



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT  
For the week of June 17 - 23, 2011**

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### **Media Drool Over Saliva Test for Age**

Research led by Dr. Eric Vilain, professor of human genetics, urology and pediatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and director of the UCLA Center for Society and Genetics, demonstrating that geneticists can determine an individual's age using just a saliva sample — a potential boon for crime scene investigators — was highlighted June 23 by [Reuters](#), [Time](#), Britain's [Daily Mail](#), [Asian News International](#), the [Irish Examiner](#), the [French Tribune](#), China's [Sing Tao Daily](#), the [West Australian](#), Indonesia's [Inilah.com](#), Cuba's [Radio Santa Cruz](#) and Ukraine's [Health News](#) and June 22 by [MSNBC](#), [Scientific American](#), [HealthDay News](#), [WebMD](#), an [Examiner](#) blog, the [Toronto Star](#), Canada's [Postmedia News Service](#), a [Smart Planet](#) blog, Germany's [Wissenschaft News Service](#) and Brazil's [Diario de Pernambuco](#). Vilain was quoted in the coverage.

### **TIME, AFP Cover Patient Enrollment in Stem-Cell Study**

The June 27 edition of [TIME](#), June 20 reports by [Agence France Press](#) and [BioNews](#), June 17 [RedOrbit](#), June 16 [Third Age.com](#) and 16 NBC-TV affiliates nationwide reported 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 dry age-related macular degeneration and Stargardt's disease. Dr. Steven Schwartz, Ahmanson Professor of Ophthalmology and chief of the retina division at the Jules Stein Eye Institute at UCLA, was quoted.

### **Media Spotlights Baby with Mystery Illness**

[KTLA-Channel 5](#) on June 20; [KCBS-Channel 2](#), [KCAL-Channel 9](#) and [KMEX-Channel 34](#) on June 21; [The Force.net](#) on June 22; and [The Sun](#) (U.K.) on June 23 reported on a 4-month-old girl suffering from a mysterious illness who is being treated at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA. Dr. Andy Wen, a fellow in the pediatric intensive care unit, was interviewed by KTLA. Dr. Lekha Rao, a fellow in pediatric neurology, was interviewed by KCBS.

### **KNX Radio Highlights "Prescription for Excellence"**

Dr. David Feinberg, CEO and associate vice chancellor of the UCLA Hospital System, was interviewed June 15 on the [KNX AM1070 Business Hour](#) about "Prescription for Excellence," a book focusing on leadership lessons from UCLA Health System for creating a world-class customer experience.

### **Medstar TV Showcases Condition that Mimics Alzheimer's**

Dr. Marvin Bergsneider, professor of neurosurgery and director of the adult hydrocephalus program, was interviewed in a June 16 Medstar segment about a disorder called normal pressure hydrocephalus, which mimics the symptoms of Alzheimer's but is curable by surgery. Seven stations aired the story, including [WTVQ](#) (KY), and [WSOC](#) (NC).

### **Local Papers Highlight Cocaine Research**

The [Los Angeles Daily News](#) and [Daily Breeze](#) reported June 20 on a study by Dr. Noah Craft, assistant professor of dermatology and a researcher at the Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, warning that cocaine contaminated with a drug used to de-worm animals has caused severe skin damage in users. Craft was quoted.

### **Medical Press Explores Pediatric Appendectomy**

[MedPage Today](#) on June 21 and [Medscape](#) on June 20 reported on a recent study finding that laparoscopic appendectomy surgery in children resulted in 40 percent fewer infections and abscess drainages needed than open surgery in acute cases. Dr. Steven Lee, associate clinical professor of pediatric surgery, was quoted.

### **Heart Study Draws Headlines**

The [Dallas Morning News](#), [Asian News International](#) and [Cath Lab Digest](#) on June 23 and [Healthcare Industry Today](#) on June 22 covered a UCLA study reporting favorable long-term outcomes for lower-risk heart patients who underwent angioplasty with medication-coated stents, rather than bypass surgery. Dr. Michael Lee, assistant professor of medicine, division of cardiology, was quoted. The June issue of

Catheterization and Cardiovascular Interventions published the findings. The ANI report ran in the Times of India.

### **KABC Spotlights Mindful Eating**

A June 20 story on [KABC-Channel 7](#) interviewed Susan Bowerman, assistant director of the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition, about the impact of behavior modification in losing weight loss.

### **Community Papers Cover ICON Awards**

The [Malibu Times](#) reported June 1, [Life.com](#) reported June 4 and the Beverly Press reported June 23 on the ICON Awards gala and 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UCLA Longevity Center (formerly the UCLA Center on Aging). Actress Jane Fonda; UCLA alumnus James Collins and the Jules Stein Eye Institute's founding director, Dr. Bradley Straatsma, were honored.

### **Local Paper Examines Travelers' Woes**

The June 22 [San Bernardino Sun](#) ran a column by Dr. Claire Panosian Dunavan, clinical professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases, about the problem of traveler's diarrhea, a common ailment most often caused by eating bacteria-contaminated food.

### **Blog, Website Feature Imaging Study of Down Syndrome**

A June 14 story on medical imaging blog [Aunt Minnie](#) and a June 22 [Medical Daily](#) story highlighted a UCLA study using a unique brain scan to assess physical signs of Alzheimer's disease in adults with Down syndrome. 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, UCLA Plott Chair in Gerontology and a professor of molecular and medical pharmacology, were quoted.

### **USA Today Guide Focuses on Long-Term, Acute Care**

Geriatric care delivered at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital was featured in USA Today's "Your Life Guide: 50+" spring edition. The article focused on considerations for choosing long-term and acute care options for seniors. Dr. Sonja Rosen, medical director of the geriatrics unit at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, was quoted.

### **Operation Mend Helps Wounded Warriors**

New York's [Little Falls Times](#) reported June 21 that a group formed to honor the memory of fallen U.S. soldiers has made a donation to Operation Mend, a UCLA program providing surgery to U.S. military personnel disfigured in Iraq and Afghanistan. Dr. Timothy Miller, chief of plastic surgery and reconstructive surgery at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and Operation Mend's executive director and lead surgeon, was cited. Operation Mend was also featured in June 23 stories on websites for the [Veterans Affairs of Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System](#) and the Department of Defense Office of Community and Public Outreach's [Our Military](#).

### **Army Newspaper Covers Prof's Award**

David Hovda, professor of neurosurgery and director of the UCLA Brain Injury Research Center, was featured June 20 by [Army News Service](#) for receiving the Army's Strength of the Nation Award for his "extraordinary contributions in caring for wounded warriors by introducing the Army to breakthrough research for systematic recovery from brain trauma."

### **Geriatrician Pens Column on Men's Health**

Dr. Sonja Rosen, geriatrician at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital and assistant clinical professor, wrote a June 17 [Santa Monica Mirror](#) column featuring health tips for men.

### **Rural Seniors Suffer Poor Health**

Steven Wallace, associate director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research in the School of Public Health, was featured June 17 by the [Riverside Press-Enterprise](#) and in an [Examiner](#) blog about center research finding that older adults who live in California's countryside are more likely to be obese, physically inactive and poorly fed.

### **Science Sites Spotlight Protein's Role in HIV**

[RedOrbit](#) reported June 15 and [DailyRX](#) and [News-Medical.net](#) reported June 16 on research finding that a particular sugar-binding protein contributes toward making specific types of "helper" T-cells more susceptible to HIV infection.

### **Trade Investigates Colonoscopy Upgrade**

The June issue of [Gastroenterology & Endoscopy News](#) covered a UCLA/VA study assessing a new method to improve accuracy in finding the number of benign growths during a colonoscopy. Dr. Hank Wang, a gastroenterology fellow in digestive diseases, was quoted.

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

A June 17 [Burrill Report](#) story announced that UCLA and several partner institutions 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.

## **BRIEFS**

Research by Arleen Leibowitz, emeritus professor of public policy and a researcher with the UCLA Center for HIV Identification, Prevention and Treatment Services and the UCLA AIDS Institute, was cited in a June 16 [Big Government.com](#) story about a proposed circumcision ban and in a June 23 [Denver Post](#) article about the scheduled end of Medicaid in Colorado.

## **QUOTABLES**

Dr. Anthony Aldave, associate professor of ophthalmology and director of the cornea service at the Jules Stein Eye Institute at UCLA, was quoted June 22 in a [Toronto Star](#) story about a Fulbright scholar who was blinded in a vicious attack by her husband.

Dr. David Alexander, professor of neurology and medical director of the neurological rehabilitation and research unit, was quoted June 21 by [MedPage](#) about the rehabilitation of Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, who suffered a gunshot wound to the head five months ago.

Dr. David Baron, family physician and former chief of staff at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, commented June 20 and June 22 on two KNX AM1070 reports about a higher rate of food allergies in children and a new study looking at diabetes risk from high-dose statin use and comparing Lipitor and simvastatin.

Dean Buonomano, professor of neurobiology and member of the UCLA Brain Research Institute, was quoted June 16 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) article about research showing that rats' memories can be activated or suppressed by manipulating brain cells.

Brian Coburn, a researcher at the UCLA Center for Biomedical Modeling in the Semel Institute, was quoted in a June 15 [My HealthNewsDaily.com](#) article about the risk of contracting the flu when flying.

Dr. William Cunningham, professor of general internal medicine/health services research and public health, was quoted in the July/August issue of [HIV Plus](#) magazine about a call to shift treatment of HIV-positive patients to primary care physicians.

Dr. Maria Garcia-Lloret, assistant clinical professor of pediatric allergy and immunology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was interviewed June 20 by [KNBC-Channel 4](#) about the higher rate of food allergies in children.

Pamina Gorbach, associate professor of epidemiology at the School of Public Health, was quoted June 17 by [Reuters](#) about research suggesting a declining rate of new HIV cases among gay and bisexual men in California.

Dr. David Heber, director of the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition, commented in a June 22 [Associated Press](#) story about a new study on the food and lifestyle factors that contribute to weight gain.

Dr. Alice Kuo, assistant professor of pediatrics and co-investigator of the National Children's Study, commented in the online June issue of [New England Psychologist](#) about the effectiveness of common treatments for autism in children.

Dr. Helen Lavretsky, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was quoted June 20 by the [Ventura County Star](#) about how health issues can make it harder for older adults to find new jobs after a layoff.

Erin Neistat Morse, chief clinical dietitian for the UCLA Health System, commented in a June 21 [Santa Monica Daily Press](#) story about parents calling for a ban on flavored milk in schools. She also was quoted in a June 22 [Daily Press](#) article about the debate over genetically modified salmon.

Dr. Wendy Slusser, medical director of the UCLA Fit for Healthy Weight program at Mattel Children's Hospital, commented June 23 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) blog about a new Institute of Medicine report that looks at ways of preventing obesity by focusing on children during their infancy and toddler years.

Steven Wallace, associate director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and a professor at the School of Public Health, was quoted in a June 20 [American Medical News](#) report about health insurer Blue Shield's plans to limit its annual net income.

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