



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT  
For the week of Aug. 10 - 16, 2012**

Note: Website links may expire without notice. Some sites require password registration. If you cannot access a story or would like to obtain a copy, please call 310.794.0777.

---

---

**Walnuts Boosting Male Fertility Draws Headlines**

**Research Showing Meditation Can Relieve Loneliness Garners Coverage**

**Media Report UCLA's First Aortic Valve Replacement without Open Heart Surgery**

**Pertussis Expert Speaks Out on Whopping Cough Vaccine Failures**

**Expert Tapped to Explain Bipolar Disorder**

**NPR Explores Acid Reflux**

**Local NPR Station Explores Paul Ryan and the Republican Campaign**

**LA Times Covers Blue Shield UCLA Agreement**

**PBS Chronicles Launch of Caregiver Support Group**

**Double Organ Transplant Story Makes Headlines**

**American Medical News Spotlights Bullying Culture in Medical Schools**

**Retinoblastoma Study Continues to Garner Headlines**

**Daily Forward Explores Gaucher's Link to Parkinson's**

**New Medical Building Draws Attention from Architectural Record**

**Melanoma Study Featured on Web News Sites**

**UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic Provides Free Exams**

**Pulmonologist Pens Column on Nasal Congestion**

**Doctor Discusses Kids' Breathing Issues**

**Trade Magazine Spotlights Operation Mend**

**Local Radio Station Discusses Mental Illness in the Black Community**

**Health Blog Cites Ovarian Cancer Study**

**Montreal Gazette Covers Nanoparticle Research**

## **Blog Explores How Fructose Disrupts Memory, Learning**

### **BRIEFS**

### **QUOTABLES**

---

#### **Walnuts Boosting Male Fertility Draws Headlines**

A UCLA study on the impact of walnuts on male fertility was covered Aug. 15 by [WebMD](#), [KCBS-Channel 2 \(KCBS Online Article\)](#), [Science Daily](#), Reuters and [Daily Mail \(U.K\)](#); and Aug. 16 by a [CBS News](#) blog, a [BBC News](#) blog, [Asian News International](#), [Agence France-Presse](#), Britain's [Press Association](#) and Good Day Sacramento. Wendie Robbins, a professor at the UCLA School of Nursing and UCLA Fielding School of Public Health was quoted in the coverage.

#### **Research Showing Meditation Can Relieve Loneliness Garner Coverage**

A UCLA study showing that practicing meditation helped seniors reduce feelings of loneliness and led to a decrease in the expression of genes associated with chronic inflammation received wide coverage, including July 28 in the [Huffington Post](#); Aug. 13 on [KPCC-89.3 FM](#); Aug. 14 in [ScienceDaily.com](#), [MedicalExpress.com](#), [Scienceblog.com](#) and [Sciencecodex.com](#); and Aug. 15 in the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#), [Yahoo! News](#), [PsychCentral.com](#), [NewsMedical.net](#), [Asian News International](#), [RedOrbit.com](#) and [MedicalDaily.com](#). Study authors Steve Cole, professor of medicine and psychiatry at the Semel Institute and a member of the Cousins Center for Psychoneuroimmunology and Dr. Michael Irwin, professor of psychiatry and the director of the Cousins Center, were featured in the coverage. The Daily Mail article also cited a previous study on meditation by Dr. Helen Lavretsky, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute.

#### **Media Report UCLA's First Aortic Valve Replacement without Open Heart Surgery**

[Yahoo News](#), [CNBC.com](#), [Healthcare Industry Today](#), [International Business Times](#), [Los Angeles Business Journal](#), [Health Canal](#), [Digital Journal](#), [Pharmaceutical Industry Today](#), [Science Daily](#), [News Blaze](#), [Bio-Medicine](#), and websites for television outlets across the country including [KAZT-TV \(AZ\)](#), [KOTV \(OK\)](#), [KMPH-TV \(Fresno\)](#), [KSTP-TV \(MN\)](#), [KPTV \(OR\)](#), [WAVE-TV \(KY\)](#), and [WHTM-TV \(PA\)](#) among others, reported Aug. 15 and [Examiner](#), [Medical Express](#) and [ZeeNews](#) reported Aug. 16 on Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center performing its first minimally-invasive aortic valve replacement for patients who are not candidates for open-heart surgery. Dr. Jonathan Tobis, clinical professor of cardiology and director of interventional cardiology and Dr. Richard Shemin, chief of cardiothoracic surgery, were quoted in the coverage.

#### **Pertussis Expert Speaks Out on Whooping Cough Vaccine Failures**

[KPBS San Diego](#) and [Investigative Newsource \(I-NewsSource\)](#) reported Aug. 15 on new research that shows the current whooping cough vaccine is failing at a higher rate than expected. Dr. James Cherry, professor of pediatric infectious diseases, was interviewed. In addition, Cherry authored an article about the resurgence of whooping cough published Aug. 15 in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#) that was reported on by [MyHealthNewsDaily](#) and [Consumer Reports](#). The MyHealthNews article was syndicated by [Fox News](#) and [Yahoo News](#).

#### **Expert Tapped to Explain Bipolar Disorder**

David J. Miklowitz, professor of psychiatry and director of the Child and Adolescent Mood Disorders Program at the Semel Institute, was interviewed August 14 on KFI-640 AM's Bill Carroll show and in a San Francisco [Examiner](#) blog, and August 15 in the [Los Angeles Times](#) about Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr.'s diagnosis of bipolar disorder. Miklowitz explained what the disorder is and how it is treated.

#### **NPR Explores Acid Reflux**

[NPR's](#) Morning Edition featured an Aug. 13 interview with Dr. Kevin Ghassemi, clinical programs director for the UCLA Center for Esophageal Disorders, about drinks that can cause acid reflux, including alcohol.

#### **Local NPR Station Explores Paul Ryan and the Republican Campaign**

Dylan Roby, director of the Health Economics and Evaluation Research Program at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, and an assistant professor at the Fielding School of Public Health, was interviewed in an August 13 KPCC-89.3 FM's "AirTalk" segment about Rep. Paul Ryan's stance on Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act, Social Security and the overall role of the federal government.

### **LA Times Covers Blue Shield UCLA Agreement**

The [Los Angeles Times](#) reported Aug. 10 that a contract dispute between the UCLA Health System and health insurer Blue Shield of California over reimbursement rates for medical services has been resolved.

### **PBS Chronicles Launch of Caregiver Support Group**

The Aug. 8 [PBS nextavenue](#) chronicled the journey of Patti Davis, daughter of former president Ronald Reagan, and how she coped with her father's battle with Alzheimer's disease that ultimately led her to reach out to the UCLA hospitals with the offer of launching a support group for caregivers, friends and loved ones of people with dementia called "Beyond Alzheimer's." Davis is a co-facilitator for both groups, with help in Westwood from UCLA geriatric psychiatrist Linda Ercoli, and in Santa Monica from UCLA neuroscientist Xavier Cagigas, both cited in the article.

### **Double Organ Transplant Story Makes Headlines**

The Compton Bulletin featured Aug. 15 and the [Examiner](#) and [Medical Daily](#) featured Aug. 10 the story of a 32-year-old Compton woman who recently underwent a risky, yet successful, heart and kidney transplant. Her medical team was cited including Dr. David Ross, professor of pulmonology and medical director of the UCLA Lung Transplant Program; Dr. Daniel Cruz, clinical instructor of cardiology; Dr. Richard Shemin, professor and chief of cardiothoracic surgery; and Dr. H. Albin Gritsch, associate professor of urology.

### **American Medical News Spotlights Bullying Culture in Medical Schools**

An Aug. 13 blog in [American Medical News](#) about widespread verbal and physical harassment of medical students by senior physicians and residents at U.S. medical schools cited the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA as a leader in anti-bullying programs and policies and highlighted research by Joyce Fried, assistant dean and co-director of continuing medical education. Fried was quoted.

### **Retinoblastoma Study Continues to Garner Headlines**

[Today's Topic](#) on Aug. 10 [The Imperial Valley News](#) on Aug. 12 and the [Desert Sun](#) on Aug. 13 highlighted research that showed babies born to U.S.-born Latinas are at greater risk for retinoblastoma than their foreign-born counterparts. The study was done by Dr. Beate Ritz, a researcher at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and professor and 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.

### **Daily Forward Explores Gaucher's Link to Parkinson's**

Ted Meyer, artist-in-residence at the David Geffen School of Medicine, was featured in an Aug. 16 article by the [Jewish Daily Forward](#), about the possible link between Parkinson's disease and Gaucher disease, an inherited metabolic disorder.

### **New Medical Building Draws Attention from Architectural Record**

The August edition of [Architectural Record](#) features a story and photos about the new UCLA Medical Building on the Santa Monica campus. Richard Azar, director of real estate, design and construction for UCLA Health System, was quoted in the article.

### **Melanoma Study Featured on Web News Sites**

[News-Medical.net](#), [Examiner.com](#) and [San Diego Health](#) featured research by Dr. Antoni Ribas and Dr. Richard Koya that found pairing a BRAF inhibitor with immunotherapy boosted anti-tumor activity in an animal model of metastatic melanoma. Ribas is a professor of hematology/oncology and Koya is an assistant professor of surgical oncology. Both are members of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

### **UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic Provides Free Exams**

The [Whittier Daily News](#) reported Aug. 15 on UCLA's Mobile Eye Clinic, operated by the Jules Stein Eye Institute at UCLA, which recently issued free eye exams and prescription glasses to 30 low-income children in Whittier, Calif.

### **Pulmonologist Pens Column on Nasal Congestion**

Dr. Gerard Frank, internal medicine specialist and pulmonologist at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica and director of the UCLA Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program, authored a column on nasal congestion in the Aug. 3 [Santa Monica Mirror](#).

### **Doctor Discusses Kids' Breathing Issues**

The nationally syndicated radio show, "[Positive Parenting](#)" interviewed Aug. 13 Dr. Nina Shapiro, director of pediatric otolaryngology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA and associate professor of head and neck surgery, for a segment on common breathing issues experienced by children.

### **Trade Magazine Spotlights Operation Mend**

The Aug. 9 edition of Franchise Essentials Magazine gave the spotlight to Operation Mend, a partnership between UCLA, Brooke Army Medical Center and the V.A. that provides surgical, mental health and other medical services to wounded warriors returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

### **Local Radio Station Discusses Mental Illness in the Black Community**

Joshua Grill, director of education for the Mary S. Easton Center for Alzheimer's Disease Research, was part of an August 15 panel discussion on KTYM-1460 AM about mental illness in the Black community.

### **Health Blog Cites Ovarian Cancer Study**

[Health, Medical and Pharmacy News](#) on Aug. 11 highlighted a study by Dr. Oliver Dorigo that tested an experimental drug against ovarian cancer. Dorigo is an assistant professor of gynecologic oncology and a researcher with UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

### **Montreal Gazette Covers Nanoparticle Research**

The [Montreal Gazette](#) on Aug. 11 featured research by Dr. Robert Schiestl on nanoparticles commonly used in household products that may damage DNA. Schiestl is a professor of pathology and laboratory medicine, radiation oncology and environmental health services and a researcher with UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

### **Blog Explores How Fructose Disrupts Memory, Learning**

A rat study by Fernando Gomez-Pinilla, professor of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, showing how a high-fructose diet can slow the brain and hamper learning was highlighted Aug. 15 on the [Melting Mama](#) blog.

## **BRIEFS**

UCLA's Heart Transplant program was cited Aug. 12 in a [Visalia Times Delta](#) article about a man who underwent a heart transplant and is making a remarkable recovery.

## **QUOTABLES**

Dr. George Bartzokis, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was quoted in an August 9 [ABCNews.com](#) article about the use of a prescription drug for cancer to treat Alzheimer's disease.

Dr. Christopher Cooper, professor of medicine and physiology and director of the Clinical Exercise Physiology Laboratory, commented in the Sept. issue of Vegetarian Times about a study showing how exercise and physical activity lowers stress and anxiety.

Anne Coscarelli, director of the Simms/Mann-UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted Aug. 11 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) story about addressing cultural issues surrounding a cancer diagnosis among the Vietnamese community.

Dr. Mark DeAntonio, clinical professor of psychiatry and director of adolescent inpatient services at the Semel Institute, was quoted in an August 12 [New York Post](#) article about a book written by the father of a child treated at UCLA who was diagnosed with childhood-onset schizophrenia.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented in an Aug. 9 [HealthDay News](#) story, also picked up by [Doctor's Lounge](#), on a study showing that the cardiac benefits of statin medications outweigh any increased risk of developing diabetes. He also commented in an Aug. 14 [HealthDay News](#) article that also ran on [Doctor's Lounge](#) about research showing that certain blood types may increase individuals' risk of heart disease. He was also quoted in an Aug. 15 [HealthDay News](#) story, also picked up by [Philly.com](#), about research suggesting that eating egg yolks is as harmful to your arteries as smoking.

Dr. Peter Galier, internal medicine specialist at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica and associate professor of medicine, commented in an Aug. 7 [WebMD](#) story about a possible link between blood-pressure drugs and lip cancer. He also was quoted in a July 27 [HealthDay.com](#) article about the dangers of self-diagnosis via the Internet.

Dr. Christopher Giza, associate professor of neurosurgery and pediatric neurology, and a member of the UCLA Brain Injury Research Center, was quoted in an Aug. 14 ABC [Good Morning America](#) segment about actress Kristin Chenoweth, who is not returning to work after suffering a blow to her head. Giza commented on the danger involved in returning too soon to activity after a traumatic brain injury.

Dr. Sharon Hame, professor of orthopaedic surgery, was quoted Aug. 10 in a [TakePart.com](#) story about an Olympic runner who finished the race despite breaking a leg during the event.

Dr. Edmond Hewlett, associate professor at the UCLA School of Dentistry, commented Aug. 15 in a [HealthDay News](#) article that also ran in [U.S. News & World Report](#) about poor oral health among adults with developmental disabilities.

Courtney Lyder, dean of the UCLA School of Nursing, was quoted Aug. 15 in the [New York Times](#) about the correlation between bedsores and dysfunctional nursing staff.

Dr. A. Nick Shamie, associate professor of orthopaedic surgery, was quoted Aug. 10 in an [Outside](#) magazine article exploring whether sitting on an exercise ball at work is good for one's back.

Jerome Siegel, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and a member of the UCLA Brain Research Institute, was quoted in an Aug. 9 [New Scientist](#) article about the sleep habits of sandpiper birds. Siegel cited research suggesting that sleep evolved as a way for animals to conserve energy.

Dr. Neil Wenger, director of UCLA Health System Ethics Center and professor of general internal medicine, was quoted in an August edition of [Medical Ethics Advisor](#) on the ethical implication of the Supreme Court's ruling upholding the Affordable Care Act.

Dr. Frisca Yan-Go, professor of neurology and medical director of the UCLA Sleep Disorders Center, was quoted in an Aug. 13 [ABC News.com](#) article about how excessive snoring in toddlers may be linked to behavioral issues later on.

---

UCLA's Health Sciences Media Relations office e-publishes this report weekly. For more information, please call Roxanne Moster, director of UCLA Health Sciences Media Relation, or Rachel Champeau, assistant director, at 310-794-0777. Our office also offers publicity for new research, medical

breakthroughs, clinical trial recruitment, inspirational patient stories and more. To identify the appropriate public information officer for your department, visit [www.uclahealth.org/mediacontacts](http://www.uclahealth.org/mediacontacts).