CBS, KNBC Examine Autism among Siblings

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Reuters Cites Breast Cancer Fatigue Study

Daily News Explores Spinal Cord Injuries

Magazine Spotlights Deep Brain Stimulation

Xinhua News Covers Televised Liver Surgery

AOL’s Patch Chronicles Donation to Blood Center

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BRIEFS

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CBS, KNBC Examine Autism among Siblings

CBS’ “Early Show” aired an Aug. 15 segment and KNBC-Channel 4 broadcast a report Aug. 15 and Aug. 16 on new research suggesting that a baby born into a family with an older autistic sibling has a 19 times higher chance of also developing autism. Ted Hutman, an assistant professor of psychiatry and principal investigator for the site at UCLA’s Semel Institute, was interviewed about the findings and their significance for parents. A CBS NewsPath story on the study also aired on more than 130 CBS affiliate stations nationwide.
Wall Street Journal Spotlights Artificial Kidney
The Wall Street Journal reported Aug. 16 on a portable, wearable artificial kidney designed by Martin Roberts, assistant professor of clinical medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a dialysis consultant with the Veterans Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, and David Lee, professor of medicine at UCLA and a consulting nephrologist at the VA.

Reuters Notes Silence is Golden during Eye Injections
Reuters Health reported Aug. 11, Beckers ASC Review reported Aug. 12 and EyeDoc News reported Aug. 15 on an Archives of Ophthalmology study by Dr. Colin McCannel, associate professor of ophthalmology at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, suggesting that eye surgeons should wear masks or refrain from speaking when injecting a drug into the eye. Bacteria found in saliva can enter the injection site, causing infection and potential blindness.

N.Y. Times Explores HIV Race Gap
Chandra Ford, assistant professor of community health sciences at the School of Public Health, and Vickie Mays, professor of psychology and health services, had separate articles in an Aug. 10 op-ed section of the New York Times addressing the urgent need to reduce HIV infection among black gay men.

L.A. Times Explains Restaurant Grading
Dr. Jonathan Fielding, professor of health services at the School of Public Health, was featured in an August 16 Los Angeles Times article finding that the number of Los Angeles County residents hospitalized with food-borne illnesses fell in the year after a restaurant grading system was introduced.

Boomers’ Poor Prep for Long-Term Care Draws Headlines
A survey conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the School of Public Health and the SCAN Foundation found that a majority of California residents are unprepared to pay for long-term health care. News coverage included an Aug. 15 Los Angeles Times editorial; Aug. 16 articles in Consumer Affairs and Inland News Today; an Aug. 17 segment on KNSD-TV (San Diego), and Aug. 18 articles in the Sacramento Bee and Examiner.

Reuters Cites Breast Cancer Fatigue Study
Reuters reported Aug. 10 on a study led by Julienne Bower, a researcher with UCLA’s Jonsson Cancer Center and an associate professor at the Cousins Center for Psychoneuroimmunology, finding that nearly two-thirds of recently treated breast cancer patients suffer from fatigue and poor sleep quality.

Daily News Explores Spinal Cord Injuries
The Aug. 15 Los Angeles Daily News ran a column by Dr. Claire Panosian Dunavan, clinical professor of medicine, division of infectious diseases, about patients with spinal cord injuries.

Magazine Spotlights Deep Brain Stimulation
Dr. Antonio De Salles, professor of neurosurgery and radiation oncology and head of the stereotactic surgery section, and his research on deep brain stimulation to treat Parkinson’s disease, essential tremors and dystonia, were featured in the summer issue of Aging Well magazine. He was quoted.

Xinhua News Covers Televised Liver Surgery
China’s Xinhua News Agency reported Aug. 17 on the live video-conferencing broadcast of two complicated liver surgeries performed in a Chinese medical center to surgeons watching at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center. The Chinese hospital signed an agreement with UCLA to cooperate on liver disease research. Dr. Ronald Busuttil, professor and executive chair of surgery, was quoted.

AOL’s Patch Chronicles Donation to Blood Center
A check presentation ceremony for a combined gift of $30,000 by a private donor and Volkswagen of America to the UCLA Blood and Platelet Center was covered Aug. 16 by the Westwood-Century City and Calabasas editions of AOL’s Patch. The center will use the money to buy a new truck to carry out mobile blood collection at community blood drives and donation sites throughout the Los Angeles area.
Ohio Paper Uncovers Gambling Addiction
Dr. Timothy Fong, associate professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and co-director of the Gambling Studies Program, was featured in an August 15 Toledo Blade (Ohio) article about his pioneering efforts to study the causes of pathological gambling, and to develop treatments for addicts.

Chinese Paper Spotlights National Children’s Study
The World Journal, the largest U.S. Chinese-language daily newspaper, reported Aug. 13 on the National Children’s Study, which aims to gather research on how environmental factors affect child health. Dr. Michael Lu, lead investigator for the study’s local center and associate professor of obstetrics/gynecology, was quoted.

Web Sites Feature Stem Cell Research
UCLA research that studied the nature of human pluripotent stem cells was featured Aug. 17 on the CIRM News Blog and Aug. 18 by Science Daily and RedOrbit.com. William Lowry, assistant professor of molecular, cell and development biology and a researcher with the Broad Stem Cell Research Center, led the study.

Health Website Highlights Allergy/Asthma Expert
A June 14 Lifescript article on the connection between allergies and asthma featured an extensive interview with Dr. Marc Riedl, assistant clinical professor of clinical immunology and allergy, who discussed misconceptions, diagnostics and treatments.

BRIEFS

KTTV-Channel 11 reported Aug. 12 about a UCLA Blood & Platelet Center community drive in Beverly Hills that collected blood donations that day for Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center.

An Aug. 16 Sacramento Bee article about California's Health Benefit Exchange, a new marketplace for health care plans with subsidies for lower-income residents, cites a study by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research estimating the number of state residents that will receive coverage through the exchange and other provisions of the health care reform law.

Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA was cited in the summer issue of Children’s Hospitals Today magazine in a story about elected officials' visits to pediatric hospitals. The article included a photo of Wendy Greuel, Los Angeles city controller, and Paul Koretz, Los Angeles city councilman, who attended a March ribbon-cutting ceremony for the hospital's Chase Child Life department.

A study by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the School of Public Health was cited in an August 17 KSEE-TV (Fresno) news segment showing that California teenagers who live or attend school in areas with high concentrations of junk-food outlets are more likely to consume fast food and soda, which have been linked to obesity and diabetes.

The UCLA Olympic Analytical Laboratory was cited Aug. 18 in a New York Times story about the first professional baseball player to test positive for human growth hormone, a banned performance-enhancing drug.

QUOTABLES

Dr. Alexander Bystritsky, professor of psychiatry and director of the anxiety disorders program at the Semel Institute, was quoted Aug. 2 by MedScape Today about the physiological precursors to a panic attack.

Dr. Bruce Dobkin, professor of neurology and program director of the neurologic rehabilitation and research program, was quoted Aug. 11 by a CNN health blog about a new device called “electronic skin” that attaches to your own skin and measures vital signs.
Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson–UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented Aug. 15 in HealthDay News about research linking TV-viewing and a shortened lifespan. He was also quoted Aug. 16 by HealthDay News about a study indicating that hidden fat around the heart is a strong indicator of cardiac disease risk.

Dr. Daniel Geschwind, professor of neurology, human genetics and psychiatry, commented Aug. 15 in the Los Angeles Times about new research suggesting that a baby born into a family with an older autistic sibling has a 19 percent higher risk of also developing autism. The international study was carried out at 12 sites, including one at UCLA’s Semel Institute, which was led by Ted Hutman, an assistant professor of psychiatry.

Dr. Michael Irwin, director of the Cousins Center for Psychoneuroimmunology and professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was quoted Aug. 4 by CNN.com about presidential stress and its effect on aging.

Dr. Harvey Karp, assistant professor of pediatrics, was quoted Aug. 12 in a Salt Lake Tribune story about Gymboree Play & Music, which offers classes for parents and toddlers.

Dr. Carlos Lerner, assistant professor of pediatrics and medical director of the children’s health center at Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA, was quoted Aug. 15 in the Los Angeles Times about the potential harm of germs found on playgrounds inside fast-food restaurants.

Dr. Michael Lu, associate professor of obstetrics/gynecology, was quoted Aug. 16 in Diverse about a partnership with the University of Wisconsin to reduce black infant deaths.

Dr. Antoni Ribas, professor of hematology/oncology and a researcher with UCLA’s Jonsson Cancer Center, commented Aug. 17 in Family Practice News about a new drug approved for the treatment of advanced melanoma.

Dr. Sammy Saab, associate professor of medicine and surgery and assistant professor of nursing, was interviewed Aug. 7 on a KPWR 105.9FM report about raising community awareness of chronic hepatitis.

Michael Strober, professor of psychiatry and director of the eating disorders program at the Semel Institute, was quoted Aug. 17 on a CBS “Early Show” story about a former UCLA gymnast who battled eating disorders for two years after she was no longer doing gymnastics.

Yifang Zhu, professor of environmental health sciences at the School of Public Health, was quoted Aug. 11 by the Sacramento Bee about the notable drop in air pollution during the recent 36-hour closure of the 405 freeway.

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