



UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of Sept. 4 – 10, 2009

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Brain Cancer Study Garners Widespread Attention

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Brain Cancer Study Garners Widespread Attention

United Press International and Westside Today published stories Sept. 7 highlighting research by Dr. Timothy Cloughesy that shows Avastin alone and in combination with chemotherapy improves response rates and survival times in patients with recurrent glioblastomas. MedPageToday and HemOnc Today published stories on Sept. 4 and MedScape, Drug Week and Biotech Business Week featured the research on Sept. 10. The UPI story also appeared in the Ethiopian Review, RedOrbit.com and the

Internet Times. Cloughesy is director of the Neuro-Oncology Program at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and a professor of neurology. The study appeared in the Journal of Clinical Oncology.

"Drug Improves Brain Cancer Survival"

http://www.upi.com/Health_News/2009/09/07/Drug-improves-brain-cancer-survival/UPI-80291252349438/

"Breakthrough Cited for Recurrent Glioblastoma"

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/HematologyOncology/BrainCancer/15844>

"Bevacizumab With, Without Irinotecan Improved Response, Survival in Recurrent Glioblastoma"

<http://www.hemonctoday.com/article.aspx?rid=43476>

"Bevacizumab Brings Optimism to Recurrent Glioblastoma"

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/708686>

CBS "The Doctors" Features UCLA's Heart Transplant Team

CBS "The Doctors" aired a one hour show on heart transplantation Sept. 9 featuring Dr. Abbas Ardehali, surgical director of the UCLA Heart Transplant program, and Dr. Jon Kobashigawa, medical director of the program. In addition, a 37-year-old UCLA heart transplant recipient, who is training to compete in the Kona Ironman, was also a guest.

"Waiting on a Heart: How to Save a Life"

<http://showroom.multivisioninc.com/share.do?id=113629&key=abINaUgewVFnpCyJUbozroFRXzH6efx&email=AAIbin@mednet.ucla.edu>

Foreign News Wires Sing about New Music Therapy Tool

Agence France Press (AFP) on Sept. 7, Asian News International (ANI) on Sept. 3, and La Stampa (Italian news) on Sept. 2 featured a story about Music Rx, a new mobile cart that delivers music therapy to pediatric patients at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA. Vanya Green, UCLA's board-certified music therapist, was quoted.

"Now, 'Music Therapy on Wheels' for Pediatric Patients"

<http://story.birminghamstar.com/index.php/ct/9/cid/dd8845aa60952db2/id/538512/cs/1/>

"Ecco la Musico-Terapia Su Ruote per i Bambini in Ospedale"

http://www.lastampa.it/_web/cmstp/tmpIRubriche/Benessere/grubrica.asp?ID_blog=26&ID_articolo=1140&ID_sezione=33&sezione=Salute

"Amerikában Kifejlesztettek Egy Olyan Mobil Eszközt, Ami Zeneterápia Segítségével a Kórházban Apolt Gyermekek Félelmét, Elszigeteltségét és Fajdalmát Oldja."

http://medipress.hu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=12303&Itemid=31

HealthDay, Reuters Health Mull Waist-to-Hip Ratio's Prediction of Early Death

HealthDay News and Pulse Today (U.K) reported Sept. 4, and Reuters Health reported Sept. 9, 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 HealthDay story ran in U.S. News & World Report. The Annals of Epidemiology published the findings.

"Waist-Hip Ratio Good Gauge of Obesity in Elderly, Study Shows"

<http://www.empowher.com/news/2009/09/04/waist-hip-ratio-good-gauge-obesity-elderly-study-shows>

"Waist-to-Hip Ratio 'Better than BMI' at Predicting Over-70s Mortality"

<http://www.pulsetoday.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=23&storycode=4123562&c=2>

"Elderly? Check Obesity Using Waist, Hips, Not BMI"

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory?id=8530045>

Bay Area Reporter Spotlights Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Meeting

The Bay Area Reporter ran a story Sept. 3 on a meeting about Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), the use of AIDS drugs to prevent infection with HIV. The UCLA Center for HIV Identification, Prevention, and Treatment Services (CHIPTS) sponsored the meeting, which was held Aug. 23 in Atlanta prior to the start of the 2009 National HIV Prevention conference.

"Politics, Money May Prove Insurmountable For PrEP"

<http://www.ebar.com/news/article.php?sec=news&article=4172>

KABC Reports on New Tool to Fight Depression

Dr. Ian Cook, Miller Family Professor of Psychiatry and director of the Depression Research Program at the Semel Institute, was featured in a Sept. 4 KABC-Channel 7 news segment about “transcranial magnetic stimulation,” a new, non-invasive device for treating major depression.

“Magnetic Treatment Helps Fight Depression”

<http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/health&id=6999817>

Telethon Highlights Duchenne Research

Melissa Spencer, an associate professor of neurology and co-director of the Center for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, was featured in a segment of the Muscular Dystrophy Association Telethon Sept. 6 on WXIN-TV (Indianapolis, Ind.) and KTVK-TV (Phoenix).

Media Continues Weighing Obesity and Smaller Brains

Paul Thompson, professor of neurology and a member of the Laboratory of Neuro Imaging, continues to be featured in numerous media outlets about his brain imaging research that found that parts of the brain involved in memory and planning are, on average, smaller in overweight and obese people. These included the Sept. 3 Santa Monica Daily Press, Sept. 4 in news segments on WCTV-TV (Tallahassee, Fla.) and WBRC-TV (Birmingham, Ala.), and Sept. 6 on WBAK-TV (Bakersfield, Calif.).

Geriatrician’s Column Answers Common Questions about H1N1 Virus

The Sept. 10 Santa Monica Mirror published a question-and-answer column by Dr. Sonja Rosen, staff geriatrician at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, on the H1N1 virus.

“Q & A on H1N1”

<http://www.smmirror.com/MainPages/DisplayArticleDetails.asp?eid=10908>

ER Physician Discusses Health Impact of Fires on Public Radio

Dr. Mark Morocco, a UCLA emergency physician and associate residency director of emergency medicine, was a guest on a nationally-syndicated radio program Sept. 4 called “Living on the Earth” to discuss the health impact of smoke from the Southern California fires.

“Where there’s Fire, there’s Smoke”

<http://www.loe.org/shows/shows.htm?programID=09-P13-00036#feature1>

Infectious Diseases Expert Discusses Bee-Sting Emergencies

The Los Angeles Times on Sept. 7 featured a column by Dr. Claire Panosian Dunavan, clinical professor of infectious diseases, encouraging those with allergies to bee stings, foods or medications to carry an epinephrine shot in case of emergencies.

“The Highly Allergic Should Keep an Epinephrine Shot Close By”

<http://www.latimes.com/features/health/la-he-practice7-2009sep07.0.1430439.story>

Ivanhoe Broadcast Features Innovative Brain Technology

Ivanhoe Broadcast reported on brain-scan technology that identifies the abnormal proteins associated with Alzheimer’s disease – often years before symptoms appear. Researchers used a molecule developed at UCLA that binds to the plaques and tangles, which are then visible using positron emission tomography (PET) imaging. Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging and a professor with the Semel Institute, was interviewed. The story aired Aug. 26 through Sept. 4 on NBC affiliates and independent stations in Florida and North Dakota.

“Alzheimer’s Brain Technology”

<http://showroom.multivisioninc.com/share.do?id=113558&key=BGiZdha8d4goCUQaUCo6nFgxwguXYNtC&email=RChampeau@mednet.ucla.edu>

H1N1 Flu Expert Interviewed by ABC News, La Opinion

Dr. Peter Katona, associate clinical professor of infectious diseases, commented Sept. 9 in La Opinion and Sept. 8 on ABC News regarding the H1N1 influenza. The ABC News piece ran on affiliates in Michigan, Massachusetts, Oregon, Texas, Montana, Arizona, Kentucky and Nebraska.

“La Gripe H1N1 Ilega Antes de lo Provisto”

<http://www.impre.com/laopinion/noticias/primera-pagina/2009/9/9/la-gripe-h1n1-ilega-antes-de-l-147021-1.html>

"ABC News"

<http://showroom.multivisioninc.com/share.do?id=113570&key=aeQrr36akoR4YFWsWKb2AslrcCUyEzZJ&email=RChampeau@mednet.ucla.edu>

Palisades Paper Profiles Pathologist

The Palisadian Post published a Sept. 10 profile of Rita Effros, professor of pathology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, that explored her latest research uncovering the immune system's role in bone loss and high cholesterol's link to osteoporosis.

"Rita Effros Explores Immune System's Role in Bone Loss"

http://www.palisadespost.com/content/index.cfm?Story_ID=5130

LA Times, AP Cover State AG's Lawsuit Involving UCLA Professor's Charity

The Los Angeles Times, City News Service, a Chronicle of Higher Education blog and an Inside Higher Ed blog reported Sept. 10 on a California Attorney General lawsuit filed against a UCLA professor and heart surgeon for allegedly misusing for personal gain a charity he founded. The investigation resulted from evidence uncovered by the university. The Associated Press, a Los Angeles Times blog and Modern Healthcare reported the story on Sept. 9.

"UCLA Surgeon Sued for Benefiting from His Own Charity"

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-ucla-professor10-2009sep10.0.5587956.story>

"Attorney General Sues UCLA Professor for Alleged Misuse of Charity Money"

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2009/09/charity-lawsuit.html>

State AG Accuses UCLA Professor of Abusing Funds"

http://www.montereyherald.com/state/ci_13301000?nclink_check=1

BRIEFS

A report issued by the Center for Health Policy Research in the School of Public Health was cited in a Sept. 7 Los Angeles Times article about health insurance. The report stated that of the 2.2 million Californians who reported medical debts in 2007, two-thirds incurred that debt despite having insurance.

"Healthcare Ideas Losing Out to Ideology"

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/healthcare/la-fi-hiltzik7-2009sep07.0.2543387.column>

A Sept. 8 article in the Cleveland Plain Dealer cited research led by Arleen Leibowitz, professor of public policy, finding lower rates of circumcision in states where Medicaid does not cover the procedure.

"Circumcision Rates Vary by Region in U.S., According to Survey"

<http://www.cleveland.com/medical/plaindealer/index.ssf?/base/news/1252398628323180.xml&coll=2>

The September edition of Oncology Nursing News cited a new study by Dr. Whitney Pope, assistant professor of radiological sciences at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, finding MRI scans can be used to evaluate water movement in tumors, which in turn helps predict how glioblastoma tumors will respond to bevacizumab (Avastin) therapy.

"'BOLD' Imaging Helps Find Best Cancer Treatment"

<http://www.oncologynursingnews.com/BOLD-Imaging-Helps-Find-Best-Cancer-Treatment/article/148501/>

QUOTABLES

Gregory Cole, professor of neurology and associate director of the Mary S. Easton Center for Alzheimer's Disease Research, was quoted in a Sept. 7 HealthDay News article about a study that found that even a minor infection can double the rate of memory loss in people with Alzheimer's. The article ran in U.S. News & World Report, YahooNews.com, KFRE-TV (Fresno, Calif.), and the Springfield (Ohio) News Sun.

"Even Mild Infections Hasten Decline with Alzheimer's"

<http://www.kmph.com/Global/story.asp?S=11090054>

"Even Mild Infections Hasten Decline with Alzheimer's"

http://news.yahoo.com/s/hsn/20090909/hl_hsn/evenmildinfectionsstendeclinewithalzheimers;_ylt=AurajnC6TRkYnjXcwBY7WjVJRIF;_ylu=X3oDMTNiN2xodXY0BGFzc2V0A2hzb8yMDA5MDkwOS9ldmVubWIzZGluZmVjdGlvbnNoYXN0ZW5kZWNSaW5ld2l0aGFsemhlaW1lcnMEcG9zAzI0BHNIYwN5bl9zd

Dr. Gabriel Danovitch, medical director of the UCLA Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Program, commented Sept. 4 in a CNN "Anderson Cooper 360" segment on organ sales.
"Organs for Sale"

<http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0909/04/acd.02.html>

Gerald Kominski, associate director of the Center for Health Policy Research in the School of Public Health, was quoted in a Sept. 4 MarketWatch.com article about healthcare reform. He was also quoted in a Sept. 8 MSNBC.com and Washington Post.com article about Rescission — the technical term for insurance companies who cancel coverage on grounds that the company was misled.

"Health Reform Effort Heads into Crunch Time"

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/health-reform-efforts-hit-crunch-time-2009-09-04>

"When Your Insurer Says You're No Longer Covered"

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/09/07/AR2009090702455.html>

William Lowry, assistant professor of molecular, cellular and developmental biology and a scientist with the Broad Stem Cell Research Center, commented in a Sept. 7 article in Nature about fat cells and pigment-producing skin cells being good sources for creating induced pluripotent stem cells.

"Flab and Freckles Could Advance Stem Cell Research"

<http://www.nature.com/news/2009/090907/full/news.2009.883.html>

Dr. Susan L. Perlman, clinical professor of neurology and director of the UCLA Ataxia Center and HD Center for Excellence, was quoted in a Sept. 3 Neurology Today article about a significant research paper that described the spectrum of Ataxia-Telangiectasia.

"Variant Ataxia-Telangiectasia Can Elude Diagnosis for Years"

<http://www.neurotodayonline.com/pt/re/neurotoday/fulltext.00132985-200909030-00007.htm;jsessionid=KmYcqFBMtmQ6pwCv0ByF0qTCvX8lw6nc6sJ97Qfjpy2ZyRW8jfvL!-1301340472!181195628!8091!-1>

Dr. Arya "Nick" Shamie, orthopaedic spine surgeon at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, was quoted in a Sept. 7 Reuters story about a technique to alter harmful positions and postures.

"Alexander Technique: Kicking the Body's Bad Habits"

<http://www.reuters.com/article/lifestyleMolt/idUSTRE5861QM20090907>

Paul Thompson, professor of neurology and a member of the Laboratory of Neuro Imaging, commented Sept. 8 on the Science Now website about a paper that reported scientists have pinpointed a small spot in the brain that has a 71 percent chance of predicting whether high-risk patients will develop schizophrenia.

"Brain Scans for Schizophrenia?"

<http://sciencenow.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/2009/908/1>

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