



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of June 22 – 28, 2012**

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Heart-Transplant Program Celebrates 2,000 Mark

The [Century City–Westwood Patch](#), [City News Service](#), [Examiner](#) and the [Donate Life](#) blog reported June 27 that UCLA's heart-transplant program has performed 2,000 procedures, making it the first program in the western U.S. and second program in the world to do so. Dr. Abbas Ardehali, professor of cardiothoracic surgery and director of UCLA's heart- and lung-transplantation program, and Dr. Mario Deng, medical director of the advanced heart-failure, mechanical circulatory support and heart-transplant program at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, were quoted.

NPR, KCAL Offer Hope for Migraine Sufferers

National Public Radio's "[Morning Edition](#)" interviewed Dr. Charles Flippen, associate professor of neurology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, and Dr. Andrew Charles, Luskin Chair in Migraine and Headache Studies and vice chair of neurology, for a story spotlighting treatments available for migraine. Flippen's patient, Allison Kamerman, management services officer for the Department of Health Services at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was also quoted. Charles was also interviewed June 26 on [KCAL-Channel 9](#) about causes of and treatments for migraines.

N.Y. Times Explores Gender Testing in Athletics

The [New York Times](#) published a June 18 opinion essay by Dr. Eric Vilain, professor of human genetics, pediatrics and urology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and director of the UCLA Institute for Society and Genetics, about the challenges of gender testing in competitive athletics.

Media Interest Continues in 'Zoobiquity'

The [Boston Globe](#) reported June 23, [Oprah.com](#) reported June 26, and [KPCC 89.3 FM](#) and [KQED Radio](#) reported June 27 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. Her book, "Zoobiquity," looks at the species-spanning nature of illness. She was quoted.

N.Y. Times Applauds Oral Researcher's Invention

A June 25 [New York Times](#) article about major innovations by foreign-born researchers at the nation's top research universities highlighted Wenyuan Shi, professor of oral biology at the UCLA School of Dentistry, and his creation of a sugar-free lollipop that kills the bacterium that causes tooth decay.

Supplements Keep Rats Walking after Spinal Injury

Research led by Dr. Langston Holly, associate professor of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, showing that the omega-3 fatty acid DHA and curcumin, an ingredient in curry spice, helped preserve walking ability in rats after spinal-cord injury, was reported June 27 by the [Indo-Asian](#)

News Service, Asian News International, Investor's Business Daily, Press Trust of India, Natural Products Insider, Top News, News MaxHealth and News Medical.Net; and June 26 by an Examiner blog, Senior Journal, Medical Daily, Medical Xpress and the Global Post. The IANS story was syndicated by the New York Daily News, News Track India, Punjab Newslite and Health India; the ANI article was syndicated by the Times of India; and the PTI report was syndicated by the Deccan Chronicle, Business Standard and The Hindu. The *Journal of Neurosurgery: Spine* published the study and Holly and co-author Fernando Gomez-Pinilla, professor of neurosurgery, were quoted.

KLOS, MSNBC Feature Operation Mend Program

KLOS 95.5's "Spotlight on the Community" featured UCLA's Operation Mend program in two segments on June 24. The show interviewed [Dr. Kodi Azari](#), associate professor of surgery and co-director of Operation Mend, and retired Marine Corps veteran, [Brent Callender](#), an Operation Mend patient who underwent successful back surgery with Dr. Daniel Lu, assistant professor of neurosurgery and orthopedic surgery. Azari also appeared June 22 on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" to discuss Operation Mend's participation in "Veterans on Wall Street," an initiative that supports military personnel. A June 28 MSNBC article also covered a new support fund that will direct donations to Operation Mend.

BBC Reports on 'Magic Mushrooms'

[BBC Radio 4](#) reported June 28 on a woman who participated in a study by Dr. Charles Grob, professor of clinical psychiatry at the Semel Institute, finding that small doses of psilocybin, also known as "magic mushrooms," may help lessen depression in patients with late-stage cancer. Grob was interviewed.

La Opinion Spotlights Telemedicine

[La Opinion](#) ran a June 25 story on the use of telemedicine to treat patients in remote locations. Dr. Gary Satou, associate professor of pediatric cardiology and director of the pediatric echocardiography laboratory at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was interviewed about how he uses telemedicine to diagnose heart conditions in infants and unborn babies miles away. Dr. Paul Finn, professor of radiology and medicine and vice chair of imaging technology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and Dr. Paul Vespa, professor of neurosurgery and neurology at the DGSOM and director of the neuro-ICU at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, were also cited.

KCBS Examines New Diet Drug

[KCBS-Channel 2](#) reported June 27 on Belviq, the first FDA-approved diet drug since 1999. Dr. David Heber, professor of medicine and director of the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition, commented on the impact of the new medication. A UCLA patient from the Center's Risk Factor Obesity (RFO) program also was interviewed.

Press Investigate Genetic Mutations Linked to Brain Asymmetry

San Diego NPR-affiliate [KPBS](#) and [Examiner](#) reported June 27; [Chinese Medical Daily](#) reported June 26; and [Yahoo News](#) and [Europa Press](#) reported June 25 on research suggesting that gene mutations cause hemimegalencephaly, a rare condition of infancy in which half the brain is malformed and much larger than the other half. The findings could lead to medical therapy to replace existing treatment, which surgically disconnects and removes the diseased half of the brain. Dr. Gary Mathern, co-senior author and a professor of neurosurgery at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was quoted.

Pancreatic Cancer Research Cited

The [National Cancer Institute](#), [Huffington Post](#), [Examiner.com](#), [Medical Daily](#), [Zee News](#), [BioScholar News](#) and [Indo-Asian News Service](#) reported June 21 on pancreatic research by Dr. Guido Eilb, an associate professor of surgery and researcher with UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

New Scientist Covers How the Immune System Snags Microbes

[New Scientist](#), [Science Daily](#) and [Medical Express](#) reported June 21, and [Futurity](#) and [Nanowerk](#) reported June 22 on research uncovering how a key immune player binds to microbial surfaces and forms "nanonets" that surround, entangle and disable microbes, preventing bacteria from attaching to or invading intestinal cells. Dr. Robert Lehrer, professor emeritus of medicine, was a co-senior author.

UK Paper Notes Americans' Electronic Addiction

Dr. Peter Whybrow, director of the Semel Institute and the Judson Braun Professor and executive chair of psychiatry, was featured in a June 21 [Telegraph](#) (UK) article about people's stress due to technology.

Daily Breeze Spotlights Cancer Fundraiser

The [Daily Breeze](#) reported June 27 on a local man's 100-mile run from Santa Barbara to the South Bay to raise money for UCLA's Jonsson Cancer Center in honor of his sister, who was treated at UCLA for brain cancer.

KPCC Covers Seniors' Reality Show

[KPCC 89.3FM](#) reported June 25 on a reality show created by Dr. Scott Kaiser, a postdoctoral fellow in general internal medicine and health services research, to help senior citizens adopt more active and healthy lifestyles. Kaiser was quoted.

Surgeon Addresses Elective Surgeries on KFVB

Dr. Andrew Da Lio, professor and chief of plastic surgery at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, appeared June 27 on a [KFVB 980AM "Money 101"](#) segment to discuss various types of elective cosmetic procedures and surgeries.

Local Paper Notes UCLA's Launch of New Face-Transplant Program

The [Beverly Hills Courier](#) reported June 22 on the UCLA Health System's launch of the West Coast's first face-transplantation program. Dr. Reza Jarrahy, assistant professor of plastic and reconstructive surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, and Dr. Gerald Lipshutz, associate professor of surgery and medicine at the Geffen School of Medicine, were quoted.

Business Journal Reports on Valley Expansion

UCLA Health System's plans to expand into the San Fernando and Conejo Valley and build a network of primary- and specialty-care practices in five cities was reported June 25 by the San Fernando Valley Business Journal. Dr. David Feinberg, president of the UCLA Health System; Ann Sullivan, project director for UCLA's Department of Medicine; and Dr. Matteo Dinolfo, medical director for the new practices, were quoted. Dr. Giselle Namazie, assistant professor of medicine, and Dr. Yaroslav Gofnung, assistant professor of medicine, appeared in a photo.

B.H. Courier Spotlights Medical Group Honors

The [Beverly Hills Courier](#) reported June 22 that the UCLA Medical Group was recently recognized by the California Association of Physician Groups and the National Committee for Quality Assurance for its outstanding patient-centered care and medical care management. Dr. Samuel Skootsky, chief medical officer of the UCLA Faculty Practice Group and Medical Group, was quoted.

S.M. Mirror Assesses Top Medical Studies

The [Santa Monica Mirror](#) reported June 28 on the book, "50 Studies Every Doctor Should Know: The Key Studies that Form the Foundation of Evidence Based Medicine," by Dr. Michael Hochman, a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar in general internal medicine and health services research.

Blocking Maternal-Infant HIV Transmission

[MediLexicon](#) reported June 22 on research by Dr. Karin Nielsen-Saines, professor of pediatric infectious diseases and a member of the UCLA AIDS Institute, finding that two- or three-drug combinations are better at preventing mother-to-infant HIV transmission than AZT alone when given within 48 hours of birth to non-breastfeeding infants.

Experimental Heart-in-a-Box Spotlighted

[ZDNet Health](#) ran a June 22 blog item on experimental technology being studied at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center that delivers a donor heart warm and beating instead of frozen inside a cooler. The blog linked to a UCLA video that shows how the device was used in a patient's heart transplant.

How Fructose Disrupts Memory, Learning

[Blisstree](#) reported June 25 on a UCLA study showing how a high-fructose diet can slow the brain and hamper memory and learning in rats — and how omega-3 fatty acids can minimize the damage. Lead author Fernando Gomez-Pinilla, a professor of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted.

High-Fat Diet Increases Cancer Risk

[Medical Daily](#) reported June 21 on research led by Dr. Guido Eibl, associate professor-in-residence of surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, showing that a diet high in fat and calories can hasten the onset of pancreatic cancer. Eibl was quoted.

Detroit Free Press Covers Kidney Stone Study

[The Detroit Free Press](#) reported June 24 on a study showing that the incidence of kidney stones have increased with rising rates of obesity and diabetes in the U.S. The research was led by 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.

Health Trade Covers National Report on Impact of Urologic Diseases

[Oncology Times](#) reported June 25 on a national report that charts the demographic and economic impact of urologic diseases in the United States. Dr. Christopher Saigal, editor of the new report and associate professor of urology, was quoted.

Trade Looks at Stents in Heart-Transplant Patients

[Cardiovascular Business](#) reported June 19 on a new study showing that heart-transplant patients whose arteries re-close after a stent procedure show poor long-term survival. Dr. Michael Lee, an assistant professor of medicine, division of cardiology, was quoted. The American Journal of Cardiology published the findings on June 15.

Treating Peripheral Arterial Disease

The June 27 [Medical Quack](#) blog ran an interview with Dr. Peter Lawrence, Wiley Barker Chief of Vascular Surgery and director of the Gonda (Goldschmied) Venous Center, about developments in the treatment of peripheral arterial disease.

BRIEFS

Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA was cited June 26 in a [WFAA-Channel 8](#) (Dallas) report about a former patient who created two iPhone applications and is donating a portion of his sales back to the hospital.

Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA was cited June 27 in a [StarPulse](#) blog about singer Avril Lavigne's recent donation of musical instruments to young patients at the hospital.

QUOTABLES

Dr. Alon Avidan, associate professor of neurology and co-director of the UCLA Sleep Disorders Center, was quoted in a June 23 [Los Angeles Times](#) article about mattress companies claiming their products will help individuals sleep better.

Dr. David Baron, family medicine physician and former chief of staff at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, commented June 26 on [KNX AM1070](#) about recommendations that physicians provide counseling to obese patients.

Dr. Benjamin Bengs, assistant professor of orthopaedic surgery, was quoted June 20 in a [LookOut News](#) article about a local woman who broke her hip.

Dr. James Crall, chair of pediatric dentistry at the School of Dentistry, was quoted June 26 by [Bloomberg](#) about a chain of dental clinics found to have mistreated pediatric patients.

Dr. Camelia Davtyan, clinical professor of general internal medicine and health services research, was quoted June 29 in Entertainment Weekly about Lindsay Lohan's reported bout with dehydration.

Dr. Patrick Dowling, chair of family medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted June 23 in the [Bakersfield Californian](#) about physicians from foreign countries practicing in the United States.

Dr. David Feinberg, president of the UCLA Health System, and associate vice chancellor, was quoted June 28 by the [Huffington Post](#) on the impact of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to uphold the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented June 26 in [HealthDay News](#) about how high-protein, low-carbohydrate diets may increase women's risk of heart disease and stroke. [Philly.com](#), [U.S. News & World Report](#) and the [Global Post](#) picked up the story.

Gerald Kominski, director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research in the Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted June 22 by the [Los Angeles Times](#) about the implications for healthcare if the Supreme Court overturns the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Dr. Karen Miotto, professor of clinical psychiatry and director of the UCLA Alcoholism and Addiction Medicine Service in the Semel Institute, was quoted June 27 by [WebMD](#) about addiction to prescription painkillers.

Dr. Eric Vilain, director of the UCLA Institute for Society and Genetics and a professor of human genetics, pediatrics and urology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, commented June 23 in the [New York Times](#) about new rules adopted by the International Olympic Committee for determining whether someone should not be allowed to compete as a woman if her gender is questioned under those rules.

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