



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of March 17-23, 2017**

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Scientists identify neurons involved in Pavlovian response

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Washington Post highlights film about Armenian genocide

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"Virtual interventional radiologist" garners press

Researchers explore a new method to study cholesterol distribution on cells

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Treating muscle and brain degenerative diseases

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New biomarker predicts TBI outcomes

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This week on "Ask the Doctors"

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Los Angeles Magazine features story of hand transplant patient's journey

The April issue of [Los Angeles Magazine](#) features an in-depth story of a patient who received a hand transplant at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center. Dr. Kodi Azari, professor of orthopedic and plastic surgery and surgical director of the UCLA Hand Transplant program, and a team of skilled surgeons

performed the highly successful transplant last year. L.A. Magazine also produced a [video](#) trailer about the story.

Scientists identify neurons involved in Pavlovian response

The [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) reported March 22 and [Laboratory Equipment](#) reported March 23 on a UCLA study that traced the Pavlovian response to a tiny group of neurons also linked to Parkinson's, Huntington's and Tourette syndrome. Lead author Sotiris Masmanidis, assistant professor of neurobiology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted and featured in an accompanying video. Additional coverage included [Neuroscience News](#), [MedicalXpress](#), [Science Newsline](#), [News Caf](#), [ZME Science](#), [Science Blog](#), [14U News](#), [News-Medical.Net](#), Spain's [EcoDiario](#) and Poland's [RMF24](#). The findings were published in the March 22 edition of *Neuron*.

New surgical approach cures "laughing epilepsy"

KNBC-TV and KTLA-TV reported March 22 on the story of a 9-year-old boy whose frequent giggling fits were actually a rare form of epileptic seizure caused by abnormal tissue deep inside his brain. Dr. Aria Fallah, a pediatric neurosurgeon at UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital, treated the patient using a minimally invasive approach that instantly cured his epilepsy. Fallah was interviewed. Additional coverage included WGN-TV, Chicago, WPVI-TV; Philadelphia; London's [Daily Mail](#); [Health News Digest](#); and [Bioscience Technology](#).

KNBC-TV: <http://bit.ly/2nV2IYO>

KTLA-TV: <http://bit.ly/2nh83eL>

WGN-TV: <http://bit.ly/2nnJBZC>

WPVI-TV: <http://bit.ly/2nGhK7u>

WPVI-TV Online: <http://6abc.com/2mY9v3d>

Continued media interest for friends' vasectomies at the Men's Clinic

Online and broadcast outlets continued to share the story of three friends who underwent vasectomies together at The Men's Clinic at UCLA. Dr. Jesse Mills, clinical professor of urology and director of The Men's Clinic at UCLA, performed the procedures and was featured. Coverage ran March 16 on WDIV-TV, Detroit and WTAJ-TV, Johnstown-Altoona; March 21 on WGN-TV, Chicago and WPMT-TV, Harrisburg; March 19 in [Healthline](#); and March 23 in [Fox News Health](#).

WDIV-TV: <http://bit.ly/2ndUoWe>

WTAJ-TV: <http://bit.ly/2m6GANR>

WGN-TV: <http://bit.ly/2mse6hl>

WPMT-TV: <http://bit.ly/2nc6lcK>

Washington Post highlights film about Armenian genocide

The [Washington Post](#) on March 17 published a feature about two new films about the Armenian genocide that includes "The Promise," which was produced by Dr. Eric Esrailian, co-chief of the Vatche and Tamar Manoukian Division of Digestive Diseases. Esrailian was quoted.

\$50 million Mattel gift draws more attention

UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital received a \$50 million donation from Mattel, Inc., that will help fund an expansion of the hospital and further improve its pediatric care centers. The gift was announced March 13 to considerable news coverage. Additional coverage includes [Chronicle of Philanthropy](#) on March 22, [Canyon News](#) on March 20, [Patch](#) on March 18, and [The Toy Book](#) on March 16.

How breast density affects a mammogram

[U.S. News & World Report](#) on March 21 featured Dr. Sara Hurvitz, associate professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology, and Dr. Parvin Peddi, assistant clinical professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, in an article on how dense breasts are a risk factor for cancer and can hinder a cancer diagnosis in some women. Hurvitz is medical director of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Clinical Research Unit; Peddi is a member of the cancer center.

What's the right amount of sleep?

[KNX-AM](#) on March 21 featured Dr. Alon Avidan, director of the UCLA Sleep Disorders Center, in a report on healthy sleep duration, napping and how to wake up.

Sleep apnea in children changes the brain

[Reuters Health News](#) on March 17 reported on research about the impact of sleep apnea on children's brains. Twenty print and radio outlets across the United States ran the article, including CDA News; The Asian Age; MD Alert; Channel News Asia; WLMI-FM, Lansing, Michigan; and WYDR-FM, Green Bay, Wisconsin. Paul Macey, associate professor at the UCLA School of Nursing and co-author of the study, was quoted.

Opinion: The role of the EPA

[The Huffington Post](#) published March 21 an article by Dana Hunnes, adjunct assistant professor of community health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and senior dietitian at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, about the role of the Environmental Protection Agency amid environmental concerns and changing policies.

Medical school's high rankings gain attention

[Becker's Hospital Review](#) reported March 14 that the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA placed No.6 in primary care and No. 11 in research in U.S. News & World Report's annual Best Graduate School rankings. Becker's [also reported](#) March 17 that the Geffen School tied for the seventh most selective medical school in the country.

"Virtual interventional radiologist" garners press

[Becker's Hospital Review](#) reported March 17 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.

Researchers explore a new method to study cholesterol distribution on cells

[Health Canal](#), [Science Daily](#), [MedicalXpress](#), [News Medical.Net](#), [MyScience](#), [NanoWerk](#) and others reported March 20 on a recent study in which researchers from UCLA and the University of Western Australia developed a new way of visualizing the distribution of cholesterol in cells and tissues. Their research provides insights into the movement of cholesterol into and out of cells and could eventually identify mechanisms linking cholesterol to coronary artery disease. The study's co-author, Dr. Stephen Young, a distinguished professor of medicine and human genetics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted.

UCLA performs the most thoracic transplants

[Canyon News](#) reported March 21 that UCLA performed the most combined heart and lung transplants in the U.S. in 2016. Dr. Abbas Ardehali, professor of cardiothoracic surgery and the surgical director of the heart and lung transplant programs, was quoted.

Treating muscle and brain degenerative diseases

[News-Medical.Net](#) on March 21 covered UCLA research establishing the molecular basis of, and potential treatment for, IBMPFD (inclusion body myopathy Paget disease with frontotemporal dementia). Dr. Ming Guo, professor in the department of neurology at David Geffen School of Medicine, led the study.

Clinical interviews detect postpartum risk

[Science Newsline](#), [Science Daily](#), [The Medical News](#) and [My Science.org](#) featured on March 21 research by Dr. Rita Suri, associate professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, about women at heightened risk for postpartum depression.

New biomarker predicts TBI outcomes

[University Herald](#) on March 17 and [MedicalXpress](#) on March 16 featured UCLA research on a new biomarker for predicting outcomes in pediatric traumatic brain injury. Robert Asarnow, Della Martin Professor of Psychiatry in the UCLA Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, led the study.

Op-ed highlights Smokefree Apartments Los Angeles study

The [Los Angeles Sentinel](#) and [EGP \(Eastern Group Publications\)](#) on March 16 highlighted Smokefree Apartments Los Angeles, a CDC-funded project at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, in an op-ed about the effectiveness of smoke-free housing policies in Los Angeles apartment buildings.

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 carpal tunnel syndrome, featured March 22 in [Hanford Sentinel](#)
- On pneumonia diagnosis, featured March 22 in [UExpress](#)
- On the origin of bladder pain, featured March 20 in [The Manchester Journal](#)
- On the use of personal fitness trackers, featured March 18 in [The Californian](#)
- On causes of hair loss, featured March 17 in [Elko Daily Free Press](#)

NOTABLE BRIEFS

[MensHealth.com](#) on March 17 and [WomensHealthMag.com](#) on March 21 referenced a UCLA study finding that fat freezing could lead to paradoxical adipose hyperplasia in a small percentage of patients.

[PureWow](#) on March 16 referenced a UCLA study looking at metabolic rate regulation as one of the functions of the thyroid.

The March 22 Open Minds Gala, benefiting the Semel Institute and recognizing singer and mental health advocate Demi Lovato, was mentioned March 22 in [E! Online](#) and [MTV.com](#) and March 23 in [PerezHilton.com](#), [Entertainment Tonight](#), [Just Jared](#) and 30 other publications.

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 was cited March 21 in a [Caravan News](#) article about how more than 70,000 people in San Joaquin County could lose health insurance as a result of Affordable Care Act repeal.

An honor titled "healthy aging and cancer prevention ambassador for South Los Angeles," designated by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was cited March 17 in a [Los Angeles Wave](#) article celebrating Freddie Muse Jr., the recipient.

NOTABLE QUOTABLES

Dr. Jonathan Fielding, professor-in-residence at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented March 21 in a [CNN.com](#) article about the high cost of hospitalizations due to gunshot wounds. The article was syndicated March 21 by [KCPQ-TV](#), Tacoma, Washington, and [KTXL-TV](#), Sacramento, California.

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 20 in a [PM360](#) article about the growing use of thrombolytic therapy with tissue plasminogen activator (tPA) to treat acute stroke in hospitals. The increased practice is largely attributed to the promotion and quality-improvement efforts of the Get With The Guidelines (GWTG)-Stroke program.

Dr. Christopher Giza, director of the UCLA Steve Tisch BrainSPORT Program and a professor of pediatric neurology and neurosurgery at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine and Mattel Children's Hospital, commented March 14 in an [Undark](#) article about new advances in devices that claim to diagnose concussion.

Dr. Hayley Goldbach, resident physician in dermatology at UCLA Health, was quoted in the April issue of Real Simple magazine about nail polish and nail discoloration.

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 19 in an [InStyle.com](#) story on whether lemon water contributes to weight loss.

Dr. Sara Hurvitz, associate professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted March 17 in [Knowridge Science Report](#) about a cooling scalp device called the Dignicap to reduce significant hair loss in patients during breast cancer treatment. Hurvitz is medical director of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Clinical Research Unit.

Dr. Mark Litwin, chair of urology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted March 20 in a [MensHealth.com](#) story on testicular cancer and other health issues for which men in their 20s should keep an eye out.

Stuart Schweitzer, professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented March 23 in a [Healthline](#) article about taxpayer-funded research for new pharmaceuticals.

Daniel Siegel, a clinical professor of psychiatry at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, commented March 21 in The Week about "Giggle Parenting," or how to use laughter to get your kids' cooperation.

Dr. Aparna Sridhar, an assistant professor in obstetrics and gynecology at David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted March 17 in an [ATTN.com](#) article about emergency contraception.

Dr. Thomas Strouse, medical director of the Stewart and Lynda Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital at UCLA and Maddie Katz Chair in Palliative Care Research and Education, was quoted March 22 in a [Healthline](#) article discussing whether opioids or marijuana are more dangerous to society.

Dr. Vijaya Surampudi, an assistant clinical professor in the division of clinical nutrition at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted March 21 in a [Shape.com](#) story on edible collagen.

Dr. Valencia Walker commented March 19 in a [Daily Beast](#) article about physicians of color not being accepted in equal numbers to the prestigious medical honor society Alpha Omega Alpha and the racial bias they encounter in medical school. She is the medical director of the newborn nursery at UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital and Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and the neonatal ICU director at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica.

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