



UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of July 18-24, 2014

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High-Performing Schools and Risky Behavior

Research led by Dr. Mitchell Wong finding that students admitted to high-performing high schools were less likely to engage in very risky health behaviors and also achieved higher test scores than their counterparts who were not admitted to those schools, garnered wide media attention. Coverage included

July 21 by the [Associated Press](#), [Christian Science Monitor](#), [HealthDay News](#), [NPR](#), [Examiner.com](#), and [MyCentralOregon.com](#); and July 22 on NPR's "CommonHealth" (Boston), [ThinkProgress](#), and [MedicalXpress](#). In addition, ABC network affiliates across the country ran reports, including July 21 on [KDRV-TV](#) (Medford, Ore.), [KTVX-TV](#) (Salt Lake City), [WKBW-TV](#) (Buffalo, N.Y.), [KOLO-TV](#) (Reno, Nev.), and [WVAY-TV](#) (Wilmington, N.C.), and July 22 on [WFAA-TV](#) (Dallas), [KIFI-TV](#) (Idaho Falls, Idaho) and many others. The Christian Science Monitor story ran in [Yahoo! News](#) and the [Alaska Dispatch News](#), and the NPR story was carried by [WKMS 91.3FM](#) (Murray, Ky.) and [ideastream](#). The study was also cited in a July 22 [Los Angeles Times](#) story. Wong, a professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, was quoted in some of the coverage.

Impact of AIDS Researcher's Death in Malaysia Airlines Crash

Dr. Thomas Coates, an associate director of the UCLA AIDS Institute and director of the UCLA Center for World Health, commented on the death of AIDS researcher Joep Lange in the Malaysia Airline crash in July 18 reports on [KPCC 89.3FM's "Take Two,"](#) the [Los Angeles Times](#), [KCRW 89.9FM](#), and [MedPage Today](#).

UCLA Hospitals Ranked Tops in U.S.

[L.A. Biz](#) July 17; [MedPage Today](#), [Beverly Hills Courier](#) and [motoemag.com](#) July 18; [WeHo News](#) July 19, and the [Malibu Times](#) July 21 reported that the UCLA Health System's hospitals in Westwood and Santa Monica have been named to [U.S. News and World Report's](#) exclusive annual Best Hospitals Honor Roll list. Dr. David Feinberg, president of the UCLA Health System and CEO of the UCLA Hospital System, and Dr. A. Eugene Washington, vice chancellor for health sciences and dean of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, were quoted in some of the coverage. UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center was mentioned in the [Malibu Times](#).

La Opinión Follows the International Medical Graduate Program

[La Opinión](#) June 30 highlighted 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 was featured as were two IMG program participants.

Media Report on Study that Advances the Biological Basis for Schizophrenia

Dr. Roel Ophoff, a professor of human genetics and psychiatry at the Semel Institute, and Dr. Nelson Freimer, professor of psychiatry and director of the Semel Institute Center for Neurobehavioral Genetics, were cited by the media for their collaborative work as part of a multinational effort that has identified more than 100 locations in the human genome associated with the risk of developing schizophrenia. The study, the largest genomic study published on any psychiatric disorder to date, provides important new insights about the biological causes of schizophrenia. Coverage included July 22 in [Health Canal](#), [ScienceWorldReport.com](#), [Phys.org](#), [Designntrend.com](#) and [Domain-b.com](#), and July 24 in [Examiner.com](#).

People with Type 2 Diabetes Can't Clear Toxic Proteins

[Science Blog](#) July 22, [Bioscience Technology](#) July 23, and [Science Codex](#) July 24 spotlighted research co-led by Safia Costes, a research scientist at the Larry L. Hillblom Islet Research Center at UCLA, finding that a process called autophagy that clears damaged and toxic proteins from cells does not appear to work in people with Type 2 diabetes, resulting in the destruction of pancreatic beta cells that play a key role in maintaining healthy blood sugar levels.

Prostate Cancer and Depression Study Continues to Draw Attention

[Imperial Valley News](#) July 17; [Beverly Hills Courier](#), [Fox News](#), [Hem Onc Today](#) and [La Razon](#) (Spanish only) July 18; [DDN News](#) July 19, and the [Imperial Valley News](#) and [Eagle Country](#) July 20 reported on a study by Dr. Jim Hu that found depressed men with prostate cancer get less effective therapies and

experience shorter survival times. Hu is director and Henry Singleton Chair in Robotic and Minimally Invasive Surgery. A Reuters Health story appeared July 17 in the [Chicago Tribune](#).

Memory Research Garners Headlines

[Science](#) magazine July 17; [Today's Medical Developments](#) July 18; and [MedCity News](#) July 22 covered a four-year project aiming to help brain-injured people restore lost memory functions. Dr. Itzhak Fried, a professor of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at the Semel Institute, is the lead investigator for the UCLA site of the multicenter initiative.

Medical Center Oncology Program Ranked Tops in U.S.

[Becker's Hospital Review](#) on July 22 announced that UCLA Medical Center's oncology program and UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center have been named to BHR's 2014 edition of "100 Hospital and Health Systems with Great Oncology Programs" honor roll list. UCLA was one of only eight Southern California hospitals to make the list, and is honored in recognition of leading the way in terms of quality patient care, cancer outcomes and research.

Imaging the Legend Behind the Sea Serpent

National Public Radio's "[Science Friday](#)" aired a July 24 segment on the discovery of a rare 14-foot, 250-pound oarfish that washed ashore near San Diego last year. Radiologists from UCLA's Translational Research Imaging Center performed a CT scan to help marine biologists uncover the evolution of the monstrously long fish's skeleton and vertical swimming style.

Uncovering High-School Concussions

Dr. Meeryo Choe, a clinical instructor in pediatric neurology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was interviewed July 23 by KCRW 89.9 FM's "[Which Way, LA?](#)" about how Loyola High School is testing the entire study body to identify those who may have suffered a brain concussion.

Jewish Journal Examines Cultural Connection to Stem Cell Research

[Jewish Journal](#) July 23 featured a story on how Jewish researchers are progressing stem cell technology in pursuit of cutting-edge new treatments for a variety of diseases. Steve Peckman, associate director of the Broad Stem Cell Research Center, was quoted.

LA Times Notes that in Medical Crisis, Support of Friends and Family Can Help

[The Los Angeles Times](#) July 18 featured an in-depth interview with Amy Madnick, a licensed clinical social worker with UCLA Health System, on advice on coping with a health crisis.

Addiction Specialists Discuss the Dangers of Over-prescribing Medications

Dr. Karen Miotto, professor of clinical psychiatry and director of the Alcoholism and Addiction Medicine Service in the Semel Institute, was quoted in a July 22 [Risk&Insurance](#) article about ways to help physicians to not over-prescribe medications to their patients that could lead to addiction. Dr. Larissa Mooney, assistant clinical professor of psychiatry and a member of the Integrated Substance Abuse Programs at the Semel Institute, was also quoted in the same article, noting that many physicians require more education on addiction risk factors.

Mattel Party on the Pier Celebrating 15th Anniversary

[Beverly Hills Magazine](#) July 22 highlighted the 15th annual Mattel Party on the Pier event scheduled for Oct. 5 that will raise funds for Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA. This year's event will be hosted by actress Sarah Michelle Gellar. Dr. Sherin Devaskar, physician-in-chief of Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was quoted.

Experimental Device Transports Donor Lungs 'Warm and Breathing'

[WJRT-Channel 12](#) (Flint, Mich.) July 18 and [KSAT-Channel 12](#) (San Antonio) July 17 reported on experimental technology to transport donor lungs in a warm and breathing state with a special organ care system as opposed to the traditional method of using an ice cooler. Dr. Abbas Ardehali, professor of

cardiothoracic surgery, principal investigator for the clinical trial and director of the heart and lung transplantation program at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, was interviewed.

Geriatrician Pens Column to Remind Older Adults to Protect Skin from Summer Sun

Dr. Maija Sanna, staff geriatrician at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica and assistant clinical professor of medicine, authored a July 18 Santa Monica Mirror column with advice for older adults on summer skin protection.

QUOTABLES

Dr. James Cherry, a distinguished research professor of pediatrics and attending physician of pediatric infectious diseases at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was quoted July 15 in a [San Jose Mercury News](#) article about the higher rates of compliance among Latinos in vaccinating their children. Cherry was also cited July 23 in a [Santa Cruz Sentinel](#) Opinion piece.

Dr. Thomas Coates, an associate director of the UCLA AIDS Institute and director of the UCLA Center for World Health, was quoted July 19 in a [USA Today](#) story about a new study finding that the rate of HIV diagnoses has fallen by one-third in the last decade.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, was quoted in a July 17 [HealthDay News](#) article on how exposure to substantial psychosocial stress in childhood can impact the subsequent risk of developing cardiovascular disease later in life. He also commented in a July 21 [HealthDay News](#) story regarding a new study showing that despite recent advances in preventing heart attacks among seniors, there has been no change in heart attack incidence in younger adults, and in a July 22 [HealthDay News](#) story that compared treatments for blood clots in the legs. The July 17 article was also picked up by [U.S. News & World Report](#).

Dr. Timothy Fong, an associate professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and co-director of the UCLA Gambling Studies Program, was quoted in a July 15 [Next Avenue](#) article about seniors and gambling addiction. Fong noted there is a fine line between gambling as a harmless interest and as a compulsive or addictive disorder.

Dr. Christopher Giza, director of the UCLA Steve Tisch BrainSPORT Program and professor of pediatrics and neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was interviewed July 22 by [KGO 810AM](#) (San Francisco) and [KFWB 980AM](#) about the brain-saving benefits of a new California law that will limit full contact during school football practice.

Dr. Neal Halfon, a professor of pediatrics, public health and public policy and director of the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities, was quoted July 18 in an [Inside Philanthropy](#) article about a three-year, \$2.25 million grant given to the center to support "Moving Healthcare Upstream"—a national initiative to accelerate innovations that improve health at a community level.

Dr. Jim Hu, director and Henry Singleton Chair in Robotic and Minimally Invasive Surgery, was quoted in a July 23 [Wall Street Journal](#) story on the use of robotic surgery to treat bladder cancer.

Dr. Shafali Jeste, assistant professor in psychiatry and neurology, was quoted in a July 23 [NBC Today Show](#) article about a study that suggests the possibility that babies can learn while still in the womb.

Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases and of public health, was quoted July 24 in a [Huffington Post](#) article about a new condom that uses an antiviral as added protection against HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.

Dr. Larissa Mooney, assistant clinical professor of psychiatry and a member of the Integrated Substance Abuse Programs at the Semel Institute, was quoted in a July 17 [NBC Today Show](#) online article about a

study that suggests mixing energy drinks and alcohol may be “priming” an individual to want to drink more.

Dr. Nicole Prause, a research scientist in the department of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was featured in a July 22 [Men's Health](#) article about whether sex addiction is a true addiction. Prause's research examined brain responses to sex-related stimuli in individuals who could be considered to be suffering from a sexual "addiction."

Dr. Nina Shapiro, professor of head and neck surgery and director of pediatric otolaryngology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, commented July 22 in a [Reuters](#) report on a JAMA study finding that pregnancy does not drive female physicians out of surgical training programs. The [Chicago Tribune](#) and [KDAL 610AM](#) (Duluth, Minn.) syndicated the article.

Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, and director of the UCLA Longevity Center, was quoted in a July 17 NBC [Today Show](#) website segment about how constant interruptions in the workplace can have a negative impact on the quality of an individual's work. Separately, Small was interviewed in a July 23 [KPCC 89.3FM](#) report noting that limited and targeted time on a computer can be a positive for young brain development.

Dr. Valencia Walker, an assistant clinical professor of neonatology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was quoted July 18 in a [Reuters Health](#) article about a new study that showed premature babies treated in high-volume neonatal units are more likely to survive.

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