



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT  
For the week of Oct. 18-24, 2013**

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#### **Body's Aging Clock Attracts Global Coverage**

Research by Dr. Steve Horvath, a professor of human genetics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a professor of biostatistics at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, uncovered a biological clock embedded in our genomes that allowed him to invent a new tool able to accurately gauge the age of diverse human organs, tissues and cell types. The discovery was reported Oct. 24 by [MedPage Today](#), Australia's [Perth Now](#), [Science World Report](#), and [Women Citizen](#); Oct. 23 by [Voice of America](#), [Singularity Hub](#), Disney's [Babble](#) blog, [Catholic Online](#) and [Medical Daily](#); Oct. 22 by [The Scientist](#), [Pentagon Post](#), California's [Sierra Sun Times](#), the [Macedonian International News Agency](#) and [National Monitor](#); Oct. 21 by [TIME](#), [Nature](#), the [Los Angeles Times](#), [CBS News](#), [HealthDay News](#), BBC 5's "Up All Night," [Yahoo! News](#), [Yahoo! Shine](#), a [Smithsonian](#) blog, [Science Recorder](#), [Science World Report](#), [eMaxHealth](#), Russia's [RT](#) blog, Louisiana's [Bayou Buzz](#), [Health Canal](#), [University Herald](#), [Inventor Spot](#), the U.K.'s [The Times](#), [New Scientist](#), [Pulse Today](#), [Mirror](#), [Daily Mail](#); [Forbes](#), [The Australian](#), [Nature World News](#), [redOrbit](#), [io9](#), [GenomeWeb News](#), [Counsel & Heal](#), [Voice of Russia Radio](#), Ireland's "NewsTalk," India's [Gizmodo](#) and [Times of India](#), [Asian News International](#), the U.S. and Arab Emirates' editions of [Top News](#), [Al Arabiya](#), [Headlines & Global News](#), [Science Codex](#), [Medical News Today](#), [International Business Times](#), [News-Medical](#) and [R&D Magazine](#); and Oct. 20 by [NBC News](#), [Fox News](#), the U.K.'s [The Guardian](#), [Medical Xpress](#) and [Science Daily](#). Horvath was quoted in the coverage.

#### **Skin Laser Lawsuits Continue to Receive Coverage**

[The Chicago Tribune](#) Oct. 16; the [Daily Journal](#), [Nurse.com](#), [WDIO-TV](#) (Duluth, Mich.), [KIFI-TV](#) (Idaho Falls, Ind.), [KPSP-TV](#) and [KESQ-TV](#) (Palm Springs, Calif.) Oct. 18; [KEZO-TV](#) (Eugene, Ore.) and [KDFX-TV](#) (Palm Springs, Calif.) Oct. 19; [WDAY-TV](#) (Fargo, Neb.) and [WICD-TV](#) (Champaign, Ill.) Oct. 21 reported on a study led by Dr. H. Ray Jalian, clinical instructor of medicine in the division of dermatology, showing that an increasing number of lawsuits stemming from skin-based laser treatments involve procedures performed by non-physicians. Jalian was quoted.

#### **Media Reports that Soda Consumption is Up among Teens**

A study led by Dr. Susan Babey, a project director at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, showing that while the daily consumption of sugary drinks among California youth is declining, it has increased 8 percent among teens, received widespread media attention. Coverage included Oct. 17 by the [Bakersfield Californian](#), [KTLA-Channel 5](#), and [KPCC 89.3FM](#); Oct. 18 by the [Contra Costa Times](#), [KNBC-Channel 4](#), [KERO-Channel 23](#) (Bakersfield, Calif.), [KRON-Channel 4](#), (San Francisco), and [Newsday](#) (Long Island); Oct. 20 by [KTVU-Channel 2](#), (Oakland, Calif.), and Oct. 21 by San Francisco's [KLIV 1590AM](#).

#### **Websites Highlight Brain Imaging Database for Chronic Pain Conditions**

[E!Science News](#) Oct. 16, [Arthritis Research](#), [Gutsfull](#) and [FibroDaily](#) Oct. 17, and [Fierce Medical Imaging](#) Oct. 19 reported on a new database featuring hundreds of brain scans and other key clinical information that will help researchers tease out similarities and differences between chronic pain conditions such as irritable bowel syndrome and inflammatory bowel disease, helping to accelerate research and treatment development. Dr. Emeran Mayer, a professor of medicine in the divisions of digestive diseases, physiology and psychiatry; Dr. Bruce Naliboff, a professor in the departments of medicine and psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences, and Dr. Kirsten Tillisch, associate professor of medicine in the division of digestive diseases, were quoted. All faculty are part of the Gail and Gerald Oppenheimer Family Center for Neurobiology of Stress at UCLA.

#### **LA Times Delves into Use of Propofol for Colonoscopies**

Dr. Eric Esrailian, co-chief of the UCLA Division of Digestive Diseases, was interviewed for an Oct. 18 [Los Angeles Times](#) Business section column on the use of anesthesia, and the drug propofol, to sedate patients undergoing colonoscopies. Esrailian also commented that the goal for the healthcare community should be to increase the number of people undergoing colonoscopies to get a jump on potentially cancerous growths.

#### **Media Cover High-Rise Apartment Fire**

News media including [LAist](#), [KABC-Channel 10](#) (San Diego) and [Highlight Hollywood](#) Oct 18; [KCBS-Channel 2](#) and [KNBC-Channel 4](#) Oct. 19; [KTLA-Channel 5](#) and [KFWB 980AM](#) Oct. 20, among others, reported that Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center received several victims from a high-rise apartment fire in Brentwood.

#### **Washington Paper Notes UCLA Health System 'Recesses' to Help Employees Exercise**

Bruin Break, an adaptation of the “instant recess” initiative developed by the late Dr. Antronette Yancey, of UCLA’s Fielding School of Public Health, to motivate employees and others to exercise, was featured in [The Spokesman-Review](#) (Spokane, Wash.) Oct. 22. Yancey; Ellen Towles, a physical therapist with UCLA Rehabilitation Services and volunteer break leader; Sharon Batarina, a physical therapy assistant; Althea Nelson, an administrative assistant; Darren Jones, a lift team member; Jason Tanaka, a physical therapist, and Ragini Gill, benefits analyst and Wellness Program Manager for the UCLA Health System, were quoted or pictured. The article originally ran in the Los Angeles Times.

#### **HIV Plus Magazine Explores Cocaine and HIV**

[HIV Plus Magazine](#) Oct. 18 and [Exami.net](#) Oct. 23 reported on research led by Dr. Dimitrios Vatakis, assistant professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology, finding that cocaine might make otherwise resistant immune cells susceptible to HIV infection.

#### **Study Looks at HIV and Non-Injection Drug Use Link**

[Phys.org](#), Oct. 21; and [News-Medical](#), [AEGIS](#) and [The Body](#) Oct. 22 reported that UCLA has received a \$7 million grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse to investigate the links between non-injection drug use and HIV among Latino and African American men who have sex with men.

#### **Education Site Explores Childhood Abuse’s Link to Adult Health Problems**

[Education News](#) reported Oct. 21 on a study led by Dr. Judith Carroll, a research scientist at the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior at UCLA, showing a correlation between abuse, lack of parental warmth in childhood and biological markers indicating elevated health risk in later life. The study was published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

#### **Santa Clarita Paper Taps UCLA Physician to Discuss Expansion, Health-Care Reform**

The October 18 [Santa Clarita Valley Signal](#) featured a Q & A with Dr. Matteo Dinolfo, medical director of the UCLA Department of Medicine community offices, about expansion plans for outlying communities and how the Affordable Care Act will affect health-care services and delivery.

#### **Santa Monica Weekly Distributes Hospital’s Halloween Safety Tips**

The Oct. 20 [Santa Monica Mirror](#) published an article with tips from UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica to ensure Halloween trick-or-treat safety. Dr. Wally Ghurabi, medical director of the hospital’s Nethercutt Emergency Center, was quoted.

#### **KCRW Explains Concussions and High School Football**

Dr. Christopher C. Giza, associate professor of neurosurgery and pediatric neurology, was interviewed Oct.21 on the KCRW 89.9FM program “[Which Way L.A.?](#)” about the growing concerns about traumatic brain injury from playing football and what is being done on the high school level to protect players. Giza was also featured in an October edition of [Bay Area Parent](#) on new guidelines he coauthored for the American Academy of Neurology about treating concussions in teens and children.

#### **Dean Pens Article on the Right to Breastfeed at Work**

Dr. Jody Heymann, dean of the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, wrote an article in the Oct. 22 [Montreal Gazette](#) about the lack of a guaranteed right for working mothers to take short breaks from work to breastfeed.

#### **Glitches on Health Insurance Website**

Gerald Kominski, director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and a professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was interviewed Oct. 17 on [KPCC 89.3FM](#) about technical problems with the Covered California health insurance website.

#### **Hospital Receives Award for Heart Care**

[Century City Patch](#) and [Scrubs Report](#) Oct. 22, and [Examiner.com](#) Oct. 23 reported that Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center received the Get With The Guidelines®–Heart Failure Gold Quality Achievement Award from the American Heart Association. The recognition signifies that the hospital has reached an exceptional goal of treating heart failure patients according to guidelines of care recommended by the American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology. Dr. Gregg Fonarow, UCLA's Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson–UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, was quoted.

#### **MedPage Covers Study Comparing Stroke Programs**

[MedPage Today](#) reported Oct. 18 on a national study that compared two programs designed to help hospitals adhere to nationally accepted standards and guideline recommendations for stroke treatment and found that hospitals participating in the Get With The Guidelines–Stroke program were more likely than primary stroke center–certified hospitals to provide all the guideline-based measures of care for patients. Lead author Dr. Gregg Fonarow, UCLA's Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson–UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, was cited.

#### **Miracle Baby Defies All the Odds**

[KRCA-Channel 62](#) Oct. 23 featured the story of a one-year-old boy who was born with a very rare heart defect and a condition called heterotaxy in which his heart and stomach are on the wrong side and he has no spleen. The boy has been followed by a team of specialists at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA since his condition was diagnosed during the mother's pregnancy.

#### **Lifescrypt, Palisadian Post Report on BRA Day at UCLA**

[Lifescrypt](#) reported Oct. 17 and the [Palisadian Post](#) reported Oct. 10 on Breast Reconstruction Awareness Day at UCLA which offered breast cancer survivors information about breast reconstruction following mastectomy. The event, organized by the UCLA Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, also featured presentations by former patients. Reconstructive breast surgeons from the UCLA Breast Center in Santa Monica also participated in the Oct. 16 event.

#### **Spreading the Word about Operation Mend**

Richard Azar, director of the UCLA Operation Mend program, was interviewed Oct. 21 on [WBEV 1430AM](#) (Milwaukee, Wis.) to discuss how the program provides free reconstructive surgery and other medical services to military personnel wounded in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

#### **Link Found between High-Fat, High-Calorie Diet and Pancreas Cancer**

[Virtual Strategy Magazine](#) Oct. 22 featured a study led by Dr. Guido Eibl, member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and professor-in-residence of surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, which found that mice given high-calorie diets became obese and developed pre-cancer pancreas lesions faster and more often than mice on normal diets. Eibl was quoted.

#### **Docs 'Vacuum' Huge Clot from Patient's Heart**

The [Beverly Hills Courier](#) reported Oct. 18 on a minimally invasive procedure performed at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center in which doctors used a new device to 'vacuum' a 24-inch blood clot from a patient's heart, sparing him from open-heart surgery. Dr. John Moriarty, an interventional radiologist at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted.

## External Review Examines Policies for Bias Reports

The [Los Angeles Wave](#) Oct. 24, the [Los Angeles Times](#) and the [Associated Press](#) Oct. 18, and the [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) and [Inside Higher Ed](#) Oct. 21 reported on an external review of how the campus handles faculty reports of racial bias. UCLA Chancellor Gene Block was quoted in the coverage. The report comes three months after a former surgeon at UCLA's medical school received \$4.5 million to settle a racial discrimination lawsuit against the UC Board of Regents.

## BRIEFS

[Becker's Spine Review](#) reported Oct. 23 that Dr. A. Nick Shamie was recently named chief of orthopedic spine surgery at UCLA.

The Chase Child Life program at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA was cited Oct. 21 in a [Daily Mail](#) (U.K.) article about actress Dakota Fanning, whose volunteer work with the program was highlighted when she was honored at the National Arts Awards. The program was also noted Oct. 24 in the [Friday Morning Quarterback](#), a trade publication for the music and radio industry, in an article that described Musicians on Call, a nonprofit organization that brings live and recorded music to patients at UCLA.

Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA was mentioned Oct. 24 in an [Acorn](#) story about a 10-year-old boy who suffers from a rare intestinal disease who is kicking-off his fourth annual holiday toy drive to benefit other hospitalized children at UCLA.

The UCLA Children's Discovery and Innovation Institute at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA was referenced Oct. 23 in a [Globe and Mail](#) (Canada) article about miniature designer dollhouses sold at charity.

## QUOTABLES

Dr. Ulrich Batzdorf, professor of neurosurgery, was cited in an Oct. 15 [Yahoo.com](#) article about a brain disorder called Chiari Malformation that both a father and his daughter were diagnosed with.

Dr. Amander Clark, associate professor and vice chair of molecular, cell and developmental biology in the life sciences, was quoted Oct. 24 in [Optometry Times](#) in an article on the use of stem cells in ocular medicine.

Dr. Gregory Cole, professor of neurology and associate director of the UCLA Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, was quoted in an Oct. 21 [HealthDay News](#) article about a study suggesting that older people who get less sleep are at greater risk for Alzheimer's disease.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, UCLA's Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, was quoted Oct. 21 in a [Medscape](#) article on how the Affordable Care Act could affect the treatment of patients with heart failure. In addition, he commented Oct. 24 in a [HealthDay News](#) article reporting on U.S. cholesterol levels. The HealthDay story also ran on [WebMD](#), [Newsday](#) and [Philly.com](#).

Dr. Soniya Gandhi, assistant clinical professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases, was quoted in an Oct. 21 [CBSNews.com](#) article about the discovery in California of *Aedes aegypti*--a mosquito capable of carrying deadly yellow fever, dengue and other diseases.

Dr. Patricia Ganz, professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology and director of cancer prevention and control research at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted Oct. 17 in [The Daily Herald](#) in an article on memory loss among breast cancer patients.

Dr. Gerald Kominski, director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and a professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted Oct. 22 in a [Stockton Record](#) article about recent problems with the online implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

Dr. Edythe London, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and a professor of molecular and medical pharmacology, was quoted in the Oct. 18 [The Inquistr](#) and the Oct. 21 [Washington Post](#) about the addictiveness of Oreo cookies.

Courtney Lyder, dean of the UCLA School of Nursing, was quoted in an article in the fall 2013 issue of [Minority Nurse](#) magazine about the value of an advanced degree for minority nurses.

Tony Padilla, chief patient experience officer for the UCLA Health System, was quoted in an Oct. 23 [California Report](#) article about Affordable Care Act provisions linking hospital payments to patient satisfaction levels.

Dr. Dario Ringach, a professor of neurobiology and psychology, was quoted Oct 21 in a [Wisconsin State Journal](#) article about his upcoming speech in Madison on ethical issues surrounding animal research.

Dr. A Nick Shamie, chief of orthopaedic spine surgery, commented in an Oct. 21 segment on [NBC's "Today Show"](#) about new ways of treating and preventing back pain.

Dr. Stephen Shew, associate clinical professor of surgery at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was quoted Oct. 21 in an article on NBC's "[Today](#)" website about research suggesting that bottle-fed babies are more likely to develop a certain type of stomach obstruction than breast-fed infants.

Dr. Gail Wyatt, professor of psychiatry and director of UCLA's Sexual Health Program, was quoted Oct. 23 in a [CBSNews.com](#) article about chronic health problems faced by victims of domestic abuse.

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