



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT**

**For the week of June 8 - 14, 2012**

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### **Hepatitis among the Homeless Attracts Attention**

The [Los Angeles Times](#) and [Associated Press](#) reported June 12 on research by Dr. Lillian Gelberg, professor of family medicine and public health, suggesting that more than 1 in 4 homeless people in downtown Los Angeles have hepatitis C; nearly half are unaware of it. The findings were reported June 11 by [City News Service](#), [LAist](#), [KPCC 89.3FM](#), [La Opinión](#) and [Examiner](#); June 12 by Xinhua, [JBlogdowntown.com](#), [North County Times](#) (San Diego County) and [Private MD Labs.com](#); and June 13 by [AIDSMeds.com](#). The Sacramento Bee, Ventura County Star, San Francisco Chronicle, Washington Examiner and Los Angeles Daily News syndicated the wire reports.

### **'Zoobiquity' Garner Wide Coverage**

ABC News' [Nightline](#)," ABC's "Good Morning America," NPR's "Morning Edition," [ABC News.com](#) and the [Boston Globe](#) reported June 12; the [New York Times](#), [Sunday Times](#) (London), [Wall Street Journal](#), [Asian News International](#), [Times of India](#) and a [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) blog reported June 11; Britain's [Daily Mail](#) reported June 10 and [Nature Medicine](#) reported June 6 on research by Dr. Barbara Natterson-Horowitz, director of imaging at the UCLA Cardiac Arrhythmia Center, comparing physical and mental disorders in animals and humans and her book "Zoobiquity," which looks at the species-spanning nature of illness. Natterson-Horowitz was quoted.

### **Local Papers Investigate Surgery Centers, Hepatitis**

[Pasadena Star-News](#), [Daily News](#) and [Whittier Daily News](#) ran a June 8 column by Dr. Claire Panosian Dunavan, clinical professor of medicine, division of infectious diseases, about the risks of undergoing surgery at outpatient "surgi-centers." A June 14 column in the [Pasadena-Star News](#), [Daily News](#) and [Whittier Daily News](#) covered the silent epidemic of hepatitis C and the Center for Disease Control's new recommendations for universal hepatitis C screening of baby boomers.

### **Channel 7, American News Spotlight Migraine**

Dr. Andrew Charles, director of UCLA's Headache Research and Treatment Program and a professor of neurology who holds UCLA's Luskin Chair in Migraine and Headache Studies, was interviewed June 12 on [KABC-Channel 7](#) about what happens in the brain during migraines and steps individuals can take to prevent them. The June 14 [American News Report](#) also covered Charles' participation in a migraine awareness online chat sponsored as part of a national focus on June as Migraine Awareness Month.

### **Op-Eds Explore Early Signs of Mental Illness, Impact of Texting**

The June 12 [Los Angeles Times](#) and June 13 [McClatchy News](#) ran an op-ed by Dr. Neal Halfon, professor of pediatrics, health services and public policy and director of the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities, about the need to improve public services for the mentally ill and to train parents to recognize signs of mental illness in their children. [The Reporter](#) (Vacaville) also published a June 10 op-ed by Halfon about parent who interrupt time spent with their child to text, email or use social media. The piece was cited June 11 on the [KTAR 620AM](#) website (Phoenix).

### **ICON Awards Event Draws Press**

[CentricTV](#), [Female First](#), [OC-TV](#), [Black American Web](#), [Getty Images](#) and [Star Plus.com](#), among others, covered the UCLA Longevity Center's 2012 ICON Awards, held on June 6. The event honored Sidney Poitier for artistic excellence; Jane and Terry Semel and Dr. Peter Whybrow, director of the Semel Institute, for visionary leadership in science and medicine; and Shlomo and Steve Rechnitz, for visionary leadership in business and philanthropy.

### **How to Avoid ED after Prostate Surgery**

[Modern Medicine](#) reported June 13 on a study suggesting that men undergoing robotic-assisted 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 of erectile function. Dr. Jim Hu, director of minimally invasive surgery in the department of urology, was quoted.

### **Cardiologist Addresses Fox News**

[KTTV Channel 11](#) aired a June 12 in-studio interview with Dr. Karol Watson, associate professor of medicine, division of cardiology, about research suggesting that stem cells may play a role in the process that clogs arteries.

### **Riverside Paper Spotlights Medical School**

A June 9 [Press Enterprise](#) story about a proposed medical school at UC Riverside described the university's agreement with UCLA that allows medical students to spend their first two years in classroom study on the UCR campus and then transfer to UCLA for their final two years and internships. Dr. Alan Robinson, associate vice chancellor at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted.

### **Australian Paper Looks at How Fructose Affects Learning**

Australia's [International Business Times](#) reported June 13 about a UCLA study finding that high levels of fructose slowed brain function in rats, disrupting learning and memory. Lead author Fernando Gomez-Pinilla, professor of neurosurgery, was quoted.

### **Paper Honors Medical Educator**

The [Inland Valley News](#) reported June 13 that Lawrence "Hy" Doyle, executive director of the program in medical education at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, has received an award from the California Wellness Foundation for his efforts to improve the health and wellness of California's most underserved communities. Doyle was quoted.

### **Digital Journal Covers Kidney Stone Study**

[Digital Journal](#) on June 7 reported on a study showing that as rates of obesity and diabetes have risen in the U.S., the incidence of kidney stones has also increased significantly. Study authors include Dr. Charles Scales, Jr., a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Clinical Scholar in urology and medicine; and Dr. Christopher Saigal, associate professor of urology.

### **Website Explores Immune Cells' Role in ALS**

[SciTech Daily](#) reported June 6 on an early study that found that the immune cells of patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), or Lou Gehrig's disease, may play a role in damaging the neurons in the spinal cord. ALS is a disease of the nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord that control voluntary movement. Authors include Dr. Milan Fiala, a researcher in the department of surgery; and Guanghao Liu, a UCLA undergraduate student.

### **International Business Times Examines Bone Research**

[International Business Times](#) reported June 13 on a study by Dr. Chia Soo, adjunct professor of orthopedic surgery and a researcher at UCLA's Broad Stem Cell Research Center, finding that bone grown using stem cells from fat tissue forms faster and is of higher quality than bone grown using traditional methods. Soo was quoted.

### **Biz Journal Notes Health System's Expansion**

The [San Fernando Valley Business Journal](#) reported June 13 on the UCLA Health System's plans to expand in the San Fernando and Conejo valleys by building several buildings for primary care and medical specialties, including imaging. Ann Sullivan, project director for the Department of Medicine, was quoted.

### **OC Weekly Spotlights Patient's Biking Trek**

[OC Weekly](#) ran a June 13 profile of a 21-year-old man who underwent a bone marrow transplant to treat aplastic anemia last year at UCLA. He'll celebrate the one-year anniversary of his transplant by bicycling with friends and family from his home in Mission Viejo to UCLA. His physician, Dr. Ronald Paquette, professor of hematology and oncology at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, was quoted.

### **Westside Today Promotes New Parenting Book**

[Westside Today](#) ran a June 13 article on a new book by Dr. Natalie Digate Muth, pediatric resident at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, called "Eat Your Vegetables: And Other Mistakes Parents Make." The

book suggests guidelines for parents on how to raise healthy eaters and offers recipes created by Dr. Mary Tanaka, pediatric resident at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA.

### **Examiner Spotlights Study Volunteer Project**

[Examiner.com](#) reported June 8 on the HIV Research Study Volunteer Project (RSVP), a novel program that matches study volunteers to HIV/AIDS clinical trials. Faith Landsman, director of RSVP, was quoted.

### **Beverly Hills Weekly Touts Researcher's Grant**

The June 7 edition of [Beverly Hills Weekly](#) noted that Dr. Joyce Wu, associate professor of pediatric neurology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, received a \$118,000 grant from the Today's and Tomorrow's Children Fund to support her research into pediatric epilepsy.

## **BRIEFS**

Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA was cited June 8 in a [Ventura County Star](#) story on a local teen who is undergoing treatment at UCLA for a rare soft-tissue cancer. The 18-year-old serves as the spokesperson for a nonprofit group called Shred Kids Cancer, which helps raise funds for research at the hospital.

Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center was mentioned in a June 12 [Victorville Daily Press](#) story about a liver transplant patient who met her donor's family.

## **QUOTABLES**

Dr. Benjamin Ansell, associate clinical professor of general internal medicine and director of the UCLA Comprehensive Health Program, commented June 12 in a [Men's Health](#) column about erroneous health advice.

Dr. Alon Avidan, associate professor of neurology and director of the Sleep Disorders Center, was quoted in a June 13 [WebMD](#) article about the correlation between obesity and lack of sleep at night.

Dr. David Baron, family medicine physician and former chief of staff at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, commented in a June 11 KNX AM1070 report about self-injury in children as a coping method for stress.

Susan Bowerman, assistant director of the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition, was quoted June 12 in a [Men's Health](#) column about erroneous health advice.

Dr. Mark DeAntonio, clinical professor of psychiatry and director of adolescent inpatient services at the Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital, was quoted in a June 11 [MSNBC.com](#) article about some children as young as seven who engage in self-injurious behaviors such as cutting to relieve stress.

Dr. Michael Diamond, associate clinical professor of psychiatry (voluntary) at the Semel Institute, was quoted in a June 12 [San Jose Mercury News](#) article about the pressure that working fathers feel to be actively involved in their children's lives.

Dr. Jerome Engel Jr., professor of neurology, neurobiology, and psychiatry, and director of the UCLA Seizure Disorder Center, was quoted in a June 11 [Associated Press](#) article about Commerce Secretary John Bryson's apparent seizure. Engel explained how brain seizures may manifest themselves.

John Froines, professor of environmental health sciences at the Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in a June 12 [Los Angeles Times](#) article about the classification of diesel engine exhaust as carcinogenic to humans.

Suzette Glasner-Edwards, a research psychologist in the Integrated Substance Abuse Programs at the Semel Institute, was quoted in a June 9 [Webpronews.com](#) article about the use of therapy via telephone to assist people suffering from depression.

Dr. Jonathan Goldin, professor of radiological sciences, was quoted June 12 in a [Men's Health](#) column about the lack of science behind full-body scans.

Dr. Richard Jackson, chair of environmental health sciences at the Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in a June 11 [Columbus Dispatch](#) (Ohio) article about cancer clusters— geographic areas with high incidences of cancer--in that state.

Gerald Kominski, director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research in the Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in the June 14 [Los Angeles Times](#) about a near-10 percent increase in health premiums by the California Public Employees' Retirement System, the third-largest purchaser of health benefits in the country,

Shana Alex Lavarreda, director of health insurance studies at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research in the Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in a June 12 [Los Angeles Times](#) column about health insurance giant WellPoint buying contact-lens retailer 1-800-Contacts.

Dr. Mary Marfisee, medical director at the UCLA School of Nursing Health Center at the Union Rescue Mission, was quoted June 12 in an [Associated Press](#) story about a UCLA study finding that the rate of hepatitis C among downtown Los Angeles' homeless population is 10 times higher than among the general population and that many of them were unaware they had the disease.

Dr. Amir Mehran, associate clinical professor of surgery and director of the UCLA Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Program commented in a June 13 [ABC News.com](#) article about bariatric weight-loss surgery being performed on adolescents and young children.

Dylan Roby, director of the health economics and evaluation research program at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, and an assistant adjunct professor at the Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in a June 9 [Ventura County Star](#) article about the Supreme Court's upcoming decision on the health care reform law.

Dr. Christopher Saigal, associate professor of urology, was quoted June 10 in a [Men's Health](#) column about five types of cancer that commonly affect men.

Dr. Nick Shamie, orthopaedic spine surgeon at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica and associate professor of surgery, commented June 7 in a [Becker's Spine Review](#) report about benchmarks for spine practices.

Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging and director of the UCLA Longevity Center in the Semel Institute, was quoted in a June 12 [ABCNews.com](#) article about a study suggesting that taking omega-3 fatty acids may not offer brain benefits.

Dr. Dennis Woo, staff pediatrician at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica and associate clinical professor of pediatrics, was quoted in a June 12 [HealthDay.com](#) story about hearing tests in newborns delivered by C-section. The story also appeared on the website of U.S. News & World Report.

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