



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT**  
**For the week of June 11 - 17, 2010**

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**New Genetic Links to Autism Draw International Headlines**

The world's largest DNA scan for familial autism, which linked susceptibility for the disorder to rare genetic variants found 20 percent more often in the DNA of autistic children, was covered June 15 by KPCC 89.3 FM's "Patt Morrison Show," June 14 by the Los Angeles Times' health blog and June 10 by the Voice of America. Dr. Stan Nelson, professor of human genetics at the David Geffen School of Medicine and professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was interviewed by KPCC and VOA. He was

one of three UCLA researchers that were part of the international team conducting the study. Published June 9 by Nature, the findings were also covered June 10 by El Mundo (Spain) and June 13 by the Sydney Morning Herald (Australia).

“Big Study Identifies New Genes that May Be Involved in Autism”

[http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/booster\\_shots/2010/06/autism-genes-study.html](http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/booster_shots/2010/06/autism-genes-study.html)

“A Big New Piece in the Autism Puzzle Raises More Questions than Answers”

<http://www.scpr.org/programs/patt-morrison/2010/06/15/a-big-new-piece-in-the-autism-puzzle-raises-more-q/>

“Researchers Discover New Autism Genes”

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/health/Researchers-Discover-New-Autism-Genes-96101829.html>

### **NBC’s “Today” Show Explores Pulmonary Fibrosis**

The Today Show on June 15 highlighted a UCLA patient who was recently listed for a lung transplant after being diagnosed with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. Dr. John Belperio, associate professor of medicine, division of pulmonary and critical care medicine, discussed research and treatment for the disease.

“Struggling to Breathe with Pulmonary Fibrosis”

<http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/26184891/vp/37703792#37703792>

### **National Geographic Spotlights Brain Cells that Keep Time**

Research by Dean Buonomano, professor of neurobiology at UCLA’s David Geffen School of Medicine and a member of the Brain Research Institute, was profiled June 16 by National Geographic.com. His lab trained networks of brain cells in a petri dish to keep time. Buonomano was quoted, and Nature Neuroscience published the findings on June 13.

“Brain Cells in a Dish Keep Time”

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2010/06/100616-brain-cells-time-science/>

### **Army News, People.com Showcase Operation Mend**

The Army News Service reported June 14 that philanthropist Ronald A. Katz, UCLA Board of Advisors member and founder of UCLA’s Operation Mend program, received the “Strength of the Nation” award—the highest honor given for public service—during the Army’s 235 Birthday Ball on June 12 in Maryland. Operation Mend, which provides reconstructive surgery and other medical services to wounded soldiers injured in Iraq and Afghanistan, was also highlighted in an online June 15 People magazine story. The story highlighted actor David Arquette’s participation in a Flag Day event honoring Operation Mend.

“Operation Mend Founder Receives ‘Strength of the Nation’ Award”

<http://www.army.mil/-news/2010/06/14/40817-operation-mend-founder-receives--strength-of-the-nation-award/>

“David Arquette Pays Tribute to Wounded Soldiers”

<http://www.people.com/people/article/0,,20394365,00.html>

### **School Friends Boost Academic Performance, Reports HealthDay**

The research of Andrew Fuligni, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, and Melissa Witkow, a former UCLA graduate student, was featured June 9 by HealthDay News. Their research showed that teens with more school friends tend to have higher grade-point averages. Witkow was quoted.

“More School Friends May = Better Grades”

<http://consumer.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=639905>

### **La Opinión Focuses on Poverty among State's Elderly Latinos**

La Opinión—New America Media reported June 12 about poverty among elderly Latinos in California, citing a related Center for Health Policy Research study. Steven Wallace, the center’s associate director and a professor of public health, and Fernando Torres-Gil, associate dean of the UCLA School of Public Affairs and director of the UCLA Center for Policy Research on Aging, were quoted.

“Social Security: A Hedge against Recession for Latino Elders”

<http://newamericamedia.org/2010/06/social-security-a-hedge-against-recession-for-latino-elders.php>

### **Psychology Today Explores Evolution of the Human Brain**

Alex Korb, a doctoral candidate and member of the Laboratory of Neuro Imaging at the Department of Neurology, posted a June 16 Psychology Today blog about the prefrontal cortex's role in the human brain.

"An Introduction to Prefrontal Nudity"

<http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/prefrontal-nudity/201006/introduction-prefrontal-nudity>

### **KPBS Radio Examines Regulation of State's Largest Health Insurers**

Shana Alex Lavarreda, director of health insurance studies at the Center for Health Policy Research at the School of Public Health, was interviewed June 16 on KPBS-89.5 FM (San Diego) about the California state regulators' announcement that they want an independent review of any future rate hikes by the state's largest health insurers.

"California Regulators Will Audit Health Insurers' Rate Hikes"

<http://www.kpbs.org/news/2010/jun/16/california-regulators-will-audit-health-insurers-r/>

### **Psychology Today Looks at How Meditation Enlarges the Brain**

Research by Eileen Luders, a postdoctoral research fellow at the Laboratory of Neuro Imaging at the Department of Neurology, was featured in a June 10 Psychology Today blog that discussed how regular meditation may lead to a significant increase in the brain's gray matter.

"Research Suggests Meditation Increases Gray Matter"

<http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/enlightened-living/201006/research-suggests-meditation-increases-gray-matter>

### **Psychiatric Times Examines Obesity's Link to Brain-tissue Loss**

Paul Thompson, professor of neurology and a member of the Laboratory of Neuro Imaging, was featured June 4 by Psychiatric Times. He found that a common gene variant that causes individuals to gain weight is also associated with a loss of brain tissue.

"Obesity Gene May Affect Brain Function, Dementia Risk"

<http://pn.psychiatryonline.org/content/45/11/14.2.full>

### **Bay Area Reporter Investigates Lubricants' HIV Risk**

The Bay Area Reporter reported June 10 on research by Pamina Gorbach, associate professor of epidemiology and infectious diseases, finding that lubricants may increase the risk of sexually transmitted diseases during anal sex.

"Research into Lubes has Worrisome Findings"

<http://www.ebar.com/news/article.php?sec=news&article=4840>

### **Ventura Paper Spotlights Stroke Doctor's Award**

The Ventura County Star ran a June 13 profile of Thousand Oaks resident Dr. Jeffrey Saver, who was named the 2010 Physician Volunteer of the Year, one of the top honors given by the American Heart Association. A professor of neurology and director of the UCLA Stroke Center, Saver was recognized for his efforts over the past decade to establish stroke systems of care in Los Angeles, as well as for his accomplishments as chair of the California Stroke Work Group.

"T.O. Doctor Honored for Efforts in Hospital Stroke Treatment"

<http://www.vcstar.com/news/2010/jun/13/to-doctor-honored-for-efforts-in-hospital-stroke/>

### **International Channel, Examiner Report on Chinese Official's Visit**

KSCI-TV Channel 18 reported June 12 and an Examiner blog reported June 14 on a visit by a delegation from China's Ministry of Health to UCLA to learn how the U.S. practices traditional Chinese medicine and integrative medicine as part of a new health care model. Dr. Ka-Kit Hui, Wallis Annenberg Professor of Integrative East-West Medicine and director of the UCLA Center for East-West Medicine, was interviewed on KSCI.

"East Meets West: Chinese Delegation Visited UCLA to Discuss Traditional Chinese Medicine"

<http://www.examiner.com/x-25863-LA-Womens-Health-Examiner~y2010m6d14-East-meets-west-Chinese-delegation-visited-UCLA-to-discusses-traditional-Chinese-medicine?cid=exrss-LA-Womens-Health-Examiner>

### **Column Offers Medical Advice to World Cup Travelers**

The Daily News and San Gabriel Valley Tribune ran a syndicated June 17 column by Dr. Claire Panosian, professor of medicine, division of infectious diseases, about the health risks of traveling to Africa for the World Cup and precautions that travelers can take.

“Dangers Awaiting Those Attending World Cup”

[http://www.dailynews.com/ci\\_15312673?source=email](http://www.dailynews.com/ci_15312673?source=email)

### **Heart Expert Appears on Fox Morning News**

KTTV-TV-Channel 11 aired a May 18 interview with Dr. Karol Watson, associate professor of medicine, division of cardiology and co-director of the UCLA Center for Cholesterol and Lipid Management, about how lowering salt intake can prevent hypertension. She returned on May 27 to discuss the importance of maintaining a normal weight for cardiovascular health.

“Dr. Karol Watson – Hypertension”

<http://showroom.multivisioninc.com/share.do?id=128609&key=47tlWdUn9SDGdwLFDcW6dY3wlt5vOSiY&email=rchampeau@mednet.ucla.edu>

“Dr. Karol Watson – Healthy Weight”

<http://showroom.multivisioninc.com/share.do?id=128608&key=Bty1GjAnkCdWHjgouIXwiFIMSuhHIPR&email=rchampeau@mednet.ucla.edu>

### **News Station Reports on Cells that Kill HIV-Infected Cells**

The Web site of WNDU-TV (South Bend, Ind.) reported June 11 on a UCLA AIDS Institute study demonstrating for the first time that human blood stem cells can be engineered into cells that can target and kill HIV-infected cells.

“Researchers Hope Human Blood Stem Cells Can Cure HIV”

<http://www.wndu.com/mmm/headlines/96171264.html>

### **BRIEFS**

Dr. Wendy Slusser, director of the UCLA Fit for Healthy Weight program, and her studies on adding salad bars to school cafeterias, were cited in a Huffington Post blog about efforts to curb obesity and increase children’s intake of fresh fruits and vegetables.

“Bringing the Food Revolution to Our Schools”

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/lynda-resnick/bringing-the-food-revolut\\_b\\_612224.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/lynda-resnick/bringing-the-food-revolut_b_612224.html)

The June 14 San Francisco Sentinel noted that Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Dr. Eric Esrailian, assistant clinical professor of medicine, division of digestive diseases, to the Medical Board of California.

“Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger Appointments”

<http://www.sanfranciscosentinel.com/?p=77429>

Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center was cited June 15 by Health Leaders Media about how it is one of several hospitals to replace its TV remotes with the Clean Remote. Studies have found the device to be 99 percent cleaner than other remotes tested.

“Five Healthcare Technologies to Improve Quality and Patient Safety”

<http://www.healthleadersmedia.com/print/TEC-252474/Five-Healthcare-Technologies-to-Improve-Quality-and-Patient-Safety>

The Santa Monica Observer published a June 7 brief about Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital’s recent “Westside Challenge to Beat Breast Cancer” tennis event, which raised funds to support affordable mammograms.

Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA was cited in a June 17 San Gabriel Valley Tribune story about a local Girl Scout member who created activity kits and blanket for the hospital’s pediatric patients as a service project.

“San Gabriel Valley Locals Achieve Highest Girls Scouts Award”

[http://www.sgvtribune.com/news/ci\\_15310864](http://www.sgvtribune.com/news/ci_15310864)

## QUOTABLES

Richard Ambrose, professor of environmental health sciences at the School of Public Health, was quoted June 12 by Xinhua News about the ecological impact of the oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico and the future of offshore oil drilling in the U.S.

“U.S. Experts Want Severe Penalty, Strict Regulations to Prevent Future Oil Spill”

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90777/90852/7023338.html>

Gregory Cole, professor of medicine and neurology and associate director of the Mary S. Easton Center for Alzheimer Disease Research, was quoted June 14 by WebMD about a National Institutes of Health report suggesting no solid scientific proof that lifestyle measures can prevent Alzheimer’s disease or cognitive decline,

“No Proof Healthy Lifestyle Prevents Alzheimer’s”

<http://www.webmd.com/alzheimers/news/20100614/no-proof-healthy-lifestyle-prevents-alzheimers>

Dr. Patricia Ganz, director of cancer prevention and control research at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted June 14 by HealthDay News about cancer survivors forgoing medical care due to the high cost of treatment.

“Cost-conscious Cancer Survivors Skip Care”

[http://www.businessweek.com/lifestyle/content/healthday/640071.html?chan=rss\\_topStories\\_ssi\\_5](http://www.businessweek.com/lifestyle/content/healthday/640071.html?chan=rss_topStories_ssi_5)

Dr. Philip Harber, professor and chief of the division of occupational and environmental medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted June 11 in Seattle Times and June 17 in CNN.com reports about the potential health risks associated with BP's plans to burn thousands of gallons of spilled oil.

“Health Fears Over BP Plan to Burn Huge Amounts of Oil”

[http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/nationworld/2012095226\\_oilhealth12.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/nationworld/2012095226_oilhealth12.html)

“Should You Worry About Burning the Oil Spill?”

<http://pagingdrgupta.blogs.cnn.com/2010/06/17/should-you-worry-about-burning-the-oil-spill/?iref=allsearch>

David Hovda, professor of neurosurgery and director of the Brain Injury Research Center, was quoted June 14 in National Public Radio’s “All Things Considered” report on youth hockey and the danger of concussions from hockey body checks.

“In Youth Hockey, ‘Checking’ Ups Risk of Brain Injury”

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=127748445>

Carole Lieberman, clinical professor of psychiatry, was quoted June 12 by the Los Angeles Daily News about the increasing number of romantic relationships that begin on the Internet.

“Couples Finding Love in Cyberspace”

[http://www.dailynews.com/ci\\_15286481?IADID=Search-www.dailynews.com-www.dailynews.com](http://www.dailynews.com/ci_15286481?IADID=Search-www.dailynews.com-www.dailynews.com)

Gerald Kominski, professor of public health and associate director of the Center for Health Policy Research at the School of Public Health, was quoted June 11 by the Contra Costa Times about how the new health reform law will affect individuals with pre-existing conditions seeking health insurance, June 13 by the Inland Valley Daily Bulletin about health insurance companies canceling the policies of those they claim did not provide accurate information in their applications, and June 16 by the Los Angeles Times about California health regulators’ increased scrutiny over proposed rate increases by insurance companies.

“Coverage Lifeline: Help for People with Pre-existing Conditions”

[http://www.insidebayarea.com/top-stories/ci\\_15270896](http://www.insidebayarea.com/top-stories/ci_15270896)

“Law to Limit Waning Practice of Rescission in State”

[http://www.dailybulletin.com/ci\\_15291476?IADID=Search-www.dailybulletin.com-www.dailybulletin.com](http://www.dailybulletin.com/ci_15291476?IADID=Search-www.dailybulletin.com-www.dailybulletin.com)

“Health Insurers’ Rate Hike Proposals Get State Scrutiny”

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-insure-rates-20100616,0,6700720.story>

Dr. Mark Morocco, associate clinical professor of medicine and associate residency director, division of emergency medicine, commented June 14 in a Los Angeles Times story about questionable medical treatments featured in the TV show, "Royal Pains."

"The Unreal World: A Series of Unfortunate Events"

<http://www.latimes.com/news/health/la-he-unreal-world-20100614,0,4822069.column>

Dr. Aurelia Nattiv, professor of family medicine and director of the UCLA Osteoporosis Center, commented June 14 in the Los Angeles Times about Prolia, a newly FDA-approved osteoporosis drug. "The Pros and Cons of Prolia, Amgen's New Osteoporosis Drug"

<http://www.latimes.com/news/health/la-he-closer-20100614,0,5979690.story>

Dr. Jeffrey Saver, professor of neurology and director of the UCLA Stroke Center, was quoted June 16 by the Redlands Daily Facts about the importance of having hospitals designated as stroke centers and establishing county stroke systems.

"ARMC Earns Stroke Center Certification"

[http://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com/sanbernardinocounty/ci\\_15312523](http://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com/sanbernardinocounty/ci_15312523)

Dr. Arya "Nick" Shamie, associate professor and orthopaedic spine surgeon at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, commented June 16 on KNBC-Channel 4 about the dangers of texting while bicycling and walking.

"Texting Injuries: Not just for Drivers Anymore"

[http://www.nbclosangeles.com/station/as-seen-on/Texting\\_Injuries\\_Not\\_Just\\_for\\_Drivers\\_Anymore\\_Los\\_Angeles.html](http://www.nbclosangeles.com/station/as-seen-on/Texting_Injuries_Not_Just_for_Drivers_Anymore_Los_Angeles.html)

Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Center on Aging, commented June 14 in a Massachusetts Telegram article about multi-tasking.

"Too Much of a To-Do"

<http://www.telegram.com/article/20100614/NEWS/6140353>

Dr. Margaret Stuber, professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, and director of the doctoring program at the David Geffen School of Medicine, was quoted June 12 by the Los Angeles Times about criticism of the parents of 16-year-old sailor Abby Sunderland.

"Sailor's Parents Unswayed by Critics"

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-abby-sunderland-20100612,0,4757725.story>

Paul Thompson, professor of neurology and a member of the Laboratory of Neuro Imaging, was quoted June 14 by Reuters about a new brain imaging study that confirmed the role of several genes linked with Alzheimer's disease and identified two other candidate genes.

"Brain Scan Study Confirms Role of Alzheimer's Genes"

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE65D5A720100614>

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