



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT  
For the week of May 8 - 14, 2009**

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**Alzheimer's Expert Addresses Early Onset on ABC News**

Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging and a professor at the Semel Institute, offered advice to Alzheimer's disease patients and caregivers in a May 11 ABC News interview. He also commented on ABC News.com on May 13 about coping with early Alzheimer's onset, and on May 5 responded to a viewer's question about explaining a parent's diagnosis to a young child.

"Living with Alzheimer's -- for Patients, Caregivers"

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/AlzheimersQuestions/>

"The Psychological Toll of Early Onset of Alzheimer's Disease"

<http://www.abcnews.go.com/Health/AlzheimersNews/story?id=7571166&page=1>

"Your Alzheimer's, Memory Questions Answered"

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/AlzheimersNews/story?id=7507225>

### **KABC Explores Brain Enlargement through Meditation**

KABC-Channel 7, Indo Asian News Service and the Los Angeles Daily Breeze reported May 14, May 13 and May 12, respectively, on brain-imaging research by Eileen Luders, a postdoctoral research fellow at the UCLA Laboratory of Neuro Imaging. She found that regular meditation may lead to a significant increase in the brain's gray matter. She was quoted.

"Meditate Your Way to a Bigger Brain"

<http://www.hindu.com/thehindu/holnus/099200905131421.htm>

"Mindful Thought Builds Brains"

[http://www.dailybreeze.com/ci\\_12354393](http://www.dailybreeze.com/ci_12354393)

"Meditation Found to Increase Brain Size"

<http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/health&id=6813897>

### **L.A. Times Column Recalls Pediatric Residency Experience**

The Los Angeles Times published a May 11 column by Dr. Linda Reid Chassiakos, assistant clinical professor of pediatrics at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, describing her experience as a resident in the neonatal intensive care unit.

"Mother-to-be Sacrifices Her Chance of Surviving Cancer for Her Baby"

<http://www.latimes.com/features/health/newsletter/la-he-practice11-2009may11.0.4245071.story>

### **Wires Explore Link between Hot Flashes, Low Bone Density**

United Press International and Indo Asian News International reported May 7 on a study led by Dr. Carolyn Crandall, associate professor of geriatrics, finding that post-, pre- and perimenopausal women who experience hot flashes and night sweats were likelier to possess lower bone density.

"Hot Flashes Linked to Lower Bone Density"

[http://www.upi.com/Health\\_News/2009/05/07/Hot-flashes-linked-to-lower-bone-density/UPI-45541241714465/](http://www.upi.com/Health_News/2009/05/07/Hot-flashes-linked-to-lower-bone-density/UPI-45541241714465/)

"Study Links Hot Flashes to Lower Bone Density in Women"

[http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/health/study-links-hot-flashes-to-lower-bone-density-in-women\\_100189465.html](http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/health/study-links-hot-flashes-to-lower-bone-density-in-women_100189465.html)

### **L.A. Times, A.P. Note Man's Conviction for Body Parts Scam**

The Los Angeles Times, Associated Press and numerous other media reported May 14 on the conviction of a man charged with selling body parts stolen from cadavers willed to UCLA's Donated Body Program. A jury found Ernest Nelson guilty of conspiracy to commit grand theft, grand theft by embezzlement and tax evasion. His business supplied hospitals and pharmaceutical companies with body parts and cadavers for medical research. Nelson was found guilty of conspiring with Henry Reid, former director of UCLA's Willed Body Program, in a \$1.5 million scam that ran from 1999 to 2004.

"Businessman Found Guilty in UCLA's Willed Body-parts Program Scandal"

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-willedbody15-2009may15.0.1891414.story>

"Conviction Closes Gruesome Body Parts Case at UCLA"

[http://www.times-standard.com/statenews/ci\\_12369204](http://www.times-standard.com/statenews/ci_12369204)

### **L.A. Times Examines Upcoming Proposition Vote**

Dr. Neal Halfon, director of the Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities, and director of the Child and Family Health Program in the School of Public Health, wrote an editorial for the May 8 Los Angeles Times that called for voters to reject Proposition 1D, which would take money away from early childhood healthcare.

"Prop 1D isn't Worth It"

[http://www.latimes.com/features/health/medicine/la-oe-halfon\\_fuller8-2009may08.0.7173551.story](http://www.latimes.com/features/health/medicine/la-oe-halfon_fuller8-2009may08.0.7173551.story)

### **Huffington Post Expounds Future Dangers of Swine Flu**

Dr. Scott Layne, professor of epidemiology in the School of Public Health, wrote a May 8 piece for the Huffington Post.com warning that the H1N1 Swine flu remains an unpredictable and worldwide threat. Layne was also quoted in a May 12 New Scientist article about the H1N1 swine influenza.

"Swine Flu: Remain Vigilant!"

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/scott-p-layne/swine-flu-remain-vigilant\\_b\\_198273.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/scott-p-layne/swine-flu-remain-vigilant_b_198273.html)

"Swine flu: Can Science Save us from the Second Wave?"

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg20227073.500-swine-flu-can-science-save-us-from-the-second-wave.html?DCMP=OTC-rss&nsref=online-news>

### **L.A. Times, ABC Cover Actress' Interview on Records' Breach**

The Los Angeles Times ran a May 11 article on actress Farrah Fawcett and the illegal breaches of her medical records that occurred while she was a patient at UCLA Medical Center. The article was based on an interview conducted with Fawcett in August 2008. Other national and local media covered the issue.

"Farrah Fawcett: 'Under a Microscope' and Holding onto Hope"

<http://www.latimes.com/entertainment/news/la-et-fawcett-interview11-2009may11,0,5790379.story>

"Farrah Fawcett Fought for Privacy While Battling Cancer"

<http://abcnews.go.com/GMA/story?id=7562466&page=1>

### **A.P. Marks Death of Former Employee Responsible for Privacy Invasion**

Associated Press reported May 9 on the death of former UCLA Medical Center employee Lawanda Jackson, who pleaded guilty last December to selling information to a tabloid from the private medical records of high-profile UCLA patients. She was scheduled to be sentenced on May 11.

"Ex-hospital Worker Convicted in Patient Record Leaks Dies"

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-hospital9-2009may09,0,6695049.story>

### **NPR-Affiliate Explores Impact of Technology on Brain**

NPR-affiliate KPBS 89.5 FM (San Diego) aired an April 22 interview with Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging and a professor at the Semel Institute, about how technology such as the Internet and Twitter may be retooling the brain, especially in young people. He is the author of "iBrain: Surviving the Technological Alteration of the Modern Mind."

"How Technology is Changing Our Brains"

<http://www.kpbs.org/news/2009/apr/22/how-technology-changing-our-brain/>

### **Geriatrician Pens Column on Common Ailment**

The May 7 Santa Monica Mirror published a column by Dr. Lucia Dattoma, staff geriatrician at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital and assistant clinical professor of medicine, on the causes of diarrhea and ways to manage its symptoms.

"A Discussion on Diarrhea"

<http://www.smmirror.com/MainPages/DisplayArticleDetails.asp?eid=10138>

### **S.M. Press Spotlights New Children's Clinic in Santa Monica**

The May 14 Santa Monica Daily Press ran a story and photo about the grand opening of the Renee and Meyer Luskin Children's Clinic across the street from Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital. The outpatient facility will provide pediatric orthopaedic care for scoliosis, spina bifida, cerebral palsy, hip dysplasia and other musculoskeletal disorders.

"New Clinic for Kids Opens"

[http://www.smdp.com/Articles-c-2009-05-13-59133.113116\\_New\\_clinic\\_for\\_kids\\_opens.html](http://www.smdp.com/Articles-c-2009-05-13-59133.113116_New_clinic_for_kids_opens.html)

### **Westside Today Lauds Cardiologist**

Westside Today on May 8 highlighted Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-Cardiomyopathy Center, who received the 2009 Raymond D. Bahr Award of Excellence from the Society of Chest Pain Centers. The award recognized his contributions in leading cardiovascular registries, initiatives, and clinical research that have advanced the care of patients with acute coronary syndromes and acute heart failure.

"Dr. Gregg Fonarow Shows his Heart - For Our Benefit"

<http://www.westsidetoday.com/n980/dr-gregg-fonarow-shows.html>

### **Wires Report on Januvia's Link to Pancreatic Ailments**

MedIndia, Asian News International and Pharmawire reported May 4-6 on research led by Dr. Peter Butler, director of the Larry L. Hillblom Islet Research Center. His mouse model linked the medication Januvia to pancreatic abnormalities recognized as risk factors for pancreatitis and pancreatic cancer. The Times of India and other web outlets also covered the findings on May 1.

"Common Diabetes Drug Hikes Risk of Pancreatic Cancer"

<http://www.medindia.net/news/Common-Diabetes-Drug-Hikes-Risk-Of-Pancreatic-Cancer-50828-1.htm>

"Popular Diabetes Drug Can Trigger Pancreatitis, Pancreatic Cancer"

<http://news.smashits.com/379090/Popular-diabetes-drug-can-trigger-pancreatitis-pancreatic-cancer.htm>

### **Local Paper Relays Water Safety Tips**

Westside Today on May 8 relayed summer tips for parents to prevent children from drowning and suffering water-immersion injuries. Dr. Larry Baraff, professor of pediatrics and emergency medicine, was quoted.

"Water, Water Everywhere -- Beware!"

<http://www.westsidetoday.com/n979/water-water-everywhere-beware.html>

### **BRIEFS**

Dr. Sherin Devaskar, professor of pediatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a neonatologist at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was cited May 11 in Modern Medicine about her appointment as president of the American Pediatric Society.

"New Presidents for SPR, APR"

<http://www.modernmedicine.com/modernmedicine/Modern+Medicine+News/New-presidents-for-SPR-APR/ArticleStandard/Article/detail/597750?contextCategoryId=40137>

Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA was cited March 23 by the Santa Monica Observer in a story about a local artist who donated her hand-sewn, multicultural dolls to pediatric patients at UCLA.

"Dolls for Healing"

<http://d27vj430nutdmd.cloudfront.net/226/14500/14500.pdf>

### **QUOTABLES**

Gail Abarbanel, director of the Rape Treatment Center at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, was quoted May 12 by the Colorado Independent about the increasing backlog of DNA evidence in state crime labs.

"Federal Government Botches DNA Crime Lab Backlog Crisis"

<http://coloradoindependent.com/28288/federal-government-botches-dna-crime-lab-backlog-crisis>

Anthony Butch, director of the UCLA Olympic Analytical Laboratory, commented May 10 in the Los Angeles Times about the lack of awareness by young athletes and their parents of the harmful effects of steroid use on the body. He also commented in a May 7 Los Angeles Daily News story about HCG, a steroid allegedly used by Dodger baseball player Manny Ramirez to improve sports performance. The article also appeared in the Contra Costa Times and Pioneer Press.

"Lack of Outrage at Manny Ramirez Shows Scrambled Priorities"

<http://www.latimes.com/sports/la-sp-streeter10-2009may10,1,5459009.column>

"Drug Boosts Testosterone, But It Also Has Side Effects"

[http://www.dailynews.com/sports/ci\\_12323340](http://www.dailynews.com/sports/ci_12323340)

Dr. James Cherry, professor of pediatric infectious diseases at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was quoted May 4 in a Pediatric Supersite article that reviewed lab efforts to handle an influx of H1N1 flu specimens and diagnose patients with flu-like symptoms.

"Labs Struggle with Influx of Diagnostic Specimens from Potential Influenza A (H1N1) Cases"

<http://www.pediatricssupersite.com/view.aspx?rid=39478>

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson–UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented May 11 in HealthDay News about a study suggesting that long, slow walks may benefit overweight patients with cardiac problems.

“Walk Long, Slow and Often to Help the Heart”

<http://www.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=626952>

David Hayes-Bautista, director of the UCLA Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture, was quoted May 10 in the Detroit Free Press about students rethinking their travel plans due to the recent H1N1 flu outbreak. He also commented in a May 14 San Francisco Chronicle article about trends in aging and racial and ethnic diversity in the United States

“Students Rethink Plans for Traveling in Swine Flu's Wake”

<http://www.freep.com/article/20090510/NEWS05/905100493/1007/NEWS/Students+rethink+plans+for+traveling+in+swine+flu+s+wake>

“Young Boost Diversity as Population Ages”

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/05/14/MNCT17K1F4.DTL&tsp=1>

Dr. David Heber, director of the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition, was quoted May 13 in an MSNBC article about the relation between brain chemistry and the motivation to exercise and eat healthy.

“Blow Your Diet? Blame Your Brain”

<http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/30702871/>

Dr. Robert Lee, a UCLA podiatrist, commented May 13 on KTTV-Channel 11 about female foot injuries caused by wearing shoes that are too high-heeled or do not fit correctly.

“Stop Your Shoes from Being a Pain”

[http://www.myfoxla.com/dpp/health/Stop\\_Shoes\\_from\\_Being\\_a\\_Pain\\_20090513](http://www.myfoxla.com/dpp/health/Stop_Shoes_from_Being_a_Pain_20090513)

Dr. Andrew Leuchter, professor of psychiatry and director of the Laboratory of Brain, Behavior, and Pharmacology at the Semel Institute, commented May 11 in the Los Angeles Times about antidepressants.

“Antidepressants: The Right People Aren't Always Getting Them”

<http://www.latimes.com/features/health/la-he-themd11-2009may11,0,3782727.story>

Bernadette Lodge-Lemon, director of patient business services at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, was quoted in a May 10 Chicago Tribune column offering tips on managing medical bills.

“Negotiating Your Way through Medical Bills”

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/features/lifestyle/chi-tc-health-bills-0506may10,0,4164631.story>

Dr. Michael Lu, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the Geffen School of Medicine, was quoted in a May 8 ABCNews.com article about unusual births.

“Boats, Lawns and Worse: Seven Extreme Birth Stories”

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/ReproductiveHealth/story?id=7532440&page=1>

Dr. Gary Small, Parlow–Solomon Professor on Aging and a professor at the Semel Institute, was quoted May 10 by Canada's Winnipeg Sun about how children's brains are affected by technology and the Internet.

“The Re-wired Generation”

<http://www.winnipeg.sun.com/news/canada/2009/05/10/9411096-sun.html>

Dr. Peter Whybrow, director of the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior, the Judson Braun Professor and executive chair of the Department of Psychiatry and physician-in-chief of the Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital, was quoted in the May 9 Washington Post about how even trivial memories are critical to our well-being.

“Home is Where the Art is: Personal Connections are Vital in Your Living Space”

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/05/08/AR2009050801664.html>

Roberta Wyn, associate director of the Center for Health Policy Research in the School of Public Health, commented May 10 in HealthDay News about a report suggesting that women have more difficulty paying for health care than men.

"Most Women Struggle with Rising Health Care Costs"

<http://health.yahoo.com/news/healthday/mostwomenstrugglewithrisinghealthcarecosts.html>

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