



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT  
For the week of April 21-27, 2017**

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**This week on "Ask the Doctors"**

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**Fatal malaria in the U.S. more common than previously known**

The [New York Times](#), [HealthDay News](#), [Maine Public](#), [U.S. News & World Report](#), [Healio](#), [Philly.com](#) and [Medscape](#) on April 24, and [American Pharmacists Association](#) and [The Real Fact 24](#) on April 26 featured research led by Diana Khuu, epidemiologist at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, about the prevalence of fatal malaria within the United States. Khuu was quoted in the coverage.

**Undiagnosed Disease Network gets media's attention**

[MIT Technology Review](#) reported April 21 about a Los Angeles family who came to the NIH-funded Undiagnosed Disease Network site at UCLA seeking a name for the mysterious disease that's stealing their toddler's speech and reversing his developmental milestones. Study coordinator Matthew Herzog was quoted. The site was also featured in KQED's [California Report](#) on April 27 and [Kaiser Health News](#) on April 20 in a report that followed a Whittier family's search for the name of the disorder robbing their once healthy adult son's life. The young man's physician, Dr. Stanley Nelson, co-director of the UCLA Undiagnosed Disease Network site and professor of human genetics, psychiatry and pediatrics, was featured and quoted. The KHN report was syndicated by the [Sacramento Bee](#), [Californian](#), [MedicalXpress](#), [Standard Times](#), [Journal Star](#), [Frederick News-Post](#) and [Pekin Daily Times](#).

**Opioid study reported nationwide**

KSBW-TV, Monterey, California; WGEM-TV, Quincy, Illinois; WRCB-TV, Chattanooga, Tennessee, and dozens of other television stations, along with [Health Day](#) and [UPI](#), reported April 21 on research about how opioid addiction increases the risk of early death by 10 times among patients seen in hospitals and doctors' offices. Yih-Ing Hser, professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, led the study. The [HealthDay](#) and [UPI](#) stories also ran in [Breitbart](#), [Drugs.com](#), and the [Philadelphia Inquirer](#).

**Film produced by UCLA physician premieres, draws audiences**

"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, premiered this past week and was covered by various news outlets:

- On April 24, the [Los Angeles Times](#) covered the premiere, with the story syndicated to [The Fresno Bee](#), [Miami Herald](#) and 15 other publications;
- On April 22, [Christian Today](#) published a Q&A on the film with Esrailian;
- On April 20, [Park Labrea News & Beverly Press](#) covered how the proceeds of the film will establish a new institute at UCLA School of Law.

**Understanding how to treat autism**

Dr. Shafali Jeste, associate professor in psychiatry, neurology and pediatrics, was featured this week on [Viceland](#) and in [Scientific American](#) in stories about autism:

- [Viceland](#) on April 26 aired an episode on autism diagnosis and treatments;
- [Scientific American](#) reported April 24 on drug combinations and medications taken by those with autism.

**How gut bacteria affect cravings**

[Vice: Tonic](#) published a story April 25 on gut bacteria and featured Dr. Emeran Mayer, director of the G. Oppenheimer Center for Neurobiology of Stress and Resilience and co-director of the CURE: Digestive Diseases Research Center, discussing his research on patients who have undergone bariatric surgery.

### **Virtual reality and the brain**

[Rolling Stone](#) on April 18 published an article on the health effects of virtual reality featuring Mayank Mehta discussing his research in rats. Mehta is professor of neurology and neurobiology.

### **Comics help educate women about birth control**

Canada's [Globe and Mail](#) on April 18 featured a story on the efforts of Dr. Aparna Sridhar, assistant clinical professor of obstetrics and gynecology, who partnered with an illustrator from Canada to create a series of comics to help teach women about birth control. Sridhar was quoted.

### **Where IBS and sex differences converge**

[MedPage Today](#) on April 13 published a story about UCLA research on sex differences and IBS. Dr. Lin Chang, professor of medicine and director of the Digestive Health and Nutrition Clinic, was involved with the study and was quoted.

### **Media share story of one of the oldest living kidney donor-recipient pairs**

[Healthline](#) on April 21 shared the story of Ted and Denice Lombard, who became one of the first father-daughter duos to undergo successful kidney transplant surgery in the United States at UCLA Health in 1967.

### **Probiotics may bring balance to skin**

[Healthline](#) reported April 24 on new research by Huiying Lee, associate professor of medical and molecular pharmacology, and her postdoctoral researcher, Emma Barnard, about how a bacterial imbalance in the skin's hair follicles can lead to acne.

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

[Healio: Internal Medicine](#) on April 21 and [Technology.org](#) on April 11 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. The research was also referenced by [Medpage Today](#) on April 16 in a HealthLeaders Media report.

### **Treating sclerosis-related lung disease**

[Healio: Rheumatology](#) reported April 20 on research led by Dr. Elizabeth Volkman, assistant professor of medicine in the division of rheumatology and co-director of the CTD-ILD Program, finding that treating systemic sclerosis-related interstitial lung disease with mycophenolate was linked to improvements in patients.

### **How deep breathing induces tranquility**

[Natural News](#) reported April 22 on a Science study co-led by Stanford and UCLA neuroscientists that pinpointed how taking a deep breath calms the brains of mice. Co-author Jack Feldman, distinguished professor of neurobiology, was quoted.

### **The diabetes-dementia connection**

A March [dLife](#) article about the connection between type 2 diabetes and Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia featured Dr. Gary Small, director of geriatric psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Longevity Center.

### **Breast cancer survivors with certain health plans more likely to receive survivorship care**

[Medical Xpress](#) highlighted April 20 a UCLA-led study finding that physicians with low-income breast cancer survivors are more likely to implement recommended post-treatment care if the patients also

receive counseling and a tailored survivorship care plan. Dr. Rose C. Maly, lead author of the study and member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, and Dr. Patricia Ganz, director of the cancer center's patients and survivors program, were quoted.

### **Study overturns seminal research about the developing nervous system**

[ScienceMag](#), [Neuroscience News](#), [Science Daily](#), [Health Canal](#) and [MedicalXpress](#) on April 20; [The Stem Cellar](#) and [Science Newsline](#) on April 21; and [Uncommon Descent](#) on April 22 reported on new UCLA research that overturns a long-standing paradigm about how axons grow during embryonic development. The findings could be applied to diseases affecting the nervous system, such as diabetes, as well as injuries that sever nerves. Samantha Butler, associate professor of neurobiology and a member of the Broad Stem Cell Research Center at UCLA, led the research.

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

[Raredaily](#) on April 21 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 Dr. Donald Kohn, professor of pediatrics in the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, the trials have cured 30 out of 30 babies to date. Kohn is a member of the Broad Stem Cell Research Center at UCLA and UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

### **Planning for a healthy home, body and baby**

The [Los Angeles Sentinel](#) on April 12 featured an article by Karen Singh, program coordinator with the Iris Cantor-UCLA Women's Health Education & Research Center, that offered information on improving pre-conception health and avoiding toxic substances in the home.

### **Media take note of health policy research data**

Research conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research was cited in the following news outlets:

- April 26 in an Associated Press story about California's proposed single-payer health system that was carried by dozens of media, including [HealthDay](#), [San Francisco Chronicle](#), [Connecticut Post](#), [The Daily Press](#), [News 5 WKRG.com](#), [Insurance Business Magazine](#) and others;
- April 26 in [The Mercury News](#) about the tax cost of employer-provided health insurance;
- April 24 in [New America Media](#) about how repeal of the Affordable Care Act would affect Medi-Cal recipients in Kern County.

### **Pancreatic cancer researcher publishes new study on breakthrough findings**

[Medical News Today](#) on April 20 and [M.D./alert](#) on April 25 highlighted research on how a peptide enhances the delivery of chemotherapy to pancreatic cancer tumors. Lead author Andre Nel, professor of medicine and pediatrics and member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Nanotechnology Program, was quoted.

### **A clearer definition for the word “healthy”**

[MedicalXpress](#) on April 21 published an article about the use of the word “healthy” on food packaging that featured Dana Hunnes, senior dietitian at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and adjunct assistant professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.

### **Opera produced by UCLA Center for Health Services and Society gains additional coverage**

“The Center Cannot Hold,” an opera that premiered at UCLA about living with schizophrenia, was covered April 14 in two stories in Psychiatry Online ([first](#), [second](#)). Dr. Kenneth Wells, professor of psychiatry and director of the UCLA Center for Health Services and Society at the Semel Institute, composed the opera.

### **Additional coverage of Mattel's gift to children's hospital**

[Inside Philanthropy](#) on April 20 covered Mattel's \$50 million donation to the UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital.

### **Discoveries on brain activity garner more media coverage**

A study by senior author Mayank Mehta, professor of neurology and neurobiology, showing that the brain is 10 times more active than previously thought was featured March 17 in [RT America](#). (Clip begins at the 45-minute mark.)

### **Lifestyle changes can move the dial in reducing the risk of Alzheimer's**

WBBM-AM, Chicago, and April 23 on WWJ-AM, Detroit, on April 22 featured Karen Gylys, a professor at the UCLA School of Nursing, offering simple lifestyle choices that have been shown to reduce the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease.

### **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 memory training, featured April 26 in [Ithaca Journal](#)
- On vitamin B12 providing energy, featured April 26 in [Hanford Sentinel](#)
- On indulging in chocolate, featured April 26 in [UExpress](#)
- On eye care, featured April 24 in [Rocky Mount Telegram](#)
- On recurrent headaches, featured April 24 in [Frederick News-Post](#)
- On the long-term use of antihistamines, featured April 23 in [Tulsa World](#)
- On multivitamins and a balanced diet, featured April 22 in [Spokesman-Review](#)
- On shingles pain, featured April 21 in [Cumberland Times-News](#)

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## **NOTABLE BRIEFS**

[The Acorn](#) on April 27 published a photo and caption on the UCLA Women's Health conference hosted by UCLA Health offices in the Conejo Valley.

The [Santa Monica Mirror](#) on April 26 previewed UCLA Arts & Healing's upcoming workshop on the healing nature of sound and music.

The Santa Monica Daily Press published an April 24 community brief on Santa Monica's weekly drop-in Mindful Meditation sessions.

UCLA's Inaugural 2017 Cannabis Research Symposium and Dr. Timothy Fong, clinical professor of psychiatry and co-director of the UCLA Gambling Studies Program at the Semel Institute, were referenced in an April 25 [W Magazine](#) feature about Los Angeles as an epicenter of cannabis research.

The [Los Angeles Daily News](#) mentioned on April 23 that the Jonsson Cancer Center Foundation at UCLA will host its annual fundraiser, "Taste for a Cure." All of the funds raised will benefit cancer research.

The [Irish Sun](#) and [Scottish Sun](#) on April 24 referenced the Jonsson Cancer Center Foundation at UCLA in an article about actress Lea Michele.

Karen Grimley, chief nursing officer for UCLA Health, was cited April 20 in an [INC.com](#) article about a web-based application called Aidin that helps hospitals efficiently refer patients to proven quality care providers.

[Armenian News Agency](#) on April 27 cited Dr. Haroutune K. Armenian, professor-in-residence of epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, as a member of a panel that will advise on sustainable development issues within the Republic of Armenia.

A [KQED News](#) report on April 21 cited research from 1997 conducted at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health on radiation exposure at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory. At the time, the school was called the UCLA School of Public Health.

The [Deccan Chronicle](#) on April 23 and [Food & Wine](#) on April 25 referenced a study conducted by the G. Oppenheimer Center for Neurobiology of Stress and Resilience at UCLA about how probiotics in yogurt affect brain function.

[Muscle & Fitness](#) on April 21 referenced research on catechins from UCLA's Center for Human Nutrition.

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## NOTABLE QUOTABLES

Catherine Branson, doctoral student at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented April 22 in a [Daily Bulletin](#) article about children's access to marijuana in communities where the substance has achieved certain legal status.

Dr. Steven Dubinett, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Tumor Immunology Program, was quoted April 25 in [U.S. News & World Report](#) about the potential dangers of using e-cigarettes.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, the Eliot Corday Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine and Science, director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center and co-chief of the UCLA Division of Cardiology, was quoted April 26 in a [HealthDay](#) article about a German study conducted during Oktoberfest which found that drinking heavily over a short period of time can boost the risk of an abnormal heart rhythm. The HealthDay story was picked up by other outlets including [Philly.com](#), [WebMD](#) and [CBS.com](#).

- Fonarow also commented April 25 in a [HealthDay](#) story on a study finding that a highly sensitive blood test can identify patients at a higher risk of death in the month following non-cardiac surgery. The article was syndicated by several outlets including [U.S. News & World Report](#) and South Africa's [Health24](#).

Dr. Eddie Garon, associate clinical professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center's Immunology Program, was quoted April 25 in [Targeted Oncology](#) about the successes and setbacks of immunotherapy treatment in non-small cell lung cancer patients.

Dr. Carolyn Goh, assistant clinical professor of medicine in the division of dermatology, was quoted April 20 in a [HealthDay](#) article about a study on white wine's effect on skin. The story was syndicated the same day by [CBS News](#), [U.S. News & World Report](#), [WebMD](#), and 22 other publications.

Karen Grimley, chief nursing officer for UCLA Health, was quoted April 20 in a [Becker's Hospital Review](#) article about a team of nurses from the west medical intensive care unit at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center who won an international nursing safety award from the National Patient Safety Foundation and the Diseases Attacking the Immune System Foundation.

Dr. Edmond Hewlett, professor of restorative dentistry and associate dean for outreach and diversity at the UCLA School of Dentistry, was quoted April 25 in the [Washington Post](#) about the negative effects of flavored sparkling water on your teeth.

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 April 24 in a [WalletHub](#) article comparing children's health care across several states.

Dr. Abie Mendelsohn, assistant professor-in-residence of head and neck surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted April 25 in [Health.com](#) and [People.com](#) about throat cancer symptoms and new treatment options in a story following the death of "Happy Days" actress Erin Moran.

Dr. Karin Nielsen, professor of clinical pediatrics, division of infectious diseases, and director of the Center for Brazilian Studies UCLA, was quoted April 24 in a [New Scientist](#) article about a possible link between the Zika outbreak and drop in birth rates in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Dr. Zaldy Tan was quoted April 27 in a PBS [Next Avenue](#) article about senior mentoring programs in which seniors team up with medical students outside of a clinical setting, allowing the students to benefit from “experiential learning” that gives them context and perspective enabling them to understand and better serve the aged. Tan is 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.

Dr. April Thames, assistant professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences, was quoted April 20 in a [Motherboard](#) article about marijuana-induced anxiety.

Dr. Karol Watson, 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, commented April 24 in a [Cardiology Advisor](#) report on the role of race and ethnicity in cardiovascular health.

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