



UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of Oct. 21-27, 2016

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Media still hot on hot flash study

A study led by Dr. Carolyn Crandall finding that gene variants affecting a receptor in the brain that regulates estrogen release and are present across all ethnicities could determine which women get hot flashes, continued garnering media interest. Stories were carried Oct. 20 by [Mother Nature Network](#), [iTechPost](#), [MyFoxZone.com](#), [Science World Report](#), [Technology.org](#), and [Knowridge Science Report](#); Oct. 21 by [Mother Nature Network](#), [Genomeweb](#), [ThirdAge](#), [Consumnes Collection](#), [Biocompare](#), and [MedicalResearch.com](#); Oct. 22 by [Atlanta Black Star](#); Oct. 24 by [MDLinx](#) and the [International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics](#); and Oct. 26 by [WJXT-TV](#), Jacksonville, Florida. Television reports

continued running on stations across the nation, including WRBL-TV, Washington; KJTV-TV, Lubbock, Texas; WAWV-TV, Terre Haute, Indiana; KFSM-TV, Fort Smith, Arkansas; WTVQ-TV, Lexington, Kentucky; KTKA-TV, Topeka, Kansas, and more than 100 others. Crandall is a professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research.

Ongoing interest in public insurance option

A Q&A with 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, about what a public insurance option would look like in California, was carried Oct. 26 by [Kaiser Health News](#), [MedCity News](#), [HealthLeaders Media](#), [Springfield News-Sun](#) and [Standard-Examiner](#). It was originally published Oct. 11 by [California Healthline](#).

Rising STD rates explained

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, was featured Oct. 26 in a KCRW-FM “Press Play with Madeleine Brand” report on the rising rates of syphilis, chlamydia and gonorrhea nationally and particularly in California. Klausner said the increase is largely due to reductions in basic public health disease-control activities.

KCRW: <http://bit.ly/2eNbaFP>

Avoiding aggressive treatment for back pain

Dr. John Mafi, assistant professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, was featured Oct. 18 in a [U.S. News & World Report](#) article explaining how aggressive medical treatment for back pain is frequently unnecessary and ineffective, and that most back pain can be self-managed to avoid overtreatment and improve one’s quality of life.

Using mindfulness to keep calm in a charged political climate

Diana Winston, director of mindfulness education at UCLA’s Mindful Awareness Research Center, was featured Oct. 24 in a [KPCC-FM](#) segment on how mindfulness can be used to handle stress during this election season. She discusses the causes of this stress along with mindfulness techniques that can be applied to them.

How much screen time is too much?

[CNN.com](#) featured on Oct. 21 a new American Academy of Pediatrics report by Dr. Yolanda Reid Chassiakos, a clinical assistant professor of pediatrics at Mattel Children’s Hospital UCLA, finding that the recommended limit of two hours of screen time may be excessive for some children. Chassiakos was quoted. The CNN article and Chassiakos were also referenced in a [Smithsonian.com](#) article on Oct. 24.

Program improves heart failure treatment

[MedPage Today](#) and [Managed Healthcare](#) reported Oct. 25 on a study led by Dr. Gregg Fonarow which found that teaching and nonteaching hospitals participating in the American Heart Association’s Get With the Guidelines-Heart Failure program showed improved and comparable adherence over time with regard to heart failure performance measures. Fonarow noted that the findings showed quality-improvement programs like GWTG-HF help improve adherence with guideline-recommended care at smaller nonteaching hospitals, as well as at larger academic facilities. Fonarow is 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.

Santa Monica newspaper covers UCLA Health’s plans to “Light the Night”

The [Santa Monica Mirror](#) published Oct. 14 an article about UCLA Health’s sponsorship of the “Light the Night Walk,” which took place Oct. 22, to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Johnese Spisso, president of UCLA Health and CEO of the UCLA Hospital System, and Dr. John Timmerman, associate professor of medicine in the division of hematology and oncology, were quoted, as were employees Jasmine Ahumada and Martin Lingard.

Surgical repair of nerve injury improves breathing

[Health Canal](#), [News-Medical.net](#) and [MedicalXpress](#) highlighted Oct. 25 a study led by UCLA researchers finding that people with breathing difficulties caused by phrenic nerve injury can benefit significantly from surgical reconstruction of the nerve. UCLA authors included Dr. Reza Jarrahy, associate clinical professor of plastic and reconstructive surgery; Dr. Matthew Kaufman, a clinical assistant professor of plastic and reconstructive surgery; and Dr. Kameron Rezzadeh, a resident surgeon in the division of plastic and reconstructive surgery.

Scientists find new genetic roots of schizophrenia

A UCLA study using 3D chromosome-mapping technology to advance the understanding of schizophrenia's cause was covered in an Oct. 20 article by [UPI.com](#). Dr. Daniel Geschwind, the Gordon and Virginia MacDonald Distinguished Chair in Human Genetics and professor of neurology and psychiatry at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was featured in the article.

Why heart failure is a family affair

[Newsline for Physicians Assistants](#) featured Oct. 25 an article on a recent public awareness campaign with the American Heart Association to discuss how patients and their caregivers can manage living with heart failure. Actress/singer/producer Queen Latifah, whose mother has heart failure, and Dr. Karol Watson, a professor of medicine in the division of cardiology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, were quoted.

Physical activity and dementia risk reduction

[The Aging Experience](#) reported Sept. 26 on research led by Dr. Zaldy Tan suggesting that regular physical activity for older adults could lead to higher brain volumes and a reduced risk for developing dementia. The research was also cited Oct. 27 in [CTV News](#). Tan is an associate professor of medicine in the division of geriatrics and medical director of the UCLA Alzheimer's and Dementia Care Program.

Emeritus public health professor's new academic role gets notice

Marjorie Kagawa-Singer, professor emerita at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was featured Oct. 24 in an [Asian American Press](#) article about her new role as interim director of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center.

Deadline Hollywood highlights Dr. Neal Baer's new television production

Dr. Neal Baer, adjunct professor of community health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, and co-director of the school's Global Media Center for Social Impact, was featured Oct. 19 in a [Deadline Hollywood](#) article about a new legal drama he is producing for 20th Century Fox TV.

How nanoscience will change the way doctors treat patients

[Phys.org](#) reported Oct. 26 on how nanoscience research, which involves tiny molecules smaller than cancer cells, will lead to more effective treatments for diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases and also improve the delivery of certain antibiotics to treat illnesses. Paul Weiss, director of the California Nanosystems Institute at UCLA, and André Nel, professor of medicine and chief of the UCLA Division of NanoMedicine, were featured. Both are members of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Nanotechnology Program.

Immunotherapy drug now a first-line therapy for lung cancer patients

[News-Medical.net](#), [Targeted Oncology](#), and [Science Daily](#) reported Oct. 25 that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved pembrolizumab as a first-line treatment for non-small cell lung cancer, giving patients access to the drug without first having to receive other treatments such as chemotherapy. The drug was investigated at UCLA. Dr. Edward Garon, associate clinical professor of medicine in the division of hematology and oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted.

David Geffen School of Medicine receives \$30 million gift to advance research and care

[Philanthropy News Digest](#) reported Oct. 22 on a landmark pledge from Tamar and Vatche Manoukian to the UCLA Division of Digestive Diseases that has inspired additional anonymous pledged support,

bringing the total of the gift to \$30 million. The gift will accelerate research, innovative clinical care and educational priorities.

Dietitians discuss sugary drinks and a soda tax

Erin Morse, chief clinical dietitian at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, and Dana Hunnes, senior dietitian at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and adjunct assistant professor of community health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, weighed in on the nutritional quality of sugary drinks and how the World Health Organization's proposed soda tax would impact obesity. Their views were highlighted Oct. 26 by [MedicalXpress](#).

NOTABLE BRIEFS

Research about diabetes conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health was cited Oct. 26 in [MedicalXpress](#) in an article about diabetes prevention. The article was originally published Sept. 26 by [California Health Report](#).

Ninez Ponce, professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and director of the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health Center for Global and Immigrant Health, was cited Oct. 24 by [Asian American Press](#) in an article about an award presented by the Asian & Pacific Islander Caucus for Public Health.

The Elder Index, a measurement tool developed by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was cited Oct. 23 in a [Post News Group](#) op-ed about housing options in the Bay Area.

UCLA was mentioned on Oct. 26 in an [MIT Technology Review](#) article about searching the immune system for cancer.

Research from the Mary S Easton Center for Alzheimer's Disease Research on brain inflammation and curcumin, a substance found in turmeric, was referenced Oct. 25 in a [NaturalNews.com](#) article.

Research from the Gail and Gerald Oppenheimer Family Center for Neurobiology of Stress and the Ahmanson-Lovelace Brain Mapping Center at UCLA on gut bacteria's impact on brain function was referenced Oct. 27 in a [She Said](#) story.

NOTABLE QUOTABLES

Melissa Brymer, a psychologist specializing in trauma at the Semel Institute, was featured Oct. 24 in a [KPCC-FM](#) segment on the Palm Springs tour bus crash and how survivors cope.

Dr. Claire Panosian Dunavan, an infectious disease specialist at UCLA Health, was quoted Oct. 26 in an [Everyday Health](#) column advising people with diabetes, who are more susceptible to infections, to receive all of the proper shots against vaccine-preventable illnesses.

Dr. Christopher Giza, director of the UCLA Steve Tisch BrainSPORT Program and a professor of pediatrics and neurosurgery at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine and Mattel Children's Hospital, commented Oct. 24 in a [CNN](#) article on a study finding that young football players still experienced structural changes to the white matter in their brain despite having no concussion diagnosis during the season.

Fernando Gomez-Pinilla, professor-in-residence of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted Oct. 22 in an [MSN](#) article on how sugar can impair brain function.

Dr. David Reuben, chief of the UCLA Division of Geriatrics, was quoted Oct. 24 in a [U.S. News & World Report](#) article about why one shrinks as one ages.

Dr. Gary Small, director of geriatric psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Longevity Center, was quoted Oct. 26 in a story on [Simply Her](#) about how the overuse of digital devices has been linked to memory loss.

Dr. Glenna Tolbert, assistant clinical professor of medicine, commented Oct. 23 in a [Self](#) magazine story on seven things you should know about epilepsy.

Dr. Rhonda Voskuhl, professor of neurology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and director of the UCLA Multiple Sclerosis Program, commented Oct. 22 in a [Lifescrypt](#) story on how exercise benefits the brains of multiple sclerosis patients.

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