



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT  
For the week of Dec. 13-19, 2013**

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#### **Media Notes U.S. is Near Bottom in Efficient Health Spending**

A study co-authored by Dr. Jody Heymann, dean of the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and founding director of the World Policy Analysis Center at UCLA, and colleagues at McGill University, showing that the U.S. health care system ranks 22nd out of 27 high-income industrialized nations in its efficiency in turning dollars spent into increased life expectancy, was featured widely in the media. Coverage included Dec. 12 by The [Huffington Post](#), [Counsel and Heal](#), [EIN News](#), and [Science Codex](#); Dec. 13 by the [Atlantic](#), [Futurity](#), [HealthCanal](#), [News-Medical.net](#), [RedOrbit.com](#), [KCBS-Channel 2](#) and numerous CBS affiliates nationwide; Dec. 14 by [Yahoo!Finance](#) and the [Sierra Sun Times](#); and Dec. 16 by The [Parent Herald](#), [Ivanhoe news](#), and [Scienceblog.com](#).

#### **Pediatric Patient’s Toy Drive Makes Headlines**

[Yahoo News](#) on Dec. 18 and [KCBS-Channel 2](#), [KTLA-Channel 5](#) and [KCAL-Channel 9](#) on Dec. 17 featured the story of a 10-year-old boy who collected more than 600 toys and \$500 to donate to the Chase Child Life program at Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA, where he has also been a frequent patient. Dr. Sherin Devaskar, physician-in-chief of Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA and Kellye Carroll, director of the Chase Child Life program, were interviewed in the coverage.

#### **Science Websites Cover Study on Iron and Heart Disease**

[Science Codex](#), [Medical Xpress](#), [Scrubs Report](#), [Examiner.com](#), [Healthrender](#), [ScienceNewsline](#) Dec. 17, and [HealthCanal](#), [NewsMedical](#), [MDLinx](#), [EIN News Service](#) and [domain-b](#) Dec. 18 reported on a UCLA study that contradicts a long-held hypothesis of an association between iron levels in the body and the risk of atherosclerosis. The discovery, based on a comprehensive study in a mouse model, carries important implications for patients with chronic kidney disease or anemia related to inflammatory disorders, many of whom receive high-dose iron supplementation therapy. Senior author Dr. Elizabeta Nemeth, professor of medicine in the division of pulmonary and critical care at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and co-director of the UCLA Center for Iron Disorders, and Dr. Léon Kautz, a post-doctoral fellow in Nemeth’s laboratory and the study’s first author, were quoted.

#### **UCLA Stem Cell Scientists First to Track Development of Human Cartilage**

[Menthol News](#), [Bio-Tech Calendar](#), [Newsfiber](#), [BioPortfolio](#) Dec. 12; [News-Medical.net](#), [The Stem Cell Blog](#), [Press-News.org](#), [Stem Cells Freak](#), [ScienceSeeker](#), [Scoop.it](#), [weSRCH](#), [RSSPump News](#), [Science Newsline](#), and [World News Report](#) Dec. 13; [SiloBreaker](#), [Medic Finder](#) Dec. 14; [Sierra Sun Times](#) Dec. 15; and [MedIndia](#) Dec. 16 featured research from UCLA’s Broad Stem Cell Research Center in which scientists were able to track the development of articular joint cartilage in humans for the first time. The study’s leader Dr. Denis Evseenko, assistant professor of orthopedic surgery and head of UCLA’s Laboratory of Connective Tissue Regeneration, was quoted in the coverage.

#### **Bringing Health Care to the Homeless**

UCLA’s Mobile Clinic, which is staffed by students from the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was profiled Dec. 19 by [Al-Jazeera News](#) in a segment on no-cost health care for homeless people. Dr. Walter Copenrath, the clinic’s faculty advisor and assistant clinical professor of family medicine, and medical student Albert Liu, were interviewed.

#### **Allowing Transgender Athletes to Compete**

Dr. Christopher Giza, associate professor of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and of pediatric neurology at Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA, was interviewed Dec. 17 by [Capitol Public Radio](#) about the California State Athletic Commission’s consideration of new rules to allow

transgender athletes to participate in combat sports. Giza is vice chair of the organization. The story was also reported by [KPCC 89.3FM](#) and the [San Diego Gay & Lesbian News](#).

### **Santa Monica Mirror Reflects on Respiratory Therapy's Holiday Outreach to the Homeless**

The [Santa Monica Mirror](#) reported Dec. 19 on a picnic organized by UCLA's Respiratory Therapy staff in Westwood and Santa Monica to provide food, hats and other basic supplies to homeless individuals and families on the Westside. Jeffrey Davis, director of respiratory therapy at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, was quoted in the story and staff members Jocelyn Te and Michelle Jones were referenced. The Santa Monica Daily Press also ran a front-page photo and caption of the event.

### **Geriatrician's Column Bundles Winter Safety Tips for Seniors**

Dr. Grace Chen, staff geriatrician at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica and assistant clinical professor of medicine, authored a Dec. 13 [Santa Monica Mirror](#) column with tips to help older adults stay healthy during the winter months.

### **Nature Article Focuses on Cancer Immunotherapy Research**

Dr. Antoni Ribas, professor of medicine in the division of hematology-oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and director of the tumor immunology program area of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center was featured in a story in the Dec. 19-26 2013 issue of *Nature* regarding the breakthroughs being made in immunotherapy for cancer.

### **Lockheed Martin UCLA TeleHealth Suite Opens**

[Physicians News Network](#) reported Dec. 13 that Lockheed Martin donated \$4 million to fund a new telehealth suite and enhanced recovery area for UCLA's Operation Mend, a partnership between Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, Brooke Army Medical Center and the Veterans Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System that offers free reconstructive surgery for U.S. military personnel severely wounded and disfigured during service. Both areas were officially dedicated at a Nov. 18 ceremony. Dr. Christopher Crisera, Operation Mend's co-medical director and a UCLA associate clinical professor of surgery, was quoted.

### **More Headlines for Diverticulosis Study**

[Health Exercise](#) Dec. 10 and [Virtual Medical Centre](#) Dec. 18 reported on a study by Dr. Brennan Spiegel, associate professor of medicine in the division of digestive diseases, that found diverticulosis is much less risky than previously believed.

### **State of Cancer Care Report Featured on TV News**

[WJXT-TV](#) (Fla.) and [KOTA-TV](#) (S.D.) Dec. 19 reported on an Institute of Medicine report on the state of cancer care today. Dr. Patricia Ganz, director of Cancer Prevention and Control Research at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and a professor of health policy and management in the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and chair of the committee that wrote the report, was quoted.

### **KPCC, Arise America Report on the Affordable Care Act**

Dylan Roby, director of the health economics and evaluation research program at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, and an assistant professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was interviewed Dec. 13 on [KPCC 89.3FM](#) about the small number of middle- and upper-income Californians signing up for health insurance through the Covered California website. Roby was also interviewed Dec. 16 on [Arise America](#) about the Affordable Care Act. Separately, Roby was quoted in the Dec. 17 [Orange County Register](#) regarding plans by Orange County's St. Joseph Hospital to cut up to \$30 million, and some jobs, to curb losses resulting from fewer patients.

### **Media Notes New Strategy to Stem Obesity**

The Dec. 16 [Medical Xpress](#) and Dec. 17 [Examiner.com](#) reported on a collaborative strategy by the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and community members from East Los Angeles to change eating habits and reduce disease among the area's dominant Latino population. First steps: transforming local markets to offer healthier foods. Dr. Alex Ortega, director of the UCLA-USC Center for Population Health and Health Disparities at the Fielding School, was quoted in the coverage.

### **Prostate Cancer Stem Cells are a Moving Target**

[Domain-b.com](#) Dec. 10 and [Feed My Science](#) Dec. 13 featured a study from UCLA's Broad Stem Cell Research Center and Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center with findings that the stem cells that initiate prostate cancer evolve to different types of cells as the disease progresses, making the cells a therapeutic "moving target." The study's leaders, Dr. Andrew Goldstein, assistant researcher; Dr. Tanya Stoyanova, post-doctoral fellow; and Dr. Owen Witte, director of the Broad Stem Cell Research Center, were quoted in the coverage.

### **How Brain Cancer Cells Hide From Drugs**

[World News Report](#) Dec. 10, [PDR.net](#) and [Inagist](#) Dec. 12, and [PMO](#) Dec. 17 featured a study from UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center that found a process by which brain cancer cells were able to hide from drugs that targeted their special features by eliminating those features, then regain the features and become drug sensitive after treatment was stopped. Study leader Dr. David Nathanson, assistant professor of molecular and medical pharmacology, was quoted in the coverage.

### **UCLA Scientists Taking Stem Cell Research to Patients**

[Blog About MS](#) Dec. 16, [Bio-Tech Calendar](#) Dec. 12; [News Now](#), [Investor Stem Cell](#), [weSRCH](#), and [Korox.com](#) Dec. 16; [Stem Cell Roundup](#), [Stem Cells Therapy](#), [Stem Cell Cafe](#), and [Stem Cell News Blog](#) and [domain-b.com](#) Dec. 17 reported on two California Institute of Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) Disease Team III grants awarded to Dr. Dennis Slamon, director of clinical and translational research at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and chief and executive vice chair for research in the division of hematology/oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, and Dr. Donald Kohn, professor of pediatrics and microbiology, immunology and molecular genetics in the life sciences. The coverage noted that the grants will fund two Phase I clinical trials.

### **Adult Stem Cells Suppress Cancer While Dormant**

[Examiner.com](#) Dec. 17, and [News-Medical.net](#), [Topix](#), [Investor Stem Cell](#), [Silobreaker](#), [Stem Cell News Blog](#), and [Inagist](#) Dec. 18 featured a study from UCLA's Broad Stem Cell Research Center in which scientists discovered that hair follicle stem cells, which are the source cells of squamous cell skin cancer, can suppress their growth into cancer cells while in their dormant phase. The study's leaders, Dr. Andrew White, post-doctoral fellow, and Dr. William Lowry, associate professor of molecular, cell and developmental biology in the life sciences, were quoted in the coverage.

### **Facebook as a Tool for HIV Prevention**

[YottaFire](#) reported Dec. 17 on a study led by Dr. Sean Young, assistant professor of family medicine and director of innovation at the Center for Behavior and Addiction Medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, that found that Facebook discussion groups helped men at high risk of HIV infection increase healthy behaviors and get tested for HIV.

### **Dangers of Childhood Obesity**

The [Pakistan Observer](#) reported Dec. 17 on a study led by Dr. Neal Halfon, professor of pediatrics, public health and public policy and director of the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities, which found that obese children are at far greater risk for a variety of other immediate health problems than was previously thought. Halfon was quoted.

### **Childhood Abuse's Link to Adult Health Problems**

[YottaFire](#) reported Dec. 18 on a study led by Dr. Judith Carroll, a research scientist at the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior at UCLA, showing a correlation between abuse, lack of parental warmth in childhood and biological markers indicating elevated health risk in later life. The study was published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

### **Website Covers "Futile Care"**

A study by UCLA researchers and colleagues that examined the cost and frequency of critical-care patients receiving treatments that doctors do not feel will save or meaningfully improve their lives was

highlighted Dec. 18 by [Yottafire](#). Study author Dr. Thanh Huynh, clinical instructor of pulmonary and critical care medicine, was quoted.

## BRIEFS

The [Discovery Channel](#) aired a documentary, "Pain Matters," that featured a UCLA patient with complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS) who was treated by Dr. Malcolm Taw, assistant clinical professor of medicine at the UCLA Center for East-West Medicine. The program was aired on November 16 and December 7 and 14.

A visit by singer Nick Lachey to the Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA was covered Dec. 17 by [Yahoo](#), [People](#), [Eonline](#), [PerezHilton](#) and others.

## QUOTABLES

Dr. James Cherry, professor of pediatric infectious diseases at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was quoted Dec. 14 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) article about the possibility of using an unlicensed vaccine to prevent the spread of bacterial meningitis at UC Santa Barbara.

Dr. Ian Cook, the Miller Family Professor of Psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of UCLA's Depression Research Program, was quoted in a Dec. 17 [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) story about efforts to better understand the causes of depression.

Dr. David Feinberg, president of the UCLA Health System and associate vice chancellor for health sciences, was quoted Dec. 13 in a [Wall Street Journal](#) article about how people shopping for health insurance are facing narrower options for provider networks.

Dr. Soniya Gandhi, assistant clinical professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases, was quoted Dec. 18 in a [TakePart](#) article on the Food and Drug Administration's proposed ruling requiring the soap makers to prove that antibacterial soap are more effective than plain soap.

Dr. Wally Ghurabi, medical director of the Nethercutt Emergency Center at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, was quoted Dec. 10 by [Symptomfind.com](#) about avoiding holiday health hazards.

Dr. T. Warner Hudson, medical director of occupational and employee health for the UCLA Health System, was quoted Dec. 14 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) article about the possibility of using an unlicensed vaccine to prevent the spread of bacterial meningitis at UC Santa Barbara.

Shana Alex Lavarreda, director of health insurance studies at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in a Dec. 12 [Orange County Register](#) article about December enrollment figures for Covered California, the state's health insurance exchange.

Dr. Gerardo Moreno, assistant professor of family medicine, was interviewed Nov. 18 on the Sirius XM radio show *Healthy Aging* about diabetes in older adults and the new American Geriatrics Society diabetes guidelines.

Dr. Catherine Sarkisian, associate professor of medicine in the division of geriatrics, was quoted Dec. 17 in a [Reuters](#) article about the health risks of sedentary behavior among older women.

Dr. Gary Small, UCLA's Parlow–Solomon Professor on Aging, a professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Longevity Center, commented in a Dec. 13 [CNN.com](#) column about technology addiction and stress.

Dr. Marilene Wang, professor of head and neck surgery, commented Dec. 15 in the [U-T San Diego](#) about a San Diego pediatric ENT surgeon's use of acupuncture to relieve post-procedural pain in children following the FDA's ban on codeine in pediatric tonsillectomies.

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