



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT**

For the week of June 4-10, 2010

Note: Website links may expire without notice. Some sites require password registration. If you cannot access a story or would like to obtain a copy, please call 310.794.0777.

---

**Rare Genes Linked to Autism Draw International Coverage**

**School Friends' Booster Effect on GPA Attracts Headlines**

**Media Around the World Remember Coach Wooden**

**NY Times Blog Features Brain Expert on Technology**

**TIME Addresses whether Antidepressants Work**

**HealthDay Evaluates Tobacco Taxes' Effect on Smoking Cessation**

**WebMD Explores "Golden Hour" for Stroke Patients**

**KABC Identifies Food that's Good for Your Brain**

**Huffington Post Profiles Family's Struggle to Save Their Son**

**KPCC Notes Cancer Researcher's Appointment to Panel**

**Local Papers Run Column on 'Bugs' in Salads**

**Dermatologist Spreads the Word on Skin-cancer Prevention**

**Nursing Trade Spotlights Success of Medical Home Program**

**Medill News Explains New Therapy for Tourette Syndrome**

**L.A. Times Reports Records Breach Fine**

**Community Press Cover CNA Strike Plans, Rallies at UCLA Hospitals**

**Local Papers Cover Injured CHP Officer's Hospitalization**

**BRIEFS**

**QUOTABLES**

---

**Rare Genes Linked to Autism Draw International Coverage**

ABC News.com, TIME, USA Today and U.S. News & World Report's parenting blog, and the news wires Reuters, Agence France Press, Canadian West and the Canadian Press reported June 9 and Scientific American, the Sydney Morning Herald, Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology News and KABC-Channel 7 reported June 10 on the world's largest DNA scan, which linked autism to missing and duplicated genes that arise in the DNA of affected children but are not present in their parents. UCLA researchers from the David Geffen School of Medicine and the Semel Institute included Rita Cantor, professor of human genetics; Dr. Stan Nelson, professor of human genetics and psychiatry; and Dr. Dan Geschwind, a professor of neurology and psychiatry who holds UCLA's Gordon and Virginia MacDonald Distinguished Chair in Human Genetics. All three coauthors were quoted.

"New Study Shines Light on Autism's Possible Genetic Cause"

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/Autism/autisms-genetic-light-study/story?id=10867596&page=1>

"To Help Cure Autism, Share Your DNA"

<http://health.usnews.com/health-news/blogs/on-parenting/2010/06/09/to-help-cure-autism-share-your-dna>

"Large-Scale Autism Study Reveals Disorder's Genetic Complexity"

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=autism-genetic-complexity&print=true>

"Scientists Find Autism has Complex Genetic Roots"

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKTRE6584CP20100609>

### **School Friends' Booster Effect on GPA Attracts Headlines**

The Washington Post, Huffington Post and a CNN blog reported June 8 on research by Andrew Fuligni, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, and Melissa Witkow, a former UCLA graduate student in psychology, finding that teens with more school friends have higher grade-point averages. The research was also cited in reports by 130 network news affiliates.

"Your Kid's Friends Matter More than You Think, Study Says"

<http://voices.washingtonpost.com/answer-sheet/research/your-kids-friends-matter-more.html>

"Want Friends to Achieve? Pay Attention to their Friendships"

<http://pagingdrgupta.blogs.cnn.com/2010/06/09/want-kids-to-achieve-pay-attention-to-their-friendships/?iref=allsearch>

"More Friends, Better Grades: Study"

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/06/07/more-friends-better-grade\\_n\\_603005.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/06/07/more-friends-better-grade_n_603005.html)

### **Media Around the World Remember Coach Wooden**

The Los Angeles Times, New York Times, Washington Post, Associated Press, Reuters, Wall Street Journal, Sports Illustrated, ESPN, KCBS-Channel 2, KNBC-Channel 4, KTLA-Channel 5 and hundreds of other local, national and international media outlets reported June 3 –June 6 on the hospitalization, death and legacy of legendary former UCLA basketball coach John Wooden. Wooden, 99, died June 4 at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center.

"UCLA Students Mourn John Wooden's Death"

<http://www.latimes.com/news/obituaries/la-me-wooden-reax-20100605,0,292118.story>

"UCLA Campus Mourns John Wooden"

<http://cbs2.com/video/?id=136554@kcbs.dayport.com>

### **NY Times Blog Features Brain Expert on Technology**

Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Center on Aging, commented June 6 in the New York Times about people who are hooked on interactive electronic technology. He was also featured June 7 on the NY Times "Room for Debate" blog about how to digitally detox.

"Hooked on Gadgets and Paying a Mental Price"

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/07/technology/07brain.html>

"Room for Debate: First Steps in Digital Detox"

<http://roomfordebate.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/06/07/first-steps-to-digital-detox/#gary>

### **TIME Addresses whether Antidepressants Work**

Aimee Hunter, a research psychologist at the Semel Institute, was featured June 3 in TIME magazine about her research on antidepressant medications. Her team identified a biomarker that could help

doctors quickly determine which patients taking antidepressants may develop a worsening of mood or suicidal thoughts.

“Antidepressants: Are They Effective or Just a Placebo?”

<http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,1991841-1,00.html>

### **HealthDay Evaluates Tobacco Taxes' Effect on Smoking Cessation**

HealthDay News and the News-Gazette (Ill.) reported June 6 and June 7, respectively, on research by Dr. Michael Ong, assistant professor of general internal medicine and health services research, finding that increasing tobacco taxes could curb smoking among people with alcohol, drug or mental disorders. Fox News affiliates reported June 8 on the study, which appeared in the American Journal of Public Health. “Certain Smokers More Apt to Quit Over Price Hikes”

<http://www.businessweek.com/lifestyle/content/healthday/639823.html>

“Higher Cigarette Tax Could Help Reduce Smoking, Study Suggests”

<http://www.news-gazette.com/blogs/take-care/2010-06/higher-cigarette-tax-could-help-reduce-smoking-study-suggests.html>

### **WebMD Explores “Golden Hour” for Stroke Patients**

WebMD reported June 3 on a UCLA study finding that only one in four stroke patients arrive at the hospital within the first “golden” hour, and that only one in five of these patients receive the lifesaving tissue plasminogen activator within the hour. Dr. Jeffery Saver, professor of neurosurgery and director of the UCLA Stroke Center, was quoted.

“Many Stroke Patients Don't Get Quick Treatment”

[http://www.webmd.com/stroke/news/20100603/many-stroke-patients-dont-get-quick-treatment?src=RSS\\_PUBLIC](http://www.webmd.com/stroke/news/20100603/many-stroke-patients-dont-get-quick-treatment?src=RSS_PUBLIC)

### **KABC Identifies Food that's Good for your Brain**

Dr. Neil Martin, chair of the department of neurosurgery, appeared June 4 in a KABC-Channel 7 segment about common foods that affect neuronal health and cognitive function.

“The Best Brain Food to Add to Your Diet”

[http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/food\\_coach&id=7479542](http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/food_coach&id=7479542)

### **Huffington Post Profiles Family's Struggle to Save Their Son**

The Huffington Post published a June 2 article by Susan Smalley, professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences, about her Semel Institute colleague, Dr. Stan Nelson, also a professor of psychiatry and a professor of human genetics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. Nelson and his wife, Carrie Miceli, professor of microbiology, immunology and molecular genetics, have devoted their careers to researching a cure and establishing a UCLA clinic for Duchenne's muscular dystrophy. Their son was diagnosed with the terminal disease at age 3.

“When Words Fail Us: The Love of Parent and Child”

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/susan-smalley/parenting-advice-when-wor\\_b\\_594639.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/susan-smalley/parenting-advice-when-wor_b_594639.html)

### **KPCC Notes Cancer Researcher's Appointment to Panel**

KPCC 89.3 FM reported June 10 about Dr. Patricia Ganz being selected to serve on a panel of more than 60 top-ranking scientists, clinicians and advocates that will guide the research program at Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Ganz is director of cancer prevention and control research at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

“UCLA Scientist Tapped To Be On Board World's Largest Breast Cancer Organization”

<http://www.scpr.org/blogs/hettie-lynn-hurtes/2010/06/10/ucla-scientist-tapped-be-board-worlds-largest-brea/>

### **Local Papers Run Column on 'Bugs' in Salads**

The June 9 Daily News and San Gabriel Valley Tribune ran a syndicated column by Dr. Claire Panosian, professor of medicine, division of infectious diseases, on bacteria and occasional insects found in packaged salad greens and vegetables.

“Sometimes Dangerous ‘Bugs’ Lurk in Salads”

[http://www.dailynews.com/ci\\_15264250?source=email](http://www.dailynews.com/ci_15264250?source=email)

### **Dermatologist Spreads the Word on Skin-cancer Prevention**

Dr. Joseph Greco, director of UCLA-Santa Monica Dermatology, wrote a column on skin-cancer prevention in ran in the June 3 Santa Monica Mirror.

"Here Comes the Sun. Protect Yourself!"

<http://www.smmirror.com/MainPages/DisplayArticleDetails.asp?eid=12670>

### **Nursing Trade Spotlights Success of Medical Home Program**

Advance for Nurses reported June 9 on the medical home program at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA and cited a recent study finding that program participants cut emergency-room visits by 55 percent. Isabell Purdy, assistant clinical professor of pediatrics and director of the NICU High Risk Infant Follow-up Clinic, was interviewed.

"Coordinating Pediatric Care"

<http://nursing.advanceweb.com/regional-articles/features/coordinating-pediatric-care.aspx>

### **Medill News Explains New Therapy for Tourette Syndrome**

The research of John Piacentini, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of UCLA's Childhood OCD, Anxiety and Tic Disorders, was featured in a June 2 Medill News article. His study showed that a behavior-therapy technique to reduce tics associated with Tourette syndrome in children and adolescents was as effective as standard anti-tic medications, without the related side effects.

"Behavior Therapy Reduces Tics in Children with Tourette syndrome, Study Finds"

<http://news.medill.northwestern.edu/chicago/news.aspx?id=166010>

### **L.A. Times Reports Records Breach Fine**

The Los Angeles Times ran a June 10 blog item that state officials fined Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center for past breaches of patient medical records by hospital employees. The article quoted a statement issued by UCLA.

"UCLA Hospital Fined Over Privacy Breaches that Sources Say Involve Michael Jackson's Records"

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-ucla-privacy-20100611,0,5600417.story>

### **Community Press Cover CNA Strike Plans, Rallies at UCLA Hospitals**

The Los Angeles Times, KCBS-Channel 2, Santa Monica Daily Press, The Argonaut, and other news outlets, reported June 9 and June 10, about plans by the California Nurses' Association to conduct a one-day strike at all UC medical centers and other hospitals in California and Minnesota. Media also covered the blocked strike earlier this week by a San Francisco judge. A series of rallies took place instead on June 10 at several southern California hospitals including Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital.

"Santa Monica-UCLA Officials Brace for Strike"

[http://www.smdp.com/Articles-c-2010-06-08-69766.113116\\_Santa\\_MonicaUCLA\\_officials\\_brace\\_for\\_nurse\\_strike.html](http://www.smdp.com/Articles-c-2010-06-08-69766.113116_Santa_MonicaUCLA_officials_brace_for_nurse_strike.html)

"Calif. Nurses Rally Against Staffing Shortages"

<http://cbs2.com/local/nurse.shortages.rallies.2.1743975.html>

"Judge Temporarily Bars Nurses' Strike at UC Hospitals"

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-nurses-20100609,0,7035150.story>

### **Local Papers Cover Injured CHP Officer's Hospitalization**

The Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles Daily News, L.A. Weekly and Contra Costa Times reported on June 9 and June 10 (please specify which outlets reported on which dates) that a California Highway Patrol motorcycle officer is being treated at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center following a traffic collision. The articles quote a statement released by UCLA on the officer's condition.

"CHP Officer in Serious Condition after Crash Shuts Down 405 Freeway"

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-0609-freeway-closed-20100610,0,1363583.story>

"Northbound 405 Freeway Reopened after Crash, CHP Officer Remains in Critical Condition"

[http://www.dailynews.com/news/cj\\_15259774](http://www.dailynews.com/news/cj_15259774)

## BRIEFS

An NPR Marketplace commentary airing June 3 on KPCC 89.3 FM about the banking industry cited a UCLA Department of Neurosurgery study making the first recordings of mirror neurons at work in the human brain.

"Rethinking Bankers See, Bankers Do"

<http://marketplace.publicradio.org/display/web/2010/06/03/pm-rethinking-bankers-see-bankers-do-cole-commentary/>

The June 8 Santa Monica Daily Press published a captioned photo from Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital's recent "Westside Challenge to Beat Breast Cancer" tennis event, which helps fund low-cost mammograms. The May 27 Palisadian Post also contained a news brief about the fundraiser.

## QUOTABLES

Richard Ambrose, professor of environmental health sciences at the School of Public Health, was quoted June 6 by MSNBC about British Petroleum's latest efforts to stem the oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico.

"BP Planning on Better Containment Device"

[http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/37536554/ns/disaster\\_in\\_the\\_gulf/](http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/37536554/ns/disaster_in_the_gulf/)

Dr. David Baron, chief of staff at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, was quoted June 4 by KNX 1070AM about rising numbers of whooping cough cases across the country. He also commented June 10 on KNX about a Kaiser study indicating fewer heart attacks among its patients.

Dr. John Belperio, associate professor of medicine, division of pulmonary and critical care medicine, commented June 4 in the Pasadena Star-News about a UCLA pulmonary fibrosis patient listed to receive a lung transplant.

"Caltech Spokesman is in Line for Lung Transplant"

[http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/news/ci\\_15229296](http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/news/ci_15229296)

Dr. Eric Bender, child and adolescent psychiatrist at the Semel Institute, was quoted June 9 on ABCNews.com about a journal article that psychoanalyzed the fictional character Darth Vader. He also discussed his use of comic characters to discuss real psychiatric issues presented with colleagues at two major comic book conventions.

"Darth Vader Was Mentally Ill, Researchers Say"

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/MindMoodNews/star-wars-darth-vader-needed-therapy-blame-dark/story?id=10850290>

Dr. Vivian Burt, emeritus professor of clinical psychiatry and director of the Women's Life Center at the Semel Institute, was quoted June 3 by MSN.com about pregnant women and depression.

"Pregnant? Depressed? You're Not Alone"

<http://health.msn.com/health-topics/articlepage.aspx?cp-documentid=100259925>

Dr. Andrew Drexler, director of the Gonda (Goldschmied) Diabetes Center, commented June 7 in a WebMD article about how to spot diabetes symptoms.

"Diabetes Symptoms to Never Ignore"

<http://diabetes.webmd.com/features/diabetes-symptoms-to-never-ignore>

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented June 8 in HealthDay News on short people having a higher risk of heart disease. He also was quoted June 8 by ABCNews.com on a report that nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs may increase heart-related deaths in healthy people.

"Shortness Boosts Heart Disease, Death Risk: Study"

<http://consumer.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=639902>

'Some Popular Pain Pills Increase Heart Death'

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/PainManagement/popular-pain-pills-increase-risk-heart-deaths/story?id=10859432&page=1>

Christopher Giza, associate professor of pediatric neurology and neurosurgery at the UCLA Brain Injury Research Center, was quoted June 9 by USA Today about youth hockey and the possibility of repeated concussions from body checking.

“Body Checking in Kids' Hockey Triples Serious Injuries”

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2010-06-09-hockey09\\_ST\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2010-06-09-hockey09_ST_N.htm)

David Hovda, professor of neurosurgery and director of the Brain Injury Research Center, was quoted June 8 in a CNN.com blog about youth hockey and the possibility of repeated concussions from body checking.

“Youth Hockey Players: Too Young to Body Check?”

<http://pagingdrgupta.blogs.cnn.com/2010/06/08/youth-hockey-players-too-young-to-body-check/?iref=allsearch>

Dr. Neil Martin, chair of neurosurgery, was quoted June 4 by Associated Press about rock star Bret Michaels resuming his career after suffering several illnesses, including a brain hemorrhage.

“Bret Michaels Back on the Road”

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100604/ap\\_en\\_tv/us\\_people\\_bret\\_michaels](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100604/ap_en_tv/us_people_bret_michaels)

Dr. Marc Riedl, assistant professor of clinical immunology and allergy, commented June 7 in the Boston Globe about food intolerances and the inconsistent criteria used in diagnosing food allergies.

“When Food Hurts”

[http://www.boston.com/lifestyle/food/articles/2010/06/07/when\\_food\\_hurts/?page=2](http://www.boston.com/lifestyle/food/articles/2010/06/07/when_food_hurts/?page=2)

Dr. Jeffrey Veale, director of the kidney transplantation exchange program, commented in a June 10 Rochester (N.Y.) Democrat and Chronicle story about a woman who received a kidney at UCLA as part of a transplant chain.

“Kidney Donors Link to Save Loved Ones”

<http://rocnw.com/article/local-news/20106100344>

=====

UCLA's Health Sciences Media Relations office e-publishes this report weekly. For more information, please call Roxanne Moster, director of Health Sciences Media Relations, or Elaine Schmidt, senior media relations officer, at 310-794-0777. Our office also offers publicity for new research, medical breakthroughs, clinical trial recruitment, inspirational patient stories and more. To identify the appropriate public information officer for your department, visit [www.uclahealth.org/mediacontacts](http://www.uclahealth.org/mediacontacts).