



Health

UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT April 13 - 19, 2018

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[CNN](#): Curbing first-time prescriptions for opioids

(Photo: iStock.com)



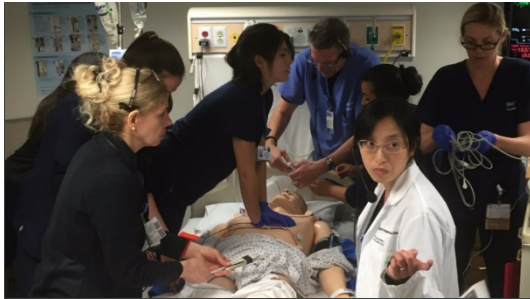
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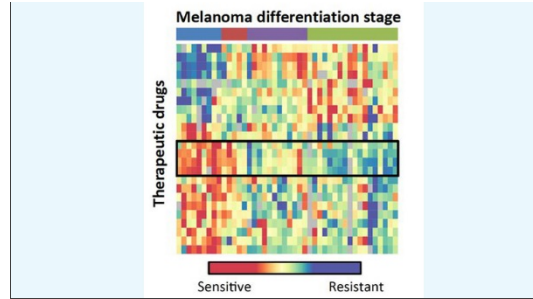


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[Working Nurse](#): Lights, camera, action! Septic shock?

(Photo: UCLA Health)



[Reuters Health](#): New approach to melanoma treatment

(Photo: UCLA JCCC/Cancer Cell)



FEATURED

Curbing first-time prescriptions for opioids

[CNN.com](#), [HealthDay News](#), [Reuters Health](#), [Medscape](#), [MD Magazine](#) and [Brinkwire](#) reported on research led by Dr. Joseph Ladapo finding that first-time opioid prescriptions from physicians stopped rising in 2010, though people taking a class of drug that increases the risk for overdoses were likelier to receive a first-time opioid prescription. This combination could be linked to the current surge in opioid-related deaths. [U.S. News & World Report](#), [HON](#), [DoctorsLounge](#), [Drugs.com](#) and [MedicalXpress](#) ran the HealthDay story; [WTV.com](#) carried the CNN story; and MD/Alert syndicated the Reuters Health article. Ladapo, an associate professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine, and Dr. John Mafi, an assistant professor in the division and the study's senior author, were quoted in the coverage.

Lights, camera, action! Septic shock?

[Working Nurse Magazine](#) spotlighted the UCLA Health simulation training center where medical staff train with simulated patients and actors who play the role of patients. Ken Miller, nursing simulation coordinator at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, was featured.

New approach to melanoma treatment

New research led by Thomas Graber, a professor of Molecular and Medical Pharmacology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a member of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was featured by Reuters Health and syndicated by [Medscape](#) and [MDAlert](#). The study found that certain subtypes of melanoma cells could be successfully treated with multiple cancer therapies in combination with ferroptosis-inducing drugs. The study was also featured in [HealthCanal](#), [MedicalXpress](#) and [Science Daily](#).

Sitting is bad for your brain, not just your waistline or heart

The [New York Times](#), [Los Angeles Times](#), [Houston Chronicle](#), [New York Daily News](#) and more than 300 news outlets featured research by Prabha Siddarth, a biostatistician at the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior at UCLA, and Dr. David Merrill, a geriatric psychiatrist and assistant clinical professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at UCLA, showing that sitting is bad for your brain -- not just your metabolism or heart. Broadcast outlets included WHEC-TV, Rochester, New York; KPNX-TV, Phoenix, Arizona; and WBTS-TV, Boston, Massachusetts.

International media spotlight rare transplant procedure

[Circa News](#), [Inside Edition](#), [HowStuffWorks](#), [BBC Mundo](#) and nine local TV affiliate stations via Scripps [The Now](#) news segment reported on kidney re-transplantation at UCLA, a procedure that re-transplants, or "re-gifts," a kidney that has been transplanted once before. [La Opinion Online](#), [El Comercio](#) and [Ecuavisa](#) syndicated the BBC story. Dr. Jeffrey Veale, director of the UCLA Kidney Transplantation Exchange Program, commented in the news.

National media outlets report on normal aging

An article that previously appeared in [KHN.org](#) on how our bodies age over the decades received additional coverage in the [News-Observer](#), [Fresno Bee](#), [Sacramento Bee](#), [Miami Herald](#), [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#), and the [San Luis Obispo Tribune](#). Dr. Reuben, chief of geriatrics at UCLA Health, commented throughout the story, and research conducted by the David Geffen School of Medicine and the Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center was cited. The article was published by [Washington Post](#), [California Healthline](#), [Wisconsin Gazette](#), [The Medical News](#), [Columbia Basin Herald](#), [Gilmore Mirror](#), and other local newspapers last week.

Patients with aggressive prostate cancer may benefit from new treatment method

[Prostate Knowledge](#) and [Practice Update](#) featured an article citing recent work published in JAMA by Dr. Amar U. Kishan, an assistant professor of radiation oncology. Kishan and his colleagues found that treating advanced prostate cancer patients with external beam radiotherapy plus brachytherapy is significantly associated with better outcomes.

Inhibiting metabolism is key in treating aggressive form of lung cancer

[MedicalXpress](#) and [ecancer](#) highlighted a study led by David Shackelford, an associate professor in the division of pulmonary and critical care medicine and a member of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center. The study found that two targeted therapies could be more effective if used in combination to treat squamous cell carcinomas of the lung.

CRISPR tweak speeds up gene-editing process

[Interesting Engineering](#) and [Science and Technology Research News](#) reported on how UCLA geneticists tweaked the powerful gene-editing tool, CRISPR, which enabled them to monitor the outcome of tens of thousands of gene edits in the time it currently takes to analyze a few. Senior study author Leonid Kruglyak, chair of human genetics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, and first author Meru Sadhu, a postdoctoral researcher in human genetics, were quoted.

Using search engines and social media to predict syphilis trends

[HealthNewsDigest](#), [Laboratory Equipment](#), [Blogarama](#), [ScienceDaily](#), [MedicalXpress](#),

[Infection Control Today](#) and [Scienmag](#) highlighted research led by Sean Young finding that internet search terms and tweets related to sexual risk behaviors can predict when and where syphilis trends will occur. Young, associate professor of family medicine, is founder and director of the UCLA Center for Digital Behavior and the UC Institute for Prediction Technology.

New technology helps find more effective treatment options for cancer patients
[eCancer News](#), [Techsite](#), [Labmanager](#), [Science Daily](#), [MDTMag](#), [MedicalXpress](#) and [Scicasts](#) published an article highlighting new technology developed at UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and VCU Massey Cancer Center. Scientists created a platform that can measure a cancer cell's resistance to drugs up to 10 times faster than existing technology, potentially informing more effective treatment selection for cancer patients. The technology was presented at the annual American Association for Cancer Research conference.

Op-ed: Will the net neutrality repeal affect medical education?

[Becker's Hospital Review](#) reported on a [JAMA Network Open](#) op-ed written by two UCLA physicians on the consequences of net neutrality repeal for medical education. Dr. Natasha Cuk, a third year internal medicine resident, and Dr. Colin Robinson, assistant clinical professor of medicine, authored the op-ed.

Improving advance care planning

[Philanthropy News Digest](#) reported that a UCLA-led team has received a five-year, \$8.4 million award from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute to develop effective approaches to improve advance care planning for seriously ill patients treated in primary care clinics. The project is in collaboration with UC San Francisco and UC Irvine.

Mobile stroke unit on display in Century City

[KCAL-TV](#) aired a report about UCLA Health's innovative mobile stroke unit, following its appearance at a mini-health fair in Century City on April 13. The event also highlighted the UCLA Health-Century City medical practice, People-Animal Connection program and other services, as well as the Los Angeles Lakers partnership.

Fewer women than men receive recommended drugs after heart attack

NBC's [Today.com](#) reported on a study finding that, although women are more likely than men to die within a year after a heart attack, women are less likely to get the recommended dosage of statin therapy compared to men. Dr. Karol Watson, a professor of medicine/cardiology, co-director of the UCLA Program in Preventive Cardiology and director of the UCLA Barbra Streisand Women's Heart Health Program, was interviewed.

Don't fear the robot in the O.R.

Dr. Abie Mendelsohn, an assistant professor of head and neck surgery and a UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center member, was featured in a [Healthline](#) article about how robotic surgery helps doctors perform more precise surgeries while speeding patient recovery.

Managing knee osteoarthritis

An [Everyday Health](#) article on exercises to help manage knee osteoarthritis featured tips from Dr. Roy Altman, professor of medicine in the division of rheumatology.

More coverage of women and COPD

A [KHN.org](#) article on why women with COPD are not appropriately diagnosed and treated for their breathing issues was published in [The Washington Post](#), [Seattle Times](#), [The Miami Herald](#), [The Bellingham Herald](#), [Orlando Medical News](#), [Bakersfield Californian](#) and other local news websites. It also appeared in several Spanish-language media including [CNNespanol.com](#), [Univision.com](#), [California Healthline](#), [MSN.com](#), [ElNuevoHerald.com](#), [El Sol Latino Newspaper](#) and [HoyEnDelaware.com](#). The article featured comments by Dr. May-Lin Wilgus, assistant clinical professor and pulmonologist at UCLA Health Ventura, and one of her patients.

Paid leave: Good for health, good for business

[Medscape](#) featured a report from the WORLD Policy Analysis Center at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health that summarized the findings of more than 5,500 research papers supporting the medical and economic benefits of paid leave. The report's lead author, Dr. Jody Heymann, dean of the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted.

More than 78,000 U.S. children are, or have been, married, UCLA study reports

[MedicalXpress](#) featured a new study by researchers at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health reporting that approximately 78,400 children in the U.S. are, or have been, married. Alissa Koski, a postdoctoral scholar at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, and Dr. Jody Heymann, founding director of the WORLD Policy Analysis Center and dean of the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, authored the study.

Experts discuss pediatric heart conditions

The PH Aware podcast series, which raises awareness about pulmonary hypertension, featured interviews with Dr. Mark Sklansky, professor and chief of pediatric cardiology, who discussed the variety of [heart ailments treated](#) at the UCLA Children's Heart Center, and Ashley Abuel, outpatient fetal/pediatric cardiology nurse manager for the Children's Heart Center, who discussed [how to transition to outpatient care](#) after a hospitalization.

App diagnoses rare genetic diseases from a picture

Julian Martinez-Agosto, an associate professor in human genetics and pediatrics at UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital, was featured in a [Leaps Magazine](#) story about Face2Gene, an app that uses facial-recognition software to diagnose rare genetic disorders from photos.

Are smart phones creating a deaf generation?

Digital outlet and podcast [Some Gadget Guy](#) consulted Alison Grimes, UCLA Health's director of audiology and newborn hearing, about whether people's constant exposure to noise via smart phone headsets is creating a deaf generation.

Inventors who struck gold after age 60

Dr. Patricia Bath, the first female faculty member at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute, was featured in an [Inc.com](#) story about four people who developed an innovative product later in life.

Crayons stand the test of time in children's hospitals

[KPCC](#) re-published a [PBS Arizona](#) story about UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital's use of crayons from The Crayon Initiative. Clarissa Byrd, a certified child life specialist at the Chase Child Life Program at UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital, was interviewed.

E.R. resident pens articles on diverticulitis, depression

Dr. David Kim, a resident in the Department of Emergency Medicine, published a Q & A on

abcnews.com explaining the cause, diagnosis and treatment options of diverticulitis. The article was syndicated to abcnewsradioonline.com and radio news websites in San Antonio, Portland, Louisville, Palm Springs and about 15 other locations across the country.

- Kim also wrote an abcnews.com story about a UC San Diego study linking depression in mothers to lower IQs in their children. That story was published on Yahoo News as well.

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 noise pollution, in Maryland’s [The Frederick News-Post](#)
- On high levels of potassium, in Pittsfield, Massachusetts’ [The Berkshire Eagle](#)
- On at-home tests for breast cancer mutation, in California’s [Hanford Sentinel](#)
- On Crohn’s disease, in Maryland’s [The Cumberland Times-News](#)
- On memory and the brain’s blood supply, in Scranton, Pennsylvania’s [The Times-Tribune](#)
- On a Japanese flu drug, in Spokane, Washington’s [The Spokeman-Review](#).

QUOTED

"It's amazing. You put a liver on a machine, and after it's perfused for four to eight hours, it's making bile, it's soft, it seems to be an ideal organ."

- Dr. Ronald Busuttil – [Los Angeles Times](#)



Dr. Abbas Ardehali, director of the UCLA Heart and Lung transplant program, was quoted in [Med Gadget](#), [Mass Device](#) and [The Tech News](#) about an organ care system that received FDA approval for use in double lung transplants. Ardehali was the principal

investigator in the trial of the device.

Dr. Neal Baer, adjunct professor of community health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and *co-founder of the Fielding School's Global Media Center for Social Impact*, was quoted by [OUT](#) in an article about safe sex campaigns from the 1980s. Baer serves as a consultant to "[Lost & Found: Safer Sex Activism.](#)" an exhibit at the ONE Gallery in West Hollywood.

Dr. Ronald Busuttil, chair of the Department of Surgery and chief of the Division of Liver and Pancreas Transplantation, was quoted in a [Los Angeles Times](#) article about a study finding that livers for transplantation undergo less damage through a new technique that keeps the organ at body temperature before they are transplanted.

Catherine Carpenter, an associate professor of clinical nutrition at UCLA and a member of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted in [Prevention](#) and [Women's Health](#) stories about coffee and acrylamide.

Dr. Robert Cherry, chief medical and quality officer at UCLA Health, commented in a [Becker's Hospital Review](#) story about the evolving role of chief medical officers at health organizations.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, the Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and co-chief of cardiology, was quoted in a [Medical Xpress](#) story on how workplace wellness programs can help keep employees healthy.

Dr. Wally Ghurabi, medical director of the Nethercutt Emergency Center at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, commented in [ReadersDigest.com](#) on dangerous health products that can be found in the home.

Susanne Henning, an adjunct professor at the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition, was quoted in a [Reader's Digest](#) story about weight loss that also cited her team's research on black tea.

Dana Hunnes, a senior dietitian at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and an adjunct assistant professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented in a [MEL Magazine](#) story about how nutrition and certain foods can affect hangovers.

Dr. Shaun Hussain, director of UCLA's Pediatric Spasms Program, commented in a WVUE-TV story about the drug Epidiolex, which reduces seizures in some children with epilepsy. If approved by the FDA, it will be the first drug derived from the cannabis plant for use in the United States.

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 by [The Los Angeles Times](#), in a story about California being at the forefront of the legislative action to provide more people with access to health care. [City Watch](#) also ran the story.

- Kominski was also quoted in a [CalMatters](#) story about a motion filed by 16 state attorneys general to intervene with a Texas lawsuit that could dismantle the Affordable Care Act.

Dr. Leonid Kruglyak, chair of human genetics, was quoted in [The Atlantic](#) about a new study tracing the origin of yeast.

Dr. Deborah Lehman, professor of clinical pediatrics and assistant dean for student affairs at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, commented in a [Healio: Infectious Diseases in Children](#) article examining how reliance on antibiotics hinders ear, nose and throat infection treatments in children.

Dr. Zhaoping Li, director at the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition, commented on [NBC Today.com](#) about capsaicin and a report that a man who ate a Carolina Reaper pepper developed thunderclap headaches.

Dr. Carol Mangione, chief of the UCLA Division of General Internal Medicine and Health Services Research, was quoted in a [Healio](#) article about a new recommendation from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force against low doses of vitamin D or calcium to prevent fractures in post-menopausal women. Mangione, a professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, is a task force member.

Dr. Sammy Saab, professor of medicine and surgery and head of outcomes research in hepatology, was quoted in [Healio: HCV Next](#) on a study finding that early-stage hepatitis C treatment saves money and improves quality of life.

Dr. William Suh, assistant clinical professor of cardiology, commented in a [tctMD](#) article on an analysis of outcomes using the Impella ventricular assist device.

Dr. Jeffrey Veale, director of the UCLA Kidney Transplantation Exchange Program, was quoted in [Opioid Watch](#) on a study finding that opioid overdose deaths are a growing source of transplant organs.

BRIEFS

[HemOnc Today/Healio](#) listed the American Association for Cancer Research scientific award honorees that were presented at the annual meeting. Dr. Antoni Ribas, a professor of medicine, surgery, and molecular and medical pharmacology and the director of the tumor immunology program at Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, received the AACR-CRI Lloyd J. Old Award in Cancer Immunology for his innovative research in cancer immunology.

[News Talk Radio](#) (KFYI) cited research from the UCLA radiation oncology department. UCLA scientists found radiation therapy for cancer makes cancer cells 30 times more malignant.

Operation Mend, a UCLA Health program that provides medical and mental health services for wounded veterans, was cited in a [US Weekly](#) interview with NBC news anchor Willie Geist, who is a supporter of the program.

UCLA was cited in a [USA Today](#) article that referenced the Wounded Warrior Project's support of a network of four academic medical centers that provide mental health treatment to wounded veterans.

[Romper](#), in an article about sperm count and couples trying to conceive, referenced guidance from the UCLA Health website.

[Health Data Management](#), in a news round-up featuring Kern Medical, cited its affiliation with the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

The [TED Blog](#), in a round-up of recent TED Talks, referenced the work of Reggie Edgerton's team in stimulating the spinal cord of those with paralysis. Edgerton is a professor of physiology and neurobiology.

[SpoonUniversity.com](#), in a story about foods to combat a cold, referenced guidance from the UCLA Center for East-West Medicine.

[The Chronicle of Higher Education](#) noted the appointment of Ninez Ponce, professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and associate director of the Fielding School's UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, as the center's director starting July 1. She will succeed current director Gerald Kominski, who will become a senior fellow at the center.

[Youth Today](#) cited child mental health research by Imelda Padilla-Frausto, a graduate student researcher at the Fielding School's UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, in a story about the Los Angeles Unified School district's addition of 15 wellness centers for its students and the local community to address the effects of traumatic childhood experiences.

[San Jose Inside](#) cited research from the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research reporting that 27 percent of California youth ages 12 to 17 are gender nonconforming.

CONTENT CREATED BY MEDIA RELATIONS



[UCLA Newsroom](#): Researchers link sedentary behavior to thinning in brain region critical to memory

(Image: Wikimedia Commons)



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[Pediatric cancer researchers receive grants from St. Baldrick's Foundation](#) UCLA Newsroom



This report features media placements about UCLA Health, which includes the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital, the Stewart and Lynda Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital at UCLA, the UCLA Health Clinics and the UCLA Faculty Practice Group.

It also includes placements about the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, the UCLA School of Nursing, the UCLA School of Dentistry, the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and the UCLA Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research.

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