



UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of Sept. 25-Oct. 1, 2015

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Santa Monica Ouch-Less ER Highlighted

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UCLA and VA Launch Program to Enhance Cancer Care for Veterans

The Los Angeles [Daily News](#), [My News LA](#), [KPCC 89.3FM](#), and [The Pasadena/San Gabriel Valley Journal](#) reported Sept. 30 on a new collaboration between UCLA and the VA Greater Los Angeles that will provide access to the latest therapeutic cancer clinical trials and state-of-the-art care for veterans. It is the first time that Southern California veterans will have access to these clinical trials directly through the local VA, and it is the nation's first program to bring experimental cancer-related treatments to veterans.

Dr. Matthew Rettig, director of the prostate cancer program of the Institute of Urologic Oncology at UCLA; Dr. Fairouz Kabbinavar, co-leader of the program and professor of medicine in the division of hematology and oncology at UCLA; Dr. Dennis Slamon, the other co-leader of the program and director of clinical and translational research at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, and Dr. Judith Gasson, director of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, were quoted in the coverage. Rettig and Kabbinavar are also members of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Fascinating Spine Surgery Draws Coverage

[KCBS-Channel 2](#) reported Sept. 30 on a patient who suffered a traumatic spine injury after a woman committing suicide by jumping from a building landed on him. Dr. Sina Pourtaheri, orthopaedic spine surgeon and assistant professor of orthopaedic surgery, who performed immediate surgery to repair the man's spine, was interviewed in the segment, along with the patient.

Party on the Pier Raises Record Amount for Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA

[KABC-Channel 7](#), [Variety](#), [Boston Herald.com](#), [Daily Mail](#) (U.K.), [Emirates 247](#), [Twist Magazine](#), [JustJared](#), [Santa Monica Mirror](#) and others featured Sept. 28 coverage of the 16th annual Mattel Party on the Pier fundraiser benefitting the Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA. The event, hosted by actress Sarah Michelle Gellar and attended by other celebrities, raised more than \$1 million for the hospital. Dr. Sherin Devaskar, physician-in-chief, and Kellye Carroll, director of the hospital's Chase Child Life program, were interviewed.

Children in Foster Homes Need Better Health Care

[HealthDay](#), [National Public Radio](#), [MedPage Today](#), [Univision](#), the American Academy of Pediatric's "[2 Minute Medicine](#)" and others reported Sept. 28 on a new study that found the foster care system needs to do a better job of providing consistent, quality health care to children living in foster homes. The study's lead author, Dr. Moira Szilagyi, a professor of pediatrics at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was quoted.

Surgeon Explains Life-Altering Ear Disorder

[U.S. News & World Report](#) published Sept. 30 an essay by Dr. Quinton Gopen, an ear surgeon at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, about a rare disorder called superior semicircular canal dehiscence that amplifies a person's voice, heartbeat, chewing and other body noises directly into the inner ear. Gopen described a minimally invasive surgical approach co-pioneered by UCLA neurosurgeon Dr. Isaac Yang to treat the life-altering disease.

Santa Monica Ouch-Less ER Highlighted

UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica's initiatives to reduce pain for pediatric patients treated in its Nethercutt Emergency Center were highlighted Sept. 29 in a [Wall Street Journal](#) feature about devices to minimize pain. Dr. Lisa Dabby, attending physician, was interviewed and Katie Kolbeck, child life specialist, was referenced for her interaction with a young patient being treated for a broken leg.

California Health Report Highlights \$2.5 Million Geriatric Training Grant

[California Health Report](#) highlighted Sept. 28 a three-year, \$2.5 million grant to the UCLA division of geriatrics from the Health Resources and Services Administration to enhance geriatric education, training and workforce development in Riverside County. The grant funds a new partnership between UCLA, UC Riverside School of Medicine, Riverside County Regional Medical Center and the Riverside County Department of Public Social Services. Called the Program for Improving Care of Aging adults through Training and Education, or PICATE, the project is a collaboration among primary care clinics, community-based organizations and educational institutions throughout Riverside County. Dr. Zaldy Tan, associate professor of medicine in the division of geriatrics and project director of PICATE, was quoted.

CBS Spotlights Brain Injury in Athletes

The UCLA Steve Tisch BrainSPORT Program and its research exploring new ways to prevent, monitor and treat sports concussion in athletes was showcased Sept. 24 in a [KCBS-Channel 2](#) segment featuring Dr. Christopher Giza, program director and a professor of pediatrics and neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, and his patient, Trey Fearn, who suffered multiple concussions playing football and baseball during junior high and high school.

NIH Supports Study of Placenta

[SciFeeds](#) reported Sept. 30 that the National Institutes of Health awarded UCLA a \$4.2 million grant to study how environmental pollution negatively affects the development of the placenta in pregnant women. Lead researcher, Dr. Sherin Devaskar, the Mattel Executive Endowed Chair of the department of pediatrics at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was quoted. Additional UCLA researchers include Dr. Carla Janzen, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, Kyung Sung, assistant professor of radiology, and Dr. Beate Ritz, professor of public health and epidemiology.

Flu Misconceptions

Dr. Tanya Altmann, an assistant clinical professor of pediatrics at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, appeared Sept. 28 on [KTLA-Channel 5](#) to discuss misconceptions about the flu and kids.

UCLA Docs Featured in Robb Report

The fall issue of Robb Report Health & Wellness explored innovative strategies to reduce stress and lead a life of resiliency and longevity. Dr. Michael Irwin, professor of psychiatry and director of the Cousins Center for Psychoneuroimmunology at the Semel Institute, was quoted in articles about [stress reduction](#) and [brain health](#) and Dr. Reza Jarrahy, associate clinical professor of plastic and reconstructive surgery, spoke about [balancing](#) his busy surgery schedule with family and philanthropic work.

Santa Clarita Cardiologist Dials in Smartphones as Modern-Day Medical Assistants

Dr. Amir Rabbani, cardiologist at UCLA Health's Santa Clarita office and clinical instructor of medicine, authored a guest commentary on the potential of smartphones as medical assistants in the October edition of [Santa Clarita Magazine](#).

Boulder Weekly Features Meditation Research

The [Boulder Weekly](#) reported Sept. 24 on a study by Dr. Eileen Luders that found meditation is good for the brain. Luders is an assistant professor of neurology.

Majority of Health Clinics in California Lack Dentists

A study by Dr. Nadereh Pourat, professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and director of research at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, finding that three in five California community clinics fail to provide easy access to oral health care, especially for low-income Californians, was covered Sept. 30 by [MedicalXpress](#), [Imperial Valley News](#) and [California Health Report](#) and Oct. 1 by [California Pan-Ethnic Health Network](#).

Untested Chemicals in the Environment

Research by Dr. Patrick Allard, professor of environmental health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, on the adverse effects on population health that may result from limitations of conventional tests of chemicals in the environment was highlighted Sept. 25 by [Phys.org](#).

Improving Hepatitis B Testing for Koreans Living in Los Angeles

Research by Dr. Roshan Bastani, professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, on interventions to improve the rate of Hepatitis B testing for Koreans living in Los Angeles was featured Sept. 30 in [Healio](#).

BRIEFS

[KNBC-Channel 4](#), [KABC-Channel 7](#), [Pasadena Independent](#) and [Pasadena Now](#) cited Sept. 29 Dr. Mario Deng, professor of medicine and medical director of the Advanced Heart Failure, Mechanical Support and Heart Transplant program at UCLA, and Dr. Juan Alejos, medical director of the pediatric heart transplant program at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, in coverage of a "World Heart Day" forum held by Ava's Heart Foundation which supports UCLA patients.

Dr. Dennis Slamon, director of the UCLA/Revlon cancer research program and director of clinical and translational research at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was mentioned Sept. 30th in a [New Castle News](#) promotional piece about an upcoming clay shooting event benefitting cancer research.

Dr. Patricia Ganz, director of the division of cancer prevention and control research at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, and Dr. Elisa Long, assistant professor at the UCLA Anderson School of Management, were mentioned Sept. 30th in [Healio](#) during hereditary and ovarian cancer awareness week about their study on BRCA gene testing.

Dr. Roshan Bastani, director of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Healthy and At-Risk Population Program, was mentioned Sept. 30 in [Medical News Today](#) and [Healio](#) about a study she developed to improve rates of serologic testing to detect HBV infection among Korean Americans.

A study by Dr. Ying-Ying Meng, senior research scientist at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, finding that one in three hospitalizations in California are related to diabetes was cited Sept. 28 in an article in the [American Journal of Managed Care](#).

QUOTABLES

Dr. Michael Cohen, infectious disease specialist at UCLA Health's Santa Clarita practice and assistant clinical professor, was quoted Sept. 24 in a [Glamour.com](#) article about avoiding germs at the gym.

Dr. William Cunningham, professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine at UCLA and of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted Oct. 1 in a [Voice of OC](#) article about race-based health disparities in the OC, where African Americans enjoy relative prosperity

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, was quoted Sept. 28 in [Grandparents.com](#) regarding recent research that identifies four ways a daily aspirin can save lives, including protection from heart disease.

Dana Hunnes, senior dietitian at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and adjunct assistant professor, UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted Sept. 29 in [Yahoo! Health](#) about two British studies providing evidence that calcium supplements in older men and women may not be as beneficial as previously indicated.

Dr. 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, commented Sept. 27 in [The Sacramento Bee](#) and Sept. 28 in [California Healthline](#) about higher costs for medical procedures in Northern California compared to Southern California. He was also quoted Sept. 25 by [Politifact.com](#) about how the University of Missouri-Columbia could adopt UCLA's model of health insurance coverage for graduate students.

Dr. Charles Krob, a professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute, was quoted Sept. 27 in an [Aljazeera America](#) article about ayahuasca, a plant long favored for its hallucinogenic properties by indigenous peoples living in the upper Amazon.

Dr. Andrew Leuchter, professor of psychiatry and director of the Laboratory of Brain, Behavior, and Pharmacology at the Semel Institute, was quoted Sept. 30 in a [Medical Daily](#) article on a study that looked at the placebo effect and its impact on depressed individuals.

Dr. Larissa Mooney, an associate professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Addiction Medicine Clinic, was quoted Sept. 25 in the [New York Times](#) and Sept. 30 in the [Bend Bulletin](#) in articles about the connection between alcoholism and depression.

Dr. Raman Muthusamy, clinical professor of medicine in the division of digestive diseases and director of endoscopy, was quoted in the September issue of [Gastroenterology & Endoscopy News](#) in an article about new guidelines calling for a less aggressive approach for the use of endoscopy in the evaluation of patients presenting with symptoms of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) or dyspepsia.

Dr. David McAllister, professor of orthopaedic surgery and chief of the sports medicine service, was quoted Sept. 29 in a [GQ](#) article on how to keep exercising even when you're hurt.

Dr. Stuart Schweitzer, professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented Sept. 30 on an article on the Web site of [KPCC 89.3FM](#) about how prescription drug prices are determined.

Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging and director of the UCLA Longevity Center at the Semel Institute, commented Sept. 23 in a [Televisa](#) (Mexico) report on the dearth of facilities for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other severe forms of memory loss.

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