



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of Aug. 5 - 11, 2011**

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Formerly Conjoined Twins' Milestone Birthday Draws Headlines

The tenth birthday of formerly conjoined twins Maria de Jesus and Maria Teresa Quiej-Alvarez, who were separated during a 23-hour surgery at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA in 2002, was covered Aug. 15 by the [CBS Early Show](#), [People](#) and [EFE](#), and Aug. 6 by [Associated Press](#). Lead surgeons Dr. Jorge Lazareff, professor of pediatric neurosurgery, and Dr. Henry Kawamoto, professor of plastic surgery, were quoted. Additional coverage included stories in the [Los Angeles Times](#), [OK! Magazine](#) (U.K.), [Daily Mail](#)

(U.K.) [Hispanically Speaking News](#), [KCBS-Channel 2](#), [KNBC-Channel 4](#), [KABC-Channel 7](#), [KCAL-Channel 9](#), [KTTV-Channel 11](#), [KCOP-Channel 13](#) and [KMEX-Channel 34](#). The AP report and local coverage was picked up by hundreds of news outlets nationwide. Lazareff was also interviewed Aug. 11 by [W Radio 690AM](#).

HealthDay, L.A. Times Highlights Frequent Glaucoma Testing

The [Los Angeles Times](#)' health blog reported Aug. 9 and [HealthDay News](#) reported Aug. 8 on research by Dr. Kouros Nouri-Mahdavi, assistant professor of ophthalmology at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, finding that screening glaucoma patients twice a year results in earlier detection of disease progression than annual testing. The *Archives of Ophthalmology* study was also covered Aug. 10 by [Becker's ASC Review](#) and [ContactLenses.com](#) (U.K.), Aug. 9 by [MedIndia](#) and [Medical News Today](#) and Aug. 8 by [Red Orbit](#). The Times story was syndicated in the Baltimore Sun, Hartford Courant, Florida's Sun-Sentinel and more. The HealthDay report also appeared in [Yahoo News](#), [U.S. News & World Report](#), [Newsday](#), [MSN](#), [Medline Plus](#) and many others.

Reuters TV Spotlights Saliva Test for Age

Reuters TV released an Aug. 9 story about a PLOS One study by Dr. Eric Vilain and former UCLA geneticist Sven Bocklandt that can accurately predict a person's age by testing their saliva. The story aired on [Reuters America](#), [Reuters U.K.](#) and [Ariang News](#) (Korea). Online news coverage included Aug. 9 reports by [World News Corner](#), [Punto Medio](#) (Mexico), [Dunya News](#) (Pakistan), [Pintu Dunia](#) blog (Indonesia) and [Malayalam](#) (India). Vilain is a professor of human genetics, pediatrics and urology at the David Geffen School of Medicine and director of the UCLA Center for Society and Genetics.

Media Investigate Why Humans Can't Grow New Hearts

[Science Blog](#), [KPCC](#), [United Press International](#), [Science Daily](#), [Examiner.com](#), [Dalje.com](#), [e! Science News](#), [RedOrbit.com](#) and [Asian News International](#) reported Aug. 9 and [HealthCanal.com](#) and [MassDevice.com](#) reported Aug. 11 about research led by Dr. Robb MacLellan, associate professor of cardiology and physiology and a researcher at UCLA's Broad Stem Cell Research Center. His team showed for the first time why humans lack the ability to regenerate damaged heart muscle. The [news blog](#) for the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine, the state's stem cell agency, also reported the findings.

Voice of America Explores the Brain's Limits

Dean Buonomano, professor of neurobiology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a member of the UCLA Brain Research Institute, and his book, "Brain Bugs," were profiled in an Aug. 9 radio segment by [Voice of America](#). The book describes how the brain's inherent flaws can affect our lives.

NPR Reports on Birth Control Coverage

Dr. Linda Rosenstock, dean of the School of Public Health, was interviewed August 4 on NPR's "[Talk of the Nation](#)" about federal approval of recommendations made by an Institute of Medicine panel she chaired. Insurers are required to cover birth control and other women's preventive health services without co-payment under the health care reform law.

Dallas Morning News Explains Chemo Brain

A UCLA study on the post-chemotherapy condition known as "chemo brain" covered Aug. 8 by the [Dallas Morning News](#). The research was led by Dr. Patricia Ganz, director of cancer prevention and control research at UCLA's Jonsson Cancer Center, and by Dr. Daniel Silverman, an associate professor of molecular and medical pharmacology and a Jonsson Cancer Center scientist.

KCRW Illuminates Schizophrenia

Dr. Stephen Marder, professor of psychiatry and director of the psychosis section at the Semel Institute, was interviewed in an Aug. 8 KCRW-89.9 "[Which Way, L.A.?](#)" segment about the beating death of Kelly Thomas, a homeless man who suffered from schizophrenia.

AP Covers Boy's Close Call with Drowning

Associated Press reported [Aug. 10](#) and [Aug. 11](#) about a young boy who survived after being swept away by a rip-tide. The stories quoted Dr. Mark Morocco, associate clinical professor of medicine and associate residency director of emergency medicine.

Fighting HIV in Young Black Men

The [New York Times](#) ran an Aug. 11 op-ed by Vickie Mays, professor of health services in the School of Public Health and director of the UCLA Center for Research, Education, Training and Strategic Communication on Minority Health Disparities. She addressed how sex education and intervention programs can potentially lower the incidence of HIV among young gay African-American men.

How Synthetic Fat Could Aid Heart-Attack Victims

Research by lead author Dr. Siamak Rahman, associate professor of anesthesiology, that was performed in the laboratory of senior author Dr. Mansoureh Eghbali, assistant professor of anesthesiology, demonstrated that a man-made fat called Intralipid may help limit cardiac damage and preserve heart function when administered to heart attack victims. Reports ran in the Aug. 6 [Asian News International](#), the Aug. 6 [Red Orbit](#) and [Science Daily](#), the Aug. 10 [Angina.com](#) and Aug. 8 [Top News New Zealand](#) and [Top News U.S.](#) blogs. The ANI story ran on websites for New Kerala News and the Times of India.

Column Addresses Illnesses Caused by Rats, Mice

The Aug. 6 [Los Angeles Daily News](#) ran a column by Dr. Claire Panosian Dunavan, clinical professor of medicine, division of infectious diseases., about rodent-borne infections.

Student Health Fair Touted by Examiner

[Examiner.com](#) reported Aug. 9 about a back-to-school health fair sponsored by the UCLA/Drew University chapter of the Student National Medical Association. The Sept. 10 event will offer free vision screenings by the UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic, a community outreach program of the Jules Stein Eye Institute.

Health Site Features Memory Expert

An Aug. 9 [Health News Daily](#) story about how exercise helps preserve memory included commentary by Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging, a professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Longevity Center.

NPR-Affiliate Looks into Technology Overload

National Public Radio-affiliate [WNPR](#) (Conn) reported Aug. 5 on technology's impact on the brain and interviewed Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging, a professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior at UCLA and director of the UCLA Longevity Center. He was also cited Aug. 10 in a related story by the news blog [Mashable](#).

Alzheimer's Website Profiles Student Organization

An Aug. 5 [Alzheimer's Research Forum News](#) story featured the Universal Gerontology and Alzheimer's Disease Awareness (UGADA), a UCLA student organization dedicated to promoting awareness of Alzheimer's disease and elder issues among high school and college students. The organization plans to expand its network to student organizations across the country. Students Shadee Giurgius and Shweta Balakrishnan were quoted.

BRIEFS

Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA was cited Aug. 9 in a [Jewish Journal](#) story about a 5 month-old-baby being evaluated for an undiagnosed condition.

Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA was referenced Aug. 5 in a [Banning-Beaumont Patch](#) article about a boy who shaved his head to show support for his buddy undergoing chemotherapy treatment at UCLA.

A study by Dr. Helen Lavretsky, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was cited August 9 by the [Ventura County Star](#) about the benefits of tai chi for senior citizens who struggle with late-life depression.

QUOTABLES

Dr. David Baron, family medicine physician and former chief of staff, commented in a July 29 KNX AM1070 report about the Food and Drug Administration's fast-track approval process for medical devices.

Anthony Butch, director of the UCLA Olympic Analytical Laboratory and a professor of pathology and laboratory medicine, commented Aug. 5 in the [Los Angeles Times](#) and Aug. 9 in the online edition of [FOX Sports](#) about plans by the National Football League to test players' blood for human growth hormone.

Dr. Ian Cook, the Miller Family Professor of Psychiatry and director of the depression research program at the Semel Institute, was quoted Aug. 5 by the [Inland Valley Daily Bulletin](#) about research showing that a commonly prescribed medication for post-traumatic stress disorder may be ineffective.

Dr. Donald Kohn, professor of pediatrics and microbiology, immunology and molecular genetics, was quoted Aug. 10 in [The Scientist](#) about new research that engineered patients' own T-cells to recognize leukemia cell antigens, and then kill the cancer cells.

Dr. John DiFiori, chief of sports medicine in the family medicine department, was quoted Aug. 9 in an [MSNBC.com](#) story about the deaths of two New York City triathlon competitors.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented Aug. 10 in [HealthDay](#) News about a study suggesting that women face greater heart risk from smoking than men.

Dr. Peter Katona, clinical professor of medicine, division of infectious diseases, commented in an Aug. 9 [Lifescript](#) story about summer water safety, including how to avoid bacteria in the water.

William McCarthy, professor of health services at the School of Public Health, was quoted in an Aug. 8 [Orange County Register](#) column offering tips on safe and healthy meat-grilling.

Carrie Miceli, professor of microbiology, immunology and molecular genetics and co-director of UCLA's Center for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, commented Aug. 5 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) article about the ouster of comedian Jerry Lewis as host of the Muscular Dystrophy Association's annual telethon.

Dr. Aurelia Nattiv, professor of family medicine and orthopaedic surgery and director of the UCLA Osteoporosis Center, was quoted Aug. 5 in an online [Readers Digest](#) article about the risks of taking calcium supplements to prevent osteoporosis. The article appears in the September print issue.

Richard Rawson, professor of psychiatry and associate director of the Integrated Substance Abuse Programs at the Semel Institute, was quoted in an August 8 [McClatchy-Tribune Business News](#) article about methamphetamine addiction.

Dr. Gary Schiller, a professor of hematology/oncology and a researcher with UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, commented Aug. 11 in the [Los Angeles Times](#) about two studies on engineering the body's immune system to fight leukemia. The story also appeared in the [International Business Times](#),

Dr. Jeffrey Schwartz, a research psychiatrist at the Semel Institute, was quoted in an August 7 [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#) column about sex scandals among politicians.

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