



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of Aug. 27 – Sept. 2, 2010**

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L.A. Times Profiles Patient Who Donated Body for Science

N.Y. Times Spotlights Operation Medical Libraries

Today Show Consults Throat Cancer Expert

ESPN Highlights “Hoop-a-Thon” Fundraiser

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African Spread of Monkeypox Draws Wide Coverage

A study by Anne Rimoin, assistant professor of epidemiology in the School of Public Health, was featured Aug. 30 in the New York Times, Los Angeles Times and Nature; and Aug. 31 in Reuters, Scientific

American and The Scientist. She found that monkeypox, a smallpox-related virus, has spread in tropical Africa. The disease can scar, blind, and in rare cases, be fatal to its victims.

"Africa: Monkeypox Cases Surge in Rural Areas as Price of the Victory over Smallpox"

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/31/health/31global.html>

"Monkeypox Emerges in Africa in the Wake of Smallpox"

http://blogs.nature.com/news/thegreatbeyond/2010/08/monkeypox_emerges_in_africa_in.html

"Stopping Smallpox Vaccinations has cleared the Way for the Emergence of Monkeypox in Africa"

<http://www.latimes.com/health/boostershots/la-heb-monkeypox-20100839,0,162245.story>

"Dramatic Rise in Monkeypox"

<http://www.the-scientist.com/blog/display/57663/#comments>

"Monkeypox Rising in Wake of Smallpox Eradication"

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE67U4RH20100831>

"Pox Swap: 30 Years after the End of Smallpox, Monkeypox Cases Are on the Rise"

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=pox-swap-30-years-after-small-pox-monkey-pox-on-the-rise>

L.A. Times Profiles Patient Who Donated Body for Science

Dr. Martina Wiedau-Pazos, assistant professor of neurology, and David Jones, laboratory director of UCLA's National Neurological AIDS Bank, were featured in a front-page Aug. 29 Los Angeles Times story about a woman suffering from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's disease, who donated her organs to UCLA for research into the disorder's causes.

"In Death, a Promise for the Future"

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-als-organ-donor-20100828,0,193179.story>

N.Y. Times Spotlights Operation Medical Libraries

The New York Times published an Aug. 31 feature about Operation Medical Libraries, a project effort launched in 2007 by the UCLA Medical Alumni Association to restock Afghanistan's hospitals, clinics and universities with medical textbooks. The effort, which has expanded to include more than 30 hospitals, universities and other organizations, has shipped an estimated 27,000 medical texts to Afghanistan. Valerie Walker, director of the UCLA Medical Alumni Association, was quoted.

"Doctors Heed Call for Books"

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/31/health/31library.html?_r=1

Today Show Consults Throat Cancer Expert

Dr. Gerald Berke, chief of head and neck surgery, was interviewed by NBC's "Today" show in a Sept. 1 segment on side effects that actor Michael Douglas can anticipate during treatment for Stage 4 throat cancer.

"Cancer-stricken Douglas Faces Difficult Weeks Ahead"

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21134540/vp/38970339#38970339>

ESPN Highlights "Hoop-a-Thon" Fundraiser

The UCLA "Hoop-a-Thon," a fundraiser sponsored by the UCLA Department of Neurology, the UCLA Department of Athletics and the Huntington's Disease Society of America, was featured in an Aug. 28 ESPN.LA blog. The event, which featured a speed free-throw shooting contest, benefited research into the causes of Huntington's disease.

"Past Stars Appear at L.A. Hoop-a-Thon"

http://espn.go.com/blog/los-angeles/ucla/post/_id/2421/past-stars-appear-at-l-a-hoop-a-thon

"UCLA Hoops to Host Second Hoop-a-Thon"

<http://www.insidesocal.com/ucla/2010/07/ucla-hoops-to-host-second-hoop.html>

Fox News Explores Electronic Medical Records

Dr. Michael Swiernek, director of medical informatics, and Dr. Michael Herbst, medical director at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, were interviewed by Fox News Channel for a Sept. 2 blog on new Obama administration rules requiring hospitals and physicians to convert millions of paper patient files to digital records by 2011.

"Taxpayer Calculator: How Much Will the Transition to Digital Medical Records Cost You?"

<http://politics.blogs.foxnews.com/2010/09/02/taxpayer-calculator-how-much-will-transition-digital-medical-records-cost-you#ixzz0yPwFioU3>

Obesity Study Draws California Press

The Aug. 30 Fresno Bee, Aug. 31 Daily Breeze and KPBS-89.5 FM (San Diego), Sept. 1 Modesto Bee, Merced Sun-Star, and CBS-Channel 13 (Sacramento), and Sept. 2 Marysville Appeal-Democrat reported on a UCLA Center for Health Policy Research study by Dr. Allison Diamant, assistant adjunct professor of general internal medicine and health services research, finding that a majority of Californian adults are obese or overweight and that more than 2 million have been diagnosed with diabetes. Diamant and Susan Babey, a project director with the center, were quoted.

“Yuba, Sutter Counties Losing Fight against Fat”

<http://www.appeal-democrat.com/news/statistically-98671-losing-counties.html>

“Obesity Plagues Stanislaus, other Valley Counties”

<http://www.modbee.com/2010/09/01/1320189/modesto-obesity-plagues-stanislaus.html>

“Valley Counties Rank High in New Obesity Study”

<http://www.fresnobee.com/2010/08/30/2059817/valley-counties-rank-high-in-new.html#ixzz0yDor64yn>

“UCLA Data Shows Increase in Diabetes, Obesity in State”

http://www.dailybreeze.com/news/ci_15954633

“Merced County Second Highest in State for Obesity, Diabetes”

<http://www.mercedsunstar.com/2010/09/01/1551838/merced-county-second-highest-in.html>

Huffington Post Addresses Memory Loss

An Aug. 27 Huffington Post blog by Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging, a professor with the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Center on Aging, addressed age-related memory losses.

“Paul McCartney’s Memory Lapses”

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/gary-w-small-md/paul-mccartneys-memory-la_b_695560.html

AirTalk Delves into Smoking Cessation

Dr. Christopher Cooper, professor of medicine and physiology and director of the UCLA Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Program, discussed smoking cessation methods on KPCC 89.3 FM’s “AirTalk” on Aug. 31.

“Why Are You Still Smoking?”

<http://www.scpr.org/programs/airtalk/2010/08/31/why-are-you-still-smoking/>

California Papers Report on State’s Uninsured

Research led by Shana Alex Lavarreda, director of health insurance studies at the Center for Health Policy Research in the School of Public Health, was cited in the Aug. 27 Redding Record Searchlight (Shasta, CA). Her study found that the number of uninsured Californians rose in every county in the state during the economic downturn. An Aug. 28 article in the Solano Times Herald and Aug.31 op-ed in the Santa Maria Times also discussed the finding.

“Uninsured Patients: Shasta No. 1; 32.7 Percent of Residents not Covered, most in State”

<http://www.redding.com/news/2010/aug/26/uninsured-patients-shasta-no-1-327-percent-residen/?partner=popular>

“Army Losing Healthcare”

http://www.santamariatimes.com/news/opinion/editorial/article_e60b4daa-b4b7-11df-a954-001cc4c002e0.html

“Ranks of Uninsured of Solano and Napa County Residents Swell Locally”

http://www.timesheraldonline.com/ci_15898781

Daily News Spotlights Kidney Transplant Chain

The Los Angeles Daily News reported Aug. 30 on a unique kidney transplant chain initiated at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center that involved more than a dozen donors and recipients. Dr. Jeffrey Veale, assistant professor-in-residence of urology and director of UCLA’s donor exchange program, was quoted.

“Their Bond is Sharing the Gift of Life”

http://www.dailynews.com/news/ci_15944169?source=rss

L.A. Times Covers Melanoma Study

The Los Angeles Times health blog reported Aug. 26 on the results of a study testing a new oral drug for metastatic melanoma. Dr. Antoni Ribas, associate professor of hematology/oncology and a researcher at the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, led the study and a UCLA patient was featured. "Experimental Targeted Cancer Drug Helps 4 out of 5 Metastatic Melanoma Patients"
<http://www.latimes.com/health/boostershots/la-heb-metastatic-melanoma-20100826,0,902715.story>

Local Papers Examine Tonsil Removal

The Sept. 1 Daily News and San Gabriel Valley Tribune ran a syndicated column by Dr. Claire Panosian, professor of medicine, division of infectious diseases, about the decisions leading to tonsillectomy. Dr. Paul Kedeshian, associate clinical professor of head and neck surgery, was quoted. "When Thinking Tonsillectomy, It's No Pain, No Gain"
http://www.dailynews.com/ci_15967234?source=email

Professor Pens Article for Psychiatric Times

Dr. Helen Lavretsky, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, wrote an article in the Sept. 1 issue of Psychiatric Times about research into mental and physical resilience that can influence successful aging. "Resilience, Stress, and the Neurobiology of Aging"
<http://www.psychiatrictimes.com/geriatric-psychiatry/content/article/10168/1654466>

Trade Publications Cover Lung Stem Cell Study

A Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center study linking adult lung stem cells to poor cancer prognosis appeared in the Sept. 3 issues of Biotech Business Week and Drug Week. The study was led by Dr. Brigitte Gomperts, assistant professor of hematology/oncology and a Jonsson Cancer Center researcher.

BRIEFS

An Aug. 29 New York Times story about demographic changes in Orange County cited a UCLA Center for Health Policy Research analysis showing that 1 in 4 county residents did not have health insurance for at least part of 2009.

"Orange County is No Longer Nixon Country"
http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/30/us/politics/30orange.html?_r=2

A photo of Dr. Jeff Bronstein, professor of neurology, appeared in a Sept. 1 USA Today article about patients becoming more involved in healthcare decision-making.

"Patients take Control of Care"
http://www.usatoday.com/yourlife/health/healthcare/2010-09-01-medtesting01_CV_N.htm

Research by Gregory Cole, professor of medicine and neurology and associate director of the Mary S. Easton Center for Alzheimer Disease Research, and Sally Frautschy, associate professor of neurology, was cited in an Aug. 27 Huffington Post blog about preventing Alzheimer's.

"Looking for Alzheimer's Answers in All the Wrong Places"
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jean-carper/post_752_b_695706.html

An Aug. 26 Bakersfield Californian op-ed highlighted a disagreement among researchers at the UCLA School of Public Health over academic research on the impact of air pollution on human health.

"UCLA Professor's Case Obscures Undeniable Facts about Pollution"
<http://www.bakersfield.com/opinion/community/x464578932/UCLA-professors-case-obscurities-undeniable-facts-about-pollution>

UCLA's hand transplant program was cited Aug. 27 in a Wall St. Journal health blog about a similar program launched at a Boston hospital.

"Health Blog Q&A: Talking Hand Transplants with a Surgeon"
<http://blogs.wsj.com/health/2010/08/27/health-blog-qa-talking-hand-transplants-with-a-surgeon/>

UCLA's Operation Mend program was cited in a story about a Vietnam veteran from Calaveras County who is walking to raise money for the program, which provides reconstructive surgery at UCLA for wounded warriors.

"Marine Ric Ryan Walks to Raise Money and Awareness for Returning Wounded Vets"

http://thepinetree.net/index.php?module=announce&ANN_user_op=view&ANN_id=19254

The Mid-Valley News ran a Sept 1 calendar listing about the UCLA Center on Aging's senior scholar program, which enables older adults to expand their learning by attending classes at UCLA.

"UCLA Senior Scholars Program Offers Classes for Older Adults"

http://klubevents.com/midvalleynewsonline.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=36&Itemid=90

The Press (Northern California) reported Sept. 2 that a 5-year-old boy who underwent a rare heart and kidney transplant was discharged from UCLA's Mattel Children's Hospital.

"Up, Up and Away"

http://www.thepress.net/pages/full_story/push?article-Up-up+and+away%20&id=9363679&instance=community_main_news

QUOTABLES

Dr. David Baron, chief of staff at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, commented in an Aug. 31 KNX 1070AM report about the latest recommendations for flu shots.

Amander Clark, assistant professor of molecular, cell and developmental biology and a researcher at UCLA's Broad Stem Cell Research Center, was quoted in an Aug. 26 Science blog on researchers' reactions to a ruling prohibiting federal funding for research involving human embryonic stem cells.

"No 'Status Quo' for Scientists as Ruling Halts Stem Cell Studies"

<http://news.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2010/08/no-status-quo-for-scientists-as.html>

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented Sept. 1 in HealthDay News about proper dosing of two drugs prescribed to lower heart attack risk. He commented Aug. 31 in a HealthDay story about how a healthy diet can lower heart attack risk in people with mildly elevated blood pressure. He was also quoted Aug. 29 in a HealthDay article on how low doses of omega-3 fatty acid supplements do not further reduce cardiac risk in heart attack patients already on heart medication.

"Double-Dose Plavix Benefits Certain Patients, Study Finds"

<http://consumer.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=642719>

"'DASH Diet' Shown to Lower Heart Attack Risk Almost 20%"

<http://consumer.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=642655>

"Low-Dose Omega-3 Fatty Acids Don't Protect Heart Patients"

<http://consumer.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=642547>

Dr. Ralph Frerichs, professor emeritus of epidemiology at the UCLA School of Public Health, commented in the August issue of the Scientist in an article about the causes of the cholera outbreak in London in 1853.

"John Snow's 'Grand Experiment,' 1855"

<http://www.the-scientist.com/article/display/57579/>

Dr. Christopher Giza, associate professor of neurosurgery and pediatric neurology, was quoted in an Aug. 29 Los Angeles Times article about the increasing number of concussions in children who play sports.

"ER Visits for Concussion Soars among Child Athletes"

<http://www.latimes.com/news/science/la-sci-concussion-20100830,0,1045170.story>

Gerald Kominski, professor at the School of Public Health and associate director of the Center for Health Policy Research, was quoted Aug. 27 in the Ventura County Star about federal funding for a local health care program for poor, uninsured residents.

"Healthcare for Uninsured Extended"

http://www.vcstar.com/news/2010/aug/27/healthcare-for-uninsured-extended/?partner=yahoo_feeds

Dr. Timothy Miller, chief of plastic surgery, commented Sept. 1 on ABCNews.com about patients who want to reverse elective plastic surgery procedures.

"Plastic Surgery Remorse Linked to Deeper Issues"

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/plastic-surgery-remorse-rise/story?id=11525925&page=1>

Mary O'Connor, adjunct professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was quoted in the Aug. 25 New York Times Magazine about preschool-aged children diagnosed with depression.

"Can Preschoolers be Depressed?"

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/29/magazine/29preschool-t.html? r=1>

Dr. Marc Riedl, assistant professor of medicine, division of clinical immunology and allergy, commented in the October issue of Eating Well about food allergy myths.

Dr. Jerome Siegel, professor of psychiatry and director of the sleep research center at the Semel Institute, was quoted Aug. 31 in Science News about research suggesting that fasting may help fruit flies overcome sleep deprivation.

"Why Starved Flies Need Less Sleep"

http://www.sciencenews.org/view/generic/id/62869/title/Why_starved_flies_need_less_sleep

Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging, a professor with the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Center on Aging, commented in a CBS Newspath story that aired Sept. 1 on KCAL-Channel 9 about how mental exercise may slow the rate of dementia onset. The story also aired on 50 CBS affiliates across the country.

"Dr. Gary Small"

<http://showroom.multivisioninc.com/share.do?id=132560&key=TRtPZJ72sz0fwhJ1O0ihoh8SmtriBIUF&email=rhampeau@mednet.ucla.edu>

Dr. Brad Spellberg, assistant professor of medicine and infectious diseases at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, commented Aug. 30 in American Medical News about the government's \$1.9 billion plan to accelerate the nation's response to infectious disease outbreaks and potential bioterrorist attacks.

"U.S. Public Health Emergency Plan Calls for Better Vaccine Production"

<http://www.e-healthcaresolutions.com/AMA/aricept-amn-0710-inter.php?url=http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2010/08/30/prsa0830.htm>

Jerome Zack, professor of hematology-oncology and a scientist with UCLA's Broad Stem Cell Research Center, was quoted Aug. 26 in Science magazine and EmpoweredNews.net on researchers' reactions to a ruling prohibiting federal funding for research involving human embryonic stem cells.

"No 'Status Quo' for Scientists as Ruling Halts Stem Cell Studies"

<http://news.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2010/08/no-status-quo-for-scientists-as.html>

"Government Scientists 'Stunned' by Stem Cell Decision"

<http://empowerednews.net/government-scientists-stunned-by-stem-cell-decision/181951/>

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