



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT  
For the week of Oct. 31-Nov. 6, 2014**

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### **Asthma Study Garners Widespread Attention**

[Health News Digest](#), [MedicalXpress](#), [Examiner.com](#), [Medical Research News](#), [KABC-Channel 7](#), [Science Daily](#) and [Health News Digest](#) Nov. 4; [Zee News](#), [Business Standard](#), [Indo-Asian News Service](#), [Health Medicine Network](#), [East Coast Daily](#) (India), [BioSpace](#), [Financial Express](#), [Bright Surf](#), [DD News](#), [Med India](#), [Spire Healthcare](#), [Bioscience Technology](#) and [News-Medical.net](#) Nov. 5, and [Nurse.com](#) and [Free Press Journal](#) Nov. 6 reported on a study by Dr. Robert Schiestl that found the genetic damage caused by asthma is also found in the circulating blood stream. The Indo-Asian News Service story also appeared in the [Hindustan Times](#), [Deccan Herald](#), [Indian Journal](#), [New Kerala](#) and about a half dozen other international outlets. Schiestl is a professor of pathology and radiation oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a professor of environmental health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health at UCLA.

### **Doctors Learn to Push Back, Gently, Against Anti-Vaccination Movement**

The [Los Angeles Times](#) reported Oct. 31 on a recent lecture at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA given to local pediatricians on how to discuss vaccinations with parents who feel they are dangerous to their children's health. The lecture's organizer, Dr. E. Richard Stiehm, an emeritus professor of pediatric allergy and immunology at UCLA, and Dr. Lisa Stern, an attending staff pediatrician at UCLA, were quoted.

### **Ebola Preparedness Continues to Draw Interest**

[Al Jazeera America](#) Oct. 31 and the [San Diego Community Newspaper Group](#) on Nov. 3 focused on hospital preparedness for potential Ebola patients. The reports mentioned that UCLA held an Ebola preparedness exercise Oct. 17, observed by Los Angeles County health department officials. The event included protocols for transporting patients through the hospital, disposing of trash and waste, dedicating equipment for Ebola patient use only, setting up a mobile laboratory, acquiring specialized personal protective equipment and staff training. Dr. Robert Cherry, chief medical and quality officer for UCLA Health System, and Cathy Ward, chief nursing officer at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, were quoted. In addition, a Nov. 1 [Associated Press](#) report ran a picture from the Ebola preparedness drill at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center.

### **Using Social Media to Track HIV and Risky Behavior**

[Medical Daily](#) Nov. 6 spotlighted a paper by Dr. Sean Young, assistant professor of family medicine and executive director of the UCLA Center for Digital Behavior, discussing how social media can help stop the spread of HIV. The paper was published in the November issue of *Cell: Trends in Microbiology*. In addition, NPR's "[Shots](#)" blog ran a map from another study led by Young, which the journal *Preventive Medicine* published online in February, suggesting that real-time social media like Twitter could be used to track HIV and drug related behavior to detect potential outbreaks, making it a tool for prevention efforts.

### **International Trial to Study HIV in Newborns**

The [Los Angeles Times](#) reported Nov. 4 on a new global clinical trial announced by the National Institutes of Health in which newborns infected with the virus that causes AIDS will be given medication within two days of birth and stay on it for two years. After that, they will stay off the medication as long as the virus remains undetectable and will be monitored through at least age 5. Dr. Yvonne Bryson, a co-chair of the trial, professor and chief of pediatric infectious diseases at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA and a member of the UCLA AIDS Institute, was interviewed.

### **KNX Radio Town Hall on Ebola Features Infectious Diseases Expert**

Dr. Peter Katona, clinical professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases, was featured Nov. 6 in a live KNX 1070AM town hall on Ebola.

### **Targeted Biopsy Work Featured in Las Vegas Paper**

The work of Dr. Leonard Marks in detecting prostate cancers using image-guided biopsy was highlighted Nov. 2 in the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#). Marks is a professor of urology and director of the UCLA Active Surveillance Program.

### **Using Smoker's Lungs for Organ Donation**

[CBS's The Doctors](#) explored Nov. 3 whether donor lungs from a smoker could be used in lung transplantation. Dr. David Ross, clinical professor of pulmonology and medical director of the UCLA Lung Transplant program, explained that donor lungs from smokers can safely and effectively be used to save lives once they are screened for smoking-related conditions.

### **Huff Post Runs Op-Ed on the Convention on the Rights of the Child**

Dr. Jody Heymann, dean of the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, wrote an opinion piece in the Nov. 6 [Huffington Post](#) that discussed the most widely UN-ratified human rights treaty in history, and whether or not the Convention on the Rights of the Child is making the impact needed in the countries who signed on.

### **Avoiding Medication Dosing Errors**

The November issue of [L.A. Parent](#) magazine featured an interview with Dr. Carlos Lerner, associate professor of pediatrics at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA and medical director of the UCLA Children's Health Center, with tips for parents to avoid common mistakes made when providing medication to children.

### **Patients Go Trick or Treating**

The Los Angeles [Daily News](#) and [KSCI-Channel18](#) Oct. 31 featured coverage of the annual Halloween Trick-or-Treat event at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA. More than 80 departments and groups from UCLA Health System, the UCLA campus and community supporters handed out treats to pediatric patients dressed in costumes as they went trick or treating in the hospital hallways and lobby.

### **Saliva Test May Detect Deadly Diseases Early**

[Drug Discovery and Development](#) Oct. 30 and [Dr. Bicuspid](#) Nov. 6 reported on UCLA research that could lead to a simple saliva test capable of diagnosing at an early stage diabetes and cancer, and perhaps neurological disorders and autoimmune diseases. Dr. David Wong, associate dean of research and professor of dentistry, and Dr. Xinshu (Grace) Xiao, assistant professor of physiological science, both of whom are members of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, were quoted.

### **Caring for Cancer Patients**

[The Oncology Report](#) Nov. 3 reported on palliative care after cancer treatment, discussing specific strategies to prevent the long-term and late effects of cancer treatment, such as fatigue, cognitive complaints, or pain. Dr. Patricia Ganz, director of the cancer control research program at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted extensively.

### **Tai Chi Reduces Inflammation in Breast Cancer Survivors**

[Health News Digest](#) Nov. 4, and [Medical News Today](#) and [Delhi Daily News](#) Nov. 5 reported on a new study showing that the ancient Chinese exercise of Tai Chi can lessen inflammation in breast cancer survivors, with some participants reporting that the slow movements helped them sleep better. Dr. Michael Irwin, professor in residence, department of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences and a member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was the lead author and quoted extensively.

### **Researchers Discover Gene that Can Help Immune System**

[Westside Today](#) and [Medical News Today](#) Oct. 31, and [Scicasts](#) Nov. 3, reported on a new study about two previously unknown genes that help play a crucial role in how progenitor stem cells are activated to fight infection. The discovery could lead to the development of new therapies that could help fight

diseases. Dr. Julian Martinez-Agosto, assistant professor of pediatrics and human genetics and a member of the UCLA Broad Stem Cell Research Center, was quoted.

### **Research Leads to New Method of Replicating Natural Stem Cell Environment in the Lab**

[Bioscience Technology](#) Nov. 4 reported on establishing a benchmark standard to assess how culture conditions used to procure stem cells in the lab compare to those found in the human embryo. The new technique appears to better resemble the natural environment of developing embryos. This work lays the foundation for a standardized protocol amongst the scientific community. Dr. Guoping Fan, professor of human genetics and a member of the UCLA Broad Stem Cell Research Center and UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted extensively.

### **KABC Examines Creativity and the Brain**

Dr. Robert M. Bilder, professor of psychiatry and director of the Tennenbaum Center for the Biology of Creativity in the Semel Institute, was interviewed Nov. 1 on the KABC 790AM [Mark Bryan](#) show about creativity and the brain.

### **Infectious Disease Doctor Pens Article about Patient with Mysterious Illness**

The November issue of [Discover Magazine](#) (subscription required) carried an article by Dr. Claire Panosian Dunavan, clinical professor of medicine emeritus in the division of infectious diseases, about a patient who developed mysterious symptoms, including an angry red eye, following a trip to Europe.

### **Common Eye Condition Raises Risk of Falling in Seniors**

[Reuters](#) reported Oct. 30 on a study led by Dr. Stacy Pineles, an assistant professor of ophthalmology at the Stein Eye Institute at UCLA, finding that strabismus, or a "wandering eye," can increase the risk of falls in older adults. Pineles was quoted. The findings were published by JAMA Ophthalmology. The Reuters Report was syndicated Oct. 31 by [Fox News](#).

### **New Genetic Test Diagnoses Rare Childhood Diseases**

[Voice of America News](#) issued Nov. 5 television, radio and online stories on the UCLA Clinical Genomics Center's exome-sequencing test, which rapidly scans the entire protein-coding region of the genome to pinpoint a single mutation causing ultra-rare diseases that are hard to diagnose. The story profiled Calvin Lapidus, 3, the center's first patient, who was diagnosed as an infant with a rare disease affecting only 500 known children in the world. Dr. Stan Nelson, professor of human genetics, pathology and psychiatry at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was interviewed.

### **Halloween Story Addresses Serious Topic**

[KTLA-Channel 5's](#) "HealthSmart" featured Romney Humphries, section chief of clinical microbiology and an assistant professor of pathology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, in an Oct. 31 story about how to prepare for a zombie apocalypse or another more likely natural disaster.

### **UCLA Study is First Project of DGA Foundation Grant to MPTF**

The Nov. 6 [Hollywood Reporter](#) covered an announcement of a commitment from the Directors Guild Foundation to the Motion Picture Television Fund to support a research program exploring the relationship between cognitive health and wellness programs. One of the first projects will be a two-year study with the UCLA Longevity Center to assess memory training and physical exercise programs to help delay dementia symptoms. Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging, a professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Longevity Center, was quoted.

### **Bladder Biopsy Study Continues to Grab Headlines**

[Oncology Nurse Advisor](#) Oct. 29, the [Imperial Valley News](#) Nov. 2 and [HemOnc Today](#) Nov. 4 reported on a study by Dr. Karim Chamie that found the quality of a bladder biopsy is directly linked to a patient's survival. Chamie is an assistant professor of urology and surgical director of the bladder cancer program at UCLA.

### **Obesity Study Cited**

[Beta Wired](#) Nov. 1 and [Nature Reviews](#) Nov. 4 reported on a study by Dr. Steve Horvath that found that obesity ages the liver. Horvath is 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.

### **LA Magazine Features Healthy Brain Tips**

The November issue of Los Angeles Magazine featured a Q&A with Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging, a professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Longevity Center, about lifestyle tips to help promote brain health that includes stress reduction, regular exercise, maintaining a healthy weight and eating a healthful diet.

### **QUOTABLES**

Dr. Christopher S. Colwell, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Laboratory for Circadian and Sleep Medicine, was quoted Nov. 3 in [HealthDay News](#) about a possible association between shift work and impaired cognition.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented in an Oct. 29 [HealthDay News](#) article that also ran in [WebMD](#) on a study showing that giving hormone therapy to men with prostate cancer who also have specific heart problems may increase their odds of dying from a heart-related cause. In addition, he commented in a Nov. 4 [HealthDay News](#) story on an analysis review article finding that irregular heartbeat increases that risk of a certain type of stroke. The story also ran in [Philly.com](#).

Dr. Wally Ghurabi, medical director of the Nethercutt Emergency Center at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, commented in the Aug. /Sept. issue of Scholastic Parent & Child magazine in an article outlining what parents can do to minimize the risks and issues created by addiction to cellphones and technology.

Dr. Gerald Kominski, director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in an Oct. 31 [U.S. News & World Report](#) article comparing the Medicare Cost federal benefits option to Medicare Advantage and HMOs. He was also quoted in Nov. 5 articles in [The Washington Times](#) and [Insurance Business America](#) detailing an opinion survey about enrolling with the federal health care exchange.

Dr. Anne Rimoin, associate professor of epidemiology with the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in the Nov. 3 print edition of People magazine about how difficult it is to spread Ebola in the U.S.

Dr. Dylan Roby, assistant professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted Oct. 31 in a [Tampa Bay Times](#) Politifact article about his insight into the impact of Medicare Advantage on enrollees. He also commented Nov. 3 in [The Gazette News](#) about the cost of care for freestanding emergency rooms. The article also appeared on [InsuranceNewsNet.com](#).

Dr. S. Andrew Schwartz, associate clinical professor of orthopaedic surgery at the UCLA Orthopaedic Institute in Santa Monica, commented Nov. 5 in a [Today.com](#) article on a study showing that although one in four men over age 50 will sustain a fracture because of osteoporosis, few are getting screened or treated for the disease.

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