



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT**  
**For the week of Sept. 11 - 17, 2009**

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**Breakthrough in Antidepressant Treatment Draws Headlines**

Research by Dr. Andrew Leuchter, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was reported in a City News Service article that appeared Sept. 14 on the KNBC-Channel 4 and KNSD-Channel 39 (San Diego) websites. Asian News International and Ivanhoe Newswire also reported Sept. 11 on the findings, as did the Sept. 16 Los Angeles Times health blog. Leuchter's team developed a new biomarker that could help doctors predict within a week whether a person will benefit from a particular antidepressant medication. "First, Scan the Brain; Second, Assess the Antidepressant"

[http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/booster\\_shots/2009/09/first-scan-the-brain-second-assess-the-antidepressant-.html](http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/booster_shots/2009/09/first-scan-the-brain-second-assess-the-antidepressant-.html)

“UCLA Study: Test Might End Medication Guessing Game”

<http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/health/UCLA-Study-Test-Might-End-Medication-Guessing-Game-59175187.html>

<http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/health/UCLA-Study-Test-Might-End-Medication-Guessing-Game-59175187.html>

### **L.A. Times, Local TV Cover Wedding in Hospital ICU**

The Los Angeles Times reported Sept. 13 and KNBC-Channel 4, KTLA-Channel 5, KABC-Channel 7, KTTV-Channel 11 and KCOP-Channel 13 reported Sept. 12 on a patient's daughter who was married in her father's intensive care unit room at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center so he would not miss her wedding. Louise Villalpando, manger of patient affairs, was quoted in the Times story which also ran Sept. 15 in the San Francisco Chronicle.

“Hospital Wedding Has a Different Ring to It”

[http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/afghanistan/la-me-wedding13-2009sep13\\_0,2177698.story](http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/afghanistan/la-me-wedding13-2009sep13_0,2177698.story)

“Honoring Father, Couple Say ‘I Do’ at ICU”

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/09/15/BAKU19MEQL.DTL>

“ICU Wedding” Fox 11

<http://showroom.multivisioninc.com/share.do?id=113800&key=1Rs5wNy9BChcqyi7ACidv4zFinlhju4d&email=AAlbin@mednet.ucla.edu>

### **NPR Explores whether Runner is Male or Female**

Dr. Eric Vilain, professor of human genetics, pediatrics and urology and chief of medical genetics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was interviewed Sept. 14 by National Public Radio about Caster Semenya, a South African runner whose gender was questioned after she broke the world record for the women's 800-meter race last month.

“Gender Questions Surround Track And Field Star”

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=112810116>

### **Scientific American Urges Scientists to Engage Public on Animal Research**

A Scientific American blog reported Sept. 15 on a Journal of Neuroscience commentary by David Jentsch, associate professor of psychiatry, and Dario Ringach, professor of neurobiology and psychiatry, calling for medical researchers to engage the public on animal research issues. Both were quoted.

“Scientists Targeted by Opponents of Animal Research Speak Out”

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/blog/60-second-science/post.cfm?id=scientists-targeted-by-opponents-of-2009-09-15>

### **L.A. Times, TV Report on Soda's Link to Obesity**

Susan Babey, a research scientist with the Center for Health Policy Research at the School of Public Health, was featured Sept. 17 in a Los Angeles Times health blog report, and in news reports on multiple television stations, including KABC-Channel 7, KNBC-Channel 4, KTLA-Channel 5, KTVU-Channel 2 (San Francisco), and KRXI-Channel 11(Reno).

“Soda Flows Freely in California”

[http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/booster\\_shots/2009/09/soda-consumption-in-california-bubbling-over.html](http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/booster_shots/2009/09/soda-consumption-in-california-bubbling-over.html)

### **NPR Explains How to Combat Chemo Brain**

Dr. Daniel Silverman, head of neuronuclear imaging and associate professor of molecular and medical pharmacology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was interviewed Sept. 14 on National Public Radio about his new book advising cancer patients how to combat the mental fog resulting from chemotherapy in order to regain their focus and quality of life.

“Chemo Brain”

<http://www.hereandnow.org/2009/09/rundown-914/>

### **Pediatrician Pens Healthcare Reform Essay for L.A. Times**

The Los Angeles Times published an opinion piece by Dr. Alex Blum, a former pediatric resident at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, that described why Congress should support healthcare reform. The op-ed also appeared in the Salt Lake Tribune on Sept. 15

"Broken Healthcare and Broken Lives"

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-blum13-2009sep13,0,3377921.story>

### **Blogs Highlight Celebrity's Video to Support Sick Kids**

The entertainment blogs Celebuzz and DailyFill on Sept. 15 spotlighted a video by actress Dakota Fanning that promotes the 2009 holiday card collection at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA. Proceeds from the cards will benefit the Child Life/Child Development program at the hospital.

"Dakota Fanning is Such a Card"

<http://www.celebuzz.com/video-dakota-fanning-such-card-s134621/>

"Dakota Fanning: Charity Case"

<http://www.dailyfill.com/Dakota-Fanning-Charity-Case-35215/>

### **KNX Calls on Santa Monica Doc to Explain H1N1 Virus**

Dr. David Baron, chief of staff at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, was interviewed Sept. 11 by KNX AM1070 about the current status of the H1N1 virus.

<http://showroom.multivisioninc.com/share.do?id=113798&key=WmSPtBj7eH782AS9hbR5vT5SveCBzJVu&email=tbraun@mednet.ucla.edu>

### **Magazine Spotlights International Medical Graduate Program**

Miller-McCune, a magazine spotlighting how academic research translates into real-world solutions, ran a Sept. 11 story about the International Medical Graduate Program, which helps medical school graduates from Central and South America to obtain California medical licenses. The Department of Family Medicine administers the program. Program co-directors Dr. Patrick Dowling and Dr. Michelle Bholat were quoted.

"Program Puts Sidelined Doctors Back in the Game"

<http://www.miller-mccune.com/health/doctors-back-in-the-game-1419>

### **Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Highlights Circumcision Study**

A Sept. 13 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette story about circumcision relied in part on research led by Arleen Leibowitz, professor of public policy and a researcher with the UCLA AIDS Institute, finding that rates of the procedure are low in states where Medicaid does not cover it.

"Health Groups Reconsider Circumcision Stance"

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/09256/997658-114.stm>

### **Researcher Writes about Mexican Independence Day**

New America Media ran a column Sept. 16 by David Hayes-Bautista, professor of general internal medicine and health services research and director of the Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture, about historical Mexican Independence Day celebrations in California.

"An Old American Tradition: Celebrating Mexican Independence Day"

[http://news.newamericamedia.org/news/view\\_article.html?article\\_id=42e03e63619eb13b712b4edd46f03217](http://news.newamericamedia.org/news/view_article.html?article_id=42e03e63619eb13b712b4edd46f03217)

### **NBC Affiliate, Trades Feature Brain Cancer Research**

The NBC affiliate WMTV-15 (WI) aired a story Sept. 11 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. Trade publications Drug Week and Biotech Business Week also cited the research Sept. 15. He is a professor of neurology and director of the Neuro-Oncology Program at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

### **Overseas Newspaper Covers Cholesterol Study**

Pakistani newspaper "News International" reported Sept. 13 on a study that found nearly 75 percent of patients hospitalized for a heart attack had cholesterol levels suggesting that they were not at high risk for

a cardiovascular event according to current national guidelines. Dr. Gregg Fonarow, principal investigator and Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science, was quoted.

“Cholesterol Levels in Heart Patients Didn’t Indicate Any Risk”

[http://www.thenews.com.pk/daily\\_detail.asp?id=198218](http://www.thenews.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=198218)

### **Website Reports Vitamin D, Spice May Help Alzheimer’s Disease**

ThirdAge.com reported Sept. 4 that a form of vitamin D, together with a chemical found in turmeric spice, may help the immune system clear the brain of amyloid beta, which forms the plaques that lead to Alzheimer’s disease. Dr. Milan Fiala, a researcher at the David Geffen School of Medicine and Veterans Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, was quoted.

“Vitamin D, Spice, May Fight Alzheimer’s”

<http://www.thirdage.com/alzheimers/vitamin-d-spice-may-fight-alzheimers>

### **BRIEFS**

The October issue of the Ladies Home Journal reported research led by Dr. Carolyn Crandall, professor of general internal medicine and health services research, finding that hot flashes or night sweats put women at higher risk for developing brittle bones.

### **QUOTABLES**

Dr. Christopher DeGiorgio, professor of neurology, was quoted in the Sept. 14 Wall Street Journal about his experimental use of omega 3s, a family of unsaturated fatty acids, to help stabilize the heart and reduce cases of sudden death among epileptics.

“Probing Health Benefits From Eating Omega 3s”

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204348804574407372661465700.html?mod=googlenews\\_wsj](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204348804574407372661465700.html?mod=googlenews_wsj)

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson–UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, was quoted Sept. 15 in the Minneapolis Star-Tribune about structured treatment guidelines for heart failure patients. He also commented Sept. 15 in HealthDay News about how the rising U.S. rate of obesity could lead to more cases of cardiovascular disease.

“Structured Care Best for Heart Patients, Study Says”

<http://www.startribune.com/business/59287317.html?elr=KArksUUUoDEy3LGDio7aiU>

“Most Adult Americans at Some Risk for Heart Disease”

<http://www.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=630974>

Alison Grimes, manager of the UCLA audiology clinic and assistant clinical professor of head and neck surgery, explained how loud noise will affect the Bruins’ performance at two high-stakes football games.

“Trojans, Bruins Face Huge Obstacles at Ohio State, Tennessee: the Noisy Stadiums”

<http://www.latimes.com/sports/college/usc/la-sp-noise12-2009sep12,0,4249660,full.story>

David Hayes-Bautista, professor of general internal medicine and health services research and director of the Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture, was quoted Sept. 11 in a New America Media report about healthcare reform.

“Ethnic Leaders Find Hope in Health Care Plan”

[http://news.newamericamedia.org/news/view\\_article.html?article\\_id=8f16f7f70ccaddc7741c0b4508234e5c](http://news.newamericamedia.org/news/view_article.html?article_id=8f16f7f70ccaddc7741c0b4508234e5c)

Dr. Peter Katona, associate clinical professor of infectious diseases, commented Sept. 14 in the Los Angeles Times about research showing that bed rest not exercise is best for those with the flu. He also was interviewed Sept. 14 about H1N1 influenza on KNX 1070 AM radio.

“The Flu and Exercise Don’t Play Nice”

<http://www.latimes.com/features/health/la-he-workout14-2009sep14,0,3391914.story>

Shana Alex Lavarreda, director of health insurance studies at the Center for Health Policy Research at the School of Public Health, commented Sept. 10 in the Sacramento Bee and San Jose Mercury News about undocumented immigrants and the debate over healthcare reform.

“Controversy Over Obama Speech Underscores Cost of Health Care for Illegal Immigrants”

[http://www.mercurynews.com/ci\\_13311560?IADID=Search-www.mercurynews.com-www.mercurynews.com&nclick\\_check=1](http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_13311560?IADID=Search-www.mercurynews.com-www.mercurynews.com&nclick_check=1)

Dr. Howard Reber, chief of gastrointestinal surgery and director of the UCLA Center for Pancreatic Diseases, commented Sept. 15 on TV's Extra! about pancreatic cancer in a story about actor Patrick Swayze. Reber is also director of the Ronald Hirshberg Translational Research Laboratory for Pancreatic Cancer at UCLA.

“The Fight Against Pancreatic Cancer”

[http://extratv.warnerbros.com/2009/09/the\\_fight\\_against\\_pancreatic\\_c.php](http://extratv.warnerbros.com/2009/09/the_fight_against_pancreatic_c.php)

Dr. Charles Swerdlow, clinical professor of cardiology, commented Sept. 14 in the New York Times about a study indicating that heart defibrillators do not benefit women with congestive heart failure.

“Survey Shows Heart Device Aids Men More than Women”

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/15/business/15device.html?\\_r=3&scp=1&sq=charles%20swerdlow&st=cs](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/15/business/15device.html?_r=3&scp=1&sq=charles%20swerdlow&st=cs)

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