



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT**  
**For the week of April 14-20, 2017**

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## California Health Interview Survey garners media attention

### This week on “Ask the Doctors”

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#### Physician has starring role in media coverage of film, \$20M gift to UCLA

Various media outlets featured coverage of “The Promise,” a new film on the Armenian genocide co-produced by Dr. Eric Esrailian, with much of the coverage in connection to a \$20 million gift to the UCLA law school. The gift will help expand the school's research and teaching of persecution. Coverage appeared April 14 in the [Boston Globe](#); April 17 in [Deadline Hollywood](#), the [Daily Breeze](#) and the [Washington Times](#); April 18 in the [Los Angeles Times](#), [Philanthropy News Digest](#), [Canyon News](#) and [Public Radio of Armenia](#); April 19 on [KCRW-FM](#), Santa Monica; and April 20 by the [Las Vegas Sun](#) and [mynewsLA.com](#). Yahoo! Lifestyle carried the Deadline story and the San Diego Union-Tribune ran the Los Angeles Times story. Esrailian is co-chief of the Vatche and Tamar Manoukian Division of Digestive Diseases.

#### Stalking the name of a mystery disease

The story of one family's search for the name of the neurological disorder stealing their once healthy 28-year-old son's life was the April 20 cover story on [Kaiser Health News](#) and [California Healthline](#), and reported by [STAT News](#). Results from an extensive week of testing at UCLA suggested a brand-new disease. His physician, Dr. Stanley Nelson, a co-director of the UCLA Undiagnosed Disease Network site and a professor of human genetics, psychiatry and pediatrics, was also featured and quoted.

#### Interest in caregiver “boot camps” grows nationwide

KJTV-TV, Lubbock, Texas, and [Healthline](#) on April 19 reported on the UCLA Improving Caregiving for Dementia (I-CareD) Caregiver “Bootcamp,” an immersive and interactive one-day program for caregivers of people with Alzheimer's disease or dementia. The “boot camp” story was also featured on KMVT-TV, Twin Falls, Idaho; KGWN-TV, Cheyenne, Wyoming; WVAH-TV, Charleston, West Virginia; WOAI-AM, San Antonio; WBBM-AM, Chicago, and other outlets. Dr. Zaldy Tan, medical director of the UCLA Alzheimer's and Dementia Care Program and assistant dean for curricular affairs at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted.

KJTV: <http://bit.ly/2oMY3dS>

#### Best practices on screening for prostate cancer

[KQED.org](#) on April 17 aired a segment on new guidelines from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force on prostate cancer screening, with Dr. Mark Litwin joining as a featured expert. Litwin is chair of urology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

#### Racing to treat a deadly infection

The May issue of [Discover Magazine](#) (subscription required) ran an article by Dr. Claire Panosian Dunavan, professor of medicine emeritus/recalled in the division of infectious diseases, about a Southern California marathon runner who caught an infection called leptospirosis during a competition in Borneo.

#### Possible genetic link to hot flashes

[Prevention](#) on April 7 highlighted a study led by Dr. Carolyn Crandall finding that gene variants could determine which women get hot flashes. Crandall is a professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research.

#### Teens with cancer benefit from specialized services

[Circa.com](#) on April 13 featured the Daltrey-Townshend Teen and Young Adult Cancer Center in Santa Monica in a segment on hospitals that cater to the unique needs of young adults with cancer. The story included interviews with two UCLA patients.

#### Mixed results in combining ketamine and ECT for depression

[Medscape](#) on April 12 highlighted research by Dr. Parnika Saxena, a geriatric psychiatry fellow at UCLA, on combining the anesthetic ketamine with electroconvulsive therapy for late-life depression. The findings were presented at the American Association of Geriatric Psychiatry 2017 meeting in Dallas.

#### **A simple Google search can help your brain**

The [Sacramento Bee](#) on April 13 featured Dr. Gary Small, director of geriatric psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Longevity Center, in an article about his 2008 research showing that simply using search engines such as Google triggered key centers in the brains of middle-aged and older adults. The article ran in 16 other outlets, including the [Bradenton Herald](#) and [The Charlotte Observer](#).

#### **What to eat before your wedding**

[Women's Health](#) on April 17 published a story, about dieting ahead of a wedding, that featured Dana Hunnes, a senior dietitian at the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and adjunct assistant professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.

#### **Op-ed: Be wary of dietary supplements**

[U.S. News & World Report](#) on April 17 published an op-ed by Dr. Jonathan Fielding, professor-in-residence at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, questioning the safety of dietary supplements.

#### **A step toward restoring eyesight to the blind**

The [Galveston County Daily News](#) reported April 20 on an experimental procedure performed by Dr. Nader Pouratian, associate professor of neurosurgery, that implanted a wireless system designed to stimulate the visual cortex of a blind patient, restoring some of her ability to perceive light. Pouratian was quoted.

#### **Hospital-based clinics are more likely to order unnecessary tests, treatments**

[The BMJ Opinion](#) on April 17, and [News-Medical.net](#) and [Infection Control Today](#) on April 10, reported on research led by Dr. John Mafi finding that primary care clinics at hospitals are more likely than community-based clinics to order unnecessary tests and treatments for back pain, headaches and upper respiratory infections. Mafi, an assistant professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, commented in the coverage. JAMA Internal Medicine published the study.

#### **UCLA Health's IT initiatives explained**

[Becker's Hospital Review](#) on April 18 featured a Q&A with Dr. Michael Pfeffer, chief information officer at UCLA Health, about his interest in technology, UCLA Health's IT initiatives and trends in the industry. The piece highlighted the pilot OpenNotes project, in which providers share medical notes with patients.

#### **New Burbank practice opens**

The San Fernando Valley Business Journal on April 17 published an article on the new UCLA Health-Burbank office. Dr. Matteo Dinolfo, medical director of the UCLA Department of Medicine's community offices and associate professor of internal medicine, and Burbank internist Dr. Kabir Matharu, commented in the story.

#### **Student's anti-assault campaign benefits Rape Treatment Center**

[City Watch.com](#) on April 13 featured The Rape Treatment Center at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica in an article about a Crespi Carmelite High School student's efforts to raise awareness of campus sexual assault.

#### **Hand transplant recipient makes dramatic recovery**

The [Donate Life blog](#) on April 13 and [Science and Technology Research News](#) on April 14 featured the story of a UCLA patient who underwent a hand transplant last year and is making remarkable strides in his recovery. Dr. Kodi Azari, surgical director of the UCLA Hand Transplant program and a professor of orthopaedic surgery and plastic surgery, and Dr. Sue McDiarmid, medical director of the UCLA Hand Transplantation Program, professor of pediatrics and surgery and director of the Dumont-UCLA Pediatric Liver Transplant Program, were quoted.

### **New book addresses social awkwardness**

The [North Dallas Gazette](#) on April 17 featured Elizabeth Laugeson, an assistant clinical professor of psychiatry, who has written a book – “PEERS for Young Adults” -- about research-supported treatment programs for improving social skills for preschoolers, adolescents and young adults with autism.

### **Artificial thymus produces cancer-fighting T cells from blood stem cells**

[University Herald](#) on April 13 and [World Economic Forum](#) on April 18 reported UCLA researchers' creation of an artificial thymus that can produce human T cells, the white blood cells that fight disease-causing intruders in the body. Gay Crooks, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and co-director of the Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at UCLA, led the research.

### **The value of individualized treatment for breast cancer**

Dr. Patricia Ganz, distinguished professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and director of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Patients and Survivor Program, was featured April 20 in [MedicalXpress](#) for her work in demonstrating the increased effectiveness of breast cancer survivorship when individual-centered care is prioritized.

### **A look at the ACA's future**

Shana Alex Charles, faculty associate at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, was featured April 19 in a [Military Technologies](#) Q&A about the Affordable Care Act's successes and ongoing threats to its continued existence.

### **Op-ed: Preventing public health disasters**

[The Hill](#) on April 19 published an editorial by Dr. Jonathan Fielding, professor-in-residence at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, about the effectiveness of federal programs that plan for the health, safety and security of communities.

### **California Health Interview Survey garners media attention**

Data 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 in several news media outlets:

- April 20 by [Science Magazine](#) about the rate of diabetes among older non-obese Filipino Americans;
- April 16 in [Pasadena Star-News](#) and [Long Beach Press-Telegram](#) about air quality monitors that will be installed in residential areas in Oakland, California (originally published April 10 in [California Healthline](#));
- April 15 by [Tehachapi News](#) and April 14 by the [Bakersfield Californian](#) about a \$3 million health foundation donation to address such health issues in the San Joaquin Valley as high asthma rates among children;
- April 14 in a [Vox](#) article about the effects of President Trump's immigration policies on public health.

### **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 recurrent headaches, featured April 20 in [UExpress](#)
- On keeping glucose levels steady, featured April 19 in [The Californian](#)
- On the glycemic index, featured April 19 in [Colfax Record](#)
- On hand-foot-and-mouth disease, featured April 17 in [Hanford Sentinel](#)
- On advance directives, featured April 14 in [The Times-Tribune](#).

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## **NOTABLE BRIEFS**

[Vice.com](#) on April 19 featured a story on the increasing number of patients waiting for life-saving organ transplants in the United States. The article included an interview with a 46-year-old man who is on the wait list at UCLA for a new heart.

[Thelist.com](#) referenced the UCLA Women's Reproductive Cancer Research and Treatment Program in an April 18 article on Nicole Kidman.

[Womensworld.com](#) referenced UCLA research in an April 17 article on natural remedies for allergies.

The [Los Angeles Daily News](#) on April 15 mentioned Dr. Timothy Fong, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, in an article about volunteers showing up to clean the Los Angeles River after record-breaking storms.

[AdvisoryHQ](#) referenced UCLA Health in an April 18 article about its 2017 rankings of the best colleges in California.

[Women's Health](#) on April 17 ran a story about a woman who depicted her life with a skin-picking disorder through artwork, of which she had an exhibit at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

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## NOTABLE QUOTABLES

Dr. Deanna Attai, a UCLA breast surgeon based in Burbank and assistant clinical professor of surgery, commented April 13 in articles on [usnewsheadlines.net](#), [CBSNews.com](#) and [WDEF.com](#) about women surgeons posting Twitter pictures that re-created a recent New Yorker magazine cover.

Shana Alex Charles, faculty associate at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, commented April 19 in the [American Conservative](#) about whether transferable tax credits could replace tax subsidies to fund health care. She was also quoted April 13 in a [Talent Economy](#) article about the economic role of employer-provided health care.

Dr. Ravi Dave, director of interventional cardiology at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, and clinical professor of medicine, commented April 17 in a [TCTMD](#) article about treating patients with chronic in-stent blockages.

Dr. Marlena Fejzo, associate researcher at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, commented April 9 in Chicago's [Daily Herald](#) in an article about a condition called hyperemesis gravidarum, commonly known as severe morning sickness. The article originally appeared March 11 in the [Washington Post](#).

Dr. Jonathan Fielding, professor-in-residence in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented April 19 in a [Foods 4 Better Health](#) article about the importance of temperature control for the safety of food purchased from food trucks.

Dr. Brent Fogel, associate professor of neurology and human genetics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and director of the UCLA Neurogenetics Clinic, commented April 14 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) story about the newly FDA-approved 23AndMe genetic health risk tests.

Dr. Michael Gitlin, professor of clinical psychiatry and director of the UCLA Mood Disorders Clinic, commented in April 7 in a [Tonic](#) article about differences between bipolar I and bipolar II.

Dr. Wayne Grody, professor of pathology, human genetics and pediatrics, commented April 18 in a [Targeted Oncology](#) story about new guidelines for the molecular testing of patients with colorectal cancer.

Dr. Christine Hong, assistant professor of orthodontics at the UCLA School of Dentistry, was quoted April 13 in a [Refinery 29](#) article on why adults need to wear their retainer into adulthood. She advised that

wearing a retainer “part-time” would help minimize the chances of teeth moving or relapsing and help stop any crowding.

Mayank Mehta, professor of neurology and neurobiology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted April 18 in a [Rolling Stone](#) story about how the brain is affected by virtual reality.

Dr. David Miklowitz, professor of psychiatry and director of the Child and Adolescent Mood Disorders Program at the Semel Institute, commented April 14 in a [US News & World Report](#) article about whether depression runs in families. The article also appeared in [Yahoo! News](#).

Erin Morse, chief clinical dietitian at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, commented April 17 in a [Men’s Health](#) story about foods that can interfere or aid with sleep.

Nadereh Pourat, professor-in-residence at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and director of research at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, commented April 20 in an [KPCC-FM](#) story about the Affordable Care Act’s cost sharing subsidies.

Dr. Gary Small, director of geriatric psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Longevity Center commented April 12 in a [Newsmax Health](#) article about ways to “Alzheimer-proof” your brain.

Dr. Irena Tsui, an assistant professor of ophthalmology at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute, commented April 19 in a [Reuters Health](#) story about a new study on the best intervals for screening type 1 diabetes patients for retinal disease.

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