



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT**

**For the week of June 28-July 3, 2013**

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#### **N.Y. Times, Wall Street Journal Explore Airport Scanner Safety**

Research led by Christopher Cagnon, chief of radiology physics at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, that measured radiation exposure from airport scanners at Los Angeles International Airport was covered July 3 by a [New York Times](#) blog and [Travel and Tour World](#); July 2 by [Security Info Watch](#); June 30 by India's [News Times](#); June 29 by [Asian News International](#), the [Business Standard](#) and [Georama](#) travel blog; June 28 by [Red Orbit](#), [QMI Agency](#), [Sun News Network](#), [eMax Health](#), [Medical Daily](#) and [eTurbo News](#); and June 27 by the [Wall Street Journal](#). The study found that people absorb less radiation from airport X-ray scanner backscatter than they do while waiting in line for the scan itself. Cagnon was quoted in the coverage.

#### **Sanjay Gupta Follows International Medical Graduate Program**

CNN's "[Sanjay Gupta MD](#)" reported June 29 on the UCLA International Medical Graduate (IMG) program, which assists bi-lingual, bi-cultural immigrant medical school graduates from Latin America, who reside in the U.S. legally, to earn their California medical licenses and obtain residencies in family medicine. The UCLA program is privately funded and covers all educational costs and includes a stipend. In exchange, the IMG physician must commit to practice in one of the state's more than 500 underserved communities for two to three years after completing their three-year family medicine residency. Dr. Patrick Dowling, chair of the UCLA Department of Family Medicine and the program's co-founder, and Dr. Michelle Bholat, vice-chair of the UCLA Department of Family Medicine and the program's co-founder and executive director, were featured.

#### **UPI Explores Nurse Practitioners' Role in Geriatric Care**

[United Press International](#), [Medical News Today](#) and [MediLexicon](#) June 30; [News-Line.com](#) June 28, and [SmartBrief](#) June 27 reported 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.

#### **NBC's "Nightly News" Highlights Operation Mend**

NBC's "[Nightly News](#)" June 27 highlighted the work of Operation Mend, a partnership between Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, Brooke Army Medical Center and the Veterans Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System that offers free reconstructive surgery and other medical care for U.S. military personnel severely wounded and disfigured during service. The piece also highlighted Operation Mend's "buddy" family program, which pairs wounded veterans undergoing treatment with Los Angeles-area families who provide comfort, care and support.

#### **Media Ask About Dietary Supplements Study**

[KPCC 89.3FM](#), the [Houston Chronicle](#), [Examiner.com](#), [Science Codex](#), and [HealthCanal](#) July 1; and [News-Medical](#) and [Bio-Medicine](#) July 2 spotlighted research led by Dr. Derjung Tarn, associate professor of family medicine, finding that primary care physicians overall do a poor job of communicating information about dietary supplements to their patients.

#### **Stem Cell Gene Therapy for Sickle Cell Disease Garner Wide Coverage**

[Science Codex](#), [Examiner.com](#), [Medicine Wiki](#), [Topix](#), [Allvoices.com](#), [Stem Cell Roundup](#), [Regator](#), [I4U News](#), [InvestorStemCell](#), [Science Newsline](#), [Transplant Views](#), [Genetics Roundup](#), and [My Science](#) July 1; [News-Medical](#), [Health Canal](#), [The Wave](#), [Inagist](#), [MDLinx](#), [Silobreaker](#), [Bioethics.com](#), [What is Microbiology](#), [Mast Therapeutics](#), [Before It's News](#), [Medical Xpress](#), [BrightSurf.com](#), [Bio-Medicine](#), [Stem Cell News Blog](#), [BioPortfolio](#), [ScoopWeb](#), [iGossip](#), [Genetherapy.me](#) July 2; and [Labmate Online](#) July 3 reported on a breakthrough study from UCLA's Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine

and Stem Cell Research demonstrating a stem cell gene therapy for sickle cell disease that is ready to begin clinical trials early in 2014. The study's leader, Dr. Donald Kohn, professor of pediatrics and microbiology, immunology and molecular genetics, was quoted in the coverage.

### **Lifestyle Recommendations Reduce Risk of Aggressive Prostate Tumors**

[HealingWell](#) June 29; [Greece 365](#), [Before It's News](#), [Acne Treatments Info](#), [SIPEP](#) June 30; [KTTV-Channel 11](#), [Huffington Post](#), [dailyRx](#), [Medical News Today](#), [National Monitor](#), [United Press International](#), [HNGN](#), [Science World Report](#), [Wisconsin Star](#), [Progressive Radio Network](#), [MedWorm](#), [Times of India](#), [Silo Breaker](#), and [Anabolic Minds](#) July 1; [Nature World News](#), [eMaxHealth](#), [Food Product Design](#) July 2; and [MGTOW Forums](#) and [Walking Times](#) July 3 featured a study from UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center (JCCC) that found adherence to lifestyle guidelines from the World Cancer Research Fund reduced the risk of more aggressive tumors in prostate cancer patients. Dr. Lenore Arab, JCCC member and professor of medicine and biological chemistry, led the study and was quoted in the coverage.

### **Infectious Diseases Doctor Pens Farewell Column**

The [Pasadena Star-News](#) July 1 published a column by Dr. Claire Panosian Dunavan, clinical professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases, bidding a farewell to the weekly "Infection Files" column that ran in the MediaNews Group-owned newspapers in the Los Angeles area. The column also ran in the [Whittier Daily News](#), the Inland Valley [Daily Bulletin](#), the Los Angeles [Daily News](#) and the [Daily Breeze](#).

### **Discover Magazine Examines Man with Tapeworms in Liver**

The July/August issue of [Discover](#) magazine (subscription required) published an article by Dr. Claire Panosian Dunavan, clinical professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases, about an 80-year-old man whose liver harbored thousands of tapeworms.

### **Heart Screenings for Infants**

[KCBS-Channel 2](#), [KCAL-Channel 9](#) and [KNBC-Channel 4](#) July 1; [KBAK-Channel 5](#) (Bakersfield) July 2 and the [Beverly Hills Courier](#) June 21 reported on pulse oximetry, a test conducted on newborns to detect potential cardiac problems. A law kicked in July 1 making the test mandatory at California hospitals, but UCLA has been performing the test for a year. Dr. Gregory Perens, assistant clinical professor of pediatric cardiology, was featured in the KNBC story. Caroline Korkounian, a nurse in the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center maternity ward, was interviewed in the KCBS/KCAL reports. Dr. Jeffrey Smith, professor of neonatology, and Dr. Mark Sklansky, professor and chief of pediatric cardiology, were quoted in the Beverly Hills Courier.

### **Growing Aneurysms More Likely to Burst**

Research led by Dr. J. Pablo Villablanca, chief of diagnostic neuroradiology, finding that growth, not just size, increases brain aneurysms' risk of rupture, was reported July 2 by [HealthDay News](#), [Red Orbit](#), [Health Imaging Hub](#), [News Medical.net](#) and [Health Canal](#), and July 3 by [Domain-b](#). The study was published in the July 2 edition of [Radiology](#). The HealthDay report appeared in [U.S. News & World Report](#).

### **Why Alzheimer's Drugs Rarely Help**

Research led by Zhefeng Guo, assistant professor of neurology, suggesting that the target of current Alzheimer's drugs is molecularly different than the suspected culprit behind the disease was covered July 3 by Poland's [Money](#) and [Odkrywcy](#); July 2 by [Psych Central](#); and July 1 by [Bioscience Technology](#), [Investor's Business Daily](#), [HealthCanal](#), [Science Codex](#) and [Medical Express](#). The study was published in the June 28 edition of the [Journal of Biological Chemistry](#).

### **Operation Mend Heals Wounded Warriors**

The [Los Angeles Daily News](#) and the [Contra Costa Times](#) reported June 29 on UCLA's Operation Mend, a partnership between Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, Brooke Army Medical Center and the Veterans Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System that offers free reconstructive surgery and other medical care for U.S. military personnel severely wounded and disfigured during service. Operation Mend co-directors Dr. Kodi Azari, chief of reconstructive transplantation and associate professor of orthopedic surgery and plastic surgery, and Dr. Christopher Crisera, director of microvascular reconstruction and

associate clinical professor of plastic surgery, were featured in the article that was picked up by affiliated newspapers across the country including Stars and Stripes, the Pasadena Star-News and the Inland Valley Daily Bulletin.

### **Palisadian Paper Covers UCLA Health System's Patriotic Support of Parade**

The Palisadian Post June 27 featured a photo and story about the UCLA Health System's sponsorship of the July 4th Parade in Pacific Palisades. Paul Watkins, chief administrative officer at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, was quoted in the article and pictured with board of advisors member James Buerge and People-Animal Connection participants Karen Filipi and dog "Coogee."

### **Health Website Highlights Study**

Dr. Bruce Dobkin, professor of neurology and director of the Neurologic Rehabilitation and Research Program, was featured in a June 27 [MedPage Today](#) article and video commenting on a study that added repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation (rTMS) to traditional speech and language therapy. The study showed significantly improved language recovery in stroke survivors with aphasia.

### **KCBS Reports on Music Therapy for Alzheimer's Patients**

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

### **BBC Maps Children's Chances**

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

### **Health Website Covers Health Care Reform in California**

Gerald Kominski, director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and a professor at the Fielding School of Public Health, and Dr. Robin Clarke, medical director of quality for the UCLA Faculty Practice Group, were featured in a June 30 [MedPage Today](#) article about the implementation of the Affordable Care Act in California.

### **Women's Health Weekly Spotlights Extreme Morning Sickness Study**

Women's Health Weekly featured a story June 26 on a study that found that women with a severe form of morning sickness who take antihistamines to help them sleep through their debilitating nausea are significantly more likely to experience adverse pregnancy outcomes. Marlena Fejzo, assistant professor of research in obstetrics and gynecology, was quoted.

### **Probiotic Yogurt Alters Brain Function**

[South China Morning Post](#) July 2, Australia's [ABC Radio](#) June 29, and [Psych Central](#) June 26 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, professor of medicine in the division of digestive diseases and of physiology and psychiatry, were quoted.

### **KCBS Focuses on High Heels and Driving**

[KCBS-Channel 2](#) explored safety issues on wearing high heels while driving. Dr. Robert Lee, clinical instructor of podiatry, was interviewed.

### **Media Cover Memory Study**

[Science World Report](#) June 28 and [NewsMaxHealth](#) June 26 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. Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging, a professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Longevity Center, was quoted.

## **With Strokes, Time Equals Brain**

[The Hospitalist](#) reported July 3 on research led by Dr. Jeffrey Saver, professor of neurology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a director of the UCLA Stroke Center, examining how outcomes for stroke patients are influenced by how quickly they receive a common clot-busting drug. Saver was quoted.

## **BRIEFS**

Dr. Abbas Ardehali, professor of cardiothoracic surgery and director of the UCLA Heart and Lung Transplant Program, was cited in the July issue of [Delta Sky Magazine](#) in an article about domestic medical tourism and patients who travel to be cared for by specific doctors because of their well-regarded expertise.

The June 29 Santa Monica Daily Press published a photo of "Harley," a therapy dog in the People-Animal Connection, during a recent visit with a pediatric patient at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica.

## **QUOTABLES**

Dr. Peter Butler, director of the Larry L. Hillblom Islet Research Center and chief of the endocrinology, diabetes and hypertension unit, was quoted June 29 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) article about a clinical trial testing a "reverse vaccine" that allows people with Type 1 diabetes to produce their own insulin.

Dr. David Feinberg, president of the UCLA Health System and CEO of the UCLA Hospital System, was quoted in the June edition of [Scientific American](#) on how hospitals hope retail clinics will help reduce readmissions.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented in a July 1 [HealthDay News](#) story that also ran on the [Doctor's Lounge](#) about a new blood thinning medication that may help prevent blood clots in high-risk patients. He also commented in another July 1 [HealthDay News](#) story that also ran in [U.S. News & World Report](#) about cholesterol testing.

Dr. Brent L. Fogel, assistant professor of neurology and director of the Ataxia and Neurogenetics Biobank Program, was quoted July 4 in [Neurology Today](#) about the use of genetic sequencing to identify a genetic mutation that, combined with other genes, results in a rare neurodegenerative syndrome called cerebellar ataxia.

Dr. Patricia Ganz, director of cancer prevention and control research at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted July 3 on NBC's "[Today](#)" regarding the death of Pierce Brosnan's daughter from ovarian cancer and her possible genetic predisposition for the disease.

Dr. David Heber, professor of medicine, public health and director of the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition, was interviewed July 1 on NBC's "[Today](#)" about the new juice-based "cleansing" trend, which proponents claim rids the body of toxins.

Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases and the program in global health, was quoted July 1 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) article about new World Health Organization recommendations on HIV treatment.

Dr. Andrew Leuchter, professor of psychiatry, was quoted in the June 25 [Wall Street Journal](#) about the use of electroencephalogram (EEG) to find a certain pattern of brain electrical activity that can largely indicate which patients will respond to several popular antidepressant drugs.

Dr. Beate Ritz, professor of epidemiology and environmental health sciences at the Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted July 2 in a [Reuters](#) article about research examining whether warm weather is linked to birth defects of the heart.

Dr. Stephen Shew, associate professor of pediatric surgery at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was quoted July 2 in a [USA Today](#) article explaining a surgical procedure to repair a paralyzed diaphragm.

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