

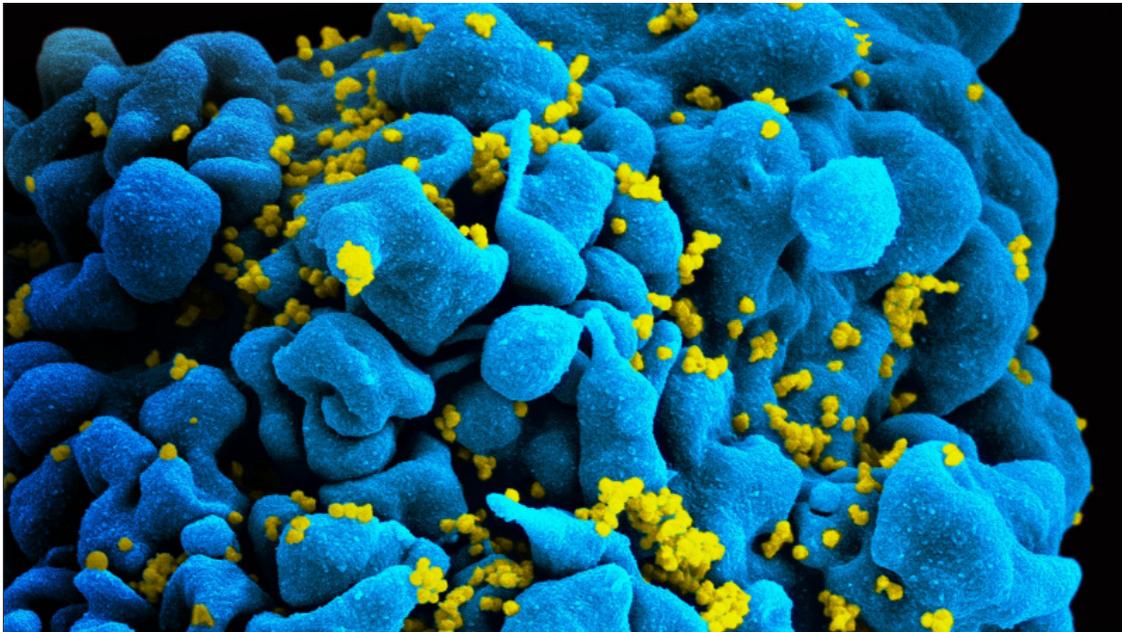
UCLA

Health

UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT

Dec. 22, 2017 - Jan. 4, 2018

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[STAT](#): Using gene therapy to combat HIV

(Photo: NIAID/Flickr)



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[PC Magazine:](#)

Neuroscientist blends VR,
brain implants to fight
memory loss

(Photo: Mashable)



[KPCC "Air Talk":](#)

A conversation on
reconstruction after a
mastectomy

(Photo: iStock)



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Using gene therapy to combat HIV

[STAT](#); [Newsweek](#); [HealthDay News](#); [Gizmodo](#); [MD Magazine](#); [FierceBiotech](#); [NYC Inquirer](#); the U.K.'s [iNews](#); [Xinhua](#); [Infection Control Today](#); [MedicalXpress](#); [Science Daily](#); [Brinkwire](#); [Science Codex](#); [Pharmabiz](#); KCBS-TV, Los Angeles; KPIX-TV, San Francisco; WISC-TV, Madison, Wisconsin; [KAMC-TV](#), Lubbock, Texas; and many other television affiliates across the country reported on UCLA research led by Scott Kitchen finding that, through gene therapy, blood-forming stem cells could be engineered to carry chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) genes to make cells that can detect and destroy HIV-infected cells. In the research, engineered cells destroyed the infected cells and persisted for more than two years, suggesting the potential to create long-term immunity from the virus that causes AIDS. [Scientific American](#) carried the STAT report; [WebMD](#), [UPI](#), [Philly.com](#), [Health.com](#), [DoctorsLounge](#), [MedicalXpress](#), and [HONnews](#) syndicated the HealthDay report; and [Global Times](#) and [ECNS](#) ran the Xinhua story. Kitchen, associate professor of medicine in the division of hematology oncology and director of the UCLA Humanized Mouse Core Laboratory, was quoted in much of the coverage.

Neuroscientist blends virtual reality, brain implants to fight memory loss

[PC Magazine](#) profiled Nanthia Suthana, assistant professor of neurosurgery and psychiatry at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, and her use of virtual reality and brain implants to study how the brain encodes memories. Her findings could one day lead to new therapies for Alzheimer's and other diseases marked by memory loss. The story was syndicated by the magazine's editions in the U.K., Asian and India.

A conversation about reconstruction after a mastectomy

Dr. Maggie DiNome, associate clinical professor of surgery and system director of Breast Health for UCLA, was featured on an episode of KPCC-FM's ["Air Talk with Larry Mantle."](#) The show opened up the phones to talk to women and their families about the

decision-making process on whether to undergo reconstructive breast surgery.

A daily walk preserves memory and cognition

[Forbes](#) and [The Guardian](#) and KTLA-TV featured research by Prabha Siddarth, a biostatistician at the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior at UCLA, and her colleagues showing that older adults who walked more than 4,000 steps per day had improved memory and cognition. Siddarth was quoted.

Marijuana use during pregnancy

KPCC-FM's "[Air Talk with Larry Mantle](#)" featured Dr. Leena Nathan, assistant clinical professor and obstetrician-gynecologist at UCLA Health-Westlake Village, who discussed a new study finding an increase in the number of pregnant women who use marijuana to relieve nausea or pregnancy-related anxiety.

Medicaid expansion led to more prenatal care

[UPI](#), [PsychCentral](#), [Becker's Clinical Leadership & Infection Control](#), [MedicalResearch.com](#), [LifeScienceDaily](#), [Science Codex](#) and [Scienmag](#) reported on research by Laura Wherry finding that the Medicaid expansions for low-income parents that took place in 34 states between 1996 and 2011 led to a 2.3 percent decrease in the uninsured rate among women who already had a child and became pregnant again, and a 7.9 percent decrease in the number of mothers who didn't have insurance while they were pregnant. [Breitbart](#), [Newsline](#) and [Pharmacy Choice](#) syndicated the UPI story. Wherry is an assistant professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research.

Friedreich's ataxia reversed in mice

[Technology Networks](#) and [My Science](#) featured research by Dr. Daniel Geschwind, a UCLA professor of neurology and psychiatry and the Gordon and Virginia MacDonald Distinguished Chair in Human Genetics, describing how the gene defect that causes Friedreich's ataxia can be turned on or off in a mouse model.

'Star Wars' characters bounce back after head trauma

Dr. Christopher Giza, director of the UCLA Steve Tisch BrainSPORT Program and a professor of neurosurgery and pediatrics at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine and UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital, was featured in [SyFy.com](#) discussing the fact that multiple characters resumed normal activities after a loss of consciousness from traumatic head injuries in "Star Wars: The Last Jedi."

Survivors of 1976 Ebola outbreak could be key to vaccine, therapeutics

BBC World Service Radio, [HealthDay News](#) and [Healio](#) reported on research led by Anne Rimoin, associate professor of epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, finding that survivors of the first known Ebola outbreak, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1976, may be key to development of vaccines and therapeutic drugs to treat future outbreaks. [MedlinePlus](#), [Health.com](#), [Philly.com](#), [HONnews](#), [DoctorsLounge](#), [HealingWell.com](#), and [RocketNews](#) carried the HealthDay story.

Nerve damage an often overlooked side effect of chemotherapy

[Cancer Today Magazine](#) featured a Q&A with Dr. Patricia Ganz, distinguished professor of hematology and oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine and director of prevention and control research at the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, on how new research is helping reduce a patient's risk of chemotherapy-related nerve

damage.

What patients should be doing for their health

A [HealthDay](#) story featuring six UCLA Health experts' advice for health and wellness in the new year was syndicated on [U.S. News & World Report](#), [Health.com](#), [Medical Xpress](#), and five other online outlets. The following experts were featured: Dr. Aparna Sridhar, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology; Erin Morse, chief clinical dietitian at UCLA Health; Dr. Zhaoping Li, director at the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition; Dr. John Mafi, assistant professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research; Dr. Marilene Wang, professor of head and neck surgery; and Dana Hunnes, senior dietitian at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and adjunct assistant professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.

School fitness program motivates students to get in shape

[WFMZ-TV](#), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; [WPMT-TV](#), Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; [WBRE-TV](#), Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania; [KASA-TV](#), Albuquerque, New Mexico; [KTVZ-TV](#), Bend, Oregon; [KOLO-TV](#), Reno, Nevada; [KIMT-TV](#), Rochester, Minnesota; [WWSB-TV](#), Tampa, Florida; [WCJB-TV](#), Gainesville, Florida; and [Patient Daily](#) featured a story on the UCLA Health Sound Body Sound Mind program, which donates state-of-the-art fitness centers to underserved middle and high schools and trains P.E. teachers on a curriculum designed to motivate students. Dr. David McAllister, a UCLA orthopaedic surgeon and a member of the Sound Body Sound Mind academic advisory council, and Matthew Flesock, executive director of Sound Body Sound Mind, were interviewed. The program was also featured in a nationally syndicated story published on the websites of 33 broadcast news affiliates including [WSLS-TV](#), Roanoke, Virginia; and [KRDO-TV](#), Colorado Springs, Colorado.

A cup of hot tea a day keeps glaucoma away

A UCLA study finding that drinking hot tea could help prevent glaucoma was reported worldwide by 67 outlets, including [Reuters](#), [MedPage Today](#) and KABC-AM. The Reuters article was syndicated by 45 outlets, including [Voice of America](#), [Zee News](#), [Yahoo! Finance](#) and [Channel News Asia](#). The KABC report re-aired in 20 markets. Dr. Anne Coleman, the Fran and Ray Stark Professor of Ophthalmology at UCLA's Stein Eye Institute and David Geffen School of Medicine, led the research, which was published by the British Journal of Ophthalmology.

Teens and gender non-conformity

BBC World Service Radio, [PJMedia](#) and [Breitbart News](#) reported on a study from the Fielding School's UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and The Williams Institute finding that 27 percent of California adolescents say they are seen as gender nonconforming. [Canada Free Press](#) ran the Breitbart story.
BBC: <http://bit.ly/2CATsDr>

Americans with Alzheimer's will double by 2060

KNBN-TV, Rapid City, South Dakota, reported on research, led by Ron Brookmeyer, finding that some 15 million Americans will develop Alzheimer's dementia or mild cognitive impairment by 2060, up from 6 million this year. [The Drum](#) also cited the study. Brookmeyer is a professor of biostatistics at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.

UCLA reports multiple sclerosis advances; researcher recognized for excellence

[Science Daily](#) and [Medical Xpress](#) featured research by Dr. Rhonda Voskuhl, who directs UCLA's multiple sclerosis program and holds the Jack H. Skirball Chair for Multiple

Sclerosis Research, revealing the cellular basis for how the hormone estrogen protects against damage to the central nervous system.

- [Reliawire](#) featured another study by Voskuhl describing potential treatment targets for specific disabilities seen in multiple sclerosis.
- [Life Science Daily](#) reported on Voskuhl being honored with the Berlin Institute of Health's Excellence Award for Sex and Gender Aspects in Health Research.

Doctors test experimental drug for stroke of the eye

Ivanhoe Medical News distributed a story about research testing the first drug to treat stroke of the eye, which affects 6,000 Americans per year and can lead to blindness. Dr. Peter Quiros, an associate professor of ophthalmology at the UCLA Doheny Eye Center, was interviewed. The story aired on KFSN-TV, Fresno's ABC affiliate.

Sleep deprivation's after-effects aren't pretty

[Elite Daily](#) featured a UCLA study exploring the effect of sleep deprivation on the brain and visual perception. Dr. Itzhak Fried, professor of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, led the research.

A step forward in therapy for muscle-wasting disorders

[Rehab Management](#), [Research & Development](#) and [M3 India](#) reported on UCLA researcher April Pyle's successful creation of skeletal muscle from stem cells, a major step toward the development of a stem cell replacement therapy for Duchenne muscular dystrophy and other muscle-wasting disorders. Pyle is an associate professor of microbiology, immunology and molecular genetics in the UCLA College of Letters and Science and the David Geffen School of Medicine and a member of the UCLA Broad Stem Cell Research Center.

Fundraising to fight HIV/AIDS

An [EDGE Media Networks](#) roundup of the best HIV and LGBTQ fundraisers of 2017 highlighted a \$5 million National Institute on Drug Abuse grant to UCLA researchers to develop a resource and data center on the effects of substance abuse on HIV/AIDS. Dr. Pamina Gorbach, professor of epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, is the project's principal investigator. EDGE publications in Boston; [Fort Lauderdale, Florida](#); [Philadelphia](#); [Phoenix](#); [Portland, Oregon](#); [Providence, Rhode Island](#); and [San Francisco](#) carried the report.

A breakthrough for HIV/AIDS

An [EDGE Media Networks](#) listing of the best scientific breakthroughs for HIV/AIDS in 2017 highlighted UCLA research on a synthetic molecule that can reactivate, or "kick," latent HIV in humanized mice and lead to the death of infected cells. EDGE publications in Boston; [Fort Lauderdale, Florida](#); [Philadelphia](#); [Phoenix](#); [Portland, Oregon](#); [Providence, Rhode Island](#); and [San Francisco](#) carried the story.

The war on HIV

A [P&T Community](#) article about ways to continue fighting HIV in the absence of a cure featured Dr. Judith Currier, chief of the UCLA Division of Infectious Diseases and co-director of the UCLA CARE Center.

When to call the doctor for a burning stomach

[Today.com](#) republished a story, about when to be alarmed by a burning sensation in the stomach, featuring the expertise of Dr. Bennett Roth, professor emeritus in the Vatche and Tamar Manoukian Division of Digestive Diseases. The story was picked up on [MSN](#).

Genomic blood test predicts survival rates after surgery for advanced heart failure

[Cardiology Today](#) reported on a study published in PLOS ONE about an experimental blood test developed at UCLA. The test, which uses gene activity data from immune cells, was 93 percent accurate in predicting survival rates for people with advanced heart failure who had surgery to implant mechanical circulatory support devices. The study's co-author, Galyna Bondar, an assistant researcher at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was cited.

Do hospital readmission penalties help or hurt?

[The WEEK](#) magazine syndicated a story originally published by [STAT](#) that reported on the debate surrounding a federal hospital program that offers financial incentives for hospitals to reduce readmissions. The article cited new research finding that the program was linked to an increased risk of death among heart failure patients. The study's senior author, Dr. Gregg Fonarow, the Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and co-chief of cardiology, was quoted.

Activating stem cells to treat baldness is top 'fascinating' science story of 2017

[Good News Network](#) named UCLA research that identified a new way to activate hair follicle stem cells to make hair grow the most fascinating science story of 2017. UCLA Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research members Heather Christofk, associate professor of biological chemistry and molecular and medical pharmacology, and Bill Lowry, a professor of molecular, cell and developmental biology, led the research and were referenced.

Tips to avoid getting sick during the holidays

[LifeScienceDaily](#) and [fiftyplusLife](#) highlighted tips from Dr. Tara Vijayan on ways to avoid getting sick while traveling during the holidays. Vijayan is an assistant professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases.

More coverage of Santa Monica cancer patient's early Christmas

The Antelope Valley Press published a front-page story on Lester Pirir, a cancer patient undergoing treatment at the Daltrey/Townshend Teen & Young Adult Cancer Center at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica. In mid-December, the 20-year-old Palmdale resident and his family were surprised with Christmas gifts donated by Target and the Connecting a Caring Community foundation, an event covered by [KCBS-TV](#).

More coverage of Fire Department's holiday visit to young patients in Santa Monica

The [Santa Monica Mirror](#) published a photomontage of a holiday visit by local firefighters to UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica's pediatric unit. The firefighters, who have made these visits for the past 11 years, bring gifts and good cheer to patients and their families.

Hospital grants ailing patient's wish for white Christmas

The [Santa Monica Mirror](#) published an article about how UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, fulfilled a patient's wish for a white Christmas with his daughter by trucking in five tons of snow to cover a section of a hospital garden. The [Santa Monica Daily Press](#) ran captioned photos on its front page.

This week (and last week) on “Ask the Doctors”

UCLA Health internists Dr. Robert Ashley, Dr. Eve Glazier and Dr. Elizabeth Ko address health-related questions in the recurring “Ask the Doctors” column, syndicated by more than 50 outlets nationwide. A sampling of the stories from the past week’s column:

- On age-related loss of senses, featured in [The Spokesman-Review](#)
- On angioplasty, featured in [Life Extension](#)
- On lowering blood pressure, featured in [The Rocky Mount Telegram](#)
- On concussion in female athletes, featured in [Aberdeen News](#)
- On IUDs and cervical cancer risk, featured in [UExpress](#)
- On portion size for proteins, featured in [The Times-Tribune](#)
- On avascular necrosis, featured in [Hanford Sentinel](#)
- On PPIs and the link to cancer, featured in [The Cumberland Times-News](#)
- On reducing kids’ asthma risk, featured in [Citizens’ Voice](#)
- On advice from readers of the column, featured in [Daily Journal](#).

QUOTED

“Something is seriously wrong with how we’re approaching this, and we’re not confronting it.”

-- **Dr. Walter Ling**, [Orange County Register](#), on problems with addiction treatment programs



Georgann Abraham, manager of maternity education and lactation for The BirthPlace at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, commented in an article on [thebump.com](#) about paying for private postpartum rooms.

Dr. Alon Avidan, director of the UCLA Sleep Disorders Center, commented in a [Parents.com](#) article about sleep as an important part of self-care for busy moms.

Brett Dolezal, associate director of the UCLA Exercise Physiology Research Laboratory,

was quoted in a [Well & Good](#) article about how running creates a natural high that energizes runners.

Dr. Christopher Giza, director of the UCLA Steve Tisch BrainSPORT Program and a professor of neurosurgery and pediatrics at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine and UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital, commented in [The Guardian](#) about how the future of the National Football League may rest on its ability to repair its concussion protocol. The story was syndicated by [Yahoo! Sports](#),

Dr. Christina S. Han, a maternal-fetal medicine specialist and director of the UCLA Maternal-Fetal Medicine Fellowship, was quoted in an [NBC News.com](#) article about disparities among pregnant women. The story also appeared on [MSN.com](#) and [EuroNews.com](#).

Dr. Jerome Hoffman, emeritus professor of medicine and emergency medicine, commented in an [Oakland Magazine](#) article about social determinants of health.

- He also was referenced in a [Smithsonian](#) story examining how misdiagnoses and treatments sometimes make medical conditions worse.

Gerald Kominski, professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and director of the Fielding School's UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, commented in a [Time](#) article about the four things that President Trump wants to accomplish in 2018. [Yahoo! News](#) ran the article.

Dr. Walter Ling, a professor of psychiatry and director of the Integrated Substance Abuse Programs at UCLA, commented in an [Orange County Register](#) story about widespread problems in addiction treatment programs. The story also appeared in the [Los Angeles Daily News](#), the [Daily Breeze](#) and [Pasadena Star-News](#).

Dr. Emeran Mayer, director of the G. Oppenheimer Center for Neurobiology of Stress and Resilience and co-director of the CURE: Digestive Diseases Research Center, was quoted in an [Experience Life](#) story on IBS relief and the gut-brain axis.

Dr. Amy Stoddard, an assistant clinical professor of obstetrics and gynecology, commented in a [Marie Claire](#) article on ways to reduce menstrual cramps.

Dr. Adrienne Youdim, voluntary associate clinical professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, was quoted an [Everyday Health](#) story about the alkaline diet. She was also quoted on [PopSugar](#) and [MSN](#) in stories about calorie expenditure.

BRIEFS

A [New York Times](#) article on health care prices referenced a study by UCLA and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation in Seattle that examined high prices as the

culprit for the country's high health care costs, rather than a high volume of care. The article ran on [CNBC](#), [The Las Vegas Sun](#), [MSN](#), the New York Times print edition and four other outlets.

Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center was cited in a [New York Post](#) story about a New York City firefighter -- the only member of his firehouse to survive the 9/11 terrorist attack -- who altruistically launched a kidney transplant chain and whose organ went to a UCLA recipient. The [Epoch Times](#) ran a version of the story.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) referenced Dr. Teresa Soriano, clinical director of dermatologic surgery and health sciences clinical professor in the department of dermatology, about the importance of sunscreen during winter and times of less sunlight. The story ran in [The Baltimore Sun](#) and the [Orlando Sentinel](#).

[Today.com](#) cited a UCLA study on broccoli and its effects on the immune system in a story about immune-boosting foods. The story was picked up on [MSN](#).

[Reader's Digest](#) published a story about foods that help prevent cancer and referenced a UCLA study suggesting that pomegranate juice could help stabilize prostate-specific antigen levels for those with prostate cancer.

A KPCC-FM "[Take Two](#)" report about the top stories of 2017 cited UCLA research on a laboratory test that helps physicians determine which people with gonorrhea might be better treated with an antibiotic not recommended since 2007.

Dr. Linda Liao's appointment as chair of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA was announced by [Becker's Spine](#).

[The Stem Cellar](#) included the UCLA Broad Stem Cell Research Center's Annual Stem Cell Symposium "Technology Innovation for Stem Cell Research and Therapy" scheduled for February 2, 2018, in its Guide to Awesome Stem Cell Conferences in 2018.

[Modern Healthcare](#) referenced Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, in a story about methodology used in the hospital star ratings issued last month by the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. [Becker's Hospital Review](#) listed UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, among the hospitals receiving the highest rating of five stars. Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center received three stars.

[SuccessfulMeetings.com](#) referenced Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center in a story about the best cities in which to host medical meetings.

CONTENT CREATED BY MEDIA RELATIONS

[Mirror neuron activity predicts people's decision-making in moral dilemmas, UCLA study finds](#) UCLA Newsroom

[Imaging technique could be 'new ballgame' in drug development](#) UCLA Newsroom

[Study reveals reversibility of Friedrich's ataxia in mice](#) UCLA Newsroom

[UCLA volunteers provide free health care at downtown L.A. mega clinic](#) UCLA Newsroom

[State Medicaid expansions from 1996 to 2011 led to more prenatal care for low-income mothers](#) UCLA Newsroom



This report features media placements from UCLA Health, which includes the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital, the Stewart and Lynda Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital at UCLA, the UCLA Health Clinics and the UCLA Faculty Practice Group.

It also includes placements from the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, the UCLA School of Nursing, the UCLA School of Dentistry, the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and the UCLA Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research.

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