



Health

UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT June 22-28, 2018

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[Mashable](#): **Scientist driven to cure deadly childhood disease**

(Photo: Mashable)



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[CBS This Morning](#): New app alerts deaf parents when their baby cries

(Photo: UCLA Health)



[Vogue](#): First marijuana-derived drug approved for severe epilepsy

(Photo: Don_Goofy)



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FEATURED

Mashable spotlights researcher's drive to cure deadly childhood disease

Biochemist Rachelle Crosbie-Watson was profiled by Mashable's "[How She Works](#)" video series, which showcases remarkable women in STEM professions. Focusing on her research to find a cure for Duchenne muscular dystrophy, the most common lethal genetic childhood disease, the online video has garnered more than 368,000 views and 925 shares in just under a month. Starting July 1, Crosbie-Watson will chair the integrative biology and physiology department in the UCLA College. She is also a professor of neurology in the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, and the education liaison for the Center for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy at UCLA.

CBS News showcases Chatterbaby app

[CBS "This Morning"](#) reported on a new app that uses artificial intelligence to alert deaf parents when and why their baby is crying. App developer Ariana Anderson, an assistant professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at the Semel Institute, was interviewed.

FDA approves first marijuana-derived drug to treat severe epilepsy

[Vogue](#) featured Dr. Shaun Hussain, director of UCLA's Infantile Spasms Program, in a story

about the Food and Drug Administration's approval of the first cannabis-derived drug. The medication treats a rare but debilitating form of epilepsy in children.

- Hussain also commented in an [Everyday Health](#) article on the topic.

Does your hospital carry the lifesaving stroke drug?

Dr. Jeffrey Saver was interviewed in an [AARP](#) story about how many hospitals are not equipped to quickly administer the clot-busting tPA drug to stroke patients. He is the director of the UCLA Comprehensive Stroke Center and vice chair of neurology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

Heroin users' brains hint at new treatment for narcolepsy

[New Scientist](#) and [Science News](#) featured research by Jerome Siegel, a professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Center for Sleep Research. His team discovered an abundance of a certain neurotransmitter in heroin users that is the same neurotransmitter lacking in people suffering from narcolepsy.

The Hill op-ed emphasizes need for pandemic control

Dr. Jonathan Fielding, a professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, argued in an op-ed in The Hill that the U.S. needs to increase funding for the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Department for Health and Human Services in order to help those agencies contain epidemics. The [Kaiser Family Foundation](#) ran a brief summary of the op-ed.

Surgeon busts medical myths on Hallmark Channel

Dr. Nina Shapiro, a pediatric head and neck surgeon at UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital, discussed her new book, *Hype: A Doctor's Guide to Medical Myths, Exaggerated Claims, and Bad Advice*, in an extended segment on the Hallmark Channel. In it, she dispelled common misconceptions about how to manage medical conditions and lead a healthy life.

Hallmark Channel: <https://bit.ly/2KqYFON>

Who used the California aid-in-dying law?

Dr. David Wallenstein, a health sciences associate clinical professor of family medicine, was interviewed in a KPCC-FM report about new data revealing how many people received a legal prescription under the California End of Life Option Act from mid-2016 through the end of 2017. The story also ran on [LAist](#).

Care coordinators wear many hats

[Nurse.com](#) interviewed Mary Noli Pilkington, interim director of care coordination and clinical social work at UCLA Health, about the skills and experience needed to become a hospital care coordinator. This position helps ensure a safe and appropriate transition to home or a continuing care facility after a patient is discharged from the hospital.

Fur seals skip REM sleep with no ill effects

[CBC Radio](#) covered research in fur seals by Jerome Siegel, a professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Center for Sleep Research. The findings, which suggest that REM sleep serves to warm the brain, found that the seals don't need it when they're at sea.

Antiretroviral therapy may elevate risk of miscarriage or stillbirth

[ContagionLive](#) reported on UCLA research suggesting that some HIV-positive women on

antiretroviral therapy (ART) who subsequently become pregnant may have a higher risk for spontaneous abortion or stillbirth compared to women who stop ART. Dr. Judith Currier, a professor of medicine and chief of infectious diseases, was the study's senior author.

Walnuts may lower risk for type 2 diabetes

[News-Medical.net](#), [Express](#) and [Scienmag](#) highlighted research by Lenore Arab, an adjunct professor of medicine and biological chemistry, suggesting that people who eat walnuts face about half the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes compared to adults who do not eat nuts.

Cardiologist weighs in on quality measurements of heart failure patients

[Cardiovascular Business](#) covered research by Dr. Gregg Fonarow, the Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and co-chief of cardiology, finding that heart failure patients treated at hospitals with lower 30-day mortality rates had better survival rates up to five years later. The finding suggested that the 30-day mortality rate should be given more weight in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' financial incentive programs. Fonarow was quoted.

• [Cardiovascular Business](#) also explored whether the Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program resulted in greater mortality for heart failure patients or if those findings were based on incomplete data. Fonarow again was quoted.

New algorithm more accurately predicts life expectancy after heart failure

[Cardiology Today](#) reported on a new algorithm developed by UCLA researchers that more accurately predicts which people will survive heart failure, and for how long, regardless of whether they receive a heart transplant. Study coauthor Dr. Martin Cadeiras, an assistant clinical professor of cardiology, was quoted.

Severe morning sickness condition gets more airtime

KLAS-TV, Las Vegas, Nevada, and WLIO-TV, Lima, Ohio, aired an Ivanhoe News report on hyperemesis gravidarum, a condition characterized by extreme nausea and vomiting during pregnancy. Marlena Fejzo, an associate researcher at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, who recently discovered two genes associated with the condition, was interviewed.

Cancer website highlights new therapies

UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center physicians addressed new cancer therapies on OncLive:

- [Dr. Joshua Sasine](#), medical director of the chimeric antigen receptor T-cell program, discussed the use of CAR-T cell therapy in ovarian cancer.
- [Dr. John Glaspy](#), a professor of medicine and chair of cancer research, discussed immunotherapy for endometrial cancer.
- [Dr. Edward Garon](#), an associate professor of medicine, discussed new combination therapies for lung cancer.
- [Dr. Richard Finn](#), assistant professor of medicine and director of the center's signal therapeutics program, discussed second-line treatments for liver cancer.

Magazine looks at glaucoma research, challenging cases

[EyeWorld](#) covered research by Dr. Joseph Demer on whether repetitive strain from eye movements could damage the optic nerve and lead to vision loss. He is the Arthur Rosenbaum Professor of Pediatric Ophthalmology at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute and a professor of neurology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

- A second [article](#) on long-term management of challenging cataract surgery cases featured the expertise of Dr. Kevin Miller, Kolokotronis chair in ophthalmology at the eye institute.

Treating Hep C successfully in homeless vets

[Healio Hepatology](#) covered research presented at Digestive Disease Week by Dr. Omar Bak, a primary-care resident at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. He and his colleagues identified a cohort of homeless veterans who successfully completed hepatitis C treatment and produced a sustained immune response to the virus.

Forecasting Alzheimer's risks

[The Pathologist](#) featured Ron Brookmeyer, a professor of biostatistics at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, in a Q&A about his Alzheimer's disease research. He used a mathematical model to estimate that most people with preclinical signs of Alzheimer's will not progress to the dementia associated with the disease.

Studying possible connection between substance use and HIV

[My Science](#) reported on a new study by Pamina Gorbach, a professor of epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, and Steven Shoptaw, a professor of family medicine and psychiatry, at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. The two will use a five-year, \$9.5 million grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse to explore possible links between substance abuse and HIV infection among Latino and African-American men who have sex with men.

This week in '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 by more than 50 outlets nationwide. Glazier is an associate professor of medicine, and Ashley and Ko are assistant professors of medicine. A sampling of stories from this past week's column:

- On tick- and mosquito-borne illnesses, in Washington's [The Spokesman-Review](#)
- On sulfur dioxide, in Oklahoma's [Tulsa World](#)
- On increasing rates of erectile dysfunction, in California's [The Hanford Sentinel](#)
- On community water quality, in Georgia's [The Brunswick News](#)
- On Oscillocoquinum as a flu treatment, in Pennsylvania's [Herald-Standard](#)
- On nickel allergy, in Missouri's [The Daily Journal](#).

QUOTED

"Any behavior carried to extreme that consumes you and keeps you from doing what you should be doing becomes an addiction as far as life is concerned."

-Dr. Walter Ling, professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences,
in Associated Press



Matthew Beymer, a researcher at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted in a [Reuters Health](#) article about a study finding that most physicians would be willing to prescribe pre-exposure prophylaxis, which can lower the risk of contracting HIV, to teens. [Yahoo! Finance UK](#); [WTBX-FM](#), Hibbing, Minnesota; [Channel NewsAsia](#); and 15 other outlets carried the story.

Dr. Ravi Dave, director of interventional cardiology at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, commented in an [Endocrineweb.com](#) article about how thyroid issues affect heart health.

Dr. Richard Jackson, a professor emeritus of environmental health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in [Forbes](#) about how well-designed workplaces can support employee health.

Dr. Peter Katona, a clinical professor of medicine in infectious diseases at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and an adjunct professor of epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in the [New York Times](#) about research capturing the clearest and most detailed images yet of Zika. [WRAL.com](#), Raleigh, North Carolina, and Singapore's [Today](#) carried the article.

Dr. Walter Ling, a professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences, was quoted by the Associated Press about the World Health Organization's classification of a gaming disorder. The story ran on [ABC News](#), [The San Diego Union-Tribune](#), [NBC Chicago](#), [SF Gate](#), [The Orlando Sentinel](#), [The Baltimore Sun](#), [Newsday](#) and more than 190 other online outlets.

Dr. Leena Nathan, assistant clinical professor of OB-GYN at UCLA Health Westlake Village, commented in a [Circa.com](#) segment about a restaurant that claims an ingredient in its salad dressing can help induce labor. The segment has received more than 100k views in less than a week.

Dr. Aldo Palmieri, director of OB-GYN at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, commented in a [CBS This Morning](#) segment on a new at-home fertility kit. The story appeared on CBS.com, KCBS-AM Radio and KRLD-AM Radio, Dallas, Texas.

Dr. Antoni Ribas, a professor of medicine and director of the tumor immunology program at the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted in [Science Magazine](#) about

blood tests that may predict if new immunotherapies can beat cancer.

Dr. Aparna Sridhar, a clinical assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, was quoted in the [Daily Mail](#) about potential causes for bleeding during the early stages of pregnancy.

Dr. Anthony Wang, an assistant professor of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, commented in the [Los Angeles Times](#) about two young siblings diagnosed in the same month with a rare brain tumor.

Dr. Joan Williams, an assistant professor of orthopaedic surgery at the Orthopaedic Center in Santa Monica, commented in [TIME](#) on the best plantar fasciitis treatments. The article also appeared on [MSN](#).

BRIEFS

A [New York Times](#) op-ed cited research co-authored by Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, a professor of medicine in infectious diseases at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and of public health at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. He found that rates of sexually transmitted infections are much higher among men who have sex with men (MSM) and take Truvada as pre-exposure prophylaxis than they are among other MSM.

[Voice of America](#) cited an interview in The Atlantic with Cyrus Sinai of the UCLA-Democratic Republic of Congo's health research and training program at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health that explained his work with the DRC's Ministry of Health to create maps of Ebola outbreak areas.

An op-ed in the [East Bay Times](#) cited soda-tax research by the Fielding School's UCLA Center for Health Policy Research.

[The Beach Reporter](#) reported that two young siblings who were diagnosed with brain tumors weeks apart will be transferred to UCLA, where oncologists and a geneticist from the UCLA School of Public Health plan to research the case.

CONTENT CREATED BY MEDIA RELATIONS



[UCLA Newsroom](#): Family travels 7,500 miles to save son's life
with treatment developed at UCLA

(Photo: Courtesy of the El Kerdi family)

[Curing a deadly childhood disease, sharing her love of science, and a sleek '68 Corvette drive this biochemist](#) UCLA Newsroom

[UCLA researchers develop synthetic T cells that mimic form, function of human version](#) UCLA Newsroom

[UCLA global health program aims to boost neurological care in South Africa](#) UCLA Newsroom

[UCLA receives \\$9.5 million grant to study link between substance use and HIV transmission](#) UCLA Fielding School of Public Health

[Excellence of UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital reflected in pediatric care rankings](#) UCLA Newsroom

[Change in brain cells linked to opiate addiction, narcolepsy](#) UCLA Newsroom



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