



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of March 10-16, 2017**

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UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital receives \$50 million gift from Mattel, Inc.

UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital drew media attention upon receiving a \$50 million donation from Mattel, Inc., which will help fund an expansion of the hospital and further improve its pediatric care centers. KCBS-TV, KCAL-TV, KABC-TV, KNBC-TV, KFI-AM, KNX-AM and [myNewsLA](#) on March 13; [Healthcare Finance News](#), [Daily News Journal](#), and [Chronicle of Philanthropy](#) on March 14; and [Philanthropy News Digest](#) on March 15 reported on the gift.

KCBS-TV: <http://bit.ly/2mUdpwl>

KCAL-TV: <http://bit.ly/2n3MFKc>

KABC-TV: <http://bit.ly/2nsufE5>

KNBC-TV: <http://bit.ly/2mNXFJD>

KFI-AM: <http://bit.ly/2neuvpO>

KNX-AM: <http://bit.ly/2m6GANR>

What we know about probiotics and brain function

Various media outlets covered UCLA research finding that probiotics in yogurt are linked to brain function in humans. Dr. Kirsten Tillisch, associate professor of medicine in the Vatche and Tamar Manoukian Division of Digestive Diseases, and 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, conducted the research.

- [KQED.org](#) on March 13 published a story about probiotics and depression, referencing the study and quoting both Tillisch and Mayer.
- KUFM-TV, Missoula, Montana, aired a segment on March 9 in which David Perlmutter referenced the study: <http://bit.ly/2myUgNG>
- [The Daily Progress](#) on March 10 mentioned the study in a story about new research on yogurt bacteria's role in depression in mice; the story was syndicated March 11 by [Richmond.com](#), March 14 by [Life Extension](#), and two other outlets.

Replacing the Affordable Care Act

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 about proposed health policy changes in the following news media outlets:

- March 14 in a [Sacramento Bee](#) article about the effect of ACA repeal on California's freelance economy;
- March 14 in a [MedPage Today](#) story and in a [KCBS-TV](#), Los Angeles, broadcast about the Congressional Budget Office's estimate of the potential effects of the proposed American Health Care Act;
- March 13 in an [Escondido Grapevine](#) report about a town hall on the proposed American Health Care Act's effect on California Medicaid;
- March 13 in a [HealthLeaders Media](#) article about how the GOP health care replacement bill will not reduce premiums or cut spending on healthcare.

Medicaid expansion leads to increased insurance coverage

[Vox](#) on March 15 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. Wherry, an assistant professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, was quoted.

Understanding contraceptive use among women with congenital heart disease

[HealthDay](#) reported March 13 on a study co-authored by Pam Miner, a nurse practitioner with the Ahmanson/UCLA Adult Congenital Heart Disease Center. The research looked at contraceptive practices of women with congenital heart disease to help practitioners better counsel patients on potential adverse risks associated with birth control and how to prevent unplanned high-risk pregnancies. The findings were published in *The American Journal of Cardiology*. The HealthDay article was also published by [MedicalXpress](#), [Doctors Lounge](#) and [Physicians Briefing](#).

What's the catch? CBS News asks Santa Monica cardiologist about fish oil

Dr. Ravi Dave, director of interventional cardiology at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica and clinical professor of medicine, and one of his patients, commented in a March 13 [CBS News](#) segment about fish-oil supplements. The segment aired on 40 stations nationwide including KSMO-TV, Kansas City, Missouri; KGPE-TV, Fresno, California; KOLN-TV, Lincoln, Nebraska; and WDBJ-TV, Roanoke, Virginia. The story also ran on [CBSnews.com](#)'s national website.

KSMO: <http://bit.ly/2mUpkKB>

KGPE: <http://bit.ly/2mzmhER>

KOLN: <http://bit.ly/2n43CnS>

WDBJ: <http://bit.ly/2mO7tDi>

Adjusting to Daylight Saving Time? Put away your phone

Dr. Alon Avidan, director of the UCLA Sleep Disorders Center, shared advice for dealing with the time change March 11 in the [Los Angeles Times](#) and [KPCC-FM](#).

Op-ed: A prescription for empathy

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) published on March 9 an op-ed by Dr. Joseph Ladapo, assistant professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, urging empathy for the sick and poor as Congress debates the bill to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act.

Signs a headache could be something more serious

[Women's Health](#) published March 15 an article featuring Dr. Mark Morocco on 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.

Breast tissue complexities and cancer

A March 16 [U.S. News & World Report](#) article featured Dr. Sara Hurvitz, associate professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and medical director of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Clinical Research Unit, and Dr. Parvin Peddi, assistant clinical professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology at the Geffen School and member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center. The article focused on the cellular changes in breast tissue that can lead to a cancer diagnosis.

More media interest for friends' vasectomies at The Men's Clinic

Online and broadcast media outlets continue to cover the story of 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 was featured. Stories ran March 9 in [Refinery29](#); March 10 in [Redbook](#); March 12 on KCNC-TV, Denver, Colorado; March 13 on [Yahoo!](#), [Babyology](#), [Daily Toast](#), and WJXT-TV, Jacksonville, Florida; March 14 on KGTV-TV, San Diego, California; and March 15 on [Inside Edition](#) and [WPVI-TV](#), Philadelphia, among others.

KCNC-TV: <http://bit.ly/2n3QG1a>

WJXT-TV: <http://bit.ly/2nJM9hM>

KGTV-TV: <http://bit.ly/2nwxirC>

Comparing care delivered by doctors vs. nurses

[MedicalResearch.com](#) highlighted on March 11 research led by Dr. John Mafi, an assistant professor of medicine in the division 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, published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, could inform the ongoing debate over expanding the role of advanced-practice clinicians in doctors' offices and hospitals.

“Virtual interventional radiologist” garners press

Australia's [Oncology News](#) on March 14; [Health Data Management](#) on March 13; [AuntMinnie.com](#), [Radiology Business](#), [eCancer News](#) and [Healthcare Informatics](#) on March 9; and [Inverse](#) and [Clinical Innovation](#) on March 8 reported 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 and presented their research at the recent Society of Interventional Radiology's 2017 annual scientific meeting in Washington, D.C.

Local charity provides shelter for UCLA Health patients

[KABC-TV](#) on March 10 featured a story about the St. James Inn, a local charity that provides free housing for out-of-town patients and their family members who need a place to stay while undergoing extended treatment at UCLA. Dr. Chris Cooper, a professor of pulmonology and critical care medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was interviewed.

UCLA performs the most thoracic transplants

[MyScience.org](#) and [Medical Health News](#) reported March 14 that UCLA performed the highest combined number of heart and lung transplants among all U.S. medical centers in 2016, according to United Network for Organ Sharing data, a nonprofit that manages the nation's organ transplant system. Dr. Abbas Ardehali, the program's surgical director, was quoted.

A better way to treat head and neck cancer – and prevent metastasis

[DentistryToday.com](#) and [HealthCanal.com](#) on March 9, and [News-Medical.net](#) and [The Stem Cellar](#) on March 10 reported on a UCLA School of Dentistry finding that targeting cancer stem cells improves treatment effectiveness and helps prevent metastasis. Dr. Cun-Yu Wang, the senior author and the Dr. No-Hee Park Endowed Chair in Dentistry, led the research team that discovered that targeting cancer stem cells and killing the tumor mass, consisting of high proliferating cells, with chemotherapy drugs resulted in better outcomes. The research was published online in *Cell Stem Cell*. Wang is also a member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at UCLA.

Biomarker identifies children at risk of poor outcome after head injury

[Medical Health News](#) and [News Medical Life Sciences](#) featured on March 15 new UCLA research led by Robert Asarnow, the Della Martin Professor of Psychiatry in the UCLA Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, identifying a biomarker that may predict which children are at risk of cognitive decline after traumatic head injury.

Online weight management tools better than in-person treatment

[MedicalXpress](#) on March 9 featured research by Dr. Alexander Young, a professor of psychiatry, showing that veterans with serious mental illness responded better to online weight loss programs than in-office, clinician-led weight reduction.

When a stomachache is cause for concern

[Prevention](#) on March 10 published a story about warning signs that could indicate a stomachache is a sign of a more serious health concern. The story featured Dr. Eric Esrailian, co-chief of the Vatche and Tamar Manoukian Division of Digestive Diseases, as the expert.

Link between inflammatory diet in adolescence and later breast cancer

[Financial Tribune](#) on March 11 reported on research by Dr. Karin Michels, professor and chair of the Department of Epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, on a connection between junk food and sugary drinks consumed during adolescence and breast cancer risk later in life.

Natural compound protects against Zika virus infection and microcephaly

[MyScience](#) on March 14 and [Health Canal](#) on March 15 reported on research showing that an enzyme produced naturally by the immune system protects animals against Zika virus infection and the neurological damage linked to the virus. The enzyme, called 25-hydroxycholesterol or 25HC, can be manufactured to create a compound that works against a broad range of viruses. The research was led by senior author Genhong Cheng, professor of microbiology, immunology and molecular genetics and a member of the Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at UCLA.

Cooling scalp to prevent hair loss during treatment

[My Science](#) on March 14 and [MedicalXpress](#) on March 15 featured Dr. Sara Hurvitz, associate professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and medical director of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Clinical Research Unit, in a Q&A about a cooling scalp device called the Dignicap. The device can reduce hair loss in patients during breast cancer treatment.

Class of chemotherapy drugs possibly linked to cardiac toxicity

[Onlive](#) on March 10 featured Dr. Sara Hurvitz, associate professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and medical director of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Clinical Research Unit, in a video about eliminating anthracyclines, a class of chemotherapy drugs, from HER2-positive breast cancer treatment due to a risk of cardiac events.

Ongoing coverage of advice for women with congenital heart disease

WFMZ-TV, Philadelphia featured on March 10 the story new recommendations to help women with congenital heart disease have successful pregnancies on its [website](#) and its sunrise news broadcast. Mary Canobbio, a lecturer at the UCLA School of Nursing, was quoted in the coverage.

Additional interest in Alzheimer's study

[Obesity, Wellness and Fitness Week](#) on March 9 highlighted research led by Sophie Sokolow, associate professor at the UCLA School of Nursing, revealing the risks of an Alzheimer's drug prescribed off-label.

Still nutty for walnut research

A study replicating work by Wendie Robbins, a professor at UCLA's School of Nursing and Fielding School of Public Health, was covered on March 13 by KSBI-TV, Oklahoma City, March 14 by [Television Africa Network](#) and March 15 by [The Guardian Nigeria](#). Robbins was quoted in the coverage.

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 the importance of dietary fiber, featured March 15 in [Uexpress](#);
- On improving sleep hygiene before turning to medications, featured March 14 in [Pinal Central](#);
- On glycemic index and monitoring blood sugar, featured March 13 in [Rocky Mount Telegram](#);
- On tinnitus as a symptom, featured March 13 in [Chicago Sun-Times](#);
- On lowering cholesterol, featured March 13 in [Cumberland Times-News](#);
- On coconut oil as a saturated fat alternative, featured March 10 in [Hanford Sentinel](#).

NOBABLE BRIEFS

[STAT News](#) cited Steve Horvath, a professor of human genetics and biostatistics at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine and Fielding School of Public Health, in a March 13 story about insurance companies' use of "Horvath's clock" – a method he developed to predict tissue's biological age by measuring methylation in a person's DNA.

[Ventura County Star](#) on March 15 featured UCLA Health-Westlake Village's monthly "Walk With a Doc" event as a community brief.

[Medical Daily](#) on March 10 referenced a UCLA study on the nutritional value of pomegranate juice in a story about its potential health effects.

[Cheat Sheet](#) on March 16 referred to a UCLA study about the effect of testosterone on mood.

[Los Angeles Sentinel](#) on March 16 cited research conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. The story was about UCLA-S.A.F.E. Smokefree Apartments Los Angeles, which aims to reduce the amount of secondhand smoke in the city's apartment buildings.

[Tincture](#) on March 9 cited data from the California Health Interview Survey, conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. The article profiled three Americans who received health insurance under the Affordable Care Act.

[San Luis Obispo Tribune](#) on March 11 cited a [Sacramento Bee](#) 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. The article was about the potential effect of the proposed American Health Care Act on the mentally ill.

[Health Medicine Network](#) on March 15 referenced Dr. Percy Lee, associate professor and vice chair of education in the UCLA Department of Radiation Oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center. The story was about breast cancer treatment using sophisticated technology known as an MRI-guided radiation therapy system.

NOTABLE QUOTABLES

Dr. Tanya Altmann, a pediatrics researcher at UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital, commented March 13 in a [Reuters](#) story about the rise in injuries to infants and toddlers due to improperly secured gear, such as strollers and carriers. The article was syndicated by 40 news outlets worldwide, including [Yahoo! News](#), [Scientific American](#) and the U.K.'s [Globe and Mail](#).

Dr. Yolanda Chassiakos, a clinical assistant professor of pediatrics at UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital, was quoted March 14 in [U.S. News & World Report](#), about a kids' game in which rubbing the skin with an eraser can lead to serious infections.

Dr. Gary Chuang, clinical instructor in the UCLA Division of Dermatology, was quoted March 13 in a [Reuters Health](#) story on clinicians protecting themselves from surgical hazards.

Dean Fisher, director of the donated body program at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, commented in a March 10 article in [WIRED](#) about the process of alkaline hydrolysis, or liquid cremation.

John Froines, professor emeritus at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted March 13 in a [California Healthline](#) article about proposed legislation to change the California Health and Safety Code to require lead testing for all children ages 6 months to 6 years. The article was syndicated March 14 by [KRMG](#) and March 15 by [India West](#).

Dr. Jody Heymann, dean of the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and founding director of the WORLD Policy Analysis Center, was quoted March 9 in a [McClatchy](#) article about the passage of a bill in India that increased the length of paid maternity leave from 12 weeks, to 26 weeks. The story was syndicated by [The Miami Herald](#), [The News & Observer](#), [The Modesto Bee](#), [The Kansas City Star](#), [The Fort Worth-Star Telegram](#), and many other outlets.

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 15 in a [TIME.com](#) story on whether lemon water can aid with weight loss. The story was syndicated by [MSN](#) and [Yahoo! Beauty](#) the same day.

Dr. Richard Jackson, professor of environmental health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented March 11 in a [KHON2](#) article about a Hawaii State Department of Health symposium on children's environmental health risks, such as childhood obesity and lead exposure.

Dr. Gottfried Konecny, associate professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted March 12 by [Onclive](#) about the investigational drug rucaparib, which has been shown to slow progression of relapsed BRCA-mutant ovarian cancer.

Dr. Kelsey Martin, dean of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, commented March 16 in a [KPCC-FM](#) report on how President Trump's proposed budget cuts might affect California. Martin addressed the proposed cuts to the National Institutes of Health, which is the largest source of research funding at UCLA and other institutions.

Dr. Leena Nathan, obstetrician-gynecologist at UCLA Health-Westlake Village, commented in a March 14 [Prevention.com](#) article on advice your OB/GYN would like to give but can't. The article also appeared March 15 in [uncova.com](#).

- Nathan was also quoted March 9 in an [ATTN.com](#) article about why it's important for pregnant women to sit while commuting on a train.

Dr. André Nel, professor of medicine, pediatrics and public health, commented March 13 in a [KPCC-FM](#) report about how California's heavy winter rains could boost pollen levels and spark allergies.

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, commented March 16 in a [Vox](#) article about the Trump administration's "three-pronged" approach to repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act. She also commented March 14 in a [SELF Magazine](#) article about removal of the individual mandate under the proposed American Health Care Act and the consequences of young people going without insurance.

Dr. Gary Small, director of geriatric psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Longevity Center, was quoted in the Hamilton, Ohio, [Journal-News](#) on March 15 about how technology is disconnecting family members from each other.

Steven P. Wallace, professor and chair of the Department of Community Health Sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and associate director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the Fielding School, commented March 10 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) story. The article focused on community clinics that are awaiting word of funding cuts under the GOP's proposed American Health Care Act, with the clinics anticipating employee layoffs, fewer services and longer wait times for patients.

Dr. Ben Wu, professor of advanced prosthodontics at the UCLA School of Dentistry, was quoted March 13 in a [Daily Californian](#) article on the C-DOCTOR consortium, or Center for Dental, Oral and Craniofacial Tissue and Organ Regeneration. UCLA and five other institutions are part of C-DOCTOR, which establishes resource centers and considers technology options as a step toward developing methods for regenerating damaged tissues.

Dr. Adrienne Youdim, voluntary associate clinical professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, commented March 13 in an [Outside Online](#) story about gluten products and carbohydrates.

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