



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT**  
**For the week of May 19-25, 2017**

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**Hand transplant helps patient get his life back**

ABC's Nightline ([part 1](#), [part 2](#)) aired May 19 the story of a Hollywood executive who has been making a remarkable recovery following a hand transplant at UCLA last year. Dr. Kodi Azari, surgical director of the UCLA Hand Transplant program and a professor of orthopaedic surgery and plastic surgery, was interviewed. The U.K.'s [Daily Mail](#) featured May 20 a story based on the Nightline segment.

### **Families coping with Manchester incident**

NPR station [WBUR-FM](#), Boston, featured May 23 Melissa Brymer, director of terrorism and disaster programs at the UCLA-Duke National Center for Child Traumatic Stress, in a report on how children and families can cope with and talk about tragic events such as the terrorist attack in Manchester. Brymer also commented in a May 23 [Newsweek](#) article on the topic.

### **How does your brain remember your 21st birthday?**

Nanthia Suthana, assistant professor of neurosurgery and psychiatry at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and Semel Institute, explained what scientists believe happens when people remember their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday party May 18 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) article about how the brain makes memories.

### **That senior moment may be due to a biologically older brain**

[The Scientist](#) May 22 and [GenomeWeb](#) May 19 featured research by Steve Horvath that led to an epigenetic clock that tracks biological aging in stories about how people's brain tissue ages at different rates. [STAT News](#) also cited the epigenetic clock in a May 18 story about the death of Fox News' former CEO, Roger Ailes. Horvath is a professor of human genetics and biostatistics at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine and Fielding School of Public Health.

### **NBC-TV explores transgender therapies for young children**

[NBC-TV's](#) Bay area-affiliate featured Dr. Eric Vilain, chief of medical genetics, May 18 in an in-depth story exploring early medical interventions for children who self-identify as the opposite gender.

### **Philadelphia TV highlights caregiver "boot camp"**

WPVI-TV, Philadelphia, reported May 23 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 continued gaining media placements, including May 20 in the [Boston Herald](#), May 21 in the Albany Democrat-Herald, May 23 in the Indiana Gazette, and May 24 in the Hawaii Tribune-Herald. Dr. Zaldy Tan, medical director of the UCLA Alzheimer's and Dementia Care Program, was quoted.  
WPVI-TV: <http://bit.ly/2rTBV0k>

### **UCLA Health takes education and research into international realm**

[Modern Healthcare](#) published May 20 a story about U.S. academic health systems expanding services to organizations overseas that features UCLA Health's ventures in Guangzhou, China, where the health system is consulting in the development of a new hospital. Michael Burke, director of international at UCLA Health, is quoted.

### **Op-ed: hearing aids too expensive**

[U.S. News & World Report](#) on May 24 published an op-ed by Dr. Jonathan Fielding, professor-in-residence at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, about the lowering the cost of hearing aids for consumers.

### **Testing for gonorrhea**

[MyScience](#) on May 22; [Science Newsline](#), [ScienceDaily](#), [Infection Control Today](#), [Outbreak News Today](#) and [MedicalXpress](#) on May 23; [Laboratory Equipment](#) and [Contemporary Clinic](#) on May 24; and [HealthCanal](#) on May 25 highlighted research on a laboratory test that helps physicians determine which people with gonorrhea may be more treatable with an antibiotic that has not been recommended since 2007 because of concerns that the resistance to the drug was growing. Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, 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, was the study's senior author.

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

[NutrIngredients.com](#) highlighted May 19 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 Volkmann, assistant professor of medicine in the division of rheumatology and co-director of the CTD-ILD Program, led the research.

#### **Postpartum antiretroviral treatment**

[Specialty Pharmacy Times](#) reported May 23 on research led by Dr. Judith Currier, associate director of the UCLA Clinical AIDS Research and Education Center and chief of the UCLA Division of Infectious Diseases, finding that young, HIV-positive mothers can experience better health if they continue antiretroviral treatment postpartum. Currier was quoted.

#### **More coverage on opening of new fitness center at local school**

[The Santa Monica Mirror](#) on May 23 published an article and photo from the UCLA Sound Body Sound Mind event at Lincoln Middle School. Attendee Johnese Spisso, president of UCLA Health and CEO of the UCLA Hospital System, was referenced in the article.

#### **Tracking disease outbreaks in real-time**

[Axios](#) on May 25 published an article by Anne Rimoin, associate professor and acting vice chair of epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, about the importance of live monitoring and geo-mapping of disease outbreaks, such as the recent return of Ebola to Central Africa. [Axios](#) also included Rimoin's study in a roundup of expert posts about how to survive the next pandemic.

#### **Epidemiology chair's research links diet to breast cancer**

[Healio HemOncToday](#) on May 25 featured research led by Karin Michels, professor and chair of epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, finding that an inflammatory diet with few vegetables and high intake of sugars and red meat can increase a woman's breast cancer risk later in life.

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

[ScienceDaily](#) and [MedicalXpress](#) on May 19 and [News-Medical.Net](#) on May 18 spotlighted 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 rare muscle inflammation, featured May 20 in [The Californian](#)
- On taking zinc to fight colds, featured May 19 in [Elko Daily Free Press](#)
- On factors to consider before getting treated with proton pump inhibitors, featured May 21 in [The Herald Standard](#)
- On cardiovascular health and reducing stress, featured May 23 in [The Oklahoman](#)
- On the risks of taking kava, featured May 24 in [Tulsa World](#)

#### **BRIEFS**

A May 24 [Chicago Tribune](#) story on protecting your eyes from vision loss cited a 2014 study at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute that transplanted stem cells from embryonic cells into blind patients. Ten of 18 patients experienced improved vision. The [Orlando Sentinel](#) syndicated the story.

A May 22 article in [International Business Times](#) cited research co-authored by 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, suggesting an association between gut microbiota and the brain regions involved in processing sensory information.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) referenced Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center in a May 24 story about the death of Jerry Perenchio, a promoter, agent and philanthropist who donated anonymously to numerous charities, foundations and building projects. The story was syndicated to the [Miami Herald](#) and other outlets.

A May 24 [Business of Fashion](#) story about mixed-shopping malls referenced the UCLA Health clinic at The Village at Westfield Topanga in Woodland Hills.

A May 23 story in the U.K.'s [Daily Mail](#) about a study that found teaching hospitals have lower mortality rates included Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center in a list of overall top 10 hospitals in the United States, as rated by U.S. News & World Report.

A May 23 [Kaiser Health News](#) article about the \$367-billion price tag of enacting single-payer healthcare in California. Numerous media outlets cited research conducted by the Fielding School's UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. The article was carried Newsweek, California Healthline, United Press International, the Wisconsin Gazette, and many others.

[New America Media](#) and [My Informs](#) on May 19 and [KPCC-FM](#) on May 18 cited data from the California Health Interview Survey, conducted by the Fielding School's UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, in reports on a UC Berkeley study finding that repeal of the Affordable Care Act threatens the health coverage of California's self-employed and workers in small businesses such as restaurants.

The [Orange County Register](#) on May 19 cited a study co-authored by Gerald Kominski, professor of health policy and management at the Fielding School and director of its UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, in an article about California's proposed single-payer health care bill.

[IFMAWorld.com](#) and [Foodservice Equipment & Supplies](#) published stories May 23 about Patti Oliver's receipt of the 2017 Silver Plate Class award from the International Foodservice Manufacturers Association. Oliver is director of nutrition at UCLA Health.

## QUOTABLES

Dr. Nasim Afsar-manesh, associate chief medical officer for UCLA Health and an associate clinical professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, commented May 24 in an article in [The Hospitalist](#) about practice management skills.

Shana Alex Charles, faculty associate at the Fielding School's UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, commented May 22 in a [KPCC-FM](#) article about the passage of the Healthy California Act, which outlines a single-payer health care plan for California.

Dr. Susan Davis, endocrinologist at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, commented May 19 in a [teenink.com](#) article on the health dangers of cell phone use.

Dr. David Fish, assistant professor of orthopaedic surgery and director of physical medicine & rehabilitation at the UCLA Spine Center in Santa Monica, commented May 19 in a [U.S. News & World Report](#) article about simple stretching exercises.

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 24 in a [MedPage Today](#) article about a study which looked at using medical claims to assess heart attack, stroke and bleeding events compared to the traditional approach for event ascertainment and classification used in clinical trials.

Dr. Jonathan Goldman, health science clinical instructor of 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, commented May 18 in a [U.S. News & World Report](#) article about the different types of lung cancer.

Dana Hunnes, senior dietitian at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and adjunct assistant professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented May 21 in a [Washington Post](#) article about dispelling popular myths regarding healthy food choices.

Janet Mentes, professor in the UCLA School of Nursing, commented May 22 in a [Consumer Reports](#) article about avoiding dehydration during the summer months.

Dr. Leena Nathan, an obstetrician-gynecologist at UCLA Health-Westlake Village, commented May 15 in a [Reuters Health](#) article about a study that found maternal gestational diabetes affects umbilical cord cells on a genomic level and can potentially increase the risk of cardiovascular disease in the baby later in life.

Dr. Parvin Peddi, assistant clinical professor of 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 May 23 in [Cure Today](#) and [Onclive](#) about a new breast cancer treatment called pyrotinib for HER-2 positive breast cancer patients.

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 19 in [The Orange County Register](#) about California's proposed single-payer health care bill.

Tom Rice, distinguished professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented May 19 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) column about American belief systems regarding the right or privilege to healthcare.

Dr. Beate Ritz, professor of epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented May 18 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) article about how the modern world affects the brain

Dr. Gary Small, director of geriatric psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Longevity Center, commented May 18 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) article about how the modern world affects the brain. He was also quoted in a separate May 18 [Los Angeles Times](#) article about things you can do now to prevent dementia later.

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 20 in a [Global Voices](#) article about elderly immigrant Los Angeles residents struggling with affordable housing.

Dr. Adrienne Youdim, voluntary associate clinical professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, was quoted May 19 in [The List](#) in a story about junk foods. She was also quoted May 19 in a [HealthZette](#) story about obesity.

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