



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of Sept. 2 - 8**

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TV Family Reunions May Not Be Good for Soldiers' Children

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Local TV Covers Operating Room Reunion

[KCBS-Channel 2](#) and [KCAL-Channel 9](#) aired a Sept. 3 segment profiling Dr. Nader Pouratian, assistant professor of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, who implanted a brain pacemaker into a 44-year-old patient debilitated for seven years by Parkinson's disease. During the awake-craniotomy, the surgeon, patient and anesthesiologist Dr. Adam Brown discovered they had all attended the same high school, Harvard Westlake. When Pouratian flipped the switch on the pacemaker, the patient's tremors instantly disappeared, allowing him to return to work as an investment banker and become an active father again to his two children.

Hyperbaric Chamber, Neuro-ICU Showcased by Channel 7

[KABC-Channel 7](#) aired a Sept. 7 segment about a college girl who fell into a 35-day coma after suffering carbon monoxide poisoning from a clogged gas wall heater. She was treated with hyperbaric medicine and therapeutic hypothermia at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center by Dr. Paul Vespa, professor of neurology and neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine and director of the hospital's neurointensive care unit. Vespa was interviewed.

Washington Post Highlights Exercising in Your Office Cubicle

An article in the Sept. 5 [Washington Post](#) about a lack of physical activity among office workers cited "Instant Recess: Building a Fit Nation 10 Minutes at a Time," a book by Dr. Antronette Yancey, professor of health services at the UCLA School of Public Health and co-director of the UCLA Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Equity, that outlines an exercise routine that can be performed in office cubicles. Yancey was quoted.

TV Family Reunions May Not Be Good for Soldiers' Children

An article in the Sept. 4 [Washington Post](#) about TV reality shows that stage surprise homecomings between returning U.S. military personnel and their families cited research on mental health problems among children of service members conducted at UCLA. The article quoted Dr. Catherine Mogil who is the director of training for The FOCUS program, a collaboration by UCLA and other institutions that help military families cope with the deployment of a parent. Dr. Mogil is also the co-director of the child and family trauma psychiatry service at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

Health Blogs Report on Pediatric Obesity Study

[Science Daily](#) reported Sept. 6 and the [Examiner](#) reported Sept. 7 on a new paper published in the journal *Pediatrics* which provided guidelines to streamline insurance coverage of obesity treatments in morbidly obese children and adolescents before their condition leads to related illnesses. Lead author Dr. Wendy Slusser, medical director of the UCLA Fit for Healthy Weight program at Mattel Children's Hospital, and co-author Dr. Daniel De Ugarte, surgical director of UCLA's Fit for Healthy Weight program, were quoted.

Brain Cancer Stem Cell Study Garners Web Headlines

[Health News Digest](#), [Examiner.com](#), the [National Cancer Institute](#) and [Medical News Today](#) on Sept. 6 and [HealthCanal.com](#), [Science Daily](#) and [News-Medical.net](#) on Sept. 7 reported on research by Dr. Frank Pajonk that metabolic state of brain cancer stem cells was significantly different than that of the cancer cells they create. Pajonk is an associate professor of radiation oncology and a researcher at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Media Examines Misleading Medical Studies

[Sun News](#) (Canada) reported Aug. 26, [MedPage Today](#) and [French Tribune](#) reported Aug. 30 on research led by Dr. Michael Hochman, a fellow in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars Program in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, finding that studies about medications published in influential medical journals are frequently designed in a way that yields misleading or confusing results.

Wire, Websites Report that Loss of Estrogen Regulator May Lead to Metabolic Syndrome

[Asian News International](#), [News-Medical](#) and [Bioscience Technology News](#) reported Sept. 7 and [Examiner.com](#) reported Sept. 6 on a study demonstrating in mice that the loss of a key protein that regulates estrogen and immune activity could lead to aspects of metabolic syndrome, a combination of conditions that can cause Type 2 diabetes, atherosclerosis and cancer. Senior study author Andrea Hevener, an associate professor of endocrinology, diabetes and hypertension, was quoted. The study appeared online in this week's early edition of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Brave Pediatric Cancer Patient Profiled in the Palisadian Post

The [Palisadian Post](#) on Sept. 1 featured a profile of pediatric cancer patient Allie Newman and her battle against an aggressive osteosarcoma. Dr. Noah Federman, Newman's oncologist and a researcher at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted.

UNOS Magazine Spotlights Hand Transplant

The July-August UNOS Update covered the UCLA Health System honoring Lifesharing, an organ procurement agency, for their role in the successful March 4 hand transplantation surgery of a UCLA patient. Dr. Kodi Azari, surgical director of the UCLA Hand Transplant Program; Dr. Sue McDiarmid, medical director; Erin Core, hand transplant coordinator; and Nick Feduska, Jr., quality/compliance manager and organ preservationist, were noted.

Local Media Highlight Donation to Advance Pediatric Cancer Research

KABC-Channel 7 and [KTAN-Channel 44.3](#) reported Sept. 6 on a donation made to Dr. Satiro De Oliveira, a pediatric hematology/oncology physician at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA. The \$100,000 grant was presented by Hyundai's Hope on Wheels program and will help fund De Oliveira's project which proposes a new immunotherapy treatment to develop persistent anti-leukemia immune cells from the patient's own blood stem cells that will create a whole immune system directed to destroy cancer.

Newspapers Profile Child Who Underwent Brain Surgery to Treat Seizures

California's [Ontario Argus Observer](#) reported Sept. 4 and the [Sioux City Journal](#) reported Sept. 8 on a young boy who underwent a cerebral hemispherectomy — the removal of half the brain — at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA to treat his chronic seizures. The boy's surgeon, Dr. Gary Mathern, professor of pediatric neurosurgery and director of UCLA's Pediatric Epilepsy Surgery Program, was quoted.

Ivanhoe Newswire Reports on Ethnicity-Based Stigma and Kids

Andrew Fuligni, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was featured in a September 1 [Ivanhoe Newswire](#) report on his study that found that ethnic-minority children as young as 7 years old are aware of ethnicity-based stigmatization in school and frequently feel more anxious about being in school.

Medscape Covers Memory Fitness Study

A Sept. 1 [Medscape](#) article reported on a UCLA study that found a memory fitness program offered to adults in their senior living communities helped improve their ability to recognize and recall words, boosting their verbal learning and retention. Study senior author Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging, director of the UCLA Longevity Center and a professor at the Semel Institute and study author Dr. Karen Miller, associate clinical professor at the Semel Institute, were quoted.

California Healthline Interviews Chief Innovation Officer

In a Sept. 8 conversation with [California Healthline](#), Dr. Molly Coye, chief innovation officer of the UCLA Health System, discussed the health system's efforts to improve the value of the health services it delivers.

Health Magazine Notes Signs of Depression in Males

Dr. Ian Cook, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was featured in an August 31 [Health.com](#) and [YahooNews.com](#) article about 12 signs of depression in men.

Community Paper Runs Tribute to Longtime Pediatric Nurse

The Sept. 1 [Palisadian Post](#) published a photo and story about the passing of Myra Possman, longtime pediatrics head nurse at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital.

Web Site Weighs How Muscles Prevent Diabetes

Research by Dr. Preethi Srikanthan, assistant professor of endocrinology, linking muscle mass to a lower risk for developing Type 2 diabetes, was reported Sept. 5 in [Suite101.com](#).

PscyhCentral.com Features Smoking Cessation Study

A Sept. 3 [PsychCentral.com](#) article reported on research led by Dr. Michael Ong, assistant professor of general internal medicine and health services research at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a researcher at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, indicating that smokers with drug, alcohol or mental disorders would be five times more successful at quitting if they received smoking-cessation counseling from their primary care physician.

Lollipop Helps Fight Tooth Decay

[Michigan Live](#) reports today on UCLA professor of dentistry and oral biology Wenyuan Shi's creation of a sugar-free herbal lollipop that has been found to kill the bacterium that causes tooth decay.

BRIEFS

MSNBC's "Morning Joe" mentioned Sept. 8 the UCLA Operation Mend program while discussing an original song written and performed by the show's anchor Joe Scarborough to commemorate the 10th anniversary of 9/11. A portion of the proceeds from the song will benefit Operation Mend, which provides reconstructive surgery and medical services to our country's wounded warriors.

QUOTABLES

Dr. Denise Aberle, a professor of radiology and bioengineering and a researcher at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, commented Sept. 2 in the [St. Petersburg Times](#) (FL) on the National Lung Screening Trial, which is testing spiral CT and X-rays for early lung cancer detection. The story also appeared on the web site for [WEWS-TV](#) (FL).

Dr. Larry Baraff, professor and associate director of emergency medicine at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, commented in a Sept. 8 [FOX News.com](#) article about research showing that nearly half of psychiatric patients treated at hospital emergency rooms for hurting themselves don't receive a mental health evaluation.

Dr. John Fitzgerald, associate clinical professor of medicine, division of rheumatology, commented Sept. 2 in an article in Britain's [Daily Mail](#) about tennis star Venus Williams announcing she has the autoimmune disorder Sjögren's syndrome.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented in a Sept. 3 [Ventura County Star](#) story and Aug. 30 [Men's Health](#) article about how chocolate may lower heart disease risk.

Dr. Arun Karlamangla, associate professor of geriatrics, was quoted Sept. 6 in a [Health.com](#) story on a new study finding that middle aged women who drink in moderation are likelier to stay healthy as they age than non-drinkers. CNN.com, International Business Times and RedOrbit.com carried the article.

Dr. Sammy Saab, associate professor of medicine and surgery and assistant professor of nursing, commented in a Sept. 2 [BioPharm Insight](#) article on potential payer pushback on some newly approved Hepatitis C drugs. The Financial Times carried the article.

Dr. David Teplow, UCLA professor of neurology and interim director of the Mary S. Easton Center for Alzheimer's Disease Research at UCLA, was quoted Aug. 24 in an [ABC News](#) article about University of Tennessee women's basketball coach Pat Summitt being diagnosed with early-onset dementia.

Paul Thompson, professor of neurology and a member of the UCLA Laboratory of Neuro Imaging, was quoted in a Sept. 2 [National Geographic News](#) article about a new chemical that in mice turns brain tissue totally transparent, and may ultimately be useful for brain imaging in living tissue.

Dr. Wally Ghurabi, medical director of the Nethercutt Emergency Center at Santa Monica–UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, commented in a Sept. 5 [Los Angeles Times](#) article about hospital emergency rooms having to deal with more psychiatric patients due to cuts to California's mental health system.

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