



UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT For the week of Dec. 11 - 17, 2009

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UCLA Health Sciences in the News 2009 Broadcast Highlights

Study on Implantable Defibrillators Draws Wide Coverage

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UCLA Health Sciences in the News 2009 Broadcast Highlights

The UCLA Health Sciences Media Relations office is pleased to present the 2009 edition of its annual "UCLA Health Sciences Media Highlights." Here is a link to a sample of the past year's TV coverage. This is intended for internal use only and not for rebroadcast. You may need to cut and paste into your web browser to play.

"UCLA Health Sciences in the News 2009"

<http://streaming.uclahealth.org/inthenews2009>

Study on Implantable Defibrillators Draws Wide Coverage

The Wall Street Journal, Reuters Health and HeartWire.com reported Dec. 15, and HealthDay and Cardiology Today reported Dec. 16 on a UCLA study finding that older heart-failure patients who were

treated with both medications and an implantable defibrillator had a lower mortality rate over three years than patients treated only with medications. Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson–UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, was quoted. The research was published in the journal *Circulation: Heart Failure*. The HealthDay report appeared on the websites for MSN and BusinessWeek, and the websites for ABC News and Yahoo News ran the Reuters Health story.

“Study Shows Older Patients Benefitting from Defibrillators”

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20091215-712953.html>

“Implanted Device Has Benefits in Heart Failure”

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory?id=9345448>

“Implanted Defibrillator Might Extend Life”

<http://health.msn.com/health-topics/aging/articlepage.aspx?cp-documentid=100251178>

Wall Street Journal, Online Press Spotlight Breast Cancer Research

A presentation by Dr. Dennis Slamon at the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium on the latest data on the efficacy of the molecularly targeted breast cancer drug Herceptin was covered Dec. 12 by the Wall Street Journal, MedPageToday, Canada News Wire and InSciences.org, on Dec. 15 by Medscape and HemOncToday and Dec. 16 by Pharmabiz.com. Slamon, whose research led to the development of Herceptin, is director of clinical/translational research at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

“Study Questions Use of Anthracyclines in Breast Cancer Patients”

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB126065391621389179.html>

“No Need for Anthracyclines with Herceptin”

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/MeetingCoverage/SABCS/17497>

“A ‘Direct Assault’ on Anthracycline-based Therapy for Breast Cancer?”

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/713854>

KABC, Bloomberg Explore New Alzheimer's Theory

Dr. Jeffrey Cummings, professor of neurology and director of the Mary S. Easton Center for Alzheimer's Disease Research, appeared in a Dec. 15 KABC-Channel 7 story about a study suggesting that people with low levels of a hormone called leptin may have a four-times higher risk of developing Alzheimer's disease. Cummings was also quoted in a Dec. 15 Bloomberg news article.

“Fat Hormone May Protect Against Alzheimer's”

http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/health/your_health&id=7173034

“Low Hormone Level May Increase Alzheimer's Risk, Study Finds”

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601110&sid=aywDntwadCc>

HealthDay Tracks Stem Cells Engineered to Kill HIV

HealthDay News reported Dec. 11 on a UCLA AIDS Institute study demonstrating for the first time that human blood stem cells can be engineered into cells that can target and kill HIV-infected cells. The report was carried by U.S. News & World Report and MSN Health & Fitness.

“Stem Cells Turned Into AIDS Killers in Lab Tests”

<http://www.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=633860>

MSNBC Features Emergency Medicine Physician

MSNBC's “Dr. Nancy Snyderman Show” aired a Dec. 14 interview with Dr. Mark Morocco, a UCLA emergency physician and associate residency director of emergency medicine, about long wait times and overcrowding at hospital emergency rooms.

“Emergency in the ER”

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/31388323/vp/34418601#34418601>

Science Highlights Brain Cancer Study

A study by Dr. Paul Mischel on treating deadly brain cancers by targeting cell metabolism was featured Dec. 16 by emaxhealth.com and Science Magazine. Mischel is a professor of pathology and laboratory medicine and researcher with UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

“Research Suggests Brain Cancers Treatment Targeting Metabolic Activity”

<http://www.emaxhealth.com/1024/85/34800/research-suggests-brain-cancers-treatment-targeting-metabolic-activity.html>

SM Physician Explains Vaccine Recall to Fox, KNX

Dr. David Baron, chief of staff at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, was interviewed Dec. 15 on KNX 1070AM and Fox-Channel 11 about the recall of H1N1 vaccines for children. The Fox segment replayed Dec. 16 on its "Good Day LA" program.

<http://www.myfoxtla.com/dpp/news/dpg-Kids-Swine-Flu-Vaccine-800000-Doses-Recalled-fc-200912151260894434021>

KPPC Scrutinizes Antipsychotic Drug Use by Low-income Children

Dr. Bonnie Zima, professor of child and adolescent psychiatry and associate director of the Health Services Research Center at the Semel Institute, appeared Dec. 15 on KPCC 89.3 FM's "Patt Morrison Show," commenting on a study that found that poor children were four times more likely to be prescribed antipsychotic drugs than children from a middle-income family.

"Medicaid Children and Access to Antipsychotic Drugs"

<http://www.scpr.org/programs/patt-morrison/2009/12/15/medicaid-children-and-access-to-antipsychotic-drug/>

Channel 7 Interviews Flu Expert

KABC-Channel 7 interviewed Dr. Peter Katona, associate clinical professor of infectious diseases, on Dec. 15 about the recall of H1N1 vaccination shots for children after testing revealed a loss of potency.

http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/health/your_health&id=7172981

HealthDay Finds Not All Stroke Patients Continue Medications

Health Day reported Dec. 11 on a study by 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, finding that 20 percent of stroke survivors fail to continue taking their medications. The story appeared in U.S. News and World Report, Forbes and Yahoo News, among others.

"Many Stroke Survivors Don't Take Lifesaving Meds"

<http://health.usnews.com/articles/health/healthday/2009/12/11/many-stroke-survivors-dont-take-lifesaving-meds.html>

Local Paper Highlights Colonoscopy Study

The Fallbrook Village News ran a Nov. 19 story on a UCLA/VA study reporting that early-morning colonoscopies yielded more polyps per patient than later cases. The findings point to the need for more research in this area to improve outcomes for colonoscopy procedures. Dr. Brennan Spiegel, director of the UCLA/VA Center for Outcomes Research and Education and assistant professor of digestive diseases, was quoted.

"Results Vary Due to Timing of Colonoscopy Tests"

<http://www.thevillagenews.com/story/42776/>

Diet Study Cited by NCI Cancer Bulletin

A study by Dr. William Aronson on whether a low-fat diet and fish oil supplements can help men with prostate cancer was featured in the Dec. 15 issue of the NCI Cancer Bulletin. Aronson is a professor of urology and a researcher at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

"Adapting the Science of Supplements and Cancer Prevention"

<http://www.cancer.gov/ncicancerbulletin/121509/page6>

MomLogic Examines ADHD's Link to Sleep Problems in Kids

Dr. Nina Shapiro, director of pediatric otolaryngology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, wrote a Dec. 12 article for MomLogic that looked at the relationship between sleep problems and ADHD in kids.

"The ADHD-Sleep Connection"

http://www.momlogic.com/2009/12/adhd_sleep_connection.php

BRIEFS

A Dec. 14 Los Angeles Times gift guide cited a book by Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging and a professor with the Semel Institute. "iBrain: Surviving the Technological Alteration of the Modern Mind," explores the impact of technology on the brain.
"Our Bodies, Our Reading Material"

<http://www.latimes.com/features/health/la-he-staff-book-picks14-2009dec14,0,673930,full.story>

An article in the Dec. 15 Fresno Bee about a controversial pest-killing fumigant references John Froines, professor of environmental health sciences at the School of Public Health and director of the Center for Occupational and Environmental Health, who is chairing a state committee investigating health concerns related to the fumigant, which has not been approved for use in California.

"Sacramento Protest Targets Farm Chemical"

<http://www.fresnobee.com/local/story/1748640.html>

The research of Norweeta G. Milburn, a research psychologist in the department of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, showing that most teens who run away from home actually return soon if they have support from family and friends, was featured in a Dec. 4 news segment on KCLA – Ch. 9.

QUOTABLES

Dr. Alon Avidan, associate professor of neurology and associate director of the Sleep Disorders Program, was quoted Dec. 14 on the Technology Review website about a new device to control sleep apnea.

"A Stimulating Treatment for Sleep Apnea"

<http://www.technologyreview.com/biomedicine/24152/?a=f>

Rochelle Caplan, professor emerita of psychiatry, was quoted in a Dec. 16 Medscape Medical news article about a recent finding by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration that antiepileptic drugs increase the risk of suicide.

"AES 2008: Panel Disputes FDA Finding on Antiepileptics and Risk for Suicide"

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/584911>

Dr. Jerome Hoffman, professor of emergency medicine, was quoted in a Dec. 14 National Public Radio story about the use of the drug t-PA to break up clots and restore blood flow in stroke patients.

"Drug Can Stop Strokes, But Most Patients Don't Get It"

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=121032269>

Dr. Ka-Kit Hui, Wallis Annenberg Endowed Chair in Integrative East-West Medicine and director of the UCLA Center for East-West Medicine, commented in the December issue of "Dr. Andrew Weil's Self Healing" newsletter about the impact of traditional Chinese medicine and how integrating Western and Chinese medicine may be helpful for public health.

Dr. Edward McCabe, co-director of the UCLA Center for Society and Genetics and physician-in-chief of Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was quoted Dec. 14 in a Crain's Cleveland Business article about the future of personalized genetic testing.

"Comfortable in Genes"

<http://www.crainscleveland.com/article/20091214/SUB1/312149988/1007&Profile=1007>

Dr. John Ringman, associate professor of neurology and assistant director of the Mary S. Easton Center for Alzheimer's Disease Research, was quoted Dec. 15 by Medscape about the role the hormone leptin may play in Alzheimer's. In a separate story, he commented about the results of a clinical trial that showed that the drug tarenflurbil had no effect on cognition or activities of daily living in patients with mild Alzheimer's disease.

"High Leptin Levels May Protect Against Dementia"

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/713902>

"No Effect of Tarenflurbil on Cognition, Activities of Daily Living, in Early Alzheimer's Disease"

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/713880>

Dr. Wendy Slusser, medical director of the Fit for Healthy Weight Program at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was cited in a Nov. 16 Hollister Free Lance article that described a study she conducted on the benefits of salad bars in elementary schools.

"Farr Bill would Increase Fruits, Vegetables in Schools"

<http://hollisterfreelance.com/news/261728-farr-bill-would-increase-fruits-vegetables-in-schools>

Dr. Derung Mimi Tarn, assistant professor of family medicine, was quoted in a Dec. 10 MedPage Today story on how involved hospital patients should be in their own hospital medication safety.

"When Asked, Patients Can't Tell"

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/HospitalBasedMedicine/Hospitalists/17431>

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