



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of July 8-14, 2016**

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Grindr and HIV self-test kits

Study on resistance to immunotherapy drugs garners coverage

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Nurses might have the answer to keeping former offenders from returning to prison

More proof that male and female brains work differently

Unique technology to treat certain cancers

UCLA scientists discover pre-clinical immunotherapy treatment for advanced brain tumors

Independent panel finds U.S. in need of greater preparation for next severe public health threat

Geriatrician's column advises older adults about Zika virus

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Guiding ethics and morality

UCLA's revolutionary "kidney voucher" program grabs national attention

A new program launched by the UCLA Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Program in which one can donate a kidney to a stranger in exchange for a “voucher” that a donor’s loved one can use in the future when he or she needs a kidney transplant garnered extensive media attention. An [NBC News Channel](#) report ran July 11 on WGN-TV (Chicago), KXAS-TV (Dallas) and WHDH-TV (Boston); July 12 on WBAL-TV (Baltimore), KVVU-TV (Las Vegas) and KSTU-TV (Salt Lake City), July 14 on [Fox News Health](#) and about 200 other television stations and media outlets across the country. Dr. Jeffrey Veale, director of the UCLA Kidney Exchange Program, commented.

- **Kidney transplant surgeon discusses organ donations**

Dr. Jeffrey Veale, director of the UCLA Kidney Exchange Program, was featured June 29 in an interview with Ana Kasparian on [The Young Turks](#). Veale explained how the exchange program and kidney transplant chains bring people together regardless of their backgrounds, race or ethnicity.

Grindr and HIV self-test kits

[The New York Times](#), [Engadget](#), [myScience](#) and [Fast Company](#) on July 11; [Yahoo! Tech](#), [Newser](#), [Digital Trends](#), [DO Hunter News](#), [KABC 790AM](#) and [MedicalXpress](#) on July 12; [Gay News Network](#), [Science Codex](#) and [News-Medical.net](#) on July 13, and [HIV Plus magazine](#) on July 14 reported on 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 Grindr is an effective way to persuade black and Hispanic men who have sex with men to try home HIV self-testing kits. Klausner was quoted.

Study on resistance to immunotherapy drugs garners coverage

[Washington Post](#), [Reuters](#), [News-Medical.net](#) and [P&T Community](#) on July 13, and [Genome Web](#) on July 14 reported on new findings that show how the immune system in some patients with advanced melanoma can become resistant to the immunotherapy drug pembrolizumab. The authors of the study, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, found that an estimated 40 percent of patients had undergone genetic changes in their tumors that prevented the immune system from recognizing and attacking the disease. Dr. Antoni Ribas, director of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Immunology Program, and medical student Jesse Zaretsky were lead and first authors of the research and were quoted.

Helping kids in the PICU get more ZZZs

[USA Today](#) featured July 10 a story on efforts by Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA to promote healing by implementing new tactics to help patients in the pediatric intensive care unit get a better’s night’s rest. One of the staff members who helped develop the initiative, Theresa Kirkpatrick, a clinical nurse specialist in the PICU, was interviewed. The article was syndicated to numerous outlets, including [WUSA-TV](#) (D.C.), [KHOU-TV](#) (Houston), [Detroit Free Press](#), and [KING-TV](#) (Seattle).

Los Angeles Times spotlights mind-gut connection

Dr. Emeran Mayer and his new book, “The Mind-Gut Connection,” were featured July 8 in a Los Angeles Times Q&A. Mayer, director of the G Oppenheimer Family Center for Neurobiology of Stress and Resilience at UCLA and co-director of the CURE: Digestive Diseases Research Center, explains how trillions of microbes living in our intestines have a running dialogue between the brain and gut that play a role in our stress levels, sickness and recovery. The article was also picked up by the [Centre Daily Times](#) July 9 and [Sci-Tech Today](#) July 11, and an excerpt from his book was published July 5 in [mind bodygreen](#).

The connection between genes and loneliness

[The New Yorker](#) on July 7 featured research by Steve Cole, adjunct professor of medicine and psychiatry, on the link between loneliness, purpose in life, and genetic expression. Cole was quoted.

Smoke from laser hair removal could pose health hazards

[Reuters Health](#) reported July 13 on a study published in JAMA Dermatology finding that the smoke released during laser hair removal could be a health hazard, especially for people with heavy exposure to it. The study’s lead author, Dr. Gary Chuang, a clinical instructor of dermatology at the David Geffen

School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted. The Reuters story was picked up by various outlets, including [Yahoo! Beauty](#), [Huffington Post](#), [Fox News Health](#), [Medical Daily](#), [Daily News 724](#), [Get Your Body Healthy](#) and [SRN News.com](#).

Cancer survivors' risk for a second, unrelated cancer

[HealthDay](#) on July 7 reported on a study by Dr. Karim Chamie finding that certain cancer survivors are at risk for a second, unrelated cancer. Chamie is an assistant professor of urology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. The HealthDay story also appeared July 7 on [United Press International](#), [Health24](#) and the [St. Louis Post Dispatch](#), and July 8 on [Newsmax.com](#) and [Auburn Citizen](#).

Comparing care delivered by doctors vs. nurses

[Medscape](#) July 6, [APPex](#) June 25 and [SmartBrief](#) June 21 highlighted 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. Mafi was quoted.

Wide acceptance of end-of-life care orders

[McKnight's](#) July 11, [Science Daily](#) July 13, and [Health Medicine Network](#) and [News-Medical.net](#) July 14 highlighted research finding broad acceptance of written end-of-life care orders among California nursing home residents, with nearly half completing a Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment, or POLST, form in 2011. The study also found no difference in completion of the form by race or ethnicity.

Lessons in French on virtual reality

Articles published in the French science magazine [Sciences et Avenir](#) June 24 and the popular French magazine [Le Figaro](#) June 29 featured virtual reality research by Mayank R. Mehta, a professor of neurology, physics and astronomy and neurobiology. Mehta was quoted.

Nurses might have the answer to keeping former offenders from returning to prison

A bylined article by Adey Nyamathi, associate dean for international research and scholarly activities at the UCLA School of Nursing, on the challenges for male offenders transitioning back into society, was published July 5 in [The Conversation](#). The article was republished July 5 in the [Fairfield Citizen](#), [sfgate.com](#) and [Bigstory AP](#).

More proof that male and female brains work differently

A study by Paul Macey, associate professor at the UCLA School of Nursing, finding that male and female brains have opposite response patterns in blood pressure, was covered July 14 by the [Huffington Post UK](#), [Daily Mail](#) and [Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology News](#),

Unique technology to treat certain cancers

[ABC-Channel 7](#) reported July 8 on the new MRI-guided radiation machine at UCLA that is available only at three cancer research centers in the world. The ViewRay radiation system allows physicians to see soft tissue in the body and adjust proper dosage in real time without invasive markers or procedures. It also doesn't expose the patient to additional ionizing radiation that is common with other imaging modalities. Dr. Percy Lee, director of the stereotactic body radiation therapy program and member of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted.

UCLA scientists discover pre-clinical immunotherapy treatment for advanced brain tumors

[Science Daily](#) reported July 7 on a new breakthrough immunotherapy treatment that shows promise in mouse models with glioblastoma. The preliminary findings indicated that using a dendritic cell vaccine along with an antibody PD-1 blockade of an immune cell surface receptor generated an immune response against advanced brain tumors. Robert Prins, associate professor of neurosurgery and member of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was lead author of the study and was quoted.

Independent panel finds U.S. in need of greater preparation for next severe public health threat

A report from an independent panel chaired by Dr. Jonathan Fielding, professor-in-residence of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and of pediatrics, made several recommendations on how the nation's public health system should strengthen its response to major public health threats, both internationally and domestically. The panel was formed to review the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' response to Ebola, and ongoing news media coverage of its report included articles published July 9 on [Politico.com](#) and a subsequent article published July 11 on [Politico.com](#).

Geriatrician's column advises older adults about Zika virus

Santa Monica Mirror published July 8 a guest column from Dr. Grace Chen, geriatrician at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica and assistant clinical professor, explaining the Zika virus and how older adults can protect themselves. The column also appeared at [Westsidetoday.com](#).

Protection for pesticide-related Parkinson's disease

The [Central Valley Business Times](#) July 7 reported on a study by Dr. Jeff Bronstein that found a possible protective strategy for pesticide exposure-related Parkinson's disease. Bronstein is a professor of neurology and director of movement disorder research.

Guiding ethics and morality

[MD](#) reported July 7 on a study by Dr. Mario Mendez about the part of the brain that guides ethics and morality. Mendez is director of neurobehavior at the Veterans Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System and a professor of neurology and psychiatry.

NOTABLE BRIEFS

A study by Dawn Loh, a postdoctoral scholar at the UCLA Laboratory of Circadian and Sleep Medicine, was referenced July 9 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) story on the perils of late-night snacking. The story was picked up in the Fort Lauderdale, Fla., [Sun-Sentinel](#), the [Orlando Sentinel](#) and other outlets.

Research conducted by the WORLD Policy Analysis Center at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health was cited July 5 in a [Warped Speed](#) article about American-led efforts against child marriage.

Research conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health was cited July 13 by [The Rafu Shrimpo](#) in an article about an upcoming disease-prevention community lecture.

NOTABLE QUOTABLES

Dr. Clarence Braddock, vice dean for education at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, commented July 13 in [Healthline](#) about the so-called "July effect" -- when new medical residents launch the next stage of their professional training at teaching hospitals nationwide.

Dr. Barbara Giesser, a professor of neurology and medical director of the Marilyn Hilton Multiple Sclerosis Achievement Center at UCLA, commented June 30 in a [WebMD](#) article about the risks of alcohol for people with multiple sclerosis.

Dr. Carolyn Goh, assistant clinical professor of dermatology at David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted July 8 in an NBC News [Today.com](#) article about things people should know before using dry shampoo.

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 July 11 in [HealthDay](#) and July 13 in [TCTMD](#) about a new study finding that those who develop heart

failure after a heart attack have an increased risk of developing cancer. Fonarow noted that cancer rates could be increased because of inflammation and cellular disruptions that occur as a result of heart failure. Separately, Fonarow commented July 12 in a [TCTMD](#) article on new guidelines issued by the American Heart Association that urges physicians to monitor medications that may cause or worsen heart failure. Fonarow stated that the new guidelines were a valuable resource for physicians.

Gerald Kominski, professor of health policy and management and director of the Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented July 12 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) op-ed column about comprehensive health plans for Starbucks employees. The story was republished July 13 by the [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#). Kominski also commented July 13 in [MedPage Today](#) about spending projections through 2025 by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

Dr. Karen Nielsen, professor of clinical pediatrics in the division of pediatric infectious diseases at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was quoted July 12 in a story in [The Wrap](#) about why golfers are dropping out of the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Dr. Don Young Park, assistant clinical professor of orthopaedic surgery and surgeon at the UCLA Spine Center in Santa Monica, was quoted July 7 in a [Spineuniverse.com](#) article about the cost-effectiveness of a fusion technique commonly used for degenerative lumbar disorders.

Dylan Roby, adjunct associate professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and faculty associate at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the Fielding School, commented June 12 in a [GCN](#) story about a hospital notification system in Iowa that sends Medicaid real-time data on their patients' hospital ER use, admission and discharges to prevent repetition of tests and treatment. The story was republished July 14 by [Emergency Live](#).

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