



# Health

## UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT

April 27 - May 3, 2018

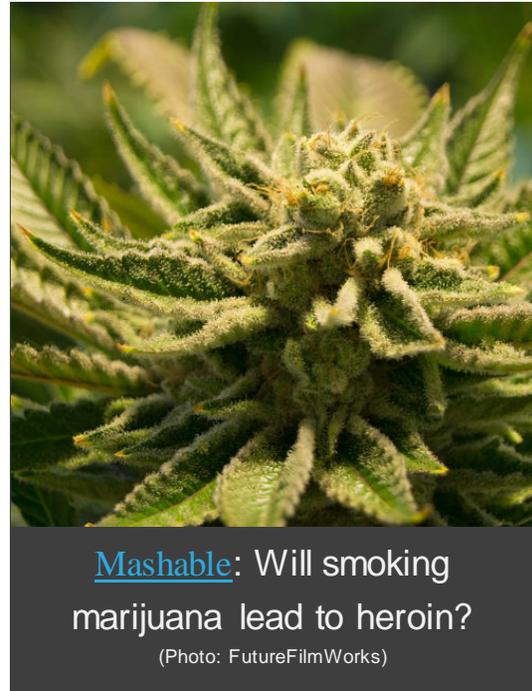
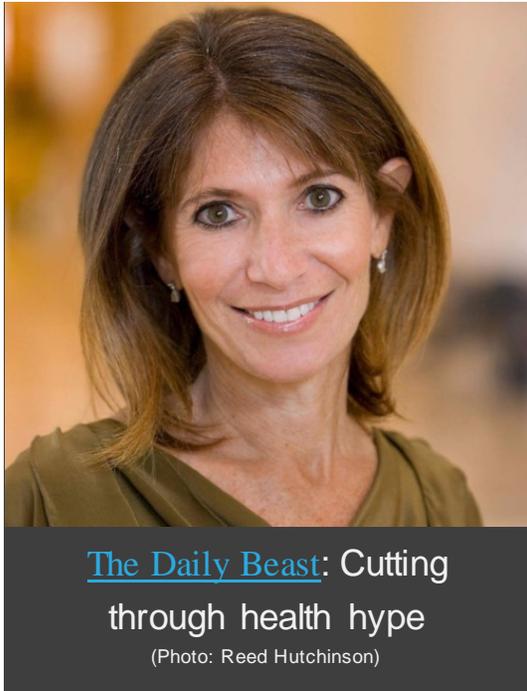
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[New York Times](#): Unraveling a teen's medical mystery

(Photo: UCLA Health)





## FEATURED

### **New York Times Magazine unravels young woman's medical mystery**

The "Diagnosis" column of [New York Times Magazine](#) profiled the puzzling case of a teenager whose vision loss, severe headaches and leg pain were dismissed by other doctors for two years. Her parents brought her to UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital, where she was properly diagnosed and successfully treated. Her physician, Dr. Aria Fallah, an assistant professor of neurosurgery, and Dr. Ulrich Batzdorf, a professor emeritus of neurosurgery, were featured.

### **Surgeon slices through health hype**

The [Daily Beast](#) and [MarketWatch](#) published editorials by Dr. Nina Shapiro, a professor of pediatric head and neck surgery at UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital, about the epidemic of fake health news that is misleading patients and confusing consumers. Her new book, [HYPE: A Doctor's Guide to Medical Myths, Exaggerated Claims and Bad Advice—How to Tell What's Real and What's Not](#), was also covered by CNN, [Live Science](#) and [L.A. Parent](#). Shapiro was quoted.

### **Will smoking marijuana lead some people to try heroin?**

[Mashable](#) featured Dr. Thomas Strouse, medical director of the Stewart and Lynda Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital at UCLA and Maddie Katz Chair in Palliative Care

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Research and Education, in a video discussing the science of whether cannabis is a “gateway” drug.

### **Men should be screened for genetic mutations linked to breast cancer**

[HealthDay News](#) and Reuters Health covered research led by Dr. Christopher Childers, a UCLA resident physician in general surgery, suggesting that men should be screened for genetic mutations putting them and their children at heightened risk for breast and other cancers. Childers was quoted in the coverage. [Medscape](#) (subscription required) and MD/Alert ran the Reuters story; UPI, WebMD, Medical Xpress, HON News and Drugs.com carried the HealthDay article.

### **Rare kidney transplant procedure could save lives, change field**

Los Angeles stations KABC-TV, KCBS-TV, KCAL-TV and KNX-AM; PBS' [NOVA Next](#); [The Blaze](#); and 11 additional television stations and websites covered the kidney re-transplantation procedure at UCLA, a procedure that transplants, or "re-gifts," a kidney that has been transplanted once before. Dr. Jeffrey Veale, director of the UCLA Kidney Transplantation Exchange Program, commented in the news.

### **Fewer patients die after older surgeons' emergency procedures**

San Diego's KNSD-TV, [Health News Digest](#), [Health Exec](#), [News-Medical.net](#), [Science Blog](#), [Scienmag](#), [Insider Car News](#), [OnMedica](#), [Medical Research](#) and [Medical Brief](#) reported research by Dr. Yusuke Tsugawa finding that fewer patients die after emergency procedures performed by surgeons age 50 and older than after those performed by younger surgeons. An earlier [HealthDay News](#) article about the finding was featured on the digital editions of KWWL in Waterloo, Iowa; KTIV in Sioux City, Iowa; WDRB in Louisville, Kentucky; NBC-2 in Southwest Florida; and Western Mass News in Massachusetts. Tsugawa is an assistant professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research.

### **Great Recession spiked America's blood pressure**

KABC-AM, Los Angeles; KGMI-AM, Seattle; WBAP-AM, Dallas; and KOH-AM, Reno, Nevada; reported research led by Teresa Seeman finding that the Great Recession of 2008-2010 was associated with higher cardiovascular risk factors, including increased blood pressure and glucose levels. Seeman is a professor of medicine in the division of geriatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and of epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.

### **What levels of carbon monoxide are unsafe?**

Los Angeles' [NBC-TV](#) featured Dr. Mark Morocco in a story about carbon monoxide exposure. He is an emergency room physician at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and a clinical professor of emergency medicine. KABC-AM radio also ran the story.

### **Annual Taste for a Cure leaves audience hopeful and “stronger”**

[The Hollywood Reporter](#) and [Variety Magazine](#) published stories on the UCLA Jonsson Cancer Center Foundation's 23rd annual "Taste for a Cure" gala to help raise funds for cancer research. The event was hosted by celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay and included a musical performance by Kelly Clarkson, who performed her hit "Stronger," which many cancer patients consider to be a personal anthem of empowerment. Mention of the event also ran in [Entertainment Tonight](#), [Allure Magazine](#), [InStyle](#), [Yahoo! News](#), [Life and Style Weekly](#), [Just Jared](#) and 70 other news sites.

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### **New drug targets for obesity, diabetes?**

UCLA geneticists' discovery of two new hormones able to burn fat faster and reverse diabetes in mice was covered by [United Press International](#), [Medical Xpress](#), [Health Canal](#), [Health News Digest](#) and France's [Porquoi Docteur?](#) The UPI report was syndicated by [Breitbart](#). Cell Metabolism published the research, which was led by Jake Lusic, a professor of human genetics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, and Marcus Seldin, a postdoctoral researcher in Lusic's lab.

### **The "Trump effect" on long-acting reversible contraception**

[MedPage Today](#) and [MDedge](#) reported on research by Dr. Aparna Sridhar, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, about birth control rates on campus. The study found that the number of students requesting intra-uterine devices at a university health center more than doubled, compared to the previous year, after the 2016 presidential election. Presented at the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists' annual meeting, the findings suggest that women were concerned about changes in insurance coverage of contraception under the new administration.

### **Kids' consumption of soda is no joke**

[KFI 640-AM](#) reported on a UCLA study about the rising rate of kids' consumption of sugary beverages. Susan Babey, a senior researcher at the Fielding School's UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, was quoted.

### **New FDA-approved drug for liver cancer proves beneficial**

[Healio](#) and [OncLive](#) reported new research by Dr. Richard Finn, an associate professor of medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine and a researcher at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center. He found that liver-cancer patients who took the newly FDA-approved drug regorafenib showed significant improvement in overall survival, regardless of their prior history with other therapies.

### **Lupus ranks among top causes of female death**

[Healthcare Drive](#) reported on research led by Dr. Ram Singh, professor of medicine and pathology, finding that lupus ranks among the top 20 causes of death in women ages 5 to 64.

### **Shedding light on mother-to-child HIV transmission**

A [Consultant 360](#) Q&A about mother-to-child HIV transmission and treatment options for HIV-positive newborns featured Dr. Karin Nielsen, a professor of clinical pediatrics in the division of pediatric infectious diseases at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital.

### **How best to study heart patients on the brink of death**

[tctMD](#) featured comments from Dr. William Suh, an assistant clinical professor of cardiology, in an article that reviewed the debate among cardiologists about the use of the Impella ventricular-assist device in critically ill cardiogenic shock patients despite the availability of randomized data. The article also discussed how the debate is playing out Twitter.

### **Sugar may slow down your brain**

A [FoodEnvy.tv](#) story about sugar consumption cited a UCLA study finding that a high-fructose diet sabotages learning and memory in rats. Lead author Fernando Gomez-Pinilla, a professor of neurosurgery and physiology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at

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UCLA, was quoted.

### **Number of Americans with Alzheimer's to double by 2060**

[Study Finds](#) featured research by Ron Brookmeyer, a professor of biostatistics at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, finding that some 15 million Americans will face either Alzheimer's dementia or mild cognitive impairment by 2060.

### **School of Nursing dean addresses nursing shortage**

KNX-AM interviewed Linda Sarna, dean of the UCLA School of Nursing, about the nursing shortage and the need for nursing faculty. She emphasized the importance of funding to encourage more nurses to pursue graduate degrees.

### **Exploring new fronts in reproductive technology**

[NBC4i.com](#), [WISH-TB](#), [ThirdAge.com](#), and [WVUE](#) covered research by Amander Clark, who is studying ways to convert human skin cells into eggs and sperm. If the process, called in vitro gametogenesis (IVG), is found to be safe in humans, it could be used to overcome infertility, which affects around 10 percent of reproductive-age couples in the United States. Clark chairs the department of molecular, cell and developmental biology and is a member of the UCLA Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research.

### **Sex chromosomes play role in stem cell reprogramming**

[Phys.org](#), [Technology Networks](#), [My Science](#), [Science and Technology Research News](#) and [Science Daily](#) covered research by Kathrin Plath finding that adult skin cells taken from males and females behave differently after being reprogrammed into induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells. The finding suggests that studying male and female cells separately is key to improving the field's understanding of how iPS cells are made, which is essential to creating better disease models and developing more effective cell therapies. Plath is a professor of biological chemistry in the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine and a member of the UCLA Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research.

### **New research may explain some causes of infertility and miscarriage**

[Bioscience Technology](#), [Phys.org](#), [My Science](#) and [The Medical News](#) reported on a UCLA study that could clarify some causes of infertility and spontaneous miscarriage. The research, led by Amander Clark, chair of molecular, cell and developmental biology and a member of the UCLA Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research, uncovered information about a key stage that human embryonic cells must pass through just before an embryo implants in the uterus.

### **Molecule halts spread of toxic protein associated with Alzheimer's**

[Science Daily](#), [Drug, Discovery and Development](#), [Health Canal](#), [Medical Express](#), [Scicasts](#) and [Medicine News Line](#) reported on research showing a promising new drug strategy to halt tau transmission to treat Alzheimer's. Varghese John, an associate professor of neurology at the David Geffen School of Medicine, and Karen Gylys, a professor at the School of Nursing, were quoted.

### **Improper COPD diagnosis in women garners additional attention**

A [Kaiser Health News](#) article exploring why women with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease are often not diagnosed and treated for their breathing issues was published by the Spanish edition of the [Los Angeles Times](#), [Hoy](#), [Chicago Tribune](#), [Orlando Sentinel](#),

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and [Salon](#). Dr. May-Lin Wilgus, an assistant clinical professor and a pulmonologist at UCLA Health Ventura, was quoted.

### Why gambling appeals to our brains

The [Trailblazers with Walter Isaacson](#) podcast featured Dr. Tim Fong, clinical professor of psychiatry and co-director of the UCLA Gambling Studies Program, in a program about the neuroscience of gambling.

### 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 myelodysplastic syndrome, in California’s [Hanford Sentinel](#)
- On anti-arrhythmic drug side effects, in Vermont’s [Manchester Journal](#)
- On exercise and dementia, in Oklahoma’s [Tulsa World](#)
- On antibiotics and acute appendicitis, in Maryland’s [The Frederick News-Post](#)
- On air pollution and the elderly, in South Dakota’s [Aberdeen News](#).

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## QUOTED

*“Our current treatments for depression are relatively ineffective – roughly speaking, only about half of patients improve – so we really need better therapies.”*

– Dr. Jonathan Flint in [The Guardian](#)



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**Steve Cole**, a professor of medicine and psychiatry, commented in [The Guardian](#) about the subtle pleasures of being alone versus being lonely.

**Dr. Maggie DiNome**, division chief of breast surgery, commented in [Onclive](#) about surgical options for breast-cancer patients.

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**Dr. Joann Elmore**, a professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, commented in Reuters Health about a study finding that computers and doctors are equally effective in measuring breast density, which is used to predict cancer risk. Elmore also wrote the accompanying editorial. [Medscape](#) and [MD/Alert](#) syndicated the article, and [IEEE.Spectrum](#) and [Healio](#) cited her editorial. She was also quoted in [HealthDay News](#) about how young people continue tanning despite warnings of cancer risk. [U.S. News & World Report](#) syndicated the article.

**Dr. Jonathan Flint**, a professor-in-residence of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at the Geffen School of Medicine, commented in an article in [The Guardian](#) about “a gene map for depression” to guide treatment.

**Dr. Barbara Giesser**, a professor of neurology and clinical director of UCLA’s multiple sclerosis program, commented in [Healthline](#) about new guidelines for multiple sclerosis treatment.

**Dana Hunnes**, a senior dietitian at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and an adjunct assistant professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted by [WebMD.com](#) about avoiding foodborne illness and in an [Organic Authority](#) article about inflammatory foods.

**Dr. Sara Hurvitz**, director of the Breast Cancer Clinical Research Program at the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and co-director of Santa Monica-UCLA Outpatient Hematology-Oncology, commented in [Medpage Today](#) on the staging of breast cancer tumors.

**Dr. Rashmi Mullur**, an assistant clinical professor of medicine in the division of endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism, was quoted by [Endocrinology Advisor](#) on the role of precision nutrition in managing Type 2 diabetes.

**Dr. Nicholas Nickols**, an assistant professor of radiation oncology, was quoted in a [Reuters Health](#) story about prostate cancer advances.

**Dr. Caius Radu**, a professor of medical and molecular pharmacology and a researcher at the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted in [WebMD](#) about a new “superblood” treatment that targets deadly cancers and other diseases.

**Beate Ritz**, a professor of epidemiology and environmental health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in [The Verge](#) about a proposed rule that would require the Environmental Protection Agency to release any data from the studies it consults to make policy decisions.

**Dr. Karol Watson**, co-director of the UCLA Program in Preventive Cardiology and director of the UCLA Barbara Streisand Women’s Heart Health Program, commented in [Cardiology Today](#) about studying the cardiovascular safety of drugs to treat non-cardiovascular conditions.

**Dr. Gail Wyatt**, director of the Center for Culture, Trauma and Mental Health Disparities at UCLA’s Semel Institute, was cited in [Inside Philanthropy](#) about the California Wellness Foundation’s funding of projects to improve health outcomes for women of color.

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## BRIEFS

[Santa Monica Daily Press](#) published several front-page photos about The Clothesline Project hosted by the Rape Treatment Center at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica. The project is a national initiative to raise awareness about the prevalence and impact of sexual abuse and violence against women and children.

An article in [CheatSheet](#) cited research by David Hayes-Bautista, director of the Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture, on the origins of Cinco de Mayo.

Research from the UCLA Center for East-West Medicine was featured in a [KPLA-FM](#) broadcast on how tai chi can help Alzheimer's patients improve memory and balance.

An [Eat This, Not That!](#) story about healthy foods referenced pistachio research by the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition.

[Becker's Hospital Review](#) included Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center in its 2018 list of 100 great hospitals in America.

A [Decibel Magazine](#) story about late musician Ronnie James Dio cited his wife's donations to Dr. David Wong for his work on a saliva test to detect certain cancers. Wong is associate dean of research at the UCLA School of Dentistry and the Felix and Mildred Yip Endowed Professor in Dentistry.

[Becker's Hospital Review](#) cited a UCLA study finding that patients treated regularly by the same physician are hospitalized less often than are patients who frequently switch providers.

A [FierceHealthcare](#) story cited a UCLA study linking hospital readmissions penalties to higher death rates.

A UCLA study that tweaked CRISPR to allow scientists to edit multiple genes simultaneously and track their results was cited in a story by [Interesting Engineering](#).

A [Marin Independent Journal](#) story cited research by Fielding School's UCLA Center for Health Policy Research about the lack of mental health services for seniors.

The [Clarion Ledger](#) mentioned a student, Najila Muhammad, who will participate in the Public Health Scholars Training Program hosted by the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.

Operation Mend, a UCLA Health program that provides medical, surgical and psychological services to wounded veterans, was cited in a [Santa Monica Daily Press](#) article about discussion panels that will take place at the Santa Monica College Public Policy Institute's 7th Annual Spring Symposium.

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[Scientists identify 2 hormones that burn fat faster, prevent and reverse diabetes in mice](#)  
UCLA Newsroom

[Scarring following heart attack causes unique genetic changes within the heart](#) Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at UCLA

[Kids' seasonal allergies may look like learning disability](#) UCLA Health Connect blog

[Pediatric dentist selected as fellow by American College of Dentistry](#) UCLA Newsroom



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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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