



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of Aug. 21 - 27, 2009**

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Tech Site Covers Laboratory on a Microchip

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A.P. Spotlights Social Skills Class for Autistic Teens

The Associated Press reported Aug. 21 about a UCLA class that helps teens with autism spectrum disorders learn how to make friends. The class was designed by Dr. Elizabeth Laugeson, clinical instructor of psychiatry and director of the Help Group-UCLA Autism Research Alliance. She was quoted in the report, which appeared on the online editions of ABC News, NPR, MSNBC, Forbes, the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, USA Today and others. An AP video report also covered the course.

“Autistic Teens Master Social Cues, Find Friends”

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2009/08/21/us/AP-US-Autistic-Friendships.html>

Obesity’s Link to Smaller Brains Draws Headlines

Research by Paul Thompson, professor of neurology and a member of the Laboratory of Neuro Imaging, finding that regions of the brain involved in memory and planning are smaller in overweight and obese people was covered Aug. 21 by the Daily Mail (U.K.); Aug. 23 by New Scientist; Aug. 25 by the Los Angeles Times health blog, Daily Breeze, HealthDay News, New York Daily News, KGO AM 810 (San Francisco), and KPBS 89.5 FM (San Diego); Aug. 26 by USA Today; Aug. 26 by Der Spiegel (Germany), as well as multiple Fox TV affiliates and European news outlets. The HealthDay report appeared on the websites for U.S. News & World Report, MSN and Yahoo News.

“Expanding Waistlines may Cause Shrinking Brains”

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg20327222.400-expanding-waistlines-may-cause-shrinking-brains.html>

“Extreme Obesity Can Shorten People's Lives by 12 years”

http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/weightloss/2009-08-25-obesity-lifespan_N.htm

“Obesity Linked to Brain Shrinkage, Erectile Dysfunction”

http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/booster_shots/2009/08/obesity-linked-to-brain-shrinkage-erectile-dysfunction.html

“Obesity can be a Drain on the Brain”

http://www.dailybreeze.com/ci_13201917

Women’s Magazine Hails Cancer Researcher as a Top Doc

Dr. Helena Chang, director of the Revlon/UCLA Breast Center and a researcher with UCLA’s Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was featured in the September issue of Ladies Home Journal as one of six top female doctors. She offered tips for reducing breast cancer risk.

“Everyday Health Tips from 6 Top Docs”

<http://www.lhj.com/health/news/health-advice-from-top-doctors/?page=2>

ABC’s “Good Morning America” Showcases Robotic Doctoring

Dr. Paul Vespa, professor of neurosurgery and neurology, and director of the Neurocritical Care Program, appeared Aug. 23 on ABC’s “Good Morning America Weekend” explaining how a robot in the neurosurgery intensive care unit can help doctors treat patients.

“Getting Treated by a Robot”

<http://abcnews.go.com/GMA/Weekend/>

CNN Radio, Discovery Solve the Riddle of Snoozing

Jerome Siegel, director of the Center for Sleep Research and professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was featured Aug. 21 by Discovery News, Aug. 24 by CNN Radio and MSNBC.com about his research suggesting that sleep’s primary function in animals and humans is to increase efficiency and minimize survival risks. LiveScience also ran an Aug. 24 report that appeared Aug. 25 on the websites for Yahoo News, Fox News and US News & World Report.

“Did You Get a Good Night’s Sleep?”

<http://multimedia.play.it/m/audio/26023091/cnn-news-update-8-24-2009-6-pm-edt.htm>

“Sleep May Help us Cope with the Outside World”

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/32554868/ns/health-behavior/>

“Top 20 Animal Sleepers and Why We Sleep”

http://blogs.discovery.com/news_animal/2009/08/top-20-animal-sleepers-and-why-we-sleep.html

“New Theory Questions Why We Sleep”

http://www.usnews.com/mobile/articles_mobile/new-theory-questions-why-we-sleep/index.html

Alcohol Ads' Effect on Teen Viewers Garners Press

A UCLA/Johns Hopkins University study examining the link between teen viewership and the frequency of alcohol advertising on cable TV was reported Aug. 20 by the Los Angeles Times health blog, Aug. 21 by the Canadian Broadcast Corp., Aug. 24 by Med Page Today and Aug. 26 by Fox News.com. Additional stories appeared in the Argentina Star, Asian News International, TV Week, Live Science, Financial Channel.com, Media Life magazine and Health e blog. Dr. Paul Chung, assistant professor of pediatrics at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was quoted.

"Watching Cable TV May Expose Teens to Too Many Alcohol Ads"

http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/booster_shots/2009/08/teens-soak-up-more-than-plot-lines-while-watching-cable-tv--theyre-also-being-exposed-to-alcohol-advertising--thats-the-conc.html

"TV Booze Ads Target Teens"

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/Psychiatry/Addictions/15663>

"Alcohol Ads Spike When Teens Watch: Study"

<http://www.cbc.ca/health/story/2009/08/21/alcoholads-teens.html>

"Study Suggests Alcohol Ads Target Teens"

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,542561,00.html>

NOVA Explains how Memory Works

PBS' NOVA ScienceNow.com featured Dr. Itzhak Fried, professor of neurosurgery and psychiatry at the Semel Institute, and his research about how memories are recalled in the brain.

"Memory in Action"

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/sciencenow/0407/02.html>

O.C. Register, A.P. Follow Heart Recipient's Mountain Climb

The Associated Press reported Aug. 16 and Aug. 24, and the Orange County Register reported Aug. 24 on the journey of Kelly Perkins, a UCLA heart-transplant recipient who recently completed her goal of climbing ten peaks in Wyoming's Teton Range.

"Pushing Forward After a Heart Transplant"

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/16/sports/16transplant.html?_r=1

"Heart Transplant Recipient Climbs 10 Teton Peaks"

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hexpKjLO6h6n1vfAV0rPzt9CeJowD9A9HF500>

"Heart Recipient Climbs 10 Peaks in 4 Days"

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/perkins-climbing-teton-2539914-climb-peak#>

L.A. Times Reports Doctor's Role in Developing Seizure Drug

The Los Angeles Times health blog reported Aug. 22 on Dr. W. Donald Shields, professor of pediatric neurology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, who helped pioneer studies of an infantile spasms drug newly approved by the Federal Drug Administration. The drug's FDA approval was also covered by Modern Medicine on Aug. 26 and Quote.com on Aug. 21. Shields was quoted.

"FDA Approves First Drug for Infantile Spasms"

http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/booster_shots/2009/08/fda-approves-first-drug-for-infantile-spasms.html

"FDA Gives OK to Drugs for Seizures, Allergies"

<http://www.modernmedicine.com/modernmedicine/Welcome+to+ModernMedicine/FDA-gives-OK-to-drugs-for-seizures-allergies/ArticleStandard/Article/detail/621460?contextCategoryId=40137>

"Lundbeck Gets FDA Approval to Market Epilepsy Drug Sabril – Update"

<http://www.quote.com/news/story.action?id=RTT908211544000946>

HealthDay, Telegraph Spotlight Wearable Artificial Kidney

HealthDay News reported Aug. 20 on research led by Dr. Victor Gura, associate clinical professor of nephrology, on a wearable, battery-operated artificial kidney. The report appeared on the websites for U.S. News & World Report, MSN Health & Fitness, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Austin American-Statesman, Modern Medicine and others. The Telegraph (U.K.), Renal Business Today and MedIndia, also covered the study. The Toronto Globe & Mail cited the findings on Aug. 21.

"Wearable Kidney May One Day Replace Dialysis"

<http://www.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=630177>

"Researchers Developing Wearable Artificial Kidney"

<http://www.renalbusiness.com/hotnews/wearable-artificial-kidney.html>

"Kidney Dialysis Machine 'Small Enough to be Worn as a Belt'"

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/6061249/Kidney-dialysis-machine-small-enough-to-be-worn-as-a-belt.html>

"At-Home Dialysis Touted As the Next Best Thing"

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/health/at-home-dialysis-touted-as-the-next-best-thing/article1259490/>

Newsires, Italian Press Investigate Immune System's Link to Osteoporosis

Asian News International and the blog Private MD Labs reported Aug. 25, and United Press International, eMaxHealth and the Italian publications La Stampa and NewsFood reported Aug. 26 on a study by Rita Effros, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine, that reveals how the immune system plays a role in bone loss. The UPI and ANI reports appeared on numerous other web outlets. Effros was quoted.

"Immune System Plays Role in Bone Loss"

http://www.upi.com/Health_News/2009/08/26/Immune-system-plays-role-in-bone-loss/UPI-30011251315361/

"Immune System's Role in Bone Loss Uncovered" (ANI)

<http://www.newstrackindia.com/newsdetails/119313>

"Osteoporosis Linked to Immune Response"

<http://www.emaxhealth.com/1020/39/33086/osteoporosis-linked-immune-response.html>

"Alti livelli di colesterolo causano la perdita di densità ossea"

http://www.lastampa.it/_web/cmstp/tmp/Rubriche/Benessere/grubrica.asp?ID_blog=26&ID_articolo=1111&ID_sezione=563&sezione=Alimentazione

O.C. Register Explores Broccoli's Boost to Immune System

The Orange County Register ran an Aug. 24 column about arthritis that highlights research by Dr. Andre Nel, professor of medicine and chief of the division of nanomedicine, whose team reported that a chemical found in broccoli stimulates the immune system in older adults and may help ward off common diseases. The Baltimore Sun also reported the study on Aug. 20.

"Broccoli Fights Arthritis?"

<http://www.oregister.com/articles/broccoli-aging-vegetables-2538885-immune-one>

"Broccoli: The Fountain of Youth"

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/health/seniors/sns-health-broccoli-fountain-of-youth,0,6232233.story>

HealthDay Notes Increased Mercury Levels in U.S. Women

HealthDay News reported Aug. 24 on a study by Dan Laks, a senior research associate at the Semel Institute, findings that blood levels of mercury are accumulating in U.S. women. The report also appeared on the websites for U.S. News & World Report, KTVN-Channel 2 (Reno), WFIE-Channel 14 (Indiana), and WMBF-Channel 4 (FL).

"Blood Mercury Levels Rising Among U.S. Women"

<http://health.usnews.com/articles/health/healthday/2009/08/24/blood-mercury-levels-rising-among-us-women.html>

San Antonio Paper Examines Effects of War on Children

Dr. Patricia Lester, assistant professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was featured in an Aug. 23 San Antonio Express article about the stress children feel when a parent is deployed in the military.

"Soldiers Children are War Victims Too"

http://www.mysanantonio.com/military/Soldiers_children_are_war_victims_too.html

Researchers Endorse Home HIV Test

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution published an Aug. 24 op-ed by Mary Jane Rotheram, professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences; Arleen Liebowitz, professor of public policy, and Kevin Farrell, executive director of the UCLA Center for HIV Identification, Prevention and Treatment Services,

advocating home HIV tests to stem the spread of AIDS. All three are researchers at the UCLA Center for HIV Identification, Prevention and Treatment Services.

“Rapid Home Tests Stem HIV Spread”

<http://www.ajc.com/opinion/rapid-home-tests-stem-122796.html>

Air Force Spotlights Altruistic Kidney Donor

The website of the U.S. Air Force carried a story about an officer based in Arizona who donated a kidney to a stranger, initiating two simultaneous transplant chains taking place in June, including one at UCLA.

“NCO Donates Kidney, Begins ‘Donor Chain’”

<http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123164813>

Tech Site Covers Laboratory on a Microchip

The chemical engineering website TCE.com reported Aug. 24 that UCLA researchers have developed technology that allows them to perform more than a thousand chemical reactions simultaneously on a computer-controlled microchip. The advance could accelerate the identification of potential drug candidates for treating diseases. Dr. Hsian-Rong Tseng, a researcher at UCLA’s Crump Institute of Molecular Imaging and associate professor of molecular and medical pharmacology, and Kym Faull, director of the Pasarow Mass Spectrometry Lab at UCLA, were quoted.

“Lab-on-a-chip’s Parallel Reactions Set Record”

<http://www.tcetoday.com/tcetoday/NewsDetail.aspx?nid=12042>

BRIEFS

Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital’s rebuilding project was referenced in an Aug. 15 Santa Monica Daily Press story about neighborhood associations.

“Looking to Represent the Mid-City”

http://www.smdp.com/Articles-c-2009-08-14_61293.113116_Looking_to_represent_the_MidCity.html

QUOTABLES

Dr. Ines Boechat, chief of pediatric imaging at Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA, provided advice on talking with patients in the July issue of RT Image magazine.

“The Telling Test”

<http://www.rt-image.com/content=9604J05E48BEA696407698724480A0441>

Dr. Vivian Burt, emeritus professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was quoted in the Aug. 21 Newsday about depression and pregnant women.

“Physicians Issue Guidelines on Antidepressants and Pregnancy”

<http://www.newsday.com/news/health/physicians-issue-guidelines-on-antidepressants-and-pregnancy-1.1386355>

Gerald Kominski, associate director of the Center for Health Policy Research in the School of Public Health, commented Aug. 12 on NBC Nightly News about how healthcare reform proposals do not include undocumented residents.

“Health Reform Leaves Immigrants Uncovered”

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/3032619/ns/nightly_news_with_brian_williams-nightly_news_with_brian_williams#32514030

Dr. David Liebeskind, associate neurology director of the UCLA Stroke Center, commented Aug. 24 in the Los Angeles Times about the medical accuracy of a stroke treatment portrayed on a recent TV show.

“The Unreal World: ‘Hawthorne’: Treatment Depends on When the Stroke Started”

<http://www.latimes.com/features/health/newsletter/la-he-unreal24-2009aug24,0,2851561.column>

Dr. Gary Small, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of UCLA's Center on Aging, commented Aug. 25 in the St. Petersburg Times on exercises to help improve memory and brain fitness. He is author of the "Memory Bible."

"Keeping Body in Shape Keeps Brain in Shape"

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/aging/lifetimes/keeping-body-in-shape-keeps-brain-in-shape/1029260>

Dr. Donald Tashkin, professor of pulmonary and critical care medicine, commented Aug. 21 in the Fort Lauderdale Science News Examiner about a study on the negative effects of marijuana.

"New Findings on Negative Effects of Marijuana"

<http://www.examiner.com/x-6503-Ft-Lauderdale-Science-News-Examiner~y2009m8d21-New-findings-on-the-effects-of-marijuana>

Dr. Neil Wenger, professor of general internal medicine and director of the UCLA Health System Ethics Center, was quoted Aug. 24 in American Medical News about the controversy surrounding end-of-life care provisions in Congressional healthcare reform legislation.

"End-of-Life Care Provision Stirs Angst in Health Reform Debate"

<http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2009/08/24/prsa0824.htm>

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