Note: Website links may expire without notice. Some sites require password registration. If you cannot access a story or would like to obtain a copy, please call (310) 267-7022.

Scientific American: Building a better flu vaccine
(Photo: National Institute on Allergy and Infectious Diseases/NIH)
Building a better flu vaccine
More than 250 outlets, including Scientific American, LiveScience, Healthline, NBC News, CNN, Forbes, KCBS-TV, HealthDay, Agence France Presse, China’s Xinhua, Hoy Los Angeles and the U.K.’s Express, covered UCLA research on a newly engineered flu virus that could lead to a more effective vaccine. Ren Sun, a professor of molecular and medical pharmacology and a member of UCLA’s California NanoSystems Institute, was quoted. The HealthDay report was syndicated by U.S. News & World Report, WebMD, Health.com and many more.

For better memory and mood, curcumin seems to deliver
Newsweek, Forbes, Atlanta Journal Constitution, UPI, Yahoo News UK, Breitbart, The Irish Sun, Tech Times, Sputnik International, BBC World Service Radio, KMTV-TV, Omaha, Nebraska, WGHP-TV, Greensboro, NC and 50 more news outlets worldwide reported on research led by Dr. Gary Small, director of geriatric psychiatry at UCLA’s Longevity Center and of the geriatric psychiatry division at the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior at UCLA, finding that curcumin can improve memory and mood.

Snack or marijuana-laced edible? For children, it’s hard to tell the difference
A Gizmodo story about what happens when children accidentally ingest cannabis featured Dr. Mark Morocco, a clinical professor of emergency medicine. The story was tied to the recent case of a 9-year-old Albuquerque girl who ate and shared her grandfather’s pot gummies with five classmates after mistaking them for regular candy.

What does a memory look like in the brain?
Nature published a feature about researchers working to identify the imprint that a memory leaves on the brain. Alcino Silva, distinguished professor in the departments of neurobiology, psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences and psychology, and his team’s
research into the cells involved in memory, were highlighted.

**Media continue to highlight UCLA expertise amid flu epidemic**

- A [CBS Newspath](https://www.cbsnews.com/) story on a new study linking flu infection to an increased risk of heart attack featured Dr. Ravi Dave, director of interventional cardiology at UCLA Health, and one of his patients. The segment ran more than 100 times on CBS-affiliated stations nationwide.

- In stories in [AARP](https://www.aarp.org/) and the [Santa Monica Daily Press](https://www.santamonica.com/), Dr. Wally Ghurabi discussed the increase of flu patients visiting the Nethercutt Emergency Center at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica. The AARP article included comments from a patient hospitalized with complications from the flu. Ghurabi is medical director of the center.

- Dr. Alice Kuo, professor and chief of UCLA Medicine-Pediatrics, commented in an [ABC News Now](https://abcnews.go.com/) story on the seriousness of this year’s flu season and the need to seek treatment earlier.

**Mother-to-child HIV transmission and STIs**

[Intestinal Disease Advisor](https://www Integeral.com/) and [MD Magazine](https://www.mdmagazine.com/) reported on research by Dr. Kristina Adachi finding that HIV-infected mothers who have another sexually transmitted infection have a higher risk of transmitting the virus that causes AIDS to their infants. Adachi is a clinical instructor in the division of infectious diseases in the UCLA Department of Pediatrics.

**Voluntary mental health screening program identifies at-risk students at UCLA**

[KAAL](https://www.kaalnews.org/), Rochester, Minnesota; [WKYT](https://www.wkty.com/), Lexington, Kentucky; [WABG](https://www.wabgnews.com/), Greenville, Mississippi; and [KLAF](https://www.klaf.org/), Lafayette, Louisiana; reported that more than 2,600 students at UCLA have opted to complete a volunteer online mental health screening as part of the UCLA Depression Grand Challenge. Dr. Nelson Freimer, director of the Center for Neurobehavioral Genetics who oversees the Depression Grand Challenge, and Dr. Jonathan Flint, a professor-in-residence of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at the Geffen School of Medicine, were quoted in the reports.

**Report calls for lowering DUI threshold from .08 to .05**

[KPCC](https://www.kpcc.org/), Patch, [HealthDay](https://www.healthday.com/), [Gizmodo](https://www.gizmodo.com/), and [ZME Science](https://zme.science/) featured Dr. Steven Teutsch, an adjunct professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, in stories about a recently released report recommending that states change the legal blood concentration of alcohol from .08 percent to .05 percent for all drivers. Teutsch chaired the committee at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine that released the report.

**Study describes structure of tumor herpes virus associated with Kaposi’s sarcoma**

[ScienceDaily](https://www.sciencedaily.com/), [Infection Control Today](https://www.infectioncontroltoday.com/), [MyScience.org](https://www.myscience.org/), [The ASCO Post](https://www.theasco.org/), [Medical-News.net](https://www.medical-news.net/), [Scienmag](https://www.sciencemag.org/) and [Science Newsline](https://www.sciencenewsline.com/) published stories about UCLA-led research on the structure of the herpes virus associated with Kaposi’s sarcoma. Z. Hong Zhou, a professor of microbiology, immunology and molecular genetics and a member of UCLA’s California NanoSystems Institute, and Ren Sun, a professor of molecular and medical pharmacology and a member of UCLA’s California NanoSystems Institute, were co-senior authors and were quoted in coverage.

**Study compares impact of blood thinners on stroke outcomes**

[Cardiology Today](https://www.cardiologytoday.com/) interviewed Dr. Gregg Fonarow about a study published in JAMA finding that stroke patients who used either non-vitamin K antagonist oral anticoagulants or
warfarin experienced higher rates of in-hospital mortality compared to those who did not use anticoagulants. Fonarow is the Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and co-chief of cardiology.

**More interest in touch neurons derived from stem cells**

*Digital Trends* featured an interview with Samantha Butler on becoming the first person to create sensory interneurons, the cells that enable our sense of touch, from stem cells. Butler is an associate professor of neurobiology and a member of the Broad Stem Cell Research Center at UCLA. The story was syndicated in *Yahoo! News Canada, Yahoo! Sports, Yahoo! News UK* and *WordProNews*. Butler’s research was also featured in *The Deccan Herald*.

**Leveraging personal health devices to improve patient care**

*Becker’s Hospital Review* featured Dr. Drew Cheng, an attending physician in the department of anesthesiology and perioperative medicine at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, in a story about the personal health devices and health reporting platforms featured at the Consumer Electronics Show and how they could be used to benefit patient care.

**Nutrition expert assesses the latest health food trends**

*Men’s Health* published a story in which Erin Morse, chief clinical dietitian at UCLA Health, shed light on upcoming health food trends and the foods’ nutritional value.

**Best practices, template improve EHR documentation quality**

*Health Data Management* covered research led by Dr. Neveen El-Farra and Dr. Daniel Kahn finding that use of a template and best practices can increase the accuracy, quality and efficiency of physician progress notes captured in an electronic health record. El-Farra is an associate clinical professor of medicine and associate dean for curricular affairs at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA; Kahn is an internal medicine specialist and hospitalist at UCLA Health.

**A call for greater attention to older women’s sexual health**

*Medical Xpress* reported on an article published in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society that called for physicians to include more sexual health discussions with their older female patients. The article’s co-author, Dr. Janet Pregler, professor of medicine and director of the Iris Cantor-UCLA Women’s Health Center, was quoted. The article was also published in *Scienmag* and *BrightSurf*.

**Is the paleo diet safe?**

*Everyday Health* published an article about the benefits and risks of the paleo diet that featured Dr. Adrienne Youdim, a voluntary associate clinical professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research. She was also quoted in a second *Everyday Health* story about the diet’s long- and short-term effects.

**Parents meet 24 blood donors who saved their toddler’s life**

*People.com* covered a UCLA Blood & Platelet Center event that introduced a 2-year-old girl and her parents to two dozen of the 71 people whose blood and platelet donations helped save her life. The story was also reported by *Today.com, MSN.com*, the Italian edition of *Vanity Fair*, *The Week* and *Newsmax*. The People story was syndicated by multiple newspapers, including the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. 
Preclinical Alzheimer’s already affects nearly 47 million in U.S.
Reuters Health featured a study led by Ron Brookmeyer, a professor of biostatistics at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, on the number of Americans expected to develop Alzheimer’s disease. Brookmeyer is quoted in the Reuters article.

Ebola survivors may have lifetime immunity
MRIGlobal and Healio Infectious Disease News covered a study led by Anne Rimoin, an associate professor of epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and director of the UCLA-DRC Health Research and Training Program. The study showed that survivors of the first known Ebola outbreak may have lifetime immunity.

School fitness program motivates students to get in shape
WJBK-TV, Detroit, Michigan, 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.

More children are getting their annual checkups
The California Health Report reported on data from the Fielding School's UCLA Center for Health Policy Research in a story about the rate of California teens and preteens who had gone without an annual checkup. The story cited the California Health Interview Survey, administered by the center.

This 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 this past week’s column:

- On Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, featured in The Berkshire Eagle
- On cochlear implants, featured in The Spokesman-Review
- On aplastic anemia, featured in UExpress
- On reader advice on headache relief and annual physicals, featured in The Hanford Sentinel
- On hypertension in children, featured in Tulsa World
- On what to expect with Medicare, featured in Pharmacy Choice.
“Patients lack knowledge about the process and wish they had more information about it.”

– Cindy Cain, assistant professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, on California’s physician-assisted suicide law, in The Mercury News

Arturo Vargas Bustamante, associate professor of health policy at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted by The San Diego Union-Tribune for an article about people who work in the U.S. but travel to Mexico for medical care.

Cindy Cain, assistant professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted by The Mercury News in an article about California’s physician-assisted suicide law.

Dr. Jennifer Derebery, a partner at the House Ear Clinic and a professor of head and neck surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted by Reuters in a story about training your brain to overcome tinnitus. The article was syndicated by Business Insider, Yahoo! News U.K., Channel News Asia and 22 other outlets.

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 in a HealthDay story about a study finding no cardiovascular benefits of hot yoga. The HealthDay story was syndicated in 87 outlets including Philly.com and UPI.

- Fonarow was also quoted in a Reuters article on a study finding that poor health literacy can be dangerous for heart failure patients. The Reuters story was syndicated in 20 outlets.

Dr. Aparna Sridhar, an assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, commented in a Wired story about a contraceptive app that resulted in pregnancies.

Steven P. Wallace, associate center director at the Center for Health Policy Research at UCLA and a professor of community health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in a Congressional Quarterly story about the Trump administration’s stronger immigration enforcement policies keeping undocumented immigrants from seeking medical care.

BRIEFS
Politico referenced a study on electronic health record problem lists by researchers at UCLA, UC Irvine and Cedars-Sinai in a daily health and technology news roundup.

Redbook, MSN.com, and Cosmopolitan UK referenced insights from the UCLA Health website in a story about ulcerative colitis, digestive problems and weight.

Slate cited data from the UCLA World Policy Analysis Center in an article that compared parental leave policies in Norway with those in the United States.

Modern Healthcare referenced UCLA Health’s involvement in the development of a hospital in Guangzhou, China, in a story about health systems’ international expansions.

Los Angeles Sentinel and L.A. Watts Times referenced a UCLA Mattel Children’s Hospital study on vision and learning in stories about a partnership between the L.A. Clippers Foundation and the non-profit Vision To Learn.

Delaware State News cited data from the UCLA World Policy Analysis Center in an article describing a bill that would provide paid family leave to state employees.

CONTENT CREATED BY MEDIA RELATIONS

UCLA study describes structure of tumor herpes virus associated with Kaposi’s sarcoma UCLA Newsroom

Brave toddler meets 24 strangers who saved her life UCLA Newsroom

Fielding School of Public Health to start program to increase diversity in the workforce UCLA Newsroom

UCLA study could explain link between high-cholesterol diet and colon cancer UCLA Newsroom

Public mental health care for older Californians is lacking as need grows UCLA Newsroom

Curcumin improves memory and mood, new UCLA study says UCLA Newsroom

Gene therapy using CAR T cells could provide long-term protection against HIV UCLA Newsroom

Scientist receives grant to study colorectal cancer UCLA Newsroom

Former dentistry dean inducted into Korean Hall of Fame in Science and Technology UCLA Newsroom

Pediatricians and public health professionals must collaborate for the greater good UCLA Health Connect blog
Unique surgery helps LAPD motorcycle officer with rare injury  UCLA Health Connect blog
Have the flu? Know when to go. To the ER, that is.  UCLA Health Connect blog
Is your 2018 weight-loss plan stalled? Try these steps next  UCLA Health Connect blog
How to have a healthy new year with diabetes: 5 tips  UCLA Health Connect blog

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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