



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of Oct. 14 - 20, 2011**

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Wire Reports Vitamin D's Role in Fighting TB

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N.Y. Times Explores How Brain's Flaws Shape Our Lives

The Oct. 14 [New York Times](#) highlighted "Brain Bugs: How the Brain's Flaws Shape Our Lives," a new book by Dean Buonomano, professor of neurobiology and a member of the UCLA Brain Research Institute. His research examines how the human brain's weaknesses and strengths have evolved over thousands of years.

Saliva's Link to Cancer Draws Overseas Interest

[Medscape](#) reported Oct. 14 and the [Qatar News Agency](#) and Scottish Daily Record reported Oct. 13 on a study by Dr. James Farrell, associate clinical professor of digestive diseases and director of the Pancreatic Diseases Program at UCLA, and Dr. David Wong, Felix and Mildred Yip Professor of Dentistry and associate dean of research at the UCLA School of Dentistry, suggesting that increased or decreased levels of certain types of bacteria in saliva could be linked to the development of pancreatic cancer.

Wire Reports Vitamin D's Role in Fighting TB

[Asian News International](#) reported Oct. 13 on a study led by Dr. Robert Modlin, Klein Professor of Dermatology and chief of dermatology, that identified the essential role vitamin D plays in the body's fight against infections such as tuberculosis. Dr. Mario Fabri, a researcher in the division of dermatology, was quoted.

Toronto Paper Investigates Pollution's Effect on Premature Births

The [Toronto Globe & Mail](#) reported Oct. 13 on a School of Public Health study led by Beate Ritz, professor of epidemiology, and Michelle Wilhelm, an assistant researcher in epidemiology, that found a higher rate of pre-term births among women in Los Angeles exposed to higher levels of traffic-related air pollution. Ritz was quoted.

KNBC Considers Link between Autism, Low Birth Weight

Elizabeth Laugeson, a clinical instructor of psychiatry in the Semel Institute and director of The Help Group-UCLA Autism Research Alliance, was featured in an Oct. 19 [KNBC-Channel 4](#) story about a possible link between autism, low birth weight and premature babies.

Beverly Hills Courier Spotlights Operation Mend

The [Beverly Hills Courier](#) reported Oct. 14 on Operation Mend, a program that provides surgery and other services for U.S. military personnel severely wounded and disfigured in Iraq and Afghanistan. Executive director Dr. Timothy Miller, and Dr. David Feinberg, president of the UCLA Health System and associate vice chancellor for health sciences, were quoted.

Pediatrician Exams Need a Checkup, Says HuffPo

The [Huffington Post](#) published an Oct. 20 blog that cited a UCLA study led by Dr. Neal Halfon, professor of pediatrics, health services and public policy, and director of the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities. He found that 1 in 3 pediatric patients spend 10 minutes or less with their doctors during checkups.

Examiner Showcases Neurosurgery Donation

[Examiner.com](#) featured a \$2 million donation to the UCLA Department of Neurosurgery to establish an endowed chair in epilepsy research. Grateful parents Thomas and Nadia Davies made the donation in memory of their late daughter, Alfonsina (Nina) Q. Davies, and in honor of Dr. Paul Crandall, the UCLA neurosurgeon who ended her epileptic seizures.

KFWB Examines Prescription Cost-cutting Measures

[KFWB 980AM](#) aired a Sept. 28 interview with Dr. Daniel Behroozan, assistant clinical professor of dermatology, about recent Consumer Reports polls showing how Americans are cutting corners on their medications to save money. Behroozan explained how patients should educate themselves about their prescription coverage.

Daily News Highlights Cantaloupe Scare

The [Los Angeles Daily News](#) ran an Oct. 14 column by Dr. Claire Panosian Dunavan, clinical professor of infectious diseases, about a listeria outbreak caused by tainted cantaloupes.

Paper Profiles Brain-tumor Survivor

The [San Luis Obispo Tribune](#) featured an Oct. 18 profile of award-winning choreographer Dorian Sanchez, who underwent surgery at UCLA this year to remove a benign brain tumor and was honored with the Courage Award at the UCLA Department of Neurosurgery's Visionary Ball on Oct. 6. Dr. Neil Martin, chair of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, who performed the surgery, was cited.

Daily News Looks at Breast Tenderness, Cancer

[Science Daily](#) and the [Los Angeles Daily News](#) reported Oct. 14 on a UCLA study finding that women who developed breast tenderness while taking estrogen plus progestin hormone-replacement therapy had a higher risk of breast cancer than those who didn't develop tenderness. The research was led by Dr. Carolyn Crandall, professor of general internal medicine and a scientist with UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Canyon News Cites Herceptin Study

A UCLA study that paired Herceptin with chemotherapy to treat early breast cancer was featured Oct. 14 by the [Canyon News](#). Published Oct. 6 in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, the research was led by Dr. Dennis Slamon, director of clinical/translational research at the Jonsson Cancer Center.

Blogs Highlight Brain Cancer Stem-Cell Screening

The blogs [Hope for Cancer](#) and [Accelerate Brain Cancer Cure](#) reported Oct. 18 on a new molecular screening system developed by Dr. Harley Kornblum to find compounds that kill brain cancer stem cells. Kornblum is a Jonsson Cancer Center scientist and a professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences.

Online Media Spotlights Mattel "Party on the Pier"

The [Santa Monica Patch](#) and the [Century City-Westwood Patch](#) reported Oct. 18 that the 12th annual Mattel Party on the Pier raised more than \$620,000 to benefit Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA. The entertainment blog Just Jared, Jr., also reported on several young celebrities who attended the event including [Peyton List](#), [Skai Jackson](#), [Bella Thorne](#), [Garrett Backstrom](#), [Raini Rodriguez](#), [Laura Marano](#), [Kelsey Chow](#) and [Ethan Pecks](#).

Patch Highlights Doctor's Nomination as "Game Changer"

The [Century City-Westwood Patch](#) reported Oct. 14 that the Huffington Post listed Dr. Juan Alejos, professor of pediatric cardiology and director of the pediatric heart failure program at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, as a 2011 "Game Changers" nominee. The series celebrates leaders who are changing the world. Alejos leads a team of specialists who work with children suffering from heart failure and also founded a nonprofit organization that sends medical teams to Latin American countries to help children with heart problems.

Mirror Column Dispels Cancer Myths

Dr. Sonja Rosen, medical director of geriatrics at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital and assistant clinical professor of medicine, wrote an Oct. 14 [Santa Monica Mirror](#) column on common misconceptions about breast cancer.

Orthopedic Review Lists Surgeon among Best

[Becker's Orthopedic, Spine and Pain Management Review](#) included Dr. Sharon Hame, associate clinical professor of orthopaedic surgery, in an Oct. 17 list of 70 noteworthy female orthopaedic and spine surgeons.

Expert Addresses Breast Cancer Advances

Dr. Arash Naeim, professor of hematology/oncology and a researcher with UCLA's Jonsson Cancer Center, was interviewed live Oct. 18 on Amp Radio 97.1 FM about breast cancer advances.

Examiner Cites Decline in Hospitalizations for Heart Failure

An [Examiner](#) blog that reported Oct. 19 about a decrease in the number of U.S. seniors hospitalized for heart failure references Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and cites the hospital's 2010 "Get With the Guidelines—Heart Failure Silver Plus Performance Achievement Award" from the American Heart Association.

BRIEFS

Posie Carpenter, chief administrative officer at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, was quoted in an Oct. 17 [Los Angeles Business Journal](#) article about the automated parking system planned for the outpatient surgery building nearing completion on the Santa Monica campus.

QUOTABLES

Dr. Christine Bower Baca, assistant professor of neurology, was quoted in an Oct. 14 [ABCNews.com](#) article about a new study finding that surgery is effective at stopping seizures that can't be controlled by medication in epilepsy sufferers.

Dr. George Bartzokis, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was quoted Oct. 19 on the health website [Mercola.com](#) about factors that may increase the chances of having an autistic child.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson—UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, was quoted in an Oct. 14 [CBS.com](#) article about a drop in the percentage of Americans suffering from coronary artery disease.

Dr. Patricia Ganz, director of cancer prevention and control research at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted Oct. 17 in a [USA Today](#) article about women choosing to have preventive mastectomies. Her comments were cited Oct. 17 on [Examiner.com](#), the [Desert Sun](#) and in the [Tucson Citizen](#).

Dr. Lillian Gelberg, professor of family medicine, commented Oct. 20 in an [Associated Press](#) article about CareNow, a four-day free clinic at the Los Angeles Sports Arena for uninsured and underinsured people. The story was syndicated by CBS News and Newser.

Dr. John Glaspy, professor of hematology/oncology at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, commented Oct. 19 in a [Daily Breeze](#) and [Los Angeles Daily News](#) profile of a woman with metastatic breast cancer who raises money for research.

David Hayes-Bautista, professor of general internal medicine and health services research and director of the UCLA Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture, was quoted Oct. 20 in a [Fresno Bee](#) article about California's declining birthrate.

Dr. Benhur Lee, professor of microbiology, immunology and molecular genetics, was quoted Oct. 19 in a [Scientist](#) magazine article about the discovery of an antibody that may offer protection against the deadly Hendra virus.

Dr. Michael Rodriguez, professor of family medicine, was quoted Oct. 20 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) article about research suggesting that the health of individuals in poorer neighborhoods is likelier to improve if they move to better-off areas.

Dr. Arya Nick Shamie, associate professor of orthopaedic surgery, was quoted Oct. 15 in an article in [The Oklahoman](#) about a high school football player who died after breaking his leg during practice.

Paul Thompson, professor of neurology and a member of the Laboratory of Neuro Imaging, was quoted in the Oct. 10 [Daily Mail](#) (UK) about the types of vitamins and supplements doctors and scientists take.

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