



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT**  
**For the week of June 24 - June 30, 2016**

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**Motor symptoms in Parkinson's traced to problems with complex decision making**

**Tips for traveling abroad with kids**

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**Wall Street Journal showcases Santa Monica Breast Center**

The [Wall Street Journal](#) highlighted the UCLA Santa Monica Breast Center in a June 28 article on multidisciplinary programs that have found ways to help women make more conservative – but equally effective – decisions regarding their breast cancer treatment. The article featured interviews with center

co-directors Dr. Sara Hurvitz, associate professor of hematology-oncology; Dr. Amy Kusske, associate clinical professor of surgery; and Dr. Susan McCloskey, assistant professor of radiation oncology; and two patients who chose breast-sparing surgeries over double mastectomies. Hurvitz and McCloskey are members of the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

### **LGBT rights constitutionally protected by only five countries in the world**

A study led by the WORLD Policy Analysis Center at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health found that only five countries in the world possess constitutions that explicitly guarantee equality for citizens on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. Coverage included reports June 29 by [NBC News](#), [PBS NewsHour](#), [Reuters](#), the [New York Times](#), [Daily Mail](#) and [AsiaOne](#); June 27 by [Science Codex](#); and June 26 by the [Huffington Post](#).

### **Inspiring medical student profiled by Fresno Bee, Miami Herald**

The [Fresno Bee](#) published a June 27 column on Luz Corona Gomez, a recent graduate of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, who spent her childhood summers picking grapes in the fields with her family in the San Joaquin Valley. Her parents, who were undocumented immigrants from Mexico, raised five daughters, all of whom attended college and moved onto successful careers in law, medicine or public policy. The story was syndicated June 28 by the [Miami Herald](#), [Centre Daily News](#), the [Bellingham Herald](#), the [Belleville News-Democrat](#), [Latin Life](#) and [News Taco](#).

### **Stein Eye Institute director publishes op-ed on controversial bill**

The [Los Angeles Daily News](#) and [Daily Breeze](#) published a June 27 guest commentary coauthored by Dr. Bartly Mondino, director of the Stein Eye Institute and chair of ophthalmology at the David Geffen School of Medicine. The op-ed warned California lawmakers of the risks posed by Senate Bill 622, which would permit optometrists to perform scalpel and laser eye surgeries and medication injections — including injections directly into the eye — with minimal training.

### **Why we should take the threat of Zika seriously**

[U.S. News & World Report](#) published on June 24 a column by Dr. Claire Panosian Dunavan, professor of medicine emeritus/recalled in the division of infectious diseases, on the threat of secondary spread of Zika in connection to the Summer Olympics.

### **HuffPo explains how a plant-based diet keeps you cool**

The [Huffington Post](#) published a June 23 blog post by Dana Ellis Hunnes, a senior dietitian at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and adjunct assistant professor of community health services at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, encouraging readers to try a plant-based diet this summer to keep “cool,” promote health, protect the environment and prevent weight gain. Her post provided recipes and ideas for meal planning.

### **SciAm highlights new research on Zika-linked birth abnormalities**

The June 24 [Scientific American](#) reported research led Dr. Karin Nielsen, a professor of pediatric infectious diseases at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine and Mattel Children's Hospital, demonstrating that the Zika virus can cause a range of abnormalities any time during the pregnancy of an infected woman. She was also quoted June 27 in a STAT article on fast-tracked Zika research using rhesus monkeys at another university.

### **Why some Asian-Americans crave carbs and fast food**

New research finding that some Asian-Americans are more likely to hunger for carbohydrates and unhealthy foods was covered June 7 by [MedIndia](#), June 8 by [MDLinx](#), June 9 by [AsAmNews](#), June 18 by [Chinese World Journal](#) and June 23 by [NextShark](#). Led by Dr. Zhaoping Li, director of the UCLA Center for Human Nutrition and chief of clinical nutrition, the study blames a genetic variation that predisposes some Asian-Americans to food addiction and offers implications for combating rising obesity among Asian-Americans. Li was also quoted June 21 in an [NBC Today](#) story on a three-color “traffic signal” on restaurant menus that may guide people to make better food choices.

### **NIH pumps nearly \$70 million into translational research**

[My News L.A.](#) on June 28, and [Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology News](#) and [Becker's Hospital Review](#) on June 29 reported that the National Institutes of Health awarded a \$69.6 million five-year grant to support continued development of the UCLA Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI), a research partnership designed to speed the development of new treatments to address the greatest health needs of Los Angeles County. Dr. John Mazziotta, vice chancellor of UCLA Health Sciences and CEO of UCLA Health, and CTSI director Dr. Steven Dubinett, the senior associate dean for translational research and associate vice chancellor for research at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, were quoted.

### **New heart drug could prevent significant number of deaths**

[Cardiology Today](#) and [Managed Healthcare Executive](#) on June 28; [Medscape](#) and [TCTMD](#) on June 27; and [Consultant 360](#) on June 24 covered a JAMA Cardiology study estimating that the deaths of almost 28,500 Americans could be prevented each year by a new FDA-approved class of cardiovascular medication that helps reduce mortality in patients diagnosed with heart failure and reduced ejection fraction. Lead author 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.

### **How to talk to kids about natural disasters and other emergencies**

In an interview that aired June 24 on KPCC FM's Take Two, Melissa Brymer, a psychologist specializing in trauma at the Semel Institute, described Help Kids Cope, a new app that she created with colleagues at the UCLA-Duke National Center for Child Traumatic Stress. Brymer serves as the center's director of terrorism and disaster programs.

### **Giving Circle supports pediatric research**

The [Beverly Hills Courier](#) featured a June 23 story on the Today's and Tomorrow's Children Fund at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA. The group supports the work of pediatric physician-scientists by pooling their funds and voting on how to distribute their donations among the grantees. The article cited recent awardees Dr. Elizabeth Marcus, a pediatric gastroenterologist; Dr. Kalpashri Kesavan, a neonatologist; and Dr. Katherine Wesseling-Perry, a pediatric nephrologist. Dr. Sherin Devaskar, executive chair of pediatrics and physician-in-chief of Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA; and past recipient Dr. Noah Federman, associate professor of pediatrics and orthopaedics, were quoted.

### **Santa Monica paper covers companion program for seniors**

The [Santa Monica Mirror](#) ran a June 24 story about the companion care program at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, in which volunteers visit lonely geriatric patients. Dr. David Reuben, chief of geriatrics; Valerie Yeo, unit director; Pedro Jimenez, program coordinator; and volunteer Julia Torrano were quoted.

### **Local press recognizes Santa Monica's nursing excellence**

The Santa Monica Daily Press reported June 25 on UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica's designation as a Magnet hospital, the highest honor a healthcare organization can receive for professional nursing practice. Covered earlier by the [Santa Monica Mirror](#) and others, the story included photographs of the hospital's celebratory event.

### **Tool identifies menopausal women at risk for rapid bone loss**

[Science Daily](#) on June 23; [Healio: Endocrine Today](#) and [WMBF-TV](#) (Myrtle Beach, S.C.) on June 24; and [WPTV-TV](#) (West Palm Beach, Fla.) on June 26 covered research led by Dr. Albert Shieh, a clinical instructor in geriatrics, about an index that helps predict which women may suffer significant bone loss as they undergo menopause.

### **Comparing care delivered by doctors vs. nurses**

[Fierce HealthCare](#) reported June 21 on research led by Dr. John Mafi, an assistant professor of general internal medicine and health services research, finding that contrary to physicians' beliefs, advanced-practice clinicians, such as nurse practitioners and physician assistants, provide similar levels of costly and unnecessary tests, treatments and referrals to specialists compared to physicians in the primary care

setting. The findings could inform the ongoing debate over expanding the role of advanced-practice clinicians in doctors' offices and hospitals. They could also dispel the belief among physicians and physician groups that these clinicians provide more of such needless services, which are known as low-value health services. Mafi was quoted.

#### **How the brain links memories over time**

[FierceBiotech](#) reported May 25 on a study by Alcino Silva, a professor of neurobiology, establishing how the brain links different memories over time. The research, published in *Nature*, suggests a possible intervention for people suffering from age-related memory problems. Silva and researcher Denise Cai were quoted.

#### **Motor symptoms in Parkinson's traced to problems with complex decision making**

The discovery of new symptoms in Parkinson's disease by Michelle Brasso, a professor in the Semel Institute and the department of neurobiology, and Alessandra Perugini, a postdoctoral fellow in Brasso's laboratory was reported June 25 by [Daily News and Analysis](#).

#### **Tips for traveling abroad with kids**

[News Medical.net](#) reported June 27 on strategies to help parents keep kids healthy when traveling to foreign countries. Dr. Nava Yeganeh, assistant professor of pediatric infectious diseases and director of the Pediatric International Travel and Adoption Clinic at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was quoted.

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### **NOTABLE BRIEFS**

California Health Interview Survey data and research were cited June 24 in a [JD Supra Business Advisor](#) article about a new report by the California Health Care Foundation that outlines possible changes in Medi-Cal, and June 27 in a [Capital & Main](#) story about Californians who are still uninsured or underinsured despite passage of the Affordable Care Act. The article was republished by [Huffington Post](#) and [BeyondChron](#).

Research conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health was cited June 23 in articles published by [La Opinión](#), [Los Angeles Times](#), [Modern Medicine Network](#) and [Frontpage Magazine](#) about the effect of U.S. Supreme Court decisions on health reform on undocumented immigrants in California.

Data from the Elder Index, developed by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, were cited June 28 by [Fifty Plus Advocate](#) in an article offering health recommendations to seniors.

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### **NOTABLE QUOTABLES**

Shana Alex Charles, faculty associate at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented June 24 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) column about affordability for medical procedures and testing, even with health insurance.

Dr. Noah Federman, director of the pediatric bone and soft tissue sarcoma program at the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was featured in [Cure Today](#) on June 24 about the challenges treating pediatric patients with soft tissue sarcoma and new advances made in this field of cancer research.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, the Eliot Corday Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine and Science, director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center and co-chief of cardiology, was quoted June 28 in a [MedPage Today](#) article about an update to the performance and quality measures in atrial fibrillation and atrial flutter issued by the American College of Cardiology and American Heart Association.

Gerald Kominski, director of the Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented June 24 on the Affordable Care Act on [KPCC-FM 89.3FM's "AirTalk"](#) and June 29 in [Healthline](#). He also commented June 29 in [Medical Economics](#) about Medicare Part B.

Jennifer Martin, an associate adjunct professor of geriatric medicine in the David Geffen School of Medicine, provided tips for beating insomnia in a June 27 [Wall Street Journal](#) article on the topic.

Nadereh Pourat, research director at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented June 29 in a [MedicalXpress](#) story about a UCLA-based oral health project that tripled preventive visits among low-income children in Los Angeles.

Dr. Neil Silverman, a UCLA professor of obstetrics and gynecology who has been advising the California Department of Public Health on Zika issues, commented June 28 in a [Huffington Post](#) story about athletes skipping the Olympics due to Zika. He also was quoted June 30 in a [Wall Street Journal](#) story on fears of the Zika virus growing among women.

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