



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT**  
**For the week of July 2 - 8, 2010**

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**L.A. Times Reports on Experimental Drug to Battle Alzheimer's**

**People Spotlights Cartoonist's Vocal-cord Surgery**

**Brain Atrophy's Link to Depression in M.S. Patients Draws Headlines**

**Reuters Examines End-of-Life Care**

**Examiner, ANI Note Ultrafine Particles Heighten Asthma by Freeways**

**Local Paper Runs Column on Whooping Cough Prevention**

**Ophthalmology Times Spotlights Jules Stein Eye Institute**

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**L.A. Times Reports on Experimental Drug to Battle Alzheimer's**

Dr. Antonio De Salles, professor of neurosurgery, and Joshua Grill, director of the Kagan Alzheimer's Disease Treatment Development Program, were featured in a front-page July 4 Los Angeles Times story about a UCLA experimental clinical trial of nerve growth factor, a protein believed to protect brain cells that typically die due to Alzheimer's disease. The article profiled an Alzheimer's trial subject who had the cells surgically imported into her brain.

"Alzheimer's Patient is Taking Her Chances in Clinical Trial"

<http://www.latimes.com/news/science/la-sci-alzheimers-20100704,0,1578644.story>

**People Spotlights Cartoonist's Vocal-cord Surgery**

Dr. Gerald Berke, chief of head and neck surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was featured in a July 12 People magazine profile of *Dilbert* cartoonist Scott Adams, who underwent surgery at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center to correct spasmodic dysphonia, a vocal-cord disorder that left him mute for 3 ½ years. Berke pioneered the surgery and performed the procedure on Adams.

### **Brain Atrophy's Link to Depression in M.S. Patients Draws Headlines**

A study by Dr. Nancy Sicotte, associate professor of neurology, was featured July 2 by the Times of India and July 5 by United Press International. Her research linked depression in people battling multiple sclerosis with atrophy of a specific region of the hippocampus, a critical part of the brain involved in mood and memory. A July 7 HealthDay News story also appeared in U.S. News & World Report and Yahoo News.

"MS Depression May be Rooted in Biology"

[http://www.upi.com/Health\\_News/2010/07/05/MS-depression-may-be-rooted-in-biology/UPI-62431278312021/](http://www.upi.com/Health_News/2010/07/05/MS-depression-may-be-rooted-in-biology/UPI-62431278312021/)

"Brain Changes in MS May Spur Depression"

<http://health.usnews.com/health-news/family-health/brain-and-behavior/articles/2010/07/07/brain-changes-in-ms-may-spur-depression.html>

"Brain Atrophy Causes Depression"

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life/health-fitness/health/Brain-atrophy-causes-depression/articleshow/6119542.cms>

### **Reuters Examines End-of-Life Care**

Reuters Health reported July 8 on a study by Dr. Anne Walling, clinical instructor of general internal medicine, examining the quality of end-of-life care for hospitalized patients. Walling was quoted.

"Study Finds Room for Improvement in End-of-Life Care"

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6674N220100708>

### **Examiner, ANI Note Ultrafine Particles Heighten Asthma by Freeways**

The Examiner and Asian News International reported July 1 on a study finding that brief exposure to ultrafine pollution particles near a Los Angeles freeway boosts the allergic inflammation that exacerbates asthma. Dr. Andre Nel, professor of medicine and chief of nanomedicine, and Ning Li, assistant researcher in nanomedicine, were quoted.

"Ultrafine Pollution Particles May Heighten Asthmatic Allergic Inflammation Risk"

<http://news.oneindia.in/2010/07/02/ultrafinepollution-particles-may-heighten-asthmaticallergi.html>

"UCLA Unearths New Freeway Health Hazard: Asthma Flare-ups"

<http://www.examiner.com/x-25863-LA-Womens-Health-Examiner~y2010m7d1-UCLA-unearts-new-freeway-health-hazard-Asthma-flareups>

### **Local Paper Runs Column on Whooping Cough Prevention**

The July 7 Daily News ran a syndicated column by Dr. Claire Panosian, professor of medicine, division of infectious diseases, on how to avoid acquiring pertussis, aka whooping cough, during an unprecedented statewide outbreak.

"Whooping Cough Outbreak Hits State"

[http://www.dailynews.com/ci\\_15461331?source=email](http://www.dailynews.com/ci_15461331?source=email)

### **Ophthalmology Times Spotlights Jules Stein Eye Institute**

The July 1 edition of Ophthalmology Times profiled the Jules Stein Eye Institute's mission and cited the upcoming addition of a third building, the Edie and Lew Wasserman Eye Research Center. Dr. Bartly Mondino, director and chair of ophthalmology, and Dr. Joseph Demer, Leonard Apt professor of pediatric ophthalmology and chief of pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus, were quoted.

"Vision Science Research at Center of Jules Stein"

[http://digital.healthcaregroup.advanstar.com/nxtbooks/advanstar/ot\\_20100701/#/13/OnePage](http://digital.healthcaregroup.advanstar.com/nxtbooks/advanstar/ot_20100701/#/13/OnePage)

### **Deseret News Explores How School Friends Boost Academic Performance**

Andrew Fuligni, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, and Melissa Witkow, a former UCLA graduate student in psychology, were featured in a July 6 Salt Lake City Deseret News story. Their

research showed that adolescents who have more in-school friends than out-of-school friends tend to have higher grade-point averages.

“More Friends in School Can Improve Kids' GPAs”

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/700046057/More-friends-in-school-can-improve-kids-GPAs.html>

### **S.M. Mirror Reflects on New Medical Building Construction**

The July 2 Santa Monica Mirror published a story and artist's rendering of the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Outpatient Surgery and Oncology Building, now under construction across the street from Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital. Posie Carpenter, chief administrative officer, was quoted. “Construction to Begin in July on Outpatient Medical Building”

### **Korean Media Witness Signing of Education, Research Pact**

KCSI-Channel 18 reported July 7 and Korea Times reported July 9 on a UCLA agreement with the Korea Institute of Science and Technology in Seoul, South Korea, creating a partnership to promote education, training, research, technology transfers, and exchanges in teaching and scholarly activities in the areas of neuroscience and molecular imaging.

<http://showroom.multivisioninc.com/share.do?id=129701&key=v2NtceNjPW05EFeTKVfy1mfYRP1CGaUF&email=ERivero@mednet.ucla.edu>

### **Web Outlet Covers Triglyceride Study**

RedOrbit reported July 7 on research by Loren Fong, associate adjunct professor of cardiology, and Dr. Stephen Young, professor of medicine and human genetics, on how triglycerides are processed in the blood.

“Study Sheds Light on Triglyceride Metabolism”

[http://www.redorbit.com/news/health/1889096/study\\_sheds\\_light\\_on\\_triglyceride\\_metabolism/index.html?source=r\\_health](http://www.redorbit.com/news/health/1889096/study_sheds_light_on_triglyceride_metabolism/index.html?source=r_health)

### **Community Paper Applauds Hospital's Parade Sponsorship**

The June 24 Palisadian Post and its July 1 special section ran stories about Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital's sponsorship of the annual July 4 parade in Pacific Palisades. Posie Carpenter, chief administrative officer, and James Buerge, board of advisors member, were quoted. “Buerge Motors, SM Hospital are Key Parade Co-Sponsors”

### **Huffington Post Spotlights Op-Ed on Creating Government-Supported Jobs**

The July 2 Huffington Post featured an op-ed by Dr. Eric Fonkalsrud, UCLA professor emeritus of pediatric surgery, and Michael Intriligator, UCLA professor emeritus of economics and political science, arguing that the federal government should take a more proactive role in job creation.

## **BRIEFS**

A July 5 National Public Radio story cited research by Drs. Preethi Srikanthan, assistant professor of endocrinology, and Arun Karlamangla, associate professor of geriatrics, finding that waist-hip ratio is a better gauge of early death risk among the elderly than body mass index of obesity.

“Can You Be Fat and Fit? More Health Experts Say Yes”

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=128267723>

Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center's organ transplantation programs were cited in a July 1 Orlando Sentinel article about a Florida hospital that recently performed a flurry of transplant surgeries in a short amount of time. The story noted that UCLA performs more organ transplants than almost any other center in the country.

“Florida Hospital Performs Frenzy of Transplants”

<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/health/os-transplant-frenzy-20100701,0,1916685.story>

An article in the July 8 San Francisco Chronicle cited research by the Center for Health Policy Research at the School of Public Health suggesting a tax on soda could lower obesity rates in the U.S.

“Feds Say Soda Price Boost May Make U.S. Leaner”

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/07/07/MNLR1EAULD.DTL>

A July 8 Los Angeles Times column about the environmental and health effects of the Gulf oil spill and carbon monoxide pollution cites a study by UCLA researchers showing that a fetus in a smoggy city is three times more likely to develop heart defects than other babies.

“Breathing the Filth”

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-polakovic-20100708,0,1277509.story>

## QUOTABLES

William Comanor, professor of health services at the School of Public Health, was quoted July 2 in a Los Angeles Times column about pulling the diabetes drug, Avandia, from the market due to its link to increased heart attack risk.

“Avandia: When Does a Drug's Harm Outweigh its Benefit?”

<http://articles.latimes.com/2010/jul/01/business/la-fi-lazarus-20100702>

Dr. F. Michael Ferrante, director of the UCLA Spine and Pain Care, was quoted in a July 5 Los Angeles Times article about electronic stimulation treatments for pain.

“Where Pain Pills Fail, Electronic Devices Can Deliver”

<http://www.latimes.com/news/health/la-he-pain-control-20100705,0,5360155.story>

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, was quoted July 7 by HealthDay News on how people with high blood pressure may be trained to control it on their own at home.

“Monitoring Blood Pressure at Home May Help Keep It Low”

<http://consumer.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=640915>

Dr. Christopher Giza, associate professor of neurosurgery and pediatric neurology, was quoted in a July 8 WeightWatchers.com blog about the death of a football player suspected of suffering from chronic traumatic encephalopathy, a form of degenerative brain damage caused by multiple hits to the head.

“Concerns Grow Over NFL Players Death”

<http://community.weightwatchers.com/Blogs/UserBlog.aspx?blogid=1030462>

Dr. Michael Irwin, professor of psychiatry and director of the Cousins Center for Psychoneuroimmunology at the Semel Institute, was quoted July 5 by the Los Angeles Times about how movement therapy can help people suffering from chronic pain.

“Movement Therapies May Reduce Chronic Pain”

<http://articles.latimes.com/2010/jul/05/health/la-he-pain-exercise-20100705>

Dr. Helen Lavretsky, associate professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was quoted July 6 by the Associated Press about a 91-year-old widow who kept the embalmed corpses of her husband and sister in her home.

“Widow Lives with Corpses of Husband, Twin”

<http://www.latimes.com/features/odd-news/ktla-woman-lives-with-corpSES,0,2838116.story>

Dr. Tara McCannel, assistant professor of ophthalmology at UCLA's Jules Stein Eye Institute, commented July 7 in AOL Health on clinical trials in which doctors implanted pea-sized telescopes into the eyes of older patients to improve vision in those suffering from age-related macular degeneration.

“FDA Approves First Implantable Telescope to Improve Vision”

<http://www.aolhealth.com/2010/07/07/fda-approves-first-implantable-telescope-to-improve-vision/>

Dr. Karen Miotto, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and medical director of the UCLA Alcoholism and Addiction Medicine Service, was quoted July 5 by the Los Angeles Times about the use of ecstasy at raves.

“Death at Electric Daisy Carnival Draws Attention to Connection between Raves and Ecstasy”

<http://articles.latimes.com/2010/jul/05/local/la-me-rave-ecstasy-20100705>

Richard Rawson, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and associate director of UCLA's Integrated Substance Abuse Programs, was quoted July 5 by the Omaha World-Herald about ibogaine, a hallucinogenic extract sometimes used to treat drug addictions.

"Omahan: Drug Breaks Meth's Grip"

<http://www.omaha.com/article/20100704/NEWS01/707049907/143>

Dr. David Reuben, chief of geriatrics, commented July 5 on KCRW 89.9FM's "To the Point" program about the impact of increased longevity. He also commented July 6 in a New York Times obituary for renowned gerontologist Dr. Robert Butler.

"Robert Butler, Aging Expert, is Dead at 83"

[http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/07/health/research/07butler.html?\\_r=2](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/07/health/research/07butler.html?_r=2)

"The Pros and Cons of Extreme Longevity"

<http://showroom.multivisioninc.com/share.do?id=129703&key=1JsBTER5cDShkWal8zctt8nnzKz6lamG&email=ERivero@mednet.ucla.edu>

Dr. Nick Shamie, assistant professor of orthopaedic surgery, was quoted July 5 in Prevention magazine about ways to prevent illness on vacation.

"5 Ways Not to Get Sick on Vacation"

[http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/37396384/ns/health-cold\\_and\\_flu/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/37396384/ns/health-cold_and_flu/)

Dr. Antronette Yancey, a professor of health services in the School of Public Health, was quoted in a July 8 Victoria Advocate (Texas) article on ways to limit junk food consumption.

"Consumer Confidential: Treat Junk Food Like Tobacco to Limit Intake"

<http://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/2010/jul/08/bc-cns-confidentialla--business-950-words/?business&business-wire>

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