



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT  
For the week of June 10 - 16, 2011**

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**MSNBC, CBS Radio Affiliate Showcase “Operation Mend”**

MSNBC’s “[Jansing & Co.](#)” aired a June 9 segment spotlighting UCLA’s “Operation Mend,” which treats U.S. military personnel who have been severely injured in Iraq and Afghanistan. The program’s executive director, Dr. Timothy Miller, who is division chief of plastic surgery, and U.S. Marine Corporal Aaron Mankin, an Operation Mend patient, were interviewed. Miller also was interviewed on Dallas’ local affiliate of CBS Radio.

**Stem-Cell Study for Blindness Draws Headlines**

[The Guardian](#) (U.K.), [Washington Post](#), [Reuters](#), [Agence France Presse](#), [Worcester Telegram](#), [Sacramento Bee](#), [Digital Journal](#), Yahoo News and others reported June 16 on the enrollment of the first patients in a new clinical trial testing the use of human embryonic stem cells to address vision loss in people suffering from Stargardt's disease and dry age-related macular degeneration. Principal investigator Dr. Steven Schwartz, Ahmanson Professor of Ophthalmology and chief of the retina division at the Jules Stein Eye Institute at UCLA, was quoted.

#### **L.A. Times, A.P. Inspect Toxic Air around Rail Yard**

John Froines, professor of environmental health sciences at the School of Public Health and director of the Center for Occupational and Environmental Health, was featured June 10 in an [Associated Press](#) article and June 11 in the [Los Angeles Times](#) on his study that will examine the health effects of high-toxicity emissions from a San Bernardino rail yard.

#### **BBC Podcast Spotlights AIDS Researcher**

A June 9 BBC "[Science in Action](#)" podcast featured AIDS research by Jerome Zack, director of the UCLA Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) and an associate director of the UCLA AIDS Institute.

#### **Hand-transplant Coordinator Profiled by NurseWeek**

[NurseWeek](#) published a June 13 profile of nurse Erin Core, who supervised the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center's first hand-transplant surgery on March 5. As UCLA's hand-transplant program coordinator, Core was responsible for organizing the 17-member operating-room team and preparing the patient for the life-altering operation.

#### **Imaging Study of Down Syndrome Draws Headlines**

[Science Now](#) and an [Examiner](#) blog on June 13 and [Ivanhoe News Wire](#) on June 15 reported on UCLA brain-imaging research that measured plaques and tangles — the hallmarks of Alzheimer's disease — in adults with Down syndrome. Coauthors Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging, a professor at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Longevity Center; and Dr. Jorge Barrio, Plott Chair in Gerontology and a professor of molecular and medical pharmacology, were quoted. The Archives of Neurology published the study in its June edition.

#### **Cancer 'Detour' Study Garner Interest**

[Examiner.com](#) reported June 14 and [Medical News Today](#) and [Drug Discovery & Development](#) reported June 15 on a Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center study discovering that when drugs block a cell-signaling pathway, a tumor can create a detour to an alternative pathway in order to grow and spread. Dr. Hong Wu, professor of molecular and medical pharmacology, was quoted.

#### **Reuters Health Monitors Black Cardiac Patients**

[Reuters Health](#) reported June 13 on research led by Dr. Ioana Popescu, assistant professor of general internal medicine and health services research, finding that African American cardiac patients are less likely than their white counterparts to go to a hospital that performs lifesaving interventions. The study was published in the journal *Circulation*.

#### **EFE Highlights HIV Prevention in Latin America**

[EFE News](#) reported June 10 on the UCLA Program in Global Health's partnership with a Peruvian university to combat HIV/AIDS in Latin America. Dr. Jesse Clark, assistant professor in residence of infectious diseases, was quoted.

#### **Local Outlets Honor Pediatric Research Awardees**

[The Lookout](#) (Santa Monica) reported June 9 on grants presented to three UCLA pediatric researchers by the Today's and Tomorrow's Children Fund of Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA. The winners were Dr. Kuk-Wha Lee, assistant professor of pediatric endocrinology; Dr. Paul Krogstad, professor of pediatric infectious diseases; and Dr. Yonca Bulut, associate clinical professor of pediatric critical care. [The Beverly Hills Weekly](#) also spotlighted Beverly Hills resident Bulut on June 9.

#### **ICON Awards Reported by OC-TV, Turkish Website**

Online stories on [OC-TV](#) this week and the Turkish website [Accun.com](#) on June 13 featured the ICON Awards gala and 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UCLA Longevity Center (formerly the UCLA Center on Aging). The event honored actress Jane Fonda; UCLA alum James Collins and Jules Stein Eye Institute founding director, Dr. Bradley Straatsma. A Los Angeles Times story that originally ran online reappeared in the June 12 print edition.

### **Partnership Targets Health of L.A. Communities**

[City News Service](#), an [Examiner](#) blog and China's [Xinhua News Agency](#) reported June 14 that UCLA and several partners received an \$81 million award from the National Institutes of Health to conduct research and develop treatments aimed at improving the health status of communities in Los Angeles County.

### **Examiner Covers Opening of Chronic-disease Center**

A June 15 [Examiner](#) blog covered the opening of a UCLA center that will study brain-body interactions in chronic disorders. Researchers at the new Gail and Gerald Oppenheimer Family Center for Neurobiology of Stress at UCLA (formerly the UCLA Center for Neurobiology of Stress) will explore how mind-based therapies such as yoga and meditation may help relieve these conditions and play a role in future care.

### **Cardiac Site Covers Life-saving Heart Therapies**

A June 15 [Heart.org](#) story reported on research by Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson–UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center. He found that nearly 68,000 deaths could potentially be prevented each year by implementing nationally recommended therapies for heart-failure patients. He was quoted.

### **Web Outlet Notes Tech Contract**

The June 9 [Laboratory Talk](#) noted a UCLA/Roche agreement to provide technology to the Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research and Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Michael Teitell, a Broad scientist and professor of pediatrics and pathology/laboratory medicine, was quoted.

## **BRIEFS**

A June 13 [New York Times](#) column cited research by Dr. Debra Lotstein, assistant clinical professor of pediatrics, showing that up to two-thirds of children with chronic conditions suffer treatment gaps when they transition into adult care.

The [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#) reported June 12 that more people recognize the names of hospitals at UCLA, Johns Hopkins and the Mayo Clinic than the Cleveland Clinic.

The June 2 [Ventura County Star](#) ran a brief article about a community talk on Medicare sponsored by the UCLA Health 50-Plus program. Ishara Bailis, manager of the program, was quoted.

The June 14 [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) cited a study by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research identifying the number of county residents who have health coverage.

A June 16 [Research-Live](#) column cited a study by Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Longevity Center, showing that Internet surfing may help stimulate brain function in middle-aged and older adults.

## **QUOTABLES**

Dr. David Alexander, professor of neurology and director of neurological rehabilitation and research unit, was quoted June 16 in the [Los Angeles Times](#) about the hospital discharge of Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.

Alon Avidan, associate professor of neurology and co-director of the UCLA Sleep Disorders Center, commented June 14 on NBC's [Today.com](#) about why women may suffer more often from insomnia than men.

Dr. Donald Catlin, professor emeritus of molecular and medical pharmacology, was quoted June 13 by the [Miami Herald](#) about steroids used to bulk up Mexican beef.

Dr. Gabriel Danovitch, medical director of the kidney and pancreas transplant program, was quoted June 13 in a [Slate](#) article about black market organ trafficking.

David Hayes-Bautista, professor of general internal medicine and health services research and director of the UCLA Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture, was quoted June 15 by the [Los Angeles Times](#) about life-expectancy changes among U.S. residents.

Dr. David Heber, director of the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition, commented June 13 in the [Los Angeles Times](#) about claims regarding the health benefits of pomegranate extracts and juices.

Dr. Marc Riedl, assistant professor of clinical immunology and allergy, commented in a June 15 column appearing in the Massachusetts' [Berkshire Eagle](#) about food allergies.

Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Longevity Center, commented June 14 in the [Los Angeles Times](#) about research on improving children's memory.

Dr. Margaret Stuber, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was quoted in a June 13 [NBC Today.com](#) article about research indicating that toddlers of depressed mothers are more likely to have behavior problems later in life.

Paul Thompson, professor of neurology and a member of the Laboratory of Neuro Imaging, was quoted in the June 13 [Alzheimer Research Forum](#) about a link between obesity and Alzheimer's disease.

Steven Wallace, associate director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research in the School of Public Health, commented June 14 in a [Fresno Bee](#) blog and a [Xinhua News Agency](#) (China) report about a center study finding that older adults who live in California's countryside are more likely than their urban and suburban peers to be obese, physically inactive and ill-fed.

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