



UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT For the week of Dec. 4 – 10, 2009

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Media Spotlights Stem Cells Engineered to Kill HIV

The Los Angeles Daily News and The Advocate reported Dec 8 and 9, respectively, on a study by UCLA AIDS Institute researchers and colleagues demonstrating for the first time that human blood stem cells can be engineered into cells that can target and kill HIV-infected cells. Numerous other media outlets ran reports, including Instinct Magazine on Dec. 7, "AirTalk with Larry Mantle" on KPCC 89.3FM, LA Weekly, PinkNews.com (U.K), Michigan Messenger and AIDS Meds on Dec. 8, and Examiner.com on Dec. 9. Scott Kitchen, assistant professor of hematology and oncology and a member of the UCLA AIDS Institute, and Jerome Zack, professor of hematology and oncology and a scientist with UCLA's Broad Stem Cell Research Center, were quoted in the coverage.

"Genetic AIDS Vaccine?"

<http://www.scpr.org/programs/airtalk/2009/12/08/genetic-aids-vaccine/>

"Could Stem Cells Cure AIDS?"

http://www.advocate.com/Health_and_Fitness/Health_and_Treatments/HIV/Could_Stem_Cell_Discovery_Be_Cure_for_HIV/

“Cells May Someday Zero in on HIV”

http://www.dailynews.com/news/ci_13946775

“Huge AIDS Breakthrough from UCLA Announced (Application, Though, Still Likely Far Off)”

<http://blogs.laweekly.com/ladaily/city-news/huge-aids-breakthrough-from-uc/>

News Outlets Report on Findings that Some Stroke Patients Skip Medications

United Press International on Dec. 7 and LA Opinion and El Diario/La Prensa (NY) on Dec. 8 reported on a study that looked at whether the use of antithrombotic medications among stroke survivors increased over a seven-year period. The results found that in each of the years, approximately 20 percent of survivors were not taking these medications, and that individuals who were younger, female or Hispanic were less likely to be taking their medicine. Lead author Dr. Eric Cheng, assistant professor of neurology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and the Veterans Administration Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, was quoted.

“Some Don’t Take Medication after Stroke”

http://www.upi.com/Health_News/2009/12/07/Some-dont-take-medication-after-stroke/UPI-2839126024551/

“Más Hispanos Repiten Infartos”

<http://www.impre.com/laopinion/vida-estilo/2009/12/8/mas-hispanos-repiten-infartos-162699-1.html>

Media Covers LA Lakers’ Visit with Pediatric Patients

KCBS-Channel 2, KNBC-Channel 4, KABC-Channel 7, KCAL-Channel 9, and KTTV-Channel 11 on Dec. 8, and Fox Sports West and NBA.com on Dec. 9, ran stories highlighting a visit by Los Angeles Lakers players Pau Gasol and Shannon Brown and two LA Lakers cheerleaders to hand out gifts to pediatric patients at Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA. Dr. David Feinberg, associate vice chancellor and CEO of the UCLA Hospital System, was quoted in the NBA.com story.

“Lakers Deliver Smiles to Children’s Hospital”

<http://www.nba.com/lakers/community/091208childrenshospitalvisit.html>

Air Talk’s Larry Mantle Tackles Access-to-Care Issue with Oral Health Experts

KPCC 89.3FM “Air Talk with Larry Mantle” show featured a conversation on Dec. 7 with the dental school’s Edmond Hewlett, associate professor of restorative dentistry, and James Crall, professor of pediatric dentistry, during which they addressed the access barriers to oral health care for adults and children. They also responded to listener questions.

“Dental Care for All?”

<http://www.scpr.org/programs/airtalk/2009/12/07/dental-care-for-all/>

Internal Medicine News Reports on National Call for Improved Pain Care

Internal Medicine News reported Nov. 11 on a report from the Mayday Fund that called for an overhaul in the way chronic pain is managed. Dr. Lonnie Zeltzer, director of the Pediatric Pain Program at Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA and a co-chairwoman on the Mayday Fund’s report panel, was interviewed.

“Report Calls for Improved Chronic Pain Management”

KPCC Examines Drugs that May Change your Personality

Ian Cook, Miller Family Professor of Psychiatry and director of the Depression Research Program at the Semel Institute, was interviewed on the Dec. 7 KPCC 89.3FM “Patt Morrison Show” about a report in the December Archives of General Psychiatry that states the bio-chemical properties of at least one common anti-depressant may actually be producing real personality changes.

“Antidepressants – More than a Mood Changer?”

<http://www.scpr.org/programs/patt-morrison/2009/12/07/antidepressants-more-than-a-mood-changer/>

School of Medicine Student Pens Editorial about H1N1

Medical student Phyllis Kim penned a Dec. 8 Korea Daily editorial about the importance of prevention and community involvement in fighting the H1N1 pandemic.

“커뮤니티 광장] 신종플루, 꼭 예방 접종을”

http://www.koreadaily.com/news/read.asp?page=1&branch=LA&source=LA&category=opinion&art_id=954359

Media Reports on How to Bring Home a Runaway Teen

Norweeta Milburn, a research psychologist in the department of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was featured Dec 5 on the Indo-Asian News Service, Dec. 8 on About.com and Dec. 12 on the Parenting Today's Teenager blog about her study that showed with family support, the majority of runaway teens will return home.

“Most Runaway Teens Return Home According to Study by UCLA”

<http://parentingteens.about.com/b/2009/12/08/most-runaway-teens-return-home-according-to-study-by-ucla.htm>

“Most Runaway Teens Return Home According to Study by UCLA”

<http://parenting-todays-teenager.com/blog/most-runaway-teens-return-home-according-to-study-by-ucla>

“Supportive Mothers Ensure Runaway Teens' Return”

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/fullnews-4953.html>

Pasadena Star-News Column Explores Ailments Spread from Pets to Owners

Pasadena Star-News on Dec. 2 and Dec. 10 featured a two-part column by Dr. Claire Panosian Dunavan, clinical professor of infectious diseases, about infections that can be passed from pets to their owners.

“Pet-Associated Ailments Stalk Animal Owners”

http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/ci_13911379

“Wormy World of Cats and Dogs”

http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/ci_13964284

ABC News Website Answers Questions about Brain Injuries

Susan Bookheimer, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and a researcher at the Ahmanson-Lovelace Brain Mapping Center, was featured in a Dec. 9 online Q&A about brain injuries.

“Answers to Your Questions about Brain Injury”

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/story?id=1562175>

Tech Website Highlights Internet Study

An iHealthBeat website feature on Dec. 1 highlighted a UCLA study reporting that older adults with little Internet experience were able to trigger key centers in the brain that control decision-making and complex reasoning after just one week of surfing the Web. Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging and a professor with the Semel Institute and Teena Moody, a senior research associate at the Semel Institute, were quoted.

“Seniors Who Use Internet Could Reap Health Benefits, Studies Show”

<http://www.ihealthbeat.org/features/2009/seniors-who-use-internet-could-reap-health-benefits-studies-show.aspx>

NanoWerk Website Spotlights “Fly Paper” that Captures Tumor Cells

The nanotechnology website NanoWerk.com on Nov. 30 ran a feature story about an innovative new device with nano-sized features developed by UCLA researchers that can grab cancer cells in the blood that have broken off from a tumor. These cells provide critical information for examining, diagnosing and treating cancer metastases. Shutao Wang, study author and postdoctoral researcher at the UCLA Crump Institute and the California NanoSystems Institute, was quoted.

“Nanotechnology Trap Captures Cancer Cells in Blood”

<http://www.nanowerk.com/spotlight/spotid=13743.php>

AP and Others Report on Attorney General, UCLA Surgeon Settlement

The Los Angeles Daily News reported on Dec. 5, and the Associated Press, the Chronicle of Higher Education and a Los Angeles Times blog reported on Dec. 4, that a UCLA professor and heart surgeon has settled a lawsuit brought by the California attorney general for allegedly using a charity he founded for personal gain. The investigation resulted from evidence uncovered by the university.

“UCLA Prof Settles State Lawsuit Over Charity Funds”

http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_13927689?nclick_check=1

“UCLA Professor Settles Lawsuit by Agreeing to Pay \$140,000 to Charity”

http://chronicle.com/blogPost/UCLA-Professor-Settles-Lawsuit/9093/?sid=at&utm_source=at&utm_medium=en

“UCLA Professor Settles Suit, Will Repay Research Charity \$140,000”

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2009/12/ucla-professor-settles-suit-will-repay-research-charity-140k.html>

QUOTABLES

Dr. David Baron, chief of staff at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, commented in a Dec. 8 KNX 1070AM report on the increasing rate of sexually transmitted diseases among female teenagers.

Roshan Bastani, professor of health services and associate dean of research at the School of Public Health, was quoted Dec. 9 in a ScienceCentric.com story on her study that found significant disparities among different low-income minority groups in their knowledge and awareness of the vaccine for human papillomavirus, the most commonly transmitted sexual disease.

“Researchers Identify Barriers to HPV Vaccination Uptake in Low-Income Populations”

<http://www.sciencecentric.com/news/article.php?q=09120926-researchers-identify-barriers-hpv-vaccination-uptake-low-income-populations>

Dr. Charles Chandler, general surgeon at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, commented in a Dec. 4 WebMD story about a new study on the risk of blood clots after surgery.

“Post-op Blood Clot Risk High”

<http://www.webmd.com/dvt/news/20091204/post-op-blood-clot-risk-high?page=2>

Dr. Ian Cook, Miller Family Professor of Psychiatry and director of the Depression Research Program at the Semel Institute, was quoted in a Dec 7 Reuters story about a new study that shows antidepressants may go well beyond just easing the symptoms of depression, and may make people less neurotic.

“Antidepressants May Make People Less Neurotic”

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory?id=9271933>

Dr. Timothy Fong, assistant professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and co-director of the UCLA Gambling Studies Program, was quoted in a Dec. 9 Pasadena Star News article about pathological gamblers, noting that gambling triggers a release of dopamine in the brain, similar to the effect drugs have on the brains of drug addicts.

“Researchers: Gambling Changes Brain Dynamics”

http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/ci_13962804

Dr. Peter Galier, internal medicine specialist at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, was quoted in a Dec. 9 WebMD story about the effectiveness of antiviral drugs in preventing flu complications in healthy people.

“Tamiflu’s Effectiveness Doubted”

<http://www.webmd.com/cold-and-flu/news/20091209/tamiflu-effectiveness-doubted>

Marco Iacoboni, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, and director, Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Lab in the Ahmanson Lovelace Brain Mapping Center, was quoted in a Dec 7 Science News article about the use of functional MRI to discern a person’s emotional state.

“Trawling the Brain”

http://www.sciencenews.org/view/feature/id/50295/title/Trawling_the_brain

Dr. Eric Kleerup, clinical professor of pulmonary and critical care medicine, commented Nov. 9 in an article on a FOX TV affiliate website in Sacramento about saving money on prescription asthma medications. The Los Angeles Times originally ran the story.

"Tips for Asthma Sufferers"

<http://www.fox40.com/health/sns-health-tips-for-asthma-sufferers,0,5856205.story>

Dr. Jason Lerner, assistant clinical professor of neurology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, commented in a Nov. 4 Everyday Health story on tests that are used to diagnose meningitis in children and adults.

"Imaging Tests Used to Diagnose Meningitis"

<http://www.everydayhealth.com/meningitis/imaging-tests-to-diagnose.aspx>

Dr. Andrew Leuchter, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was quoted in the Dec. 8 Los Angeles Times about recent research suggesting that a common antidepressant may be producing deeper-than-expected personality changes.

"Antidepressants Linked to Major Personality Changes"

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-sci-antidepressants8-2009dec08,0,433635.story>

"Antidepressant Found to Alter Personality"

<http://www.usnews.com/science/articles/2009/12/08/antidepressant-found-to-alter-personality.html>

Fernando Gómez-Pinilla, professor of neurosurgery and physiological science, was quoted in the Dec. 7 Boston Globe about research exploring how diet can affect mood.

"Food and Mood"

http://www.boston.com/lifestyle/food/articles/2009/12/07/new_research_centers_on_the_link_between_nutrition_and_brain_function/

Steven Wallace, professor of public health and associate director of the Center for Health Policy Research, was quoted in a Dec. 5 Ventura County Star article about cuts to Medicare in the health care reform proposals in Congress.

"Many Fearful of Healthcare Bills' Billions in Medicare Cuts"

<http://www.vcstar.com/news/2009/dec/05/uncertainty-for-seniors-many-fearful-of-bills-in/>

Dr. Antronette Yancey, professor of health services at the School of Public Health and co-director of the UCLA-Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Equity, was interviewed Dec. 7 on the African-American Public Radio Consortium about the growing rate of obesity among African Americans and how lifestyle and eating changes can help combat it.

"Upfront with Tony Cox"

<http://www.upfrontnews.org/?p=526>

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