



UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of Nov. 14-20, 2014

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Media Celebrate Cure of “Bubble Baby” Disease

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Media Celebrate Cure of “Bubble Baby” Disease

[Good Morning America](#), [ABC.com](#), [Yahoo! News](#), [NBC Nightly News](#), [KCBS-Channel 2](#), [KCAL-Channel 9](#), [KTLA-Channel 5](#), [Fox 11](#), [KABC-Channel 7](#), and [New York Daily News](#) Nov. 18; [Time Magazine](#),

[KPCC 89.9FM](#) and [KTIC.com](#) Nov. 19; [Instapundit.com](#), [genetic literacy project](#), [Todayshow.com](#) and [MedicalXpress.com](#) Nov. 20 and many other outlets reported on results of several clinical trials involving children with no immune system, better known as severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID) or “bubble baby” disease. Dr. Donald Kohn, professor of microbiology, immunology and molecular genetics and of pediatrics, and member of the UCLA Broad Stem Cell Research Center and UCLA’s Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted in the coverage.

UNAIDS Plan to End AIDS Epidemic Draws Coverage

The unveiling during a Nov.18 event at UCLA by UNAIDS executive director Michel Sidibé of the organization’s new global campaign to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030 drew worldwide coverage. Oscar-winning actress Charlize Theron, a United Nations Messenger of Peace and founder of the Charlize Theron Africa Outreach Project, participated in the program. Coverage included Nov. 18 reports by The Los Angeles [Daily News](#), [KCBS-Channel 2](#), [KCAL-Channel 9](#), [KABC-Channel 7](#), [Reuters](#), [Bloomberg](#), [The Guardian](#) (U.K.), [Daily Mail](#) (U.K.), [Agence France-Presse](#), [Just Jared](#), and [Big News Network](#); and Nov. 19 by [Science](#). The Daily News story ran in the Long Beach Press-Telegram and the Whittier Daily News, and the Reuters and Bloomberg articles were carried by many other outlets.

Media Tap Heart Expert

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented in or was featured by the following outlets on heart disease-related topics:

- A Nov. 16 [HealthDay News](#) article regarding research showing that asthma may increase the risk of heart attacks.
- A Nov. 16 [HealthDay News](#) article that also ran on [Doctors Lounge](#) about a government report demonstrating that deaths from heart disease are dropping, but mortality related to high blood pressure and irregular heartbeats are on the rise.
- A Nov. 17 [HealthDay News](#) article that also appeared on [Doctors Lounge](#) on a study showing that patients with irregular heartbeat who are overtreated with anti-clotting drugs may be at higher risk for dementia.
- A Nov. 17 [Healthline](#) article about a study on heart attacks in hospitalized patients.
- A Nov. 18 [MedPage Today](#) video on a study showing that a type of heart failure medication was not able to reverse hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, the most common inherited cardiac disease.
- A Nov. 19 [Cardiology Today](#) commentary by Fonarow about a new study comparing two heart medications in the reduction of mortality and hospitalization in heart failure patients.

MedPage Today Highlights Cardiology Expert

Dr. Karol Watson, professor of medicine in the division of cardiology and director, UCLA Barbra Streisand Women’s Heart Health Program, was interviewed in a Nov. 20 [MedPage Today](#) video on research results showing that an experimental drug may be helpful in lowering LDL, the “bad” cholesterol, in patients who cannot tolerate a statin.

Self-acupressure Relieves Constipation

[Examiner.com](#) Nov. 17; [QMI Agency](#) (Canada), [HealthCanal](#) and [MedicalXpress](#) Nov. 18; [Science Codex](#) Nov. 19; and [ANI News](#) (India), [The New Indian Express](#) (India), [The Free Press Journal](#) (India) and [Zee News](#) (India) Nov. 20 reported on research led by Dr. Ryan Abbott, visiting assistant professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, finding that perineal self-acupressure, a simple technique involving the application of external pressure to the perineum, was an effective treatment for constipation. Abbott, who is also a researcher and educator at the UCLA Center for East-West Medicine, was quoted. Senior author Dr. Ka-Kit Hui, Wallis Annenberg Endowed Chair in Integrative East-West Medicine at UCLA and founder and director of the UCLA Center for East-West Medicine, was also quoted in the coverage. The QMI story, which was carried by the Toronto Sun, also ran in Canada’s [Calgary Sun](#), the [Niagara Falls Review](#) and the [Owen Sound Sun Times](#). The [Business Standard](#) ran the ANI story.

Operation Mend Saluted on Veterans Day

The UCLA Operation Mend program, which provides medical services to wounded service members, continued to receive publicity around Veterans Day, including the story of a Vietnam veteran named Ric Ryan who fundraises for Operation Mend. Ryan was interviewed Nov. 15 on [CBS 13 Sacramento](#), Nov. 17 on [Fox 40 Sacramento](#) and Nov. 18 by the [Calaveras Enterprise](#).

Westwood Boulevard: A Great Street with Bike Lanes

A Nov. 7 [Huffington Post](#) blog post op-ed by Linda Sarna, acting dean of the UCLA School of Nursing and Dr. Eugene Washington, vice chancellor of health sciences and dean of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, makes a strong case for the addition of bicycle lanes for Westwood Boulevard.

Medical Leaders Toast Progress of Century City's California Rehabilitation Institute

[WestsideToday.com](#) Nov. 18 spotlighted a gathering that was held Oct. 30 to toast the progress of the California Rehabilitation Institute, a medical endeavor at the Century City Medical Plaza. As a three-way partnership between Cedars-Sinai, UCLA Health System, and Select Medical, the 138-bed acute inpatient rehabilitation hospital is expected to open its doors in early 2016. Dr. David Feinberg, president of the UCLA Health System and associate vice chancellor, was pictured in a photo with other medical leaders.

Hospital Receives Award for Heart Care

[Westside Today](#) Nov. 16 and [Century City/Westwood Patch](#) and [Examiner.com](#) Nov. 13 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.

Osteoporosis Risk Screenings Miss Most Younger Postmenopausal Women

The December issue of Consumer Reports on Health carried an article on research led by Dr. Carolyn Crandall finding that current strategies to predict osteoporotic fracture risk in younger post-menopausal women failed to detect nearly 75 percent of women who went on to experience major fractures within 10 years. Crandall is a professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research.

KPCC Profiles "DiaBeaters" Founder

The Web site of KPCC 89.9FM Nov. 20 carried a "[First Person](#)" profile of Megan Cory, a 20-year-old UCLA biochemistry major who founded "DiaBeaters," the first active diabetes awareness organization on campus. Cory also conducts diabetes research at the Larry L. Hillblom Islet Research Center at UCLA.

Trade Highlights Breast Cancer Drug

[Onclive.com](#) Nov. 20 reported on the Phase II clinical trial for the antibody-drug conjugate T-DM1 (ado-trastuzumab emtansine; Kadcyła), showing that as a frontline therapy it is less toxic than other therapies for patients with HER2-positive metastatic breast cancer. Dr. Sara Hurvitz, health sciences associate clinical professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology and the principal investigator at UCLA for the trial, was quoted extensively.

Stem Cell Study Could Lead to New Blood Cancer Treatments

[Examiner.com](#) Nov. 13, reported on scientists who discovered a unique protein, which is essential for the self-renewal of hematopoietic (blood) stem cells (HSCs) during human development. This discovery lays a foundation for researchers to generate HSCs in the lab that are similar to those that develop in their natural environment, and could lead to improved treatments for blood-related diseases and cancers by facilitating the creation of patient-specific blood stem cells for transplantation. Dr. Hanna Mikkola, associate professor of molecular, cell and developmental biology and a member of the UCLA Broad Stem Cell Research Center, was quoted extensively.

How the Brain Makes a Memory

[The Scientist](#) reported Nov. 13 on a study led by Dr. Alcino Silva, a professor of neurobiology and psychiatry at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a member of the UCLA Brain Research Institute and UCLA Center for Integrative Learning and Memory, that explored how neurons containing high levels of a protein called CRB record a new memory in the brain.

South Bay Paper Profiles Teen with Epilepsy

The [Daily Breeze](#) published a Nov. 15 profile of a teen who had one-eighth of her brain removed at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center to treat her epileptic seizures. She delivered a patient testimonial at the 2014 UCLA Department of Neurosurgery's Visionary Ball.

Creating Better Helmets to Prevent Concussion

The [Ventura County Star](#) and [North Dallas Gazette](#) reported Nov. 13 on a new helmet material being developed by the UCLA School of Engineering in collaboration with Dr. Christopher Giza, a professor of pediatrics and neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and director of the UCLA Steve Tisch BrainSPORT Program. Giza was quoted.

Media Feature Rare Movement Disorder

Dr. Susan Perlman, professor of neurology and director of the UCLA Ataxia Center, was featured in a Nov. 19 [KTTV-Channel 11](#) segment about the neurological disorder Ataxia, which severely effects coordination of muscle movements. The segment also featured three brothers, patients of Perlman, who have the disorder. Perlman was also interviewed Nov. 7 on the PBS program [American Health Journal](#) on the same topic.

Asthma Study Continues to Draw Attention

[Domain-b](#) reported Nov. 20 on a study by Dr. Robert Schiestl that found the genetic damage caused by asthma is also found in the circulating blood stream. 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.

BRIEFS

The UCLA Heart and Lung Transplant Program at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center was referenced Nov. 13 in a San Diego [Union-Tribune](#) article about a 22-year-old Escondido woman who successfully underwent a rare double-lung, heart transplant at UCLA and is now planning a donor drive to encourage the public to sign up to become organ donors.

Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA was mentioned in a Nov. 16 [Santa Monica Mirror](#) article on Santa Monica's P32 gallery opening to raise funds for the Chase Foundation, a portion of which will benefit the Chase Place at Mattel Children's Hospital.

The work of Dr. Shlomo Raz removing dangerous vaginal mesh was cited Nov. 15 in the [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#). Raz is a professor of urology and chief of the UCLA Division of Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery.

QUOTABLES

Dr. Alon Avidan, professor of neurology and director of the UCLA Sleep Disorders Program, was quoted Nov. 12 on [Today.com](#) about sleep myths. Older people need less sleep? Nope. You can catch up on sleep? Nope.

Dr. Michael Gitlin, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was quoted in a Nov. 17 [U.S. News & World Report](#) article about the physical signs of depression that can range from changes in sleep, appetite and energy to widespread body pain, headaches and gastrointestinal problems.

Dr. Leonard Marks, professor of urology and director of the UCLA Active Surveillance Program, was quoted in a Nov. 3 article in the [Wall Street Journal](#) regarding MRI-guided prostate biopsies.

Dr. Larissa Mooney, assistant professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Addiction Medicine Clinic, was quoted in a Nov. 20 [NPR.org](#) article about the use of the drug modafinil, prescribed for narcolepsy, that some people take because they think it works as a brain booster. It doesn't.

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