

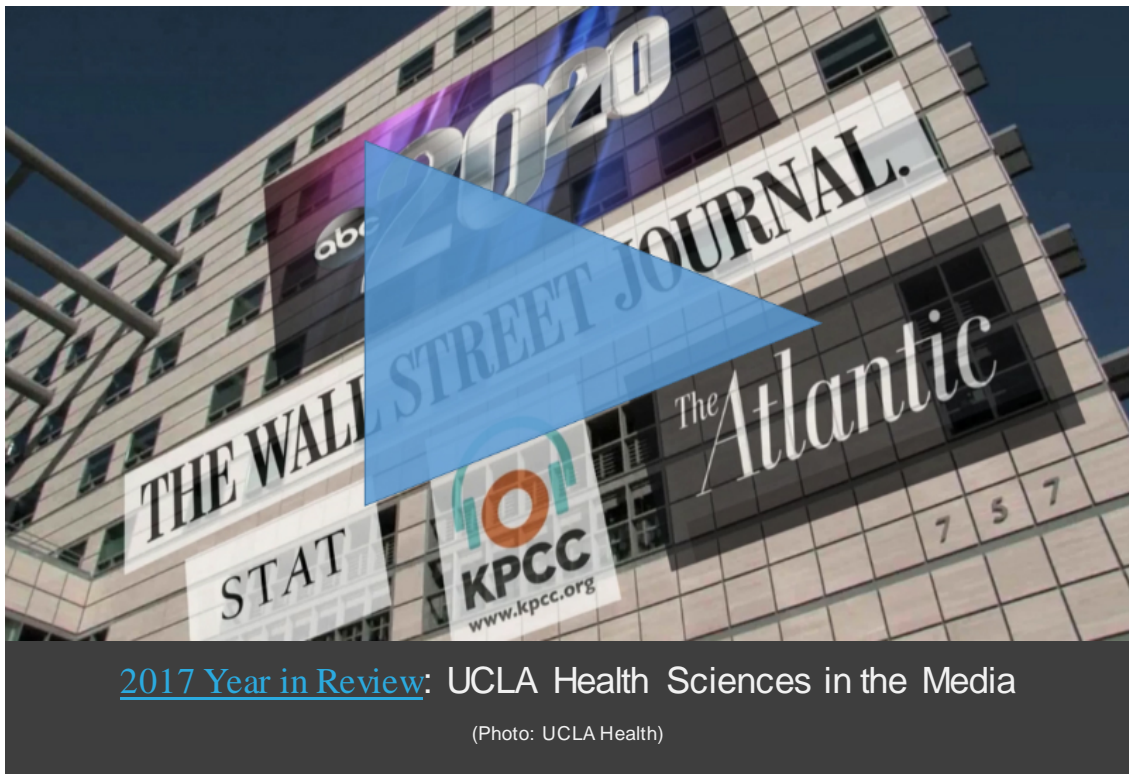
# UCLA

# Health

## UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT

March 2 - 8, 2018

**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.



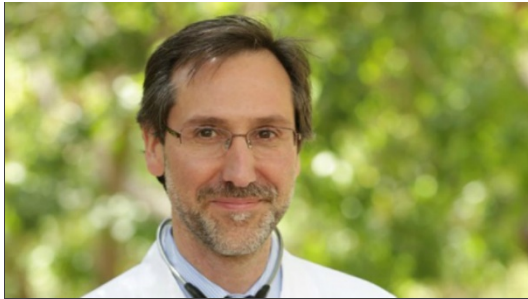
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[Cancer](#): Physician-scientist explores new therapies for melanoma treatment

(Photo: Danielle Klebanow)



[CBS News](#): Playing sports improves driving performance

(Photo: [Flickr](#)/kentwang)



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## FEATURED

### Year in Review: 2017 Sizzle Reel of UCLA Health Sciences in the Media

The UCLA Health Sciences Media Relations team works year-round to place stories about our experts and expertise in external media outlets, while also managing a multitude of requests for interviews, information, photography and filming. We're pleased to present highlights of that work – some of the [top media stories about UCLA Health Sciences of 2017](#).

Congratulations – and thank you – to all of the dedicated doctors, nurses, researchers, faculty and staff at UCLA Health Sciences who made this year's stories possible. (Please note that we could not include every story from the past year.)

A reminder: If you receive a request for an interview, photography or video from a news organization or any other media outlet, please contact your designated UCLA Health Media Relations representative or call our main number at (310) 267-7022.

### Physician-scientist explores new therapies for melanoma treatment

[Cancer](#) published a profile of Dr. Antoni Ribas that highlighted his pioneering work in cancer research and his efforts to develop immunotherapies for advanced cancers. Ribas is a professor of medicine, surgery and molecular and medical pharmacology, and director of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Tumor Immunology Program.

### Playing sports improves driving performance

[CBS News](#), [HealthDay News](#), [ScienceDaily](#), [Medical Daily](#) and [Insurance Journal](#) reported on a study led by Nancy Wayne, UCLA associate vice chancellor for research and a professor of physiology, finding that a history of playing organized sports significantly

improves the performance of new drivers behind the wheel. Also, the study found, new male drivers in their teens drive better than older male drivers. The HealthDay report was syndicated by the [Philadelphia Inquirer](#), [U.S. News & World Report](#), [Health](#), [Drugs.com](#), [Medical Xpress](#), [Doctors Lounge](#) and [Newsmax Health](#).

### **For diversity in medicine, try a dose of inspiration**

The [Los Angeles Sentinel](#) featured the “Black Men in White Coats” campaign at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. The campaign, featuring video profiles of Dr. Stanley Frencher, an assistant professor-in-residence at the Geffen School of Medicine, and Dr. Olawale Amubieya, a fellow in the department of pulmonary and critical care medicine at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, is intended to inspire underrepresented minority students to consider becoming physicians.

### **Is total rest best after concussion?**

[Daily Mail](#) and [MedPage Today](#) covered a JAMA Neurology commentary coauthored by UCLA experts about how research shows that complete brain rest isn’t always best for young people after a concussion. Dr. Christopher Giza, a professor of pediatric neurology and neurosurgery and director of the UCLA Steve Tisch BrainSPORT Program, was quoted.

### **Expert weighs health benefits of tea and honey**

More than 90 National Public Radio-affiliated stations nationwide, including in [San Diego](#), [Portland](#) and [Denver](#), syndicated an earlier [NPR](#) segment featuring Dr. Jennifer Long, an assistant professor of head and neck surgery, about whether hot tea, honey and lemon helps a sore throat and laryngitis.

### **Biomarker could predict effectiveness of ECT for people with depression**

[Medical Xpress](#), [My Science](#) and [Medical-News.net](#) featured UCLA research showing that levels of inflammation biomarkers in the blood may help predict effectiveness of electroconvulsive therapy for major depression. Dr. Jennifer Kruse, of the Cousins Center for Psychoneuroimmunology at UCLA and the UCLA Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior, led the study along with senior author Dr. Michael Irwin, director of the Cousins Center, a member of the Semel Institute and a professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences.

### **Boy’s mysterious ailment linked to exotic worm**

The April issue of Discover magazine featured an article by Dr. Claire Panosian Dunavan, a professor of medicine emeritus/recalled in the division of infectious diseases, about a 13-year-old African boy whose health complaints mystified doctors until he was found to be infected with loa loa, a microscopic worm transmitted by the bite of deerflies. When mature, the worms migrate through subcutaneous tissue and produce transient allergic swellings.

### **Colorful research yields insights into heart development**

[Medical-News.net](#), [ScienceNewsline](#), [Medical Xpress](#), [Technology Networks](#) and WTRF-TV, Wheeling, West Virginia, reported on a UCLA study that used fluorescent colored proteins to trace how cardiomyocytes — cells in heart muscle that enable it to pump blood — are produced in mouse embryos. The findings from this research, led by Dr. Reza Ardehali, an associate professor of medicine in UCLA’s division of cardiology and a member of the Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at UCLA, could eventually lead to methods for regenerating heart tissue in

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human adults.

### **What's the role of cholesterol in MS?**

[Neurology Today](#) featured Dr. Rhonda Voskuhl, director of the UCLA multiple sclerosis program and the Jack H. Skirball professor of Multiple Sclerosis Research, in an article about the role of cholesterol in multiple sclerosis.

### **Dietitian pens op-ed on benefits of plant-based diets**

[Santa Monica Daily Press](#) published a column by Dana Hunnes, a senior dietitian at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and an adjunct assistant professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, on the benefits of eating a plant-based diet. The column (page 9) appeared in a special insert for a community-wide campaign to reduce meat consumption in March.

### **Researchers use artificial intelligence to plan OCD treatment**

[Breitbart](#) and [Newsline](#) featured Dr. Jamie Feusner, a professor-in-residence in the department of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at the Semel Institute at UCLA, and Nicco Reggente, a UCLA doctoral student, in articles about their research using brain scans and a form of artificial intelligence to predict which people with obsessive-compulsive disorder would benefit from cognitive-behavioral therapy.

### **Ophthalmologist recognized for her contributions to science**

[The Culture Trip](#) profiled Dr. Patricia Bath, the first woman to serve on the faculty of the UCLA Stein Eye Institute, in a story about 10 incredible women in science.

### **Century City physician offers tidy perspective on Tide pod challenge**

[LA Parent](#) magazine published a Q&A with Dr. Brian Prestwich, lead family medicine physician at UCLA Health-Century City, for a column on how parents can help prevent their teenagers from participating in dangerous internet challenges.

### **Stem cell-derived germ cells could enable same-sex reproduction**

[NEO.LIFE](#) reported on efforts to create sperm and eggs from human-induced pluripotent stem cells. This technology, known as in-vitro gametogenesis, could make it possible for same-sex couples to conceive a baby using their own genetic material. The story featured Amander Clark, a professor of molecular cell and developmental biology in the UCLA College of Life Sciences and a member of the UCLA Broad Stem Cell Research Center, as a "key player" in the field.

### **A new treatment method for aggressive prostate cancer**

[Healio's HemOnc Today](#) featured research published by Dr. Amar Kishan, an assistant professor of radiation oncology and a member of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, and colleagues finding that treating advanced prostate cancer patients with external beam radiotherapy plus brachytherapy is significantly associated with better outcomes.

### **Smart steps to prevent time-change sleep problems**

[Health News Digest](#) and [Medical-News.net](#) featured Dr. Alon Avidan, a professor of neurology and director of the UCLA Sleep Disorders Center, in articles about adjusting to the March 11 switch to daylight saving time. Avidan commented in a [WRCB-TV](#) story on the same topic.

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### **Cracking the connection between pediatric obesity and cancer**

[Medical Xpress](#) and [MyScience.org](#) published stories about the work of Dr. Steven Mittelman, who is researching how fat and pediatric cancer relate in order to better treat overweight pediatric cancer patients. Mittelman is chief of pediatric endocrinology at UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital and a UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center member.

### **Exposure to green spaces may affect children's cognitive development**

[KCET](#) and [Tehran Times](#) covered a new study co-authored by Michael Jerrett, department chair and professor of environmental health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, reporting that exposure to green space during childhood is associated with beneficial structural changes in the developing brain.

### **The argument for paid parental leave in the U.S.**

[BabyCenter](#) featured a new report from the WORLD Policy Analysis Center at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health that summarizes the medical benefits and economic feasibility of establishing paid family leave in the U.S. Dr. Jody Heymann, dean of the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted.

### **Can cannabis combat opioid addiction?**

[KCBS-TV](#) and [WRAL.com](#) featured Dr. Timothy Fong, the faculty director of the Cannabis Research Initiative at the Semel Institute at UCLA, in stories about whether cannabis could replace opioids in treating pain and addiction. Fong is a clinical professor of psychiatry and director of the UCLA Addiction Psychiatry Fellowship.

### **\$7.7 million grant to study HIV "rebound"**

[MyScience.org](#) highlighted a \$7.7 million grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to UCLA researchers investigating ways to control or prevent HIV "rebound," which is when the virus re-emerges from its hiding places in cells after HIV-positive people stop taking their medications.

### **Drinking hot tea may help prevent glaucoma**

[Men's Health Singapore](#) reported on a study finding a link between drinking hot tea and a lower risk for glaucoma. Dr. Anne Coleman, the Fran and Ray Stark Professor of Ophthalmology at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute, led the research and was quoted in the story.

### **Black tea may help with weight loss**

[MyDomaine](#) reported on UCLA research finding that black tea may contribute to weight loss through a mechanism involving gut bacteria. Susanne Henning, an adjunct professor at the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition, led the study, and Dr. Zhaoping Li, director at the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition, is senior author.

### **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 lipoprotein(a) and heart disease, in Vermont's [Bennington Banner](#)
  - On the "raw water" movement, in Oklahoma City's [The Oklahoman](#)
  - On polycythemia vera, in Oklahoma's [Tulsa World](#)
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- On healthy diets usually providing all necessary nutrients, in Pennsylvania's [The Times-Tribune](#)
- On the severity of this year's flu season, in [Uexpress](#)
- On the health effects of e-cigarettes, in Maryland's [The Cumberland Times-News](#).

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## QUOTED

*“At small, recreational doses, you’ll see some biological changes in the brain and some psychological changes, but they won’t be permanent. It’s when people take massive amounts — not orally, but by snorting it or mainlining it — that it becomes really neurotoxic.”*

- Dr. Timothy Fong, in [MEL Magazine](#), on non-prescription use of Adderall



**Melissa Brymer**, the director of terrorism and disaster programs at the UCLA-Duke National Center for Child-Traumatic Stress, commented in a [Vox](#) article about whether gun-related accidents or suicides should be included in “school shooting” statistics. Brymer said all such incidents should be taken seriously in terms of supporting those impacted by the event.

**Dr. Joann Elmore**, a professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research and director of the UCLA National Clinician Scholars Program, was quoted in a [Reuters Health](#) article on research finding that breast MRIs may lead to more biopsies that catch fewer cancers. More than 20 outlets carried the article, including [Yahoo! Finance UK](#) and the [Deccan Chronicle](#).

**Dr. Timothy Fong**, a clinical professor of psychiatry and director of the UCLA Addiction Psychiatry Fellowship, commented in a [MEL Magazine](#) article about what long-term abuse of Adderall can do to the brain.

- Fong commented in a second [MEL Magazine](#) article about drug-testing at work as a tool to fight the opioid epidemic.
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**Dr. Barbara Giesser**, a professor of clinical neurology and clinical director of the UCLA multiple sclerosis program, commented in a [Healthline](#) article about how pregnancy may not always protect against multiple sclerosis relapses.

**Dr. Christopher Giza**, a professor of pediatric neurology and neurosurgery and director of the UCLA Steve Tisch BrainSPORT Program, was quoted in an [Everyday Health](#) story about whether playing tackle football is harmful to children's brains.

**Dr. John Glaspy**, a professor of medicine and a member of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted in [The Oncology Times](#) in a story about researchers who were awarded for their work in DNA damage repair mechanisms and imaging mass cytometry.

**Dr. Neal Halfon**, director of the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities, and a professor of pediatrics, public health and public policy, commented in [YourTango](#) about a study he conducted on children's well-being.

**Nina Harawa**, an associate professor-in-residence, was quoted in a [California Healthline](#) article about research finding a disproportionately low use of pre-exposure prophylaxis to prevent infection with HIV among blacks and Latinos.

**Dr. Jerome Hershman**, professor-in-residence emeritus of medicine in the division of endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism, was quoted in a [LiveScience](#) article about endocrine system facts, functions and diseases.

**Dana Hunnes**, a senior dietitian at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and an adjunct assistant professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented in a [Well + Good](#) story about the health benefits of peach palms.

**Leeka Kheifets**, a professor in residence of epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in a [Consumer Reports](#) article about the potential radiation risks from routers and wireless headphones.

**Dr. Mark Morocco**, an emergency room physician at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and a clinical professor of emergency medicine, commented in a KCBS-AM, San Francisco, story about "IV bars" – businesses that offer intravenous fluids to people suffering from hangovers.

**Dr. Karin Nielsen**, a professor of clinical pediatrics in the division of pediatric infectious diseases at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital, commented in a [New York Times](#) story about a yellow fever outbreak in Brazil that is called the worst in decades. The [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) and [WRAL.com](#) carried the article.

**Dr. Victoria Niklas**, a health sciences clinical professor in the department of pediatrics, commented in a [Nature](#) story on the long lasting health benefits of infants' first microbes.

**Beate Ritz**, a professor of epidemiology and environmental health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in an [Associated Press](#) article about a federal court hearing involving a weed killer and its potential link to cancer. The story was syndicated in more than 450 publications including [CBS San Francisco](#), [New York Daily](#)

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[News](#) and [The Boston Herald](#).

**Dr. David Reuben**, chief of the UCLA Division of Geriatrics, was quoted in an [Associated Press](#) article about a study finding that opioids are no better than Tylenol for chronic pain. A longer version of the article ran on [CBSNews.com](#) and the story was picked up by 438 outlets, including the [Houston Chronicle](#), the [Napa Valley Register](#) and [STAT News](#).

**Dr. Antoni Ribas**, a professor of medicine, surgery and molecular and medical pharmacology, and director of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Tumor Immunology Program, was quoted in a [Bloomberg](#) article about the resurgence of the oncolytic virus field.

**Dr. Brennan Spiegel**, a professor of medicine and health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented in an [mHealthIntelligence](#) story on the use of health technology for pain reduction.

**Dr. Kirsten Tillisch**, an associate professor of medicine in the Vatche and Tamar Manoukian Division of Digestive Diseases, discussed her research about the impact of probiotics on brain response in a [CNBC](#) story about boosting productivity. The story also ran on [Yahoo! Finance](#).

**Dr. Adrienne Youdim**, a voluntary associate clinical professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, was quoted in a [PopSugar](#) story about the uses of apple cider vinegar for health benefits.

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## BRIEFS

[The New York Times](#) published a letter written by Emily Abel, professor emerita of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, suggesting that moving patients out of hospitals will shift the burden of care to unpaid family members.

[NEJM Catalyst](#) referenced UCLA's neonatal intensive care unit safety protocols in a story on implementing health care improvements.

[Psychology Today](#), in a story about gut bacteria, referenced UCLA research suggesting that certain probiotics affect emotion and sensation.

[Cell's Crosstalk](#) mentioned the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA in a post by Emilie Marcus, who has been serving as editor-in-chief of Cell and CEO of Cell Press prior to joining the David Geffen School of Medicine as executive strategy officer.

A [Pop Sugar](#) interview with "Big Bang" actress Mayim Bialik recognized Dr. Nancy Wayne, UCLA associate vice chancellor for research and a professor of physiology, for Wayne's

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influence on Bialik's neuroscience studies at UCLA.

[Futurism](#) and Canada's [Global News](#) cited the efforts of a UCLA research team led by Ren Sun, a professor of molecular and medical pharmacology, to genetically engineer flu viruses that could become candidates for a universal vaccine.

[Front Line Genomics](#) referenced research co-authored by Dr. Antoni Ribas in a story about a new cell-based cancer therapy. Ribas is a professor of medicine, surgery and molecular and medical pharmacology, and director of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Tumor Immunology Program.

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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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