

**Editor's Note:** This will be my last UCLA Health Sciences Media Report as I am retiring at the end of June. I wanted to thank everyone for the opportunity to be involved in communicating the inspiring stories of world class patient care, research, education and community engagement that are the hallmarks of UCLA Health and the David Geffen School of Medicine. Moving forward, the media report will be distributed by our media relations team of Rachel Champeau, Amy Albin and Enrique Rivero. It has been a true pleasure and honor to represent UCLA Health Sciences to the news media for over 22 years. Although I'm retiring from my role as media relations director, I will remain as committed and supportive as ever of UCLA's mission – and look forward to reading about your good works in future news stories!

**Roxanne Yamaguchi Moster**

## UCLA Health Sciences Media Report



### UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT For the week of June 19-25, 2015

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**Got Acne? Lay Off the B12**

**L.A. Times Makes Headway on Concussion Research**

**Cocaine Could Boost HIV Infection Risk**

**HIV Linked to Age-Accelerating Cellular Changes**

**The Perfect Human Hand**

**Former *ER* Screenwriter Says Patient Privacy Should Supersede Reality Show Filming**

**Paternity Leave Still Needed Across the Globe**

**Abortion Study Grabs More Attention**

**More Coverage for Autism Study**

**Brain Scan Predicts Who Responds Best to OCD Treatment**

**New Brain Stimulation Device Shows Promise for Depression**

**Long-Acting Antipsychotic Medication May Improve Treatment for Schizophrenia**

**BRIEFS**

**QUOTABLES**

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**Got Acne? Lay Off the B12**

A study led by Dr. Huiying Li, an assistant professor of molecular and medical pharmacology, suggesting that vitamin B12 supplements tweaks how genes behave in the facial bacteria of some people who normally enjoy clear skin, leading to pimples, garnered wide media interest. Stories ran June 24 in

[HealthDay News](#), [redOrbit](#), [Fox News.com](#), [Daily Mail \(U.K\)](#), [Mirror Online \(U.K\)](#), [Press Association \(U.K\)](#), [The Verge](#), [Medical Daily](#), and [ScienceNews](#); and June 25 in [HCPLive](#), [TV3.ie](#), [Zeenews](#), [Metro \(U.K\)](#), [The Canadian Press](#), and many others. The HealthDay story ran in [U.S. News & World Report](#), [Philly.com](#) and [Doctors Lounge](#). The Press Association article was carried by many outlets in the U.K. including the [Penarth Times](#), [Tivy-Side Advertiser](#), [Middlewich Guardian](#), [Daily Echo](#) and others. Li was quoted in the coverage.

### **L.A. Times Makes Headway on Concussion Research**

The [Los Angeles Times](#) and [Examiner](#) reported June 19 on UCLA's role in a new \$30 million research initiative funded by the National Collegiate Athletic Association and Department of Defense to unravel the biological mysteries of concussion. Bruin football players will wear sensors in their helmets to monitor impacts to the head, and student-athletes in soccer and other sports will undergo regular testing to uncover biomarkers that may predispose some individuals to concussion while speeding recovery in others. Dr. Christopher Giza, director of the UCLA Steve Tisch BrainSPORT Program and a professor of pediatrics and neurosurgery at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine at Mattel Children's Hospital; New York Giants co-owner and philanthropist Steve Tisch; and Max Zeiger, research coordinator, were quoted in the Times story.

### **Cocaine Could Boost HIV Infection Risk**

[Science World Report](#) June 19; [Medical News Today](#) and [Imperial Valley News](#) June 22, and [Daily Mail \(U.K\)](#) June 23 reported on research led by Dr. Dimitrios Vatakis, assistant professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and director of the UCLA/CFAR Virology Core Laboratory offering further evidence that cocaine use disrupts the immune system, making people who use it more likely to become infected with HIV. The new study builds on previous research from Vatakis and others. Vatakis was quoted in some of the coverage.

### **HIV Linked to Age-Accelerating Cellular Changes**

The [Chicago Tribune](#) June 22 highlighted UCLA research suggesting that the virus that causes AIDS accelerates age-related epigenetic changes by about 14 years. Epigenetics are changes to the DNA that in turn lead to changes in expression of gene levels without altering the inherited genetic code. These epigenetic changes affect biological processes. Dr. Tammy Rickabaugh, an assistant researcher at the UCLA AIDS Institute and Center for AIDS Research and a study author, was quoted.

### **The Perfect Human Hand**

The [Moth Radio Hour](#) re-aired a 2011 segment featuring Dr. Kodi Azari, chief of reconstructive transplantation and professor of orthopedic surgery and plastic surgery, telling the story of how he became a hand surgeon and his role in the emerging field of hand transplantation. The segment is currently airing on public radio stations nationwide, including [WUNC 91.5AM](#) on June 22.

### **Former *ER* Screenwriter Says Patient Privacy Should Supersede Reality Show Filming**

Dr. Neal Baer, adjunct professor in the department of community health sciences and former writer and producer of the television show *ER*, was featured in a June 18 [Physicians News Digest](#) article for his research about the threats to patient privacy when reality television crews are allowed into emergency rooms.

### **Paternity Leave Still Needed Across the Globe**

A World Policy Analysis Center study that compared paid paternity leave between countries was featured in a June 21 [PBS NewsHour](#) article about U.S.-based company policies.

### **Abortion Study Grabs More Attention**

[Hospimedia](#) reported June 22 on a study that found no difference between the effectiveness of medical and surgical abortions during the first trimester. Dr. Luu Ireland, family planning fellow and clinical instructor in the UCLA Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, led the study.

### **More Coverage for Autism Study**

[Autism Daily Newscast](#) and [Science Daily](#) June 11 reported on a UCLA study that found that some youth on the autism spectrum have brains that react differently to sensory stimuli than their peers. Shulamite Green, a postdoctoral fellow in the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior at UCLA, and Mirella Dapretto, a professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences in the Semel Institute, were quoted.

### **Brain Scan Predicts Who Responds Best to OCD Treatment**

Research by Dr. Jamie Feusner, an associate professor of psychiatry and director of the Semel Institute's Adult OCD Program, on the value of brain scans in determining treatment for Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder was covered June 23 by [HealthCanal](#) and June 24 by [KCBS-AM](#) (San Francisco).

### **New Brain Stimulation Device Shows Promise for Depression**

A study by Dr. Andrew Leuchter, a professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, that explored the promising efficacy and safety of a new form of magnetic stimulation as treatment for depression was highlighted June 24 by [MedicalXpress](#) and June 25 by [PsychCentral](#).

### **Long-Acting Antipsychotic Medication May Improve Treatment for Schizophrenia**

[HealthCanal](#) and [MedicalXpress](#) reported June 25 on promising findings by Dr. Kenneth Subotnik, an adjunct professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, into the efficacy for recently developed cases of schizophrenia of a long-acting injectable form of a common drug.

## **BRIEFS**

Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA was mentioned June 19 in [M Magazine](#) in an article about Disney Channel actress Raini Rodriguez who visited with pediatric patients and screened the new movie, *Mall Cop 2*, with them.

A 2011 joint study about firearm homicide rates from the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health was cited in a June 25 [Winter Park / Maitland Observer](#) op-ed.

Dr. Mark DeAntonio, professor of clinical psychiatry and the director of the Inpatient Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Service at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, received a grateful mention in a June 25 [New York Times](#) op-ed by a schizophrenic patient who benefited from his care.

A report on [WTVT-TV](#) (Tampa Bay, Fla.) on a new approach to early diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease referenced UCLA's research into the connection between the disease and inflammation.

## **QUOTABLES**

Dr. Timothy Donahue, assistant professor of surgery and molecular and medical pharmacology, and member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Stem Cell Biology Program, was quoted in a June 24 [NBC News](#) report about a study on a blood test that could predict pancreatic cancer in its early stages, before the disease advances and becomes deadly.

Dr. Jonathan Fielding, professor-in-residence of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in a June 25 [San Gabriel Valley Tribune](#) article about why top-grade restaurants are just as likely to incur permit suspensions as others.

Dana Hunnes, senior dietician, Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, commented June 6 in [The Liberty Project](#), regarding myths about detox.

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 several articles about the failure of Medicare to serve the complex needs of enrollees. The stories ran on June 22 on [NPR's website](#), June 23 in [Healthcare Finance News](#) and June 24 in [U.S. News & World Report](#). He was also quoted in a June 24 [Yahoo! Finance](#) story about large insurance companies' incentives to pursue mergers and acquisitions.

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