



UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of July 15-21, 2016

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Fighting poor nutrition among California's elderly population

Infectious disease expert discusses mystery Zika transmission

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People Magazine spotlights neurosurgeon's gift from Special Olympics athlete

[People](#) magazine published a July 21 story on Special Olympics athlete Edward Garcia, who gave away his latest gold medal to his neurosurgeon, Dr. Isaac Yang, an associate professor of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. Yang listened to Garcia's concerns when other physicians

ignored his pain, ultimately performing necessary surgery on Garcia, who suffers from hydrocephalus. The story was also covered July 18 by [La Opinión](#) and July 15 by KCAL-Channel 9 and [KCBS-Channel 2](#).

Using social media to combat opioid abuse and HIV

[Science](#) reported July 13 on a study using the Harnessing Online Peer Education (HOPE) intervention, conducted at the UCLA Department of Family Medicine-based University of California Institute for Prediction Technology ([UCIPT](#)). The intervention uses social media to help curb the use of opioid drugs. The article also highlighted a previous HOPE [study](#) on a clinical trial conducted in Peru finding that participants who combined social media and behavioral psychology were more than twice as likely to be tested for HIV than the control group. Sean Young, associate professor of family medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and the institute's executive director, was quoted. Other researchers from the UCLA Department of Family Medicine are involved in the HOPE opioid intervention.

Fighting poor nutrition among California's elderly population

A basic-needs study from the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health was featured July 17 in [The Sacramento Bee](#). The study found that about 20 percent of California adults age 65 and older cannot afford basic needs such as food, housing and health care. The story focused on a Vista, Calif. program that uses a food truck to cook and serve healthy meals to seniors who face food insecurity and other economic challenges. Study co-author Steven Wallace, professor and chair of community health sciences at the Fielding school and associate director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, was quoted in the story, which also cited the Center's California Health Interview Survey finding that food insecurity was rising among the state's low-income elderly population. The Bee story was carried by [My Informis](#).

Infectious disease expert discusses mystery Zika transmission

Dr. Claire Panosian Dunavan, professor of medicine emeritus/recalled in the division of infectious diseases, was featured July 19 in a KPCC 89.3FM "[TakeTwo](#)" report about a person who cared for a Zika-infected relative in Utah and also contracted the virus, but apparently not via the known routes of transmission.

6000th liver transplant garners headlines

[Health Canal](#) and [Health News Digest](#) reported July 21 that UCLA performed its 6000th liver transplant for a man on his birthday. Dr. Ronald Busuttill, executive chairman of the department of surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and chief of the division of liver and pancreas transplantation, performed the transplant.

Cancer study gains media attention

[Science Blog](#) and [Health Canal](#) reported July 14 on a study by Dr. Karim Chamie that found 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. A HealthDay News story on the study appeared July 7 in the [Times and Democrat, Missoulian](#) and [Arizona Daily Sun](#); July 8 in the [Napa Valley Register](#) and [Doctors Lounge](#), and July 11 in [Monthly Prescribing Reference](#).

Antiretroviral therapy reduces postpartum HIV complications

[Medpage Today](#) reported July 19 on a presentation by Dr. Judith Currier, chief of the UCLA Division of Infectious Diseases, finding that women who continue to receive antiretroviral therapy after delivering their babies appear to have fewer HIV-related complications than do women with intact immune systems who delay virus-suppressing medications. Currier, who presented the findings at the International AIDS Conference in Durban, South Africa, was quoted.

Implications of presidential candidate beliefs in climate change and wildlife conservation

Dana Ellis Hunnes, senior dietitian and adjunct assistant professor of community health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, wrote an op-ed published July 19 in the [Huffington Post](#) about the implications of presidential candidates' beliefs in climate change and wildlife conservation.

Artificial immune cells could kill HIV

Research led by Dr. Otto Yang, professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases, on recently discovered potent antibodies, was highlighted July 15 by [MedicalXpress](#), July 16 by [Science Codex](#) and [The Indian Express](#), July 17 by [Tech Times](#) and [Health Medicine Network](#), July 18 by [GEN](#), July 19 by [Immuno-Oncology News](#) and [Medical News Today](#), and July 20 by [Drug Discovery & Development](#). The research showed that the antibodies can be used to generate a specific type of cell called chimeric antigen receptors, or CARs, which can be used to kill cells infected with HIV-1.

New findings on resistance to immunotherapy drugs

[Immuno-Oncology news](#) July 20, [Melanoma News Today](#) July 19, [MedicalXpress](#) July 18, [Health Canal](#) July 16, [Managed Care Mag](#) July 14 and [Science Daily](#) July 13 highlighted new findings published in the New England Journal of Medicine showing how the immune system in some patients with advanced melanoma can become resistant to the immunotherapy drug, pembrolizumab. The study's researchers 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. Study co-authors Dr. Antoni Ribas, director of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Immunology Program, and medical student Jesse Zaretsky were quoted.

Snapchat's "Los Angeles Story" features segment on gluten

Nancee Jaffe, a UCLA Health registered dietitian and digestive expert, was featured July 18 in a segment on gluten in the Snapchat-curated "Los Angeles Story." Jaffe discussed gluten-related disorders, common misconceptions about gluten, and gluten-free foods.

Grindr and HIV self-test kits

[MD Magazine](#) July 16 and [Physicians News Network](#) July 20 reported on research co-authored by Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases and of public health, finding that gay dating app Grindr is an effective way to get black and Hispanic men who have sex with men to try home H.I.V. self-testing kits. Klausner was quoted.

Wide acceptance of end-of-life care orders

[Life Matters Media](#) July 18 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.

PICU implements new strategies to help patients sleep

[MedicalXpress](#) and [Pharmacy Choice](#) featured July 20 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 cited. Dr. Yonca Bulut, professor of pediatric clinical care; Dr. Myke Federman, associate clinical professor of pediatric clinical care; and Jennifer Armstrong, a nurse in the pediatric intensive care unit, were also part of the multidisciplinary team that designed and implemented the sleep initiative.

Tips to prevent common summer earache

Italian health website [Comunicati Stampa](#) featured July 20 an article on swimmer's ear and offered tips on preventing and treating it from Dr. Nina Shapiro, a professor of head and neck surgery and director of pediatric otolaryngology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA.

UCLA urologist debunks vasectomy myths

[News-Medical.net](#) featured July 20 an advisory featuring urologist Dr. Jesse Mills debunking five common myths about vasectomy. Mills is a clinical professor of urology and director of The Men's Clinic at UCLA.

Researching teen e-smoking and cigarette use

Data from [California Health Interview Survey](#), conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was featured July 20 in a [California Health Report](#) article about how 10 percent of California adolescents smoke e-cigarettes.

UCLA's revolutionary "kidney voucher" program elicits additional coverage

[WPVI-TV](#) (Philadelphia) reported July 20 on 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.

Only five countries give LGBT people equal constitutional rights

A study conducted by the WORLD Policy Analysis Center at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health about constitutional rights for LGBTQ citizens was featured July 18 by [World Economic Forum](#).

NOTABLE BRIEFS

Dr. A. Nick Shamie, orthopaedic spine surgeon with the UCLA Spine Center in Santa Monica and clinical professor of orthopaedic surgery, was referenced July 14 in a [Becker's Spine Review](#) article about surgeons with gifted business minds.

Data from the California Health Interview Survey, conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, were cited July 16 by [Salon](#) in an article about Californians who are underinsured, despite having health insurance.

The Rape Treatment Center at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica was referenced July 18 in a [Westside Today.com](#) story about a Santa Monica woman who is partnering with the center to provide prevention workshops for teenagers. Harriet Kerr, the RTC's director of prevention and community education, was quoted.

A July 19 article in [Unicorn Booty](#) cited a study suggesting that oral emtricitabine and tenofovir, two HIV antiviral medications used in combination as pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, to prevent infection with HIV, are as safe to use as aspirin. The study was conducted and written by Noah Kojima, a second-year medical student at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, and 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.

A study about prediabetes conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health was cited July 19 by [Kaiser Health News](#) in an article about a soda tax law passed in Philadelphia. The story was picked up by the [Standard Examiner](#) (Ogden, Utah), [The Journal News](#) (Dayton, Ohio), [WHIO-TV](#) (Dayton, Ohio), [Springfield News-Sun](#) and [The Palm Beach Post](#).

NOTABLE QUOTABLES

Dr. Deanna Attai, UCLA breast surgeon based in Burbank and assistant clinical professor of surgery, was quoted in the July issue of the American College of Surgeon's [Bulletin](#) in an article on physician use of social media.

Shana Alex Charles, faculty associate at UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented July 15 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) article about universal health care in Great Britain. Charles was also quoted on the topic July 17 by [The Northern California News](#).

Dr. Matteo Dinolfo, medical director of the UCLA Department of Medicine's community offices and associate professor of internal medicine, was quoted July 15 in a [Pacific Coast Business Times](#) article on mergers and expansion of health systems in Ventura County.

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 20 in [MedPage Today](#) and [Healio](#) on a new study that found different conclusions comparing two drugs used after percutaneous coronary intervention. Fonarow suggested that no matter what statistical methods are applied, findings from observational data are likely to be subject to hidden bias and should be interpreted with appropriate skepticism and caution.

Dr. Alma Guerrero, assistant clinical professor of pediatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted July 21 in an [Eastern Group Publications](#) article about the importance of parents spending quality time with their children to help in their development.

Dana Ellis Hunnes, senior dietitian and adjunct assistant professor of community health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented July 15 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) article about the promotion of beets as a new "superfood."

Gerald Kominski, professor of health policy and management and director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented July 15 in [MedPage Today](#) article about private insurance premiums, and July 12 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) op-ed column about health coverage at Starbucks. Kominski's Times quote also appeared in a July 19 [Forbes](#) roundup of recent media coverage related to the Affordable Care Act.

Vickie Mays, professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented July 18 in a [St. Louis American](#) article about racism, discrimination and comprehensive healthcare for Starbucks employees. The Times piece also ran July 13 in the [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#), July 14 in [The Fresno Bee](#) and the [Albuquerque Journal](#), and July 17 in [The Spokesman-Review](#).

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 July 20 on KPCC 89.3FM's "[Air Talk](#)" about factors that contributed to a 13% increase in premiums on the state health exchange, Covered California.

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