



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT**  
**For the week of Sept. 18 - 24, 2009**

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**Rats' Ability to Run after Spinal Cord Injury Captures World Headlines**

New research by Reggie Edgerton, a professor of neurobiology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, that enabled paralyzed rats to run again after spinal cord injury, was covered Sept. 20 by The

Guardian (U.K.), Agence France Press, HealthDay News and BBC News. Sept. 21 coverage included the New York Times' health blog, NBC's "Today" show, Discovery Channel's "Daily Planet," Discover Magazine.com, the Los Angeles Times, Sirius Radio's "Doctor Radio," the Voice of America, WebMD, United Press International, two segments by the Australian Broadcast Corporation, Ria Novosti (Russia), Asian News International, All Headline News, The Hindu and many others. The AFP report appeared Sept. 21 on Discovery News.com, the Vancouver Sun, Ottawa Citizen and Canada.com, among others. The HealthDay report appeared in the Atlanta Journal Constitution, Health.com, EmpowHer blog and dozens of local TV websites. Edgerton and his former postdoctoral student Gregory Cortine, now of the University of Switzerland, were quoted. The findings were also reported by foreign-language press around the world, including Der Standard, Spiegel Online (German), Deutsches Ärzteblatt (Swiss) Il Messaggero (Italian) El Pais (Spain), ABC (Spain), La Nación (Paraguay) and many more. *Nature Neuroscience* published the findings in its Sept. 20 online edition.

"With Help, Paralyzed Rats Walk Again"

<http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/26184891/vp/32950285#32950285>

"Paralyzed Rats Walk Again, Raising Hope for Humans"

<http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/09/21/paralyzed-rats-walk-again-raising-hope-for-spinal-cord-patients/>

"New Treatment Lets Paralyzed Rats Walk without Using Their Brains"

<http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/80beats/2009/09/21/new-treatment-lets-paralyzed-rats-walk-without-using-their-brains/>

"A New Approach to Treating Spinal Cord Injuries"

[http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/booster\\_shots/2009/09/spinal-cord-injury-rat-walk-again.html](http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/booster_shots/2009/09/spinal-cord-injury-rat-walk-again.html)

### **L.A. Times Scrutinizes Poverty, Variations in Medicare Costs**

A Sept. 20 Los Angeles Times story about regional variations in Medicare spending cited UCLA research examining hospitalization rates among Los Angeles County Medicare enrollees. Dr. J. Thomas Rosenthal, chief medical officer of the UCLA Health System and associate vice chancellor of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted. Robert Kaplan, professor and chair of health services at the UCLA School of Public Health, was also quoted.

"Medicare Bills High at Los Angeles Hospitals"

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fi-healthcost20-2009sep20,0,2955060.story?page=2>

### **Soda Consumption's Link to Obesity Draws Coverage**

Research led by Susan Babey, project director at the Center for Health Policy Research at the School of Public Health, that provided the first scientific evidence of a link between soda consumption and obesity was covered Sept. 18 by the San Francisco Chronicle and Los Angeles Daily Breeze, and Sept. 17 in Reuters, the Marin Independent Journal, San Diego Union and Sacramento Bee, and by KNBC-Channel 4 and KCAL-Channel 9 Los Angeles, and 26 other markets.

"Calif. Lawmaker Plans Hearings on Soda-Obesity Link"

<http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSTRE58G11T20090917>

"UCLA Study Links Obesity with Sodas"

[http://www.dailybreeze.com/ci\\_13356842?IADID=Search-www.dailybreeze.com-www.dailybreeze.com](http://www.dailybreeze.com/ci_13356842?IADID=Search-www.dailybreeze.com-www.dailybreeze.com)

"Newsom Wants to Charge Stores that Sell Sodas"

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/09/18/MNF619OSF4.DTL>

"California Soda Survey Gives Weight to Health Concerns"

<http://www.sacbee.com/topstories/story/2188612.html>

### **TIME Explores Medical Students' Relationship with Social Media**

A Sept. 22 Time magazine online article about medical students' conduct on blogs and social networking websites cited focus groups and a task force organized at UCLA by Dr. Neil Parker, senior associate dean of student affairs at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, to help devise guidelines students can follow when making decisions about what to post online. Parker was quoted.

"Privacy Breach: Med Students Twitter about Patients"

<http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,1925430,00.html>

### **CBS' "The Doctors" Examines Parkinson's Disease**

Dr. Jeff Bronstein, professor of neurology and director of the Movement Disorder Program, appeared in a Sept. 24 segment of CBS' "The Doctors," discussing the genetic and environmental factors that can lead to Parkinson's disease.

"Is It in Your Genes?"

[http://www.thedoctorstv.com/main/show\\_page/286](http://www.thedoctorstv.com/main/show_page/286)

### **Local Media Cover Baby Born at Fire Station**

KABC-Channel 7, KCAL-Channel 9, KCBS-Channel 2, and KTTV-Channel 11 reported Sept. 23 and the Daily News reported Sept. 24 on a mother who unexpectedly gave birth at a local fire station during a staff training on how to deliver a baby. She and her newborn daughter were taken to Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center.

"Fire Station Receives Baby Delivery"

[http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/local/los\\_angeles&id=7029977](http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/local/los_angeles&id=7029977)

"Oh Baby! Girl Born at Fire Station"

[http://www.dailynews.com/search/ci\\_13407006?IADID=Search-www.dailynews.com-www.dailynews.com](http://www.dailynews.com/search/ci_13407006?IADID=Search-www.dailynews.com-www.dailynews.com)

### **KCBS Notes Rising Numbers of Alzheimer's Cases**

Dr. Jeffrey Cummings, professor of neurology and director of the Mary S. Easton Center for Alzheimer's Disease Research, appeared Sept. 21 in KCBS-Channel 2 and KCAL-Channel 9 segments about the latest advances in Alzheimer's research and new drugs that available to slow symptoms.

<http://showroom.multivisioninc.com/share.do?id=114446&key=kL0HRQyh1cUImTsrXtXgkRg4wRGob7H2&email=rmoster@mednet.ucla.edu>

### **Geneticist Translates Home DNA Test Results**

Dr. Wayne Grody, professor of pathology, human genetics and pediatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was featured in a segment of "Kurt the Cyberguy" that aired locally Sept. 21 on KTLA-Channel 5 and other stations around the country. Grody interpreted the results of a home DNA test kit that Kurt ordered online.

"The Results Are In"

<http://www.ktla.com/news/cyberguy/>

### **AARP Explores Waist/Hip Ratio and Early Death**

AARP Bulletin reported Sept. 22 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 Annals of Epidemiology published the findings.

"Health Discovery: Pay Attention to Waist-Hip Ratio"

[http://bulletin.aarp.org/yourhealth/discoveries/articles/health\\_discovery\\_pay\\_attention\\_to\\_waist\\_hip\\_ratio.html](http://bulletin.aarp.org/yourhealth/discoveries/articles/health_discovery_pay_attention_to_waist_hip_ratio.html)

### **Local Papers Cover Flu Protection Tips**

The Sept. 18 Westside Today and Sept. 23 Santa Monica Daily Press featured health tips to avoid the spread of flu this season. Dr. David Pegues, an epidemiologist at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and professor of infectious diseases, and Dr. Zachary Rubin, hospital epidemiologist at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital and assistant professor of infectious diseases, were quoted.

"Avoiding the Flu: Some Tips from UCLA and the CDC"

<http://www.westsidetoday.com/n1570/avoiding-the-flu-some.html>

"UCLA Offers Tips to Protect Against Flu"

[http://www.smdp.com/Articles-c-2009-09-22-62349.113116\\_UCLA\\_experts\\_offer\\_tips\\_to\\_protect\\_against\\_the\\_flu.html](http://www.smdp.com/Articles-c-2009-09-22-62349.113116_UCLA_experts_offer_tips_to_protect_against_the_flu.html)

### **Expert Pens Column on H1N1 Flu**

The Pasadena Star News on Sept. 23 featured a column by Dr. Claire Panosian Dunavan, clinical professor of medicine, division of infectious diseases, regarding H1N1 flu including her personal bout with the virus.

"Is It the Swine Flu, or Not?"

[http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/ci\\_13406101?source=email](http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/ci_13406101?source=email)

### **Trade Highlights Nurse's Volunteer Work with Animal Assisted Therapy**

The Aug. 24 "Essence of Nursing" issue of Advance for Nurses magazine highlighted Jennifer Makely, clinical nurse specialist in the trauma and general surgery services department at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, who volunteers her time with the hospital's People-Animal Connection Program. Makely and her Chihuahua, Simon, have visited UCLA patients for two years.

### **AMA News Covers Surgery Study**

The American Medical Association News on Sept. 21 featured an Annals of Surgery study finding that 120 hospitals that participated in a quality program significantly cut their complication and mortality rates. Dr. Clifford Ko, professor of general surgery and study author, was quoted.

"Surgical Quality Program Cuts Complications, Patient Deaths"

<http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2009/09/21/prsb0921.htm>

### **Trade Spotlights Research on Hospital Move**

The online edition of Occupational Health & Safety Magazine reported Sept. 21 on a study by JAMA's Archives of Surgery about measures taken by Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center for its 2008 move that could also guide hospitals in absorbing patients after a disaster. Dr. James Atkinson, senior medical director of hospital transition and professor of surgery, was quoted.

"Study of Med Center's Move Informs Surge Planning"

<http://ohsonline.com/articles/2009/09/21/study-of-med-center-move-informs-surge-planning.aspx>

### **MIT Reports on Breakthrough in Antidepressant Treatment**

The research of Dr. Andrew Leuchter, professor of psychiatry, and colleagues was featured Sept. 22 on the MIT Technology Review website about the development of a new biomarker that could help clinicians predict within a week whether a patient will benefit from a particular antidepressant medication.

"Predicting Drug Response from Brain Waves"

<http://www.technologyreview.com/biomedicine/23509/>

### **Trade Profiles Oncology Nurse Specialist**

Pattie Jakel, clinical nurse specialist at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, was profiled Sept. 23 in Scrubsmag.com, an online nursing magazine.

"A Life in Nursing: Meet Pattie Jakel, Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist"

<http://scrubsmag.com/>

### **Fruit Fly Study Cited on Health and Medicine News**

A Nature study about levels of reactive oxygen in fruit flies was featured Sept. 24 in Health and Medicine News. Utpal Banerjee, a researcher at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and a professor and chairman of the molecular, cell, and developmental biology department at UCLA, led the research.

"Are We Sapping Our Immune Systems?"

<http://hmnews.org/research-news/cluster16156800/>

## **BRIEFS**

The Los Angeles Times health blog cited the book, "Your Brain after Chemo" by Dr. Daniel Silverman, head of neuronuclear imaging and associate professor of molecular and medical pharmacology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, on Sept. 21.

"Women Recount their Experiences with 'Chemo Brain,' and Researchers Take Note"

[http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/booster\\_shots/2009/09/women-recount-their-experiences-with-chemo-brain-and-researchers-take-note.html](http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/booster_shots/2009/09/women-recount-their-experiences-with-chemo-brain-and-researchers-take-note.html)

Sept. 17 stories in the Los Angeles Times and Associated Press about UCLA basketball coach Ben Howland undergoing an appendectomy at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center mentioned Dr. Joe Hines, professor of general surgery, who performed the procedure.

"Bruin's Howland Had Appendectomy"

<http://sports.espn.go.com/ncf/news/story?id=4482977>

“UCLA Basketball: Coach Has Surgery”

[http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/sports\\_blog/2009/09/howland-has-surgery.html](http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/sports_blog/2009/09/howland-has-surgery.html)

Clinical trials offered by a community oncology office affiliated with UCLA’s Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center were featured Sept. 19 in the Inland Valley Daily Bulletin.

“Some Clinical Trials Extend Lives, Bring Breakthroughs”

[http://www.dailybulletin.com/ci\\_13376487](http://www.dailybulletin.com/ci_13376487)

Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center was cited in a Sept. 22 ABC “Nightline” report on the invasion of patient privacy.

“Big Business of Selling Celebrity Secrets”

<http://abcnews.go.com/Entertainment/celebrity-secrets-tabloid-fodder/story?id=8638456>

## QUOTABLES

Dr. Sheila Ahmadi, assistant clinical professor of endocrinology, commented Sept. 6 on KIRN 670AM radio’s APSIH (Association of Professors and Scholars of Iranian Heritage) Program on the latest developments on the diagnosis and treatment of diabetes.

Dr. David Baron, chief of staff at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, commented Sept. 18 on KNX AM1070 about the projected availability of a vaccine for the H1N1 virus.

Dr. Vivien Burt, professor emeritus of clinical psychiatry and director of the Women’s Life Center, was quoted in a Sept. 18 Los Angeles Times article about new guidelines issued by two of the nation’s leading physicians groups for the treatment of depression during pregnancy.

“Treatment Guidelines Issued on Depression during Pregnancy”

[http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-sci-depression18-2009sep18\\_0,782058.story](http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-sci-depression18-2009sep18_0,782058.story)

Gregory Cole, professor of neurology at the Semel Institute and associate director of the Mary S. Easton Center for Alzheimer’s Disease Research, commented Sept. 21 in a HealthDay News article that appeared on the websites for KKFX-Channel 11 (Santa Barbara), WSBTV-Channel 2 (Atlanta), U.S. News & World Report and Yahoo News about the rising numbers of people diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease. He also was quoted Sept. 17 by HealthDay News about the need to identify people with early Alzheimer’s disease in order to test preventive methods. The story appeared on the websites for U.S. News & World Report, Yahoo News, KMPH-Channel 26 (Fresno), KCBA-Channel 35 (Monterey) and the Springfield News-Sun (OH).

“Alzheimer’s Soars, Global Focus Needed: Study”

<http://www.myfox11.com/Global/story.asp?S=11167032>

“Alzheimer’s Soars, Global Focus Needed: Study”

<http://health.usnews.com/articles/health/healthday/2009/09/21/alzheimers-soars-global-focus-needed-study.html>

“Trouble with Daily Activities could Point to Alzheimer’s Risk”

<http://health.usnews.com/articles/health/healthday/2009/09/17/trouble-with-daily-activities-could-point-to.html>

Dr. Gabriel Danovitch, medical director of the kidney and pancreas transplantation program, commented Sept. 21 in a Los Angeles Times column about the medical accuracy of a transplant procedure portrayed on a TV soap opera.

“A Far-fetched Medical Procedure? On ‘General Hospital’? Shock!”

[http://www.latimes.com/features/health/la-he-unreal21-2009sep21\\_0,6154711.column](http://www.latimes.com/features/health/la-he-unreal21-2009sep21_0,6154711.column)

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson–UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented in several HealthDay News stories, including a Sept. 17 article about heart risk factors that may significantly shorten men’s lives. He commented in a

Sept. 21 story reporting that the flu can raise chances of heart attack, especially in people with heart disease and diabetes. He was quoted in a Sept. 22 article about the wider use of statin medications.  
"Middle-aged Heart Risk Factor Shorten Men's Lives"

<http://www.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=631104>

"Flu Can Raise Chances of Heart Attack"

<http://www.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=631192>

"Study Suggest a Wider Use for Statins"

<http://www.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=631220>

Dr. Marianne Gausche-Hill, clinical professor of emergency medicine, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, commented Sept. 21 on ABCnews.com about a study demonstrating that most of the nation's emergency rooms do not have the equipment, expertise or supplies to treat children.

"Few ER's Equipped to Care for Children"

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/SwineFluNews/ers-equipped-care-children/story?id=8615355>

Dr. David Heber, director of the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition, commented in the Chicago Tribune on Sept. 20 about using food to battle inflammation.

"Using Food to Battle Inflammation"

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/entertainment/chi-tc-health-inflammation-0916-sep20,0,4396902.story>

Dr. Peter Katona, clinical professor of infectious diseases, was quoted Sept. 23 by Associated Press about a study comparing flu vaccine shots to nasal delivery. The report appeared on websites for USA Today, MSNBC, the Denver Post, Seattle Times, Minneapolis Star-Tribune and many others. He also commented Sept. 18 in a Medscape article about a study on the antiviral effects of nasal spray.

"Study: Flu Shot Better than Nasal Spray in Adults"

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5h4VqxjHAXZiWT5J1PTIPfPzSJDYqD9AT8OLG4>

"Nasal Spray May Reduce Viral Shedding and Rhinovirus Transmission"

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/709224>

Shana Alex Lavarreda, director of health insurance studies at the Center for Health Policy Research at the School of Public Health, commented Sept. 17 in a HealthDay News article, and Sept. 21 in the Riverside Press-Enterprise and Contra Costa Times about new U.S. Census Bureau data on health insurance coverage in California.

"Census Bureau Finds Inland Incomes Fell Fast, Health Coverage Dwindle because of Recession"

[http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE\\_News\\_Local\\_S\\_census22.4349a73.html](http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_S_census22.4349a73.html)

Edythe London, professor of psychiatry and pharmacology, was quoted in a Sept. 21 article on CNN.com and WIBW-Channel 2 (Topeka), about the rising numbers of people diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

"Report: Alzheimer's Cases to Nearly Double every 20 Years"

[http://www.cnn.com/2009/HEALTH/09/21/alzheimers.disease.report/index.html?eref=rss\\_topstories](http://www.cnn.com/2009/HEALTH/09/21/alzheimers.disease.report/index.html?eref=rss_topstories)

Patti Oliver, director of nutrition services at the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, commented Sept. 14 in the Art Institutes' online magazine in a story about chefs working at hospitals and other outlets beyond restaurants. The Art Institutes have culinary schools across the country.

"Culinary Outlets Beyond Restaurants"

<http://insite.artinstitutes.edu/culinary-outlets-beyond-restaurants.aspx>

Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging and professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, commented Sept. 21 on CNN.com about the rising prevalence of Alzheimer's disease. His research showing that surfing the internet may help stimulate brain function in middle-aged and older adults was featured Sept. 18 on the blog, "Talking about Generations." He was quoted Sept. 23 in the Atlanta Constitution Journal on ways to boost memory.

"Report: Alzheimer's Cases to Nearly Double Every 20 Years"

<http://www.cnn.com/2009/HEALTH/09/21/alzheimers.disease.report/index.html?iref=newssearch>

"iBrain: Is your Brain on Google?"

<http://www.talkingaboutgenerations.com/index.php/2009/09/ibrain-is-your-brain-on-google/>

“Aging and Caring: 20 Ways to Boost Memory”

<http://blogs.ajc.com/better-health/2009/09/23/aging-caring-20-easy-ways-to-boost-your-memory/>

Dr. Richard Pietras, director of the Stiles program on oncology at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, commented Sept. 20 in the Los Angeles Times on hormone therapy doubling the risk of death from lung cancer. The report also appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle, Deseret News and Sarasota Herald Tribune.

“Hormone Therapy Nearly Doubles Risk of Death from Lung Cancer, Study Says”

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-sci-estrogen20-2009sep20,0,909650.story>

“Hormone Therapy Tied to Lung Cancer Deaths”

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/09/19/MNOH19POFF.DTL>

Dr. Zachary Rubin, epidemiologist at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital and assistant professor of infectious diseases, was quoted in a Sept. 23 WebMD article comparing the effectiveness of flu shots and flu nasal sprays for young adults.

“Flu Shot Beats Flu Spray for Young Adults”

<http://www.webmd.com/cold-and-flu/news/20090923/flu-shot-beats-flu-spray-for-young-adults>

Paul Thompson, professor of neurology and a member of the Laboratory of Neuro Imaging, was quoted Sept. 21 on U.S. News & World Report.com about the steps people can take to help prevent Alzheimer's.

“Alzheimer's Disease is Sharply Rising, but You Can Lower Your Odds”

<http://health.usnews.com/articles/health/brain-and-behavior/2009/09/21/alzheimers-disease-is-sharply-rising-but-you-can-lower-your-odds.html>

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