



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of May 8-14, 2015**

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Neuroscientists Take a Closer Look at ‘Syndrome E’

[Nature](#) published a May 11 interview with Dr. Itzhak Fried, a professor of neurosurgery and psychiatry at UCLA’s David Geffen School of Medicine and Semel Institute, about a recent conference he organized in Paris. The meeting examined the brain mechanisms behind Syndrome E, which transforms peaceful neighbors into mass murderers.

Discovery TV Profiles Patient with Mysterious Disorder

A UCLA patient whose life was disrupted by a condition that amplified her body’s noises in her ears was profiled April 30 by Discovery Life TV’s new show, “[Diagnose Me.](#)” Her ear surgeon, Dr. Quinton Gopen, professor of head and neck surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was interviewed.

The Truth about Vaccines

The [Daily Beast](#) featured May 10 an interview with Dr. Nina Shapiro, a professor of head and neck surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and director of pediatric otolaryngology at Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA, discussing childhood vaccinations and why some parents opt out of having their children vaccinated.

Wall Street Journal Uses Neuroscience to Explain America’s Explosion of Debt

Dr. Peter C. Whybrow, director of the Semel Institute, executive chair of the department of psychiatry and physician-in-chief of the Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital, contributed an op-ed in the May 10 [Wall Street Journal](#) on how our society’s illusion of continuous economic growth and explosion of credit has retuned our “neural architecture” to make immediate gratification rule and reduce self-restraint. Analysts trying to understand the explosion of consumer debt, Whybrow wrote, should look no further than neuroscience.

Brownies Deliver Get Well Cards

[KCBS-Channel 2](#) featured May 8 a group of Brownies who delivered handmade get well cards that will go into welcome baskets given to new patients with the UCLA Operation Mend program. The second graders also met with a female U.S. Marine who is a patient with the program. Operation Mend provides wounded military service members with reconstructive surgery and medical treatment at UCLA.

Options for Learning about Medicine

[U.S. News & World Report](#) featured May 11 the UCLA Health Care Extender Program in a story about in-depth opportunities for volunteers to learn about healthcare careers from a clinical perspective. Silva Thomas, director of the Care Extender program, was interviewed.

Health Policy Expert Discusses Scaled-back California Covered Budget

Dr. Gerald Kominski, director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was featured May 13 by the [Los Angeles Times](#) and May 14 by [California Healthline](#) in stories detailing a new scaled-back 2015-16 budget for Covered California, the state’s health insurance exchange.

Public Health Impact is Critical in Policy Discussions

Dr. Richard Jackson, professor of environmental health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was profiled May 11 by [NJ Spotlight](#) and [Philly.com](#) in a story on the use of health impact assessments as tools in urban planning and design. [MinnPost.com](#) May 14 also referenced Jackson in a similar story about improving urban health.

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

[Edge Boston](#) reported May 11 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.

Self-acupressure to Relieve Constipation

[NEJM Journal Watch](#) (subscription required) reported May 12 on research led by Dr. Ryan Abbott, visiting assistant professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, finding that perineal self-acupressure, a simple technique involving the application of external pressure to the perineum, was an effective treatment for constipation. Abbott is also a researcher and educator at the UCLA Center for East-West Medicine.

KTLA, LA Times Discuss Sleep

Dr. Alon Avidan, professor of neurology and director of the UCLA Sleep Disorders Program, was featured in a May 12 [KTLA-Channel 5](#) news segment about the side effects of the popular prescription sleeping pill, Ambien. Separately, Avidan was featured in a May 9 [Los Angeles Times](#) article that provided tips on getting a good night's sleep, including not using electronic handheld devices before bed, watching TV, or drinking too much caffeine in the evening.

Hospitals Step Up Search for Best Way to Clean Troubled Scopes

The [Los Angeles Times](#) May 14 reported on an FDA meeting taking place May 14 and 15 where doctors and hospitals are hoping to get more answers from a Food and Drug Administration federal advisory panel that's being asked to recommend ways to ensure patient safety during ERCP, or endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography. Dr. Zachary Rubin, medical director of UCLA Clinical Epidemiology & Infection Prevention, was scheduled to discuss the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center's outbreak and its aftermath.

The U.S. Has No Paid Maternity Leave Policy

Using extensive maps and global data from the UCLA WORLD Policy Analysis Center at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, [Vox](#) reported May 10 on how the United States is the only wealthy nation in the world without a paid maternal leave policy. On May 11, [Vox](#) referenced [HBO's John Oliver Tonight](#) Mother's Day episode, in which Oliver also criticized the U.S. while citing WORLD data.

Trade Website Features Minimally-Invasive Heart Valve Procedure

The [Healthcare Channel](#) May 7 featured Dr. William Suh, assistant clinical professor of medicine in the division of cardiology, regarding the latest research and outcomes of a minimally-invasive procedure to replace the aortic heart valve called Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR).

Coverage Continues for Study Suggesting Elderly Japanese-Americans May Live Longer than Other Americans

A study on aging Americans by Dr. Ying-Ying Meng, senior research scientist at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was reported by [Nichi Bei](#) May 14, [California Healthline](#) May 11, and [Payers and Providers](#) May 7. The findings found that elderly Japanese-Americans had lower risks than other racial and ethnic groups for several health indicators in California.

Health Systems and Frugal Innovation

[Becker's Hospital Review](#) May 6 and [FierceHealthFinance](#) May 7 focused on the concept of healthcare and frugal innovation, doing more with less. The article noted that UCLA's Institute for Innovation in Health recently launched its Global Lab for Innovation, an active database of innovations in healthcare delivery from organizations across the country. Dr. Molly Coye, chief innovation officer of UCLA Health, was interviewed and calls the lab a "repository" of frugal innovations in healthcare, not all of which require technology.

Historic Donation to LA BioMed

[LA Business Journal](#) and the [Daily Breeze](#) reported May 6 on LA BioMed's donation of \$3 million from one of its newest board members, Joan Hood Jones, the former mayor of Manhattan Beach and a former city councilmember. Jones' donation launches a capital campaign for new facilities to replace World War II-era barracks where many of the independent research institute investigators conduct their research. LA BioMed also celebrated a groundbreaking for a campus transformation that will create a more collaborative research environment. LA BioMed is academically affiliated with the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and located on the campus of Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

Utah Radio Station Spotlights Unique Class for Autistic Teens

Dr. Elizabeth Laugeson, an assistant clinical professor of psychiatry in the Semel Institute and director of The Help Group - UCLA Autism Research Alliance, was interviewed May 13 by the University of Utah's "The Scope" radio program. Laugeson discussed UCLA PEERS Clinic (The Program for the Education and Enrichment of Relational Skills), an innovative, evidence-based program to teach teens and young adults with autism spectrum disorders how to help make and keep friends, which she co-founded and directs.

Migraine Study Cited

[Street Insider](#) reported May 14 on a study of an experimental drug to treat chronic migraine headaches. Dr. Alan M. Rapoport, a clinical professor of neurology, was a co-author of the study.

Imperial Valley News Covers Epilepsy Study

[Imperial Valley News](#) reported May 6 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.

Pathologist Magazine Features Alzheimer's Study

The April issue of the [The Pathologist](#) featured a study by Dr. Liana Apostolova on a multimodal approach for predicting brain amyloidosis using cognitive assessment, brain imaging and a simple blood test for Alzheimer's disease. Apostolova is an associate professor-in-residence of neurology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and director of the neuroimaging laboratory at the Mary S. Easton Center for Alzheimer's Disease Research at UCLA.

Specific Genetic Mutation May Increase Risk for Breast Cancer after Acute Estrogen Withdrawal

[Health News Digest](#) May 12 and [Examiner.com](#) May 13 reported that UCLA researchers discovered that in women with a relatively common inherited mutation known as the KRAS-variant the abrupt lowering of estrogen may increase their breast cancer risk and impact breast cancer biology. Scientists also found that women with the KRAS-variant are more likely to develop a second primary breast cancer. Dr. Joanne Weidhaas, professor of radiation oncology and member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted.

BRIEFS

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 cited May 11 in a [Forbes](#) article about vaccinations for whooping cough.

[Access Hollywood](#) featured May 11 a clip on actress Halle Berry who was recently honored at the Kaleidoscope Ball. The event raised more than \$2 million for the Children's Discovery and Innovation Institute at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA.

A May 6 [Forbes](#) article on digital health linked to an article written by Dr. Brennan Spiegel, professor-in-residence of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.

Research by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research on chronic health conditions was cited May 9 by [Breitbart](#).

Data on prevalence of diabetes in California, gathered by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was referenced May 10 in a [Sacramento Bee](#) editorial on a state Senate bill that would have put health warnings on soda bottles and cans.

Dr. Richard Jackson, professor of environmental health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was mentioned by the May 10 [Athens Banner-Herald](#) as the keynote speaker for an upcoming summit in Georgia.

Dr. Nina Harawa, adjunct associate professor with the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was listed by the [Los Angeles Sentinel](#) May 14 as a panelist in a discussion of HIV/AIDS in minority communities.

QUOTABLES

Dr. Kathleen Brennan, assistant clinical professor of obstetrics and gynecology, was quoted in a May 8 story in the [Los Angeles Times](#) about women freezing their eggs for later use.

Dr. Christopher S. Colwell, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of UCLA's Laboratory for Circadian and Sleep Medicine, was quoted in the May 7 [Daily Mirror](#) (U.K.) about light exposure from handheld devices that can suppress melatonin and prevent sleep if used at night.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented in a May 8 [HealthDay News](#) story about high-protein diets and the impact on those at risk for heart disease. In addition, he commented in another May 8 [HealthDay News](#) story on research showing that a medication to help thin the blood may pose greater bleeding risk in obese patients. He was also quoted in a May 11 [HealthDay News](#) story on research showing that staying fit may delay onset of high cholesterol.

Dr. Mark Gold, acting director of UCLA's Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, was quoted in the May 12 [Santa Monica Lookout](#) for his analysis on a new project to clean LAX storm water pollution going into Santa Monica Bay.

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 11 in a [Capital Public Radio](#) report on the challenges that non-English speakers face in communicating with physicians.

Dr. Mario F. Mendez, a professor of neurology and psychiatry, was quoted April 29 in a [New York Times](#) story on the murder trial of a patient with ALS.

Dr. Alison Moore, professor of medicine in the division of geriatrics and of psychiatry, was quoted in a May 13 [U.S. News & World Report](#) article on alcohol abuse among the older population.

Dr. Beate Ritz, professor and chair of epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented in [ScienceNews](#) May 13 about a study showing increases in birth weight in Beijing coinciding with air pollution reduction campaigns held during the 2008 Olympics.

Dr. Steven Wallace, chair of community health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted May 13 in a [California Healthline](#) article about expanding health care coverage to all California residents.

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