



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT  
For the week of May 12-18, 2017**

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### **AARP, other media report on caregiver “boot camp”**

[AARP](#), [KRDO.com](#), and [KESQ.com](#) and other outlets reported May 11 on The UCLA Improving Caregiving for Dementia Caregiver “Boot Camp,” an interactive one-day program for caregivers of people with Alzheimer’s disease or dementia. The “boot camp” is organized by the UCLA Alzheimer’s and Dementia Care program and offers hands-on workshops. In addition, a recent Kaiser Health News story on the boot camp gained new media placements, including May 12 in [El Nuevo Herald](#); May 14 in the [Los Angeles Daily News](#), Pasadena Star-News, Whittier Daily News and the San Bernardino County Sun; May 14 in the Inland Valley Daily Bulletin; May 15 in the Bradenton Herald; and May 16 in the Daily World. Dr. Zaldy Tan, medical director of the UCLA Alzheimer’s and Dementia Care Program, was quoted.

### **Tai chi study garners widespread media coverage**

[HealthDay News](#) and [Pantagraph](#) on May 12, [Psych Central](#) on May 15, and The [American Journal of Managed Care](#) on May 17 reported on a UCLA study showing that tai chi relieves insomnia in breast cancer survivors just as well as cognitive behavioral therapy, and better than medication. Dr. Michael Irwin, professor of psychiatry and director of the Cousins Center for Psychoneuroimmunology at the Semel Institute, led the study. The HealthDay story was syndicated to more than 50 additional publications worldwide.

### **Eye surgeon showcased in Reuters photo essay**

Numerous countries’ editions of [Yahoo! Finance](#) and [Business Insider](#) on May 14 syndicated a previously published Reuters photo essay that featured Dr. Tara McCannel, associate professor of ophthalmology and director of the ophthalmic oncology center at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute. The package featured women in different professions around the world.

### **UCLA surgeon honored with prestigious Medal of Honor**

[Huffington Post](#) on May 15 featured an article about Dr. Abbas Ardehali, professor of cardiothoracic surgery and director of the UCLA Heart and Lung Transplant program, who was honored with an Ellis Island Medal of Honor in New York. Huffington Post also featured Ardehali in a separate [article](#) about notable medal recipients of Iranian-American descent.

### **Calling attention to link between gut microbiota and brain regions**

The U.K.’s [Daily Express](#) on May 11, the U.K.’s [Daily Mail](#) on May 12 and India’s [IANS](#) on May 14 reported on UCLA research suggesting an association between gut microbiota and the brain regions involved in processing sensory information. Newsgram and The South Asian Times carried the IANS story. Study senior author 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, was quoted in some of the coverage.

### **Potential new treatment for ovarian cancer gets notice**

The U.K.’s [Daily Express](#) on May 11 reported on a new study led by Dr. Sanaz Memarzadeh about a new combination treatment targeting ovarian cancer. Memarzadeh, who was quoted, is a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a member of both UCLA’s Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research at UCLA.

### **Microbiome imbalance may have link to systemic sclerosis**

[Healio: Rheumatology](#) on May 18; [Science Daily](#), [MedicalXpress](#), [Scienmag](#), [myScience](#) and [News-Medical.Net](#) on May 12; and [Global News Connect](#) on May 16 highlighted research suggesting that Americans and Norwegians with systemic sclerosis had higher levels of bacteria that can cause inflammation and lower levels of bacteria that are believed to protect against inflammation compared with healthy people. Dr. Elizabeth Volkman, assistant professor of medicine in the division of rheumatology and co-director of the CTD-ILD Program, led the research.

### **Eating your way to good sleep**

[Men's Health](#) on May 15 published an online article that featured Dana Hunnes discussing how nutrition affects quality of sleep. Hunnes is senior dietitian at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and adjunct assistant professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.

### **David Geffen, UCLA leaders dedicate new medical school home**

David Geffen joined UCLA leadership on May 11 for the opening ceremony for Geffen Hall, the new home for medical education at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. Speakers included UCLA Chancellor Gene Block; Dr. John Mazziotta, vice chancellor for Health Sciences; Dr. Kelsey Martin, dean of the Geffen School; and Caroline Gross, student and recipient of a David Geffen Medical Scholarship. [American School & University Magazine](#) published the news in print and online May 15, and [Public](#) and [AmericanTowns.com](#) published stories May 11.

### **Quality of care for peripheral artery disease is low**

[ThirdAge](#) reported May 17 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.

### **"Selfish genes" grab media spotlight**

[Science News](#), [Phys.org](#) and [myScience](#) on May 11 and [BioScience Technology](#) on May 12 reported on a study led by Leonid Kruglyak, chair of human genetics, finding that a worm commonly used in research possesses a pair of genes that encode both a poison and its antidote, allowing these so-called "selfish" genes to spread like wildfire through their hosts. Published in *Science*, the finding may one day allow scientists to stop the spread of disease-causing agents, like the parasite that causes malaria.

### **Less invasive treatment is safe for blocked artery in the leg**

The May/June issue of [Cardiology Today's Intervention](#) featured research by Dr. Michael Lee, associate professor of medicine in the division of cardiology, showing that a less invasive endovascular procedure to treat a condition called common femoral artery disease—or a blocked artery in the leg from hardened plaque—is a safe alternative to surgery.

### **New trends, therapies in prevention of heart failure deaths**

[MD Magazine](#) on May 11 and May 12 featured reports of two presentations by UCLA physicians at the annual Primary Care-Medicine West conference.

- The May 12 report highlighted a presentation by Dr. Karol Watson, professor of medicine in the division of cardiology and co-director of the UCLA Program in Preventive Cardiology. Her presentation assessed the impact of preventive medicine in countering deaths from heart disease.
- The May 11 [report](#) highlighted a presentation made by Dr. Gregg Fonarow, director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center and co-chief of the UCLA Division of Cardiology, and Dr. Tamara Horwich, associate professor of medicine in the division of cardiology. Their presentation explored new heart failure therapies that could save lives.

### **UCLA Health's Sound Body Sound Mind unveils new fitness center**

The Santa Monica Daily Press on May 15 published front-page captioned photos of the ribbon-cutting event for a new UCLA Health Sound Body Sound Mind fitness center at Lincoln Middle School. The Santa Monica Mirror published a preview article May 12, which referenced Johnese Spisso, CEO of the UCLA Hospital System and president of UCLA Health.

### **Website profiles oncology nurse's battle with breast cancer**

[CureToday.com](#) on May 12 published a feature on Pattie Jakel, a clinical nurse specialist in oncology at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, who shared her personal struggles with breast cancer during a presentation at the Oncology Nursing Society's annual meeting.

### **Opioid research gains new media placement**

The [Clinical Pain Advisor](#) on May 16 reported on research about opioid addiction increasing 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.

#### **Dean discusses medical school priorities**

[Physician News Network](#) on May 15 featured a Q&A with Dr. Kelsey Martin, dean of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, who discussed her vision for the school and her training.

#### **WalletHub features Fielding School Career Services director's job-seeking advice**

[WalletHub](#) on May 16 featured advice from Kristy J. Sherrer, director of Career Services at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, who answered the question: What tips do you have for job seekers who are applying for jobs in a different city?

#### **New findings shed light on melanoma's resistance to immunotherapy drug**

[Science Daily](#) on May 9 published an article on new findings that will allow scientists to better understand how advanced melanoma shields itself from pembrolizumab. Dr. Antoni Ribas, professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and director of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Immunology program, led the study and was quoted.

#### **Separating myth from fact when it comes to Alzheimer's**

[Conversations with Cyma](#) on May 1 posted a talk show segment about Alzheimer's and the current thinking around the disease that featured David Teplow, professor in residence of neurology.

#### **More attention to research on obesity and the brain**

[ReachMD](#) on May 11 published a story about research by Arpana Gupta, assistant professor in the Vatche and Tamar Manoukian Division of Digestive Diseases, suggesting an altered reward mechanism in overeating and showing differences in brain activity between obese men and obese women.

#### **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 diet and inflammation, featured May 11 in [Life Extension](#)
- On water and acidity, featured May 11 in [Elko Daily Free Press](#)
- On risk factors for macular degeneration, featured May 12 in [The Manchester Journal](#)
- On pet exposure and allergy protection, featured May 12 in [Citizens Voice](#)
- On melasma, featured May 16 in [Tulsa World](#)
- On leptospirosis, featured May 16 in [Indiana Gazette](#)
- On the perceived benefits of cold-water swimming, featured May 16 in [Chicago Sun-Times](#)
- On adequate sleep, featured May 16 in [Tri-Valley Dispatch](#)

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## **NOTABLE BRIEFS**

The story of Ryan Dant, whose parents were told that he wouldn't live past age 10 due to a rare genetic disease, garnered national headlines this week, with coverage that referenced a UCLA clinical study testing an enzyme-replacement drug. Thanks to that trial, Dant is now 29 and preparing to graduate from the University of Louisville. The May 14 [CNN Wire](#) report and a May 12 story by the [Courier-Journal](#) were syndicated by more than 60 TV, digital and print outlets nationwide.

The U.K.'s [Daily Mail](#) on May 11 cited research from two UCLA studies finding that Latinos age more slowly than other ethnicities and that cells' biological aging rate may explain why some people die younger than others despite living healthier lifestyles. The [New Zealand Herald](#) syndicated the story on May 13.

Dr. Andrea Rapkin, interim chair and professor of obstetrics and gynecology, was cited May 12 in a [Bustle](#) article on when to seek medical attention for severe symptoms of premenstrual syndrome.

The May 15 [Jewish Press](#) quoted material from a book by Elizabeth Laugeson, an assistant clinical professor of psychiatry, titled, "The Science of Making Friends: Helping Socially Challenged Teens and Young Adults."

The [Bay Area Reporter](#) on May 17 cited LGBT population data from the California Health Interview Survey, conducted by the Fielding School's UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, in an article about Santa Clara County's hiring of an employee dedicated to transgender community issues.

[WEHOville](#) on May 11 cited Sandra de Castro Buffington, founding director of the Global Media Center for Social Impact at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, as keynote speaker for the 11th annual West Hollywood Women's Leadership Conference on May 19.

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## NOTABLE QUOTABLES

Joycee Berin, director of business intelligence with UCLA Health Information Services & Solutions, was quoted May 17 in [Healthcare IT News](#) and [Healthcare Industry Today](#) stories about executives embracing data analytics to improve quality measures and enhance patient care.

Shana Alex Charles, faculty associate at the Fielding School's UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, commented May 10 in [The American Prospect](#) about the passage of the Healthy California Act, which outlines a single-payer health care plan for California.

Dr. James Cherry, a distinguished professor of pediatric infectious diseases at UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital, commented May 12 in the [Ventura County Star](#) about an outbreak of chicken pox among students at an Agoura Hills elementary school due to low vaccination levels.

Robert Damoiseaux, associate professor of pharmacology, commented May 15 in a [City News Service](#) article about the University of California launching a new program to speed the development of life-saving drugs. The Times of San Diego and MyNewsLA syndicated the story.

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 May 16 in a [HealthDay](#) article about actress Angela Bassett, who is leading a campaign to raise awareness about the link between diabetes and heart disease. The HealthDay story appeared in [U.S News & World Report](#) and [MedicalXpress](#).

David Hovda, a professor of neurosurgery and director of the UCLA Brain Injury Research Center, was quoted May 18 in a [Boston Globe](#) commentary about concussions allegedly suffered by legendary New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady.

Kathryn Kietzman, research scientist at the Fielding School's UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, commented May 12 in a [Capital & Main](#) article about the possibility that the AHCA would eliminate funding for in-home care to disabled groups in California.

Dr. Angela M. Leung, endocrinologist at UCLA Health, Santa Monica, commented May 15 in an [endocrineweb.com](#) article on a study examining whether older people with mildly low thyroid function need treatment.

Nadereh Pourat, professor-in-residence at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and director of research at the Fielding School's UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, commented May 11 in a [KXTV-TV](#), Sacramento, California, report about whether California would lose health premium tax credits

under the GOP's proposed health plan. She also commented May 11 in a [DrBicuspid.com](#) article on how the AHCA could affect dental practices.

Anne Rimoin, associate professor and acting vice chair of epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented May 17 in a [Wired](#) article about international medical responses to the new Ebola outbreaks in central Africa.

Dr. Colin Robinson, internal medicine and pediatric specialist at UCLA Health-Santa Clarita Valley and clinical instructor of medicine, commented May 12 in a [Huffington Post](#) article examining whether zinc and vitamin C reduce the incidence and severity of colds. The story also appeared on [MSN.com](#) and its websites in South Africa, Singapore and Malaysia.

Dr. Christopher Saigal, vice chair of urology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted May 8 in the [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) about the latest diagnostic tools and treatments available for a Pittsburgh Pirates pitcher possibly facing a testicular cancer diagnosis.

Dr. Gary Small, the Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging and director of the UCLA Longevity Center, commented May 16 in a [U.S. News & World Report](#) story about how exercise can boost brain power and ward off aging-related cognitive decline.

Johnese Spisso, CEO of the UCLA Hospital System and president of UCLA Health, was quoted May 15 in a [Bisnow](#) story about teaching hospitals evolving to be more patient- and learning-centered. The story references the opening of the medical school's Geffen Hall.

Larona Taylor, manager of UCLA Health's safe patient handling program, commented May 15 in a San Fernando Valley Business Journal article on new medical devices that may reduce hospital-acquired skin ulcers.

Steven P. Wallace, professor and chair of the Department of Community Health Sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and associate director of the Fielding School's UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, commented May 16 in a [Public Radio International \(PRI\)](#) story about elderly immigrant Los Angeles residents struggling with affordable housing. The story was republished by [KUOW](#) and other PRI affiliates.

Dr. Peter Whybrow, director of the Semel Institute, was quoted May 9 in a [New Zealand Herald](#) article about how technology is affecting our brains.

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