



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT  
For the week of Sept. 9 – 13, 2012**

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### **“Bubble Baby” Study Garners Widespread Attention**

[My Health News Daily](#), [Examiner.com](#), [Today.com](#), [the Herald](#), [Science Today](#), [the Business Journals](#), [Medical Xpress](#), [Health Canal](#), [iPS Cell Therapy](#), [Stem Cell News](#), [Stem Cells Therapy](#), [Health Maga](#), [Gene Therapy](#), [La Informacion](#), [Science Codex](#), [Science Daily](#), [News-Medical.net](#), [Huffington Post](#) and [Fox News](#) Sept. 11 and Fox 10 News in Phoenix Sept. 12 reported on a study by Dr. Donald Kohn, professor of pediatrics and microbiology, immunology and molecular genetics in Life Sciences and a member of the Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at UCLA, that showed the immune system of “Bubble Babies” can safely be restored using gene therapy.

### **AP, ABC Spotlight How Operation Mend Helps Wounded Warriors**

The [Associated Press](#) featured Sept. 9 and [ABC News](#) online highlighted Sept. 11 the work of UCLA's Operation Mend, a partnership between Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, Brooke Army Medical Center and the Veterans Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, that offers free reconstructive surgery and other medical care for military personnel severely wounded and disfigured during service in Afghanistan and Iraq. A program patient was featured and the story was picked up by numerous news outlets across the country. Dr. Chris Crisera, associate professor of plastic and reconstructive surgery and medical co-director of Operation Mend, was interviewed by ABC.

### **Examiner Spotlights Stem Cell Grants**

[Examiner.com](#) Sept. 7 reported on \$8.7 million in grants from the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine to three researchers from the Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at UCLA. Dr. Stanley Nelson, professor of human genetics and psychiatry, received a \$6 million disease team grant. Dr. Owen Witte, director of the Broad Stem Cell Center at UCLA and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator, and Kathryn Plath, associate professor of biological chemistry, each received \$1.35 million basic biology grants.

### **Southern California Public Radio News Reports on Subspecialty Care Access**

[OnCentral.org](#), a news site of Southern California Public Radio, reported Aug. 31 on research by Dr. Katherine Neuhausen, a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation clinical scholar in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, finding that community health centers that are integrated with local health systems offer the best access to subspecialty care to underserved populations.

### **Kidney Transplant Doctor Testifies About Organ Harvesting**

Dr. Gabriel Danovitch, medical director of the kidney and pancreas transplant program, testified Sept. 12 at a [Committee on Foreign Affairs](#) hearing in Washington D.C. about organ harvesting of religious and political dissidents by the Communist Party in China.

### **Examiner Blog Looks At Gene Mutation Linked to Autism**

Mirella Dapretto, a professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute of Neuroscience, was featured in a Sept. 13 [Examiner](#) blog about her Autism research showing that a common gene mutation has been found to

impact the network of connections between different areas of the brain involved in social behavior, such as recognizing the emotions shown on people's faces, a common symptom of the disorder.

### **KPCC Reports on Making Health Care More Efficient**

Shana Alex Lavarreda, director of health insurance studies at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research in the Fielding School of Public Health, was interviewed Sept. 10 on KPCC-89.3 FM's "[AirTalk](#)" about new research showing that some \$750 billion is wasted each year in the U.S. health care system as a result of unnecessary services, inefficient delivery of care, excessive administrative costs, price inflation, prevention failure and fraud.

### **Infectious Diseases Expert Addresses West Nile, Other Ailments**

The [Pasadena Star-News](#) featured a Sept. 12 column by Dr. Claire Panosian Dunavan, clinical professor of infectious diseases, about West Nile virus. In addition, the Sept. 6 edition of the [Los Angeles Daily News](#) carried a column by Panosian Dunavan about thyroiditis, an inflammation of the thyroid, and other thyroid conditions. She also had a column in the Aug. 30 edition of the [Los Angeles Daily News](#) about dogs that can smell early-stage cancers and other diseases.

### **KNX Interviews Expert Who Views Smartphones as Electronic Infants**

Dr. Peter Whybrow, director of the Semel Institute and physician-in-chief of the Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital, was interviewed Sept. 13 on [KNX-1070 AM](#) about people's addiction to smartphones and other wireless technologies.

### **KPCC Features Art Therapy Class for Cancer Patients**

[KPCC 89.3](#) national public radio Sept. 9 featured an art therapy course at the Simms/Mann-UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

### **KCBS News Airs Chemo Brain Study**

[KCBS-Channel 2](#) featured a study Sept. 6 that helps breast cancer survivors overcome post-treatment cognitive problems, often referred to as chemo brain. The study is led by Dr. Patricia Ganz, director of cancer prevention and control research at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

### **Food Consumer Cites Radioactive Cigarette Smoke Study**

[Food Consumer](#) Sept. 8 featured a study by Hrayr S. Karagueuzian, adjunct professor of cardiology, showing that cigarette smoke contains radioactive polonium 210 (<sup>210</sup>Po) and regular smokers can accumulate enough of the alpha particles to boost their risk for lung cancer.

### **Imperial Valley News Highlights Fruit Fly Research**

[Imperial Valley News](#) on Sept. 9 featured a study by Dr. Julian Martinez-Agosto, 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, that found that two tumor suppressor genes were vital to regulate blood precursor cells in the common fruit fly.

### **Journal Podcast Features Heart Expert**

Dr. Linda Demer, professor of medicine and physiology, was a guest on a Sept. 7 [American Journal of Physiology](#) podcast about a study on coronary artery calcification and the use of microCT imaging to identify microcalcifications, a potential trigger for inflammation-induced atherosclerosis.

### **NPR Reports on Kidney Stone Study**

NPR's "[Morning Edition](#)" reported Sept. 10 on a study by researchers from the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and colleagues showing that as rates of obesity and diabetes have risen, so has the incidence of kidney stones. Dr. Charles D. Scales Jr., a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Clinical Scholar in the departments of urology and medicine, was interviewed.

### **Prof Named to Chair in Gerontology**

An [Examiner](#) blog reported Sept. 10 that Steven G. Clarke, distinguished professor in the department of chemistry and biochemistry in UCLA's College of Letters and Science, has been named to UCLA's Elizabeth and Thomas Plott Chair in Gerontology. Gary Small, Parlow–Solomon Professor on Aging and director of the UCLA Longevity Center, was also quoted.

### **Website Explores iPad Use in Patient Care**

An [Examiner](#) blog reported Sept. 12 that in one of the first programs of its kind for inflammatory bowel disease, patients, doctors and specialized nurses at UCLA are all using Apple iPads to help track patients' symptoms and care and to communicate with each other in real-time about disease management. Dr. Daniel Hommes, professor of medicine and director of the UCLA Center for Inflammatory Bowel Diseases, was quoted.

### **L.A. Times Spotlights Neuro-ICU Robot**

Dr. Paul Vespa, professor of neurosurgery and director of the neuro-intensive care unit at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, was featured in a Sept. 13 article in a [Los Angeles Times](#) health supplement on the future of healthcare. The story showcased the hospital's neuro-ICU robot, which enables Vespa to visit patients at their bedside from his home or office. Vespa was quoted and pictured with a patient.

### **Robert Fink, Retired UCLA Biological Chemist, Dies at 96**

The [Los Angeles Times](#) published a Sept. 10 obituary on Robert Morgan Fink, 96, a retired biochemistry professor whose groundbreaking research with his biochemist wife included developing a new technique in the late 1940s to study the thyroid. Elizabeth Neufeld, professor and former chair of biological chemistry, was quoted.

### **Huffington Post Examines How Cataract Surgery Prevents Falls in Seniors**

The Sept. 11 [Huffington Post](#) cited a JAMA study by Dr. Anne Coleman, Fran and Ray Stark Foundation Professor of Ophthalmology and director of the Center for Eye Epidemiology at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, finding that seniors who undergo cataract surgery to improve their vision also reduce their chance of hip fractures due to falls.

### **Patch Spotlights Donations to UCLA Blood & Platelet Center**

The Westwood-Century City edition of AOL's [Patch](#) ran a Sept. 7 story about the UCLA Blood & Platelet Center receiving a \$73,000 two-year donation from two passionate Bruin fans to buy a new truck for UCLA Health System's mobile blood collection program. The checks were presented by Peter Heumann, founder of the annual City of Angels Run Ride, which generated the bulk of the gift; and Howie Neftin, owner of Neftin Volkswagen on behalf of Volkswagen of America, which sponsors the ride. Dr. Alyssa Ziman, the center's medical director, was quoted, and a photo featured Dr. Linda Baum, chief of laboratory medicine; Dr. Scott Binder, senior vice chair of pathology and clinical director of laboratory medicine; Pamela Bumerts, director of transfusion medicine, and Ziman.

### **CBS News Highlights Fructose Study**

The CBS affiliate in Cadillac, Mich. reported Sept. 12 and 13 on a UCLA study finding that fructose slowed brain function and disrupted learning in mice navigating a maze. Omega-3 fatty acids helped counteract the damage. Fernando Gomez-Pinilla, professor of neurosurgery, led the research.

## QUOTABLES

Dr. Latisha Ali, assistant professor of neurology and director of the UCLA Telestroke Program, commented Sept. 13 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) article about the use of telemedicine to treat stroke patients remotely.

Dr. Peter Butler, director of the Larry L. Hillblom Islet Research Center, was quoted in a Sept. 13 article in [The Scientist](#) about a new study that pancreas cells in diabetic mice revert to an earlier state in which they are unable to produce insulin.

Dr. James Cherry, professor of pediatric infectious diseases at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, commented Sept. 13 in a [USA Today](#) article about the need for an improved whooping cough vaccine.

Gregory Cole, professor of medicine and neurology and associate director of the Mary S. Easton Center for Alzheimer Disease Research, was quoted in a Sept. 2 [HealthDay News](#) article about research indicating that the herbal supplement ginkgo biloba won't prevent or delay Alzheimer's.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, was quoted Sept. 10 in a [Health Day News](#) article about research showing that a common type of painkiller may increase individuals' risk of a second heart attack. In addition, he was quoted in a Sept. 11 [Health Day News](#) article about a study indicating that omega-3 fatty acids may not be associated with better heart health. U.S. News & World Report carried both stories.

Dr. Andrew Leuchter, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was quoted Sept. 10 in [NBCNews.com](#) and [Red Orbit](#) articles about research suggesting depressed mothers may have children who are shorter in stature.

Dr. Emeran Mayer, professor of medicine, physiology and psychiatry, commented Sept. 13 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) article about research into the role of gut microbes in promoting health and treating disease -- even with the brain.

Dr. Alison Moore, professor of geriatrics and psychiatry, was quoted Sept. 1 in a Riverside [Press-Enterprise](#) story about a state bill to raise the retirement age of public safety workers from age 50 to 57.

Dr. Marshall Morgan, professor of emergency medicine and director of emergency medicine at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, commented Sept. 12 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) article about the Los Angeles County district attorney targeting doctors who may be improperly prescribing pain medication.

William McCarthy, adjunct professor of psychology and of health services at the Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in a Sept. 4 [New York Times](#) article about New York City cutting too many calories from public school lunches.

Dr. Alan Robinson, associate vice chancellor at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted in the Riverside [Press-Enterprise](#) June 9 about an agreement that UC Riverside has with UCLA that allows medical students to spend their first two years on the Riverside campus and then transfer to UCLA.

Arthur Toga, professor of neurology and director of the Laboratory of Neuro Imaging, was quoted in a special health section in the Sept. 13 [Los Angeles Times](#) about the increased knowledge of brain anatomy thanks to sophisticated brain mapping technology.

Dr. Daniel Uslan, assistant clinical professor of infectious diseases and director of the UCLA Antimicrobial Stewardship Program, was quoted Sept. 10 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) article about doctors' quest to learn more about the deadly Hantavirus.

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