



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT  
For the week of April 30 – May 6, 2010**

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**L.A. Times Describes Scientists' Fight to Save Son from Genetic Disease**

The Los Angeles Times published a front-page story May 3 on two UCLA scientists' research into Duchenne's muscular dystrophy to save their nine-year-old son, who was diagnosed with the lethal

genetic disease as a toddler. The Times' health blog reported separately on a new UCLA clinic for DMD, expected to open later this year. Dr. Stan Nelson, professor of human genetics and psychiatry, and Carrie Miceli, professor of microbiology, immunology and molecular genetics, were featured; and Dr. Melissa Spencer, associate professor of neurology, was quoted.

"Column One: A Personal Fight Against a Lethal Childhood Illness"

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-sci-dystrophy-20100503,0,2995280.story>

"Events Help Launch Muscular Dystrophy Clinic"

[http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/booster\\_shots/2010/05/duchenne-muscular-dystrophy.html?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+BoosterShots+%28Booster+Shots%29](http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/booster_shots/2010/05/duchenne-muscular-dystrophy.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+BoosterShots+%28Booster+Shots%29)

### **Chronicle of Higher Ed Examines Biological Link between Misery, Illness**

Steven Cole, associate professor of medicine in the division of hematology-oncology and a member of the Cousins Center for Psychoneuroimmunology at the Semel Institute, was profiled May 2 by the Chronicle of Higher Education about his research finding a biochemical link between depression and death. He identified a genetic variation that appears to disrupt the link, making people more resilient to adversity. A related article detailed Cole's challenges obtaining grants to carry out the research.

"Misery in the Genes"

<http://chronicle.com/article/Misery-in-the-Genes-How-DNA/65335/>

"The Stress of Studying Stress"

<http://chronicle.com/article/The-Stress-of-Studying-Stress/65334/>

### **USA Today Highlights Role of Follow-up in Cardiac Care**

USA Today reported May 5 on a study co-authored by Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center. His team found that hospitals can slow heart-failure patients' rate of return for additional care by following-up to ensure that patients receive proper outpatient care. He was quoted.

"Hospital Check-Ins May Slow Heart Failure Readmissions"

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2010-05-05-heartfailure05\\_ST\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2010-05-05-heartfailure05_ST_N.htm)

### **ABC News Reports on Gulf Oil Spill**

Richard Ambrose, director of UCLA's Environmental Science and Engineering Program and a professor of environmental health sciences at the School of Public Health, appeared April 30 on ABC News about the environmental impact of the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

"Oil Reaches Louisiana Coast"

<http://abcnews.go.com/WNT/video/oil-reaches-louisiana-coast-10524024>

### **BBC News Explores Origins of Cinco de Mayo**

David Hayes-Bautista, director of the UCLA Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture, was quoted by several news outlets about the origin and history of Cinco de Mayo celebrations. Reports included BBC News on May 4 and the San Bernardino Sun and KMEX-Channel 34 on May 5. KNX 1070AM reported May 2 about his research on the holiday.

"Arizona Law Gives Cinco de Mayo New Importance, Some Assert"

[http://www.sbsun.com/ci\\_15017443?IADID=Search-www.sbsun.com-www.sbsun.com](http://www.sbsun.com/ci_15017443?IADID=Search-www.sbsun.com-www.sbsun.com)

"Hispanos Celebran Cinco de Mayo"

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/mundo/cultura\\_sociedad/2010/05/100504\\_2120\\_celebran\\_cinco\\_de\\_mayo\\_lf.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/mundo/cultura_sociedad/2010/05/100504_2120_celebran_cinco_de_mayo_lf.shtml)

KMEX "Primera Edición"

<http://showroom.multivisioninc.com/share.do?id=126415&key=JBvNjht1Nywv4ANGKMrUokplGvyYzBOR&email=ERivero@mednet.ucla.edu>

### **L.A. Times Looks into PTSD in Cancer Survivors**

The Los Angeles Times health blog reported May 6 on a study by Dr. Margaret Stuber finding that adult survivors of childhood cancers are four times more likely than their siblings to develop post-traumatic stress disorder. PsychCentral.com and Scope also covered the findings. Stuber is a professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences and a researcher at UCLA's Jonsson Cancer Center.

"Adult Survivors of Childhood Cancer more likely to Suffer from Post-traumatic Stress Disorder"

[http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/booster\\_shots/2010/05/adult-survivors-of-childhood-cancer-more-likely-to-suffer-posttraumatic-stress-disorder.html](http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/booster_shots/2010/05/adult-survivors-of-childhood-cancer-more-likely-to-suffer-posttraumatic-stress-disorder.html)

“Cancer Survivors likely to Develop Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder”

<http://psychcentral.com/news/2010/05/03/cancer-survivors-likely-to-develop-post-traumatic-stress-disorder/13452.html>

“Childhood Cancer Survivors Face Increased Risk of PTSD”

<http://scopeblog.stanford.edu/archives/2010/05/childhood-cancer-and-ptsd.html>

### **Fox News Reports on Asia and Gambling**

Dr. Timothy Fong, assistant professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was interviewed May 5 by FOX Business Network’s “Varney & Company” on Asia’s emerging gambling industry.

### **Discovery Health Profiles Childhood Schizophrenia**

Dr. Mark DeAntonio, clinical professor of psychiatry and director of adolescent inpatient services at the Semel Institute, was featured in a May 6 Discovery Health Channel program about a six-year old being treated at the Resnick Neuropsychiatry Hospital for early onset child schizophrenia.

### **La Opinion Spotlights UCLA Volunteers at Free Health Clinic**

La Opinión reported May 1 on UCLA medical volunteers delivering care to low-income patients as part of the nonprofit Remote Area Medical's free health clinic in Los Angeles. Dr. Michael Rodriguez, professor of family medicine, and Dr. Anne Coleman, Fran and Ray Stark Foundation Professor of Ophthalmology and director of the UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic, were quoted.

### **KPCC Discusses Sleep Disorders and Death**

Dr. Alon Avidan, associate professor of neurology and associate director of the Sleep Disorders Program, appeared May 6 in a segment on KPCC-89.3 FM’s “AirTalk.” Avidan commented on a study finding that people who get less than six hours of sleep per night are 12 percent more likely to die early.

“Lack of ZZZZs can be Fatal”

<http://www.scpr.org/programs/airtalk/2010/05/06/lack-of-zzzzs-can-be-fatal/>

### **Ventura County Star Compares Stroke Prevention Methods**

The Ventura County Star reported May 2 on a study that found that both surgery and carotid artery stents were safe and effective for stroke prevention. Dr. Wesley Moore, professor of vascular surgery and principal investigator for the UCLA site as well as the study’s national surgical director, was quoted.

“Stents are shown to be as effective as Stroke Surgery”

<http://www.vcstar.com/news/2010/may/02/stents-are-shown-to-be-as-effective-as-stroke/>

### **MedPage Cites Interview with IBS Expert**

MedPage Today reported May 5 on a video interview with Dr. Brennan Spiegel, assistant professor of digestive diseases and director of the UCLA/VA Center for Outcomes and Education, about diagnosis and treatment of irritable bowel syndrome. His interview took place at Digestive Disease Week in New Orleans.

“DDW: No Magic Cures for IBS”

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/MeetingCoverage/DDW/19944>

### **Third Age Links Fat Gene and Brain-Tissue Loss**

The health news site Third Age reported April 30 on a study led by Paul Thompson, professor of neurology and a member of the UCLA Laboratory of Neuro Imaging, which found that a common gene variant that causes individuals to gain weight is also associated with a loss of brain tissue.

“Obesity and Alzheimer’s Linked to Gene”

<http://www.thirdage.com/obesity/obesity-alzheimers-linked-to-gene>

### **Asian Newswire Reports on Seniors’ Excessive Drinking**

Asian News International reported April 30 on a UCLA study finding that more than a third of drinkers over age 60 drink excessively, especially in light of diseases and medications associated with their age.

Andrew Barnes, a researcher in the UCLA School of Public Health, was quoted.

"Regular Booze Harms those Over 60 with Health Issues, Prescription Meds"

<http://www.andhranews.net/Health/2010/April/30-Regular-booze-harms-those14888.asp#ixzz0mcTxNkXF>

### **Health Website Discusses Bipolar Treatment**

Carrie Bearden, clinical neuropsychologist and associate professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was featured in a May 20 Everydayhealth.com article about lithium's continued effectiveness in controlling bipolar disorder.

"Lithium Treatment for Bipolar Disorder"

<http://www.everydayhealth.com/bipolar-disorder/lithium-treatment-for-bipolar-disorder.aspx>

### **Medical Blog Highlights Cancer Research**

Cancer research by Dr. Noah Federman, assistant professor of pediatrics and hematology/oncology and a researcher at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was featured on the blog Kate Johnson's Medical Musings.

"Star Wars Chemotherapy: Nanotechnology Pushes New Frontiers in Pediatric Cancer"

<http://katejohnsonmednews.wordpress.com/2010/04/20/star-wars-chemotherapy-nanotechnology-pushes-new-frontiers-in-pediatric-cancer/#more-314>

### **BRIEFS**

Research into body dysmorphic disorder by Dr. Jamie Feusner, assistant professor of psychiatry and director of the Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder Intensive Treatment Program, was highlighted in a May 6 Popeater.com article about an actress' excessive plastic surgery.

"Is Heidi Montag's Plastic Surgery Obsession Really a Mental Disorder?"

<http://www.popeater.com/2010/05/06/heidi-montag-plastic-surgery-body-dysmorphic-disorder/>

An April 30 Ventura County Star story about county-run health plans that help chronically ill, uninsured individuals over the age of 50 noted the advisory role of Gerald Kominski, professor of public health and associate director of the Center for Health Policy Research at the School of Public Health. Kominski was quoted.

"County Programs Offer Lifeline to Uninsured Boomers"

<http://www.vcstar.com/news/2010/apr/30/county-programs-offer-lifeline-to-uninsured/>

The Palisadian Post announced April 30 that Dr. Gary Green, clinical professor of family medicine, was appointed Major League Baseball's medical director.

"Green Named MLB Medical Director"

<http://www.palisadespost.com/sports/content.php?id=5707>

Ocular Surgery News reported May 6 on a new program by the American Academy of Ophthalmology to identify undiagnosed eye disease in high-risk Americans. The first vision screening will take place July 25 in the Los Angeles area in collaboration with the Jules Stein Eye Institute at UCLA.

"AAO Launches Vision Screening Program for At-Risk Adult Populations in U.S."

<http://www.osnsupersite.com/view.aspx?rid=64005>

### **QUOTABLES**

Dr. David Baron, chief of staff at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, commented April 26 in an E! Entertainment News report about the subarachnoid hemorrhage suffered by musician Bret Michaels. He also was quoted May 3 by American Medical News about proposed cuts in Medicare payments to physicians and temporary measures to forestall cuts under the sustainable growth rate system.

"Medicare Pay: SGR Fatigue"

<http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2010/05/03/gvsa0503.htm>

Dr. Timothy Fong, assistant professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and co-director of the UCLA Impulse Control Disorders Clinic, commented May 6 in a KCBS-TV Channel 2 news segment on "returnaholics," individuals obsessed with purchasing and then returning items to stores.  
"Returnaholics' Obsessed with Taking Stuff Back"  
<http://cbs2.com/consumer>Returns.Returnaholics.Addicted.2.1677700.html>

Dr. Wally Ghurabi, medical director of the Nethercutt Emergency Center at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, was quoted in an April 30 Santa Monica Daily Press story about a dangerous "choking game" that recently killed a 12-year-old in Santa Monica.  
"Most Area Parents Largely Unaware of 'Choking Game'"  
[http://www.smdp.com/Articles-c-2010-04-30-69524.113116\\_Most\\_area\\_parents\\_largely\\_unaware\\_of\\_choking\\_game.html](http://www.smdp.com/Articles-c-2010-04-30-69524.113116_Most_area_parents_largely_unaware_of_choking_game.html)

Shana Alex Lavarreda, director of health insurance studies at the Center for Health Policy Research at the School of Public Health, was quoted in the May 4 Ventura County Star about how health care reform will affect negotiations between health care providers and insurers.  
"Health Reform + You: Negotiating Payments"  
<http://m.vcstar.com/news/2010/may/04/nxxhealthcare05/>

Dr. Mina Ma, associate clinical professor of general internal medicine and health services research, was quoted in the May issue of Body & Soul magazine about what women need to know for their annual medical exams.

Dr. Judy Orloff, assistant clinical professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences, commented May 5 in a CNN.com article on what scientists understand about dream interpretation and analysis.  
"Dreams about Taking Exam, Being Naked -- What They Mean"  
<http://www.cnn.com/2010/HEALTH/05/05/dreams.psychology/?hpt=Sbin>

Richard Rawson, professor of psychiatry and associate director of the Integrated Substance Abuse Programs at the Semel Institute, was quoted in a May 2 article in the Providence Journal (Rhode Island) about doctor shopping and obtaining prescription drugs illegally.  
"Rita Watson: Pill Popping and Doctor Shopping"  
[http://www.projo.com/opinion/contributors/content/CT\\_newrita2\\_05-02-10\\_2DI9SOM\\_v16.46dd024.html](http://www.projo.com/opinion/contributors/content/CT_newrita2_05-02-10_2DI9SOM_v16.46dd024.html)

Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging and a professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at the Semel Institute, commented April 30 in the New York Times about the role of technology in adolescent communication. He also commented May 6 in an MSNBC.com article about a study showing that the risk of developing dementia increases if one lives with a spouse who has been diagnosed with the condition.  
"Antisocial Networking"  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/02/fashion/02BEST.html?src=mv>  
"If Spouse Has Dementia, Your Risk Rises, Too"  
<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/36975938/ns/health-aging/from/ET>

Dr. Paul Vespa, professor of neurosurgery and neurology and director of UCLA's Neurointensive Care Unit, was quoted in an April 29 Associated Press story about subarachnoid hemorrhages.  
"Bret Michaels Might be Ready to Rock in Weeks"  
<http://abcnews.go.com/Entertainment/wirestory?id=10518856&page=1>

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