals. Rosenthal says that a study soon to be completed reviewing the five University of California hospitals may show that patient risk factors will account for most of the variation in the hospitals’ end-of-life care as indicated by some of the Dartmouth research.

“What's in a Number? Cost Variance Figure Drives Policy and Courts Controversy”
<http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2009/04/27/gvsa0427.htm>

Extra Reports on High-Tech Neurosurgery

Dr. Neil Martin, chair of the Department of Neurosurgery, was featured in an April 21 NBC show Extra Lifechangers about modern advances in neurosurgery.

“Lifechangers Reshape Neurosurgery”

http://extratv.warnerbros.com/2009/04/lifechangers_reshape_neurosurg.php

Trades Examine PET Sarcoma Study

A study by Dr. Fritz Eilber that showed PET scanning could determine treatment response in sarcoma patients after a single dose of chemotherapy was featured April 24 by the imaging trade publications Molecular Imaging Insights, Health Imaging, Cardiovascular Business and CMIO.net. Eilber is an assistant professor of surgical oncology and director of the Sarcoma Program at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center. An accompanying editorial also cites Eilber's study.

“PET/CT Shows Chemo Effectiveness after First Dose”

http://www.molecularimaging.net/index.php?option=com_articles&view=article&id=17109:petct-shows-chemo-effectiveness-after-first-dose

“PET/CT Speeds Sarcoma Treatment”

http://www.healthimaging.com/index.php?option=com_articles&view=article&id=17201:petct-speeds-sarcoma-treatment

“PET Possibilities Continue to Expand”

http://www.cardiovascularbusiness.com/index.php?option=com_articles&view=article&id=17203

LA Times Highlights Column by Emergency Physician

The Los Angeles Times on April 27 featured a column by Dr. Mark Morocco, assistant professor of medicine and associate residency director of emergency medicine, explaining health insurance policies and the cost of visits to the emergency room.

“Think of the E.R. as if it were a Restaurant”

<http://www.latimes.com/features/health/la-he-practice27-2009apr27,0,4223172.story>

National Public Radio Marks Landmark AIDS Study's 25th Anniversary

Dr. Roger Detels, professor and chair of epidemiology at the UCLA School of Public Health and director of the Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study (MACS) in Los Angeles, was interviewed April 24 for a National Public Radio “All Things Considered” story about the 25th anniversary of MACS, an ongoing study of gay and bisexual men with HIV.

“AIDS Study Marks 25th Year”

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=103469790>

Dana Point Times Spotlights Journey of Pediatric Heart Transplant Recipient

The Dana Point Times on April 24 recapped the experience of a 12-year-old boy who underwent a life-saving heart transplant at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA in December and is now back in school. Dr. Hillel Laks, professor of cardiothoracic surgery and Dr. Brian Reemtsen, surgical director of the pediatric heart transplant program, were cited.

“Heart of a Warrior: Dana Point Boy Battles Odds and Inspires Others in Fight for Normal Life”

<http://www.danapointtimes.com/index.php?mact=News,cntnt01,detail,0&cntnt01articleid=795&cntnt01dateformat=%25B%20%25d%2C%20%25Y&cntnt01returnid=51>

NPR, New Scientist Cover Rally to Support Medical Research

National Public Radio's April 25 “Weekend Edition” and the New Scientist on April 30 reported on last week's campus rally by UCLA Pro-Test, an organization of faculty, staff and students formed to demonstrate support for lifesaving medical research involving laboratory animals and show solidarity with scientists subjected to harassment and violence by anti-animal research extremists. David Jentsch, professor of psychology and psychiatry and an organizer of UCLA Pro-Test, was interviewed.

“Animal Researchers Unite After Extremists' Attacks”

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=103472024>

"Animal Rights Extremist Added to FBI's 'Most Wanted' List"

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg20227063.300-animal-rights-extremist-is-uss-first-domestic-terrorist.html>

HealthDay News Explores Pomegranate Juice and Cancer Progression

HealthDay News reported April 29 on a study by Dr. Allan Pantuck, associate professor of urology and a researcher at UCLA's Jonsson Cancer Center, that found daily doses of pomegranate juice helped limit increases in PSA levels among men treated for prostate cancer.

"Some Diet Sodas May Ward Off Kidney Stones"

<http://www.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=626414>

Reuters Eyes Trans Fats in the Media

Reuters reported April 29 on a study co-authored by Dominick Frosch, assistant professor of general internal medicine and health services research, that found that consumer purchases of foods containing trans fats temporarily declined during periods in which the media reported on the heart risk posed by trans fats. Frosch was quoted.

"News Coverage Temporarily Reduces Trans-Fat Buying"

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUKTRE53S58L20090429?feedType=RSS&feedName=healthNews&sp=true>

BRIEFS

An April 23 editorial in the Los Angeles Daily Breeze cited data from a UCLA Center for Health Policy Research study that assessed the number of Californians without health insurance in each of the state's legislative districts.

"California Needs Voice in National Health Care Reform"

http://www.dailybreeze.com/opinions/ci_12211477

The Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center was mentioned in an April 27 Los Angeles Times article on managing one's hospital bills.

"Managing Your Hospital Bills"

<http://www.latimes.com/features/health/la-he-bills27-2009apr27,0,7780437.story>

UCLA's acquisition of the state-of-the-art Novalis Tx radiosurgery machine was cited April 22 by KSHB-TV news (MO) in a story about the local medical center acquiring the device.

Annette Stanton, a professor of psychology and psychiatry/biobehavioral science and a researcher at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, is cited April 23 in the Tucson Citizen as co-principal investigator of a study of cancer-related depression.

"Physician Receives \$3.7 Million Grant to Study Breast Cancer Depression"

<http://www.tucsoncitizen.com/ss/local/115070.php>

QUOTABLES

Dr. Robert Baloh, professor of neurology, was quoted April 27 in a National Public Radio "Morning Edition" report about exercises that can help older people maintain their balance.

"Exercise Can Improve Balance for Older Americans"

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=103516803>

Dr. Gregg C. Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented April 24 in a HealthDay News article about a study showing that heart failure patients and their caregivers want more attention paid to their psychological needs. On the same day, Fonarow commented in another HealthDay story about a study finding that patients who develop an abnormal heart beat after bypass surgery have an increased risk of death. He is also quoted in an April 25 HealthDay story about the number of Americans taking cholesterol-lowering statin drugs.

"Reduce Suffering, Urge Heart Failure Patients and Caregivers"

<http://www.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=626384>

"Abnormal Heartbeat after Bypass a Bad Sign"

<http://www.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=626303>

"Many Who Should Use Statins Don't"

<http://www.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=626333>

Dominick Frosch, assistant professor of general internal medicine and health services research, was quoted April 27 in a Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel article about a controversial drug designed to help smokers quit.

"Ads, Class Ignore Drug's Downside"

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/43837682.html>

Dr. Patricia Ganz, director of cancer prevention and control research at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted April 23 in a Philadelphia Inquirer article about helping cancer survivors navigate their post-treatment lives.

"You've Survived Cancer. Now What?"

http://www.philly.com/philly/health_and_science/cancer/20090423_You_ve_survived_cancer_Now_what_.html

Dr. Lynn Gordon, associate professor-in-residence at UCLA's Jules Stein Eye Institute, was quoted April 29 in a New York Times column about how eyesight deteriorates with age.

"An Unsquinting View of Aging"

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/30/fashion/30spy.html?_r=1

David Hayes-Bautista, director of the Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture, was quoted April 27 in a Los Angeles Times story about counties throughout the state cutting health services for illegal immigrants.

"California Counties Cut Healthcare to Illegal Immigrants"

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-immighealth27-2009apr27,0,3560878.story?page=1>

Dr. David McAllister, associate professor of orthopaedic surgery, commented April 26 in a Santa Clarita Valley Signal article about knee injuries among high school athletes.

"A Knee Problem"

<http://www.the-signal.com/news/article/12469/>

Mario Mendez, professor of neurology, was quoted April 24 in a New York Times article about the upcoming science-fiction movie "Avatar."

"Fan Fever Is Rising for Debut of 'Avatar'"

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/25/movies/25avatar.html?_r=1

Dr. Robert Reiter, a professor of urology and a researcher at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, commented April 28 on results of a prostate cancer vaccine study in a story on TheStreet.com.

"Provenge Doc: FDA Has All the Data It Needs"

<http://www.thestreet.com/story/10493302/3/provenge-doc-fda-has-all-the-data-it-needs.html>

Dr. Matthew Rettig, an associate professor of urology and a researcher at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, commented April 28 in the Seattle Times on the results of a prostate cancer vaccine study.

"Dendreon Prostate Cancer Therapy Shown to Extend Patients' Survival Time"

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/businesstechnology/2009141140_dendreon29.html

=====

UCLA's Health Sciences Media Relations office e-publishes this report weekly. For more information, please call Roxanne Moster, director of Health Sciences Media Relations, or Rachel Champeau, assistant director, at 310-794-0777. Our office also offers publicity for new research, medical

breakthroughs, clinical trial recruitment, inspirational patient stories and more. To identify the appropriate public information officer for your department, visit www.uclahealth.org/mediacontacts