



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT**  
**For the week of April 27 – May 3, 2012**

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**Experts Comment on Apparent Suicide of Former NFL Player**

Dr. Neil Martin, professor and chair of the department of neurosurgery, was featured May 3 on KTTV-Channel 11's "Good Day LA" and KFI 640AM and May 2 on KTLA-Channel 5, regarding the apparent suicide of NFL football player Junior Seau and the similarities between his death and that of former Chicago Bears safety Dave Duerson, who died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound last year. Researchers later determined that Duerson, as well as a number of other former professional athletes, suffered from chronic traumatic encephalopathy, a neurodegenerative disease linked to concussions, dementia and

occasionally suicide. Separately, David Hovda, professor of neurosurgery and director of the UCLA Brain Injury Research Center, was interviewed May 3 on KNX-1070 AM and KCBS-740 AM (San Francisco), and quoted in an [MSNBC.com](#) article. Hovda, Martin and Dr. Chris Giza, associate professor of neurosurgery and pediatric neurology, were cited May 2 in an [Examiner.com](#) article.

### **Reagan's Daughter Helps Alzheimer's Patients**

[KNBC-Channel 4](#) reported April 30 on Beyond Alzheimer's, a new support group founded by President Ronald Reagan's daughter Patti Davis as part of the UCLA Alzheimer's and Dementia Care program at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center. Davis and Dr. David Reuben, professor and chief of geriatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, were interviewed. Additionally, [KNBC-Channel 4](#) aired May 1 a second segment featuring an interview with Davis on her personal story involving her father's battle with Alzheimer's disease.

### **Discover Magazine Explores How Memories are Made**

Dr. Alcino Silva, professor of neurobiology, psychiatry and psychology, was featured in the April edition of [Discover](#) magazine (subscription) about his research into how memories form, and the role that a protein called CREB has in influencing a neuron to form a memory.

### **Media Focus on New Guidelines for Lupus**

[HealthDay News](#) and [WebMD](#) covered May 3 new guidelines for severe lupus issued from the American College of Rheumatology. Lead author Dr. Bevra Hahn, professor of medicine and chief of rheumatology, was quoted. The HealthDay story was picked up by [MSN.com](#), [Health.com](#) and [U.S. News & World Report](#).

### **Online Outlets Spotlight Link between Underweight Babies and Obesity**

[Imperial Valley News](#) reported May 3 and [Yahoo News](#), [Examiner](#), [Science Daily](#), [Newstrack India](#), [HealthCanal](#) and [Science Codex](#) published May 2 articles on a new study led by Dr. Sherin Devaskar, professor of pediatrics and executive chair of the department of pediatrics at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, which found that in low-birth-weight babies whose growth was restricted in the womb, the level of appetite-producing neuropeptides in the brain's hypothalamus — the central control of the appetite — is higher, resulting in a natural tendency among these children to consume more calories. The findings were published in the June issue of the *Journal of Neurosciences Research*.

### **Health Magazine Reports that Poor Kids Struggle More With Obesity**

A study led by Susan Babey, project director at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research in the Fielding School of Public Health, was featured May 1 in a [Health.com](#) article about childhood obesity rates in the U.S. showing that while obesity levels have declined among teens from middle- and high-income families, they have increased among those living in poverty.

### **Nature Highlights Possible Cancer Risk from Diabetes Drug**

An article published April 30 in [Nature](#) about a drive to ban a diabetes drug due to its suspected link to some cancers highlighted research by Dr. Peter Butler, chief of endocrinology and director of the Larry L. Hillblom Islet Research Center, suggesting that the drug liraglutide could pose an elevated risk for pancreatic cancer. Butler was quoted.

### **Oncology Times Feature Thyroid Surgery Finding**

[Oncology Times](#) reported March 25 on research suggesting that routine removal of neck lymph nodes during initial thyroid surgery for papillary cancer may lower recurrence and levels of thyroglobulin, a thyroid tumor marker. Study author Dr. Michael Yeh, an associate professor of surgery, was quoted.

### **Examiner Reports that Search for Disease Cause Yields Surprise**

Dr. Joanna Jen, professor of neurology, was featured April 30 in an [Examiner](#) blog on her discovery of the genetic mechanism behind the rare disease PCH1, which attacks the brains and spines of infants.

### **Local NPR Explores America's Sleep Deprivation**

Dr. Alon Avidan, associate professor of neurology and director of the UCLA Sleep Disorders Program, was featured May 1 in an interview on KPCC 89.3FM's [Patt Morrison](#) show. Avidan discussed a new study released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that found that as many as one in three American civilian workers gets less than six hours of sleep per night—significantly less than the optimal recommended amount of seven to nine hours.

### **Becker's and L.A. Business Journal Honor Health Leaders**

In the [Los Angeles Business Journal's 2012 Healthcare Leadership Awards](#) supplement published April 16, the publication gave the spotlight to honoree Dr. David Feinberg, president of the UCLA Health System and associate vice chancellor for health sciences, for transforming the UCLA Health System into an institution that is dedicated to putting patients first and treating them with respect, compassion and humanity. Paul Staton, chief financial officer for the UCLA Hospital System; Christina Catipa, director of operations for the UCLA Community Physicians Network and the UCLA Health System Faculty Practice Group; and the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health's EMPH Program, were also noted as Health Leadership Award finalists. In a separate honor, Feinberg was listed in [Becker's Hospital Review](#) list of "100 Leaders of Great Hospitals" published April 30.

### **UCLA Helps Iraq Cope with Drug Abuse**

Richard Rawson, professor of psychiatry and associate director of the UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs at the Semel Institute, was featured April 28 in a [Daily Star](#) (Lebanon) newspaper article about a partnership between Iraqi and Lebanese clinicians and UCLA aimed at combating the growing drug abuse problem in Iraq.

### **Toronto Star Highlights Keeping the Brain Sharp**

The [Toronto Star](#) featured April 29 a Q&A with Dr. Gary Small, Parlow–Solomon Professor on Aging and professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, about brain function, dementia and his book, "The Alzheimer's Prevention Program: Keep Your Brain Healthy for the Rest of Your Life."

### **Local Newspaper Spotlights Latest CPR Technology**

[Easy Reader News](#) reported April 25 that the Redondo Beach Fire Department is using new state-of-the-art cardiopulmonary resuscitation technology to help improve survival rates for patients in cardiac arrest. The program was developed by Dr. Dan Davis at UC San Diego and is being rolled-out at Southland fire departments in partnership with UCLA, UC San Diego and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Dr. Baxter Larmon, director of the UCLA Center for Prehospital Care, was quoted.

### **Santa Monica Papers Cover Renaming of Imaging Center**

The [Santa Monica Daily Press](#) reported May 3 and the [Santa Monica Mirror](#) published May 2 a story and captioned photo about the newly named Barbara Kort Women's Imaging Center on the UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica campus. Dr. Anne Hoyt, director of the center and associate professor of radiology, was quoted in both papers. Dr. Helena Chang, director of the Revlon/UCLA Breast Center and a researcher at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was cited in the Daily Press.

### **Local Papers Feature Column on Dengue Fever**

[Los Angeles Daily News](#), [San Gabriel Valley Tribune](#) and [Pasadena Star-News](#) featured April 27 a column by Dr. Claire Panosian Dunavan, clinical professor of medicine, division of infectious diseases, about the mosquito-borne tropical disease known as Dengue fever.

## **BRIEFS**

The [Examiner](#) covered April 26 a new study by the UCLA Center for Longevity that is seeking adults with memory complaints, ages 50 to 90, to study the effectiveness of the supplement curcumin on age-related memory loss.

Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA was cited April 26 in a story that aired on [KGPE-Channel 47](#) (Fresno) about a fundraising event to benefit a local 7-year-old boy who was recently listed for a heart transplant at UCLA.

A research network developed by Dr. Dennis Slamon, director of clinical/translational research at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was cited April 20 by the [Lompoc Record](#).

## QUOTABLES

Dr. Andrew Drexler, director of the Gonda (Goldschmied) Diabetes Center, was quoted April 29 in a [Long Beach Press-Telegram](#) story about the Tour de Cure, the American Diabetes Association's annual cycling event. The article also appeared in the [Contra Costa Times](#).

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, was quoted April 30 in a [HealthDay News](#) article about research showing that the odds of surviving a heart attack vary from hospital to hospital. In addition, he commented in the May issue of [McKnight's Long-Term Care News](#) about the positive impact of technology-driven devices and products used in heart failure care. Fonarow also commented May 2 in a [HealthDay News](#) article about a recent study demonstrating the effectiveness of a new aortic valve replacement procedure. This story also appeared in [Yahoo News](#).

Dr. Patricia Ganz, director of cancer prevention and control research at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted May 1 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) article about studies suggesting that women with a family history of breast cancer should get their first mammogram earlier.

Dr. Wally Ghurabi, medical director of the Nethercutt Emergency Center at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, commented May 2 in an [Associated Press](#) story about a San Diego college student left in a jail cell by the Drug Enforcement Agency for several days without food and water. The story was picked up by multiple outlets including [San Jose Mercury News](#), [Pittsburg Post-Gazette](#), [Austin Statesman](#) and many more.

Edythe London, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was quoted May 1 in an [Irish Independent](#) article about research suggesting that teens whose brain networks are arranged in a certain way are more prone to binge drink and take drugs.

Dr. Michael Lu, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, was quoted April 30 in a [Salon.com](#) blog post about how extensive pampering of new mothers could help ward off post-partum depression.

Catherine Mogil, director of training and intervention development for Project FOCUS and co-director of the child and family trauma psychiatry service at the Semel Institute, was quoted April 27 in an [MSNBC](#) article about strategies used by families to cope with the overseas deployment of a parent in the military.

Dylan Roby, director of the Health Economics and Evaluation Research Program at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and an assistant adjunct professor at the Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted April 27 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) article about the health care company Molina.

Dr. Larissa Rodriguez, associate professor of urology, commented April 27 in a [Reuter's](#) article about research indicating that coffee may not exacerbate urinary incontinence in women. The story was picked up by multiple outlets including [Yahoo! News Canada](#), [Toronto Star](#), [Hartford Courant](#), [HealthZone](#) and [WNWN Radio](#) (Missouri).

Dr. Lawrence Taw, assistant professor of medicine at the UCLA Center for East-West Medicine, was quoted in the June issue of Women's Day magazine discussing the use of integrative medicine techniques for heartburn.

Paul Thompson, professor of neurology and a member of the Laboratory of Neuro Imaging (LONI), was quoted April 30 in an [ABC News.com](#) article about the varied factors that can cause a lack of self-control in teens and predispose them toward addictive behavior.

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