



Health

UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT March 23-29, 2018

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[WIRED](#): Eco-friendly alternative to burial and cremation

(Photo: Dean Fisher/UCLA)



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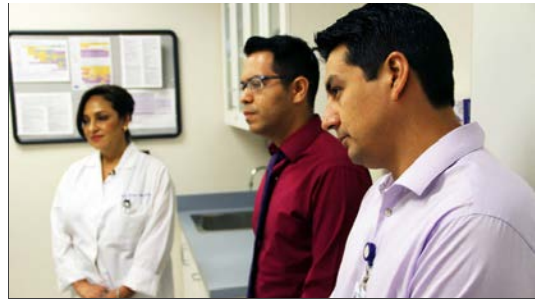


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[Modern Healthcare](#): Big demand for mental health services in colleges

(Photo: pxhere)



[PRI](#): UCLA's International Medical Graduate program is featured

(Photo: UCLA Health)



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FEATURED

WIRED spotlights eco-friendly alternative to burial, cremation

[WIRED](#) magazine profiled the UCLA Donated Body Program and its use of alkaline hydrolysis as an environmentally sensitive way to dispose of human remains. Dean Fisher, the program's director, explained the sterile process.

Growing demand for behavioral health services overwhelms colleges

[Modern Healthcare](#) reported on how colleges nationwide are coping with a growing demand for mental health services for students. The article featured an interview with Grace Bronkin, a UCLA student who discussed how she had sought counseling services through UCLA's Depression Grand Challenge. The article quoted Elizabeth Gong-Guy, associate clinical professor of psychology at UCLA and executive director of UCLA Campus and Student Resilience.

International Medical Graduate program makes news

[PRI](#) and Los Angeles Magazine reported on the UCLA International Medical Graduate (IMG) program, which helps legal U.S. residents who have graduated from Latin American medical schools earn their California medical licenses. Ten outlets ran the PRI story, including [South Carolina Public Radio](#) and [KOSU.org](#). Dr. Patrick Dowling, chair of family medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and co-founder of the IMG program, and Dr. Michelle Bholat, executive director of the program and executive vice chair of family medicine, commented in the articles.

UCLA receives \$20M gift to create state-of-the-art health sciences learning center

[Los Angeles Business Journal](#), [Becker's Hospital Review](#), KABC-TV, KNX-AM, [MyNewsLA](#), [KFI-AM](#), [K-News Radio 94.3](#), [Philanthropy News Digest](#) and [Healthcare](#)

[Finance News](#) covered a \$20 million gift to UCLA from Eugene and Maxine Rosenfeld, which will enable UCLA Health Sciences to enhance its ability to provide simulation training to future health care professionals and create a state-of-the-art health sciences learning center.

Why doctors are concerned about “juuling”

[Time.com](#) and [Men's Health.com](#) featured interviews with UCLA experts on “juuling,” the new e-cigarette trend becoming popular with teenagers. The small devices are the size of a USB drive and create less smoke than other e-cigs, making them more discreet. Dr. Michael Ong, associate professor in residence of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, was interviewed by Time. Dr. Holly Middlekauff, a professor of medicine (cardiology) and physiology, was interviewed by Men's Health.

Grindr and HIV self-test kits

A [BuzzFeed](#) story about gay dating app Grindr's move to send regular reminders to users to get HIV tests highlighted research co-written by Dr. Jeffrey Klausner finding that the app is an effective way to persuade black and Hispanic men who have sex with men to try home HIV self-testing kits. That article quoted Klausner, a professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and of public health at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.

Despite scientific evidence, some doctors doubt stroke drug

The [New York Times](#) wrote about the controversial views of some medical professionals who believe tissue plasminogen activator (T.P.A.), a clot-busting drug used in stroke patients, is not safe and effective despite scientific evidence that proves otherwise. Dr. Gregg Fonarow, the Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and co-chief of cardiology, and Dr. Jerome Hoffman, an emeritus professor of medicine and emergency medicine, were interviewed.

Study uncovers genetic clue to SIDS

[CNN](#), [CBS News](#), [The Guardian](#) and the Press Association featured Dr. Stephen Cannon in articles about a Lancet study showing that rare mutations associated with impairment of the breathing muscles were more common in babies who had died from sudden infant death syndrome than in healthy infants. Cannon, chair of physiology, wrote a Lancet commentary on the findings and was quoted in the articles. The stories were syndicated by more than 270 outlets, including [The Independent](#), [Daily Mail](#) and [Yahoo! News U.K.](#)

The future of flu detection

A [Diagnostics World](#) article about ways to diagnose the flu featured Dr. Joseph Ladapo, associate professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research

More coverage of study that identifies genes associated with extreme sickness during pregnancy

[TechTimes](#); [Australia Associated Press](#); [Babyology](#); [Gizmodo U.K.](#); [Gizmodo Australia](#); WXIN-TV, Indianapolis, Indiana; and KWGN-TV, Denver, reported on a new study led by researchers at UCLA that identified two genes associated with severe nausea and vomiting during pregnancy. Marlina Fejzo, the study's first author and an associate researcher at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted. The [Daily Mail, U.K.](#) syndicated the Australia Associated Press story and [BBC.com](#) also cited the study.

Keeping former HIV-positive inmates healthy

[HealthNewsDigest.com](#), [Science Newsline](#), [MedicalXpress](#), [Scienmag](#), [myScience](#), and [Science Codex](#) highlighted research led by Dr. William Cunningham about LINK LA, an intervention that helps tie inmates to regular health care after they leave jail. It was more effective in helping keep their disease in control than common health interventions now in use for released prisoners. Cunningham, a professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and of public health at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted.

Location matters when tickling the brain to stimulate memory

[Science News](#) reported on research presented at a meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society by Nanthia Suthana, an assistant professor of neurosurgery, showing that stimulating a precise stretch of the brain's white matter improves memory, while stimulating the brain's gray matter, impairs memory.

New clue to why some newborns are severely underweight

[MedicalXpress](#) and [News-Medical.net](#) covered a UCLA study finding that a cellular protein called humanin appears at significantly higher levels in the placentas of mothers whose newborns are 5 ½ pounds or less than in the placentas of women whose babies are at normal weight. Dr. Carla Janzen, an associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, and Dr. Sherin Devaskar, the Mattel Executive Endowed Chair in Pediatrics at UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital and executive director of the UCLA Children's Discovery and Innovation Institute, led the research.

“Air pockets” in the brain

A [Healthline](#) story about an Irish man suffering from disorientation and headaches whose symptoms were attributed to air pockets in his brain featured Dr. Nader Pouratian, chief of functional neurosurgery.

Health risks of plastic packaging

A [Healthline](#) article about the health risks of food, beverages and consumer products packaged in plastic, which contain endocrine-disrupting chemicals that leech into the environment and interfere with hormones, causing damage to the reproductive system, featured Nancy Wayne, UCLA associate vice chancellor for research and a professor of physiology.

UCLA physician spotlighted for work as entrepreneur

[Los Angeles Business Journal](#) profiled Dr. Arie Belldgrun, professor of urology and director of the UCLA Institute of Urologic Oncology, and his entrepreneurship in health care. Belldgrun is a member of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Tumor Immunology Program.

Metabolite therapy rids mice of C. diff in new study

[Becker's Hospital Review](#) covered a UCLA research finding that a metabolite therapy proved effective in treating C. difficile infection in mice. Hon Wai Koon, associate professor of medicine in the Vatche and Tamar Manoukian Division of Digestive Diseases, is the study's senior author.

How colon cancer mutates to escape the immune system

[Reuters Health](#) and [Yahoo! Noticias](#) reported on a UCLA-led study about how colon cancer

alters its genes during development in order to avoid detection by the immune system. Both 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; and Catherine Grasso, assistant professor of medicine, were quoted.

New immunotherapy treatment for advanced liver cancer

[Healio: HemOnc Today](#) featured research led by Dr. Steven S. Raman, director of Prostate MR Imaging and Interventions and member of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, about a promising new immunotherapy treatment that uses a genetically modified version of the herpes virus for advanced stage liver cancer.

More cancer cases are linked to obesity and type 2 diabetes

[MedicalXpress](#), [Scienmag](#), [Science Newsline](#) and [Ecancer](#) reported on a study co-authored by Dr. Guido Eibl, professor of surgery and member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, finding that about one third of cancer cases are estimated to be linked to dietary and other modifiable risk factors.

Cancer Today features multidisciplinary UCLA care

[Cancer Today](#) spotlighted the care and treatment various UCLA experts provided to Shigeo Tsuruoka, a patient who was diagnosed with stomach cancer. The story featured Dr. Zev Wainberg, associate professor of hematology and oncology and member of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center; Dr. Darryl Hiyama, professor of clinical surgery; Nancee Jaffe, a registered dietitian at the UCLA Digestive Health and Nutrition Clinic; and the UCLA Center for East-West Medicine.

Cardiologist featured in stories about heart failure

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, the Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and co-chief of cardiology, was featured in the following articles:

- [The Hospitalist](#) covered a presentation made at the American College of Cardiology conference by Fonarow detailing how most cases of heart failure can be prevented by identifying high-risk individuals while they are still asymptomatic.
- [Cardiology Today](#) reported on a study which found heart failure patients had better long term survival rates if they were treated at a high-performing hospital as contrasted to a lower-performing facility. Fonarow, the study's senior author, was quoted.

Therapy for OCD teaches tolerance for anxiety

[MedicalXpress](#) featured Dr. Jamie Feusner, a professor-in-residence of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at UCLA's Semel Institute, in an article about treating obsessive-compulsive disorder with cognitive behavioral therapy.

This week in "Ask the Doctors"

UCLA Health internists and assistant professors of medicine 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 stories from this past week's column:

- On air pollution and the elderly, in North Carolina's [The Rocky Mount Telegram](#)
 - On the safety of birth control pills, in Scranton, Pennsylvania's [The Times-Tribune](#)
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- On rectal itch, in Maryland's [The Cumberland Times-News](#)
- On steady, rapid heartbeat in the morning, in South Dakota's [Aberdeen News](#)
- On the spread of the flu virus, in Spokane, Washington's [The Spokesman-Review](#)
- On diagnosis of type 1 diabetes in adulthood, in the [Chicago Sun-Times](#).

QUOTED

"By 2050, [the projection that] we're going to be seeing over a two-and-a-half-fold increase in Alzheimer's dementia prevalence is pretty accurate, and that is really driven by the aging of the population."

- Ron Brookmeyer, in [Saving Advice](#), in a story about the rates of Alzheimer's and dementia in the U.S.



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Dr. Clarence Braddock, vice dean of education, was quoted in an earlier [Los Angeles Times](#) story about how the White House travel ban is preventing foreign-born physicians from training in the U.S. The story was syndicated by the [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#).

Ron Brookmeyer, professor of biostatistics at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted by [Saving Advice](#) and [Free NewsMan](#) about a new report from the Alzheimer's Association that detailed the number of people in the United States living with Alzheimer's.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, the Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and co-chief of cardiology, was quoted in a [HealthDay](#) story about a study that found short bursts of activity, such as climbing stairs or walking around the block, can provide long-term health benefits. Fonarow was also quoted in [HealthDay](#) on a study that found drinking more than three cups of coffee a day may lower the risk for clogged arteries. The article was syndicated by [U.S. News & World Report](#), [UPI](#) and [WebMD](#).

Gerald Kominski, professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and director of the Fielding School's UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, was quoted in a [Los Angeles Times](#) column explaining that medical bills can be too complex for patients to understand.

William J. McCarthy, adjunct professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in a [SELF magazine](#) article about the FDA's proposal to limit the amount of nicotine in cigarettes.

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 [Science magazine](#) article about the growing wave of immunotherapy clinical trials for advanced cancers. He also contributed expert insight on what is new in cancer immunotherapy for [Axios](#).

BRIEFS

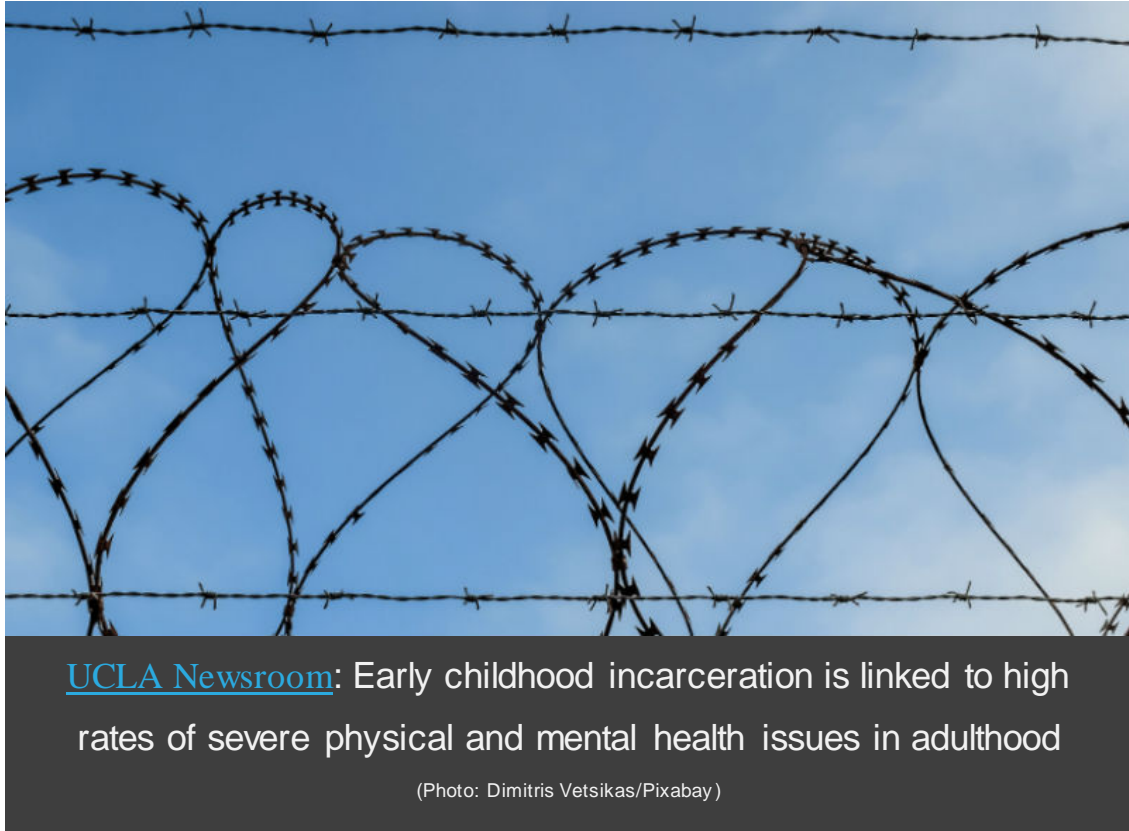
[McKnight's Long-Term Care News](#), in a story about hospital readmissions, referenced a UCLA study finding that a hospital readmissions reduction program was linked to an increased risk of death among heart failure patients. Dr. Gregg Fonarow, the Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and co-chief of cardiology, is the study's senior author.

An [Eat This, Not That!](#) story on nutrition and the metabolic clock referenced UCLA research on the impact of probiotics in yogurt on brain health. Dr. Kirsten Tillisch, an associate professor of medicine in the Vatche and Tamar Manoukian Division of Digestive Diseases, led the research. [MSN](#) also published the story.

[News4Jax](#) and 21 other outlets cited a UCLA study that found tumor cells use fructose to proliferate as a reason to avoid consuming refined sugar. Dr. Anthony Heaney, an associate professor of medicine in the division of endocrinology, diabetes & metabolism and neurosurgery and a UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center researcher, led the research.

A story in [The Conversation](#) about how laughter helps sick children mentioned work by Dr. Margaret Stuber, a professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at UCLA's Semel Institute.

CONTENT CREATED BY MEDIA RELATIONS



[UCLA Newsroom](#): Early childhood incarceration is linked to high rates of severe physical and mental health issues in adulthood

(Photo: Dimitris Vetsikas/Pixabay)



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[UCLA Health named a leader in care for LGBTQ patients](#) UCLA Newsroom

[UCLA-designed program helps former inmates with HIV maintain health after release from jail](#) UCLA Newsroom

[How the 'little blue pill' helped create the men's health field 20 years ago](#) UCLA Health Connect blog

[Researcher gets \\$200,000 grant to study inflammatory bowel disease](#) UCLA Newsroom

[Thinking of adding more fish to your diet? Consider the health risks of farm-raised seafood](#) UCLA Health Connect blog



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