



UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of June 21-27, 2013

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KCAL Covers Mid-flight Rescue

Computer Exercises Can Help Seniors' Memory

'Curing' HIV in Infants

Get Rid of Polyps, Keep Your Colon

Mapping Children's Chances

Music Therapy for Alzheimer's Patients

Probiotic Yogurt Alters Brain Function

Nursing and Health Sites Explore Nurse Practitioners' Role in Geriatric Care

Media Tap Sleep Experts

Marijuana Use and Lung Cancer

Medscape Highlights Alzheimer's Disease

Condoms and Pornography

A Cure for Meth Addiction?

Infectious Disease Doctor Examines International Health Education

HIV-Fighting Stem Cells Draw Headlines

Program for Rural Women in India with HIV/AIDS Garners Media Notice

Minority Nurse Profiles Nursing Professor

Pennsylvania News Station Airs Story on Stem Cell Study

Beverly Hills Paper Covers Life-Saving Newborn Screening

KCAL, KABC News Report on Double Lung Transplant Recipient

Ivanhoe News Reports on Memory and Alzheimer's

Hearth Health Newsletter Discusses Strokes

QUOTABLES

KCAL Covers Mid-flight Rescue

Dr. Jonathan Braun, chairman of pathology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, and Dr. Lynn Gordon, associate dean of academic diversity at the medical school and professor of ophthalmology at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, were interviewed for a June 21 [KCAL-Channel 9](#) segment describing their rescue of a fellow airline passenger who suffered a heart attack mid-flight. Dr. Brandon Evans, a UCLA neurosurgery fellow, also participated in the patient's resuscitation.

Computer Exercises Can Help Seniors' Memory

New York's [News 12 Long Island](#) reported June 27; the [Daily Mail](#), [Asian News International](#), [Third-Age.com](#), [News-Medical](#) and [Examiner.com](#) June 26; and [Science Codex](#) and [Science Daily](#) June 25 reported on a UCLA study finding that older adults who regularly used a brain fitness program played on a computer demonstrated significantly improved memory and language skills. Karen Miller, associate clinical professor at the Semel Institute, and Prabha Siddarth, research statistician in psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at the Semel Institute, were quoted.

'Curing' HIV in Infants

[Nature](#) reported June 26 on an upcoming clinical trial to be conducted by Dr. Yvonne Bryson, professor of pediatrics and chief of the division of pediatric infectious diseases at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, and colleagues testing whether HIV-positive infants can be "cured" when aggressive drug treatment is administered immediately after birth. Bryson was quoted.

Get Rid of Polyps, Keep Your Colon

[Domain-b](#) reported June 26 on research led by Dr. James Yoo, assistant professor of surgery and chief of the colon and rectal surgery program for the UCLA Health System and the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, examining the effectiveness of a new minimally invasive technique for removing large and hard-to-reach polyps from the colon without removing part of the colon itself.

Mapping Children's Chances

[BBC News.com](#) on June 26 highlighted a series of maps produced in conjunction with research by Dr. Jody Heymann, dean of the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and founding director of the World Policy Analysis Center at UCLA, showing the conditions children and families face across the globe face that either limit or enhance their opportunities to thrive and reach their full potential. Heymann was quoted.

Music Therapy for Alzheimer's Patients

Joshua Grill, director of the Sidell-Kagan Alzheimer's Treatment Development Program in the UCLA Department of Neurology, was interviewed June 27 on [KCBS-Channel 2](#) about a program in which Alzheimer's and dementia patients are provided with iPods containing their favorite music.

Probiotic Yogurt Alters Brain Function

[Yahoo News](#) June 22 and [Guardian Express](#) June 24 reported on a study by researchers at UCLA's Gerald and Gail Oppenheimer Family Center for Neurobiology of Stress that is part of the UCLA Division of Digestive Diseases and the UCLA Ahmanson-Lovelace Brain Mapping Center, showing that ingesting probiotic bacteria can affect brain function in humans. Dr. Kirsten Tillisch, associate professor of medicine in the division of digestive diseases, and Dr. Emeran Mayer, a professor of medicine in the division of digestive diseases and of physiology and psychiatry, were quoted.

Nursing and Health Sites Explore Nurse Practitioners' Role in Geriatric Care

[Nurse.com](#), [Science Codex](#) and [HealthCanal.com](#) reported June 26 on research by Dr. David Reuben, chief of the division of geriatrics, finding that management of chronic geriatric conditions was significantly better when a primary care physician co-managed the treatment with a nurse practitioner than it was when only the physician was involved in the care.

Media Tap Sleep Experts

- Christopher Colwell, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was featured in a June 26 [Examiner.com](#) article about how best to get a good night's sleep, and the pitfalls of using sleeping pills, which can disrupt REM sleep that helps maintain cognitive function.
- Dr. Alon Avidan, professor of neurology and director of the Sleep Disorders Program, was quoted June 21 on KNX 1070AM and referenced on KPCC 89.3FM regarding testimony in the Michael Jackson court trial that Jackson allegedly went without REM sleep for 60 days.
- Jerome Siegel, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the Center for Sleep Research, was quoted June 21 in [Time.com](#) and [Lifesciences.com](#) about testimony regarding Michael Jackson's lack of sleep and if that could have contributed to his death. Siegel noted there is little evidence that sleep-deprivation can lead to a higher risk of sudden death, and that the use of sleeping pills can actually shorten the life span.

Marijuana Use and Lung Cancer

The [Huffington Post](#) reported June 20 on a study by Dr. Donald Tashkin, professor of pulmonary and critical care medicine, that found that light to moderate marijuana use does not increase individuals' risk of lung cancer. Tashkin was quoted.

Medscape Highlights Alzheimer's Disease

A June 24 [Medscape](#) article highlighted a recent lecture about Alzheimer's disease given at the American Psychiatric Association's annual meeting by Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging, a professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, director of the UCLA Longevity Center and author of the "Alzheimer's Prevention Program." He discussed Alzheimer's diagnostics, genetics, his related research and the impact of interventions such as exercise, diet and mental stimulation. The article also mentioned research by Dr. Helen Lavretsky, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, on the impact of meditation on biomarkers of inflammation and telomerase activity.

Condoms and Pornography

Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases and global health, was interviewed June 20 on the [FOX Business Network](#) about a Los Angeles law that requires all porn actors to wear condoms.

A Cure for Meth Addiction?

[San Diego Biotechnology Connection](#) reported June 26 on results from phase 1b of a clinical trial under way at the UCLA Center for Behavioral and Addiction Medicine testing MN-166, also known as ibudilast, for methamphetamine addiction. The findings were presented at the 75th Annual College on Problems in Drug Dependence meeting in San Diego. Steven Shoptaw, professor of family medicine and of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences and the trial's principal investigator, was quoted.

Infectious Disease Doctor Examines International Health Education

The Los Angeles [Daily News](#) June 24 ran a column by Dr. Claire Panosian Dunavan, clinical professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases, exploring whether women should always take antibiotics when they contract a urinary tract infection. The column also ran in the [Whittier Daily News](#), the Inland Valley [Daily Bulletin](#), the [San Gabriel Valley Tribune](#), the [Pasadena Star-News](#) and the [Daily Breeze](#).

HIV-Fighting Stem Cells Draw Headlines

[Latest Stem Cells News](#) reported June 27 on research by Scott Kitchen, assistant professor of hematology and oncology, showing that genetically engineered human stem cells can attack HIV-infected cells in a living organism.

Program for Rural Women in India with HIV/AIDS Garners Media Notice

Results of a pilot program to improve life for women in India with HIV/AIDS led by Adey Nyamathi, distinguished professor and associate dean of international research and scholarly activities at the UCLA School of Nursing, was covered June 25 by [Medical News Today](#), June 24 by [The Times of India](#), June 22 by Asian News International, and June 21 by [HealthCanal.com](#), and [Medical Press](#). Nyamathi was quoted in the coverage.

Minority Nurse Profiles Nursing Professor

The June 26 issue of [Minority Nurse](#) magazine carried a profile of Nalo Hamilton, assistant professor of nursing.

Pennsylvania News Station Airs Story on Stem Cell Study

[WICU-TV](#) (Pa.) reported June 24 on a study in which stress-resistant human pluripotent stem cells were isolated from fat removed during liposuction. Gregorio Chazenbalk, an associate researcher with the UCLA Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, led the study.

Beverly Hills Paper Covers Life-Saving Newborn Screening

The [Beverly Hills Courier](#) June 21 featured the story of an infant whose life was saved after a heart condition was diagnosed by a pulse oximetry screening resulting in a successful open-heart surgery to repair the defect. While UCLA has been performing pulse oximetry tests voluntarily for the past year as part of its overall program to provide the best methods for early detection and the prompt initiation of appropriate therapies, recently passed legislation mandates that all babies born in California hospitals be screened starting July 1. Dr. Jeffrey Smith, professor of neonatology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was quoted.

KCAL, KABC News Report on Double Lung Transplant Recipient

KCAL-Channel 9 June 22 and 24, and [KABC-Channel 7](#) June 24 reported on a UCLA patient who received a life-saving double lung transplant. Dr. Abbas Ardehali, professor of cardiothoracic surgery and director of the heart and lung transplantation program, appeared in the KCAL segments, and Dr. Rajan Sagger, a pulmonologist and director of the UCLA Medical Intensive Care Unit, appeared in the KABC report.

Ivanhoe News Reports on Memory and Alzheimer's

Mayank Mehta, a professor of neurophysics in the departments of neurology, neurobiology, and physics and astronomy, and Arthur Toga, professor of neurology and director of the Laboratory of Neuro Imaging, were featured in a June 27 [Ivanhoe News](#) report on understanding brain function and memory formation, and how that understanding will inform the development of therapeutic treatments for such disorders as Alzheimer's.

Hearth Health Newsletter Discusses Strokes

Dr. Jeffrey Saver, professor of neurology and director of the UCLA Stroke Center, was featured in a June 25 [TheHeart.org](#) article (registration required) about the results of a clinical trial to determine the best treatment for younger patients who have strokes that are potentially due to a hole in the upper chambers of the heart. Called RESPECT (Recurrent Stroke Comparing PFO Closure to Established Current Standard of Care Treatment), the trial sought to determine which was the best treatment to prevent further strokes: a combination of closing the hole with a "button" device and anti-clotting medicines, or anti-clotting medicines alone. UCLA was one of the 69 performance sites for the study.

QUOTABLES

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, UCLA's Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson–UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, was quoted in a June 27 [HealthDay News](#) article about research showing that individuals who worry that stress is affecting their health are nearly twice as likely as their peers who don't worry to suffer a heart attack.

Dr. Daniel Furst, professor medicine in the division of rheumatology, was quoted June 21 in an [Internal Medicine News](#) article about treatments for rheumatoid arthritis.

Dr. Patricia Ganz, director of cancer prevention and control research at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was interviewed June 27 by [This Week in Oncology](#) regarding "Journey Forward: My

Care," a "crowd funding" program that provides a platform for projects that have a health focus. It will compete for a \$25,000 prize from NCI for further development.

Dr. Wayne Grody, professor of pathology, pediatrics and human genetics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and director of the diagnostic molecular pathology laboratory at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, commented June 18 in [The Scientist](#) about the Supreme Court's ruling against the private patenting of human genes.

Dr. David Heber, director of the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition and UCLA's Risk Factor Obesity Program, commented June 24 in a [Westside Today](#) story regarding the American Medical Association designating obesity as a disease.

Dr. Stanley Korenman, professor of medicine in the division of endocrinology, was quoted in a June 23 [Medscape Today](#) report on a study suggesting that testosterone can improve pain tolerance in men who take opioids.

Dr. John Mazziotta, professor and chair of the department of neurology and director of the UCLA Ahmanson-Lovelace Brain Mapping Center, and Arthur Toga, professor of neurology and director of the Laboratory of Neuro Imaging, were quoted in the June 21 [Los Angeles Times](#) about a new three-dimensional virtual brain that maps the organ's anatomy in detail.

Dr. David McAllister, professor-in-residence of orthopaedic surgery and director of the UCLA Sports Medicine Program, commented June 27 in an American Public Media "Marketplace" report on evaluating the worth of NBA draftees who have been injured.

Dr. Lidia Robert, a post-doctoral scholar in the department of medicine's division of hematology-oncology, was quoted June 19 in a story on [Univision Noticias](#) about skin cancer risk factors.

Dr. Jeffrey Schwartz, a research scientist at the Semel Institute, was quoted in a June 20 [io9](#) column about exploring the possibility of engineering humans to be more empathetic.

Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging, a professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Longevity Center, commented in June 21 [Anchorage Daily News](#), [Fresno Bee](#), and [Modesto Bee](#) stories about new research on a combination drug for Alzheimer's treatment. The story originally ran in the Orlando Sentinel. In addition, Small commented in the June/July issue AARP The Magazine regarding memory and brain fitness techniques.

Dr. Dennis Woo, former chair of pediatrics at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica and associate clinical professor of pediatrics, commented June 24 in a [HealthDay News](#) article on research suggesting that infants who are breast-fed grow up to be more upwardly mobile. U.S. News & World Report online also published the story.

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