



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT**  
**For the week of Nov. 11-17, 2016**

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**Veterans Day draws media spotlight to UCLA Operation Mend**

UCLA Operation Mend, a program that provides free care to wounded post-9/11 service members and their families, captured media interest for its involvement in multiple events connected to Veterans Day, including the America's Parade on Nov. 11 in New York City in which patients and staff marched.

- The TODAY Show featured the Operation Mend team on the TODAY Show Plaza in New York City during its 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. Veterans Day segments on Nov. 11.
- [WAOW-TV](#), Wausau, Wisconsin, featured a Nov. 2 story on Army veteran Micah Krogstad, a patient who walked in the parade and is undergoing a series of hand surgeries. The story also aired on [WKOW-TV](#), Madison, Wisconsin; [WQOW-TV](#), Eau Claire, Wisconsin; and [WSAU-AM](#), Wausau.
- [Eden Prairie News](#) published Nov. 10 a feature on Cpl. Joseph Piram, a patient who walked in the parade and is undergoing laser treatments for his injuries. Piram was also featured Nov. 11 by [Fox 9](#) in a Facebook post about his service and the parade.

- [Lakers.com](#) featured Nov. 16 a [story](#) and [video](#) on patients from Operation Mend who were recognized on the court during halftime at the Nov. 6 Lakers game. The patients watched the players practice and met Coach Luke Walton earlier that day.
- [KNX-AM](#) featured a “Hero of the Week” segment from Nov. 10 through Nov. 13 on an Operation Mend Buddy Family that volunteers time to provide a social outlet for an Operation Mend patient. The family has the patient over for dinner, takes him to games and spends time with him when he is at UCLA for medical treatment.
- The [Arkansas Democrat-Gazette](#) spotlighted Nov. 12 the story of Cpl. Aaron Makin, who was the first patient to be treated by Operation Mend nine years ago.

### **UCLA public policy expert discusses the ACA’s future**

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 at the Fielding School, commented in multiple outlets about the possible future of the Affordable Care Act:

- Nov. 16 in [MedicalXpress](#)
- Nov. 14 [Yahoo! News](#) and [Babble](#)
- Nov. 13 in the [Los Angeles Times](#), [CNBC](#), [San Diego Union-Tribune](#), [Boston Herald](#), and [KTLA-TV](#)
- Nov. 11 in the [Los Angeles Times](#), [KQED](#), [KPCC-FM](#), [Kaiser Health News](#), and [Becker's Hospital Review](#)
- Nov. 10 in the [Los Angeles Times](#), [The Sacramento Bee](#), and [CALMatters.org](#); the CALmatters piece also ran on [Bakersfield.com](#).
- He was also cited Nov. 11 in a [Becker's ASC Review](#) article.

### **FDA approves advanced lung cancer drug tested at UCLA**

[The Washington Post](#) reported Nov. 10 on the FDA approval of the immunotherapy drug pembrolizumab (marketed as Keytruda) as first-line treatment for patients with advanced lung cancer, making it the first immunotherapy drug approved as initial treatment for the disease. Dr. Edward Garon, associate clinical professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and member of UCLA’s Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Tumor Immunology Program, was quoted. He was an investigator in the drug’s trial.

### **Possible genetic link to hot flashes**

[Reader's Digest](#) reported Nov. 16 on a study led by Dr. Carolyn Crandall finding that gene variants could determine which women get hot flashes. The gene variants, affecting a receptor in the brain that regulates estrogen release, are present across all ethnicities. Crandall is a professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research.

### **Opinion: Slow global response to Zika reveals dire health challenges**

[Huffington Post](#) published Nov. 4 an editorial by Dr. Peter Katona, clinical professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and adjunct professor of epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, arguing for the need speed up drug and vaccine development, control mosquito levels and take other measures to combat Zika.

### **MSN outlines tips to stay healthy this winter**

[MSN](#) featured an interview with Romney Humphries, assistant professor of pathology, on Nov. 9 about how to stay healthy when everyone around you is sick. The story originally ran in [Self](#) on Nov. 4.

### **Mindfulness expert shares advice on handling post-election anxiety**

Diana Winston, director of mindfulness education at UCLA’s Mindful Awareness Research Center, was featured in multiple articles on how we can use mindfulness techniques to relieve our feelings about the election, including Nov. 9 on [Travel and Leisure, Inc.](#), and [News-Medical.net](#). The story originally appeared in [Real Simple](#).

### **Funding a “basket” of essential medicines**

[Digital Journal](#) reported Nov. 10 on a paper co-written by Corrina Moucheraud that provides the first comprehensive model estimating the cost to provide a set of essential medicines for all people in low- and middle-income countries. The paper was a section of The Lancet Commission on Essential Medicines Policies report. Moucheraud is an assistant professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.

#### **A conversation with Dr. Sammy Saab**

The November issue of [Healio: HCV Next](#) featured a Q&A with Dr. Sammy Saab, professor of medicine and surgery and head of outcomes research in hepatology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, highlighting his achievements, influences and interests in hepatology research.

#### **The future of emergency care**

UCLA Health medical care provided to diverse patient populations was highlighted Nov. 7 in a [Hospitals & Health Networks](#) story about the future of emergency medicine and the effect of the Affordable Care Act. Dr. Wally Ghurabi, medical director of the Nethertucutt Emergency Center at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, was quoted.

#### **Magazine spotlights human aging clock**

A Nov. 10 feature in [Nautilus](#) magazine profiled Steve Horvath's discovery of the body's epigenetic clock and his work to track human aging at the molecular level. Horvath was quoted. He is a professor of human genetics and biostatistics at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine and the Fielding School of Public Health.

#### **Measles casts a long shadow**

[Daily Rx News](#) published a Nov. 12 story and video about a UCLA study finding that children who contract measles can develop a deadly neurological complication more than a decade later. Co-author Dr. James Cherry, a professor emeritus of pediatric infectious diseases at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, commented in the article.

#### **Cancer specialist discusses use of drug for metastatic breast cancer**

Dr. Richard Finn, associate professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and co-director of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Signal Transduction and Therapeutics Program, was interviewed Nov. 10 in an [Onclive](#) report on the breakthrough breast cancer drug palbociclib (marketed as ibrance) to treat postmenopausal women with ER-positive, HER2-negative metastatic breast cancer.

#### **Increase in patients at community health centers**

Research about increased patient volume at community health centers conducted by Steven P. Wallace, professor and chair of community health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and associate director at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the Fielding School, and Maria-Elena Young, a doctoral student in community health sciences at the Fielding School, was featured Nov. 16 by [InsideARM](#), Nov. 14 by [RevCycle Intelligence](#) and Nov. 12 by the [American Journal of Managed Care](#).

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### **NOTABLE BRIEFS**

A Nov. 9 article in [Lohud](#) cited research led by Dr. Zaldy Tan, associate professor of medicine in the division of geriatrics and medical director of the UCLA Alzheimer's and Dementia Care Program, suggesting that regular physical activity for older adults could lead to higher brain volumes and a reduced risk for developing dementia.

[The Santa Clarita Valley News](#) on Nov.17 noted that UCLA Health has added a pediatric division to its offices in Santa Clarita.

Dr. John Timmerman, associate professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer

Center Tumor Immunology Program, was mentioned Nov. 12 in a [Targeted Oncology](#) article about playing the guitar in a band of doctors. The band plays for other oncologists at cancer-related seminars.

The UCLA Fielding School of Public Health was mentioned Nov. 16 in an [AppleInsider](#) blog announcement about Apple's potential expansion of health and wellness offerings.

Research from the UCLA Department of Neurosurgery finding that high-fructose diets impact learning and memory was referenced Nov. 15 in a story on [CheatSheet.com](#), which explored bad habits that affect brain function.

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## NOTABLE QUOTABLES

Dr. Deanna Attai, UCLA Heath breast surgeon based in Burbank and assistant clinical professor of surgery, commented Nov. 16 in an [Associated Press](#) article on a new air-pump tissue expander that enables breast cancer patients preparing for reconstructive surgery to pump the air – and control the rate of expansion – themselves. The New York Times, Yahoo! News, CBS News, the U.K.'s Daily Mail, U.S. News & World Report, STAT and hundreds of other national and international media outlets published the story.

Dr. Vivian Chang, an assistant professor of pediatric hematology-oncology at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, was interviewed Nov. 7 by NBC's "[Today Show](#)" about children's higher rate of recovery from cancer compared to adults in a segment about the cancer diagnosis of singer Michael Buble's 3-year-old son.

Shana Alex Charles, faculty associate at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented Nov. 11 on KCRW-FM's "[Press Play with Madeleine Brand](#)" and in Nov. 10 in a [Refinery29](#) article about the effect on access to free birth control access if the Affordable Care Act is repealed.

Dr. Timothy Fong, clinical professor of psychiatry and co-director of the UCLA Gambling Studies Program at the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior, was quoted Oct. 24 in [Fore Magazine](#), the Southern California Golf Association's publication, about gambling and golf and why some people gamble on the game and some don't.

Dr. Gregg Fonarow, 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, was quoted Nov. 17 in a [HealthDay](#) article about an experimental wearable skin patch that monitors heartbeat and other health measures. Fonarow noted that the patch would be well-received by patients and offer good data for doctors, but further studies are needed to evaluate its accuracy and effectiveness. The article also ran in [UPI](#).

Dana Hunnes, senior dietitian at the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and adjunct assistant professor of community health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted Nov. 15 in a [Today.com](#) story on the risks of yo-yo dieting and weight cycling. The story was picked up the same day by [WTHR.com](#).

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 quoted Nov. 16 in a Redding [Record Searchlight](#) article about Shasta County's rising syphilis rate.

Dr. Joseph Ladapo, assistant professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, was quoted Nov. 15 in a [MedPage Today](#) article on research finding that cardiac stress testing grew 3 percent from 2005 to 2012.

Dr. Emeran Mayer, director of the G Oppenheimer Family Center for Neurobiology of Stress and Resilience and co-director of the CURE: Digestive Diseases Research Center, was quoted Nov. 10 in a [Huffington Post](#) story on the use and development of psychobiotics.

Dr. Michael Ong, associate professor-in-residence of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, commented Nov. 17 in a [Kaiser Health News](#) article about concerns that the legalization of marijuana in California could roll back some of the state's gains in reducing tobacco use.

Dr. Aldo Palmieri, chair of the department of obstetrics and gynecology at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica and clinical professor, was quoted Nov. 15 in a [newlovetimes.com](#) article on ways to relieve menstrual cramps.

Nadereh Pourat, adjunct professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and research director at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the Fielding School, commented Nov. 16 in a [New Scientist](#) article about healthcare in the U.S. compared to other countries.

Dr. David Ross, professor of pulmonology and critical care, was quoted Nov. 7 in [Fitness Republic](#) on ways to improve lung health.

Dr. Arun Singh, assistant professor of medicine in the division of hematology/oncology and co-director of the sarcoma program at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and member of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, was quoted Nov. 7 in [News-Medical.net](#) about the recent FDA approval of olaratumab (Lartruvo) for sarcoma patients.

Steven P. Wallace, professor and chair of community health sciences at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and associate director at UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the Fielding School, commented Nov. 12 in a [Sky News](#) article about the possible future need to replace the Affordable Care Act, if it is repealed.

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