



UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of July 27 – Aug. 2, 2012

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Media Focus on Eye-Opening Cataract Study

Neurosurgeon Solves Eye-Twitch Mystery

KCRW, KPCC Covers \$20 Million Stem-Cell Research Grant

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Media Focus on Eye-Opening Cataract Study

The [New York Times](#), [New York Times'](#) health blog, [TIME](#), [HealthDay TV](#), [Global Post](#), [Medical News Today](#), [Medical Daily](#) and a [Harvard](#) blog reported Aug. 1; and [Reuters Health](#), [WebMD](#), [HealthDay](#)

[News](#), [MedPage Today](#), the Chicago affiliate of [ABC News](#), the Providence, RI-affiliate of [NBC News](#), the CBS affiliates in New York and Las Vegas and [Medical News Today](#) reported July 31 on a study by Dr. Anne Coleman, UCLA's Fran and Ray Stark Foundation Professor of Ophthalmology at the David Geffen School of Medicine and director of the Center for Eye Epidemiology at the Jules Stein Eye Institute. Published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, her research found that elderly people who get cataract surgery for poor vision suffer significantly less falls and hip fractures than seniors who don't undergo the procedure. The HealthDay report was syndicated by [Yahoo! News](#) and [U.S. News & World Report](#).

Neurosurgeon Solves Eye-Twitch Mystery

Dr. Neil Martin, UCLA's W. Eugene Stern Professor of Neurosurgery and chair of neurosurgery, was interviewed July 30 by [KABC-Channel 7](#) about a patient who suffered frequent eye twitches due to arteries pressing against his facial nerves. The story was also featured July 31 on [ABCNews.com](#) and other ABC affiliates, and Aug. 1 by Britain's [Daily Mail](#).

KCRW, KPCC Covers \$20 Million Stem-Cell Research Grant

Dr. Antoni Ribas, a professor of hematology/oncology and a researcher with the Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at UCLA, was interviewed July 31 about a \$20 million grant he received to fund his melanoma research on 89.9 KCRW-FM's "[Which Way L.A.?](#)" KPCC 89.3FM, [eBio News](#) and [BioCentury](#) also reported July 29 on the award.

L.A. Times Spotlights L.A. Lakers Visit to NPH

Dr. Thomas Strouse, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and medical director of the Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital (NPH), was quoted in an August 1 [Los Angeles Times](#) article about a visit to the Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital by Los Angeles Laker player Metta World Peace.

KABC-TV Explains How Meditation Helps Reduce Stress

Dr. Helen Lavretsky, professor-in-residence of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of UCLA's Late-Life Depression, Stress and Wellness Research Program, was interviewed July 26 in a [KABC-Channel 7](#) segment about the biological mechanisms behind yogic meditation's ability to reduce stress.

L.A. Times, Patch Cover CVS Partnership

The July 30 [Los Angeles Times](#) cited a UCLA/CVS agreement that appoints UCLA Health System physicians to serve as medical directors for 11 clinics at CVS pharmacy stores in Los Angeles County. Dr. David Feinberg, president of the UCLA Health System, was quoted. The July 28 editions of the Arcadia Patch, Calabasas Patch and Century City Patch and the July 29 [Montrose Patch](#) also reported the news.

L.A. Daily News Spotlights Scary Infections

The [Los Angeles Daily News](#) on July 30 featured a column by Dr. Claire Panosian Dunavan, clinical professor of medicine, division of infectious diseases, reflecting on her first 100 "Infection Files" columns.

Fighting Stigma with Photography

A [New York Times](#) blog reported July 27 on "Through Positive Eyes," a photography project partly funded by the UCLA AIDS Institute that encourages HIV-positive individuals to share their stories. Run by David Gere, UCLA professor of world arts and cultures, and photojournalist Gideon Mendel, the project operates in conjunction with the UCLA Art and Global Health Center. Gere was quoted.

Sac Bee Spotlights Rare Digestive-Tract Transplant

The [Sacramento Bee](#) reported July 27 on a patient who received a stomach and pancreas transplant due to a rare condition that makes it impossible for her body to digest food and absorb nutrients. The story also ran in [The Telegraph](#) (Macon, GA.) and [Bradenton \(FL\) Herald](#). Dr. Doug Farmer, director of intestinal transplantation, was quoted.

KPPC Addresses Conservatives' Targeting of Medicaid

Gerald Kominski, director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and a professor at the Fielding School of Public Health, was interviewed Aug. 1 on KPCC-89.3 FM's "AirTalk" about a plan by conservative Republicans in Congress to cut federal spending on Medicaid.

Web Outlets Feature Stem Cell Research

Stem cell research demonstrating that the embryonic endothelium that makes blood stem cells also can create beating heart muscle cells was featured Aug. 2 by [Examiner.com](#), [Science Daily](#), [Science Codex](#), [Laboratory Equipment](#), [Red Orbit](#), [Medical Xpress](#) and [Stem Cell Treatment](#). The study was led by Dr. Hanna Mikkola, an associate professor of molecular, cell and developmental biology in Life Sciences and a researcher with the Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at UCLA.

Online Press Explore Hope for Better Stroke Recovery

Dr. Thomas Carmichael, professor of neurology, was featured in news reports on his study finding that blocking the activity of a certain molecule in the brain after a stroke may improve and speed recovery. Coverage included July 26 in [HealthCanal.com](#); July 27 in [Examiner.com](#), [MedicalExpress.com](#), [RedOrbit.com](#), and [ScienceCodex.com](#); July 28 in [Asian News International](#), [NewstrackIndia.com](#), [Truthdive.com](#), and [ZeeNews.com](#).

Double Lung Transplant Saves Woman's Life

California's [Atascadero News](#) ran a July 27 story about a local woman with cystic fibrosis whose life was saved thanks to a double lung transplant. Her surgeon, Dr. Abbas Ardehali, professor of cardiothoracic surgery and director of the UCLA Heart and Lung transplant program, was interviewed.

Patch Highlights Kids' Fundraiser for Pediatric Cancer Research

The [Westwood-Century City Patch](#) reported July 30 that a nonprofit group called Shred Kids Cancer had raised \$10,000 to support the research of Dr. Noah Federman, assistant professor of pediatric hematology/oncology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA. The organization is run by kids who raise money through an annual Battle of the Bands contest and other events.

Examiner Profiles Clinical Trial for African American Couples

[Examiner.com](#) reported Aug. 1 that a health-risk reduction clinical trial for heterosexual African American couples affected by HIV was awarded a \$2.5 million National Institute of Mental Health grant. Gail Wyatt, professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences and an associate director of the UCLA AIDS Institute, is leading the study.

Trade Applauds Great Orthopaedic Programs

The July 26 [Becker's Hospital Review](#) named its 100 hospitals with Great Orthopedic Programs for 2012. Hospitals included on this list have orthopedic surgery departments with outstanding reputations, making them worthy of recognition. Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center was commended for its hand transplantation, bone disease, osteoporosis expertise and the fact that its orthopaedic specialists treat UCLA athletic teams.

Radio Show Discusses Raising Healthy Eaters

Dr. Natalie Digate Muth, a former pediatric resident at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA and author of "Eat Your Vegetables: And Other Mistakes Parents Make," was interviewed July 30 on the syndicated [Positive Parenting Radio](#) show to discuss how to raise healthy eaters.

BRIEFS

The August 28 [Fresno Bee](#) cited a study by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research that tracked California childhood obesity rates on a county-by-county basis.

The July 30 [Santa Monica Daily Press](#) ran a front-page photo of Dr. Ann Ryan, family medicine physician at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, performing a blood-pressure screening at a local health fair.

The Aug. 1 [Santa Monica Daily Press](#) noted UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica's participation in the 29th-annual "National Night Out" event hosted by the Santa Monica Police Department on Aug. 7.

QUOTABLE

Dr. David Baron, family medicine physician at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica and executive director of the UCLA Arthur Ashe Student Health & Wellness Center, commented July 27 in a [KNX 1070AM](#) report on a recent study about multivitamins and heart-attack risk in women.

Dr. James Cherry, professor of pediatric infectious diseases at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was interviewed July 31 on KGO 810AM (San Francisco) about the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent whooping cough.

Dr. Judith Currier, chief of infectious diseases and co-director of the UCLA CARE Center, was quoted July 27 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) article about the needs of older people with HIV/AIDS.

Rita Effros, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine and a member of the UCLA AIDS Institute, was quoted July 27 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) article about the needs of older people with HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, UCLA's Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson–UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented Aug. 1 in [HealthDay News](#) about how depression and anxiety may increase the risk of death from cardiovascular disease. He was also quoted in a July 26 [HealthDay News](#) article about how shift work might increase the risk of heart attacks.

Richard Rawson, professor of psychiatry and associate director of the Integrated Substance Abuse Programs at the Semel Institute, was quoted in an August 1 [Reuters](#) article about the efficacy of detoxification and rehabilitation programs for methamphetamine users.

Dr. Wendy Slusser, associate professor of pediatrics and medical director of Fit for Healthy Weight program at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, commented July 31 in a [KPCC 89.3FM](#) story about the language pediatricians should use when discussing a child's weight with the parent. Slusser also commented July 30 in a [San Gabriel Valley Tribune](#) article on a proposed soda tax in El Monte.

Dr. Gary Small, UCLA's Parlow–Solomon Professor on Aging and director of the Longevity Center at the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior at UCLA, was quoted in a July 31 [USA Today](#) article about the best U.S. cities for senior citizens.

Dr. Eric Vilain, professor of human genetics, urology and pediatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and director of the UCLA Center for Society and Genetics, was quoted July 26 in the [Daily Beast](#) and July 30 in the [Los Angeles Times](#) about gender testing of athletes at the Olympics.

Dr. Owen Witte, director of the Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at UCLA, was quoted Aug. 1 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) story about cancer stem cells.

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