



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of April 8-14, 2016**

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Operation Mend launches mental health program for wounded veterans and their families

HealthDay column appears in more than 50 media outlets

Gut bacteria could help fight some cancers

How social media can spur and reinforce healthy behaviors

Infectious disease expert addresses Zika-linked defects

Los Angeles Times, Forbes preview fashion-forward, star-filled fundraiser benefiting Stuart House

Exercise wards off Alzheimer's

Docs who rock

Chemicals added to plastic cause serious harm

VOA features virtual reality research

Running to beat schizophrenia

Santa Clarita GI specialist answers burning questions

Young stroke survey continues to draw attention

Imperial Valley News highlights gene sequencing study

Los Angeles tenants may favor smoke-free apartments despite their unavailability

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UCLA joins collaboration to advance cancer immunotherapy research

[New York Times](#), [NBC News](#), [USA Today](#), [ABC News](#), [LA Times](#), [Wall Street Journal](#), [Newsweek](#), [Time Magazine](#), [CNN Money](#), [New York Daily News](#) and [People](#) reported April 13 on UCLA joining forces with five of the nation's other leading cancer centers and The Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy to maximize the potential of cancer immunotherapy research. The UCLA center will receive initial funding of \$10 million, with an additional \$10 million investment over four years. Dr. John Mazziotta, vice chancellor

of UCLA Health Sciences and CEO of UCLA Health, and Dr. Antoni Ribas, professor of medicine in the division of hematology oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and director of the tumor immunology program at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, were quoted.

Operation Mend launches mental health program for wounded veterans and their families

[Los Angeles Daily News](#), [KPCC 89.3FM](#), [KFI 640AM](#) and [KNX1070AM](#) reported April 13 on the launch of UCLA Operation Mend's new intensive mental health program that will help wounded veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress and TBI and their family members. The program is an extension of Operation Mend, which has offered surgical and medical services to vets at no cost since 2007. Melanie Gideon, program director of Operation Mend; Ronald Katz, a philanthropist and founder of Operation Mend; and retired Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli, an executive advisor to the Ronald A. Katz Center for Collaborative Military Medicine at UCLA and the former vice chief of staff of the U.S. Army, were interviewed.

HealthDay column appears in more than 50 media outlets

A [HealthDay](#) story featuring sleep guru Dr. Alon Avidan about a study that found sleep deprived teens are at higher risk for accidents has since appeared in more than 50 other outlets, including [U.S. News & World Report](#), [United Press International](#), [Health.com](#) and [CBS News](#). Avidan is a professor of neurology and the director of the UCLA Sleep Disorders Center.

Gut bacteria could help fight some cancers

Research led by Robert Schiestl, professor of pathology, environmental health sciences and radiation oncology, offering evidence that anti-inflammatory "health beneficial" gut bacteria can slow or stop the development of some types of cancer, garnered coverage including April 13 in the [Mirror](#) (U.K.), the [Daily Mail](#) (U.K.), [Examiner.com](#), [Headlines & Global News](#), [The Marshalltown](#) (Australia), [Mic.com](#), [Science Daily](#), [MedicalXpress](#), and [Science Codex](#); April 14 in [Medical News Today](#), [The Statesman](#) (India) and numerous network affiliates including CBS's [KVAL-TV](#) (Eugene, Oregon) and [WUSA-TV](#) (Washington), and ABC's [KAMC-TV](#) (Lubbock, Texas).

How social media can spur and reinforce healthy behaviors

An April 6 story on the Web site of [KPCC 89.3 FM](#) about the use of social media to quit smoking highlighted research led by Sean Young, associate professor-in-residence of family medicine and director of the UCLA Center for Digital Behavior and the University of California Institute for Prediction Technology, on a project called Harnessing Online Peer Education (HOPE), which combines social media with behavioral psychology to encourage people in high-risk populations to get tested for HIV. Young was quoted.

Infectious disease expert addresses Zika-linked defects

Dr. Karin Nielsen, professor of clinical pediatrics in the division of pediatric infectious diseases at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was the featured guest April 12 on a [KPCC 89.3FM](#) report about the Zika virus being "scarier" than at first thought. In addition, Nielsen's recent New England Journal of Medicine study finding Zika-linked abnormalities in pregnancies and fetuses was highlighted April 12 by [Slate](#) and [The Guardian](#) (U.K.) and April 14 by [USA Today](#).

Los Angeles Times, Forbes preview fashion-forward, star-filled fundraiser benefiting Stuart House

The [Los Angeles Times](#) reported April 13 on a fundraiser hosted by designer John Varvatos to benefit Stuart House, a unique program of the Rape Treatment Center at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica that serves sexually abused children and their families. [Forbes.com](#) also published April 11 an article about Varvatos and his long-running support of Stuart House. Gail Abarbanel, founding director of Stuart House, was quoted and pictured in the article.

Exercise wards off Alzheimer's

A UCLA study finding that regular walking, cycling, swimming, dancing and even gardening may substantially reduce the risk of Alzheimer's was featured April 7 in the [New York Times](#) magazine. First author Dr. Cyrus Raji, a radiology resident at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted.

Docs who rock

[KCBS-Channel 2](#) and [KCAL-Channel 9](#) featured April 12 a story on three plastic and reconstructive surgeons and an oral surgeon who met during their residency at UCLA and formed an alternative rock band that plays sold-out shows at local venues. The group donates proceeds from their gigs to non-profit organizations that support craniofacial surgeries for kids. Dr. Jason Roostaeian, an assistant professor of plastic surgery at UCLA, and Dr. Robert Kang from City of Hope, were interviewed. Additional band members include Dr. Solomon Poyourow, lecturer, section of oral and maxillofacial surgery at the UCLA School of Dentistry, and Dr. Phuong Nguyen, who is in private practice.

Chemicals added to plastic cause serious harm

[The Scientist](#) reported April 11 on a study led by Nancy Wayne, UCLA associate vice chancellor for research and a professor of physiology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, demonstrating that bisphenol B, a common replacement for the plastic additive bisphenol A (BPA), harmed cells in animals the same way as BPA. Recent studies have linked both chemicals to premature birth, weight gain and cancers of the reproductive tract. The [Tech Times](#) also cited Wayne's findings in a March 27 story.

VOA features virtual reality research

The [Voice of America](#) featured April 8 research by Mayank Mehta on how the brain reacts in virtual reality in a wider story on the technology and its potential impacts on users. Mehta is a professor of neurology, physics and astronomy and neurobiology.

Running to beat schizophrenia

Research into the value of exercise and cognitive training in treating schizophrenia by Keith Nuechterlein, a professor of psychiatry and director of the UCLA Aftercare Research Program, and other program members was reported April 8 by [Psychology Today](#).

Santa Clarita GI specialist answers burning questions

[Santa Clarita Magazine's](#) April edition published a guest column by Dr. Vikas Pabby, assistant clinical professor and digestive-diseases specialist with UCLA Health's Santa Clarita practice, about gastroesophageal reflux disease or GERD.

Young stroke survey continues to draw attention

[Beforeitsnews.com](#) reported April 11 on a UCLA-driven survey that found young adults under 45 were unlikely to go to the hospital to seek help for symptoms of stroke. Dr. David Liebeskind, a professor of neurology, director of Outpatient Stroke and Neurovascular Programs and director of the Neurovascular Imaging Research Core at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, was featured.

Imperial Valley News highlights gene sequencing study

[Imperial Valley News](#) reported April 7 on a study that found a state-of-the-art molecular genetic test greatly improves the speed and accuracy with which they can diagnose neurogenetic disorders. The study was led by Dr. Brent Fogel, director of the UCLA Neurogenetics Clinic and an associate professor of neurology and human genetics.

Los Angeles tenants may favor smoke-free apartments despite their unavailability

Two new studies published by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health indicated that 80 percent of residents who live in Los Angeles apartment buildings would prefer their buildings to have smoke-free policies, despite the absence of these protections. Reports were carried April 13 by [LA Independent](#) and April 7 by [Examiner.com](#).

BRIEFS

An April 8 article in [Out](#) magazine about a new app that delivers PrEP, or pre-exposure prophylaxis, to prevent infection with HIV cited a UCLA study suggesting that oral emtricitabine and tenofovir, two HIV antiviral medications used in combination as PrEP, are as safe to use as aspirin. The study was conducted and written by Noah Kojima, a second year medical student at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, and Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, 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.

UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica was mentioned in an April 11 [KCBS-Channel 2/KCAL-Channel 9](#) story on high-risk expectant mothers who are put on bed rest to reduce their risk of premature birth. The hospital's weekly support group for these patients was also referenced in the segment.

Research from the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health about the high rate of diabetes and prediabetes among Californians was cited April 13 by [The Davis Vanguard](#) and April 8 by the [San Diego Union-Tribune](#).

Research from the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health about the number of uninsured residents in California was cited April 7 by [Live Insurance News](#).

QUOTABLES

Charles Grob, professor of psychiatry and pediatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, commented April 13 in an [NPR](#) report on new revelations from brain scans about the effects of LSD.

Matt Jans, data quality and survey methodology manager at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented April 8 in a [Pew Research Center](#) report about the inclusion of gender identity questions in population surveys.

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 in the Fielding School, commented April 13 in a [Health Leaders Media](#) article about the multitude of possible reasons behind hospital closures.

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