



## UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT

For the week of June 23-29, 2017

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### Fewer hospitalizations for heart failure, but blacks still fare worse than whites

[HealthDay](#), [Reuters](#), [Cardiology Today](#), [American Heart Association News](#) and KHNL-TV (Honolulu, Hawaii) reported June 27 on a new study which found that 30 percent fewer Americans were hospitalized for heart failure between 2002 and 2013, but black Americans were still at a higher risk. Study authors Dr. Boback Ziaeeian, a clinical instructor in the division of cardiology at UCLA and the VA Greater Los Angeles, and Dr. Gregg Fonarow, the Eliot Corday Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine and Science, director of the Ahmanson–UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center and co-chief of cardiology, were quoted. The HealthDay and Reuters articles were syndicated in 104 online outlets, and the broadcast segment aired on 25 local affiliates across the U.S.

### UCLA Mattel Children's and Miller Children's & Women's Hospital plan strategic affiliation

[Los Angeles Business Journal](#), [Orange County Register](#), [Orange County Breeze](#), [Orange County Business Journal](#), [Long Beach Press-Telegram](#), [Long Beach Gazette Newspapers](#), [Long Beach Business Journal](#), and [MyNewsLA](#) on June 22; [Becker's Hospital Review](#) and [California Healthline](#) on June 23; and [Physician News Network](#) on June 26 covered news that UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital is planning a strategic affiliation with Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach. Johnese Spisso, president of UCLA Health and CEO of the UCLA Hospital System, was quoted.

### National coverage of dramatic double surgical rescue at UCLA

NBC's [Today.com](#) on June 26 covered the story of a pregnant woman who was airlifted to UCLA for an emergency C-section followed immediately by an open-heart surgery to repair a tear in her artery. Her physicians, Dr. Richard Shemin, chief of cardiac surgery, and Dr. Carla Janzen, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, were interviewed. [MSN.com](#) carried the article on June 27.

### Public health expert discusses healthcare law

Gerald Kominski, professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and director of the Fielding School's UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, was interviewed by numerous media about California's single-payer healthcare bill and the Senate's Better Care Reconciliation Act:

- June 29 by [CBS News](#) about implications for the Senate's proposal if it fails to pass Congress
- June 28 by [Minnesota Public Radio](#) about shortcomings of the Senate's proposal
- June 27 by [CNBC](#) about an individual family's perspective of the Senate's "assault on health care" while his son battles leukemia
- June 26 by [KPCC-FM](#) about how the Senate's proposal would affect California
- June 27 by [SFGate](#) about California politicians' views of the Senate's proposal
- June 23 by [San Jose Mercury News](#) about suspension of California's single-payer bill
- June 23 by the [Los Angeles Times](#) in a Q&A about California's single-payer bill's potential effects on state residents and the potential for "medical tourists"
- June 22 by the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) about the consequences of the Senate's proposal for Californians.

### Infectious diseases specialist explains the plague

[Health.com](#) on June 28 featured Dr. Claire Panosian Dunavan, professor of medicine emeritus/recalled in the division of infectious diseases, in an article about cases of the plague in New Mexico.

### **Passion, creativity and major growth in the adolescent brain**

[U.S. News & World Report](#) on June 27 featured an article by Dr. Daniel J. Siegel, a clinical professor of psychiatry and founding co-director of UCLA's Mindful Awareness Research Center, about "the true essence of adolescence."

### **CMV increases risk of mother-to-child HIV transmission**

[Contagion Live](#) on June 27, [Edge Media Network](#) and [Science Daily](#) on June 22, and [ScienceBlog](#) on June 21 covered research finding that HIV-positive women with cytomegalovirus in their urine at the time of labor and delivery are five times more likely than HIV-positive women without CMV to transmit HIV to their infants. Dr. Karin Nielsen, a professor of clinical pediatrics in the division of infectious diseases, led the study.

### **The value of integrated records in HIV care**

[Science Newsline](#) and [MedicalXpress](#) on June 27 highlighted research led by Dr. William Cunningham finding that laboratory health information exchanges narrowed the gap in anti-retroviral therapy and viral suppression between HIV-positive blacks and whites. Cunningham is a professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and of public health at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.

### **Do you need an ophthalmologist or optometrist?**

[Refinery29](#) featured Dr. Mitra Nejad, an associate physician diplomate of ophthalmology at the Stein Eye Institute, in a June 29 article explaining the difference between the training, expertise and patient focus of an ophthalmologist and an optometrist.

### **New MRI dye prevents metal traces in the brain**

[AuntMinnie.com](#) reported June 23 on a David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA study describing early success with an iron-based agent to image a wide range of pediatric and adult patients. The finding could help avoid the trace amounts left in brain tissue by another contrast dye used in MRI scans. Dr. Kim-Lien Nguyen, an assistant professor of medicine, and Peng Hu, an associate professor of radiological sciences, were quoted. Dr. Paul Finn, a professor of radiological sciences, led the study.

### **Media interest in IMG program spreads nationwide**

KNX-AM; KRLD-AM, Dallas; WBBM-AM, Chicago, and 15 other radio stations across the country reported June 24 on the UCLA International Medical Graduate (IMG) program, which helps legal U.S. residents who are medical-school graduates from Latin America earn their California medical licenses. Dr. Michelle Bholat, executive director of the program and executive vice chair of family medicine at UCLA, commented

### **Battling the terrible toll of depression by "rewiring" the brain**

WCBS-TV, New York, on June 23 and , [thirdAGE](#) on June 27 reported on UCLA's use of the non-invasive therapy used to treat depression known as transcranial magnetic stimulation, or TMS. The coverage featured Dr. Andrew Leuchter, senior research scientist at the Semel Institute and director of the neuromodulation division, and Dr. Ian Cook, director of the UCLA Depression Research and Clinic Program.

### **Educator reminisces over early iPhone's role in medicine**

[ARS Technica](#) showcased Dr. Robert Trelease, a professor of pathology and laboratory medicine, in a June 26 feature looking back at the birth of the iPhone in 2007. In addition to teaching anatomy and neuroscience and championing e-learning, he registered as an Apple developer, released an iPhone version of his textbook on surgical anatomy and has become an expert on how to design digital resources for busy doctors and students.

### **Choking expert warns parents everywhere about summer toy craze**

A CBS Newspath interview of Dr. Nina Shapiro, a professor of head and neck surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and the director of pediatric otolaryngology at UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital, was syndicated by 22 additional television, radio and online news outlets, including KTTV-TV on June 22 and KCBS-AM, San Francisco, on June 25. The segment, about the choking hazards posed by fidget-spinner toys, originally aired earlier this month.

### **People-Animal Connection featured in short documentary**

The Annenberg Pet Space, a new community venue in Playa Vista that focuses on the human-animal bond, featured the story of a woman and her dog who volunteer with UCLA Health's animal-assisted therapy program in an [online documentary](#). Erin Rice, director of the UCLA People-Animal Connection, was interviewed.

### **UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital gets high marks**

[U.S. News & World Report](#) on June 27 recognized UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital for excellence in all 10 specialties measured in its annual ranking of the country's children's hospitals. A June 28 [Leicester Post](#) story about the rankings quoted Johnese Spisso, president of UCLA Health and CEO of UCLA Hospital System. [Becker's Spine Review](#) reported June 28 that the hospital ranked No. 15 in pediatric orthopaedics.

### **The most common form of liver cancer**

[Onlive](#) on June 28 featured Dr. Richard Finn, assistant professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, about global trends in advanced liver cancer risk factors. Finn is also director of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Signal Transduction and Therapeutics Program.

### **Testing for gonorrhea**

[Infectious Disease Advisor](#) reported June 27 on 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.

### **How college students can take ownership of their health**

[News-Medical.Net](#) on June 23 published Miranda Westfall's advice on how college students can improve their nutrition and exercise regimen. Westfall is program manager and clinic dietitian at the UCLA Fit for Healthy Weight Program.

### **Fielding School research about Medicaid waiver program gets coverage**

A [YubaNet.com](#) story on June 28 featured research conducted by the Fielding School's UCLA Center for Health Policy Research evaluating a California Medicaid waiver program that aimed to improve public hospitals in California. Nadereh Pourat, professor-in-residence at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and the center's director of research, was quoted.

### **This week on "Ask the Doctors"**

UCLA Health internists Dr. Robert Ashley, Dr. Eve Glazier and Dr. Elizabeth Ko addressed health-related questions in the recurring "Ask the Doctors" column, syndicated by more than 50 outlets nationwide. A sampling of the stories from the past week's column:

- On screening guideline changes for prostate cancer, featured June 28 in [Tulsa World](#)
  - On aspirin and reduction of risk for certain cancers, featured June 27 in [Elko Daily Free Press](#)
  - On side effects of antipsychotics, featured June 26 in [Herald-Standard](#)
  - On broad spectrum sunscreen, featured June 26 in [The Rocky Mount Telegram](#)
  - On cautions for patients with congestive heart failure, featured June 24 in [Hanford Sentinel](#)
  - On acupuncture for carpal tunnel, featured June 23 in [The Cumberland Times-News](#)
  - On eye protection during a solar eclipse, featured June 23 in [Sioux City Journal](#).
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## NOTABLE QUOTABLES

Dr. Deanna Attai, UCLA breast surgeon based in Burbank and assistant clinical professor of surgery, commented June 22 in an [NPR](#) story on the importance of discussing mammogram screening guidelines with your healthcare provider. The piece aired on public radio stations nationwide.

Dr. Yvonne Bryson, distinguished professor of pediatrics and infectious diseases at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA and a member of the UCLA AIDS Institute, was quoted June 28 in an [Edge Media Network](#) article about a company's crowdfunding campaign to raise money for a monoclonal antibody to treat HIV patients.

Dr. Jody Heymann, dean of the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and founding director of the WORLD Policy Analysis Center, was quoted June 29 in a [CNN](#) article about the health benefits of paid parental leave. [Gant News Daily](#) carried the story.

Dana Hunnes, senior dietitian at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and adjunct assistant professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented June 26 in [VICE: Tonic](#) about what triggers the desire to eat during air travel.

Dr. Thomas Strouse, medical director of the Stewart and Lynda Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital at UCLA and Maddie Katz Chair in Palliative Care Research and Education, commented June 28 in the [Los Angeles Times](#) about California's End of Life Option Act, enacted one year ago.

Laura Wherry, assistant professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, was quoted June 27 in an [Advisory.com](#) article about whether the proposed Better Care Reconciliation Act, which is estimated to increase the number of uninsured Americans, would lead to more deaths per year.

Dr. Zuo-Feng Zhang, professor of epidemiology and associate dean for research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented June 28 in a [Doctor NDTV](#) article about the appropriate amount of green tea to consume for maximum health benefits.

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## NOTABLE BRIEFS

A June 23 [Slate](#) article about Grindr cited research co-authored by Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases and of public health, finding that the gay dating app is an effective way to persuade black and Hispanic men who have sex with men to try home HIV self-testing kits.

An online auction that serves as part of the annual fundraiser hosted by fashion designer John Varvatos to benefit Stuart House at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, continues to attract coverage. Stories about the auction have appeared on the websites of [ABC News Radio](#), [94.3 JACK FM](#) and a dozen other stations nationwide.

[Becker's Hospital Review](#) noted June 27 that, in 2001, the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA required medical students to carry personal digital assistants packed with medical tools. After the release of the iPhone 10 years ago, the PDAs were ditched for 2009 iPhones.

Dr. Barbara Natterson-Horowitz, a professor of medicine in the division of cardiology, was cited June 27 in a [Slate](#) article that referenced her focus on the evolutionary similarities between humans and animals.

[Business Insider](#) on June 22, [Popsugar](#) on June 23, and [Psych Central](#) on June 28 referred to the free, guided meditations featured on the UCLA Mindful Awareness Center website.

The Jonsson Cancer Center Foundation at UCLA was referenced June 28 in a [KCAL-TV](#) story about a longtime UCLA employee and cancer survivor who is retiring from the institution after raising money for cancer research for 18 years.

A June 22 [Fierce Pharma](#) article about the failure of Bristol-Myers Squibb's Opdivo monotherapy trial for lung cancer quoted a New England Journal of Medicine editorial by Dr. Edward Garon, associate clinical professor 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.

[The Chalkboard](#) on June 23 referenced a study from UCLA's Center for Human Nutrition on how fruit juice affects the gut biome.

[Eat This, Not That!](#) on June 23 referenced research from the UCLA Department of Neurosurgery finding that high-fructose diets impact brain function.

The [Long Beach Press-Telegram](#) on June 27 cited research from the Fielding School's UCLA Center for Health Policy Research about the amount of public funds spent on California health care expenditures.

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