



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of May 26-June 1, 2017**

Note: Website links may expire without notice. Some sites require password registration. If you cannot access a story or would like to obtain a copy, please call 310.267.7022.

Handshake-free zones target the spread of germs in hospitals

Treating heart disease in cancer patients

Mice headed for space to test bone-building drug

Using marijuana to treat chronic pain

A game-changing drug's high price tag

Why "beer goggles" make you more affectionate

Is cannabis fueling a new fitness movement?

Attention grows to problem of over-medicated elderly patients

Op-ed: Homeless families of vets overlooked

Testing for gonorrhea

Rising rates of Alzheimer's deaths

Caregiver "boot camp" garners additional media interest

Doctor discusses heart disease and prevention

One-third of referred MS cases turn out to be misdiagnosed

Maui brain cancer survivor gets V.I.P. treatment at Lakers game

Post-traumatic stress disorder can affect heart function

Buyer beware: What to watch for in licensed rehab centers

Radiation increases lung cancer survival

Extra-TV spotlights legendary leaders' visit to UCLA Neurosurgery

Advice for parents coping with an empty nest

Shedding those last 10 pounds

Milk and thyroid medication don't mix

Genetic mutation linked to schizophrenia and autism becomes focus

Innovative program provides respite for caregivers

This week on “Ask the Doctors”

**

Handshake-free zones target the spread of germs in hospitals

[Kaiser Health News](#) reported May 29 on a unique UCLA initiative to establish handshake-free zones in the neonatal ICUs at UCLA Health hospitals in Westwood and Santa Monica. The pilot encouraged medical staff and patient families to use alternative greetings to reduce the spread of germs. Dr. Mark Sklansky, professor and chief of pediatric cardiology; Dr. Meena Garg, neonatologist and health sciences clinical professor; Dr. Joanna Parga, neonatology fellow; and a mother of a NICU baby were quoted. The story aired as a national [NPR](#) segment on dozens of local public radio stations nationwide and as published articles on [ABC News](#), [Fortune](#) and [Becker's Hospital Review](#).

Treating heart disease in cancer patients

[The Wall Street Journal](#) on May 31 published an article on cancer treatments and their effects on heart function. Dr. Megha Agarwal, a cardiologist at UCLA Health Primary & Specialty Practice in Ventura and a specialist in cardio-oncology, was quoted and pictured in the story, as were two of her patients from the UCLA Health practice.

Mice headed for space to test bone-building drug

[Spaceflight Now](#) on May 31 and [AFL Net](#) on June 1 reported on the launch of a SpaceX ship that will deliver 40 mice – part of a UCLA-led research project – to the International Space Station. The mice will be treated with NELL-1, an experimental new drug developed at UCLA that aims to direct stem cells to induce bone formation and prevent bone degeneration in humans. The coverage quoted study leader Dr. Chia Soo, professor and vice chair for research in the UCLA Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and member of the UCLA Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research.

Using marijuana to treat chronic pain

BuzzFeed Health this week published a video, with Dr. Thomas Strouse as the featured medical expert, on the use of medical marijuana for chronic pain management. The video was published May 31 on [Facebook](#), where it already has 2 million views, and June 1 on [YouTube](#). Strouse is medical director of the Stewart and Lynda Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital at UCLA.

A game-changing drug's high price tag

[KCAL](#) on May 20 featured Dr. Perry Shieh, an associate professor of neurology and neuromuscular medicine, in a story about Spinraza, a new \$375,000-a-year drug to treat a previously untreatable condition called spinal muscular atrophy.

Why “beer goggles” make you more affectionate

[SELF](#) magazine on May 25 featured Suzette Glasner, a licensed clinical psychologist and an adjunct associate professor at UCLA's Semel Institute, explaining why people get “touchy-feely” when they're intoxicated. Blame it on decreased inhibition and increased emotion.

Is cannabis fueling a new fitness movement?

[Vogue](#) on May 25 published a story— about mixing cannabis with yoga and other fitness activities – that featured Dr. Jeffrey Chen, co-director of UCLA's Cannabinoid Affinity Group. Chen discussed the dearth of evidence regarding whether marijuana can help or hinder a workout.

Attention grows to problem of over-medicated elderly patients

A story that originally appeared in [Kaiser Health News](#) in August – about the rising number of elderly patients on multiple medications – appeared May 29 in the [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#), [Palm Beach](#)

[Post](#), [Austin American-Statesman](#) and several other newspapers. Dr. David Reuben, chief of geriatrics, Dominick Bailey, geriatric clinical pharmacist and Dr. Maristela Garcia, medical director of inpatient geriatrics at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, were quoted in the article. It previously appeared in [Washington Post](#), and was syndicated on [PBS Newshour.org](#), [Health Leaders Media](#), [California Healthline](#) and dozens of other outlets.

Op-ed: Homeless families of vets overlooked

[The Conversation](#) on May 26 published an op-ed by Dr. Roya Ijadi-Maghsoodi, an assistant professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences, about the significant, though largely invisible, problem of homelessness among families of veterans. The article later appeared in the May 27 issue of [Stars and Stripes](#) and on May 29 in [Huffington Post](#) and [Wow.com](#).

Testing for gonorrhea

[KPCC-FM](#) reported May 29 about a laboratory test that helps physicians determine which people with gonorrhea might be better treated with an antibiotic not recommended since 2007. 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 and was quoted. [California Healthline](#) on May 30 also covered the story.

KPCC-FM: <http://bit.ly/2qL8VXr>

Rising rates of Alzheimer's deaths

KPCC-FM's "[AirTalk with Larry Mantle](#)" on May 26 featured Dr. Zaldy Tan, medical director of the UCLA Alzheimer's and Dementia Care Program, who discussed new statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showing a sharp spike in deaths from Alzheimer's disease. The report also highlighted the UCLA Improving Caregiving for Dementia Caregiver "Boot Camp."

KPCC: [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#)

Caregiver "boot camp" garners additional media interest

A recent [Kaiser Health News](#) story 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, continued gaining media placements. The story ran May 31 in the [Sioux City Journal](#) and the [Journal Times](#), and May 29 on [Univision.com](#).

Doctor discusses heart disease and prevention

[KTLA-TV](#) on May 30 featured Dr. Keith Norris, professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, who discussed high blood pressure, stroke and atherosclerosis at the Body Worlds: Pulse exhibit at the California Science Center. The interview was linked to National High Blood Pressure Education Month.

Maui brain cancer survivor gets V.I.P. treatment at Lakers game

[KGMB-TV](#), Honolulu, on May 31 featured the story of a Maui lawyer who underwent successful treatment for his brain tumor at UCLA and was recently honored as a "UCLA Health Laker for a Day" at an L.A. Lakers basketball game. His surgeon, Dr. Linda Liau, professor and interim chair of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was included in the story.

One-third of referred MS cases turn out to be misdiagnosed

[MedPage Today](#) on May 27 featured research by Dr. Marwa Kaisey, a neuroimmunology fellow, showing that one-third of patients referred to multiple sclerosis specialty clinics turn out to be misdiagnosed.

Post-traumatic stress disorder can affect heart function

[MedPage Today](#) on May 25 featured research showing that patients with post-traumatic stress disorder show signs of heart inflammation that may put them at risk for cardiac problems. The study's lead researcher, Dr. Naser Ahmadi, an assistant professor of cardiology, was quoted.

Buyer beware: What to watch for in licensed rehab centers

KPCC-FM's "[AirTalk with Larry Mantle](#)," on May 31 featured Dr. Larissa Mooney, director of the UCLA Addiction Medicine Clinic, in a program focused on the rising number of complaints about licensed rehab centers. Mooney discussed what to look out for in such a facility.

Radiation increases lung cancer survival

[Life Science Daily](#) on May 30 and [Medpage Today](#) on May 31 featured research led by Dr. Percy Lee, vice chair of radiation oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, about radiation therapy's ability to increase survival in non-small cell lung cancer patients when delivered before the immunotherapy drug pembrolizumab. Lee and Dr. Narek Shaverdian, a radiation oncology resident at UCLA and first author of the study, were quoted.

Extra-TV spotlights legendary leaders' visit to UCLA Neurosurgery

Extra-TV, New York, aired a story May 31 featuring UCLA donor and business executive Charlie Norris and former Lakers player and coach Byron Scott. Coauthors of a recent book on leadership, the two men shared secrets to their success with faculty members and staff at a recent book-signing hosted by the UCLA Department of Neurosurgery. The network segment was syndicated by 40 affiliate stations nationwide, including NBC affiliates in Los Angeles and Boston; FOX-TV, Chicago; and ABC-TV, Washington, DC.

Advice for parents coping with an empty nest

[Healthline](#) on May 10 published a story on "empty nest" syndrome that featured Emanuel Maidenberg, clinical professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences.

Shedding those last 10 pounds

[Women's Health](#) on May 26 and [Men's Health](#) on May 30 published articles – on the habits holding people back from losing weight – featuring Dana Hunnes, senior dietitian at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and adjunct assistant professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.

Milk and thyroid medication don't mix

[Healio's Endocrine Today](#) on May 25 covered research presented by Dr. Deborah Chon and Dr. Angela Leung at ENDO, the annual meeting of the Endocrine Society, finding that consuming milk while taking a common thyroid medication reduces its absorption. Chon is an endocrinology fellow at David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and Leung is an assistant clinical professor of medicine in the division of endocrinology, diabetes & metabolism at David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

Genetic mutation linked to schizophrenia, autism, gets coverage

[Science Daily](#) on May 24 and [Reliawire](#), [Bioscience Technology](#) and [Science Newsline](#) on May 25 featured a study characterizing, for the first time, anatomical brain differences in people with a deletion of genetic material on the 22nd chromosome or with an abnormal duplication of genetic material in that location. The deletion carries a risk of schizophrenia, whereas duplication is associated with autism. The research was led by Carrie Bearden, a professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences, and of psychology, at UCLA's Semel Institute.

Innovative program provides respite for caregivers

[Home Health Care News](#) on May 29 featured 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. It was part of a report about the Los Angeles-based Youth Movement Against Alzheimer's, which has formed a partnership with the program.

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 aging skin and bruising, featured May 26 in [Elko Daily Free Press](#)

- On psilocybin, featured May 29 in [The Frederick News-Post](#)
- On a vegetarian diet, featured May 27 in [Hanford Sentinel](#)
- On long-term antibiotic use and colon polyps, featured May 30 in [The Manchester Journal](#)
- On research around paractin, featured May 30 in [UExpress](#)

NOTABLE BRIEFS

Dr. Abbas Ardehali, professor of cardiothoracic surgery and director of the UCLA Heart and Lung Transplant program, was cited May 27 in a [Payvand.com](#) story about nine Iranian-Americans, including Ardehali, who recently received a prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor for outstanding achievements in their personal and professional lives.

[Marie Claire](#) on May 31 mentioned UCLA's partnership with the Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy in an article about men and women winning the fight against cancer.

[MSN](#) and [Medical Daily](#) on May 26 referenced a study by UCLA's Center for Human Nutrition about the health effects of avocado when consumed with meat.

[Dr. Axe](#) on May 25 referenced a study by UCLA's Center for Human Nutrition on pomegranate juice and antioxidant capacity.

[The Science Times](#) on May 25, [Boston Commons](#) on May 26, [Her Campus](#) on May 27 and [Reader's Digest](#) on May 29 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.

[Food Industry Magazine](#), [Restaurant Hospitality](#) and [Nation's Restaurant News](#) on May 26 published stories 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.

The May 30 [Beverly Hills Patch](#) cited philanthropist Gloria Kaufman's support of the mobile eye clinic at the Stein Eye Institute at UCLA.

[The VC \(Ventura County\) Reporter](#) on May 31 cited data from the California Health Interview Survey, conducted by the Fielding School's UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, about rates of smoking among adults in Ventura County.

[Infection Control Today](#) on May 31 cited the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health as co-author on a new Cedars-Sinai study about quality-improvement measures that reduce hospital readmission rates but do not produce consistent savings.

A May 26 [Los Angeles Times](#) column about California's proposed single-payer health care system cited research conducted by the Fielding School's UCLA Center for Health Policy Research about California's estimated \$367 billion annual cost of health expenditures.

NOTABLE QUOTABLES

Dr. Deanna Attai, a UCLA breast surgeon based in Burbank and assistant clinical professor of surgery, commented in a May 31 [CBS News](#) article on recurrences of breast cancer. Interest in the topic was prompted by singer Olivia Newton-John's announcement that her breast cancer is back after a 25-year remission. Dr. Raquel Prati, assistant clinical professor of surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, also commented on the topic in the May 31 [People](#), [MSN](#), [Boston Herald](#) and [Hollywood Take](#).

Melissa Brymer, director of terrorism and disaster programs at the UCLA-Duke National Center for Child Traumatic Stress, commented in a May 28 [Univision](#) report on how children and families can cope with events such as the terrorist attack in Manchester.

Alison Grimes, director of audiology and newborn hearing screening for UCLA Health, commented May 25 in a [Forbes](#) story about the difficulty people have in acknowledging hearing loss.

Dr. Richard Jackson, professor of environmental health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented May 31 in [The Huffington Post](#) about women's roles during social movements and natural disasters, such as the possible future as it relates to climate change.

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 May 30 in a [Quartz](#) story on bacteria in dirt.

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, was quoted on May 24 by [KSCI-TV](#) about single-payer health care systems and the American Health Care Act.

Anne Rimoin, associate professor and acting vice chair of epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented May 26 in a [Science Magazine](#) article questioning the role of pigs in the transmission of the Ebola virus.

=====

UCLA's Health Sciences Media Relations e-publishes this report weekly. For more information, please contact Tami Dennis, executive director of media relations, or call the Media Relations office at 310-267-7022. Our office also offers publicity for new research, medical breakthroughs, clinical trial recruitment, inspirational patient stories and more. To identify the appropriate public information officer for your department, visit <https://www.uclahealth.org/Newsroom/Pages/Media-Relations-Directory.aspx>.