



Health

UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT For the week of July 21 – 27, 2017

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CBS New York: Exome sequencing could help diagnose medical mysteries

(Photo credit: UCLA Health)





KNBC-TV: Surgery offered only at UCLA restores coach's hearing

(Photo credit: UCLA Neurosurgery)



KQED-FM: An eco-friendly alternative to traditional cremation

(Photo credit: Dean Fisher/UCLA)



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Media interest in exome sequencing goes nationwide

[CBS New York](#) reported on the UCLA next-generation genetic testing known as exome sequencing, which looks for irregularities in the way proteins are coded in our DNA. Dr. Julian Martinez-Agosto, pediatrician and researcher at the Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital at UCLA and Dr. Stanley Nelson, professor and vice chair of human genetics and professor of psychiatry at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, commented.

Surgery offered only at UCLA restores coach's hearing

[KNBC-TV](#) reported on a minimally invasive surgery offered only at UCLA that restored the hearing of a University of Maine basketball coach who visited 15 physicians at three hospitals before being diagnosed with a rare condition caused by a tiny hole in the bone of the inner ear. The segment featured interviews with Dr. Quinton Gopen, an assistant professor of head and neck surgery, and Dr. Isaac Yang, an assistant professor of neurosurgery, who performed the procedure together. The story was syndicated by three NBC affiliates, including [San Diego](#), and aired on KABC-AM.

KABC-AM: <http://bit.ly/2v1Z9qf>

An eco-friendly alternative to fire cremation

NPR-affiliate [KQED-FM](#) featured Dean Fisher, director of the UCLA Donated Body Program, in a segment on Assembly Bill 967, which would legalize public access to alkaline hydrolysis, a more environmentally friendly way to dispose of human remains.

[Breitbart News](#) also covered the technology.

Brains of NFL players show signs of CTE

[KTTV-TV](#) interviewed Dr. Christopher Giza, director of the UCLA Steve Tisch BrainSPORT Program and a professor of pediatrics and neurosurgery at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine and Mattel Children's Hospital, about a recent JAMA article finding that 90 percent of former professional football players in its study showed evidence of chronic traumatic encephalopathy in their post-mortem brain tissue.

- Giza was also quoted in a [WJXT-TV](#) segment about a concussion conference that he helped organize in Jacksonville, Florida.

A different twist on IVF

[Health.com](#) and [New York Daily News](#) featured Dr. Jesse N. Mills, associate clinical professor and director of The Men's Clinic at UCLA, in their articles on posthumous sperm retrieval, a way a man can father a child even after his death.

Glioblastoma has hundreds of experimental treatments

[Forbes](#) featured Dr. Linda Liau, professor and vice chair of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, in an article about experimental therapies for glioblastoma, a type of brain cancer.

UCLA physician discusses groundbreaking immunotherapy research

[Forbes](#) featured Dr. Antoni Ribas, professor of surgery, molecular and medical pharmacology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and director of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Immunology Program, in an article about the history of the breakthrough drug Keytruda (pembrolizumab).

Understanding a glioblastoma diagnosis

[KTTV's Good Day LA](#) featured Dr. Phioanh "Leia" Nghiemphu, associate professor of clinical neurology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, in a segment about glioblastoma, a type of brain cancer.

Stroke in the eye can cause vision loss

[KCBS-TV](#) featured Dr. Peter Quiros, clinical associate professor of ophthalmology and a neuro-ophthalmologist at the Doheny Eye Center UCLA, and a patient in a segment about stroke in the eye, which is caused by a disruption of blood flow to the optic nerve. [KCAL-TV](#) also broadcast the segment.

Op-ed: Childhood obesity can be prevented

[U.S. News & World Report](#) published an op-ed by Dr. Jonathan Fielding, a professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, about the role of the next U.S. Surgeon General in preventing childhood obesity through improvements to nutrition and exercise.

Brain activity test detects autism severity

[Neuroscience News](#), [Medical News](#) and [Science Newsline](#) featured research led by Dr. Shafali Spurling Jeste, associate professor in psychiatry, neurology and pediatrics, that identified a potential biomarker for autism severity.

Crying or laughing episodes can be caused by brain injury

"The Doctors" featured Dr. Gary Small, director of geriatric psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Longevity Center, in a segment that aired on 18 television stations nationwide about pseudobulbar affect, or PBA, a condition that causes sudden, frequent, and uncontrollable episodes of crying or laughter.

KCBS-LA: <http://bit.ly/2v1vBJe>

The gut-brain connection

[Medical Xpress](#) reprinted a feature on Dr. Emeran Mayer and his research to uncover the relationship between the gut and the brain. [The Zoe Report](#) and [Yahoo! Style](#) additionally referenced Mayer's research in a story about how digestive issues are related to the brain. Mayer is director of the G. Oppenheimer Center for Neurobiology of Stress and Resilience and co-director of the CURE: Digestive Diseases Research Center.

HIV treatment adherence among transgender women

[News-Medical.Net](#), [Gay Star News](#), [The Body](#), [MedicalXpress](#) and [Science Daily](#) highlighted research led by Dr. Jordan Lake finding that more than half of HIV-positive transgender women in Los Angeles are concerned that taking antiretroviral therapy along with feminizing hormone therapy could be associated with harmful drug interactions. Lake led the study while she was a health sciences assistant clinical professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases.

Counting Hispanic physicians

[La Prensa](#) highlighted a 2015 study led by Dr. Gloria Sanchez, associate clinical professor of family medicine, finding that the rate of Hispanic physicians per 100,000 population has fallen by 22 percent since 1980 even as the Hispanic population has grown by 243 percent.

For some, it's summer, not winter, that brings on seasonal depression

The [Cronkite News](#) featured Dr. Ian Cook, who directs the UCLA Depression Research and Clinic Program, in an article about summertime seasonal affective disorder, a form of seasonal depression.

A noninvasive way to screen fetuses for genetic disorders

The [Taipei Times](#) and [360dx.com](#) reported on a new class of nano-velcro microchips that may lead to the noninvasive screening of fetuses for genetic disorders. The research was led by Hsian-Rong Tseng, a professor of medical and molecular pharmacology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, in collaboration with Cathay General Hospital.

Three things women should ask about fetal ultrasounds

[Knowridge.com](#) featured tips from Dr. Mark Sklansky, a professor and chief of the division of pediatric cardiology, on questions women should ask before a fetal ultrasound.

Heart disease and diabetes: Treating the whole patient

[MD Magazine's "Peer Exchange"](#) included Dr. Karol Watson, professor of medicine in the division of cardiology, co-director of the UCLA Program in Preventive Cardiology and director of the UCLA Barbra Streisand Women's Heart Health Program, in an expert panel discussion about the relationship between type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular risks and about the importance of treating the whole patient.

Separating food facts from fiction

[The Sun Daily](#) highlighted the nutritional epidemiology expertise of Karin Michels, professor and chair of epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and a member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Remembering the pioneering work of Dr. Herbert Needleman

[Environmental Health News](#) published a tribute piece authored by Dr. Richard Jackson, professor of environmental health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, in honor of Dr. Herbert Needleman, who pioneered research and advocacy for

neurodevelopmental damage caused by lead poisoning.

UCLA research pioneer featured for developing life-saving breast cancer drug

[Street Authority](#) featured Dr. Dennis Slamon, professor, chief and executive vice chair for research of hematology and oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and director of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center for Clinical and Translational Research, in a story about the development of the breast cancer drug Herceptin.

Leveraging IT services and data for patient experience

[Healthcare Informatics](#) published an interview with Dr. Michael Pfeffer, chief information officer at UCLA Health, on the organization's information technology initiatives.

Media interest in transcranial magnetic stimulation therapy grows

[Healthline](#) reported on the UCLA transcranial magnetic stimulation therapy, a treatment that beams magnetic pulses into the brain to combat depression. The coverage cited Dr. Andrew Leuchter, senior research scientist at the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior and director of the neuromodulation division.

Internet use can spark neural activity

The [Deseret News](#), [WRAL.com](#) and [Great Bend Tribune](#) and seven other publications featured Dr. Gary Small, director of geriatric psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Longevity Center, in an article about how social media and technology are changing the lives of the elderly.

Memory improvement tips gain coverage in New Zealand

[Radio New Zealand](#) featured Dr. Gary Small, director of geriatric psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Longevity Center, giving tips on training your brain and improving your memory.

Research links gut microbiome with mood and emotion

[JSTOR Daily](#) and New Zealand's [Fashion Quarterly](#) reported on research led by Dr. Kirsten Tillisch identifying gut microbiota that may interact with brain regions associated with mood and behavior. Tillisch is associate professor of medicine in the Vatche and Tamar Manoukian Division of Digestive Diseases.

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 by more than 50 outlets nationwide. A sampling of the stories from the past week's column:

- On vestibular neuritis and dizziness, featured in The [Rocky Mount Telegram](#)
 - On colorectal cancers, featured in [Pinal Central](#)
 - On balance exercises, featured in [The Courier Express](#)
 - On yellow fever, featured in [Daily Herald](#)
 - On pregnant women smoking, featured in [The Oklahoman](#)
 - On gout recurrence and restricted diet, featured in [Hanford Sentinel](#).
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QUOTED

"Because congenital syphilis is one of the most preventable conditions, it's the canary in the coal mine of our public health system."

-Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and of public health at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, in [WebMD](#)

Dr. James Cherry, a distinguished professor of pediatrics and infectious diseases at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine and Mattel Children's Hospital, commented in a [Healthline](#) story about how nonmedical vaccine exemptions are driving up cases of whooping cough.

Dr. Mario Deng, a professor of cardiology, was quoted in a [Los Angeles Daily News](#) column about a foundation called Ava's Heart, which helps support the cost of housing for patients who need to stay near the hospital following a heart transplant surgery.

Dr. John DiFiori, professor and chief of the UCLA Division of Sports Medicine and Non-Operative Orthopaedics, was quoted in an NPR "[Shots](#)" report on a new study finding that student athletes who specialize in a sport early are more prone to injury. More than 80 public radio stations across the country carried the story.

David Hovda, director of the UCLA Brain Injury Research Center and a professor of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted by the Boston Globe about recent research on chronic traumatic encephalopathy in former professional football players. The story was picked up by [NESN.com](#).

Dr. Amar Kishan, chief resident in the department of radiation oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA was quoted in [Knowridge Science Report](#) about a study showing that high doses of radiation can be just as effective as surgery.

Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and of public health at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in a [WebMD](#) article about the rising rates of newborns infected with syphilis.

Gerald Kominski, professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the Fielding School, commented in the following news media outlets:

- In [Politifact](#), [Capital Public Radio](#) and [Jefferson Public Radio](#) about Republican House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy's statement that more Americans paid an
-

Affordable Care Act penalty or received a waiver instead of health coverage under the ACA

- In an [ATTN](#): article about President Trump's understanding of the U.S. health insurance system
- In a [Sport News City](#) article about millions of Americans who will lose health insurance if the Affordable Care Act is repealed.

Huiying Li, an assistant professor of molecular and medical pharmacology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, commented in a July 25 [Pop Sugar](#) story about how to prevent and treat acne.

Dr. Walter Ling, a professor of psychiatry and founding director of the Integrated Substance Abuse Programs at UCLA, commented in a [Vice](#) article about the safety of Vivitrol as a treatment for opioid addiction.

Dr. Gary Mathern, a professor of pediatrics and neurosurgery at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine and Mattel Children's Hospital, was quoted in a [Nova](#) story about whether dogs can help predict seizures in people.

Dr. Leena Nathan, obstetrician-gynecologist at UCLA Health-Westlake Village, commented in a [KPCC radio](#) story on the shortage of obstetrician-gynecologists in the Los Angeles metro area.

Dr. Emily Newsom, clinical instructor of dermatology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted in a [Healthline](#) story on research around a new DNA film to protect the skin against harmful UV rays.

Dr. Richard Shemin, vice chair of the department of surgery and the chief of cardiac surgery, commented in a [MedPage Today](#) article about whether older physicians should be required to undergo mandatory cognitive evaluations.

BRIEFS

A [Compton Herald](#) article about African-American dialysis patients cited research by Dr. Keith Norris, professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, finding that dialysis clinics in predominantly black communities have higher mortality rates and lower compliance with performance targets.

[Ventura County Star](#) cited the number of Ventura County adults who smoke using data from the California Health Interview Survey, conducted by the Fielding School's UCLA Center for Health Policy Research.

[The List.com](#) referenced Dr. Michael Lu, professor of obstetrics, gynecology, and public health, in an article on [The List.com](#) about foods to eat and not eat while pregnant.

[Canadian Jewish News](#) referenced Dr. Aparna Sridhar, assistant professor in obstetrics and gynecology, in a story about an artist from Nova Scotia who is collaborating with Sridhar on a series of comics to help educate women about birth control.

A [Huffington Post](#) article about the top six ways to quickly gain muscle fast cited UCLA research finding that greater muscle mass may be a more important factor in preventing premature death among older Americans than a good body mass index.



This report features media placements from UCLA Health, which includes the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital, the Stewart and Lynda Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital at UCLA, the UCLA Health Clinics and the UCLA Faculty Practice Group.

It also includes placements from the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, the UCLA School of Nursing, the UCLA School of Dentistry, the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and the UCLA Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research.

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