



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT**

**For the week of Nov. 28 – Dec. 1, 2011**

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#### **Dr. Oz Spotlights Life-Saving Community Outreach**

The nationally syndicated [Dr. Oz \(1\) \(2\)](#) show aired a two-part Nov. 23 profile of a woman who attended Los Angeles' CareNow free health clinic, where UCLA medical volunteers diagnosed her with advanced breast cancer. UCLA Health System agreed to provide her follow-up care at no cost. Dr. Patrick Dowling, chair of family medicine; Dr. Sara Hurvitz, assistant clinical professor of hematology/oncology; and Dr. Nova Foster, associate clinical professor of general surgery; were interviewed.

#### **"Early Show" Showcases Medical School's Unique Curriculum**

CBS' ["Early Show"](#) aired a Nov 28 segment spotlighting the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA's standardized patient program, which hires professional actors to portray difficult patient cases designed to teach medical students interpersonal and communication skills in a less pressurized setting than the clinic. Medical students Molly Diaz and Cathryn Haeffele were interviewed.

#### **Wall St. Journal, KPCC Expose Unhealthy Hospital Food**

[The Wall St. Journal](#) and [KPCC 89.3FM](#) reported Dec. 1 on research led by Dr. Lenard Lesser, a physician in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's clinical scholars program in the family medicine department, finding that only 7 percent of entrees and sandwiches served at California's 14 major children's hospitals are healthful. [The San Fernando Valley Sun](#), [Kaiser Health News](#), [ConsumerAffairs.org](#), [CBC News](#), and other outlets also covered the findings. Lesser was quoted in most of the coverage; Dana Hunnes, UCLA clinical dietician, was quoted by Kaiser Health News.

#### **Multiple Media Recognize Doctor Who Identified AIDS**

Israel's [Haaretz](#) and the [Pasadena Star-News](#) reported Nov. 30 and the [Washington Post](#), [Pasadena Weekly](#), [Marin Voice](#), and other Dec. 1 outlets quoted or cited the work of Dr. Michael Gottlieb, associate clinical professor of medicine, about the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World AIDS Day. Gottlieb was one of the first doctors to diagnose and report cases in 1981 of the syndrome that would come to be known as AIDS.

#### **People, Other Magazines Cover Opening of Teen Cancer Center**

The Dec. 5 edition of *People* featured The Who's Roger Daltrey as one of the "Heroes Among Us" in a story about the launch of UCLA's Daltrey/Townshend Teen & Young Adult Cancer Program, one of the first of its kind in the U.S. The specialized unit will house teens with cancer in adjoining hospital rooms around a common lounge so they can provide emotional support for each other during treatment. The news was also featured in the Dec. 8 edition of *Rolling Stone's* "Random Notes." The November issue of [L.A. Teen Festival](#) magazine featured a Q&A with Dr. Jacqueline Casillas, the program's director.

#### **Cavity-fighting Mouthwash Attracts Headlines**

[Agence France-Presse](#) reported Dec. 1, [Asian News International](#) reported Nov. 26 and [Discovery](#) reported Nov. 25 on a new mouthwash developed by Wenyuan Shi, professor of oral biology at the School of Dentistry. His research showed that the mouthwash kills the bacteria responsible for causing tooth decay and cavities.

#### **NPR Highlights Arthritis Improvement thru Exercise**

Dr. Roy Altman, professor of medicine in the division of rheumatology and arthritis, commented Nov. 28 in National Public Radio's ["Morning Edition"](#) about research showing that exercise can benefit persons with arthritis. A UCLA patient was also interviewed.

#### **KTLA Describes Operation Mend's Benefits**

[KTLA-Channel 5](#) aired a Nov. 30 interview with UCLA's first Operation Mend patient who described the program's effect on him. Dr. Timothy Miller, one of the program's lead surgeons, also was interviewed.

Operation Mend is a partnership between UCLA, Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, TX, and the Los Angeles Greater V.A. Medical Center.

#### **“The Doctors” Share Heart-Transplant Device**

CBS's [The Doctors](#) aired a Nov. 29 segment on an experimental organ-care system that delivers donor hearts in a warm, beating state. Dr. Abbas Ardehali, principal investigator of the multicenter study and director of the UCLA Heart Transplant Program, was interviewed. The segment also featured the story of a 41-year-old UCLA heart transplant recipient who participated in the trial.

#### **Washington Post Covers Campaign to Lessen Antibiotic Overuse**

The [Washington Post](#) reported Nov. 15 on a new electronic tracking system from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that promises to help U.S. hospitals take steps against the chronic overuse of antibiotics. Led by Dr. Daniel Uslan, assistant clinical professor of infectious diseases and director of the UCLA Antimicrobial Stewardship Program, Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center is one of eight hospitals participating in a pilot program to test the new system.

#### **NPR-Affiliate Spotlights Teen Suicide Prevention**

Dr. Joan Asarnow, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was interviewed Nov. 28 by KPCC 89.3FM about her research showing that an enhanced mental health intervention with suicidal teens and their families during an emergency-room visit increases the likelihood that these teens will receive mental health treatment after discharge, a key objective of the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention and critical step in reducing the risk of future suicide attempts.

#### **Oregon Press Cover Kids' Dramatic Brain Surgeries**

The Oregonian published a two-part series on [Nov. 22](#) and [Nov. 23](#) profiling a young boy who underwent a cerebral hemispherectomy to treat his intractable seizures at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA a year ago. Including a photo gallery and videos, the series featured Dr. Raman Sankar, chief of pediatric neurology; and Dr. Gary Mathern, professor of pediatric neurosurgery and director of the UCLA Pediatric Epilepsy Surgery Program. Oregon's [KPTV-Channel 12](#) reported Nov. 23 on a young girl who also underwent a hemispherectomy surgery a year ago to treat her chronic seizures. Mathern was cited.

#### **KTLA Updates Condition of Baby with Mystery Illness**

[KTLA-Channel 5](#) aired a Nov. 24 update about a nine-month old girl, nicknamed Princess Leah, who suffers from an undiagnosed neurological disorder. The parents, who are Star Wars fans, thanked friends and family who are auctioning signed Star Wars helmets to help cover the family's mounting bills.

#### **Local Papers Explore Cooking's Link to Pneumonia Risk**

A Nov. 29 [Los Angeles Daily News](#) and Nov. 30 [Contra Costa Times](#) column by Dr. Claire Panosian Dunavan, clinical professor of medicine, division of infectious diseases, explored how the use of wood, coal and animal dung for indoor cooking and heating in poorer countries can contribute to pneumonia.

#### **The Scientist Cites Melanoma Research**

A Nov. 30 story in [The Scientist](#) cited a study by Dr. Roger Lo, assistant professor of dermatology, that identified how a particular type of melanoma grows resistant to a promising experimental cancer drug.

#### **Engineered Blood Stem Cells Draw Online Press**

UCLA researchers' engineering of blood stem cells to create immune cells that seek out and attack a type of human melanoma was reported Nov. 26 by [United Press International](#), [Genetic Engineering News](#), [Health News Digest](#), [Examiner.com](#), [Medical XPress](#), [Zee News](#), [R & D Magazine](#), [Science Blog](#), [Stem Cell Digest](#), [Stem Cell News](#), [Cancer Answers](#), [World Pharma News](#), [Health Canal](#), [Breakthrough Digest Medical News](#), [EmpowHer](#) and many others. Jerome Zack, a researcher with the Jonsson Cancer Center and Broad Stem Cell Research Center and a professor of medicine and microbiology, immunology and molecular genetics; and Dimitrios Vatakis, assistant researcher in hematology/oncology, were quoted.

#### **St. Louis Paper Details Anti-HIV Gel**

The [St. Louis American](#) reported Dec. 1 on research by Dr. Peter Anton, professor of digestive diseases and a member of the UCLA AIDS Institute, suggesting that a microbicide gel applied to rectal tissue could significantly reduce HIV transmission.

#### **Appeal-Democrat Updates Hand-Transplant Patient's Progress**

The Nov. 26 [Appeal-Democrat](#) featured a story on the UCLA Health System's first hand-transplant patient, Emily Fennell, and her progress nine months after surgery. She now carries papers in her right hand and recently began to grip a steering wheel and paint her fingernails on both hands. Fennell will appear on a float for organ donation during the nationally televised Rose Parade on Jan. 2 in Pasadena.

#### **Deseret News Examines Sex Addiction**

Dr. Rory Reid, a research psychologist at the Semel Institute, was featured in a Nov. 28 [Deseret News](#) article about addiction to sex or pornography, also known as hypersexuality, and again in a Nov. 29 [Deseret News](#) article about a possible link between viewing child pornography and sex abuse.

#### **Santa Monica ER Physician Pens Column on Holiday Safety**

Dr. Wally Ghurabi, medical director of the Nethercutt Emergency Center at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, wrote a Nov. 23 [Santa Monica Mirror](#) column on how to ensure a safe holiday season.

#### **Blog Features Screening System for New Cancer Drugs**

The Nov. 29 [Cancer Therapy](#) blog featured a new molecular screening system to find compounds that kill brain cancer stem cells. Dr. Harley Kornblum, Jonsson Cancer Center scientist and professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences, developed the system.

#### **Web Sites Cite Study on Post-Menopausal Hormone Therapy**

[EmpowHer](#) reported Nov. 23 and [Cancer Network](#) reported Nov. 29 on a study by Dr. Carolyn Crandall that showed post-menopausal women taking combination hormone therapy who experienced breast tenderness had a 33 percent greater risk of breast cancer than women who took estrogen alone. Crandall is a professor of general internal medicine and a scientist with the Jonsson Cancer Center.

#### **Examiner Explores Search for Best Stem Cell Lines**

The [Examiner](#) reported Nov. 30 on research by Amander Clark, assistant professor of molecular, cell and developmental biology and a researcher with UCLA's Broad Stem Cell Research Center, comparing the characteristics of older human embryonic stem cell lines that have been approved for federally funded research with those of newly derived lines. Clark was quoted.

#### **BRIEFS**

A health blog in the Nov. 30 [New York Times](#) about how exercise affects the brain cited a study by Dr. Fernando Gomez-Pinilla, professor of neurosurgery and integrative biology/physiology, showing that rats who exercised had higher levels of a protein known to promote the health of nerve cells in their brains than sedentary rats.

A Nov. 28 article in the [New York Times](#) about ongoing research aimed at combating HIV highlighted UCLA gene-therapy research that could potentially lead to a functional cure for AIDS.

Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA was cited Nov. 22 in a [Yahoo News](#) article about a visit by former American Idol contestant Chris Daughtry and his band who delivered toys to pediatric patients.

#### **QUOTABLES**

Dr. Douglas Farmer, professor-in-residence of surgery, was quoted Nov. 26 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) article about patients who are denied transplants due to medical marijuana use.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson–UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented Nov. 26 in [California Watch](#) and the [San Francisco Chronicle](#), and Nov. 27 in the [Fresno Bee](#), about a San Bernardino County hospital's high rate of acute heart failure among patients. Fonarow was quoted in Nov. 29 [Reuters](#) and [HealthDay News](#) articles about the success of angioplasty and stents in opening blocked arteries. Fonarow also commented in a Dec. 1 [HealthDay News](#) story about patients who self-monitor their use of the blood-thinning drug warfarin reducing their risk of developing blood clots by half.

Dr. Timothy Fong, associate professor of psychiatry and co-director of the UCLA Gambling Studies Program at the Semel Institute, was quoted Nov. 30 in [TheFix.com](#) about gambling addiction.

Dr. Maria Garcia-Lloret, assistant professor of pediatric immunology, allergy and rheumatology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was quoted Nov. 23 in [California Report](#) about acetaminophen's link to asthma symptoms.

Dr. Charles Grob, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, and his research were cited Nov. 29 by the [Los Angeles Times](#) about the therapeutic uses of hallucinogenic drugs like psilocybin, also known as "magic mushrooms," that may reduce depression in patients with late-stage cancer.

Leeka Kheifets, professor of epidemiology at the School of Public Health, was quoted in the Nov. 27 [Arizona Republic](#) about the possible health effects of radio frequencies and electromagnetic radiation by utilities installing "smart meters" on homes and businesses.

Richard Rawson, professor of psychiatry and associate director of the Integrated Substance Abuse Programs at the Semel Institute, was quoted Nov. 27 by [Associated Press](#) about a woman who turned her life around after 20 years as an intravenous methamphetamine user.

Dr. Gary Schiller, a professor of hematology/oncology commented Nov. 30 in a [Health](#) story on a drug that may dampen the serious side effects of stem cell transplants.

Gail Wyatt, director of UCLA's Center for Culture, Trauma and Mental Health Disparities and associate director of the UCLA AIDS Institute, was quoted in the December 2011/January 2012 issue of *Ebony* magazine about how women of color are portrayed on reality TV.

Frederick Zimmerman, chair of health services at the School of Public Health, was quoted in a Nov. 17 [Washington Post](#) article about smart-phone apps designed for children.

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