



UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of May 15 - 21, 2009

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Genetic Clue to Why Autism Mostly Affects Boys Attracts Wide Coverage

High Cost of Limiting Residents' Hours Draws Headlines

Study Linking Meditation to Bigger Brains Garners Press

NPR Explores Spiritual Experiences' Effect on Brain

GQ Spotlights Neurologist as "Rock Star of Science"

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Genetic Clue to Why Autism Mostly Affects Boys Attracts Wide Coverage

A new UCLA study identifying a common genetic variant that may shed light on why autism affects four times more boys than girls was reported May 21 by HealthDay News; May 20 by the Los Angeles Daily News, United Press International and Times of India; and May 19 by TIME.com, Bloomberg News, KABC-Channel 7 and the Newsweek blog, "The Human Condition." Dr. Dan Geschwind, director of UCLA's Center for Autism Research and Treatment, commented in the TIME article. Dr. Stanley Nelson, professor of human genetics, was quoted in all other coverage. Nine Fox TV affiliates, the San Francisco Examiner, Xinhua News Agency (China), Indo-Asian News Service, Asian News International, All Headline News and Yahoo also covered the findings. The Daily News story was syndicated by the New York Times News Service and appeared in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, New York Daily News and Contra Costa Times. The HealthDay report appeared at Forbes.com and U.S. News & World Report.com.

"A Genetic Clue to Why Autism Affects Boys More"

<http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,1899756,00.html>

"Gene May Offer Clue Why Autism Risk Is Fourfold Higher in Boys"

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601124&sid=aLhQfJuxV8.s&refer=home>

"Form of Gene Can Boost Chances of Autism"

http://www.dailynews.com/search/ci_12408481?ADID=Search-www.dailynews.com-www.dailynews.com

"Gene Gives Clues to Why Autism More Common in Boys"

<http://www.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=627266>

"Gene may Explain why More Boys have Autism"

http://www.upi.com/Health_News/2009/05/20/Gene-may-explain-why-more-boys-have-autism/UPI-13121242872247/

High Cost of Limiting Residents' Hours Draws Headlines

The Wall Street Journal, Baltimore Sun and Chronicle of Higher Education reported May 21, and HealthDay News and Bloomberg News reported May 20, on a study led by Dr. Teryl Nuckols, assistant professor of general internal medicine and health services research, finding that limiting medical residents' work hours could cost the nation's teaching hospitals \$1.6 billion per year. The HealthDay story appeared May 20 at Atlanta Journal-Constitution.com, and FierceHealthcare posted a May 21 article.

"Moves to Allow Medical Residents More Shut-Eye Rouse Opposition"

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124287226881642045.html>

"Study Puts High Price on Medical Residents' Rest"

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/nation/bal-te.residents21may21.0.3186182.story>

"Cutting Work Shift of Medical Residents Would Cost \$1.6 Billion"

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601124&sid=aqDBT7VSWi5E&refer=home>

"Limiting Work Hours for Medical Residents Could Be Costly"

<http://www.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=627240>

"Work-Hour Limits Estimated to Cost Teaching Hospitals \$1.6-Billion a Year"

<http://chronicle.com/news/article/6513/work-hour-limits-estimated-to-cost-teaching-hospitals-16-billion-a-year>

Study Linking Meditation to Bigger Brains Garners Press

Reuters TV and the Daily Telegraph (U.K.) reported May 18; and the Associated Press reported May 13 on brain-imaging research by Eileen Luders, a postdoctoral research fellow at the UCLA Lab of Neuro Imaging, linking regular meditation to a significant rise in the brain's gray matter. Luders was quoted.

Diana Winston, director of mindful education at the Semel Institute, commented in the Reuters segment.

"Meditation 'Makes People More Intelligent by Growing the Brain'"

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/scienceandtechnology/science/5325373/Meditation-makes-people-more-intelligent-by-growing-the-brain.html>

"Think About This: Meditation Might Boost Brain Power"

<http://www.nbclosangeles.com/health/topics/Meditation-the-Key-to-Brain-Power.html>

"Meditation and Bigger Brains"

<http://in.reuters.com/news/video?videoid=104870&videoChannel=6>

NPR Explores Spiritual Experiences' Effect on Brain

Dr. Jeffrey Saver, clinical professor of neurology and director of the UCLA Stroke Center, appeared May 19 in a National Public Radio "All Things Considered" segment about the relation between brain function and intense spiritual experiences.

"Are Spiritual Encounters All In Your Head?"

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=104291534>

GQ Spotlights Neurologist as "Rock Star of Science"

The June issue of GQ Magazine featured Dr. Jeffrey Cummings, Augustus S. Rose Professor of Neurology and director of the Easton Alzheimer's Research Center at UCLA, as one of its "Rock Stars of Science" in a six-page spread with other scientists and celebrity rock stars. He was recognized for his leadership in the field of Alzheimer's disease research.

"GQ magazine's 'Rock Stars of Science'"

<http://www.theheart.org/article/970807.do>

Breast Surgeon Appears on CBS Early Show

Dr. Helena Chang, director of the Revlon/UCLA Breast Center and a researcher at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, appeared May 19 on the CBS Early Show to talk about a 10-year-old girl diagnosed with breast cancer. The piece re-aired on dozens of CBS affiliates throughout the country.

"Girl Battling Breast Cancer"

<http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=5024795n>

SciAm.com Salutes Ophthalmologist

Scientific American magazine profiled Dr. Joseph Demer, chief of comprehensive ophthalmology at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, in an April 2 online column describing his life since being named a 1973 finalist in the Westinghouse Science Talent Search.

“Joseph Demer: In Plane Sight”

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=joseph-demer-moon-launcher>

L.A. Times Reports on Concussion Care for Student Athletes

A May 14 Los Angeles Times blog reported on a program developed by Anthony Strickland, associate clinical professor of neurology, that will provide testing and care for student athletes who suffer sports-related concussions. He was quoted.

“Funds Sought for Comprehensive Concussion Care Program”

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/varsitytimesinsider/2009/05/funds-sought-for-comprehensive-concussion-care-program.html>

Medical Trade Examines Traumatic Brain Injury Study

The May 15 MedPage Today featured a Semel Institute study showing that the effects of a childhood traumatic brain injury may linger for years. Lead author Talin Babikian, a postdoctoral fellow, and professor and senior author Robert Asarnow, both of psychiatry and bibehavioral sciences, were quoted, and Babikian was interviewed for an audio podcast.

“Childhood Brain Injury Can Delay Development”

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/Neurology/HeadTrauma/14226>

BRIEFS

KCBS-Channel 2.com reported May 20 on the opening of the Renee and Meyer Luskin Children’s Clinic across the street from Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital. The clinic will provide pediatric orthopaedic care on the Westside.

<http://cbs2.com/local/The.Renee.and.2.1014438.html>

The L.A. Watts Times reported May 21 on a multicenter study by UCLA, Harvard and the RAND Corp., which found that perceived racial or ethnic discrimination is common among fifth-graders and may negatively affect their mental health.

“The Pulse”

<http://www.lawattstimes.com/health-mainmenu-53/747-the-pulse.html>

Spry Magazine’s May issue included a brief about UCLA research indicating that an antioxidant in broccoli and other cruciferous vegetables may help prevent inflammation that leads to respiratory conditions like asthma.

UCLA Medical Center was cited May 15 by the Los Angeles Times in a story on fines imposed by California health regulators under a new state law enacted last year involving violations of privacy.

“Kaiser Hospital Fined \$250,000 for Privacy Breach in Octuplet Case”

http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-privacy15-2009may15_0,2916906.story

“State Fines Kaiser for Violating Suleman’s Privacy”

http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_12377512?nclick_check=1

A clinical trial for chronic myeloid leukemia at UCLA’s Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center was mentioned May 16 in the Claremont Courier.

“Appreciating the Wonders of Life, One Mile at a Time”

<http://www.claremont-courier.com/pages/Topstory051609.1.html>

Dr. Harvey Karp, assistant professor of pediatrics at Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA, was cited in an ABC-affiliate (Cedar Rapids, IA) story about tips to soothe a crying newborn.

QUOTABLES

Anthony Butch, director of the UCLA Olympic Analytical Laboratory, commented May 14 in a Yahoo Sports story about the Major Baseball League allowing the use of the steroid DHEA.

“Baseball still Allows the Steroid DHEA”

<http://sports.yahoo.com/mlb/news?slug=jp-dhealegal051409&prov=yhoo&type=lgns>

Dr. David Baron, chief of staff at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, commented in two May 15 KNX 1070AM reports about a potential link between a virus and hypertension and whether sunscreens with ultra-high SPF numbers provide better protection.

Dr. Frederick Beddingfield, assistant clinical professor of dermatology, commented May 18 in an MSN blog about high-SPF sunscreens.

“SPFs Reach for the Sky”

<http://health.msn.com/blogs/daily-dose-post.aspx?post=1110877>

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented May 18 in a WebMd article about research showing that heart patients who are obese tend to live longer than leaner patients.

“Obese Heart Patients May Live Longer”

<http://www.webmd.com/heart-disease/news/20090518/obese-heart-patients-may-live-longer>

Dr. Wally Ghurabi, medical director of the Nethercutt Emergency Center at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, commented about automated external defibrillators in a May 4 news segment that aired on Santa Monica’s CityTV.

Dr. Richard Jackson, professor and chair of environmental health sciences at the UCLA School of Public Health, was quoted in the May 17 Chicago Sun-Times about how neighborhood layout can contribute to health problems like high blood pressure, heart disease and diabetes.

“How Healthy is Your ‘Hood?”

http://searchchicago.suntimes.com/homes/news/1576154,HOS-News-healthy_communities17.article

Erin Neistat, chief clinical dietician at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, commented in the June issue of Natural Health Magazine on the nutritional benefits of asparagus.

Dr. Donald Tashkin, professor of pulmonary and critical care medicine, was quoted May 17 in a SF Weekly blog article and in the Sacramento Bee about debate surrounding marijuana’s effect on health.

“Chronic City: Onward through the Fog -- Marijuana and Health”

http://blogs.sfweekly.com/thesnitch/2009/05/chronic_city_onward_through_th.php

“Legalize it? Medical Evidence on Marijuana Blows Both Ways”

<http://www.sacbee.com/livinghere/story/1861861.html>

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