



UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT

For the week of June 9-15, 2017

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Study finds no gender difference in stress as a risk factor for heart disease

Mice mimic sensory hypersensitivity in humans

Sports doc offers exercise advice in Women's Health

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The effects of ingesting charcoal

Is too much protein bad for you?

More coverage of research on religious services, longer life

Fielding School signs agreement with Chinese Medical Sciences academy

"Food Fight" article republished by Public Health Advocates

This week on "Ask the Doctors"

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Setting the protocol for aid-in-dying laws

[National Public Radio](#) on June 8 and [Kaiser Health News](#) on June 9 published a feature on California's year-old aid-in-dying law featuring Dr. Neil Wenger, director of the UCLA Health Ethics Center. The NPR

piece aired nationally and was picked up by 43 affiliates, and the Kaiser Health News story was picked up by nine other outlets.

Balance and movement improved in mouse model of Parkinson's

[UPI](#) on June 8 reported that researchers at UCLA have created a molecular compound that improves balance and coordination in mice with Parkinson's disease. Gal Bitan, an associate professor of neurology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, and Dr. Marie-Françoise Chesselet, the Charles H. Markham professor of neurology at UCLA, are the senior authors of the study. The UPI article also appeared on [Breitbart](#). The news was also featured in a video that aired on [MSN.com](#) and [Wochit News](#).

Study finds no gender difference in stress as a risk factor for heart disease

[MedicalXpress](#), [News Medical.net](#), [MyScience](#), and [Technology.org](#) reported June 14 on a new UCLA study which found that, although women had higher levels of stress hormones than men, the association between stress and coronary heart disease was similar in both genders. The study also showed that levels of one stress hormone, dopamine, were inversely related to heart risk.

Mice mimic sensory hypersensitivity in humans

[Science Daily](#), [Medical Express](#) and [News Today Blog](#) on June 12 reported on a UCLA study showing that mice with fragile X syndrome, a type of autism, were unable to adapt to repeated whisker touches. The study was led by Dr. Carlos Portera-Cailliau, professor of neurology and neurobiology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, and Cynthia He, a Ph.D. student in Portera-Cailliau's lab.

Sports doc offers exercise advice in Women's Health

[Women's Health](#) magazine on June 14 featured an interview with Dr. Daniel Vigil, a health sciences associate clinical professor of family medicine, in an article about why people can feel bloated during a workout and how to prevent it.

Local media spotlights Quilt of Valor donation to wounded service members

KCBS-TV (Los Angeles), KNBC-TV (Los Angeles), [LA18-TV](#) (Los Angeles) and [Los Angeles Daily News](#) on June 14 featured a local kindergarten class who created a quilt of valor and donated it to UCLA Health's Operation Mend program. The program provides free medical, surgical and psychological services to wounded post-9/11 service members, veterans and their families. Patti Taylor, a volunteer nurse with Operation Mend, was quoted.

Battling depression by "rewiring" the brain

[News-Medical](#) on June 14 and sci-tech outlet [Futurism](#) on June 15 featured UCLA's use of transcranial magnetic stimulation, a non-invasive therapy for depression. The coverage featured Dr. Andrew Leuchter, senior research scientist at the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior and director of the neuromodulation division, as well as Dr. Ian Cook, director of the UCLA Depression Research and Clinic Program.

New pregnancy recommendations for women with heart problems

[Cardiovascular Business](#) on June 8 highlighted new recommendations for helping women with congenital heart disease have successful pregnancies. Dr. Jamil Aboulhosn, associate professor of medicine, was quoted. The story, originally reported June 4 by the [Washington Post](#), also quoted Mary Canobbio, a lecturer at the UCLA School of Nursing, who chaired the group that developed the recommendations, and co-author Dr. Brian Koos, a professor of obstetrics.

Zika viral load, dengue exposure not necessarily linked to abnormal pregnancies

[Infection Control Today](#) on June 13 highlighted research suggesting that Zika viral load, degree of symptoms, and presence of antibodies to previously acquired dengue fever, were not necessarily connected to abnormalities during pregnancy or at birth. Dr. Umme-Aiman Halai, a postdoctoral clinical fellow in the UCLA Division of Infectious Diseases, was the study's lead author.

Shedding light on low-value healthcare services

Wharton Business School and Sirius XM's "The Business of Healthcare" on June 13 featured Dr. John Mafi, assistant professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, in a panel discussion exploring appropriate and inappropriate utilization of medical services. The broadcast highlighted Mafi's recent *JAMA Internal Medicine* study finding that patients at hospital-based primary care clinics are more likely to receive unnecessary tests and services.

Parents with PTSD need to talk to their children

[News Medical](#) on June 12 featured Tom Babayan, a licensed marriage and family therapist based at the Nathanson Family Resilience Center at UCLA's Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior, in an article about how parents with PTSD can communicate with their children.

L.A. Lakers treat patient to V.I.P. experience

The National Basketball Association's [NBA.com](#) on June 8 spotlighted a story on Jonathan Koch, who received a hand transplant at UCLA and was recently chosen as a "Laker for a Day" at a Los Angeles Laker game. Before the game, he sunk a shot on the court using his new hand.

Tai chi for insomnia study gets continued coverage

[Breastcancer.org](#) on June 14 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. The article quoted Dr. Michael Irwin, professor of psychiatry and director of the Cousins Center for Psychoneuroimmunology at the Semel Institute, who led the study. Co-author Dr. Patricia Ganz, distinguished professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and director of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Patients and Survivor Program, also commented.

The effects of ingesting charcoal

[LAist](#) on June 12 ran a story about foods containing activated charcoal in which Dr. Zhaoping Li, director of UCLA's Center for Human Nutrition, discussed the health effects.

Is too much protein bad for you?

[Men's Fitness](#) on June 8 published a story – debunking myths about protein – that featured Dr. David Heber, professor emeritus of medicine.

More coverage of research on religious services, longer life

[Express.co.uk](#) on June 10 reported on research co-authored by Dr. Keith Norris, professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, finding that people who attend religious services live longer and have less stress than those who don't.

Fielding School signs agreement with Chinese Medical Sciences academy

[ASPPH \(Association of Schools & Programs of Public Health\)](#) on June 8 featured the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health's May 30th memorandum-of-understanding signing with the China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences, formalizing commitment to joint research and training among the institutions.

"Food Fight" article republished by Public Health Advocates

[Public Health Advocates](#) on June 8 republished an excerpt from "Food Fight," an article about policy changes to promote healthier eating environments, published in the Spring/Summer 2017 edition of UCLA Fielding School of Public Health Magazine.

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 the effects of bone-building medications, featured June 13 in [Tulsa World](#)

- On methylsulfonylmethane and arthritis, featured June 10 in [Daily Herald](#)
 - On nutritional factors to consider when trying to gain weight, featured June 10 in [Hanford Sentinel](#)
 - On communicating with doctors, featured June 9 in [Elko Daily Free Press](#)
 - On osteoporosis diagnosis in older men, featured June 8 in [The Spokesman-Review](#)
 - On hyperparathyroidism, featured June 8 in [Sioux City Journal](#)
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NOTABLE BRIEFS

The UCLA Health Operation Mend program was mentioned June 14 in [The East County Californian](#) in an article about a female U.S. Army veteran who underwent treatment for war-related injuries through the UCLA program, and who has written a book about her adopted cat.

On June 13, the [Los Angeles Times](#) ran a first-person, op-ed piece by a Portland doctor who donated a kidney through UCLA's kidney donor exchange program. His donation allowed one of his patients to receive a kidney from a different donor.

The May 24 [Chicago Tribune](#) cited a 2014 stem-cell study at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute in a story about preventing early vision loss. The story was syndicated by 15 news outlets, including June 9 by the [Charlotte Observer](#) and June 8 by [Medical Xpress](#).

A June 8 article in [Futurity](#) cited a UCLA study on whether a cell's sexual origin influences results. The study was coauthored by Arthur Arnold, a distinguished professor of integrative biology and physiology, and Karen Reue, a professor of human genetics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

Dr. Zev Wainberg, associate professor of hematology and oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a member of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was mentioned in a June 9 [Hep](#) report from the 2017 ASCO Annual Meeting about promising new immunotherapy treatments for hepatocellular carcinoma, a common liver cancer.

Westside media report on hospital's stroke-center certification

The [Santa Monica Lookout](#) on June 9 and [Santa Monica Daily Press](#) on June 12 noted that UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, has achieved certification as a primary stroke center by The Joint Commission. Pamela Nye, coordinator of the hospital's stroke program, and Dr. Doojin Kim, medical director of the program, were quoted. Dr. Wally Ghurabi, medical director of the Nethercutt Emergency Center, was mentioned.

NOTABLE QUOTABLES

Dr. Deanna Attai, a UCLA breast surgeon based in Burbank and an assistant clinical professor of surgery, commented in a June 9 [NPR](#) story on a little-known cancer helpline funded by the National Cancer Institute. The piece aired on public radio stations nationwide.

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 June 14 in [Medscape](#) and June 12 in a [Health Day](#) article about the use of traditional Chinese herbal medications in treating heart disease.

Dr. Maria Garcia-Lloret, an associate professor of pediatrics in the allergy and immunology division at UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital, commented in a [New York Times](#) story exploring whether air conditioners cause sinus congestion. The article was syndicated June 11 by the Charleston [Post and Courier](#).

Dr. Wally Ghurabi, medical director of the Nethercutt Emergency Center at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, commented in a June 10 [Today.com](#) article on the warning signs of secondary drowning. The article was reprinted June 11 in [Latina.com](#) and on websites of several NBC-affiliated TV stations nationwide.

Dr. Jeffrey Klausner commented June 12 in a [Reuters Health](#) article about a study finding that HIV-positive women are more likely than HIV-negative women to become infected with HPV and progress to pre-cancerous lesions.

- Klausner was also quoted June 7 in a [Pacific Standard](#) story about a mumps outbreak in Los Angeles County. Klausner is professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a professor of public health in the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.

Dr. Lynne McCullough, a clinical professor of emergency medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and the medical director for the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center emergency department, was quoted June 15 in the [Washington Post](#) explaining the potential effects of a single gunshot to the pelvis.

Dr. Mark Morocco, a clinical professor of emergency medicine, was quoted in a June 8 [MetroParent.com](#) story about the dangers of secondary or dry drowning, whose symptoms appear only several hours after water enters the lungs.

Dr. Leena Nathan, an obstetrician-gynecologist at UCLA Health-Westlake Village, commented June 9 in an [ATTN.com](#) about the health risks to mother and baby when infants are born at a higher than average weight.

Dr. Aparna Sridhar, assistant professor in obstetrics and gynecology, commented June 9 in a [Vogue.com](#) article about potential changes to laws requiring free birth control.

Dr. Elizabeth Volkmann, assistant professor of medicine in the division of rheumatology and co-director of the CTD-ILD Program, was quoted June 9 in a [MedPage Today](#) article on a study finding that dermatomyositis is linked to higher inpatient costs in the United States, especially among non-white patients.

Dr. Rhonda Voskuhl, a professor of neurology and director of the UCLA Multiple Sclerosis Program, was quoted June 12 in [U.S. News and World Report](#) in an article about how people in the public eye cope with multiple sclerosis.

Dr. Christina Wang, a professor of medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, commented June 14 in Vice Media's [Tonic](#) about Big Pharma's lack of interest in funding research into male contraception.

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