



UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of April 28-May 4, 2017

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How antibiotics harm the gut microbiome

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Opioid study continues to receive national coverage

Quality of care for peripheral artery disease is low

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More listeners hear tips on reducing risks for Alzheimer's

Make dental anesthesia safer for kids

Combination therapy could provide new treatment option for ovarian cancer

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Your brain on virtual reality

This week on “Ask the Doctors”

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

[Reuters](#) and [LiveScience](#) on April 28 and [Inquisitr](#) on April 30 reported on 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. The Reuters coverage ran on the web sites of [KFGO-AM](#), Fargo, North Dakota, and [WHBL-FM](#), Sheboygan, Wisconsin. The Live Science coverage was syndicated by [FOX News Health](#), [Huffington Post](#) and [Yahoo! News Singapore](#).

Impact of Undiagnosed Disease Network gains attention

KCRW-FM and Capital Public Radio on April 27 featured segments about the Undiagnosed Disease Network. The network had previously been featured in KQED's [California Report](#) on April 27 in a report that followed a 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.

KCRW-FM: <http://bit.ly/2pdGDVy>

Capital Public Radio: <http://bit.ly/2pDXZxL>

How antibiotics harm the gut microbiome

[TIME](#) and [Health.com](#) on May 3 published a story about how antibiotics affect our gut health that 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.

Why tai chi is so good for you

[Time](#) on April 28 featured Dr. Michael Irwin, professor of psychiatry and director of the Cousins Center for Psychoneuroimmunology at the Semel Institute, who discussed the ways in which tai chi, a form of movement meditation, is as good for you as CrossFit.

Opioid study continues to receive national coverage

[Forbes](#) reported April 30 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.

Quality of care for peripheral artery disease is low

[MedPage Today](#) and [TCTMD](#) on May 1, [Science Magazine](#) on May 2, and [HealthDay News](#) and [News-Medical.Net](#) on May 3 reported on research co-led by Dr. Joseph Ladapo finding that less than half of those with peripheral artery disease, which is a narrowing of arteries to the limbs, stomach and head, are treated with appropriate medications and lifestyle counseling. Ladapo is assistant professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research.

Gluten-free may not be good for the heart

Dr. Ravi Dave, director of interventional cardiology at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, and clinical professor of medicine, was featured May 2 in a [HealthDay News](#) article on a study examining whether gluten-free diets without a medical need can be harmful to the heart. The article also appeared in [CBSnews.com](#), [WebMD](#), the [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) and more than 75 additional outlets nationwide.

Shedding those last 10 pounds

[Prevention](#) on April 28 published an article on the habits holding people back from losing weight that featured Dana Hunnes, senior dietitian at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and adjunct assistant professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.

More media interest for living kidney donor-recipient pair

WFMZ-TV, Philadelphia, on May 3 featured the story of Ted and Denice Lombard, who in 1967 at UCLA became one of the first father-daughter duos to undergo successful kidney transplant surgery in the United States.

WFMZ-TV: <http://bit.ly/2qydCFo>

More listeners hear tips on reducing risks for Alzheimer's

KCBS-AM, San Francisco, on April 27 and May 1; WBBM-AM, Chicago, on April 28 and 30; and WWJ-AM, Detroit, on April 30 featured Karen Gyls, a professor at the UCLA School of Nursing, who offered simple lifestyle choices that have been shown to reduce the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease.

KCBS-AM: <http://bit.ly/2q4KNDv>

Make dental anesthesia safer for kids

The [Los Angeles Daily News](#) on April 21 ran a guest commentary by Dr. Karen Sibert, an associate clinical professor of anesthesiology and perioperative medicine, who supports requiring dental offices to meet the same safety standards for pediatric anesthesia that is required in medical settings.

Combination therapy could provide new treatment option for ovarian cancer

[Bioengineer](#), [MedicalXpress](#), [Science Daily](#), and [My Science](#) on May 1; [Knowridge](#), [Science Newslite](#), [News-Medical.Net](#), [Clinical Innovation+Technology](#), and [Check Orphan](#) on May 2; [MedIndia](#) on May 3; and [Innovations Report](#) on May 5 reported on research identifying a potential test that may help determine which ovarian cancer patients would most benefit from a new combination therapy. The therapy could also target cancers that affect other parts of the body. The study was led by Dr. Sanaz Memarzadeh, a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a member of the Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at UCLA.

TimeOut @ UCLA provides respite for caregivers

[Circa](#) on May 3 covered TimeOut @ UCLA, an innovative, intergenerational program that gives volunteer college students an opportunity to interact with seniors suffering from mild cognitive impairment or Alzheimer's while also providing patients' regular caregivers much-needed respite time. Dr. Zaldy Tan, medical director of the UCLA Alzheimer's and Dementia Care Program, was interviewed.

Tackling HIV among youth, transgender people

[Healio: Infectious Diseases](#) on May 1 featured a Q&A with Dr. Jeffrey Klausner who discussed why youth are at increased risk of HIV infection, how youth and transgendered people can help prevent its spread, and more. Klausner is a professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and professor of public health at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.

The high cost of surviving acute respiratory distress syndrome

[Futurity](#) on May 1, [MedPage Today](#) on April 30, [News-Medical.Net](#) on April 29, and [Science Daily](#) on April 28 reported on a new study finding that 44 percent of people who held jobs before contracting acute respiratory distress syndrome were jobless one year after they were discharged from the hospital, costing them an average of about \$27,000 in earnings. The study's first author, Dr. Biren Kamdar, assistant professor of medicine in the division of pulmonary and critical care, was quoted.

Conscious sedation is safe during heart procedure

[Chinese World Journal](#) reported April 29 on a recent study in which UCLA researchers found that conscious sedation — a type of anesthesia in which patients remain awake but are sleepy and pain-free — is a safe and viable option to general anesthesia for people undergoing a minimally invasive heart procedure called transcatheter aortic valve replacement. Dr. Richard Shemin, the Robert and Kelly Day Professor of Surgery and chief of cardiac surgery, was interviewed.

Predicting which babies will have trouble in the womb

[Health Canal](#) and [MyScience.org](#) on May 2 published research on a potential biomarker for infants that will have difficulty growing in the womb. Dr. Sherin Devaskar, the Mattel Executive Endowed Chair of Pediatrics at UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital and executive director of the UCLA Children's Discovery and Innovation Institute, led the study.

A clearer definition for the word "healthy"

[Durango Herald](#) on April 27 and [ThirdAge.com](#) on April 30 published articles 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.

Brain activity study garners more media coverage

Brain In The News published a print article in its April 2017 issue about a study by senior author Mayank Mehta, professor in the departments of physics and astronomy, neurology and neurobiology, showing that the brain is 10 times more active than previously thought.

Additional coverage for off-label drug use study

[Natural News](#) on May 2 featured research led by Sophie Sokolow, associate professor at the UCLA School of Nursing, revealing the risks of an Alzheimer's drug prescribed off-label.

The effects of exercise on MS

[MS Tidsskrift](#), a Danish publication exploring multiple sclerosis, on May 4 published a story in which Dr. Barbara Giesser discusses research on incorporating exercise as a component of treatment for MS. Giesser is professor of neurology and clinical director of the multiple sclerosis program.

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

[Lebanese Kataeb](#) reported April 30 on how UCLA researchers created an artificial thymus that can produce human T cells, the white blood cells that fight against disease-causing intruders in the body. The system could be utilized to engineer T cells to find and attack cancer cells. 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.

Star-studded event raises \$1 million for cancer research at UCLA

[Zimbio](#) on April 28; [Variety](#), [Wopular](#), [Style and Society](#) on April 29; and [Just Jared](#) on April 30 reported on UCLA's Jonsson Cancer Center Foundation annual gala to raise money for cancer research.

Your brain on virtual reality

[RT America](#) on April 24 aired a segment on the health effects of virtual reality featuring an interview with Mayank Mehta, professor in the departments of physics and astronomy, neurology and neurobiology, discussing his research.

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 applying insect repellent, featured May 4 in [UExpress](#)
- On acupuncture, featured May 2 in [Tulsa World](#)
- On the benefits of apple cider vinegar, featured April 29 in [The Californian](#)
- On avoiding high doses of pain relievers, featured April 28 in [The Manchester Journal](#)
- On weight-loss options for those who are wheelchair-bound, featured April 28 in [Pinal Central](#).

NOTABLE BRIEFS

An April 25 [Kaiser Health News](#) story about Latino men posing a challenge to the health system due to their reluctance to seek treatment cited a 2015 UCLA study on the shortage of Latino physicians.

The [Vail Daily](#) (Colorado) referenced Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center in a May 1 story about a local woman who recently returned home after a successful heart and kidney transplant.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) on April 27 cited data compiled by the Fielding School's UCLA Center for Health Policy Research indicating that 40 percent of low-income adults in Los Angeles County are food insecure.

[North Bay Business Journal](#) on April 27 cited data from the California Health Interview Survey, conducted by the Fielding School's UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, about Sonoma County's uninsured residents' access to dental care.

A May 3 [South Coast Today](#) story about water pollution in New England dating back to the 1970s mentioned Dr. Jonathan Fielding, professor-in-residence at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, who as Commissioner of Public Health for Massachusetts issued an order to protect water contamination from local sport fishing.

NOTABLE QUOTABLES

Dr. Deanna Attai, UCLA breast surgeon based in Burbank and assistant clinical professor of surgery, commented April 29 in a [Washington Post](#) article examining whether watchful waiting for women with Stage 0 breast cancer can be an appropriate approach for treatment. The story also appeared in the [Chicago Tribune](#), the [Orlando Sentinel](#) and more than a dozen other newspapers nationwide.

Dr. Joel Braslow, a professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at the Semel Institute, was quoted April 29 in an [Associated Press](#) story about the 4,000 mentally ill patients in a Los Angeles jail facility, and the link between chronic meth use and psychosis. The article ran in the [Sacramento Bee](#), [Miami Herald](#), [Daily Mail Online](#), [Houston Chronicle](#) and more than 300 other news outlets.

Shana Alex Charles, faculty associate at the Fielding School's UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, commented April 27 in a [Capital & Main](#) article about the proposed Healthy California Act, which would create a statewide single-payer healthcare system.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, the Eliot Corday Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine and Science, was quoted April 28 in articles published on [Reach MD](#) and India's [Daily Sun](#) regarding a study that found a highly sensitive blood test can identify patients at a higher risk of death in the month following non-cardiac surgery. Fonarow is also director of the Ahmanson–UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center and co-chief of the UCLA Division of Cardiology.

Dr. Randolph Hecht, professor of clinical medicine in the division of hematology/oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted April 27 in [U.S. News & World Report](#) about colon cancer treatment side effects.

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, commented May 3 in a [Politifact](#) article about parents of children who have pre-existing conditions and remain eligible for insurance under the Affordable Care Act.

Dr. Christine Lee, pain management specialist at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica and assistant clinical professor in anesthesiology, commented April 28 in a [U.S News & World Report](#) article on whether people with rheumatoid arthritis should have joint replacement surgery.

Dr. Leena Nathan, obstetrician-gynecologist at UCLA Health-Westlake Village, commented May 1 in an [Elle](#) article on whether breech babies can be delivered safely by vaginal birth. She also commented May 4 in a [Snopes](#) article on whether a baby could actually be born with an IUD in its hand.

Dr. Vincent Riccardi, clinical professor in the volunteer series in the department of pediatrics, was quoted April 29 in [Capital Gazette](#) and [Carroll County Times](#) in stories about the death of a physician whose research advanced the field of genetics.

Dr. Michael Steinberg, professor and chair of radiation oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted May 2 in [Business Insider](#) about the significance of the Prostate Cancer Foundation and how it has helped fund important research.

Dr. Adrienne Youdim, voluntary associate clinical professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, commented April 27 in a [Reader's Digest](#) story about a study examining white tea's effect on fat cells.

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