



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of March 24-30, 2017**

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Blood test detects cancer in early stages

Kidney Health Fair draws crowds – and media

Alternative medicine “cures” can result in death

TV producer dies from breast cancer

UCLA physician discusses self-breast exams

Study: Ditch the foam for liquid soap

Can dairy cause long-term damage?

More coverage friends’ vasectomies at Men's Clinic

Signs your headache needs more attention

UCLA Health executives listed among top healthcare leaders

Maui lawyer with brain cancer experiences VIP treatment at L.A. Laker game

Can marijuana help morning sickness?

Modern Healthcare highlights film about Armenian genocide

Combatting the effects of air pollution

Beware of allergy season

Patti Oliver recognized for improving nutrition at UCLA medical centers

Pittsburgh paper features expert on healthy communities

Pioneering stem cell therapy cures infants with “bubble baby” disease

UN’s HIV “treatment as prevention” plan unfeasible

Teaching and early detection in children with autism

Facts about seizures that may surprise you

Veterans with schizophrenia use alcohol less than general population

This week on “Ask the Doctors”

BRIEFS

QUOTABLES

New surgical approach for epilepsy

[ABC News.com](#) and [ABC Radio](#) on March 24 and the [World Journal](#) on March 23 reported on a 9-year-old boy whose frequent giggling fits were actually a rare form of epileptic seizure caused by a benign mass called a hypothalamic hamartoma 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, and 18 news outlets syndicated the story.

Blood test detects cancer in early stages

UCLA experts drew media attention for developing a computer program to detect cancer by blood sampling. Coverage ran March 24 in the U.K.’s [The Telegraph](#), [International Business Times](#), [FierceBiotech](#) and [MSN.com](#), and March 27 in [Consumer Affairs](#) and [New Atlas](#). The research was co-led by Dr. Xianghong (Jasmine) Zhou, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA; Dr. Steven Dubinett, senior associate dean for translational research and associate vice chancellor for research at the Geffen School; and Dr. Wenyuan Li, adjunct associate professor of pathology and laboratory medicine at the Geffen School.

Kidney Health Fair draws crowds – and media

KFI-AM and KMEX-TV reported March 26 on the annual Kidney Health Fair that raises awareness of kidney health and associated co-morbid conditions such as high blood pressure and diabetes. This year’s event was held in Santa Monica with more than 1,000 attendees. The coverage featured the main organizers of the event, Dr. Anjay Rastogi, professor of medicine in the division of nephrology and medical director of the UCLA Living Kidney Donor Evaluation Program, and Christina Lopez, office supervisor in the UCLA Division of Nephrology.

KFI: <http://bit.ly/2nbZ0Op>

KMEX: <http://bit.ly/2nc2H1L>

Alternative medicine “cures” can result in death

[Health.com](#) on March 28 featured Dr. Malcolm Taw, director, UCLA Center for East West Medicine – Westlake Village, in an article on the dangers of using certain alternative medicine therapies either incorrectly or without a doctor’s supervision. [MSN.com](#) and [Time.com](#) published the article on March 29.

TV producer dies from breast cancer

[Variety](#) and [The Hollywood Reporter](#) on March 27, [MSN](#) on March 28, and the [Los Angeles Times](#), [Associated Press](#), and the U.K.’s [Daily Mail](#) on March 29 reported on the death of Noreen Fraser, co-creator of Stand Up 2 Cancer, who had previously undergone breast cancer treatment at UCLA. Fraser produced shows such as Entertainment Tonight. All of the assets from Fraser’s cancer research foundation will be directed to UCLA’s Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center. The San Francisco Chronicle; WLNE-TV, Providence, Rhode Island; WAFB-TV, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and other outlets carried the AP story.

UCLA physician discusses self-breast exams

[U.S. News & World Report](#) on March 23 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 an article about the effectiveness of self-breast exams.

Study: Ditch the foam for liquid soap

[Reuters](#) reported March 23 on a study led by Dr. Ozlem Oquils, an associate professor of pediatric infectious diseases at UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital, finding that foam soap kills germs far less effectively than liquid soap. More than 50 outlets syndicated the story, including [Today.com](#) and London's [Daily Mail](#). Oquils was quoted

Can dairy cause long-term damage?

[Men's Health](#) published a March 24 story featuring Dana Hunnes on dairy in the diet and whether it can cause permanent damage for individuals who are lactose intolerant or have other health issues. Hunnes is a senior dietitian at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and adjunct assistant professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.

More coverage of friends' vasectomies at 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, was featured. Coverage ran March 23 on [MSN.com](#), March 24 in the [New York Post](#), and March 30 on WFMZ-TV, Philadelphia and three other local news stations. WFMZ-TV: <http://bit.ly/2njsGUV>

Signs your headache needs more attention

[Men's Health](#) published March 27 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.

UCLA Health executives listed among top healthcare leaders

[Becker's Hospital Review](#) reported March 24 that Dr. John Mazziotta and Johnese Spisso are among the "healthcare leaders to know" in today's shifting political and regulatory environment. Mazziotta is vice chancellor of UCLA Health Sciences and CEO of UCLA Health, and Spisso is president of UCLA Health, CEO of UCLA Hospital System and associate vice chancellor of UCLA Health.

Maui lawyer with brain cancer experiences VIP treatment at L.A. Lakers game

[Maui News](#) spotlighted March 28 a UCLA brain cancer patient who was chosen as the UCLA Health 'Laker for a Day' at the March 26 L.A. Laker game. The Maui resident was joined by his friend and his UCLA neurosurgeon, Dr. Linda Liao, professor and interim chair of neurosurgery. They enjoyed VIP treatment including a Staples arena tour, dinner and courtside seats.

Can marijuana help morning sickness?

[Circa.com](#) on March 24 featured Dr. Leena Nathan, obstetrician-gynecologist at UCLA Health-Westlake Village, in a segment on marijuana use by expectant mothers with severe morning sickness. The story was "liked" by more than 175,000 viewers of the web site's Facebook page and shared more than 3,500 times.

Modern Healthcare highlights film about Armenian genocide

[Modern Healthcare](#) on March 25 published an article about "The Promise," a film about the Armenian genocide produced by Dr. Eric Esrailian, co-chief of the Vatche and Tamar Manoukian Division of Digestive Diseases. Esrailian was quoted.

Combatting the effects of air pollution

[News-Medical.net](#) and [ScienceDaily](#) on March 23 published tips by Yifang Zhu on how to protect yourself and your family from air pollution if you live in a polluted area. Zhu is professor of environmental health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.

Beware of allergy season

[MedicalXpress](#) ran on March 24 an article on how California's recent heavy rainfall will affect allergy season, featuring expert Dr. Maria Garcia-Lloret, a professor of pediatrics in the division of allergy, immunology and rheumatology at UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital.

Patti Oliver recognized for improving nutrition at UCLA medical centers

[International Foodservice Manufacturers Association](#) published March 27 a Q&A with Patti Oliver, director of nutrition at UCLA Health, who won the IFMA Silver Plate Award in the Health Care Category.

Pittsburgh paper features expert on healthy communities

The [Tribune-Review](#) featured March 27 Dr. Richard Jackson, professor of environmental health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, in an article about "One Health, One Planet," a symposium where he will be the keynote speaker that is being held April 4 and 5 at the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Pioneering stem cell gene therapy cures infants with "bubble baby" disease

[MedicalXpress](#) on March 28 and [The Stem Cellar](#) on March 29 reported on a study describing phase II clinical trial results for a novel stem cell gene therapy that corrects the mutation in the gene that causes "bubble baby" disease. Led by clinician-scientist Dr. Donald Kohn, clinical trials have cured 30 out of 30 babies to date. Kohn is a member of the Broad Stem Cell Research Center and the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and professor of pediatrics in the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

UN's HIV "Treatment as prevention" plan unfeasible

[Infection Control Today](#), [Military Technologies](#) and [MedicalXpress](#) on March 30 featured a new UCLA study led by Sally Blower, director of UCLA's Center for Biomedical Modeling, that finds a UN plan to eliminate HIV in Sub-Saharan Africa does not adequately address sparsely dispersed populations in countries such as Lesotho.

Teaching and earlier detection in children with autism

[LA Parent](#) on March 25 featured an interview with Dr. Daniel Geschwind, the Gordon and Virginia MacDonald Distinguished Chair in Human Genetics and professor of neurology and psychiatry at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, about the latest developments in autism detection, treatment and research – including a study on eye-movement biomarkers for autism risk.

Facts about seizures that may surprise you

[U.S. News & World Report](#) on March 29 featured Dr. John Stern, UCLA neurology professor and director of UCLA's epilepsy clinical program, in an article about misconceptions about seizures. People with epilepsy are likely to have abnormal electrical activity in the brain even when they're not having seizures, Stern says.

Veterans with schizophrenia use alcohol less than general population

[Science Daily](#) and [MedicalXpress](#) on March 28 featured new UCLA research led by Dr. Alexander Young, professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences, showing that alcohol use in veterans in treatment for schizophrenia is less prevalent than in the general population, and that no amount of alcohol is safe for people with schizophrenia.

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 managing the mind-heart connection, featured March 29 in [Beatrice Daily Sun](#)
- On the health consequences of soda consumption, featured March 29 in [Hanford Sentinel](#)
- On the importance of annual exams, featured March 28 in [Elko Daily Free Press](#)
- On the issues associated with Eustachian tube blockage, featured March 24 in [The Manchester Journal](#)
- On detecting carbon monoxide, featured March 24 in [UExpress](#)
- On taking the supplement glutathione, featured March 24 in [The Cumberland Times News](#)
- On pneumonia and Alzheimer's patients, featured March 23 in [The Times-Tribune](#)

BRIEFS

Dr. Barbara Natterson-Horowitz, professor of medicine in the division of cardiology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was cited March 24 in a [Premedly.com](#) story about five TEDMed Talks that medical students should watch. Natterson-Horowitz's talk was about the overlap between veterinarian medicine and human medicine.

[Eat This, Not That](#) and [Yahoo! Style](#) referenced March 28 a study conducted by the G. Oppenheimer Center for Neurobiology of Stress and Resilience at UCLA finding that probiotics in yogurt can affect brain function.

Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center was mentioned March 24 in a CNN report on treatment options under different health care plans.

CNN: <http://bit.ly/2oduGBU>

Research about smoking from the California Health Interview Survey, conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was cited March 29 in a [Hoodline](#) article about anti-smoking legislation in San Francisco, and March 28 in a [San Francisco Chronicle](#) article about a new California state tax on cigarettes.

Diabetes research conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health was cited March 28 by [The Sierra Star](#) in an article about Diabetes Alert Day and March 28 by [The Salinas Californian](#) in an article about increasing prediabetes and diabetes rates in California.

"Deadly River: Cholera and Cover-Up in Post-Earthquake Haiti," a 2016 book by Ralph Frerichs, professor emeritus of epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was cited March 30 in a [Slate](#) article about new information revealing American officials' knowledge regarding the United Nations' role in Haiti's cholera outbreak.

A March 27 [New York Post](#) article referenced a [2016 study](#) by UCLA researchers that found people who meditate have younger brains.

QUOTABLES

Dr. Deanna Attai, UCLA breast surgeon based in Burbank and assistant clinical professor of surgery, commented March 23 in [CBSnews.com](#) and [Vogue.com](#) articles about a rare form of breast cancer that can be caused by breast implants.

Dr. Jonathan Fielding, professor-in-residence at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented March 21 in an article on the web site of [WKTR-TV](#), Norfolk, Virginia, about a new study on the cost of hospitalizations due to gunshot wounds each year.

Allison Hoffman, faculty associate at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and acting professor of law at the UCLA School of Law, commented March 26 in an [El Español](#) article about concerns that remain over the Affordable Care Act, despite the failure of the American Health 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, was quoted March 27 in an [ATTN:](#) story about how the Trump administration could damage the Affordable Care Act without repealing it.

[Thrive Global](#) on March 24 quoted Dr. Alon Avidan, director of the UCLA Sleep Disorders Center, in a self-care article. Never bring your work to the bedroom or start emailing while in bed, Avidan advises.

[My Domaine](#) on March 27 quoted Dr. Gary Small, director of geriatric psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Longevity Center, in a story about boosting your memory. Eat a balanced diet and exercise often, Small says.

Ying-Ying Meng, senior research scientist and co-director of the Chronic Disease Program at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented March 24 in a [Sacramento Bee](#) article about rates of asthma among children in the Salton Sea, California area. The article also cited the California Health Interview Survey, conducted by the Center for Health Policy Research.

Dr. Laura Payne, an assistant adjunct professor at the UCLA Pediatric Pain and Palliative Care Program, was quoted March 29 in a [SheKnows.com](#) article about a rudimentary model of a menstrual system developed on a chip. While the chip could advance studies of certain reproductive systems, Payne noted that it is too early to know if it could be used to research menstrual pain.

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 23 in a [SELF Magazine](#) article about the importance of prenatal care as a part of health insurance coverage.

Dr. Gary Small, director of geriatric psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Longevity Center, commented March 7 in a [Live Happy](#) article about ditching habits that make us unhappy. Small's advice? Stop multitasking; the mental "jumping around" takes us away from deeper, more profound thoughts and feelings.

Dr. Karol Watson, a professor of medicine in the division of cardiology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and co-director of the UCLA Program in Preventive Cardiology, was quoted March 23 in a [Health.com](#) article about the crucial things that doctors want to know about your family health history. Watson commented that cardiologists are interested in knowing about a history of stroke and heart disease.

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