



Health

UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT October 5-11, 2018

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[KABC-TV](#): New options for drug-resistant epilepsy

(Photo: Elaine Schmidt / UCLA)





[LA Times](#): Fundraiser for Rape Treatment Center draws spotlight

(Photo: UCLA Health)



[The Hill](#): Op-Ed: Why loneliness is a public health issue

(Photo: Pixabay)



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FEATURED

New options for drug-resistant epilepsy

A [KABC-TV](#) segment explored new treatment options for people whose epilepsy doesn't respond to medication. UCLA doctors restored patient Sharon Shafer's quality of life with a treatment called responsive neurostimulation after she suffered uncontrolled seizures for 20 years. Neurologist Dr. Dawn Eliashiv, a co-director of the UCLA Seizure Disorder Center, and Shafer, a UCLA research librarian, were interviewed.

Fundraiser for Rape Treatment Center draws spotlight

[Los Angeles Times](#), [People magazine](#), [MSN.com](#), [Variety](#), [Hollywood Reporter](#) and more than 30 other outlets reported on the annual fundraising brunch to benefit the Rape Treatment Center and Stuart House at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, with actress Jennifer Garner serving as host and actors David Schwimmer and Eric McCormick as emcees. Gail Abarbanel, founding director of the RTC and Stuart House, was quoted or referenced in some of the reports.

Op-Ed: Why loneliness is a public health issue

[The Hill](#) published an opinion piece by Dr. Jonathan Fielding in which he describes loneliness as a public health threat. Fielding is a distinguished professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and a distinguished professor of pediatrics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

Explaining Valley fever

[KPCC](#) interviewed Dr. Robert Kim-Farley, a professor-in-residence of epidemiology and community health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, for a segment about Valley fever (starts at 34:52). Kim-Farley explained symptoms, who is most at risk

and how spores that create Valley fever can spread beyond the Central Valley.

\$5M federal grant for early detection of lung cancer

[Los Angeles Business Journal](#) and [MyScience.org](#) reported on a \$5 million grant to the UCLA School of Dentistry and the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA from the National Cancer Institute for further developing technology that will detect lung cancer earlier. Principal investigators Dr. Denise Aberle, a professor of radiology, and Dr. David Wong, a professor of oral biology and associate dean for research at the UCLA School of Dentistry, were quoted. The same technology, electric field-induced release and measurement, was featured in [MedicalNewser](#), [Science Codex](#) and [Ecancer](#) based on a report that came out in The Journal of Molecular Diagnostics.

Tests for recreational marijuana

A [FOX11](#) segment about California's testing procedures for recreational marijuana featured an interview (1:50) with Dr. Jeff Chen, director of the UCLA Cannabis Research Initiative.

Study looks at relationship between medical schools and patient outcomes

[Reuters Health](#) reported on research led by Dr. Yusuke Tsugawa, an assistant professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, suggesting that where a doctor attended medical school in the U.S. does not predict how well their patients do. [Reuters U.K.](#), [Reuters India](#) and the website of [KTWB-FM](#), Sioux Falls, South Dakota, carried the story.

Family separation has significant adverse health effects

[Forbes](#) published commentary by Dr. Elizabeth Barnert, an assistant professor of pediatrics at UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital, about the significant health consequences of family separation. The commentary originally appeared in an online session featuring Barnert in the question-and-answer website Quora.

Looking at the medical aid-in-dying law

A [San Luis Obispo Tribune](#) story about a terminally ill local woman's path toward ending her life under California's End-of-Life Option Act spotlighted UCLA Health's policy on assisted death and quoted Dr. Neil Wenger, a professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research and director of the UCLA Health Ethics Center. The [Sacramento Bee](#) and [Fresno Bee](#) carried the story.

Getting ready for flu season

A report on [BYUradio](#)'s "Top of Mind with Julie Rose" about this year's flu season featured Dr. Tara Vijayan, an assistant professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases.

Four myths about breast cancer debunked

A [HealthDay](#) article about breast cancer facts featured Dr. Parvin Peddi, an assistant professor of hematology/oncology and member of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center. She discussed four common myths about breast cancer that can affect prevention and treatment of the most common type of cancer in American women. The article appeared in 18 other outlets, including [Medicine News Line](#), [Medical Xpress](#), [Doctors Lounge](#) and [NewsMax](#).

Exploring treatments for irritable bowel syndrome

[Healio](#) reported on a presentation by Dr. Lin Chang at the American College of

Gastroenterology Annual Scientific Meeting about pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic therapies for irritable bowel syndrome. Chang is vice-chief of the Vatche and Tamar Manoukian Division of Digestive Diseases and co-director of the G. Oppenheimer Center for Neurobiology of Stress and Resilience.

Online diabetes prevention programs effective for weight loss

[Medscape](#) (registration required but available at no cost) reported on research led by Dr. Tannaz Moin finding that online diabetes prevention programs are as effective as in-person sessions for weight loss. Moin, an assistant professor of medicine in the division of endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism, was quoted.

Can virtual reality help those with MS?

[NeurologyAdvisor](#) interviewed Dr. Barbara Giesser for a story about the use of virtual reality as part of rehabilitation programs for people with multiple sclerosis. Giesser is a professor of clinical neurology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and clinical director of the UCLA Multiple Sclerosis Program.

Hospital readmissions after heart surgery similar despite day of discharge

[Cardiology Today](#) and [News-Medical.net](#) reported on new UCLA research that showed that readmission rates of heart surgery patients were similar whether they were discharged during the work week or over the weekend or holidays. The study's lead authors, Dr. Yas Sanaïha, a general surgery resident in the division of cardiac surgery, and Dr. Peyman Benharash, an assistant professor of cardiothoracic surgery, were quoted.

Finding new ways to treat HER2-positive breast cancer

Dr. Sara Hurvitz, an associate professor of medicine and member of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was featured in an [OncLive](#) video about the use of novel agents in HER2-positive breast cancer.

Looking at driver mutations to find more treatments for lung cancer

Dr. Edward Garon, an assistant professor of medicine and member of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was featured in an [OncLive](#) video about driver mutations in small cell lung cancer.

Foundation donates \$3 million for spinal cord injury research

[Becker's Spine Review](#) and [MyScience.org](#) reported on a \$3 million donation from the Price Foundation to fund Dr. Daniel Lu's studies on spinal stimulation to help improve quality of life for people who have suffered debilitating spinal cord injuries. Lu is an associate professor of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and director of the UCLA Neuroplasticity and Repair Laboratory. A [second article](#) rounding up recent Becker's Spine Review news also mentioned the donation.

The risks of severe brain injury in youth sports

KNX-AM interviewed Tony Strickland in a segment about the risk for chronic traumatic encephalopathy among youth playing football. Strickland is an associate professor of neurology.

Equality Now to honor UCLA neuroscientist

Philanthropy publication [Look to the Stars](#) reported that Dr. Susan Smalley will be honored by the women's rights organization Equality Now during its Dec. 3 gala at the Beverly Hilton. Smalley is a UCLA professor emeritus of psychiatry who has conducted

groundbreaking studies into the genetics of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and autism spectrum disorder. She will share the podium with fellow honoree Margaret Atwood, author of the novel, "The Handmaid's Tale."

Healthcare workers in the Congo show immunity to Ebola

[Healio](#) featured a study led by Nicole A. Hoff reporting that a significant number of healthcare workers in the Democratic Republic of Congo are reactive to at least one Ebola virus protein despite never reporting infection. Hoff, an adjunct assistant professor of epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and country director and senior administrative analyst of the UCLA-DRC Health Research and Training Program, was quoted.

Kids and teens in California not getting regular exercise

[YubaNet.com](#) featured research by Susan H. Babey, co-director of the Chronic Disease Program at the Fielding School's UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, reporting that few children and teens in California exercise for more than one hour per day. The study also found that a greater percentage of adults in the state are walking regularly.

Aggressive prostate and lung cancers are driven by common mechanisms

[ScienceDaily](#), [Technology Networks](#), [Drug Target Review](#), [Medical Xpress](#), [The Global Health](#), [Medicine News Line](#), [Diario Rotativo](#) and several other outlets reported on UCLA research finding a common process in the development of late-stage, small cell cancers of the prostate and lung, Dr. Owen Witte, founding director of the UCLA Broad Stem Cell Research Center and a distinguished professor of microbiology, immunology and molecular genetics, and Thomas Graeber, a member of the UCLA Broad Stem Cell Research Center, director of the UCLA Metabolomics Center and professor of molecular and medical pharmacology, led the research along with first author Jung Wook Park, a post-doctoral fellow in the department of microbiology, immunology, and molecular genetics. Witte and Graeber are also members of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.

What's so inspiring about respiration?

[MyScience.org](#) published a profile that explores the career of Jack Feldman, a distinguished professor of neurobiology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. When he delivers the 125th annual UCLA Research Lecture on Oct. 17, Feldman will describe his discoveries into how the brain controls various types of breathing.

Researchers identify common molecular mechanism in two skeletal disorders

[MyScience.org](#) reported on a recent UCLA study that found a rare, yet-to-be named skeletal disorder shares a common "signaling pathway" with another rare skeletal disorder called Jansen metaphyseal chondrodysplasia. The findings point to the mechanisms that control both normal and disordered development of the skeleton, and could even lead to a novel target for cancer drugs. The study's first author, Fabiana Csukasi, a project scientist in the department of orthopaedic surgery, and senior author Dr. Deborah Krakow, a professor of obstetrics and gynecology, of orthopaedic surgery, and of human genetics, were cited.

This week in 'Ask the Doctors'

UCLA Health internists 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. Glazier is an associate professor of medicine, and Ko is an assistant professor of medicine. A sampling of stories from this past week's column:

- On remedies for nighttime leg cramps, in Florida's [The Daytona Beach News-Journal](#).
- On silent uterine tract infections, in Massachusetts' [The Berkshire Eagle](#).
- On how flu and colds are most commonly transferred, in Texas' [The Courier of Montgomery County](#).

QUOTED

"To have a functional health insurance system, we need the rich to subsidize the poor, the healthy to subsidize the unhealthy and the young to subsidize the old."

- **Arturo Vargas Bustamante** to [Reuters](#)



Robert Bilder, a professor of psychiatry and director of the Tennenbaum Center for the Biology of Creativity at UCLA's Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior, commented in a [Thrive Global](#) story about factors contributing to mental health issues among college students.

Dr. Eric Buch, associate clinical professor of medicine, was quoted in a [Reuters Health](#) article on a study that looked at the link between atrial fibrillation and dementia and the role of blood thinners to help reduce the risks.

Arturo Vargas Bustamante, an associate professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted in a [Reuters](#) article about a new study reporting that U.S. immigrants who have private health insurance contribute more to the risk pool than they receive in benefits. [KTWB](#), [Reuters India](#) and [Reuters UK](#) also ran the article.

Dr. Joann Elmore, a professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research and a member of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted in a [Consumer Reports](#) article on choosing where to get a

mammogram.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, the Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and co-chief of cardiology, was quoted in a Reuters article published in [Medscape](#) about a study that found use of same-day discharge for patients undergoing elective percutaneous coronary intervention could result in significant savings for U.S. hospitals without compromising safety. [MdLinx](#) also published the article.

- Fonarow was also quoted in a [Cardiovascular Business](#) article reporting that the American Heart Association and Joint Commission have merged their separate cardiac accreditation programs to offer a single joint certification starting Jan. 1, 2019.

Karen Grimley, chief nursing executive for UCLA Health, was quoted in a [Becker's Hospital Review](#) article on healthcare leaders describing their hardest day at work.

Nadereh Pourat, a professor-in-residence of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and associate director of the Fielding School's UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, was quoted in a [Reuters](#) story about health insurers providing little or no coverage of non-opioid treatments for back pain. Several outlets ran the article, including [Channel NewsAsia](#), [Daily Mail](#), [Reuters UK](#), [Reuters India](#) and [Yahoo News UK](#).

Anne Rimoin, an associate professor of epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and director of the UCLA-DRC Health Research and Training Program, was quoted by [The Associated Press](#) and [The Hill](#) in stories about the current Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo. More than 140 outlets published the Associated Press story, including the [Miami Herald](#), the [Kansas City Star](#), [The News & Observer](#), [The Star](#) and the [San Francisco Chronicle](#).

- Rimoin was also quoted by [CNN](#) in an article about an outbreak of flea-borne typhus in the Los Angeles area. More than 60 outlets published the CNN story, including [News 4 Jax](#), [CBS San Francisco](#), [News Channel 5](#) and [The Denver Channel](#).

Dr. Robert Rubin, a distinguished professor of psychiatry, commented in a [New York Times](#) story about the death of Dr. Bernard Carroll and their work together to examine funding sources behind various psychiatry studies.

Dr. Vivian Shibayama, an optometrist at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute, commented in two SELF.com stories about eye health. The [first](#) looked at why your eyes burn after you insert your lenses, and the [second](#) explored tips for avoiding digital eye strain after working on the computer all day.

BRIEFS

A story in [Hoy](#) about Care Harbor mentioned that UCLA Health is a sponsor of the annual free health clinic.

A [Harper's Bazaar](#) story about a woman diagnosed at age 35 with breast cancer featured an Instagram post in which she expressed her thanks to clinicians at UCLA.

An editorial in the [Monterey Herald](#) about a new California law governing kids' meal beverages at restaurants cited research on children's consumption of sugary beverages by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.

[Vail Daily](#), in a story about the alleged benefits of marijuana not yet supported by science, referenced insights from Dr. Timothy Fong, a clinical professor of psychiatry and director of the UCLA Addiction Psychiatry Fellowship. The story was picked up by [Summit Daily](#).

[Santa Clarita Valley Signal](#) mentioned Dr. Nimit Sudan, a hematologist-oncologist at UCLA Health-Santa Clarita Valley, as an attendee in story about a cancer survivor event.

[New Castle News](#) referenced UCLA and Dr. Dennis Slamon, a professor of medicine and director of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center's translational research, as beneficiaries of an elementary school fundraiser.

A [Times Union](#) story about improving memory referenced a 2006 study by faculty at UCLA's Semel Institute that determined that simple lifestyle changes may improve cognitive function and brain efficiency. The story was picked up in Minnesota's [Post Bulletin](#).

The [Malibu Times](#) reported that the UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic will be offering free eye exams to low-income patients at the Malibu Library on Oct. 24.

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