



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of March 3-9, 2017**

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Eye surgeon spotlighted by international media

[Reuters](#) on March 3 ran a photo essay honoring women in male-dominated professions around the world that featured retinal surgeon Dr. Tara McCannel, director of the UCLA Ophthalmic Oncology Center at the Stein Eye Institute. Tied to International Women's Day, the story was syndicated March 3 by the [New York Post](#); March 7 by [The Atlantic](#); March 8 by the U.K.'s [The Guardian](#) and [Independent](#), [MSN](#), [Business Insider](#), [Gulf News](#) and Argentina's [La Nacion](#); and March 9 by the Philippines' [The Net24H](#).

Study outlines risks of prescribing Alzheimer's drug off-label

[HealthDay News](#) on March 7 reported on research led by Sophie Sokolow revealing the risks of an Alzheimer's drug prescribed off-label. The story was syndicated by 53 outlets across the United States including the Arizona Daily Sun, US News & World Report, Doctor's Lounge, The Columbus Telegraph, The Napa Valley Register and the St. Louis Post Dispatch. Sokolow, an associate professor at the UCLA School of Nursing, was quoted.

Media calls attention to gala benefiting Semel

Reports about the March 22 Jane and Terry Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior's Open Minds Gala, mentioning honorees Dr. Kelsey Martin, dean of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and singer/actress Demi Lovato, appeared on March 3 in [Billboard](#), [The Hollywood Reporter](#), [Refinery29](#), [Latina](#), [People](#), [KFI-AM](#) and 35 other I Heart Radio affiliates.

Health insurance expert comments on ACA repeal, single-payer health coverage

Gerald Kominski, professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the Fielding School, commented in several news media outlets:

- March 8 in a [Route Fifty](#) article about how the GOP health care replacement plan would drastically change the way Medicaid is funded in the future;
- March 8 in a [Sacramento Bee](#) article highlighting important points to know about the GOP's proposed replacement health plan;
- March 7 in a [Sacramento Bee](#) editorial about the GOP replacement plan's potential removal of 1 million to 3 million newly insured Californians from health coverage
- March 3 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) article about the possibility of a California-based single-payer healthcare system.

Head injuries linked to genetic disruption, neurological diseases

[United Press International](#), [Fierce Biotech](#), [KCBS-TV](#), [MedicalXpress](#) and Australia's [SBS](#) on March 6; and the [Indo Asian News Service](#) and [MD Mag](#) on March 7 reported on a UCLA study finding that head injuries can harm hundreds of "master genes" in the brain and increase people's risk for Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, post-traumatic stress disorder, stroke, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, autism, depression and schizophrenia. The UPI report was syndicated by numerous outlets, including Yahoo News, MSN and SF Gate. Senior author Fernando Gomez-Pinilla, a professor of neurosurgery and of

integrative biology and physiology at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine and College of Letters and Science, was quoted. EbioMedicine published the findings.
KCBS: <http://bit.ly/2mrfglL>

Link between diet in adolescence and later breast cancer

Research by Dr. Karin Michels on a connection between junk food and sugary drinks consumed during adolescence and breast cancer risk later in life continues to garner media attention. Additional coverage included: [Crosswalk.com](#) on March 7; [Yahoo! News \(Singapore\)](#) and [Oncology Nursing News](#) on March 6; [Counsel & Heal](#) and [Cherry Hill Courier-Post](#) on March 3; and [U.S. News & World Report](#), [WebMD](#), [Arizona Daily Star](#), [HealthNewline](#), the U.K's [Daily Mail](#), [Oncology Times](#) and [The News Independent](#) on March 2. Michels is professor and chair of the Department of Epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.

Medicaid expansion leads to increased insurance coverage

[HealthDay News](#) on March 8, and [Medscape](#) and [MedicalXpress](#) on March 9 reported on research co-authored by Laura Wherry finding that states participating in Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act saw increased insurance rates and access to care, but also longer wait times among low-income residents. The HealthDay and Medscape stories quoted Wherry, an assistant professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research.

Climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro for cancer research

[KNBC-TV](#) on February 27 featured Dr. Sarah Larson, health sciences clinical instructor in the UCLA Division of Hematology/Oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center in a report about her climb of Mt. Kilimanjaro with one of her patients in support of leukemia and lymphoma research.

African elephants only need naps

[Yahoo! News](#) on March 2, [NBC News](#) on March 4 and [Nature World News](#) on March 6 featured research from the UCLA Sleep Research Center published in PLOS One about sleep duration in wild elephants in Botswana. Jerry Siegel, director of the UCLA Sleep Research Center, and UCLA neurobiology research associate Oleg Lyamin collaborated with scientists in South Africa and Botswana for the study and were quoted in the coverage.

Three patients get vasectomies as a gift to their wives

[Buzzfeed](#) on March 9 and the U.K's [Daily Mail](#) on March 6 published stories about three friends – each married with two children – who underwent vasectomies together at UCLA as a gift to their wives. Dr. Jesse Mills, clinical professor of urology and director of The Men's Clinic at UCLA, performed the procedures and is quoted.

Replacing the Affordable Care Act

Nadereh Pourat, professor-in-residence at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and research director at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the Fielding School, was featured March 7 in the [Sacramento Bee](#), [San Francisco Chronicle](#), [Opposing Views](#) and [KNCO](#) in reports about the GOP's proposed health plan that would replace the Affordable Care Act.

The benefits of fitness trackers

[KNBC-TV](#) on March 3 featured Dr. Daniel Vigil, health sciences associate clinical professor of family medicine, in a segment on the accuracy of wearable fitness devices and their potential benefits to the public.

Comparing care delivered by doctors vs. nurses

[Forbes.com](#) on March 3 highlighted research led by Dr. John Mafi, an assistant professor of general internal medicine and health services research, finding that, contrary to physicians' beliefs, advanced-practice clinicians, such as nurse practitioners and physician assistants, provide similar levels of costly and unnecessary tests, treatments and referrals as physicians in the primary care setting. The findings

could inform the ongoing debate over expanding the role of advanced-practice clinicians in doctors' offices and hospitals.

Mother-to-child HIV transmission

[Edge Media Network](#) on March 3 and the [American Journal of Pharmacy Benefits](#) on March 6 highlighted new research finding that, in the transmission of HIV-1 from mother to child, only a subset of a mother's viruses infects their infants either in utero or via breastfeeding. Dr. Grace Aldrovandi, chief of the division of pediatric infectious diseases, was senior author of the study, which also found that virus transmission depends on whether the transmission occurs during pregnancy or through breastfeeding, was

Alzheimer's program gets media notice

[Hospitals & Health Networks](#) featured on March 8 the UCLA Alzheimer's and Dementia Care Program in an article highlighting different approaches to dementia care. The article quoted Dr. Zaldy Tan, medical director of the program and assistant dean for curricular affairs at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

"Virtual interventional radiologist" garners press

[Healthline](#) and [MedicalXpress](#) reported March 8 on UCLA scientists' use of advanced artificial intelligence to create a "chatbot," or virtual interventional radiologist. Dr. Edward Lee, assistant professor of radiology, and resident physician Dr. Kevin Seals, both at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, were quoted. They presented their research March 8 at the Society of Interventional Radiology's 2017 annual scientific meeting in Washington, D.C.

Loosening up T cells to fight disease

[MedicalXpress](#), [Science Daily](#), the U.K.'s [Diabetes](#) and others reported March 7 on a study linking T cells' softness or stiffness to their ability to prompt an immune response against cancer and autoimmune diseases. Dr. Manish Butte, chief of pediatric allergy and immunology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was quoted. Science Signaling published the findings.

Neuro trade explores infantile spasm study

[Neurology Advisor](#) reported March 7 on an MRI study led by Dr. Shaun Hussain, a pediatric neurologist at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, suggesting that drug-related brain abnormalities in the treatment of children with infantile spasms are dose-dependent and reversible.

Novel program provides companionship to geriatric patients

[Myscience.org](#) on March 3 published articles on the Care Companions Program at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, in which volunteers visit with geriatric patients who have few, if any, visitors. Dr. David Reuben, chief of the UCLA Geriatrics Program in Santa Monica and Westwood; Valerie Yeo, unit director, inpatient geriatrics unit in Santa Monica; and a program volunteer were quoted in the articles.

Online tools effective for treating obesity in people with serious mental illness

[My Science](#), [Health Canal](#), [Public Now](#) and [Medical Health News](#) on March 8 featured research by Dr. Alexander Young, a professor of psychiatry, finding that using online weight management tools with weekly peer-coaching works better than in-clinic treatment for people with serious mental illness.

Mobile clinic reduces asthma in low-income children

[Infectious Diseases in Children](#) reported March 5 on a study finding that care provided through a mobile clinic significantly improved asthma outcomes for low-income students who did not have access to regular healthcare. The findings were recently presented at the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Annual Meeting. The study's co-author, Dr. Connie Lin, a pediatric allergy and immunology Fellow at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was interviewed.

The risks of marijuana use during pregnancy

Various news outlets published insights and recommendations from Dr. Leena Nathan, obstetrician-gynecologist at UCLA Health-Westlake Village, about the risks of marijuana use during pregnancy.

Nathan was featured March 2 in [International Business Times](#) and [MedicalXpress](#), March 3 in [Yahoo! News](#), and March 6 in [Huffington Post](#).

Gluten-free diets aren't for everyone

[HLN](#) on March 2 featured Dr. David Heber, professor emeritus of medicine, in a segment on gluten and the potential consequences of gluten-free diets.

Signs a headache could be something more serious

[Prevention](#) published March 8 an article featuring Dr. Mark Morocco discussing how to tell whether your headache might be serious enough to warrant a trip to the ER. Morocco is clinical professor of emergency medicine at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center.

DNA patterns in tumor cells are not random

[Health Canal](#) on Feb. 23 highlighted research led by Dr. Thomas Graeber that discovered how DNA patterns in tumor cells are not random but reflect selective forces in tumor evolution. Graeber is a professor of molecular and medical pharmacology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center's Cancer Nanotechnology Program.

Op-ed: "Will anyone be better off with Trumpcare?"

[The Sacramento Bee](#) on March 9 published an op-ed by Gerald Kominski, professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the Fielding School, analyzing the GOP's American Health Care Act, which has been proposed as a replacement to the Affordable Care Act.

Op-ed: "Destroy the environment, destroy Earth's greatest asset"

[Huffington Post](#) published on March 7 a column by Dana Hunnes on sustainability and the potential consequences of our current behavior on the environment. Hunnes is senior dietitian at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and adjunct assistant professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.

Op-ed: "Marijuana's public health pros and cons"

[MSN](#) on March 2 featured a column by Dr. Thomas Strouse, medical director of the Stewart and Lynda Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital at UCLA, on marijuana's public health pros and cons. The column was originally published by U.S. News & World Report.

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 in more than 50 outlets nationwide. A sampling of the stories from the past week's column:

- On planning for end-of-life care, featured March 8 in [Beatrice Daily Sun](#)
- On remedies for arthritis pain, featured March 8 in [The Cumberland Times-News](#)
- On the importance of an exercise regimen, featured March 6 in [The Rocky Mount Telegram](#)
- On hepatitis C testing, featured March 6 in [Hanford Sentinel](#)
- On depression in heart attack survivors, featured March 3 in [The Californian](#)
- On the health effects of olive oil, featured March 2 in [Uexpress](#)

NOTABLE BRIEFS

A March 5 article in [The Conversation](#) about the key role that traditional medicine can play in Latino health care cited work by David Hayes-Bautista, professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research and director of the UCLA Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture.

[SMMirror.com](#) on March 8 published an article promoting UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica's first meeting of a new support group for stroke survivors and their family and friends.

[SMMirror.com](#) on March 8 published an article promoting Caring U, a half-day seminar for family and caretakers of loved ones with Alzheimer's disease.

[Goop](#) on March 2 published an article citing memory-loss reversal research by Dr. Dale Bredeesen, a visiting professor in neurology.

[Nation's Restaurant News](#) mentioned March 7 that Patti Oliver, director of nutrition at UCLA Health, received the 2017 Silver Plate Class award from the International Foodservice Manufacturers Association.

[Poughkeepsie Journal](#) on March 6 referenced a 2011 study from UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center finding that curcumin suppresses a cell signaling pathway that drives the growth of head and neck cancers.

A March 6 [Health Leaders Media](#) story cited research conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and the UC Berkeley Center for Labor Education and Research. The article focused on a lawsuit filed by Santa Clara County to stop the defunding of "sanctuary cities" and a motion filed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to study alternate funding to continue health care services under possible repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

[New America Media](#) and [MyInforms](#) on March 3 cited research conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at UCLA Fielding School of Public Health in stories about the safety net that providers offer to California's immigrant Medi-Cal recipients, some of whom fear deportation, as an incentive to continue participation in their health care program.

[Health Canal](#) on March 7 mentioned UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center in an article about scalp cooling treatments that are used to prevent significant hair loss in breast cancer patients.

NOTABLE QUOTABLES

Dr. Deanna Attai, UCLA breast surgeon based in Burbank and assistant clinical professor of surgery, commented March 8 in a [Helio.com](#) story on a study that examined whether cryotherapy was an effective treatment for women with stage II breast cancer.

Dr. Andrew Charles, the director of the Headache Research and Treatment Program at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, commented March 7 in a [Real Simple](#) article about gender differences in common diagnoses.

Shana Alex Charles, faculty associate at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented March 7 in an [Orange County Register](#) article about the proposed GOP health plan's possible effects on the poor and the elderly.

Susan Cochran, professor of epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented March 6 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) article about changes to the diversity of the University of California's student population.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, the Eliot Corday Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine and Science, director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center and co-chief of the UCLA Division of Cardiology, was quoted March 8 in a [HealthDay News](#) story about a new study finding that Americans with high blood pressure are still consuming too much salt. Fonarow noted that interventions to curb salt intake were not working. The HealthDay story was published by several outlets including [U.S. News & World Report](#), [WebMD](#) and [Everyday Health](#).

Dr. Keith Heinzerling, associate professor in residence of family medicine and medical director of the UCLA Center for Behavioral and Addiction Medicine, was quoted March 9 in a [WebMD](#) article with tips on how to maintain a tobacco-free life after quitting smoking.

Dana Hunnes, senior dietitian at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and adjunct assistant professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted March 4 in a [Consumer Reports](#) story on whether white vegetables have health benefits. The story was picked up March 6 on [MSN](#).

Dr. Joseph Ladapo, assistant professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, was quoted March 6 in an [NBCNews.com](#) article about CrowdMed.com, a website that uses crowdsourcing to help patients diagnose rare conditions or non-specific symptoms.

Dr. Jesse Mills, clinical professor of urology and director of The Men's Clinic at UCLA, commented March 8 in [Kansas City Star](#) and March 7 in the U.K's [Daily Mail](#) about the popularity of men getting vasectomies around the time of college basketball tournament season.

Dr. Parvin Peddi, assistant clinical professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted March 9 in [U.S. News & World Report](#) about the best ways to diagnose breast cancers.

Dr. Jhanki Shah, assistant clinical professor of medicine in the division of cardiology and director of the UCLA-Northwest Valley Women's Heart Health Program, commented Feb. 24 in a [Ventura County Star](#) article on a "Go Red for Women" event at which she was a featured speaker.

Dr. Preethi Srikanthan, associate clinical professor of medicine in the division of endocrinology, was quoted March 5 in [The Irish Times](#) about her study looking into the benefits of measuring muscle mass versus BMI.

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