



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of April 24-30, 2015**

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Metformin Can Prevent Diabetes in High Risk People

[Examiner.com](#) April 24; [Endocrine Today](#) April 29; and [Science Codex](#), [Newsmax Health](#), [MedicalXpress](#), [Pharmiweb.com](#), [Yahoo! Finance](#), [Digital Journal](#), and [Monthly Prescribing Reference](#) April 30 reported on research led by Dr. Tannaz Moin, assistant professor of medicine in the division of endocrinology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and VA Greater Los Angeles, that only 3.7 percent of at-risk patients were prescribed the diabetes drug metformin for their pre-diabetes, even though it is an effective, low-cost way to help prevent the onset of the disease.

Mainstream, Entertainment Media Cover Stuart House Benefit

The [Los Angeles Times](#), [United Press International](#) and the [Hollywood Reporter](#) were among the media outlets that covered the April 26 fundraiser hosted by designer John Varvatos to benefit Stuart House at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, an innovative treatment facility for sexually abused children.

Morning Sickness Study Continues to Draw Attention

[Health Canal](#) April 24, [KCBS Radio](#) (San Francisco) April 26 and [KCBS-Channel 2](#) (online [here](#)) April 27 reported on a study by Dr. Marlena Fejzo that found in utero exposure to extreme morning sickness may result in neurological deficits in the child. Fejzo is an associate researcher in the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. The KCBS story also appeared on network affiliates [WTOV-TV](#) (Ga.), [WBNS-TV](#) (Ohio) and [KWTX-TV](#) (Texas).

In Memoriam: Dr. Marshall Morgan

The Los Angeles [Daily News](#) reported April 20 that Dr. Marshall Morgan, age 73, a professor of clinical medicine and director of the UCLA Emergency Medicine Center for over 30 years has passed away. He was a past president of the Los Angeles County Medical Association and recipient of the Sherman M. Mellinkoff Faculty Award. He was widely recognized by colleagues and students as an outstanding educator and compassionate physician.

UCLA Football's Spring Showcase Raises Funds for Operation Mend

Operation Mend was noted in an Associated Press article picked up by [KCBS-Channel 2](#) April 25, the Los Angeles [Daily News](#) April 24 and the [Pasadena Weekly](#) April 23 alerting football fans attending UCLA's Spring Showcase that ticket proceeds would benefit UCLA's Operation Mend, an innovative program that provides returning military personnel from Iraq and Afghanistan, and service members wounded in training for battle, who suffer from severe facial and other medical injuries access to the nation's top plastic and reconstructive surgeons, as well as comprehensive medical and mental-health support for the wounded and their families. As a result of the partnership between Operation Mend and [UCLA Football's Spring Showcase](#), UCLA Athletics announced a total contribution of \$12,615 to the program.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Treated and Released at UCLA

[USA Today](#), [KCBS-Channel 2](#), [Reuters](#), [Washington Post](#), [People Magazine](#), and many others reported that basketball legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, who underwent heart bypass surgery at UCLA two weeks ago, was evaluated by his doctors in the emergency room after he reported feeling dizzy. After a battery of tests, his doctors found no complications. Abdul-Jabbar was discharged and returned home to continue his recovery. His surgeon, Dr. Richard Shemin, professor and chief of cardiac surgery at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, was quoted.

Media Outlets Cover Epilepsy Study

The [Scrubs Report](#), [Health News Digest](#), [MedicalXpress](#), [Science Daily](#) and [Science Codex](#) April 29, and [News-Medical](#) April 30 reported on a study that focused on parents' journeys to surgical evaluation once their children are diagnosed with epilepsy. The study was led by Dr. Christine B. Baca, an assistant professor in residence of neurology at UCLA.

Santa Monica Surgeons Talk Monkey Business with ESPN Radio Following Gorilla Surgery

[ESPN Radio LA](#) April 25 aired a segment on its "Weekend Warrior" show that featured Dr. Nicholas Bernthal and Dr. Devon Jeffcoat, both assistant clinical professors and orthopaedic surgeons at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica. The surgeons were interviewed about their experience performing surgery on a gorilla with a broken leg at the Los Angeles Zoo.

LGBT-competent Physicians Scarce at U.S. Academic Medical Practices

The [Washington Blade](#) April 24 and [Health24](#) April 22 and reported 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 and Dr. Allison Diamant, the study's senior author and an adjunct professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, were quoted in the coverage.

Pesticides' Possible Link to Parkinson's

Research by Dr. Beate Ritz, professor and chair of epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, on the possible connection between genetic variation, exposure to pesticides and risk for Parkinson's was featured April 29 by [Science Blog](#) and [HealthCanal](#), and April 28 by [MedicalXpress](#).

Protein Test Can Identify Patients Likeliest to Benefit from Cancer Drug Keytruda

The [Standard Examiner](#) reported April 27 on a test given to lung cancer patients to determine if they had high levels of PD-L1, a protein that tumor cells can use to switch off an immune system response to the cancer. Those with higher levels of PD-L1 were more likely to have tumor shrinkage, compared to patients with lower levels of the protein. The results were presented at the American Association for Cancer Research earlier this month. Dr. Edward Garon, associate professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology and member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, and Dr. Antoni Ribas, professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology and director of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Tumor Immunology Program Area, were quoted.

New Partnership Broadens Fitness Opportunities for Los Angeles Adolescents

The [Beverly Hills Courier](#) April 24 featured news that UCLA Health has joined forces with the Sound Body Sound Mind Foundation to tackle the problem of childhood obesity. The Sound Body Sound Mind Foundation has pledged \$3 million to establish a partnership with UCLA Health. The new entity, UCLA Health Sound Body Sound Mind, will replicate the foundation's existing program model and install state-of-the-art fitness equipment, and offer physical education guidance and fitness curricula free of charge to selected middle and high schools in Los Angeles County as a means of strengthening preventive health solutions for students. Bill Simon, co-founder of Sound Body Sound Mind, and Nathan Nambiar, executive director of the Sound Body Sound Mind Foundation and community engagement manager at UCLA Health, were quoted.

Stem Cell Scientists Develop More Effective Way to Create Motor Neurons

[HealthCanal](#) April 21 and [MedicalXpress](#) April 22 reported on a study published in the journal *Nature Communications*. The research used embryonic stem cells to create a more efficient method to grow in the lab the type of motor neuron that supplies nerves to the arms and legs. Scientists can now use this method to conduct more robust motor neuron studies that enhance the understanding of motor neuron diseases such as ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) and spinal muscular atrophy. The study was directed by UCLA Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research member, Dr. Bennett Novitch, an associate professor of neurobiology.

Patent for Important Cell Identification Method

[HealthCanal.com](#) April 24 reported on a patent issued to UCLA Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research members Dr. William Lowry and Dr. Kathrin Plath. Issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office, the patent covers a method used to identify human induced pluripotent stem cells in the lab using a tumor rejection antigen, or TRA, which identifies stem cells that have reached a pluripotent state (meaning they can turn into any other cell in the body). The TRA staining method is the standard first step in most research studies involving human induced pluripotent stem cells. Lowry is an associate professor of molecular, cell and developmental biology in the life sciences and Plath is a professor of biological chemistry.

Bike Ride Raises Funds for UCLA Blood & Platelet Center

The [Jewish Journal](#) published an April 30 profile of UCLA donor Peter Heumann, who with his wife, Deborah, has organized the City of Angels Fun Ride for 18 years. More than 750 cyclists turned out last Sunday to raise over \$30,000 for the UCLA Blood & Platelet Center. Newly relocated to the UCLA campus, the bike ride was also covered April 24 by [Examiner.com](#). Heumann was quoted in the Journal.

KFI Radio Features Heart Expert

An April 23 KFI 640AM interview ([Part 1](#), [Part 2](#)) on the Bill Carroll Show featured Dr. Tamara Horwich, associate clinical professor of medicine in the division of cardiology and co-director of the UCLA Barbra Streisand Women's Heart Health Program. She discussed heart attack symptoms and commented on a study that shows a rise in heart attacks in women.

Geriatrician's Column Recommends Spring Cleaning of Medicine Cabinets

Dr. Heather Schickedanz, staff geriatrician at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica and assistant clinical professor of medicine, authored an April 24 [Santa Monica Mirror](#) column recommending that older adults taking multiple medications perform spring cleaning of their medicine cabinets by reviewing current prescriptions during doctor visits.

Maternal Vitamin D Status Could Protect Against Bacterial, Viral Infections in Infants

[Infectious Diseases in Children](#) featured April 28 an article and video on research conducted by Dr. Valencia Walker, an assistant clinical professor of neonatology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, which looked at the impact of vitamin D among neonates and found associations between maternal vitamin D status and infant vitamin D status. The study found these associations may have implications for neonatal immune function.

Kaleidoscope Ball to Raise Funds for Pediatric Research

The [Beverly Hills Courier](#) featured April 27 an article about the upcoming Kaleidoscope Ball that will benefit the UCLA Children's Discovery and Innovation Institute at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA. The gala will be hosted by actress Goldie Hawn and will honor actress Halle Berry and others.

U.S. News Explores Hypnosis in Medicine

Dr. Charlene Williams, director of the UCLA Mind-Body Medicine Group in head and neck surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was featured April 29 in a [U.S. News & World Report](#) story on the role of hypnosis in medicine.

UCLA Health Policy Experts Weigh Pros and Cons of High Deductibles

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, and Dr. Dylan Roby, assistant professor of health policy and management, analyzed the new generation of high-deductible health insurance policies in an April 23 article in [Reporting on Health](#).

Are Elderly Japanese-Americans the Model for Healthy Aging in the U.S.?

Research by Dr. Ying-Ying Meng, senior research scientist at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research in the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, found that elderly Japanese-Americans had lower risks than other racial and ethnic groups in California for several health indicators. The findings were covered April 29 by [HealthCanal](#) and [MedicalXpress](#).

Some Brokers Hard-Hit by Obamacare

Dr. Dylan Roby, senior research scientist at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and assistant professor of health policy and management at UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was featured in an April 29 [KPCC 89.3FM](#) story about the effect of the Affordable Care Act on insurance brokers.

Saving Strokes Gold Event Featured

[Examiner.com](#) April 27 featured the "Saving Strokes" gold event that provides lessons and special equipment for stroke patients and their caregivers.

OB/GYN Program Manager Profiled

[CBS Los Angeles](#) April 25 profiled Karen Roque, the Title X program manager at the UCLA OB/GYN Clinic, in a series that highlights female health educators.

BRIEFS

Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center was mentioned in an April 29 [Los Angeles Times](#) article on the most recent Leapfrog hospital patient safety grades. The Leapfrog Group, an employer-backed nonprofit group focused on healthcare quality, issued its latest scores, it said, so consumers and employers can be aware of hospital patient safety performance.

A study by Dr. Neal Halfon, director of the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities, was cited by [Crain's Detroit Business](#) April 24 in a story on childhood obesity and minority health issues.

In an April 29 preview for a local film festival, [KCSG-TV](#) (Southern Utah) referenced plans to screen the documentary "Designing Healthy Communities" featuring Dr. Richard Jackson, professor of environmental health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.

Research on human tissue aging by Dr. Steve Horvath, professor of human genetics and biostatistics, was cited April 28 by [Information Nigeria](#).

Dr. Clifford Ko, professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and director of the UCLA Center for Surgical Outcomes and Quality, was named April 24 in [Becker's Hospital Review's](#) annual list of 50 experts leading the field of patient safety.

A study on psychological distress cited data from the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research's California Health Information Survey. The findings were reported April 23 by [HealthCanal](#), April 24 by [Psych Central](#) and [GoodTherapy.org](#), and April 25 by [News-Medical](#).

QUOTABLES

Dr. James Cherry, a distinguished research professor of pediatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and attending physician of pediatric infectious diseases at Mattel Children's Hospital

UCLA, was quoted April 29 in articles by [United Press International](#) and [Diabetes Insider](#) about the recent announcement by the World Health Organization that rubella has been eradicated in the Americas.

Dr. Steven Cole, associate professor of psychiatry and medicine, and a member of the Cousins Center for Psychoneuroimmunology, was quoted in an April 24 [Boston Globe](#) article about the chronic problem of loneliness in the elderly, and a subset of elderly people for whom loneliness is harder to resolve as it is partly a function of personality and temperament.

Dr. Christopher Giza, professor of pediatrics and neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, commented April 25 in [MedPage Today](#) on research that induced the patients' normal body temperature to treat brain trauma. Previous approaches had relied upon cooling therapy.

Dr. Mark Gold, acting director of UCLA's Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, was quoted in an April 30 [Los Angeles Times](#) story on the use of heavy fines to curb water consumption in California.

Stephen Goldstein, former coordinator for the UCLA People-Animal Connection, was quoted in the spring issue of [BP Magazine](#) in a story about the mental health benefits of pets.

Dr. Tara McCannel, an assistant professor of ophthalmology in the retinal division at the Stein Eye Institute at UCLA, was interviewed April 22 by [Fox News Radio](#) about actress Rosanne Barr announcing that she is losing her vision due to macular degeneration and glaucoma. The segment re-aired on dozens of Fox Radio affiliates nationwide.

Dr. David Reuben, chief of the UCLA Division of Geriatrics, was quoted in an April 24 [Marketplace](#) article about how changes in nursing home care can result in fewer hospital readmissions of elderly patients.

Dr. Beate Ritz, professor and chair of the department of epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in an April 27 [NBCNews.com](#) article about the ill effects air pollution can have on the elderly, especially by causing "mini-strokes" in the brain. Ritz noted that such small strokes can have a cumulative effect and ultimately impact one's quality of life.

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