



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of Sept. 23 - 29**

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USA Today, ABC News and other Media Feature Tobacco Study

Imaging Study Garners Widespread Coverage

KPCC Spotlights How Operation Mend Helps Wounded Warriors

Online Outlets Spotlight Car Auction to Benefit UCLA's Operation Mend

Formerly Conjoined Twins Appear on Anderson Cooper Show

Web News Sites, Trade Publications Focus on Prostate and Bladder Cancer Studies

Over-the Counter Supplement May Lower Diabetes Risk

News Outlets Report Elevated Blood Pressure Associated with Stroke Risk

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Modern Medicine Magazine Spotlights Melanoma Research

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USA Today, ABC News and Other Media Feature Tobacco Study

A study by Dr. Hrayr Karagueuzian that reported tobacco companies knew that radioactive particles in cigarettes posed a cancer risk but kept the information secret was highlighted Sept. 29 by [ABCNews.com](#), [USA Today](#), [Daily News & Analysis](#), [All Headline News](#), [Examiner.com](#), [Consumer Affairs](#), [News-Medical.net](#), [Asian News International](#), [News Track India](#), [HealthCanal.com](#), [Science Daily](#), [DrugsToday.info](#), [Medical Express](#), [Nano Patents and Innovations](#), and [SJN \(Japan\)](#). Karagueuzian is a professor of cardiology who conducts research at UCLA's Cardiovascular Research Laboratory, part of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

Imaging Study Garners Widespread Coverage

A study by Dr. Lily Wu that allows prostate cancer metastases to be imaged much earlier than before was featured Sept. 23 and 25 by [Examiner.com](#), [Top News](#), [News Point Africa](#), [National Cancer Institute](#), [Med India](#), [Top News Arab Emirates](#), [News-Medical.net](#) [HealthCanal.com](#), and [the Imperial Valley News](#). Wu is a professor of molecular and medical pharmacology and a researcher at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

KPCC Spotlights How Operation Mend Helps Wounded Warriors

KPCC-89.3 FM's "[Patt Morrison Show](#)" reported Sept. 22 on UCLA's Operation Mend, a program established to provide surgery for U.S. military personnel severely wounded and disfigured in Iraq and Afghanistan. Dr. Timothy Miller, Operation Mend's executive director and lead surgeon, was interviewed.

Online Outlets Spotlight Car Auction to Benefit UCLA's Operation Mend

[Examiner.com](#) and [Auto Remarketing](#) reported Sept. 26 on an Oct. 7 car auction in Dallas that will sell a customized 2011 Camaro. All proceeds from the sale will benefit UCLA's Operation Mend program which provides reconstructive surgery and other medical services to our nation's wounded warriors. Dr. Timothy Miller, executive director and lead surgeon of Operation Mend, was quoted.

Formerly Conjoined Twins Appear on Anderson Cooper Show

Maria Teresa and Maria de Jesus Quiej-Alvarez, the formerly conjoined Guatemalan twins who were surgically separated at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA in 2002, were guests Sept. 21 on the Anderson Cooper daytime talk show.

Web News Sites, Trade Publications Focus on Prostate and Bladder Cancer Studies

[Med India](#), [Health News Digest](#), [Earth Times](#), [Health Day News](#), [HealthyProstate.com](#), [Human Health and Science](#), [Examiner.com](#), and [Science Daily](#) on Sept. 26 featured a study that found elderly men were being undertreated for prostate cancer while those with complicating medical conditions were being over-treated. Also, [Renal and Urology News](#) on Sept. 20 featured a study at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center that showed that most patients with high-grade, non-invasive bladder cancer are not receiving the guideline-recommended care that would best protect them from a recurrence. Dr. Karim Chamie, a UCLA postdoctoral fellow in urologic oncology and health services research, led both studies.

Over-the Counter Supplement May Lower Diabetes Risk

[Asian News International](#), [Health Canal](#), [BioScholar](#) and [Top News](#) reported Sept.23 and [Examiner.com](#) reported Sept. 22 on research by Dr. Jide Tian and Dr. Daniel Kaufman, professors in the department of molecular and medical pharmacology, demonstrating that an over-the-counter dietary supplement may help inhibit insulin resistance and glucose intolerance, conditions that are involved in the development of Type 2 diabetes and metabolic syndrome.

News Outlets Report Elevated Blood Pressure Associated with Stroke Risk

[ABC News online](#), [WebMD](#) and [MedPage Today](#) reported Sept. 28 on a study that found people with pre-hypertension were about 50 percent more likely to suffer a stroke than people with healthy blood pressure levels. The study's lead author, Dr. Bruce Ovbiagele, former director of the Olive View - UCLA Stroke Program, was quoted.

Media Report on Ads that Seduce with Non-Rational Persuasion

Dr. Ian Cook, the Miller Family Professor of Psychiatry and director of the depression research program at the Semel Institute, was featured in the Sept. 22. [LA Weekly](#), and Sept. 23 [LiveScience.com](#) and the [Examiner](#), on his study comparing how individuals' brains reacted to advertisements that used logical persuasion and those that used non-rational persuasion.

Modern Medicine Magazine Spotlights Melanoma Research

Research by Dr. Roger Lo that tested combination drug therapy to combat drug resistance in melanoma patients is featured in the Oct. 1 issue of [Modern Medicine](#). Lo is a member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and an assistant professor of dermatology and molecular and medical pharmacology.

Media Outlets Report on a New Target for Early-Onset Dementia

[New Scientist](#) and [MyHealthNewsDaily.com](#) reported Sept. 29; [Medscape Today](#) reported Sept. 26; and [PsychCentral](#) reported Sept. 25 on a Neuron study by Dr. Daniel Geschwind discovering that a key signaling pathway plays an important role in a common form of early-onset dementia, and may offer a potential target for treatment. Geschwind, who holds the Gordon and Virginia MacDonald Distinguished Chair in Human Genetics, is a professor of neurology and psychiatry and director of the Center for Autism Research and Treatment at the Semel Institute.

Study on Turmeric Spice Fighting Cancer Grabs International Headlines

[Xinhaunet.com](#), [China News](#) and [Euro Lab](#) on Sept. 26 and an Italian blog, [La Stampa](#), on Sept. 27 featured a study led by Dr. Marilene Wang, professor-in-residence of head and neck surgery and a researcher at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, that found that curcumin, the major component in the spice turmeric, can help reduce the growth of head and neck cancers and suppress pro-inflammatory molecules in saliva.

Beverly Hills Courier Covers "Red Violin" Performance Supporting Division of Digestive Diseases

A Sept. 23 article in the [Beverly Hills Courier](#) featured a special performance of the "Red Violin" to support the Division of Digestive Diseases. Dr. Gary Gitnick, chief of the division and Dr. Eric Esrailian, vice-chief of the division, presented at the event that was held at the private residence of entrepreneur and philanthropist Paula Kent Meehan and co-hosted by philanthropists Barbara Davis and Candy Spelling. A photo is featured as well.

Brentwood Patch Profiles Cancer, Stem Cell Researcher

The [Brentwood Patch](#) on Sept. 25 posted a video feature that highlighted the research of Heather Christofk, an assistant professor of molecular and medical pharmacology and a researcher at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Broad Stem Cell Research Center at UCLA.

Reuters, Radio Program Examine Time Spent with Pediatrician

A Sept. 23 [Reuters](#) article and Sept. 28 [Radio Health Journal](#) feature spotlighted new research showing that a third of all pediatric patients spend 10 minutes or less with their doctors during checkups. The study's lead author, Dr. Neal Halfon, professor of pediatrics, health services and public policy, and director of the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities, was interviewed. The [program](#) also aired a second part to his interview offering tips to parents to make the most during a pediatrician visit.

Local Column Explores Fingernails and Fungus

A Sept. 23 [Whittier Daily News](#) column by Dr. Claire Panosian Dunavan, clinical professor of medicine, division of infectious diseases, explored fungal and bacterial infections that can fester in fingernails and toenails.

Media Note that Informal Caregivers are Stressed Out

Geoffrey Hoffman, a doctoral candidate at the School of Public Health, was quoted in the Sept. 21 [Riverside Press-Enterprise](#), and the Sept. 22 [California Healthline](#) and [Brightsurf.com](#) on a study by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research showing that family members and friends caring for aging or disabled individuals have higher levels of psychological distress and negative health behaviors than the general population.

Medscape Medical News Scrutinizes Diabetes Drugs and Pancreatic Cancer

[Medscape Medical News](#) reported Sept. 23 on research by the Larry L. Hillblom Islet Research Center at UCLA suggesting that two popular type-2 diabetes drugs could heighten patients' risk for developing pancreatitis and pancreatic cancer. Dr. Peter Butler, director of the Center, was quoted.

Bakersfield TV Highlights Fundraiser for Young Transplant Patient

[KGET-TV](#) (Bakersfield) Sept. 21 featured a story about a fundraising bike ride involving local businesses and the Hell's Angels to help the family of a young kidney transplant patient come to UCLA for treatments to help prevent organ rejection.

Business News Outlets Cover State of the Art Radiotherapy Machine

[The Sacramento Bee](#), [SunHerald.com](#), [SysCon Media](#), [MarketWatch.com](#), [Yahoo Finance](#) and [DigitalJournal.com](#) reported Sept. 27 that UCLA will soon become the third oncology center in the world to acquire a new research radiotherapy system that uses simultaneous magnetic resonance imaging. Dr. Michael Steinberg, chairman of the UCLA Department of Radiation Oncology and director of clinical affairs at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted.

Science Blog Examines Childhood Asthma

[Science 2.0](#) published a Sept. 28 article about the efforts of UCLA researchers to discover more about the causes of uncontrollable asthma in children living around the Los Angeles area. The following faculty were quoted: Dr. Maria Garcia-Lloret and Dr. Raffi Tachdjian, both assistant professors of pediatric allergy and immunology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA; Dr. David Heber, director, UCLA Center for Human Nutrition; Dr. Andre Nel, professor of medicine and chief of nanomedicine and Dr. Marc Riedl, assistant professor of medicine, division of clinical immunology and allergy.

Fructose Study Highlighted on International Web Blog

[EC Planet](#) on Sept. 27 cited a study that found that pancreatic cancer cells use fructose to fuel their growth. The study was led by Dr. Anthony Heaney, a Jonsson Cancer Center researcher and an associate professor of endocrinology.

International Website Cites Brain Cancer Study

[HaziPatika.com](#) reported Sept. 16 on a study by Dr. Paul Mischel, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine and a researcher with UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, and colleagues that uncovered the mechanism by which certain brain cancer cells import large amounts of cholesterol, helping them grow. Mischel was quoted.

BRIEFS

A Sept. 24 [Wall St. Journal](#) article cited research led by Dominick Frosch, associate professor of general internal medicine and health services research, finding that the majority of TV ads for prescription drugs failed to fulfill an educational purpose.

[Variety.com](#) reported Sept. 27 about the cast of AMC's Emmy-winning show "Mad Men" serving as celebrity hosts at a fundraising brunch to benefit the Rape Treatment Center at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital.

A Sept. 24 [Orange County Register](#) column about the therapeutic effect drumming can have on autistic children cited a UCLA Arts and Healing program called "Beat the Odds," which trains professionals in drum therapy for both adults and children.

The Jules Stein Eye Institute at UCLA was cited in news coverage of a newly approved European study using embryonic stem cells to address vision loss due to retinal disease. Stories ran Sept. 27 in the London Times; Sept. 26 in [EyeDoc News](#) and [News-Medical.net](#); Sept. 23 in Ireland's [Independent](#); Sept. 22 in [The Telegraph](#) (U.K.), [The Guardian](#) (U.K.) and [Gizmodo](#); and Sept. 23 on [Fox News](#) and [Proactive Investors](#). Dr. Steven Schwartz, chief of the retina division at the Jules Stein Eye Institute and Ahmanson professor of ophthalmology, led the first study of its kind at UCLA in July.

The Sept. 22 Palisadian Post contained a captioned photo from Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital's tri-cities chamber mixer to showcase the new Santa Monica campus to the business community.

A 2005 UCLA study which found that animal assisted therapy with cardiac patients led to a decrease in blood pressure and anxiety was cited Sept. 26 in an [Abilene Reporter News](#) (TX) article about an animal assisted therapy program at a local rehabilitation center.

QUOTABLES

Dr. David Baron, family medicine physician and former chief of staff at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, commented in a Sept. 23 KNX AM1070 report about drug shortages at hospitals and the potential harm to patients.

Dr. James Cherry, professor of pediatric infectious diseases at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was interviewed in the September/October issue of CMA Today in an article about whooping cough.

Dr. Camelia Davtyan, clinical professor of general internal medicine and health services research, commented Sept. 28 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) "Booster Shots" blog post about "Embarrassing Bodies," a British television medical show. The piece also ran Sept. 28 in the [Baltimore Sun's](#) Web site.

Dr. Charles Grob, professor of psychiatry and pediatrics and director, division of child and adolescent psychiatry, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, was quoted in a Sept. 29 [ABCNews.com](#) article about the use of psilocybin, the mind-altering chemical in mushrooms, that new research suggests may actually alter people's personalities for a long period of time.

Dr. David Heber, professor of medicine and public health and founding director of the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition, commented in a Sept. 26 [Associated Press](#) article about USDA guidelines that would drastically reduce the amount of potatoes served in school breakfasts and lunches. He also commented in a Sept. 27 [Los Angeles Times](#) blog about the medical accuracy of the TV show "Extreme Makeover: Weight Loss Edition."

Marco Iacoboni, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was quoted in a Sept. 28 [Time](#) online story about an Alzheimer's study that triggered neuron growth in mice.

Dr. Amer Karam, assistant clinical professor of obstetrics and gynecology, commented Sept. 21 in an [Obgyn.net](#) podcast about how to address patients' concerns about mammographies.

Dr. Allan Pantuck, associate professor of urology, commented in a Sept. 27 [Medscape](#) article about a study demonstrating that saw palmetto, a fruit extract used as a supplement, had little clinical benefit in treating urinary symptoms in men with enlarged prostates.

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