



UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT
For the week of Nov. 7-13, 2014

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Operation Mend Saluted on Veterans Day

The UCLA Operation Mend program, which provides medical services to wounded service members, received significant publicity around Veterans Day. Coverage included patient profiles; interviews with Vietnam veteran Ric Ryan, who fundraises for Operation Mend; the program's participation in the New York City Veterans Day parade with NBC "Today Show" host Willie Geist and "Covert Affairs" actor Chris Gorham, both of whom are supporters of Operation Mend; a patient's appearance on the game show "The Price is Right," and a feature on services offered by the UCLA People-Animal Connection to Operation Mend patients.

Operation Mend patient stories

- Patient Angelica Jimenez was featured Nov. 11 in [The Record](#) (North Jersey). Dr. Chris Crisera, co-director of Operation Mend, was interviewed.
- Patient Robert Williamson was interviewed Nov. 11 in [The Epoch Times](#)
- Patient Matthew Bove was featured Nov. 6 in the [Buffalo News](#) (N.Y.)

Interviews with Ric Ryan

- KMAX-Channel 31's "[Good Day Sacramento](#)" on Nov. 13
- [San Jose Mercury News](#) on Nov. 12
- "[America's Newsroom](#)" (Fox News) on Nov. 11
- [KFI 640AM](#) on Nov. 11
- [PineTree.net](#) (Calaveras County) on Nov. 11
- [KQVR-Channel 13](#) (Sacramento) on Nov. 11
- [KCRA-Channel 3](#) (Sacramento) on Nov. 7

NBC's Willie Geist

- [Today Show](#) on Nov. 11
- [MSNBC "Morning Joe"](#) on Nov. 11

USA's "Covert Affairs" actor Chris Gorham

- [Today Show](#) on Nov. 11
- [Take Part Live](#) on Nov. 7

Operation Mend patient Joey Paulk on "The Price is Right" Veterans Day special on Nov.

11

- "[Joey Wins Bid and Plays Game](#)"
- "[Joey Spins the Wheel](#)"

UCLA People-Animal Connection helps Operation Mend patients

- [KABC-Channel 7](#) featured a story Nov. 11 on how the UCLA People-Animal Connection program is offering animal-assisted therapy to patients of the UCLA Operation Mend program.

Running for Office? Deepen Your Voice.

Research by Dr. Rosario Signorello discovering that vocal charisma plays a key role in successful politicians' careers was reported Nov. 4 by news outlets around the world, including Oct. 29 by [Science](#), [BBC News](#), the U.K.'s [Yahoo! News](#) and [Mirror](#); Oct. 30 by [Asian News International](#); Nov. 1 by [redOrbit](#); Nov. 3 by the U.K.'s [The Independent](#); Nov. 4 by France's [Le Monde](#) and Italy's [Huffington Post](#), and dozens more. A postdoctoral researcher in head and neck surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, Signorello presented his findings to the Acoustical Society of America last month.

Popular Drug Reverses Learning Disabilities

A Nature Neuroscience study by Dr. Alcino Silva showing that statins reverse learning disabilities in mice caused by Noonan Syndrome, a common human genetic disorder affecting 1 in 2,000 births, was reported Nov. 10 by [Live Science](#), [Medical News Today](#), [Counsel & Heal](#), [Examiner.com](#), the U.K.'s [Daily Mail](#), [Newsmax Health](#) and [Headlines & Global News](#); Nov. 11 by [Laboratory Equipment](#), [Uncover California](#), [Investors Business Daily](#), [Diabetes Insider](#) and [Ciencia y Biologia](#); and Nov. 12 by India's [Pune Mirror](#), Korea's [MD Today](#) and Russia's [Medical Insider](#). [Yahoo! News](#) and [Fox News](#) syndicated the Live Science report. Silva is a professor of neurobiology and psychiatry at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and a member of the UCLA Brain Research Institute and the UCLA Integrative Center for Learning and Memory.

LA Times Spotlights \$50 million Donation to Medical School

The [Los Angeles Times](#) reported Nov. 13 that the estate of bus bench advertising executive Norman Switzer and his wife Irma gave \$50 million to the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. UCLA Chancellor Gene Block was quoted.

Public Health Student Pens Op-Ed on Veteran Employment

Former U.S. Army serviceman Mike Stajura, a doctoral candidate with the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, contributed an op-ed article on veterans entering the civilian workforce that explored stereotypes and the status of job opportunities for America's veterans. It was published Nov. 7 by [Zocalo Public Square](#), and picked up Nov. 7 by [TIME](#); Nov. 8 by the [Sacramento Bee](#); and Nov. 10 by [USA TODAY](#), [Florida Today](#), [Indianapolis Star](#), [The Town Talk](#) and the [Dallas Morning News](#). Stajura was also a guest panelist on a Nov. 11 [KCRW 89.9FM](#) Veteran's Day news segment.

Using Social Media to Track HIV and Risky Behavior

[The Times of India](#) and [Indo Asian News Service](#) Oct. 30 spotlighted a paper by Dr. Sean Young, assistant professor of family medicine and executive director of the UCLA Center for Digital Behavior, discussing how social media can help stop the spread of HIV. The paper was published in the November issue of *Cell: Trends in Microbiology*.

Public Health School Dean Writes Article on Global Child Education Standards

Dr. Jody Heymann, dean of the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and founder of the WORLD Policy Analysis Center, contributed an op-ed article to [The Huffington Post](#) Nov. 7 on the long-term impact of the UN's Convention on the Rights of the Child, the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history, with an emphasis on access to primary and secondary education worldwide.

Tai Chi Reduces Inflammation in Breast Cancer Survivors

[Santa Clarita Valley News](#) Nov. 7 reported on a new study showing the ancient Chinese exercise of Tai Chi can lessen inflammation in breast cancer survivors and that some participants reported that the slow movements helped them sleep better. Dr. Michael Irwin, professor in residence of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences and member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was lead author and quoted extensively.

Protein Discovery Could Lead to Better Head and Neck Therapies

[Health Canal](#) Nov. 7 and [MedicalXpress](#) Nov. 10 reported on the protein gigaxonin, which is usually linked to neurological disorders and is also associated with head and neck cancers in people infected with the human papilloma virus. The new finding could improve chemotherapy treatments. Study leaders Dr. Eri Srivatsan, professor of general surgery, and Dr. Marilene Wang, professor of general surgery, are members of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center and were quoted extensively.

Voice of America Explains How to Reverse Alzheimer's

Dr. Dale Bredeisen, the Augustus Rose Professor of Neurology and director of the Mary S. Easton Center for Alzheimer's Disease Research, was featured in a Nov. 6 [Voice of America](#) television interview regarding his research showing that memory loss in patients with Alzheimer's may be reversed, and improvement sustained, using a complex, 36-point therapeutic program that involves comprehensive changes in diet, brain stimulation, exercise, optimization of sleep, specific pharmaceuticals and vitamins, and multiple additional steps that affect brain chemistry.

Geriatrician's Column Reminds Seniors to Protect Themselves from the Deadly Flu Virus

Dr. Grace Chen, assistant clinical professor of medicine and staff geriatrician at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, authored a Nov. 7 [Santa Monica Mirror](#) column reminding readers, especially seniors, to get flu shots to protect themselves from this potentially life-threatening virus.

Increased Hospital Use Following Medicaid Expansion Mostly Temporary

Dr. Gerald Kominski, director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was featured in a Nov. 12 article in [The Roundup](#) regarding research by the Center showing that emergency room overcrowding related to Medicaid expansion should be temporary.

Asthma's Damaging Genetic Effects Continue to Gain Media Attention

Dr. Robert Scheistl, professor of environmental health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was featured Nov. 9 in the [Imperial Valley News](#) and [International News Network](#). Schiestl's team found that asthma harms more than just the lungs and may affect the blood stream. Schiestl is also a professor of pathology and radiation oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

Ebola Preparations Continue to Spark Debate

[KCBS-Channel 2](#), the Los Angeles [Daily News](#), and [KNBC-Channel 4](#), among others, reported Nov. 12 on a gathering of unionized nurses outside Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center that was part of a two-day nationwide event over concerns about hospitals' preparedness to treat potential Ebola patients.

UCLA Study is First Project of DGA Foundation Grant to MPTF

The Nov. 7 [Variety](#) covered an announcement of a commitment from the Directors Guild Foundation to the Motion Picture Television Fund to support a research program exploring the relationship between cognitive health and wellness programs. One of the first projects will be a two-year study with the UCLA Longevity Center to assess memory training and physical exercise programs to help delay dementia symptoms. Dr. Gary Small, Parlow-Solomon Professor on Aging, a professor of psychiatry at the Semel Institute and director of the UCLA Longevity Center, was quoted.

BRIEFS

A Nov. 9 "60 Minutes" ([1](#), [2](#)) report about an Ebola facility in Liberia run by American doctor Pranav Shetty mentioned that he received his emergency medicine training at UCLA.

A Nov. 10 [Realsimple.com](#) article referenced a study by Dr. Helen Lavretsky showing that practicing yoga reduced the stress of people who care for Alzheimer's and dementia patients.

A Nov. 6 article in [UT Know](#) about garden-based nutrition and education for youth mentions UCLA Fielding School of Public Health alumna Dr. Nicole Gatto and L.A. Sprouts, a gardening intervention program she created while at UCLA that aims to improve diet and reduce risk of obesity in Latino children.

QUOTABLES

Gail Abarbanel, director of the Rape Treatment Center at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, was quoted in a Nov. 10 [Washington Post](#) story about recent sexual assaults at Brown University involving the use of a date-rape drug.

Dr. Alon Avidan, professor of neurology and director of the Sleep Disorders Program, was quoted Nov. 9 on the NBC Today Show [website](#) about why so many Americans can't sleep.

Dr. Shana Alex Charles, director of Health Insurance Studies with the [UCLA Center for Health Policy Research](#) at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was one of several experts interviewed Nov. 10 by [Zocalo Public Square](#) about how the Affordable Care Act has affected — and will affect — California's health insurance landscape.

Dr. Ravi Dave, director of cardiology services at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica and community practices, was interviewed Nov. 6 on [KTLA-Channel 5](#) for a segment examining whether the incidence of heart attack increases after an earthquake.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, commented in a Nov. 11 [Family Practice News](#) article on

study results for two medications that address increased potassium levels in the blood that can be a side effect of heart failure treatment.

Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases and of public health, was quoted in a Nov. 6 [WebMD](#) article about how it is possible to have an STD and not know it.

Dr. Catherine Mogil, assistant professor at the Semel Institute and director of the child and family trauma psychiatry service at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted in the Nov. 11 [Huffington Post](#) about the impact multiple military deployments can have on a service member's children.

Dr. Leena Nathan, obstetrician/gynecologist at UCLA Health-Westlake Village, was quoted in the October-November issue of Fit Pregnancy magazine in an article about diastasis, a separation of stomach muscles that can occur during pregnancy.

Dr. Lawrence Taw, assistant professor of medicine, UCLA Center for East-West Medicine, commented in a Nov. 11 [Today.com](#) article about the occasional use of baking soda for certain health issues.

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