



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of Aug. 28 – Sept. 3, 2009**

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Expert Explores Medical Mystery on CNN, “Good Morning America”

Californians’ Insurance Struggles Draw Headlines

ER Doc Advises MSNBC on Fires’ Health Effects

CNN Radio Covers Laboratory on a Microchip

UPI, ANI Measure Waist-to-Hip Ratio’s Prediction of Early Death

HealthDay, Utah Paper Explore Alcohol Advertising’s Effect on Teens

Newswire Notes Women’s Blood Mercury Levels are on the Rise

KPCC Discusses Latest Advances in Fighting Brain Cancer

N.Y. Times Delves into the Riddle of Sleep

Irish Times Reports on Gene Therapy Research

Ventura County Star Cites Doctor’s Role in Championing Drug for Neurological Disorder

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Florida Paper Looks at Obesity and Brain Size

Blog Features Creation of New PET Scanning Probe

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BRIEFS

QUOTABLES

Expert Explores Medical Mystery on CNN, “Good Morning America”

Dr. Rex Hamilton, director of the Laser Refractive Center at the Jules Stein Eye Institute at UCLA, appeared Sept. 1 in an ABC “Good Morning America” segment to address possible causes that might make a Tennessee teenager’s eyes weep bloody tears. He also commented Sept. 3 in a CNN Radio story on the case. The ABC story re-aired on ABC affiliates in 37 markets, including Boston, Washington, D.C. and Cincinnati.

“Teen Boy Cries Blood”

<http://abcnews.go.com/video/playerindex?id=8460654>

Californians' Insurance Struggles Draw Headlines

Research by Shana Alex Lavarreda, director of health insurance studies at the Center for Health Policy Research in the School of Public Health, showing that two-thirds of the 2.2 million California adults with medical debt incurred their debt while insured was covered Aug. 30 in the Riverside Press-Enterprise, Sept. 1 in the San Francisco Chronicle, KPBS 89.5 FM (San Diego), the New York Times blog and Merced Sun-Star; and Sept. 3 in the San Diego Union-Tribune.

"1 in 7 Californians Have Medical Debt, Study Finds"

<http://prescriptions.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/08/31/ucla-study-finds-1-in-7-californians-have-medical-debt/?scp=1&sq=shana%20alex%20lavarreda&st=cse>

"Medical Debt Hits Millions in State, Even the Insured"

<http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/sep/03/medical-debt-hits-millions-state-even-insured/?health&zIndex=159857>

"Having Health Insurance isn't a Guarantee that All Your Medical Bills will be Covered"

<http://www.mercedsunstar.com/167/story/1032169.html>

ER Doc Advises MSNBC on Fires' Health Effects

Dr. Mark Morocco, emergency physician and associate residency director of emergency medicine, appeared Sept 1 and Sept. 2 on Dr. Nancy Snyderman's MSNBC show to address the health impact of the Southern California fires.

"MSNBC"

<http://showroom.mtv.com/showroom.com/share.do?id=113306&key=Maqn6plHLr7fwkrVGqyMJainsRKUmU6h&email=RChampeau@mednet.ucla.edu>

"MSNBC"

<http://showroom.mtv.com/showroom.com/share.do?id=113269&key=VW54EAU96HCQbQN31fb12trkBLdE1gs&email=RChampeau@mednet.ucla.edu>

CNN Radio Covers Laboratory on a Microchip

CNN Radio reported Aug. 25 on a new UCLA technology that allows researchers to perform more than a thousand chemical reactions simultaneously on a computer-controlled microchip, which could accelerate the identification of potential drug candidates for treating diseases. Dr. Clifton Shen, a researcher at UCLA's Crump Institute for Molecular Imaging and an assistant professor of molecular and medical pharmacology, was interviewed.

UPI, ANI Measure Waist-to-Hip Ratio's Prediction of Early Death

United Press International and Asian News International reported Sept. 2, and Examiner.com reported Sept. 3 on research led by Dr. Preethi Srikanthan, assistant professor of endocrinology, finding that waist-hip ratio is a better gauge of early death risk among the elderly than body mass index of obesity. The ANI article ran on the websites for the Argentina Star, New Kerala and Times of India. The Annals of Epidemiology published the findings.

"Senior Weight: Waist-Hip Ratio Beats BMI"

http://www.upi.com/Health_News/2009/09/02/Senior-weight-Waist-hip-ratio-beats-BMI/UPI-81641251914122/

"Waist-Hip Ratio Better Indicator of Obesity than BMI Readings for Older Adults"

<http://story.arginastar.com/index.php/ct/9/cid/e974f944f2e7496e/id/537988/cs/1/>

"Obesity Study: BMI Not the Best Way to Measure Obesity in the Elderly"

<http://www.examiner.com/x-17247-LA-Weight-Loss-Examiner~y2009m9d3-Obesity-study-BMI-may-not-be-the-best-way-to-measure-obesity-in-the-elderly>

HealthDay, Utah Paper Explore Alcohol Advertising's Effect on Teens

HealthDay News reported Aug. 28 and the Salt Lake Tribune reported Aug. 27 on a study by UCLA/Johns Hopkins researchers that examined the correlation between adolescent viewership and the frequency of alcohol advertising on cable television. Dr. Paul Chung, assistant professor of pediatrics at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was quoted in the HealthDay report.

"Alcohol Ads on TV Reach Young Audiences"

<http://health.usnews.com/articles/health/healthday/2009/08/28/alcohol-ads-on-cable-tv-reach-young-audiences.html>

"Horiuchi: Alcohol Ads on Cable TV Targeting Young Kids"

http://www.sltrib.com/columnists/cj_13209653

Newswire Notes Women's Blood Mercury Levels are on the Rise

Dan Laks, a research associate at the Semel Institute, was featured in a Sept. 1 Environmental News Service report on his research finding that blood mercury levels among U.S. women have risen significantly over the past decade.

"Mercury Found in Blood of One-third of American Women"

<http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/sep2009/2009-09-01-092.asp>

KPCC Discusses Latest Advances in Fighting Brain Cancer

Dr. Neil Martin, chair of neurosurgery, and Dr. Linda Liau, professor of neurosurgery, appeared Sept. 2 on KPCC 89.3 FM's "AirTalk" show. The doctors discussed new advances in surgery, radiation and chemotherapy, and the promise of a brain cancer vaccine developed at UCLA.

"AirTalk"

<http://www.scpr.org/programs/airtalk/2009/09/02/>

N.Y. Times Delves into the Riddle of Sleep

Jerome Siegel, professor of psychiatry and director of the Center for Sleep Research at the Semel Institute, was featured in a Sept. 1 New York Times article indicating that the primary function of sleep in animals and humans is to increase efficiency and minimize survival risks.

"Sleep May Be Nature's Time Management Tool"

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/01/health/01mind.html?_r=1&scp=1&sq=jerome%20siegel&st=cse

Irish Times Reports on Gene Therapy Research

The Irish Times reported Sept. 3 on a gene therapy and cancer presentation given by Dr. Nori Kasahara, an associate professor of medicine and a researcher at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, at the annual International Society for Cell and Gene Therapy of Cancer conference in Ireland. Kasahara was quoted.

"Gene Therapy Offers Great Potential to Treat Cancer Patients, Says Expert"

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2009/09/03/1224253743569.html>

Ventura County Star Cites Doctor's Role in Championing Drug for Neurological Disorder

A Sept. 2 article in the Ventura County Star noted the role of Dr. W. Donald Shields, professor of pediatric neurology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, in advocating for a newly FDA-approved drug for a rare condition called infantile spasms. The story included an interview with the parents of a Newbury Park girl, who was one of the first patients treated with the drug 13 years ago. Shields was quoted.

"Drug Tested on Newbury Girl Wins FDA Approval"

<http://www.venturacountystar.com/news/2009/sep/02/drug-tested-on-newbury-girl-wins-fda-approval/>

Magazine Spotlights Heart Recipient's Competitive Quest

Triathlon Competitor magazine published an Aug. 18 profile on a 37-year-old Marina del Rey heart transplant recipient who is training to compete in the Kona Ironman competition next month. His cardiologist, Dr. Jon Kobashigawa, medical director of the UCLA Heart Transplant program, commented.

"Heart Transplant Recipient Set to Compete in Kona"

<http://triathlon.competitor.com/features/heart-transplant-recipient-set-to-compete-in-kona/>

Florida Paper Looks at Obesity and Brain Size

An Aug. 31 editorial in the Pensacola News Journal (FL) highlighted research by Paul Thompson, professor of neurology and a member of the UCLA Laboratory of Neuro Imaging, showing that brain regions involved in memory and planning are smaller in overweight and obese elderly people. Yahoo News reported on the research Aug. 28.

"Editorial: Exercise is Good for Body and Mind"

<http://www.pnj.com/article/20090831/OPINION/908310301>

“Trends & Innovations – Friday”

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ibd/20090828/bs_ibd_ibd/20090828trends

Blog Features Creation of New PET Scanning Probe

A Sept. 1 article in the health blog SocialPhysical highlighted a PET-scanning probe developed by researchers at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center that models the immune system and monitors its response to foreign invaders and new therapies. The probe was created by Dr. Owen Witte, director of the Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at UCLA and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator, and Dr. Caius Radu, assistant professor of molecular and medical pharmacology.

“UCLA Researchers Develop New PET Scanning Probe that will Allow Modeling and Monitoring of the Immune System”

<http://socialphysical.clubgastronomico.es/2009/09/01/ucla-researchers-develop-new-pet-scanning-probe-that-will-allow-modeling-and-monitoring-of-the-immune-system/>

MSNBC Reports on Treatment for Hand Disorder

An MSNBC.com blog reported Sept. 2 on a study led by Dr. Roy A. Meals, clinical professor of orthopedic surgery, examining an experimental new drug treatment for Dupuytren's contracture, a disorder that causes the fingers to curl immovably into the palm. Meals was quoted.

“Cure for Curious Claw-Hand Condition?”

<http://bodyodd.msnbc.msn.com/archive/2009/09/02/2050527.aspx>

BRIEFS

The Sept. 3 Santa Monica Daily Press published a photo and caption about a disaster preparedness exercise held by Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital and the Santa Monica Fire Department to test decontamination procedures.

“Getting Ready”

http://www.smdp.com/Gallery-1852.113116-2768.113116_GETTING_READY.html

The Sept. 2 Westside Today.com cited the UCLA Center on Aging's Senior Scholars program, which gives people 50 and over the opportunity to attend undergraduate classes at UCLA. The new quarter starts Sept. 24.

“Back to School - via UCLA's Senior Scholars”

<http://www.westsidetoday.com/n1492/back-to-school-via.html>

The Huffington Post published a Sept. 1 article coauthored by Dr. Eric W. Fonkalsrud, former chief of pediatric surgery at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA. He outlined a proposal for a system of phased Medicare expansion.

“Health Reform by Phased Medicare Inclusion”

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/michael-d-intriligator-phd-and-eric-w-fonkalsrud-m/health-reform-by-phased-m_b_273819.html

QUOTABLES

Dr. David Baron, chief of staff at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, commented in an Aug. 31 ABC News.com story about new research on drinking and exercise habits.

“Do Drinkers Exercise More Than Their Sober Peers?”

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/MensHealth/story?id=8447999>

Deborah Bolton, a former nurse practitioner in the Department of Radiology, commented Sept. 3 in an Oncology Nursing News story about nurses' changing role in the specialty fields of interventional radiology and oncology.

“Nurses Are Riding the Wave of Interventional Radiology and Oncology”

<http://www.oncologynursingnews.com/Nurses-Are-Riding-the-Wave-of-Interventional-Radiology-and-Oncology/article/148103/>

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson–UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, was quoted Aug. 30 by HealthDay News about a new drug aimed at preventing further heart attacks among those who have suffered a heart attack.

“New Anti-Clotting Drug Beats Plavix”

<http://www.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=630478>

Dr. Michael Irwin, professor of psychiatry and director of the Cousins Center for Psychoneuroimmunology at the Semel Institute, commented in the September issue of Conde Nast Traveler on the benefits of vacations.

“Your Next Vacation Could Save Your Life”

<http://www.concierge.com/cntraveler/articles/501374?pageNumber=2>

Gerald Kominski, associate director of the Center for Health Policy Research and a professor at the School of Public Health, was quoted in the Sept. 1 Los Angeles Times about the city of Los Angeles' new prescription-drug discount program.

“L.A. Mayor Launches Prescription Discounts for Residents”

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-mayor-prescription1-2009sep01,0,5977764.story>

Tim Lane, an associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology and a researcher at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, commented Aug. 31 in an article on the Women's International Perspective blog about the effects of estrogen on mammary glands.

“Weighing the Risks and Benefits of Hormone Replacement Therapy”

http://thewip.net/contributors/2009/08/weighing_the_risks_and_benefit.html

Dr. Carlos Lerner, medical director of the children's health center at Mattel Children's Hospital at UCLA, commented in an Aug. 31 Los Angeles Times story on a study that found that doctors are prescribing antibiotics less frequently for respiratory infections.

“Fewer Respiratory Infections Treated With Antibiotics”

<http://www.latimes.com/features/health/la-he-closer31-2009aug31,0,7535560.story>

Dr. James McCracken, professor of psychiatry and director of the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was quoted Aug. 31 in the Los Angeles Times and Riverside Press Enterprise about the challenges faced by a recent kidnap victim.

“For Kidnap Victims, Recovery Can Come Slowly, if at All”

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/healthcare/la-me-kidnapped-treatment30-2009aug30,0,105534.story>

“Kidnapping Victim Faces Long Recovery, Experts Say”

http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_S_psych29.433b1f1.html

Dr. Janet Pregler, professor of general internal medicine and health services research and director of the Iris Cantor-UCLA Women's Health Center, was quoted in the September issue of O about blood screenings for women. She also commented Aug. 31 on The WIP site about breast cancer and hormone replacement therapy.

“Blood Tests Made Simple”

<http://www.oprah.com/article/omagazine/200909-omag-blood-test>

“Weighing the Risks and Benefits of Hormone Replacement Therapy”

http://thewip.net/contributors/2009/08/weighing_the_risks_and_benefit.html

Dr. Jeffrey Saver, professor of neurology and director of the UCLA Stroke Center, was cited in a Premium Health News Service wire story that described new guidelines for stroke intervention from the American Stroke Association. The article appeared Sept. 2 in the Hartford Courant (CT), Allentown Morning Call (PA) and KFSM-Channel 5 (AR).

“News Briefs: Extending the Time for Stroke Treatment”

<http://www.kfsm.com/lifestyle/health/sns-200908311953tmspremhnr--k-f20090902sep02,0,219360.story>

Steven Wallace, professor of public health and associate director of the Center for Health Policy Research in the School of Public Health, was quoted Aug. 30 in the New York Times about the challenges facing elderly immigrants in America.

“Invisible Immigrants, Old and Left with ‘Nobody to Talk to’ “

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/31/us/31elder.html?_r=1&scp=1&sq=steven%20wallace&st=cse

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