



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT  
For the week of June 29 – July 5, 2012**

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### **Supreme Court Ruling on Affordable Care Act Draws Press**

Gerald Kominski, director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and a professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was interviewed June 28 by [KABC-Channel 7](#), quoted June 29 by [Fox Business News](#); and featured June 30 by [KNBC-Channel 4](#) and [National Public Radio](#) about the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on the Affordable Care Act.

### **Huffington Post, KTLA Cover Spinal-Cord Injury Study**

[The Guardian](#) (Nigeria) reported July 5, [Digital Journal](#) reported July 3, [KTLA-Channel 5](#) reported July 2, [Huffington Post](#) reported June 30 and [Becker's Spine Review](#) reported June 27 on UCLA research showing that a diet enriched with a popular omega-3 fatty acid and an ingredient in curry spice preserved walking ability in rats after spinal-cord injury. Study authors Dr. Langston Holly and Fernando Gomez-Pinilla, both professors of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, were quoted.

### **NBC's "Today" Explores How Fructose Disrupts Brain Function**

A study by Fernando Gomez-Pinilla, professor of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, showing how a high-fructose diet can slow the brain and hamper memory and learning in rats was highlighted July 2 on NBC's "[Today](#)" show.

### **Fourth of July Puts Operation Mend in the Limelight**

A July 4 [Associated Press](#) report announced that UCLA's Operation Mend program will be one of five military-related organizations to benefit from Veteran Support Fund, a fundraising campaign led by three families. The July 4 [Huffington Post](#) cited Operation Mend in an editorial about the campaign. [Yahoo Sports](#) posted a July 4 photo and the [Los Angeles Dodgers](#) website ran an article about two Operation Mend patients, Army Specialist Joey Paulk and Corporal Louis Dahlman, who threw out the first pitch as part of the team's Military Appreciation Night. Operation Mend was also cited in a July 3 [Orange County Register](#) article about TV personality, Leeann Tweeden, who is involved in the program.

### **'Zoobiquity' Attracts Coverage**

[The Seattle Times](#) reported June 29, the [Guardian/Observer](#) (London) reported June 30 and Canada's [CTV](#) reported July 3 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. Natterson-Horowitz and coauthor Kathryn Bowers, a UCLA lecturer, were interviewed.

### **KTLA Examines Diet Trends**

[KTLA-Channel 5](#) reported June 29 about dieting trends and featured the expert commentary of Dr. David Heber, professor of medicine and director of the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition, who explained that while some diets may be effective, nothing beats healthy eating and regular exercise.

### **Op-Ed Explores Some States' Rejection of Federal Medicaid Money**

Steven Wallace, associate director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and chair of community health sciences at the Fielding School of Public Health, published an op-ed piece in the June 30 [New America Media](#) about how state governors' decisions to reject federal money offered for expanding Medicaid programs as part of the Affordable Care Act will affect millions of uninsured low-income Americans.

### **American Medical News Visits 'Medical Home' Care**

A July 1 article in [American Medical News](#) about the "medical home" concept in health care covered research by Dr. Robin Clarke, a physician in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars program at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, suggesting that an assessment tool measuring whether a community health center functions as a "medical home" does not adequately evaluate diabetes care. Clarke was quoted.

### **KPCC Spotlights Women's Healthcare Needs**

[KPCC 89.3FM](#) reported July 4 that the Iris Cantor-UCLA Women's Health Center is recruiting minorities, veterans and older women for focus groups on the healthcare needs of lesbian and bisexual women.

### **Beverly Hills Courier Spotlights ICON Awards**

The Beverly Hills Courier reported June 28 on the UCLA Longevity Center's 2012 ICON Awards, held June 6. The event honored Sidney Poitier for artistic excellence; Jane and Terry Semel and Dr. Peter Whybrow, director of the Semel Institute, for visionary leadership in science and medicine; and Shlomo and Steve Rechnitz, for visionary leadership in business and philanthropy.

### **Online Outlets Cover Heart Attacks during Pregnancy**

[Examiner](#), [Health Canal](#), [NewsBlaze](#), [Medical Express](#), [Science Codex](#) and [Feed My Science](#) reported July 2 on a new study in rats and mice demonstrating that heart attacks occurring in the late months of pregnancy result in worse heart function and more damaged heart tissue than heart attacks among non-pregnant females. Senior study author Dr. Mansoureh Eghbali, an assistant professor of anesthesiology, and first author Dr. Jingyuan Li, a postdoctoral fellow in anesthesiology, were quoted.

### **Oncology Trade Covers Robotic Surgery for Bladder Cancer**

[HemOnc](#) reported May 25 on a study finding that robotic surgery for bladder cancer resulted in fewer deaths and complications than traditional open surgery, but was more expensive. Dr. Jim Hu, director of minimally invasive surgery in the department of urology, was the study's senior author.

### **Medical Websites Report on Obesity's Role in Heart Failure**

[Emax Health](#), [Science Daily](#), [Asian News International](#), [Science Codex](#) and [Medical Express](#) reported July 3 on a study demonstrating that obesity and a larger waist size may be associated with better outcomes in heart-failure patients. Senior author Dr. Tamara Horwich, an assistant professor of medicine, division of cardiology, and first author Adrienne Clark, a resident in the department of medicine, were quoted.

### **New Diet: Eat Some Spicy Peppers**

A column published July 2 in Britain's [Female First](#) highlighted a study by researchers at the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition that found that capsaicin, the chemical that gives spice to hot peppers, may prompt the body to expend more energy and burn more calories.

### **Palisadian Post Hails Hospital's Parade Sponsorship**

The Palisadian Post published a June 28 photo and story about UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica's sponsorship of the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade in Pacific Palisades. Doug Gunderson, interim chief administrative officer at the Santa Monica campus, was quoted and pictured with hospital board member and event cosponsor James Buerge and Alzheimer's support group leader Patti Davis, who rode in the parade.

### **Doctor's Tips for Picky Eaters**

The June 23 Times Colonist (Canada) and June 7 Kendall County Record (IL) featured interviews with Dr. Natalie Digate Muth, a former pediatric resident at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, who recently wrote a new book, "Eat Your Vegetables and Other Mistakes Parents Make." The Kendall County Record cited recipes in the book contributed by Dr. Mary Saph Tanaka, chief resident in the hospital's pediatric residency program.

### **Magazine Spotlights Young Patient's Fight against Lung Disease**

The July issue of [L.A. Parent](#) magazine spotlighted a local 10-year-old boy with pulmonary hypertension (PH) who recently voiced a public service announcement to raise awareness about the need for more research of treatments for kids with PH. His physician, Dr. Juan Alejos, professor of cardiology and director of the pulmonary vascular diseases program at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was quoted.

### **Discovery Could Help Muscle Disorders**

Carmen Bertoni, assistant professor of neurology, was featured in a June 28 [Examiner](#) blog on her research that identified a compound that could help counteract the mutations that cause Duchenne muscular dystrophy and other genetic muscle disorders.

#### **Pancreatic Cancer Research Cited**

[Daily Rx](#) on July 3 featured pancreatic research by Dr. Guido Eibl, an associate professor of surgery and a researcher with UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

#### **Rad Onc Study Highlighted by Blog**

Research by Dr. Frank Pajonk that show radiation turned breast cancer cells into aggressive breast cancer stem cells was featured July 5 by [Life Abundantly](#). Pajonk is an associate professor of radiation oncology and a researcher at UCLA's Jonsson Cancer Center,

#### **BRIEFS**

[KPCC-89.3 FM](#), the [Desert Dispatch](#) (Barstow), and the [Los Angeles Daily News](#) cited a study on June 28 by UCLA's Center for Health Policy Research and UC Berkeley in articles on how the U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the Affordable Care Act will affect California. The study showed that nearly 4 million Californians are likely to obtain new or improved coverage under the law.

The June 30 issue of [Becker's Hospital Review](#) cited Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center as one of the 50 top-grossing hospitals in U.S.

[Cozycot.com](#) reported June 30 on a visit to the Santa Monica branch of Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA by actresses Amanda Leighton and Ashley Argota as part of the festivities for a summer kickoff event.

#### **QUOTABLES**

Dr. Alon Avidan, professor of neurology and director of the UCLA Sleep Disorders Center, was quoted in a July 4 [Los Angeles Times](#) article about former U.S. Commerce Secretary John Bryson's seizure-induced vehicle collisions.

Dr. Kathleen Brennan, assistant clinical professor of obstetrics and gynecology, was quoted July 5 in a [CNN.com](#) story about women who give birth without realizing they were pregnant.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, UCLA's Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented July 3 in a [HealthDay News](#) article about research showing that heart failure and heart attack patients frequently make mistakes with their medication. The story ran on websites for [Yahoo News](#) and [U.S. News & World Report](#).

Dr. Timothy Fong, an associate professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the Addiction Medicine Clinic, was quoted in a July 4 [ABCNews.com](#) article about an Israeli company that is growing a form of medical marijuana without tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, thus offering some of the same therapeutic benefits without the high.

Shana Alex Lavarreda, director of health insurance studies at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in a June 27 [Ventura County Star](#) article about the Supreme Court's ruling on the Affordable Care Act. Lavarreda was also quoted in a July 4 [Los Angeles Times](#) article about a lawsuit filed by the California Medical Assn. against health insurance company Aetna.

Dr. Stacey Pineles, assistant professor of ophthalmology at the Jules Stein Eye Institute at UCLA, commented July 30 in a [New Parent](#) story about how to treat common vision conditions affecting children.

Mary Jane Rotheram-Borus, director of the UCLA Center for HIV Identification, Prevention and Treatment Services, and a professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was quoted in a July 3 [HealthDay News](#) article about the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approving an at-home HIV test. Rotheram-Borus was also quoted in a July 4 [NPR Marketplace](#) segment about an FDA newly approved home HIV test.

Dr. Gary Small, Parlow–Solomon Professor on Aging, a psychiatrist with the Semel Institute and director of the Longevity Center, commented in a June 29 [NPR](#) story about doctors favoring the upholding of the Affordable Care Act.

Dr. Lawrence Taw, an assistant professor of medicine at the UCLA Center for East-West Medicine, commented July 3 in a [WebMD](#) article about managing chronic pain when medicine proves ineffective.

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