



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of July 17-23, 2009**

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UCLA Medical Center Ranking Draws Headlines

Chemo Brain Study Garners Press

Newsweek Explains why Placebos Work

KABC Profiles Heart Recipient Training for Ironman

O Magazine, La Prensa Examine how Food Affects the Brain

UPI, HealthDay Report on New Target for Diabetes, Alzheimer's Drugs

Local TV Features L.A. Dodger's Visit with Sick Kids

Nature Examines Blood-Cell Development Research

AARP Explores Menopause's Link to Memory Loss

Palisades Paper Spotlights Humanistic Medical Student

Reuters Health Focuses on Ovarian Detection Biomarker

UPI Explores How Vitamin D, Spice May Help Clear Alzheimer's

Huffington Post Explores what Inspires a Scientist

NBC Affiliate Showcases Kidney Chain Donor

Jewish Journal Spotlights New Hospital Board of Advisors Chair

WSJ Scrutinizes Alleged Conflict of Interest Case

Health Outlet Cites Chemo Brain Book

Site Sums Up Cost of Cutting Medical Residents' Hours

BRIEFS

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UCLA Medical Center Ranking Draws Headlines

A host of news outlets, including the Los Angeles Times blog on July 17 and the New York Times on July 17, reported on Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center being ranked the No. 3 hospital in the nation and the best in the western United States for the 20th consecutive year by U.S. News & World Report's "America's Best Hospitals" survey.

"And the Best Hospital in the West is..."

http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/booster_shots/2009/07/us-news-and-world-report-hospital-rankings.html

"America's Best Hospitals"

<http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/07/16/americas-best-hospitals/>

Chemo Brain Study Garner Press

A Jonsson Cancer Center study that is testing a rehabilitation program for breast-cancer survivors experiencing memory problems was featured July 16 by KABC-Channel 7, July 20 by the Los Angeles Times and July 22 by the Mid Valley News.

"UCLA Study to Examine Chemo Brain"

http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/booster_shots/2009/07/cancer-chemotherapy.html

"Memory Loss Common after Cancer Treatment"

<http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/health&id=6919400>

"Researchers at UCLA's Jonsson Cancer Center Seeking Women Who may be Experiencing 'Chemo Brain' for Study"

http://www.midvalleynewsonline.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2185:researchers-at-uclas-jonsson-cancer-center-seeking-women-who-may-be-experiencing-chemo-brain-for-study&catid=30:this-weeks-headlines&Itemid=102

Newsweek Explains why Placebos Work

Dr. Andrew Leuchter, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was featured July 22 in a Newsweek.com story about his research finding that in patients who have major depressive disorder, variations of two genes affect whether someone will respond to a placebo.

"The Placebo Effect: My Genes Made Me Do It"

<http://www.newsweek.com/id/208029>

KABC Profiles Heart Recipient Training for Ironman

KABC-Channel 7 aired a July 20 story of a UCLA heart-transplant recipient and four-time cancer survivor who is training to compete in the Kona Ironman triathlon in October. Dr. Jon Kobashigawa, medical director of the UCLA Heart Transplant program, was interviewed.

"Heart Patient Trains for Triathlon"

<http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/video?id=6924818>

O Magazine, La Prensa Examine how Food Affects the Brain

The research of Fernando Gómez-Pinilla, professor of neurosurgery and physiological science, showing that a balanced diet can enhance brain function, was highlighted in the July issue of O, the Oprah Magazine. He was also quoted July 21 in a La Prensa-San Antonio newspaper article about a website offering resources for parents to help improve their children's learning potential.

"Power Lunches: 3 Choices that Will Work Wonders"

<http://www.oprah.com/article/omagazine/200907-omag-healthy-lunches>

<http://www.laprensasa.com/2.0/3/309/America-in-English.html>

UPI, HealthDay Report on New Target for Diabetes, Alzheimer's Drugs

United Press International and HealthDay News reported July 15 on a UCLA/Albert Einstein College of Medicine study finding a cellular protein that may prevent nerve cells from dying also helps to improve insulin action and lower blood glucose levels. The finding could lead to new treatments for diabetes and Alzheimer's disease.

"New Diabetes, Alzheimer Drug Target Found"

http://www.upi.com/Science_News/2009/07/21/New-diabetes-Alzheimer-drug-target-found/UPI-66111248220800/

"Cellular Protein Yields Clues to Diabetes, Alzheimer's"

<http://health.usnews.com/articles/health/healthday/2009/07/22/cellular-protein-yields-clues-to-diabetes.html>

Local TV Features L.A. Dodger's Visit with Sick Kids

KCBS-Channel 2, KNBC-Channel 4 and KCAL-Channel 9 aired July 21 coverage on a visit by Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Chad Billingsley, who paid a visit to pediatric patients at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA as part of his "Chad's Champs" program.

Nature Examines Blood-Cell Development Research

Gereige Laurraine, a student in Dr. Hanna Mikkola's lab at UCLA, was cited July 19 in Nature for work that sheds new light on the function of a well known transcription factor required for the development of blood cells. Mikkola is an assistant professor of molecular, cell & developmental biology and a Broad Stem Cell Research Center scientist.

"Impact of Microenvironmental Changes on Epithelial Stem Cell Fate"

http://blogs.nature.com/reports/theniche/2009/07/isscr_sessions_from_barrandon.html

AARP Explores Menopause's Link to Memory Loss

AARP Bulletin reported July 21 on research led by Dr. Gail Greendale, professor of geriatrics, finding that women's memory worsens when they are nearing menopause, but improves afterward.

"Health Discovery: Menopausal Memory Worsens, then Improves"

http://bulletin.aarp.org/yourhealth/discoveries/articles/discovery_memory_worsens_as_menopause_approaches_study_finds.html

Palisades Paper Spotlights Humanistic Medical Student

The Palisadian Post published a June 4 profile on Michelle Mahanian, who was presented with the first Gilbert Award to recognize her as an outstanding Palisades Charter High School alumna who has demonstrated humanitarian values. In high school, Mahanian volunteered at UCLA Medical Center and launched a program called *Music to Heal* that performed for chronically ill patients. After joining UCLA as an undergrad, she expanded the program to more than 100 volunteers. She is now entering her first year at the David Geffen School of Medicine.

"PaliHi Grad Michelle Mahanian to Receive First Gilbert Award"

http://www.palisadespost.com/content/index.cfm?Story_ID=4899

Reuters Health Focuses on Ovarian Detection Biomarker

Reuters Health ran a July 22 article on the work of Dr. Robin Farias-Eisner to develop serum biomarkers that detect ovarian cancer. He is chief of gynecologic oncology and a researcher at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

"Serum Biomarkers Detect Early-stage Ovarian Cancer"

<http://www.cancerpage.com/news/article.asp?id=13613>

UPI Explores How Vitamin D, Spice May Help Clear Alzheimer's

United Press International reported July 17 on a study finding that a form of vitamin D combined with a chemical in turmeric spice called curcumin may stimulate the immune system to clear the brain of amyloid beta, which forms the harmful plaques in Alzheimer's disease. Dr. Milan Fiala, a researcher at the David Geffen School of Medicine and Veterans Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, was quoted.

Other web coverage included the Examiner and Science Daily.

"Vitamin D, Spice, May Fight Alzheimer's"

http://www.upi.com/Health_News/2009/07/17/Vitamin-D-spice-may-fight-Alzheimers/UPI-86281247809891/

Huffington Post Explores What Inspires a Scientist

Susan Smalley, professor of psychiatry and director of the Mindful Awareness Research Center in the Semel Institute, was featured in a July 22 Huffingtonpost.com article about her evolution as a scientist and the reasons why she co-founded the Mindful Center.

"Can Meditation Change Your Brain and Affect Your Genes?"

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dr-patricia-fitzgerald/can-meditation-change-you_b_239431.html

NBC Affiliate Showcases Kidney Chain Donor

KVOA-TV (Tucson, Ariz.) aired a July 14 story about Nicole Lanstrum, an Air Force staff sergeant who donated a kidney to a stranger, initiating one of two kidney transplant chains last month at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center.

"Making a Difference"

Jewish Journal Spotlights New Hospital Board of Advisors Chair

The July 3-9 edition of the Jewish Journal reported that Henry Gluck, the former CEO of Caesars' World, has been elected to chair the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center board of advisors. He has been a member of the board since 2001.

WSJ Scrutinizes Alleged Conflict of Interest Case

The July 22 Wall Street Journal and Inside Higher Ed reported that a UCLA surgeon has been removed as co-executive director of the UCLA Comprehensive Spine Center for allegedly failing to disclose that he received payments from companies whose products he was studying. The Chronicle of Higher Education reported the story on July 21.

"Surgeon Faces Probe of Research"

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124820990603169725.html>

"UCLA Investigates Corporate Payments to a Surgeon at its Medical School"

<http://chronicle.com/article/UCLA-Investigates-Corporate/47423/>

Health Outlet Cites Chemo Brain Book

Health News Digest on July 23 highlighted a book, "Your Brain After Chemo," co-written by Dr. Daniel Silverman, an associate clinical professor of molecular and medical pharmacology and a researcher with UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

"Your Brain After Chemo"

http://www.healthnewsdigest.com/news/Cancer_Issues_660/Your_Brain_After_Chemo.shtml

Site Sums Up Cost of Cutting Medical Residents' Hours

Dark Daily.com reported July 17 on a UCLA/RAND Corp. study that estimated the costs U.S. teaching hospitals would incur if they adopted Institute of Medicine recommendations to reduce medical residents' work hours.

"New Guidelines for Working Medical Residents Would Add \$1.6 Billion Annually"

<http://www.darkdaily.com/new-guidelines-for-working-medical-residents-717>

BRIEFS

Los Angeles Lakers player Jordan Farmar discussed his volunteer work at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA in an interview on Fox Sports on July 17.

"Take Five with Farmar"

<http://msn.foxsports.com/video/NBA?vid=ce0ccbfc-45ee-4601-82f2-69866d50157b>

A policy brief by the Center for Health Policy Research at the School of Public Health was highlighted in the July 19 Palm Springs Desert Sun. The study found that more than half a million California seniors who live alone lack sufficient income to meet the basic costs of living.

"Many Seniors just can't Afford the Necessities"

<http://www.mydesert.com/article/20090718/COLUMNNS26/907170370/1048/OPINION02/Many+seniors+just+can+t+afford+the+necessities>

Children's Hospitals Today magazine published a photo in their summer 2009 issue of Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA) who visited Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA. The photo included a pediatric liver transplant patient and Dr. Sue McDiarmid, director of the Pediatric Liver Transplant program.

UCLA Medical Center was cited in a July 21 Tribune (Greeley, CO) article about a heart transplant patient at UCLA.

"Woman Back on Her Feet after Transplant"

<http://www.greeleytribune.com/article/20090721/NEWS/907209977/1002/NONE&parentprofile=1001>

QUOTABLES

Dr. Raluca Arimie, staff cardiologist at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, commented June 29 KNX on 1070AM about the sudden cardiac death of TV pitchman Billy Mays.

<http://showroom.multivisioninc.com/share.do?id=111033&key=GWcssseJuDFFYCuQrSGgRHKKvaLGOeuN&email=tbraun@mednet.ucla.edu>

Dr. Arie Beldegrun, professor of urology and a researcher at UCLA's Jonsson Cancer Center, commented July 23 in a CancerConsultants.com story about new drugs used to treat kidney cancer. "New Developments in Kidney Cancer Treatment"

<http://www.cancerconsultants.com.php5-4.dfw1-1.websitetestlink.com/new-developments-in-kidney-cancer/>

Dr. Ronald Busuttill, executive chair of surgery and chief of liver and pancreas transplantation, was quoted July 20 in the Los Angeles Times about acetaminophen's link to liver damage.

"Acetaminophen: The Dark Side of Pain Relief"

<http://www.latimes.com/features/health/la-he-closer20-2009jul20,0,2219292.print.story>

Dr. Anne Coleman, the Frances and Ray Stark Professor of Ophthalmology at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, commented July 22 in a San Jose Mercury News story about an investigation into treatment irregularities at a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs optometry department.

"VA Says Glaucoma Patients at Palo Alto Facility Suffered Severe Vision Loss due to Mistreatment"

http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_12889226?source=rss_email&nclick_check=1

Dr. Zenaida Feliciano, associate professor of medicine, division of cardiology, was interviewed by KWHY Channel 22 on July 16 about stroke awareness and prevention.

"Stroke Awareness"

<http://showroom.multivisioninc.com/share.do?id=110974&key=MPglqQHBkYUFwD75aAfAJr6cr1VopXhT&email=RChampeau@mednet.ucla.edu>

Judith Gasson, director of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and a professor of medicine and biological chemistry, commented July 13 in U.S. News & World Report about advances in embryonic and adult stem cell research. The story also cited a UCLA study using adult blood stem cells to try to teach the immune system to fight melanoma.

"Embryonic Stem Cells - and Other Stem Cells - Promise to Advance Treatments"

<http://health.usnews.com/articles/health/heart/2009/07/02/embryonic-stem-cells--and-other-stem-cells--promise-to-advance-treatments.html>

Dr. Jerome Hoffman, professor of medicine, commented in an Ivanhoe Broadcast story about drug recalls. The segment was aired by NBC, CBS and ABC affiliates in Wisconsin, Arizona, Indiana, South Dakota, Colorado and Florida.

Dr. Francisco Ramos-Gomez, professor of pediatric dentistry, was quoted July 20 by National Public Radio about the effectiveness of chewing gum containing xylitol to fight cavities.

"Gum: A Stick a Day May Keep the Dentist Away"

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=106347234>

Kathrin Plath, an assistant professor of biological chemistry and a researcher with the Broad Stem Cell Research Center, comments July 24 in the Los Angeles Times about work by Chinese researchers who used adult mouse skin cells to create baby mice.

"Researchers Produce Cells They Say are Identical to Embryonic Stem Cells"

<http://www.latimes.com/news/science/la-sci-stemcells24-2009jul24,0,4599146.story>

Dr. Joshua Prager, volunteer assistant clinical professor of anesthesiology and medicine, was interviewed July 22 by ABC World News Tonight on the clinical use of propofol in a story about entertainer Michael Jackson. The interview also ran July 23 on Good Morning America.

“Jackson Investigation Leads to Texas Raid” (Scroll to video with this title)

<http://abcnews.go.com/search?searchtext=Propofol%20michael%20jackson>

Dr. Matthew Torrington, associate physician at the Semel Institute and the Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital, was quoted in a July 19 New York Times story about marijuana addiction.

“Marijuana Is Gateway Drug for Two Debates”

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/19/fashion/19pot.html?_r=1&scp=2&sq=Wernersville&st=cse

Dr. Daniel Wallace, clinical professor of medicine, commented July 20 in the New York Times and July 21 in the Los Angeles Times about a promising new drug for lupus.

“Trial for New Lupus Drug Called Promising”

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/20/business/20lupus.html?scp=11&sq=university%20california&st=cse>

“Lupus Drug Passes Key Test, Researchers Say”

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-sci-lupus21-2009jul21,0,46165.story>

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