



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT**  
**For the week of July 8 - 14, 2011**

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**Media Clamor for Hospitals' Plans for Looming 'Carmageddon'**

This weekend's closure of a 10-mile stretch of the 405 freeway prompted news coverage of UCLA Health System's measures to lodge medical staff on site and cope with the expected traffic disruption. Shannon O'Kelley, chief operating officer for Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, commented in the July 8 [Los](#)

[Angeles Daily News](#), July 9 [Los Angeles Times](#) and July 12 [USA Today](#). William Dunne, director of emergency preparedness and security services, was interviewed July 11 by [KCBS-Channel 2 / KCAL-Channel 9](#). Dr. Wally Ghurabi, medical director of the Nethercutt Emergency Center at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, and clinical care partner Evelyn Agyin were featured July 14 by CBS' "[Early Show](#)." Ghurabi was also quoted in a July 14 story by [Associated Press](#) and Canadian Press. Posie Carpenter, chief administrative officer of Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, was interviewed July 11 by KABC 790AM's "Peter Tilden Show" and quoted July 12 by the [Santa Monica Daily Press](#).

### **First Stem Cell Trials for Blindness Garner Headlines**

Blogs in [Nature](#), the [Washington Post](#) and the [Los Angeles Times](#); [Technology Review](#); the Worcester [Telegram](#); [Medical News Today](#); and [ProActive Investors](#) reported July 14 that Dr. Steven Schwartz, retina division chief at UCLA's Jules Stein Eye Institute and Ahmanson Professor of Ophthalmology, performed the world's first transplants of retinal pigment epithelial cells derived from human embryonic stem cells into two legally blind patients' eyes. While this phase of the clinical trials focuses on safety, UCLA researchers ultimately hope the transplanted cells will regenerate to replenish retinal cells damaged by dry age-related macular degeneration and Stargardt's disease -- two of the most common and untreatable causes of blindness. Schwartz was quoted. The [Sacramento Bee](#) and [Yahoo! Finance](#), among others, published the press release.

### **Media Describes How Treatment for Bladder Cancer Falls Short**

[CNN](#), [HealthDay News](#), [Examiner.com](#) and [Medical News Today](#) reported July 11; [Ivanhoe News](#), [Third Age](#), [Reuters Health](#) and [MedScape](#) reported July 12; and [UPI](#), CBS Radio and [Med India](#) reported July 13 on new research finding that most patients with high-grade, non-invasive bladder cancer do not receive the guideline-recommended care that would best protect them from a recurrence. The study was led by Dr. Karim Chamie, a UCLA postdoctoral fellow in urologic oncology and health services research, and Dr. Mark Litwin, a professor of urology and health services and a researcher with UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center. More than 40 other news outlets covered the findings, including [Oncology and Biotech News](#), [MD News](#), [Ecanceler.com](#) and [DoctorsLounge.com](#).

### **NPR Focuses on Cornea Transplants for Teens**

Dr. Anthony Aldave, associate professor of ophthalmology and director of the cornea genetics laboratory at the Jules Stein Eye Institute at UCLA, was featured July 11 in a [National Public Radio](#) "Morning Edition" segment about keratoconus, an eye disorder in which the normally round cornea thins, causing a cone-like bulge to develop. The piece profiled one of his patients who underwent a dual cornea transplant as a teen to correct her distorted vision. Vermont Public Radio and the U.K.'s [ContactLenses.co](#) also picked up the story.

### **HealthDay Reports that Teens Keep the Faith**

Andrew Fuligni, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, appeared in a HealthDay News story discussing how many U.S. teens maintain their religious identity through high school, even when their participation in church, synagogue and other religious activities declines. The article appeared July 7 in the [Wall Street Journal](#), [US News & World Report](#), [Newsday](#) and the [Jerusalem Post](#).

### **The Scientist Examines Aging, Sleep Patterns**

Gene Block, UCLA chancellor and professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, and Christopher Colwell, professor of psychiatry, were featured July 13 in [The Scientist](#). Their research shows that in mice, the pattern of activity in the brain region that regulates circadian rhythms begins to decay when the animals hit middle age. The research could provide clues as to why sleep patterns change as people grow older.

### **Channel 7 Revisits Infant Who Underwent Drastic Brain Surgery**

[KABC-Channel 7](#) aired a July 11 follow-up story on a baby who underwent a hemispherectomy – surgical removal of half his brain – at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA to treat uncontrollable seizures. Seven months later, he is thriving and seizure-free. Dr. Gary Mathern, professor of pediatric neurosurgery and director of the pediatric epilepsy surgery program, was interviewed.

### **NPR-Affiliate Unveils the Secrets of Saliva**

KPCC 89.3FM's "[Madeleine Brand Show](#)" reported July 11 on the latest UCLA advances in salivary diagnostics. Sven Bocklandt, a former researcher in human genetics at the David Geffen School of Medicine, described a saliva test that predicts age; and Dr. David Wong, a professor at the School of Dentistry, discussed a saliva test that diagnoses cancer.

### **Nursing Magazine Hails Organ-Transplant Coordinators**

The July issue of [Working Nurse](#) profiled the work of three UCLA heart and lung transplant nurse coordinators and featured interviews with Caron Burch, manager of the heart and lung transplant program; Stephanie Fraschilla, heart and lung transplant coordinator; and Michelle Ranheim, pediatric heart transplant coordinator.

### **Radio Show Spotlights "Prescription for Excellence" Book**

Dr. David Feinberg, CEO of the UCLA Hospital System and associate vice chancellor for the UCLA Health System, was featured July 5 on South Dakota's WGUV-AM/FM "Morning Show with Shelley Irwin." He discussed the book, "Prescription for Excellence," in a segment on UCLA Health System's overall success and its transformation into a world-class health system.

### **ER Physician Offers Tips for Heat-exhaustion Prevention**

Dr. Wally Ghurabi, medical director of the Nethercutt Emergency Center at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, wrote a July 8 Santa Monica Mirror column on how seniors can reduce their risk of heat exhaustion during hot weather.

### **Examiner Announces UCLA Reconstructive Transplantation Program**

An [Examiner](#) blog reported July 12 and [News-Medical.net](#) reported July 13 on the launch of a new UCLA transplantation program that will provide reconstructive face, hand and abdominal wall transplants for people who have suffered severe trauma or other disfiguring injuries. Dr. Ronald Busutil, professor and executive chair of the department of surgery, was quoted.

### **Whittier Daily News Looks at What We Put in Our Mouths**

The [Whittier Daily News](#) ran a July 8 column by Dr. Claire Panosian Dunavan, clinical professor of infectious diseases, about dirt, needles, batteries and other foreign objects occasionally swallowed by children and adults.

### **Asian TV Applauds Kids' Donation to Pediatric Cancer Scientists**

KSCI-Channel 18 reported July 12 on a \$10,000 donation made by the Shred Kids' Cancer foundation to two pediatric cancer researchers at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA: Dr. Kathy Sakamoto, chief of pediatric hematology/oncology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, and Dr. Noah Federman, director of the pediatric bone and soft tissue sarcoma program. Sakamoto was interviewed.

### **Chemo Brain Research Detailed in Trade**

Research on the foggy-minded condition known as chemo brain by Dr. Patricia Ganz was featured July 11 by [Internal Medicine News](#). Ganz is director of cancer prevention and control research at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

### **Examiner Notes Health Quality Initiative Grants**

An [Examiner](#) blog reported July 13 that the UC Center for Health Quality and Innovation, which provides financial support for health quality initiatives across the UC Health System, awarded grants totaling \$3.4 million to six UC institutions, including UCLA, for projects aimed at better understanding and alleviating common obstacles to health care quality.

### **Health Site Outlines Scope of National Children's Study**

[HealthNewsDigest](#) ran a July 12 article about the National Children's Study, led in Los Angeles and Ventura counties by the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities. Dr. Dena Herman, study co-director and adjunct assistant professor of community health sciences at the UCLA School of Public Health, wrote the article.

## BRIEFS

[Nurse.com](#) named Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center as one of six hospitals in the West who made Becker's Hospital Review's 2011 list of the 50 best hospitals in America.

The David Geffen School of Medicine was cited in a July 11 [New York Times](#) story as one of eight U.S. medical schools relying on the multiple mini-interview to identify applicants who possess the needed empathy, good communication and teamwork skills for doctoring.

A July 12 [Modesto Bee](#) article about grants for projects tackling obesity among adults and teens in Merced County cited a UCLA Center for Health Policy Research study finding that 34 percent of county residents are obese.

A July 6 [HealthDay News](#) article cited a study by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the School of Public Health finding that older adults who live in California's rural areas are more likely to be obese, physically inactive and ill-fed.

A study by Dr. Wendy Slusser, director of the UCLA Fit for Health Weight Program at Mattel Children's Hospital, and Dr. Charlotte Neumann, professor of community health sciences and pediatrics, was cited in a July 9 [Sunshine State News](#) (FL) blog about the state's efforts to provide local produce to school cafeterias.

Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA was cited July 13 in an [Orange County Register](#) article about a nonprofit organization's upcoming fundraiser. The group, Music for A Cure, helps fund music therapy programs at Southern California hospitals, including UCLA.

## QUOTABLES

Thomas Coates, co-director of the UC Global Health Institute and an associate director of the UCLA AIDS Institute, was quoted July 13 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) story about studies finding that two anti-HIV drugs helped prevent HIV transmission among heterosexual couples in Africa.

Dr. Patricia Ganz, director of cancer prevention and control research at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted July 9 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) obituary of Betty Ford.

Dr. David Hayes-Bautista, professor of general internal medicine and health services research and director of the UCLA Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture, was interviewed July 8 on KMEX-Channel 34 about the drop in Mexicans looking for U.S. work due to the ailing economy.

Dr. Randolph Hecht, clinical professor of hematology/oncology and a researcher at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted July 8 in a [Wall Street Journal](#) article about Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez's cancer.

Dr. Steven Marder, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was quoted in a July 14 [Medscape](#) article about the various medications used to control schizophrenia.

Richard Rawson, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and associate director of its Integrated Substance Abuse Programs, was quoted July 9 by [Associated Press](#) about Betty Ford's influence on the substance abuse field.

Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging and director of the UCLA Longevity Center, was quoted July 14 in a [Boston Globe](#) article on a study demonstrating that having access to a vast digital memory is altering how people retain information in their minds.

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