



UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of May 15-21, 2015

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When Your Son Insists He's a Girl

The [Los Angeles Times](#) published a May 21 op-ed by Dr. Eric Vilain, director of the UCLA Center for Gender-Based Biology and a professor of human genetics, pediatrics and urology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, about children with gender dysphoria: those who believe they were born in the wrong gender's body.

Nature Explores the “Kill Switch”

A Paris conference organized by Dr. Itzhak Fried, a professor of neurosurgery and psychiatry at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine and Semel Institute, was covered May 19 by [Nature](#). The meeting examined the possible brain mechanisms that transform ordinary citizens into mass murderers.

Huffington Post Showcases Art for Medical Students

A May 20 article by [Huffington Post](#) profiled Ted Meyer, guest artist at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, and the series of art exhibits he's curated to help educate medical students about a patient's experience with illness through his or her art.

CNN Spotlights UCLA Partnership to Keep L.A. Students Fit

[CNN](#) aired a May 12 segment on a recently opened state-of-the-art fitness center at East Valley High School, thanks to a new partnership between UCLA Health and the Sound Body Sound Mind Foundation. The foundation pledged \$3 million in March to create UCLA Health Sound Body Sound Mind, a new entity to combat childhood obesity and promote healthy lifestyles in Los Angeles by enhancing physical education programs and fitness resources for inner-city middle and high school students. Melanie Gideon, a program spokesperson, was interviewed.

Why Dogs Are Healthier for Owners than Cats

[The Telegraph](#) (U.K.) covered a study by the Stein Eye Institute of UCLA showing that owning a cat nearly doubles the risk of contracting glaucoma, while dogs help boost the immune system against the disease. Dr. Anne Coleman, the Fran and Ray Stark Foundation Professor of Ophthalmology, was quoted.

Healthcare Costs Rarely Discussed at Medical Appointments

Dr. Deanna Attai, a UCLA breast surgeon based in Burbank and assistant clinical professor of surgery, was interviewed in a May 18 [Los Angeles Times](#) feature on the difficulty patients have in discussing financial hardships with their physicians and costs' impact on effective treatment.

Secondary Drowning Explained by Santa Monica Physician

[KTLA-Channel 5](#) featured Dr. Wally Ghurabi, medical director, Nethercutt Emergency Center, UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, in a May 19 segment on secondary drowning, a condition where a victim of a near-drowning subsequently succumbs to medical complications.

U-T San Diego Explores Health Benefit Exchange

Dr. Gerald Kominski, director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and professor of health policy and management at the Fielding School of Public Health, was featured in a May 15 [U-T San Diego](#) story analyzing the state of California's health benefit exchange.

BBC Mundo Investigates Hispanic Health Paradox

Dr. Alex Ortega, professor of health policy and management at the Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in a May 20 [BBC Mundo](#) news story on the so-called Hispanic Paradox, in which Latinos living in the United States enjoy longer life expectancies than non-Hispanic whites, yet suffer higher rates of obesity and related health issues.

Rare Disease Prevents Child from Growing Up

Dr. Steve Horvath, a professor of human genetics and biostatistics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was featured [May 7](#) in Oklahoma City's CBS News-affiliate [News 9](#) about a 3-year-old girl with Syndrome X, a rare condition that prevents her from aging normally. Horvath was quoted.

Cosmopolitan Features Sleep Experts

[Cosmopolitan](#) featured UCLA sleep experts in a May 16 blog post about things your body does when it's asleep. Dr. Christopher Colwell, a professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at the Semel Institute; and Dr. Alon Avidan, a professor of neurology and director of UCLA's Sleep Disorders Center, were quoted.

Morning Sickness Study Lingers in the News

[The Times](#) (UK) on April 21, [Malaysia Today](#) on April 23, the [Daily Times](#) (Pakistan) on April 24 and [Central Kentucky News](#) on April 28 reported on research by Marlana Fejzo finding in-utero exposure to extreme morning sickness may result in neurological deficits in the child. Fejzo is an associate researcher in the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

Using Social Media to Address Transgender Health

[Health Canal](#) on May 19, [MedicalXpress](#) on May 20 and [Indo-Asian News Service](#) on May 21 reported research by Dr. Sean Young, executive director of the UC Institute for Prediction Technology, finding that transgender and gender-nonconforming people use social media at high rates. The finding suggests that social "big data" technologies like Twitter offer an untapped source of information that researchers can explore to benefit these communities, which often don't self-identify due to fears of being stigmatized.

Latina Style Magazine Features Gastroenterologist

A May article in [Latina Style Magazine](#) featured Dr. Claudia Sanmiguel, a clinical instructor of medicine in the division of digestive diseases, whose research addresses the role of the brain in the regulation of appetite and body weight in health and obesity. The story showcased Latinas in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Geriatrician Encourages Seniors to Stay Active

Dr. Grace Chen, staff geriatrician at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica and assistant clinical professor, wrote a May 8 [Santa Monica Mirror](#) column about the health benefits of exercise and physical activity for older adults.

Metformin Can Prevent Diabetes in High-risk People

[NEJM Journal Watch](#) (subscription required) reported May 19 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. The study found that only 3.7 percent of at-risk patients were prescribed the diabetes drug metformin, even though it is an effective, low-cost way to help prevent onset of the disease. Moin was quoted.

Community Paper Profiles Future Medical Student

The Lake County [Record-Bee](#) ran a May 13 profile on Andrea Diaz, who will attend UCLA's medical school in the fall and has been awarded a David Geffen Medical Scholarship. Covering the entire cost of all four years of medical school, the merit-based scholarship is awarded to only 33 of the top applicants to the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA each year.

Epilepsy Study Continues to Garner Headlines

[Epilepsy Research](#) (UK) on April 30 and [HealthCanal.com](#) on May 2 covered a UCLA study exploring parents' journeys to surgical evaluation once their children are diagnosed with epilepsy. The study was led by Christine Baca, an assistant professor in residence of neurology.

Prostate Cancer Research Grabs Attention

News outlets covered two studies presented by Dr. Christopher Filson, a UCLA urologic oncology and health services research fellow, at the American Urology Association meeting. [Medscape](#) reported May 20 on a study that found multi-parametric MRI does not appear to be suited as a stand-alone test for diagnosing prostate cancer after an elevated PSA. [Uro Today](#) on May 17; [OnLive](#), [News-Medical.net](#) and [PharmiWeb](#) on May 18; and [MedPage Today](#) on May 19 covered a study that found image-guided biopsy improves the detection of aggressive prostate cancer versus mapping or targeting alone.

BRIEFS

A May 19 [Press-Enterprise](#) article on transgender mental health needs cited the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research's California Health Interview Survey.

In a story questioning the effect of expanded Medicaid coverage, the May 20 [California Healthline](#) cited data from the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the Fielding School of Public Health on the initial increase in use of hospital emergency departments under the post-Affordable Care Act.

Ana Mascareñas, an MPH student in environmental health sciences at the Fielding School of Public Health, was cited in the May 14 [Imperial Valley News](#) for her new appointment as assistant director for environmental justice at the California Department of Toxic Substances Control.

QUOTABLES

Dr. Andrew Charles, professor of neurology and director of the Headache Research and Treatment Program at UCLA, was quoted May 17 in the [National Pain Report](#) on migraines in children.

Dr. Jacqueline Casillas, associate professor of pediatric hematology and oncology and co-director of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Patients and Survivors Program was quoted in a May 19 story by the [National Cancer Institute](#) on young cancer survivors trying to cope with the long-lasting physical and psychological effects of post-cancer treatment.

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, commented May 14 in a [Globe and Mail](#) (Canada) report on a study finding that the measles vaccine may help prevent other diseases.

Dr. Christopher Filson, a UCLA urologic oncology and health services research fellow, commented in a May 5 [Renal and Urology News](#) story about doctors prescribing pharmacotherapy to treat lower urinary tract symptoms related to benign prostatic hyperplasia.

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 on research about cholesterol-lowering medications reducing stroke risk.

Dr. Patricia Ganz, director of cancer prevention and control research at the UCLA Jonsson Cancer Center and professor of health policy and management at the Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted by [NewsOK](#) and [The Frederick News-Post](#) in a May 20 article on ways to lower one's cancer risk.

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 14 in a [California Healthline](#) report on the challenges that non-English speakers face in communicating with physicians.

Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases and of public health, commented in a May 7 [Men's Health](#) article about the spread of a drug-resistant super-gonorrhea.

Dr. Carlos Lerner, an associate clinical professor of pediatrics and medical director of the Children's Health Center at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, commented May 17 in [NBC Today.com](#) article about a new study that found dance classes do not provide enough exercise for young kids.

Dr. Richard Jackson, professor of environmental health sciences at the Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted May 20 in a [Pioneer Press](#) editorial about how to make St. Paul a healthier city. A related May 17 story by [Lillie News](#) quoted Jackson on the same topic.

Dr. Jenny Kim, clinical professor of medicine in the division of dermatology, commented in a May 18 [Good Housekeeping](#) story about tips to help protect skin from the sun.

Dr. Mario Mendez, a professor of neurology and psychiatry at the Semel Institute, commented in an April 29 [New York Times](#) article about whether a person suffering from a severe form of dementia would be capable of planning and executing a murder.

Dr. Emanuel Maidenberg, director of the UCLA Cognitive Behavior Therapy Clinic, and a clinical professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was quoted in the May 18 [Los Angeles Times](#) about the death of extreme athlete Dean Potter.

Dr. Alex Ortega, professor of health policy and management at the Fielding School of Public Health, was asked for his insight into healthy market makeover strategies May 19 by [KCUR-FM](#) (Kansas City). A companion story quoting Ortega ran on May 20 in the [Kansas City Star](#).

Dr. Dylan Roby, senior research scientist at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and assistant professor of health policy and management at Fielding School of Public Health, was interviewed by [Marketplace \(APM\)](#) for a May 20 story on how high deductibles deter many people from preventive care.

Dr. Nick Shamie, chief of the UCLA Orthopaedic Spine Surgery Center in Santa Monica and professor at the David Geffen School of Medicine, commented May 19 in [NewsMaxHealth.com](#) about the effectiveness of cortisone medication in the treatment of herniated discs.

Dr. Michael Strober, professor of psychiatry and the director of the eating disorder program at the Semel Institute, commented on a May 20 ABC [Good Morning America](#) segment about a dying woman suffering from anorexia.

Dr. Eric Vilain, director of the UCLA Center for Gender-Based Biology and a professor of human genetics, pediatrics and urology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted May 21 in a [BuzzFeed](#) article about sports policies that ban women with high levels of testosterone.

Dr. Steven Wallace, chair of community health sciences at the Fielding School of Public Health and associate director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, was quoted by [Kern Golden Empire](#) May 19 in a story about elderly Californians raising their grandchildren. The article also cited research from the center's Elder Index, which calculates annual living costs associated with elderly Californians.

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