



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of May 1-7, 2015**

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The Scientist Spotlights HIV and Social Media Research

CBS Morning Spotlights Virtual Surgery Headpiece

ABC News Covers Helmet Sensors to Detect Concussion

TIME Explores Consequences of Blows to the Head

Pediatric Expert Comments on Whooping Cough, Measles

Entertainment Media Spotlight 2015 Taste for a Cure Gala

State Air Quality has Improved—but Could Be Better

How to Stick to a Prescription Drug Regimen

Helping Women in Africa Suffering from the Most Heartbreaking Condition You've Never Heard of, Fistula

UCLA's Chief Nurse Offers Views on Leadership and Ethics

Santa Clarita Physician's Commentary Explains 'Superbug' Emergence

Local Newspaper Highlights New Playroom in Santa Monica

Santa Monica Receives Top Grade in Patient Safety Report

Researcher's Work "A Game Changer"

Huff Post Reports on Brain Changes and Birth Control

YouTube Video Calls for More Science Funding

KFI Monitors Irregular Heart Rhythms

Mother's Day is Coming, but Moms in U.S. Still Not Guaranteed Maternity Leave

Experts Examine Why ER Visits Are Up Since Obamacare Took Effect

BRIEFS

QUOTABLES

Metformin Can Prevent Diabetes in High Risk People

[Health Canal](#) April 30; [Medscape](#) and [Consumer Affairs](#) May 1; [Health Newslines](#) May 2; [Medical News Today](#) May 4, and [domain-b](#) May 6 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. Moin was quoted.

Kaleidoscope Ball Raises \$2 million for Pediatric Research

[CBS's The Doctors](#), and [E! Online](#) May 6; [Christian Daily](#), [BET Television](#), [ABC News online](#), [Boston Herald](#), [People Magazine](#), [Los Angeles Magazine](#), and [Variety](#) May 4, and other media reported on the 3rd annual Kaleidoscope Ball which benefitted the Children's Discovery and Innovation Institute at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA. Actress Halle Barry was among several honorees at the event which raised more than \$2 million for the Institute. Dr. Sherin Devaskar, physician-in-chief of Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA and executive director of the UCLA Children's Discovery and Innovation Institute, was cited in the coverage.

The Scientist Spotlights HIV and Social Media Research

A May 1 article in [The Scientist](#) spotlighted three studies by Dr. Sean Young, an assistant professor of family medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and executive director of the UC Institute for Prediction Technology:

- A study published in PLOS ONE finding that men who find male sexual partners on social-networking sites are more likely to have oral sex, which carries a much lower chance of disease transmission.
- An American Journal of Public Health study finding that people who joined the Harnessing Online Peer Education (HOPE) social media intervention groups, in which peer leaders moderated discussions about HIV testing and infection prevention, were about three times more likely to request a home-based HIV testing kit than those in Facebook groups that received only general health information.
- A paper from Lancet HIV on a study conducted in Peru that applied the HOPE social media intervention program and found that participants were indeed significantly more likely to request home-based HIV testing kits, indicating it could be an effective low-cost intervention to stem the spread of AIDS in low- and middle-income countries.

Young, and Dr. Ian Holloway, a scientist with the UCLA Center for HIV Intervention, Prevention, and Treatment Services (CHIPTS) and a co-author on the second study, were quoted.

CBS Morning Spotlights Virtual Surgery Headpiece

A virtual reality headset that enables neurosurgeons to see inside their patients' brains was covered May 4 by [CBS This Morning](#). Dr. Neil Martin, chair of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, is developing the technology with Cincinnati-based firm, Surgical Theater, to allow surgeons to practice surgeries on their patients before entering the operating room. Martin was interviewed.

ABC News Covers Helmet Sensors to Detect Concussion

[ABCNews.com](#) May 5 and [KABC-Channel 7](#) May 4 reported on a landmark concussion study that is equipping some UCLA football players' helmets with sensors to monitor blows to the head in real time. Part of a \$30 million initiative funded by the National Collegiate Athletic Association and U.S. Department of Defense, the project will enroll an estimated 37,000 male and female student athletes over a three-year period to gain new insights into how to monitor and treat concussion. Dr. Christopher Giza, director of the UCLA Steve Tisch BrainSPORT Program and a professor of neurosurgery and pediatrics at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine and Mattel Children's Hospital; and Dr. John DiFiori, head team

physician with UCLA Athletics and a professor of family medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, were quoted in both stories.

TIME Explores Consequences of Blows to the Head

Dr. Christopher Giza, director of the UCLA Steve Tisch BrainSPORT Program and a professor of neurosurgery and pediatrics at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine and Mattel Children's Hospital, explained May 1 in [TIME](#) why a prize fight is murder on a boxer's brain.

Pediatric Expert Comments on Whooping Cough, Measles

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 in several stories related to whooping cough and measles vaccinations:

- [Associated Press](#) and [KNX1070AM](#) reported May 7 on new findings that the measles vaccine may result in other health benefits.
- [Medscape](#) and [NPR's "Health Shots"](#) reported May 5 on recent findings that effectiveness of the whooping cough vaccination wanes significantly over time, especially in adolescents.
- [KNBC-Channel 4](#) reported May 4 on the symptoms of whooping cough and what the public can do to prevent it.

Entertainment Media Spotlight 2015 Taste for a Cure Gala

[Variety](#), [Boston Herald](#) and [Just Jared](#) May 2, and [Socialite Life](#) May 4 covered the UCLA Jonsson Cancer Center Foundation's 20th annual Taste for a Cure event. The star-studded gala honoring Fox TV president David Madden raised more than \$1 million for high-priority cancer research, attracting Hollywood elite with featured performances from the cast of Fox TV's smash hit "Empire."

State Air Quality has Improved—but Could be Better

Dr. Michael Ong, associate professor in residence of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, published a May 6 op-ed in [Capitol Weekly](#) noting that even though the state's air quality has improved significantly over the years, much more needs to be done to reduce smog and soot pollution.

How to Stick to a Prescription Drug Regimen

The [Los Angeles Times](#) May 3 featured an article on the reasons patients have difficulty sticking to their prescriptions and problems that can result from non-adherence to medication. The story also focused on ways to manage the problem and cited a UCLA patient who was assisted by a UCLA pharmacist and care coordinator and received a grant from a foundation to help pay for his expensive medications. Dr. Gerardo Moreno, assistant professor at UCLA's Department of Family Medicine and co-director of the UCLA MyMeds program, was quoted.

Helping Women in Africa Suffering from the Most Heartbreaking Condition You've Never Heard of, Fistula

The [Huffington Post](#) May 6 featured the humanitarian work of Dr. Christopher Tarnay, associate clinical professor of obstetrics and gynecology, who has been taking volunteer medical teams from the United States to Uganda for five years with Medicine for Humanity and was recently appointed the charity's medical director. Tarnay treats women who suffer from fistula, a problem that occurs as a result of a birth or obstetric injury. It rarely happens in the United States because when there's an obstructed labor that could cause fistula, the baby is delivered by cesarean section. But in remote African villages, women can be hours, perhaps days away from a hospital. Tarnay, who directs the division of female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery at UCLA and is also one of the experienced surgeons in the world who can repair complex fistula, trains medics and doctors in Uganda, and was quoted.

UCLA's Chief Nurse Offers Views on Leadership and Ethics

Heidi Crooks, chief nurse executive of UCLA Health, was part of a panel of nursing industry leaders who were interviewed in the May issue of [Working Nurse](#) magazine about leadership and ethics in the field of nursing.

Santa Clarita Physician's Commentary Explains 'Superbug' Emergence

Dr. Michael Cohen, infectious disease specialist and assistant clinical professor with UCLA Health's Santa Clarita practice, authored a guest commentary in the May edition of [Santa Clarita Magazine](#), explaining how antibiotic overuse has led to the evolution of "superbugs."

Local Newspaper Highlights New Playroom in Santa Monica

The Santa Monica Daily Press May 1 published a front-page photo featuring three pediatric patients helping to open UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica's newly refurbished playroom. The event was attended by current and former patients, their families, volunteers and members of the Chase Child Life team.

Santa Monica Receives Top Grade in Patient Safety Report

[The Santa Monica Lookout](#) May 1 featured an article on the two Santa Monica hospitals and their grades in the recently released Leap Frog Group's annual report. UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica was noted as receiving an A for patient safety, a designation only 30 percent of hospitals nationwide achieved.

Researcher's Work "A Game Changer"

An April 20 [Nursing Times](#) article featured an interview with Barbara Bates-Jensen, professor at the UCLA School of Nursing, who discussed her handheld scanner that is designed to detect the early warning signs of pressure-related skin damage.

Huff Post Reports on Brain Changes and Birth Control

Dr. Nicole Petersen, a neuroscientist in the lab of Dr. Edythe D. London, professor of psychiatry and molecular and medical pharmacology in the Semel Institute, was featured in an April 8 [Huffington Post](#) article about her study showing that taking birth control pills may cause alterations in brain structure and function.

YouTube Video Calls for More Science Funding

Dr. Dale Bredesen, the Augustus Rose Professor of Neurology and director of the Mary S. Easton Center for Alzheimer's Disease Research, was featured in a March 6 [YouTube](#) video with comedian Rob Riggle promoting more funds for scientific research.

KFI Monitors Irregular Heart Rhythms

A May 7 [KFI 640AM](#) interview featured Dr. Noel Boyle, professor of medicine in the division of cardiology and director of UCLA's Cardiac Electrophysiology Labs at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. He discussed symptoms and types of arrhythmias or irregular heart rhythms as part of a story about tech mogul David Goldberg, whose autopsy indicated that he may have had a heart condition that contributed to his death.

Mother's Day is Coming, but Moms in U.S. Still Not Guaranteed Maternity Leave

Citing extensively from the WORLD Policy Analysis Center research from the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, [ABC News](#) May 6 reported on global family leave policies and how the United States is the only high-income nation without a national maternal leave policy. The story was republished May 6 by [WLOS-TV](#) (North Carolina), [MyCentralOregon.com](#), [KMBZ 98.1FM](#) (Kansas), [KTIC 840AM](#) (Nebraska) and [KVNU 610AM](#) (Utah).

Experts Examine Why ER Visits Are Up Since Obamacare Took Effect

Dr. Dylan Roby, senior research scientist at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and assistant professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was part of an expert panel interviewed on [KPCC 89.3FM's](#) AirTalk about how the Affordable Care Act has caused emergency room visits in California to increase. Research conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research on the same topic was cited May 7 in [HealthcareDIVE](#) and May 4 in [Newsworks](#).

BRIEFS

UCLA was mentioned in an April 30 [New York Times Magazine](#) article about kidney transplant chains.

Data from the California Health Interview Survey by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research was cited in a May 7 [New America Media](#) story on the lack of public support for California residents with mental health issues.

QUOTABLES

Dr. Susan Babey, senior research scientist and co-director of the chronic disease program at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, was interviewed by [Los Angeles Times](#) May 4 for her insight into how laws against sugary drinks and junk food in California elementary schools are affecting childhood obesity rates.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented in a May 5 [HealthDay News](#) story that a heart medication for atrial fibrillation may cause an increased risk of premature death in patients with irregular heartbeat and those suffering from heart failure. He also commented in a May 7 [HealthDay News](#) story about a report showing that Americans' triglyceride levels have dropped in recent years.

Dr. Timothy Fong, an associate professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and co-director of the UCLA Gambling Program, was quoted in a May 2 [KCBS-Channel 2](#) segment on the popularity of placing bets on prize fights.

Dr. Mark Gold, acting director of UCLA's Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, was quoted in a May 5 [Los Angeles Times](#) story on how the California state water board has approved strict new emergency drought rules. The story was also carried May 5 by [ABC10 News](#) (San Diego).

Dr. David Hayes-Bautista, Distinguished Professor of Medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research and director of the UCLA Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture, was quoted May 4 in the [Sacramento Bee](#) and May 2 in [International Business Times](#) in articles about Cinco de Mayo.

Dr. Steve Horvath, professor of human genetics and biostatistics, was quoted by [Free Malaysia Today News](#) May 2 about his research on how different human tissues age at different rates.

Dr. Shafali Jeste, assistant professor in psychiatry and neurology at the Semel Institute, was quoted in the March 20 [Chicago Tribune](#) and May 4 [Charlotte Observer](#) articles about autism and the need for as early an intervention as possible once a diagnosis is made.

Dr. Dylan Roby, senior research scientist at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and assistant professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted May 4 in a [California Healthline](#) story on how individual insurance brokers are financially struggling in the wake of the Affordable Care Act.

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