



UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT

For the week of Oct. 28 – Nov. 3, 2011

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Survey Warns about Secondhand Smoke Risk to Kids

A survey conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the School of Public Health that found that nearly 2.5 million California children are exposed to secondhand smoke in the home, was featured by multiple outlets. These included Oct. 27 reports in the [Los Angeles Times](#) and [Riverside](#)

[Press-Enterprise](#); Oct. 28 by [KPBS-89.5 FM \(San Diego\)](#), the [International Business Times](#), the [Los Angeles Daily Breeze](#), the [Earth Times](#), and [United Press International](#); Oct. 29 by the [Asian Journal](#); Nov. 1 by the Associated Press, and Nov. 2 by [City News Service](#). A correction issued by the Center on the number of children affected, from 2.5 million to 966,000, was reported Nov.2 by the [KNBC-Channel 4](#) website. David Grant, director of the California Health Interview Survey, which is administered by the Center, was quoted.

KNBC Highlights Diabetes Discovery

KNBC-Channel 4 reported Oct. 31 and [Diets in Review.com](#) reported Nov. 2 on a study by Dr. Preethi Srikanthan, assistant professor of endocrinology, linking greater muscle mass with a lower risk for developing pre-diabetes. Srikanthan was quoted.

Genetic Engineering, Moment Mag Showcase Autism Researcher

[Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology News](#) reported Nov. 1 on a UCLA study that developed a mouse model for autism to shed light on the disease's underlying mechanisms and develop potential therapies. Olga Peñagarikano, a postdoctoral scholar in neurology at the David Geffen School of Medicine, was quoted, and Dr. Daniel Geschwind, MacDonald Professor of Human Genetics and a professor of neurology and psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was cited. Geschwind was also profiled by the Nov/Dec edition of [Moment](#) Magazine in a feature story on the origins of Jewish creativity.

Grateful Parents' Donation Draws Press

[Becker's Hospital Review](#) reported Oct. 16 and [East County Magazine](#) and the La Mesa and Santee editions of AOL's [Patch](#) reported Oct. 27 on a \$2 million gift committed to the UCLA Department of Neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine by Thomas and Nadia Davies. The San Diego couple endowed the department's first chair in epilepsy research in memory of their daughter, Nina, and to honor Dr. Paul Crandall, the neurosurgeon who saved her life by ending her seizures. Dr. Neil Martin, chair of neurosurgery, was quoted.

Newspaper Column Spotlights Anthrax

The [Daily News](#), [Pasadena Star-News](#) and [Whittier Daily News](#) ran an Oct. 28 column by Dr. Claire Panosian Dunavan, clinical professor of medicine, division of infectious diseases, on the history of anthrax. Dr. Glenn Mathisen, clinical professor of infectious diseases, was quoted.

Media Cover Treatment for Iron-overload Diseases

[Genetic Engineering News](#), [Science Daily](#), [Examiner](#), [Medical Express](#) and [Health Canal](#) reported Nov. 1 on the development of an experimental treatment for iron-overload diseases. Scientists created a new type of therapy based on small molecules that mimic a hormone that regulates iron. Dr. Elizabeta Nemeth, associate professor of medicine; Dr. Piotr Ruchala, visiting assistant professor of medicine and Dr. Tomas Ganz, professor of medicine and pathology, were quoted. The findings were published in the Nov. 1 online edition of the Journal of Clinical Investigation.

High Schooler Researches Ear Disorder in Campus Lab

The [Ventura County Star](#) ran an Oct. 28 profile of a high-school student who is conducting independent research on the inner-ear disorder known as Meniere's disease at the UCLA Department of Head and Neck Surgery. Dr. Ivan Lopez, an adjunct professor of head and neck surgery in whose lab the teenager works, was quoted.

Bakersfield Paper Highlights Bieber's Visit with Sick Kids

The [Bakersfield Californian](#) featured a Nov. 3 story about a local girl who met pop star Justin Bieber during a recent visit to Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA. A big fan, the 10-year-old suffers from kidney failure and was thrilled when he stopped by to visit patients in the child-life playroom and sang to her. Amy Bullock, director of the Chase Child Life Program, was interviewed.

MedPage Today Explores Diagnosing Mild Asthma in Kids

[MedPage Today](#) reported Oct. 28 on a recent study that found providing health insurance to more children could lead to diagnosing more cases of mild or intermittent asthma. Dr. Tumaini Coker, assistant professor of pediatrics, was quoted.

Examiner Covers 'Dribble for the Cure' Event

[Examiner](#) reported Nov. 3 on the success of the recent "Dribble for the Cure" event hosted by the men's and women's UCLA basketball programs. The event raised funds for the cancer research program at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA. Dr. Ted Moore, interim director of the pediatric hematology and oncology program, was quoted. The event was also highlighted Oct. 29 in the [Pasadena Star News](#).

Nature, Reuters Cover Parathyroid Cancer Outcomes

Nature Reviews Endocrinology reported Oct. 18 and Reuters Health reported Oct. 28 on a study demonstrating that patients with parathyroid cancer have better outcomes at a center specializing in endocrine surgery. Dr. Avital Harari, assistant professor of surgery, section of endocrine surgery, is quoted. The study was published Sept. 21 in the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism.

Entertainment Blog Spotlights Mattel Party on the Pier

[Hollywood Teen Zine](#) featured an Oct. 28 article on young celebrities who attended the 12th annual Party on the Pier to benefit Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA.

Australian Outlet Reports on Fish Oil Diet

[Third Age](#) reports today on a study by researchers at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center that found that a low-fat diet with fish oil supplements helped slow the growth of cancer cells in prostate tissue. Dr. William Aronson, clinical professor of urology, was quoted.

Psych Website Hails New Approach to Teen-Suicide Prevention

Joan Asarnow, professor of psychiatry and director of the youth stress and mood program at the Semel Institute, was featured in a Nov. 3 [PsychCentral.com](#) and [MedicalXpress.com](#) report about her study showing that a specialized mental health intervention for suicidal youth can help troubled teens.

Sports Website Examines How Our Brain Watches Sports

Marco Iacoboni, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, and director, Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Lab in the Ahmanson Lovelace Brain Mapping Center, was featured in a Nov. 2 [Grantland.com](#) article about the role the brain's mirror neurons may play while watching sports.

Updating Comic Books' Depictions of the Mentally Ill

Dr. Praveen Kambam, assistant clinical professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was featured in an Oct. 28 [Newsarama.com](#) article about urging the comic book industry to modernize their mental-health depictions of cartoon villains.

Ventura County Star Spotlight Open House for Military Families

The [Ventura County Star](#) reported Nov. 2 on an open house presented by Project FOCUS, a collaboration by UCLA and other institutions that helps military families cope with the deployment of a parent.

BRIEFS

The healthcare blog, [Hospital Impact](#), cited Dr. David Feinberg, associate vice chancellor of health sciences and president of UCLA Health System, and his commitment to improving the patient experience at the highest level of leadership in a Nov. 3 article.

[Santa Monica Mirror.com](#) reported Nov. 3 that the outpatient surgery and oncology building nearing completion across the street from Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital was honored recently with a design award from an architectural institute.

QUOTABLES

Dr. David Baron, family medicine physician and former chief of staff at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, commented in an Oct. 28 KNX AM1070 report about the state's plans to cut Medi-Cal payments to physicians and other providers.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson–UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented Oct. 31 in a [HealthDay News](#) article about research showing hand-held metal detectors used at airports won't interfere with pacemakers or implanted defibrillators. He also commented in a Nov. 3 [HealthDay News](#) story about new lifestyle and health guidelines from the American Heart Association to help people with heart disease live longer. He was also quoted in an Oct. 29 [MSNBC](#) article about heart risks associated with black licorice.

Dr. David Heber, professor of medicine and public health and founding director of the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition, commented in an Oct. 27 [U.S. News & World Report](#) article about research on how hormones can affect weight loss and weight gain.

Gregory Leskin, assistant director of Project FOCUS (Families Overcoming Under Stress) at the Semel Institute, was quoted in an Oct. 31 [Washington Post](#) article and a Nov. 1 [Associated Press](#) article about children of deployed military families being more violent than their peers, and often finding relief from anxiety and stress by joining gangs, thus finding comfort in social networks.

Dr. Andrew Leuchter, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was quoted in a Nov. 2 [Los Angeles Times](#) article on UCLA's proposal for the Meyer and Renee Luskin Conference and Guest Center, a campus structure that would include conference and meeting space and 250 guest rooms.

Dr. Susan Love, clinical professor of surgery, commented Nov. 1 in a [New York Times](#) article about research indicating that women who routinely drink even small amounts of alcohol may have an elevated breast cancer risk.

John Piacentini, professor of psychiatry in the Semel Institute, and director, Child OCD, Anxiety, and Tic Disorders Program, was quoted in the Nov. 1 [USA Today](#) article on the origins of obsessive-compulsive disorder.

Dr. Gary Schiller, professor of hematology–oncology and a researcher at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted Oct. 31 in a [Myeloma Beacon](#) article about the efficacy of stem cell transplants in newly diagnosed multiple myeloma patients.

Paul Thompson, professor of neurology and a member of the Laboratory of Neuro Imaging (LONI), was quoted in a Nov. 2 [WebMD](#) article about a study showing that physical activity can reduce the effects of a genetic predisposition for obesity.

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