



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT**  
**For the week of Aug. 3 - 9, 2012**

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**Brain Fitness Program Draws Headlines**

[Ivanhoe](#), [KABC-Channel 7](#), [Red Orbit](#), [Psych Central News](#), [International Business Times](#) and [Health Goes Strong](#) reported Aug. 6 and [Counsel and Health](#), [Alaska Native News](#), [Health Canal](#) and [Examiner](#) reported Aug. 4 about how using a computerized brain fitness program may improve memory and language skills in seniors. Semel Institute members Dr. Karen Miller, associate clinical professor, and Dr. Gary Small, professor of psychiatry, led the research. Miller presented the findings Aug. 3 at the American Psychological Association's annual convention. [Bioscience Technology](#) also covered the story.

### **N.Y. Times Spotlights Mistreatment of Medical Students**

A health blog in the [New York Times](#) ran an Aug. 9 column about a new study led by Joyce Fried, an assistant dean at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, illuminating the national problem of bullying of medical students by residents, fellows and faculty members. Fried was interviewed about the steps that UCLA has taken to break the cycle of abuse.

### **Retinoblastoma Study Garner Press**

Research showing that babies born to U.S.-born Latinas are at greater risk for retinoblastoma than their foreign-born counterparts was covered Aug. 6 by [La Opinion](#), [Medical News Today](#), [Medical Daily](#), [Red Orbit](#), [News-Medical.net](#), [HealthCanal.com](#), [Medical Xpress](#), [Science Codex](#), [Science Blog](#), [Armenian Medical Network](#), [Best Medical Alternatives](#), [El Silenciero](#), [Today Topics](#), [Interesting Tech](#) and [Examiner.com](#). Dr. Beate Ritz, a researcher at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, chair of epidemiology and professor of environmental health sciences in the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health; and Julia Heck, an assistant researcher in the Fielding School, led the study.

### **Film Exec Donates \$1M to UCLA Neurosurgery**

The [Hollywood Reporter](#), [Beverly Hills Courier](#) and [Deadline Hollywood](#) reported Aug. 8 on a \$1 million gift pledged to the UCLA Department of Neurosurgery by movie executive Ted Gagliano to advance Dr. Linda Liao's research on a therapeutic vaccine for glioblastoma, a deadly brain tumor. Dr. Neil Martin, chair of neurosurgery; and Liao, vice chair of neurosurgery, were quoted.

### **FOX News Explores Impact of Job Stress, Sleep on the Heart**

[KTTV-Channel 11](#) aired an Aug. 1 in-studio interview with Dr. Karol Watson, associate professor of medicine, division of cardiology, about how stressful jobs and inadequate sleep can raise the risk of heart attack, especially in women.

### **How Cataract Surgery Prevents Hip Fractures**

[Modern Medicine](#) reported Aug. 8, the [ABC-TV](#) affiliate of Sarasota, FL., reported Aug. 6, the [Times of India](#) reported Aug. 5, and [Medwire](#) reported Aug. 3 on a JAMA 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, finding that seniors who undergo cataract surgery to improve their vision also reduce their chance of hip fractures due to falls. Coleman was quoted.

### **News Column Examines AIDS Advances**

The Aug. 3 [Daily News](#), [Whittier Daily News](#) and [San Gabriel Valley Tribune](#) ran a column by Dr. Claire Panosian Dunavan, clinical professor of medicine, division of infectious diseases, examining the progress that has been made in treating HIV and AIDS during the past three decades.

### **FOX News Focuses on Firefighter Safety**

[FOX News](#) aired an Aug. 2 story on a UCLA-led project to use wireless health technologies to monitor and analyze firefighters' health risks in the field. The project is funded by Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate.

### **Prozac Could Help Fight Viral Infections**

[Live Science](#) reported Aug. 3, [Digital Journal](#) reported July 29 and [International Science Times](#) reported July 28 on a study by an interdisciplinary team of UCLA researchers showing that the commonly prescribed antidepressant Prozac may have significant antiviral properties. Dr. Paul Krogstad, professor of pediatrics and of molecular and medical pharmacology, was quoted. [Fox News](#) syndicated the Live Science story.

### **Psychiatry News Explores New Specialty**

Dr. Michael Irwin, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the Cousins Center for Psychoneuroimmunology, and Steven Cole, adjunct professor of hematology–oncology and a Cousins Center member, were featured in an August 3 [Psychiatry News](#) article about the growing field of psychoneuroimmunology.

### **Trade Profiles Nursing Dean**

[Diversity Executive Magazine](#) featured an Aug. 8 interview with Courtney Lyder, dean of the UCLA School of Nursing, on his leadership in promoting diversity in the nursing profession.

### **Web Outlet Covers Chemo Brain Study**

[HealthCanal.com](#) reported Aug. 8 on a UCLA study testing rehabilitation techniques to treat cancer survivors' "chemo brain." Dr. Patricia Ganz, director of cancer prevention and control research at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, led the research.

### **Radio Show Spotlights Face Transplant Program**

The "Jakki Price Show" on WKKB 1520AM (Buffalo, NY) interviewed Dr. Reza Jarrahy, surgical co-director of the UCLA Face Transplant program and assistant professor of plastic and reconstructive surgery, on Aug. 5 about the new face transplant program at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center.

### **Media Notes Lawsuit Against Psychiatrist**

The [Associated Press](#) and [Huffington Post](#) reported Aug. 3 on a wrongful death lawsuit filed against a UCLA psychiatrist.

### **Health Site Reports on Rapid Parkinson's Progression**

[The Mobility Project](#) ran an Aug. 3 story on research by Dr. Beate Ritz, vice chair of epidemiology and professor of neurology, finding that Parkinson's sufferers who possess two variants of a risk gene progressed faster toward motor decline than patients without these variants. Ritz was quoted.

### **QUOTABLES**

Dr. Ernest Brahn, professor of medicine, division of rheumatology, commented in an Aug. 8 [HealthDay News](#) story about a new oral medication that may soon be available for people with rheumatoid arthritis. The story also ran in [Philly.com](#) and [Examiner](#).

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented Aug. 3 in [HealthDay News](#) how nearly half of American adults have at least one heart-disease risk factor. The story was picked up by [Philly.com](#) and [U.S. News & World Report](#). He also commented Aug. 6 in [HealthDay News](#) about some blood-pressure medications' link to a small rise in lip cancer risk. The story was syndicated by [Doctors Lounge](#).

Dr. David McAllister, director of the UCLA Sports Medicine Program and professor-in-residence of orthopaedic surgery, commented in an Aug. 9 [Salon.com](#) story examining whether intense gymnastics training delays the onset of puberty.

Laurie Reyen, clinical nurse specialist at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, commented Aug. 2 in the [Ventura County Star](#) about a young woman with a rare disease that prevents her body from processing food and absorbing nutrients.

Dr. Sammy Saab, associate professor of medicine and surgery, was quoted July 19 by [Medscape](#) about a clinical trial showing that milk thistle does not affect liver enzymes or viral load in patients with hepatitis C.

Dr. A. Nick Shamie, associate professor of orthopaedic surgery, was quoted Aug. 9 in an [Everyday Health](#) article about causes of neck pain and how to treat it.

Dr. Karol Watson, associate professor of cardiology, commented Aug. 7 in a [KABC-Channel 7](#) report about a condition that causes some people to produce extremely elevated cholesterol levels.

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