



## UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT For the week of Nov. 26-Dec. 3, 2009

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#### **Media Explores Why We Talk and Chimps Don't**

Advance for Speech Pathologists & Audiologists reported Dec. 3 on a Nature study led by Dr. Daniel Geschwind, Gordon and Virginia MacDonald Distinguished Chair in Human Genetics, that links the capacity for speech and language in humans to the evolution of a single gene. Geschwind and first author Gena Konopka, a postdoctoral fellow in neurology, were quoted. The findings were also covered Nov. 17 by Psychology Today and United Press International, Nov. 13 by BBC News and Xinhua (China), and Nov. 12 by The (London) Telegraph, Irish Times and Aberdeen (Scotland) Press and Journal.

"Human Capacity for Language"

<http://speech-language-pathology-audiology.advanceweb.com/editorial/content/editorial.aspx?cc=211552>

"Language Gene' Effects Explored "

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8355541.stm>

"Why We Talk and Chimps Don't"

<http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/brain-sense/200911/why-we-talk-and-chimps-dont>

"Gene that 'Switches on' Ability to Speak found by Scientists"

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/science-news/6545295/Gene-that-switches-on-ability-to-speak-found-by-scientists.html>

### **L.A. Times, Other Outlets Spotlight HIV Risk for Unassimilated Hispanics**

The Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles Daily News and EFE News reported Nov. 25 and the Advocate reported Nov. 30 on a study led by Janni Kinsler, an analyst in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, finding that unassimilated Hispanics in the United States are at higher risk for HIV. Coauthor Dr. William Cunningham, professor of general internal medicine and health services research and of public health, was quoted in the Times. The study was published in the November issue of the Journal of Healthcare for the Poor and Underserved.

“Study Links Latino Immigrants’ HIV Testing to Level of Adaptation to U.S. Culture”

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2009/11/undocumented-immigrants-are-less-likely-to-be-tested-for-hiv-infection-study-says.html>

“UCLA Study: L.A. County Hispanics Not Adapted to American Culture More Likely to Contract HIV”

[http://www.dailynews.com/news/ci\\_13865063](http://www.dailynews.com/news/ci_13865063)

“Study: Unacculturated Hispanics at Higher HIV Risk”

[http://www.advocate.com/News/Daily\\_News/2009/11/30/Study\\_Unacculturated\\_Hispanics\\_at\\_Higher\\_HI\\_V\\_Risk/](http://www.advocate.com/News/Daily_News/2009/11/30/Study_Unacculturated_Hispanics_at_Higher_HI_V_Risk/)

“Un Estudio Vincula el SIDA en los Latinos a la Falta de Adaptación a EE.UU”

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/epa/article/ALeqM5jR51iE6sGZRTf\\_MD1NkTpyTgPFww](http://www.google.com/hostednews/epa/article/ALeqM5jR51iE6sGZRTf_MD1NkTpyTgPFww)

### **“The Doctors” Highlights Ear Tube Procedure**

Dr. Nina Shapiro, associate professor of head and neck surgery and director of pediatric otolaryngology, appeared Dec. 2 in an episode on CBS’s “The Doctors” about an ear tube procedure. Shapiro explained to the studio audience how ear tubes work and shared a video of a young girl who had her ear tubes implanted at UCLA.

“CBS ‘The Doctors:’ Ear Tubes”

<http://showroom.multivisioninc.com/share.do?id=118270&key=brbl8IWTYuiDFsvOzDqRG96SSHdYFgfS&email=AAAlbin@mednet.ucla.edu>

### **Online Press Examine Nanoparticles in Household Products**

Robert Schiestl, professor of pathology, radiation oncology and environmental health sciences and a Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center scientist, and his study about the potential danger of titanium dioxide nanoparticles found in many common household products was featured on Nov. 28 by Treehugger.com, NaturalNews.com and PremiumBeauty.com and on Dec. 2 by ModernMedicine.com.

“Public Concern is Growing over Nanoparticles”

<http://www.premiumbeautynews.com/Public-concern-is-growing-over.1449>

“Titanium Dioxide Nanoparticles Toxic in Mice”

<http://www.modernmedicine.com/modernmedicine/Pathology/Titanium-Dioxide-Nanoparticles-Toxic-in-Mice/ArticleNewsFeed/Article/detail/645580?contextCategoryId=40144>

### **British Paper Covers How Computers Affect Users’ Brains**

The (U.K.) Independent reported Nov. 24 on research by Dr. Gary Small, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Center on Aging, exploring the effect of Web browsing and other Internet-related activities on the human brain. The article referenced Small’s new book, “iBrain — Surviving the Technological Alteration of the Modern Mind.” Small was quoted.

“What the Web is Teaching Our Brains”

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/features/what-the-web-is-teaching-our-brains-1826419.html>

### **Health Publication Spotlights Tea and Strokes**

The January issue of Health Scene cited research led by Lenore Arab, professor of biological chemistry and of general internal medicine and health services research, finding that drinking green or black tea could reduce one’s risk for a stroke

“Drink Tea, Cut Stroke Risk”

### **Grand Rapids Press Honors Kidney Chain Donor**

The Grand Rapids Press ran a Nov. 25 story about Harry Damon, a firefighter whose June kidney donation at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center launched a transplant chain that provided 10 recipients with lifesaving transplants. He was honored by U.S. Rep. Vernon Ehlers during a special ceremony. Kidney transplant coordinator Suzanne McGuire was quoted.

"Kidney Donor Honored for 10-Transplant Chain"

[http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2009/12/grand\\_rapids\\_firefighter\\_honor.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2009/12/grand_rapids_firefighter_honor.html)

### **Trade Explores Sleep Apnea's Link to Memory Loss**

Advance for Respiratory Care & Sleep Medicine published a Nov. 16 article by Ronald Harper, distinguished professor of neurobiology, on the risky relationship between obstructive sleep apnea and memory loss.

"Obstructive Sleep Apnea and Memory"

<http://respiratory-care-sleep-medicine.advanceweb.com/Article/Obstructive-Sleep-Apnea-and-Memory.aspx?rpId=53>

### **ENT Advises Parents on Prepping Kids for Surgery, Winter Nosebleeds**

Dr. Nina Shapiro, director of pediatric otolaryngology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, wrote a Nov. 25 MomLogic article offering tips on how parents can prepare their kids for surgery. She also penned a Dec. 2 article about children's seasonal nosebleeds due to winter dryness.

"My Child is Having Surgery"

[http://www.momlogic.com/2009/11/my\\_child\\_is\\_having\\_surgery.php](http://www.momlogic.com/2009/11/my_child_is_having_surgery.php)

"Tis' the Season for Nosebleeds"

[http://www.momlogic.com/2009/12/tis\\_the\\_seasonfor\\_nosebleeds.php](http://www.momlogic.com/2009/12/tis_the_seasonfor_nosebleeds.php)

### **Florida Paper Explains why Reaction Time Slows in Middle Age**

Dr. George Bartzokis, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was featured in the Nov. 26 St. Petersburg Times about his study showing that men's physical abilities begin to decline in middle age due to the loss of myelin — the fatty sheath that coats nerve axons and allows for fast signaling bursts in the brain. He also offered his advice for postponing the onset of Alzheimer's disease.

"Take Steps to Postpone the Onset of Alzheimer's"

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/aging/lifetimes/article1053754.ece>

### **Trade Publication Features Ovarian Cancer Study**

Drug Week published a Nov. 27 story on research by Dr. Gottfried Konecny, assistant professor of hematology/oncology and a researcher at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, demonstrating that a leukemia drug showed promising activity in ovarian cancer cells

## **BRIEFS**

A Nov. 20 online Prevention magazine column about foods to avoid cited a study led by Dr. Jorn Olsen, chair of epidemiology at the School of Public Health, finding that perfluorinated chemicals, or PFCs, which are found in many common household items and in food packaging, may be linked to infertility in women.

"Foods to Avoid"

<http://www.prevention.com/7foodsthatshouldnever/list/3.shtml>

The Packer, a trade magazine for the fresh fruit and vegetable industry, on Dec. 3 published a presentation by Dr. Wendy Slusser, assistant professor of pediatrics and medical director of the Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA "Fit for Health" program. She discussed the successful implementation of a salad bar program in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

"Wendy Slusser: On the Benefits of Salad Bars"

<http://thepacker.com/Wendy-Slusser--On-the-benefits-of-salad-bars/FreshTalkBlog.aspx?articleid=964059&authorid=117&feedid=264&src=recent>

A Dec. 3 article in the California Capitol Weekly cited the previously published concerns of James Enstrom, associate research professor at the School of Public Health and Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, over a study that was used in formulating the state's diesel soot reduction regulations.

"ARB's Diesel Rule-Making Deeply Flawed, Member Says"

[http://www.capitolweekly.net/article.php?\\_c=ygi39p1nqc9oel&id=ygk2qcp5xx25&done=.ygi39p1nqcsoel](http://www.capitolweekly.net/article.php?_c=ygi39p1nqc9oel&id=ygk2qcp5xx25&done=.ygi39p1nqcsoel)

## QUOTABLES

Dr. Latisha Ali, director of the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center TeleStroke Network Program, and Virginia McFerran, chief information officer of the UCLA Health System, commented in the December issue of Healthcare Informatics about the rising use of high-tech telestroke programs that enable neurologists to optimize care for stroke patients.

"When Every Second Counts"

<http://healthcare-informatics.com/ME2/dirmod.asp?sid=&nm=&type=Publishing&mod=Publications%3A%3AArticle&mid=8F3A7027421841978F18BE895F87F791&tier=4&id=79AD5EBFC7124A2FA8691EAA43118E2C>

Dr. David Baron, chief of staff at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, commented in a Nov. 25 KNX 1070AM report on potential Thanksgiving health hazards.

Dr. Mary Hardy, medical director of the Simms-Mann/UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology at the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, commented Nov. 30 in the Los Angeles Times about the supplement, L-carnitine.

"L-carnitine Might Not be a Boost for You"

<http://www.latimes.com/features/health/la-he-nutrition30-2009nov30,0,852160.story>

David Hayes-Bautista, professor of general internal medicine and health services research and director of the UCLA Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture, was quoted Dec. 1 in La Opinión about a survey suggesting that most U.S. Latino voters favor a healthcare system that insures everyone.

"Latinos Quieren Plan de Salud para Todos"

<http://www.impre.com/laopinion/noticias/2009/12/1/latinos-quieren-plan-de-salud--161563-1.html>

Dr. Nina Shapiro, associate professor of head and neck surgery, was quoted in the December issue of University Link Magazine offering advice to students on avoiding colds and staying healthy during winter.

"Keep Healthy During the Cold Season"

Dr. Richard Shemin, professor and chief of cardiothoracic surgery, and Jean Gima, nurse practitioner with the UCLA Cardiac Arrhythmia Center, addressed atrial fibrillation in a Dec. 3 article in the Los Angeles Daily News. The story also appeared Dec. 3 in the Daily Breeze.

"Jerry West is Finding His Rhythm"

[http://www.dailynews.com/health/ci\\_13911376](http://www.dailynews.com/health/ci_13911376)

Marc Suchard, associate professor of human genetics and biomathematics, commented Dec. 1 in a profile of researcher Beth Shapiro in The Scientist. He develops the quantitative tools that help Shapiro analyze her varied biological samples.

"Beth Shapiro: Creatures Great and Small"

<http://www.the-scientist.com/article/display/56177/>

Dr. Paul Vespa, professor of neurosurgery and director of the neurocritical care unit at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, was quoted in a Nov. 24 ABC News article about a paralyzed Belgian man who spent the past 23 years in the hospital. Vespa was also interviewed for a CNN radio segment.

"Paralyzed Man was Awake for 23 Years, Not in Vegetative State"

<http://abcnews.go.com/GMA/MindMoodNews/doctors-find-vegetative-paralyzed-man-awake-23-years/story?id=9159555>

Dr. Edward Zaragoza, clinical director of radiology at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital and associate professor of radiological sciences, commented in a Dec. 1 article on Bright Side of News.com about the use of iPhones and related technology for diagnostic purposes. The website covers the semiconductor industry.

“Apple iPhone and OsiriX Mobile Help Diagnose Appendicitis”

<http://www.brightsideofnews.com/news/2009/12/1/apple-iphone-and-osirix-mobile-help-diagnose-appendicitis.aspx>

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