



Health

UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT

October 19 - 25, 2018

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[Technology Review](#): Inventor of epigenetic clock profiled

(Photo: UCLA Health)



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[LA Business Journal](#): \$20M grant expands Operation Mend program

(Photo: Operation Mend)



[NBC News](#): Why do we buy lottery tickets despite long odds?

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FEATURED

Inventor of epigenetic clock profiled

[Technology Review](#) and the German magazine, [Galore](#), profiled Steve Horvath and his development of an epigenetic clock to predict human lifespan. The clock works by tracking epigenetics, or chemical changes that switch genes on and off to alter DNA activity. Horvath is a professor of human genetics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a professor of biostatistics at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.

\$20M grant expands Operation Mend's mental health program for veterans

A \$20.1 million five-year grant from the nonprofit Wounded Warrior Project to expand UCLA Operation Mend's intensive treatment program for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and mild traumatic brain injuries and their caregivers was reported by the [Los Angeles Business Journal](#), [Military.com](#) and [Connecting Vets.com](#). Johnese Spisso, president of UCLA Health and CEO of the UCLA Hospital System, was quoted.

Why do we buy lottery tickets despite long odds?

[NBC News](#) featured the expertise of Dr. Timothy Fong in a story about why we buy lottery tickets despite the very long odds of winning. Fong is a clinical professor of psychiatry and director of the UCLA Addiction Psychiatry Fellowship. The story was syndicated by eight NBC affiliates, including [NBC-TV](#) in Los Angeles.

CBS show highlights kidney re-transplantation procedure

[The Doctors](#) aired a segment on the kidney re-transplantation procedure at UCLA, a procedure that transplants, or "re-gifts," a kidney that has been transplanted once before. Dr. Jeffrey Veale, director of the UCLA Kidney Transplantation Exchange Program,

appeared on the program.

Multiple sclerosis center at UCLA grabs spotlight

In a segment tied to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's Bike MS fundraiser, [KTLA-TV](#) highlighted the Marilyn Hilton MS Achievement Center at UCLA, which offers a variety of programs to help people with multiple sclerosis take control of their health and well-being. Dr. Barbara Giesser, a professor of clinical neurology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and clinical director of the UCLA Multiple Sclerosis Program, was featured.

Understanding ED medications

[Popular Science](#) featured Dr. Jesse Mills, director of the Men's Clinic at UCLA, in a story about erectile dysfunction medications and their potential side effects.

Two pancreatic cancer surgeons honored

[ABC-TV](#) reported on the Los Angeles Cancer Challenge 5K at UCLA. The walk/run honored two UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center researchers, Dr. Jonathan King and Dr. Mark Girgis, both assistant professors of surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, for their achievements in robotic surgery for pancreatic cancer.

Packard Fellowship honors promising scientist

[Xinhua](#) reported that Weize Hong, an assistant professor of biological chemistry and neurobiology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was one of 18 outstanding young scientists awarded the Packard Fellowships for Science and Engineering for 2018. Dr. Kelsey Martin, dean of the medical school, was quoted. The [Global Times](#), [China Economic Net](#), [My Science](#) and [English Eastday](#) syndicated the article.

Genetic testing cannot determine gender

Jessica Lynch Alfaro, vice chair for undergraduate education at the UCLA Institute for Society and Genetics, was featured in an [INTO Magazine](#) story about the lack of scientific basis for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' proposed policy to use genetic testing to define people as male or female. Dr. Amy Weimer, co-director of the UCLA Gender Health Program, commented in [TIME](#); [Yahoo! News](#) syndicated the story.

Expert debunks flu myths

A [Healthline](#) article about important facts to know about the flu and flu vaccines featured Dr. James Cherry, a distinguished professor of pediatrics and infectious diseases at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine and Mattel Children's Hospital.

The Santa Ana winds' effect on your nose

Dr. Rita Kachru, an assistant clinical professor of allergy and immunology at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, addressed how the Santa Ana winds can irritate sinuses and worsen allergies on KPCC's "Take Two" show.

CIRM funding will advance stem-cell therapy for blinding eye diseases

[Research & Development](#), [Technology Networks](#), [Medical News](#), [Los Angeles Business Journal](#), [Centre Daily Times](#), [Science Codex](#), [Bioengineer.org](#) and [Health Medicine Network](#), on a \$5.1 million grant to scientists at the UCLA Broad Stem Cell Research Center and Stein Eye Institute from the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine. The grant will advance the development of a novel therapy for treating blinding retinal conditions. Dr. Steven Schwartz, Ahmanson professor of ophthalmology and chief of the

retina division at the UCLA Stein Eye Institute, is the project's principal investigator.

The different forms of dementia

Dr. Zaldy Tan, medical director of the UCLA Alzheimer's and Dementia Care Program, described the different forms that dementia takes in a KNX-AM report on former U.S. Supreme Court judge Sandra Day O'Connor's announcement that she has the disease.

- Tan also commented in MSN.com articles on [questions to ask](#) when a loved one is diagnosed with Alzheimer's or dementia and on Alzheimer's disease [warning signs](#) and prevention. The [Amed Post](#) carried the latter story.

Many LGB adults in Californian delay medical treatment

The California Health Report, [Daily Kos](#), KABC-AM and KPCC-FM reported on a study by Joelle Wolstein and Susan Babey, research scientists at the Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, finding that lesbians, gay men and bisexual adults in California often delay seeking medical care.

Hospital readmissions after heart surgery similar despite day of discharge

[Health Leaders](#) reported on a UCLA study finding similar readmission rates for heart surgery patients regardless of whether they were discharged on a weekday, weekend or holiday. First author Dr. Yas Sanaiha, a general surgery resident in the division of cardiac surgery, was quoted.

Personalized goal setting for dementia

[Tech Explorist](#), [myScience](#) and [ReachMD](#) reported on UCLA research showing that personalized goal setting can help people with dementia identify what is important to them and help caregivers manage their stress and maintain their own health. The coverage quoted Dr. David Reuben, chief of the geriatrics division and the study's senior author.

Lupus deaths among women

[The Rheumatologist](#) reported on research by Dr. Eric Yen and Dr. Ram Raj Singh finding that lupus is the leading cause of death among young women in the United States. Yen is a health sciences assistant clinical professor of medicine in the division of allergy and immunology; Singh is a professor of medicine in the division of rheumatology and of pathology.

Podcast explores ACA's value to Americans

Gerald Kominski, professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and senior fellow of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, discussed current efforts to scale back or repeal the Affordable Care Act in a [WSNC 90.5](#) podcast.

Less radiation effective for men with early stage prostate cancer

[Medical Xpress](#), [Science Daily](#), [Bioengineer.com](#), and [Medicine News Line](#), reported on a new study that found stereotactic body radiation therapy is a safe and effective treatment for men with low- and intermediate-risk prostate cancer. Dr. Amar Kishan, assistant professor of radiation oncology and a member of the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, presented the research at the annual American Society of Radiation Oncology meeting.

Drug could combat brain cell death in those with Alzheimer's disease

[Technology Networks](#), [Centre Daily Times](#), [Medical Health News](#), [MyScience.org](#), [Health Canal](#) and [Phys.org](#) reported on UCLA research that discovered a drug that blocks b-amyloid plaques from attaching to brain cells, preventing the extensive cell death that is one of the hallmark traits of Alzheimer's disease. Dr. Lin Jiang, an assistant professor of neurology and lead author of the study, and was quoted.

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 research about the benefits of coffee, in Massachusetts' [The Berkshire Eagle](#).
- On exercise in middle age and heart health, in Nebraska's [The Beatrice Daily Sun](#).
- On yawning, in Oklahoma's [Tulsa World](#).

QUOTED

"By giving the parents these strategies to help their children, we are helping the parents mitigate their own anxieties and fears about pain exposure in their babies."

- Dr. Lonnie Zeltzer to [Reuters](#)



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Dr. Gregg Fonarow, the Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and co-chief of cardiology, was quoted in the [Los Angeles Times](#) on a study finding that hypertensive adults under treatment with medication had higher systolic blood pressure as the health of their teeth and gums declined.

- Fonarow was also quoted in a [HealthDay](#) story on a study that found an association between blood pressure-lowering angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors and an increase in the risk of developing lung cancer.
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- Fonarow was also quoted in a [HealthDay](#) article on a study that showed that after suffering a heart attack, the risk of suffering a stroke is elevated for a longer period than previously thought.

Dr. Jenny Kim, a professor of dermatology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and director of cosmetic dermatology, was cited in a [BestLife](#) story about anti-aging myths.

Dr. Jeffrey Klausner commented in [Reuters Health](#) about an Australian study finding that pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, dramatically reduced new HIV infections. Klausner is a 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. New Zealand's [Eyewitness News](#) syndicated the story.

- Klausner was quoted by [MSN](#) and [NBC News](#) about a measles outbreak in Europe that could spread to the United States. [Inquisitr](#), [Jezebel](#) and five other outlets syndicated his comments.
- He also addressed in [Healthline](#) a clinical trial on a nasal spray that may shorten colds.

Dr. Maureen McMahon, health sciences clinical associate professor of medicine in the division of rheumatology, commented in a [Hollywood Life](#) story about a pop singer's hospitalization for a low white blood cell count. [Business Times](#) syndicated her comments.

David Miklowitz, a professor of psychiatry in the division of child and adolescent psychiatry at the Jane and Terry Semel Institute of Neuroscience and Human Behavior at UCLA, was quoted in a [U.S. News & World Report](#) story about depression among first-year college students.

Dr. Larissa Mooney, a professor of psychiatry at the Jane and Terry Semel Institute of Neuroscience and Human Behavior at UCLA and director of the UCLA Addiction Medicine Clinic, was quoted in a [SELF.com](#) story about talking with a friend or relative about addiction after a relapse.

Dr. Anna-Barbara Moscicki, a professor of pediatrics and chief of adolescent medicine at UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital, was quoted in a [Reuters](#) story about research showing that vaccinating teens for the human papilloma virus is not linked with a rise in sexual activity. The article was syndicated this week by [Citizen TV](#).

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 in [STAT](#) and [WIRED](#) about the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Dr. Vivian Shibayama, an optometrist with the UCLA Stein Eye Institute, commented in a [SELF](#) article about why it's dangerous to wear the same contact lenses for too long.

Dr. Daniel Vigil, health sciences associate clinical professor of family medicine, was quoted in [Reuters Health](#) about a study finding that young adults who played in organized sports as children and teens have stronger bones than their less active peers. [Reuters U.K.](#), [Reuters India](#), [Channel News Asia](#); the website of [KTWB-AM](#), Sioux Falls, South

Dakota; [Nile International](#), and [Gulf Times](#) ran the story.

Dr. Lonnie Zeltzer, director of the pediatric pain and palliative care program at UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital, was quoted by [Reuters](#) in a story about how new moms can soothe infants to make vaccinations less stressful and painful.

BRIEFS

[EXTRA-TV](#) reported that actor Rob Lowe received the Icon Award at the Visionary Ball fundraiser for the UCLA Department of Neurosurgery.

Healio's [Hem-OncToday](#) reported the election of Dr. Linda Liao, chair of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, to the National Academy of Medicine.

[UPI](#) cited a study by the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center in an article about how radiotherapy improves survival in men with prostate cancer.

[Becker's Spine Review](#) noted that the Louis and Harold Price Foundation [donated](#) \$3 million to support spinal-cord injury research at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital was cited in an [Arizona Central](#) story about a therapy dog with the hospital's People-Animal Connection program who was a runner up in a Dog of the Year contest.

[Beauty Packaging](#) cited a Mary Kay Foundation grant to researchers at the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center funding a precision medicine approach to treating ovarian cancer.

[Becker's Hospital Review](#) cited the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center in a list of the top 100 oncology programs.

Gerald Kominski, professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and senior fellow at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, was cited in a [GLT 89.1 FM](#) story, syndicated from [Kaiser Health News](#), about two congressional candidates' stances on health care.

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It also includes placements about 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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