



UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of May 29-June 4, 2015

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Experimental Drug Discovery Could Eventually Treat Common Blood Cancer

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Operation Mend Receives \$15.7 Million to Expand Mental Health Services for Vets

[KPCC 89.3FM](#); NPR's "[All Things Considered](#)," [KABC 790AM](#), [KTTV-Channel 11](#), [My News L.A.](#), [KXXV-Channel 25 \(Waco, Texas\)](#), [KHQQ-Channel 6 \(Spokane, Wash.\)](#) and others reported June 2 that UCLA's Operation Mend program received a \$15.7 million grant from the Wounded Warrior Project to expand its mental health services for post-9-11 wounded service members. The funding will support a new, intensive program at UCLA to help treat mild traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder. Melanie Gideon, director of Operation Mend, was interviewed in the coverage.

Study of Device to Measure Liver Function Grabs Attention

[MedicalXpress](#), [Health News Digest](#), [SciCasts](#), [Examiner.com](#) and [Science Daily](#) May 28; [DotMed](#), [Med Device Online](#) and [News-Medical.net](#) May 29; [HealthCanal](#) May 30; and [BioScience Technology](#) and [Healio](#) June 1 reported on a study by Dr. Ali Zarrinpar that found a portable device successfully measured liver function in brain dead adult organ donors. Zarrinpar is an assistant professor of surgery in the UCLA Division of Liver and Pancreas Transplantation.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Discusses Recent Heart Surgery

[KCBS-Channel 2](#) featured May 31 an interview with NBA legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, who discussed his recent heart surgery at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center. His surgeon, Dr. Richard Shemin, professor and chief of cardiac surgery, and his cardiologist, Dr. William Suh, assistant clinical professor of medicine in the division of cardiology, were interviewed.

Los Angeles Times Feature Takes Stance on Good Posture

[Los Angeles Times](#) May 30 included a full-page feature on the importance of good posture. Physical therapist Keri Pegram at the UCLA Spine Center in Santa Monica demonstrated ways to improve posture in several photographs and was quoted along with a UCLA patient.

Diabetes Health Plans Help Patients Better Manage Their Disease

[MedPage Today](#) reported May 29 on research led by Dr. O. Kenrik Duru, associate professor in residence of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, finding that employer Diabetes Health Plans—a health insurance plan tailored to their medical needs—lead patients to better manage their condition.

Skin Cancer Drug Also Fights Lung Cancer

[OncLive](#) reported June 2 on the largest study to date that used immunotherapy to treat lung cancer. The researchers found that the drug pembrolizumab (Keytruda®), recently approved by the FDA to treat melanoma, is safe and effective in arresting tumor growth in patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer. Dr. Edward Garon, associate professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology and a member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted.

Experimental Drug Discovery Could Eventually Treat Common Blood Cancer

[Health News Digest](#) reported May 29 on a new drug therapy to treat multiple myeloma, the second most common blood cancer in the United States. This first-of-its-kind experimental treatment would prevent myeloma cells, which accumulate in the bone marrow where they eventually push out healthy blood cells, from growing to slow or stop the spread of the disease. Dr. Alan Lichtenstein, professor-in-residence of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology and member of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center's Stem Cell Biology Program, was quoted.

Website Highlights UCLA Grant Winner

The [Monitor of Psychology's](#) May issue highlighted Arpana "Annie" Gupta, a postdoctoral scholar in the UCLA Division of Digestive Diseases, who was awarded an American Psychological Foundation's 2014 Visionary Grant for her research. She is working with a team at the Gail and Gerald Oppenheimer Family Center for Neurobiology of Stress (CNS) on connections between the brain and gut. Specifically, her research will assess sex and race differences in the influence of gut bacteria on brain markers in obese subjects. She is working with Dr. Emeran Mayer, a professor of medicine in the division of digestive diseases, and of physiology and psychiatry; Dr. Kirsten Tillisch, associate professor of medicine in the division of digestive diseases, and Dr. Jennifer Labus, adjunct associate professor of medicine in the division of digestive diseases.

UCLA Stroke Experts, Survivor Featured on EmpowHer

EmpowHer June 3 posted two articles ([here](#) and [here](#)) on young women who suffered from strokes. UCLA stroke survivor Jennifer Reilly was featured and Dr. Nestor Gonzalez, an associate professor of neurosurgery and radiology, and Dr. David Liebeskind, professor of neurology and director of outpatient stroke and neurovascular programs, were quoted.

UCLA Scientist Featured on BuzzFeed

[BuzzFeed](#) June 3 featured comments by Nicole Petersen regarding the effects of birth control on mood. Petersen is a neuroscientist at the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior at UCLA.

South Bay Sleep Specialist Covers Good Sleep Habits

Dr. Khalid Eltawil, sleep medicine specialist at UCLA Health-South Bay and assistant clinical professor, pulmonary and critical care, was interviewed by [South Bay Health](#) for its June issue in an article on good sleep habits. Eltawil gave several suggestions to improve sleep and emphasized its importance in maintaining good health.

Cardiologist's Column Helps Santa Clarita Residents Stay in Rhythm

Dr. Carlos Macias, cardiologist in UCLA Health's Santa Clarita and Porter Ranch practices, authored a guest commentary about heart-rhythm abnormalities in the June edition of [Santa Clarita Magazine](#).

BRIEFS

A May 30 [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) article on childhood obesity in Tijuana, Mexico, cited a 2012 UCLA Center for Health Policy Research study on obesity in California schoolchildren.

Dr. Benjamin Bengs, orthopaedic surgeon at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica and assistant professor of orthopaedic surgery, was recognized as an orthopedic surgeon to know in the May 28 issue of [Becker's Orthopedic Review](#).

QUOTABLES

Dr. Deanna Attai, UCLA breast surgeon based in Burbank and assistant clinical professor of surgery, was quoted in a May 30 [Associated Press](#) article on a study showing that removing more tissue during breast cancer surgery greatly lowers the risk that some cancer will be left behind and require additional surgery.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented in a June 2 [HealthDay News](#) story on findings showing that cholesterol drugs may lower mortality risk after heart bypass surgery.

Dr. Christopher Giza, director of the UCLA Steve Tisch Program and a professor of neurosurgery and pediatrics at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine and Mattel Children's Hospital, commented May 22 in the [Washington Post](#) about how a rare type of ear condition is sometimes mistaken for a concussion.

Dr. Gerald Kominski, director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in a June 1 [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) article on Anthem Blue Cross of California's cost-cutting measures. [California Healthline](#) recapped the article on June 2.

Dr. Melissa Shive, a dermatology resident at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted in a May 21 [Long Beach Press-Telegram](#) article about summer sun safety measures that included sunscreens, protective clothing and other tips.

Dr. Alcino Silva, director of the UCLA Integrative Center for Learning and Memory and professor of neurobiology and psychiatry at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and Semel Institute, commented June 1 in a [PsychCentral](#) story about a new Science study that found activating brain cells with light therapy may reactivate lost memories.

Dr. Michael Strober, professor of psychiatry and the director for the [Eating Disorder Program](#) at the Semel Institute, was quoted in the June 2 [Orange County Register](#) about a woman suffering from extreme anorexia.

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