



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT**  
**For the week of Aug. 31 – Sept. 6, 2012**

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**Israeli Newspaper Covers How Brain Dictates Speech**

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**Channel 11 Highlights Active Surveillance Program**

Dr. Leonard Marks, a clinical professor of urology, was featured Sept. 2 in a Fox 11 News story on UCLA’s active surveillance program that forgoes surgical treatment for prostate cancer patients in favor of close monitoring and periodic biopsies.

**Israeli Newspaper Covers How Brain Dictates Speech**

Israel’s [HaAretz](#) reported Sept. 4 on research led by Dr. Itzhak Fried, professor of neurosurgery, neurology and psychiatry at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, with scientists from Technion, Israel’s Institute of Technology, that unravels how single brain cells encode the pronunciation of different vowels in speech. Published in the Aug. 21 edition of *Nature Communications*, the discovery could lead to new technology that verbalizes the unspoken words of people paralyzed by injury or disease.

**Channel 7 Spotlights “Super-Agers”**

Dr. Linda Apostolova, associate professor of neurology and a member of the Mary S. Easton Center for Alzheimer's Disease Research, was featured Sept. 5 by [KABC-Channel 7](#) on so-called "super-agers" -- elderly people whose cognitive processes have not slowed.

#### **FOX, KFI Investigate Blood Pressure, Heart Risks**

Dr. Karol Watson, associate professor of medicine, division of cardiology, was interviewed Sept. 4 by [KTTV-Channel 11](#) about the health risks associated with high blood pressure. She also was interviewed Aug. 30 by KFI 640 AM about heart risks in younger adults. (Broadcast Stream for KFI Radio: [d991c35f206e4767962eb4986f09e550.mp3](#))

#### **NPR Examines How to Beat AIDS in South Africa**

Sally Blower, a professor of biomathematics at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Center for Biomedical Modeling, was featured in a Sept. 6 [NPR Health Blog](#) in which her research questioned the approach the World Health Organization is taking to combat AIDS in South Africa.

#### **Online Outlets Feature Stem Cell Missing-Link Study**

[Examiner.com](#), [Medical Daily](#), [PhysOrg](#), [Science Blog](#), [Science Codex](#), [Science Daily](#), [Stem Cell Digest](#) on Sept. 2; [News-Medical.net](#), [Asian News International](#), [Zee News](#), [Book for Doc](#), [Medical Press](#), [Gaia News](#), [Stem Cell News](#) and [Harmara News](#) on Sept. 3; [Top News](#), [Doon Corner](#), [Digital Velocity](#), [Bioscience Technology](#) on Sept. 4; and [Phone Medical](#) and [Lab Manager Magazine](#) on Sept. 5 featured a study by Dr. Gay Crooks that revealed a "missing link" cell bridging blood stem cells and the immune system. Crooks is co-director of the Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at UCLA and a professor of pathology and laboratory medicine, pediatrics and orthopedic surgery.

#### **U.S. News Reports on the Drawbacks of All-Nighters, Cramming**

Research by Andrew J. Fuligni, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, showing that cramming for tests and not sleeping enough had a negative effect on high school students' academic performance, was featured in the Aug. 31 U.S. News & World Report's [University Directory](#).

#### **Psychology Magazine Explores Treatment for Tourettes**

John Piacentini, professor of psychiatry in the Semel Institute, and director of UCLA's Child OCD, Anxiety, and Tic Disorders Program, was featured in the September [American Psychological Association Magazine](#). He addressed the latest advances in the treatment of Tourette syndrome, a neurological disruption that mostly affects school-age children and is characterized by short, sudden physical movements as well as vocal outbursts.

#### **Blog Notes More Kidney Stones for Americans**

The [My Optimum Health](#) blog reported Aug. 31 on a study by researchers from the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA showing that as rates of obesity and diabetes have risen in the U.S., the incidence of kidney stones has also increased significantly. Dr. Charles Scales Jr., a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Clinical Scholar in the departments of urology and medicine at the Geffen School of Medicine, was quoted.

#### **Web Press Cites Stem Cell Study**

[Science Codex](#), [Stem Cell Research](#), the [National Cancer Institute](#) and [Medical Xpress](#) on Sept. 5 featured a study by Dr. Julian Martinez-Agosto finding that two tumor suppressor genes were vital to regulate blood precursor cells in the common fruit fly. Martinez-Agosto is an assistant professor of human genetics and pediatrics and a researcher with the Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at UCLA.

#### **Trade Examines Healthcare Innovation**

The September edition of [Clinical Innovation+Technology](#) featured a Q & A with UCLA Health System's Chief Innovation Officer Dr. Molly Coye on evolving healthcare technologies and care-delivery processes.

#### **KFI Addresses Dangers of Athletic Concussions**

Dr. Christopher Giza, associate professor of neurosurgery and pediatric neurology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was interviewed Sept. 6 on KFI 640AM about the medical risks of concussions in kids who play sports. He advised coaches and parents about the importance of safety equipment and playing by the rules in order to prevent brain injury.

## **BRIEFS**

UCLA's Operation Mend program, which provides reconstructive surgery and other services to wounded soldiers, was discussed Sept. 3 on [WFAA-Channel 8](#) (Dallas) in an interview with actress Ruta Lee, whose nonprofit helps support the program.

## **QUOTABLES**

Anthony Butch, professor of pathology and director of the UCLA Olympic Analytical Laboratory, was quoted Aug. 24 in a [Time](#) article about Lance Armstrong's alleged use of performance-enhancing drugs.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented Sept. 5 in a [Health Day News](#) story that also ran on [Health.com](#) and [U.S. News & World Report](#) about research showing that obesity is not always a risk factor for cardiovascular disease. Fonarow was quoted Sept. 4 in another [Health Day News](#) article that also ran in [Doctors Lounge](#) about so-called "silent" heart attacks in seniors.

Shana Alex Lavarreda, director of health insurance studies at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in the Aug. 30 [Los Angeles Times](#) about a conflict between the California Medical Association and health insurance company Aetna.

Dr. Gary Small, UCLA's Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging and director of the UCLA Longevity Center, was quoted Aug. 29 in an [ABC News.com](#) article about research suggesting that eating small amounts of chocolate may help men lower their stroke risk.

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