



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of May 11 -17, 2012**

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Fructose's Effect on the Brain Draws Global Headlines

A UCLA study showing that a steady high-fructose diet can slow the brain and hamper memory and learning in rats — and how omega-3 fatty acids can minimize the damage — was reported May 17 by [LA Weekly](#), [Men's Fitness](#), [Medical News Today](#), [24 Medica](#) and Britain's [Daily Express](#); May 16 by the [Los Angeles Times](#), [MSNBC](#), [Mother Jones](#), [Forbes](#), [Huffington Post](#), [Huffington Post UK](#), [Outside](#) magazine, [New York Daily News](#), [Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel](#), [Asian News International](#), [Indo-Asian News Service](#), [Jezebel](#), the [Minneapolis Star-Tribune](#), [Business Insider](#), [Blast](#), Examiner blogs ([1](#) | [2](#)), [RTT Newswire](#), [PsychCentral](#), [Red Orbit](#), Britain's [Daily Mail](#), Canada's [QMI Agency](#), New Zealand's [Top News](#), [Asian News International](#), the [Press Trust of India](#), Spain's [ABC News](#) and [El Economista](#), Venezuela's [El Nacional](#), [Peru Radio](#) and Peru's [Radio Capital](#) and [Le Gran Epoca](#); as well as nearly 160 TV reports, including [CBS Morning News](#), NBC's [Today Show](#), ABC's [Good Morning America](#), [KCBS-Channel 2](#), [KTLA-Channel 5](#), [KABC-Channel 7](#) and [KCAL-Channel 9](#); and May 15 by [United Press International](#), [Agence France-Presse](#), [the Atlantic](#), [Digital Journal](#), [Gawker](#), [Medical Xpress](#), [Live Science](#), [Global Post](#), [Medical Daily](#) and an [Examiner](#) blog, among numerous other media outlets. Fernando Gomez-Pinilla, professor of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and professor of integrative biology and physiology in the UCLA College of Letters and Science, was quoted in the coverage.

Media Explore Science behind Famous Brain Injury

The [Los Angeles Times](#), [New Scientist](#), a [CNN](#) blog, [Examiner](#), [Guardian](#) (UK), [Live Science](#) and [TGDaily](#) featured Jack Van Horn, assistant professor of neurology and a member of the Laboratory of Neuro Imaging, who appeared in May 16 stories about the famous 1848 case of Phineas Gage, who survived an accident that drove an iron rod through his head. Van Horn and colleagues used advanced computational methods and modern brain imaging to suggest extensive damage to the white matter “pathways” that connected various regions of Gage's brain and likely contributed to his dramatic personality change.

L.A. Times Features New Face for Violence Victim

The [Los Angeles Times](#) reported May 15 on a young man disfigured in a violent attack in Mexico who underwent reconstructive surgery at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center with Dr. Timothy Miller, professor of plastic and reconstructive surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

CBS News Spotlights Dry-Eye Therapy

CBS Newspath distributed a May 11 segment featuring Dr. Rex Hamilton, director of the UCLA Laser Refractive Center at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, and a new therapy called Lipiflow for dry eyes. The 12-minute treatment unblocks the oil glands that help keep the eyes lubricated. The story aired locally on [KCAL-Channel 9](#) and in 45 other CBS markets nationwide.

ABC, HealthDay Track Rapid Parkinson's Progression

[HealthDay News](#) and [Examiner.com](#) reported May 15; and [ABC.com](#), [Asian News International](#), [Ivanhoe Newswire](#), [Doctors Lounge](#), KFSN-TV (Fresno, Calif.), [WJBF-TV](#) (Augusta, Ga.), and the Web sites of [WTMA 1250AM](#) (Charleston, S.C.), [KBOI 670AM](#) (Boise, Idaho), [CBS42-TV](#) (Birmingham, Ala.) and [WSYR-TV](#) (Syracuse, N.Y.) reported May 16 on research by Dr. Beate Ritz, vice chair of epidemiology and professor of neurology, finding that Parkinson's sufferers who possess two variants of a risk gene progressed faster toward motor decline than patients without these variants. Ritz was quoted.

FOX News Airs Heart Health Stories

[KTTV-Channel 11](#) ran a May 10 story about women and heart disease that featured Dr. Karol Watson, associate professor of medicine, division of cardiology, and a UCLA patient. [KTTV-Channel 11](#) also reprised a story May 13 on another heart-disease patient at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center. Watson was interviewed.

KTLA Covers Risks of Going Gluten-Free

Dr. Gregory Harmon, assistant clinical professor of medicine, division of digestive diseases, was interviewed May 9 on [KTLA-Channel 5](#) about the challenges of starting a gluten-free diet.

Avoiding ED after Prostate Removal

[United Press International](#), [MyHealthNewsDaily](#), [Examiner](#), [Science Daily](#), [NewsBlaze](#), [Health Canal](#), [Medical Express](#), [Science Codex](#) and [Science Blog](#) reported May 17 on a new study suggesting that men undergoing robotic surgery for prostate cancer should seek an experienced surgeon who actively seeks to improve his/her skills in order to ensure successful post-surgery recovery from erectile function. Lead author Dr. Jim Hu, director of minimally invasive surgery in the Department of Urology, was quoted. The study appears in the June issue of *European Urology*.

KPCC Investigates Inappropriate Use of 911

KPCC 89.3FM's [Patt Morrison Show](#) covered the increasing use of the 911 system for non-emergency calls. Dr. Mark Morocco, associate clinical professor of medicine, division of emergency medicine, was a featured guest.

Australian Network Spotlights Beating Heart Box

[NBC Seven Network](#) (Australia) reported May 13 on an experimental device being studied at UCLA that keeps a donor heart warm and beating during transport; the segment featured a patient enrolled in the study. Lead investigator Dr. Abbas Ardehali, professor of cardiothoracic surgery and surgical director of the UCLA heart transplant program, was interviewed.

Study Identifies Genes Linked to PTSD

[Psychiatric News](#) reported May 4 on a study led by Dr. Armen Goenjian, a research professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior at UCLA, linking two genes involved in serotonin production to a higher risk of developing post-traumatic stress disorder. Goenjian was quoted.

Fox Profiles Bruin Players Helping Sick Kids

[FOX Sports West](#) aired a May 12 segment on two UCLA football players, Jeff Baca and Jonathan Franklin, who are regular volunteers with the Chase Child Life program at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA and spend time playing games with hospitalized kids and visiting patients' bedside.

Brain Expert Addresses Athletic Head Injuries

[BrainTrack](#) reported May 15 on a National Collegiate Athletic Association-funded study by scientists from the UCLA Brain Injury Research Center about the effects of head injuries on student-athletes during their college careers and beyond. Dr. Christopher Giza, associate professor of neurosurgery and pediatric neurology and a member of the UCLA Brain Injury Research Center, was quoted. He also commented May 16 in a [WebMD](#) story about research suggesting that head injuries in athletes could impede learning.

Program Profiles Doctor Who Treats Teens with Cancer

Dr. Jacqueline Casillas, associate clinical professor of pediatric hematology–oncology and a member of the Jonsson Cancer Center, was interviewed May 12 on [Current Medicine TV](#) about treating UCLA teen cancer patients and the Daltrey/Townshend Teen and Young Adult Cancer Program at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, the first program of its kind launched in the U.S. by Daltrey and Pete Townshend of the Who. Casillas heads the program.

S.M. Papers Cover Opening of 'Green' Medical Building

The [Santa Monica Mirror](#) reported May 15 and the [Santa Monica Daily Press](#) May 17 on the opening of a new, sustainable medical office building near UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica. Dr. David Feinberg, president of UCLA Health System, was quoted in the Mirror.

Ventura Paper Shadows Patient's First Mother's Day

The [Ventura County Star](#) ran a May 11 follow-up feature about a mother who took home healthy twins after 126 days of bed rest at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica. Dr. Khalil Tabsh, medical director of the hospital's Perinatal Center, was cited.

Cinco de Mayo, Born in the U.S.A.

[Inland Valley Daily Bulletin](#) reported May 15 on research and a new book by David Hayes-Bautista, professor of medicine and director of the UCLA Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture, exploring the California origins of the Cinco de Mayo holiday. Hayes-Bautista was quoted.

NEJM Documentary Showcases CARE Center

A 200th anniversary [documentary](#) for the New England Journal of Medicine highlighted the Center for Clinical AIDS Research and Education and its role in treating AIDS patients. The center's associate director, Dr. Judith Currier, was interviewed.

Spanish-Language Outlet Flags Stem-Cell Study

[ALF Forum](#) on May 16 and [Noticias de Gaia](#) on May 13 reported on research by Bennett Novitch about a novel system developed to measure communication between stem cell-derived motor neurons and muscle cells in a Petri dish. Novitch is an assistant professor of neurobiology and a scientist with the Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at UCLA.

Rockers Launch Teen Cancer Center

[Channel One News](#) and [FMQB](#) reported May 14 on the Daltrey/Townshend Teen and Young Adult Cancer Program at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, the first program launched in the U.S. by Roger Daltrey and Pete Townshend of the Who. Daltrey was interviewed.

Publication Reports on Disability in Childhood

Open Minds Weekly News reported May 14 on a report that examined the prevalence of disabilities among U.S. children. Lead researcher Dr. Neal Halfon, professor of pediatrics, health services and public policy and director of the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities, was quoted.

BRIEFS

Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center was cited May 15 by [KNBC-Channel 4](#) about a high school baseball player who received a kidney transplant and started a charity for young dialysis patients.

Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA was cited May 13 in a [Long Beach Press-Telegram](#) story about a Long Beach family celebrating their first Mother's Day following their infant daughter's recent heart transplant at the hospital. The story also appeared in the [Contra Costa Times](#).

UCLA Medical Center was cited May 17 in a [Santa Clarita Valley Signal](#) story about a 2-year-old boy who suffers from a rare genetic condition that combines epilepsy and diabetes.

A May 10 [NPR](#) story about the wide disparity in Medicare costs at U.S. hospitals cited figures for Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center.

The May 12 [Los Angeles Times](#) cited UCLA's Jonsson Cancer Center as an example of an institution that will benefit from the passage of Proposition 21, which would impose a \$1 per pack cigarette tax and raise more than \$500 million annually for cancer research.

[Natural News](#) on May 16 cited a Jonsson Cancer Center study finding that stress accelerates the progression and spread of cancer.

An article in the May 13 [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) about cancer treatment options in southern Nevada cited a local facility's affiliation with UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

QUOTABLES

Dr. Alon Avidan, associate professor of neurology and director of the UCLA Sleep Disorders Center, was quoted May 12 by the [Los Angeles Times](#) about technologies meant to monitor and regulate human sleep.

Dr. Larry Baraff, associate director of emergency medicine at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, commented May 15 in [ABC News.com](#) about a man who died from "secondary drowning" several hours after he fell in the water and pulled himself out.

Dr. David Baron, family medicine physician and former chief of staff at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, commented in a May 17 KNX AM1070 report about a California man who was arrested for failing to take medication to treat his active pulmonary tuberculosis.

Dr. James Cherry, professor of infectious diseases at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was quoted May 14 in a [Medscape](#) article on a recent study he coauthored finding that fast-rising white blood counts were associated with severe infant whooping cough.

Dr. David Dawson, an assistant professor of pathology and laboratory medicine, was quoted May 11 in the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) about advances in prostate cancer research.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented May 15 in [HealthDay News](#) about post-operative tests for heart patients who undergo procedures to open blocked arteries. He also commented in [May 15](#) and [May 17](#) HealthDay News articles about a common blood clot-prevention medication going off patent and becoming more affordable for patients. He was quoted May 16 in a [HealthDay News](#) article about how a common antibiotic may increase the risk of death for patients with heart disease.

Judith Gasson, director of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted May 14 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) article about California's Proposition 29, which would raise cigarette taxes by \$1 a pack.

David Hovda, professor of neurosurgery and director of the UCLA Brain Injury Research Center, commented May 17 in the [New York Times](#) and May 16 in [Science](#) about new research showing that the neurodegenerative disease suffered by combat soldiers following exposure to explosions is the same traumatic brain injury experienced by athletes after tackles and punches to the head. He was also quoted May 15 by [CNN.com](#) about traumatic brain injury's possible link to ALS, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

Edythe London, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and of molecular/medical pharmacology, was quoted May 15 by [LA Weekly](#) about how lower activity in the orbitofrontal cortex of some teens' brains is associated with more drug experimentation.

Dr. Stephen Marder, professor of psychiatry in the Semel Institute and chief of the UCLA Veterans Administration Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, was quoted May 15 by [WebMD](#) about a new predictive test for schizophrenia.

Dr. David McAllister, director of the UCLA Sports Medicine Program, was quoted May 11 in a [Tampa Bay Times](#) story about Buccaneers defensive end Da'Quan Bowers' Achilles tendon injury.

Dr. Nader Pouratian, assistant professor of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, commented May 15 in a [WebMD](#) article about a paralyzed man who regained partial movement in his hands after spinal surgery.

Dr. John Ringman, associate professor of neurology and a member of the Mary S. Easton Center for Alzheimer's Disease Research, commented May 15 on [ABCNews.com](#) about an experimental drug for Alzheimer's disease in a specific population. He was also quoted May 15 by [KABC-Channel 7](#) on the same topic.

Mary Jane Rotheram-Borus, director of the UCLA Center for HIV Identification, Prevention and Treatment Services, commented May 15 in [HealthDay News](#) about the Food and Drug Administration considering approval of an at-home HIV test.

Dr. Gary Small, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, commented May 15 on ABCNews.com about an experimental drug for Alzheimer's disease in a specific population.

Steven Wallace, associate director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and chair of community health sciences at UCLA's Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted May 15 in a [Contra Costa Times](http://ContraCostaTimes) article about California's ongoing budget crisis and cuts to public services.

Dr. Otto Yang, professor of infectious diseases, was quoted May 14 in the [Daily Beast](http://DailyBeast) about a Georgia woman who developed necrotizing fasciitis—the “flesh-eating bacteria”—which resulted in the amputation of her leg.

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