Nature: Survivors of 1976 Ebola outbreak shed clues on vaccine

(Photo: Nicole Hoff)
Survivors of 1976 Ebola outbreak could be key to vaccine, therapeutics

The Atlantic, Nature and Science magazine reported on research led by Anne Rimoin, associate professor of epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, finding that survivors of the first known Ebola outbreak, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1976, may be key to development of vaccines and therapeutic drugs to treat future outbreaks.

Soothing kids who are anxious about California wildfires

KTLA-TV featured Melissa Brymer, director of the Terrorism & Disaster Program at the UCLA-Duke National Center for Child Traumatic Stress, in a segment on tips to help kids cope with emotional stress during wildfires and disasters.

How to stay healthy when fire makes air quality bad

KCAL-TV featured Dr. Nina Shapiro in a story on how to shield your lungs from poor air quality caused by the Southern California wildfires. Shapiro is a professor of head and neck surgery and director of pediatric otolaryngology at UCLA’s David Geffen School of Medicine and UCLA Mattel Children’s Hospital.

Silent signs of heart failure

Reader’s Digest featured a list of 10 symptoms that can indicate a person’s heart is weakened and could be a sign of congestive heart failure. Dr. Gregg Fonarow, the Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and co-chief of cardiology, was interviewed.
Diabetic pregnancies and the risk of congenital heart disease

ScienceDaily, Diabetes.co.uk, Scienmag, HealthCanal.com, Science Codex, the Medical News, Cardiovascular Business, MyScience.org, Laboratory Equipment, Technology Networks, and Health News Digest reported on UCLA research that revealed a link between diabetic pregnancies and increased risk of congenital heart disease. Atsushi “Austin” Nakano, a UCLA associate professor of molecular, cell, and developmental biology and member of the Broad Stem Cell Research Center, led the research.

Americans with Alzheimer’s will double by 2060

Mic; Fortune; Skilled Nursing News; Alzheimer’s News Today; Newsmax; Newburgh Gazette; AliveForFootball; Click Lancashire; Sierra Sun Times; Tech2; Medscape; PsychCentral; MD Magazine; Born2Invest; WNYT-TV, Albany, New York; WLNS-TV, Lansing, Michigan; KFBK-AM, Sacramento, California; and more than 150 television and radio stations across the country reported on research led by Ron Brookmeyer finding that some 15 million Americans will develop Alzheimer’s dementia or mild cognitive impairment by 2060, up from 6 million this year. Brookmeyer is a professor of biostatistics at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.

Do hospital readmission penalties help or hurt?

STAT reported on the debate surrounding a federal hospital program that offers financial incentives for hospitals to reduce readmissions. The article cited new research finding that the program was linked to an increased risk of death among heart failure patients. The study’s senior author, Dr. Gregg Fonarow, the Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and co-chief of cardiology, was quoted. The STAT story was syndicated in MedPage Today and Healthcare Purchasing News. The research was also covered by Modern Medicine.

Teens and gender non-conformity

Pink News; KNSD-TV San Diego, California; and MedicalXpress reported on a study from the Fielding School’s UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and The Williams Institute finding that 27 percent of California adolescents say they are seen as gender nonconforming.

A new way to diagnose coronary artery disease

MedicalResearch.com reported on research by Dr. Joseph Ladapo, associate professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research, finding that the precision tool Age, Sex and Gene Expression Score (ASGES) can replace the current methods of diagnosing coronary artery disease, particularly in elderly populations.

Cataract surgery reduces risk of early death

Channel News Asia syndicated a New York Times article about a UCLA study linking cataract surgery to longer longevity in older women. Dr. Anne Coleman, the Fran and Ray Stark Professor of Ophthalmology at the UCLA Stein Institute and a professor of epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, led the research, which was published by JAMA Ophthalmology.

New approach detects early complications in pregnancy

A UCLA study using MRI to non-invasively assess placental health and predict potential complications during pregnancy was covered by Dot Med News, Health Imaging and Romper. Published in the Journal of Magnetic Resonance Imaging, the research was led by Kyung Sung, assistant professor of radiology; Dr. Carla Janzen, associate professor of
obstetrics-gynecology; and Dr. Sherin Devaskar, physician-in-chief at UCLA Mattel Children’s Hospital; all of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

**Genomic blood test predicts survival rates after surgery for advanced heart failure**

NewsMedical.net, MyScience.org, Scienmag, HealthCanal, MedicalXpress and MedIndia reported on a new study published in PLOS ONE about an experimental blood test developed at UCLA. The test, which uses gene activity data from immune cells, was 93 percent accurate in predicting survival rates for people with advanced heart failure who had surgery to implant mechanical circulatory support devices. The study's senior author, Dr. Mario Deng, professor of medicine in the division of cardiology, was cited.

**Tips to help brighten the holidays while hospitalized**

HealthDay featured tips for hospitalized patients on beating the blues over the holidays. The Rev. Karen Schnell, director of the UCLA Health Spiritual Care department, was quoted. The article was syndicated in five outlets including U.S. News and World Report, Health.com and Philly.com.

**Procedure helps patient injured during childhood get back on her feet**

Univision aired a story about patient Yadira Perdomo and the surgery that has restored much of her mobility, which was performed by Dr. Shlomo Raz, professor of urology and chief of pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery.

**Patients’ involvement in medical notes could aid care**

Healthcare Informatics reported on research led by Dr. John Mafi finding that patients could benefit if they are invited to co-produce medical notes, called “OurNotes,” with their doctors. Mafi is an assistant professor of medicine in the division of general internal medicine and health services research.

**How often should you have a cheat meal?**

AskMen.com published a story about cheat meals featuring the expertise of Dana Hunnes, senior dietitian at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and adjunct assistant professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.

**This week on “Ask the Doctors”**

UCLA Health internists Dr. Robert Ashley, 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. A sampling of the stories from the past week’s column:

- On the herpes virus, featured in Conroe News
- On those most at risk of influenza, featured in The Spokesman-Review
- On broken-heart syndrome, featured in The Times-Tribune
- On sleep behavior disorders, featured in The Rocky Mount Telegram
- On septic shock from strep throat, featured in Herald Standard
- On giant cell arteritis, featured in Hanford Sentinel.
VIDEO SPOTLIGHT

A video on the UCLA Facebook Page about the extended team that helped with UCLA’s recent hand transplant surgery was viewed over 130,000 times in the past two weeks.

QUOTED

Dean Buonomano, a professor of behavioral neuroscience at UCLA, commented in the Big Think about how the brain keeps time.

Dr. Jeff Chen, director of UCLA’s Cannabis Research Initiative, commented in Rolling Stone about the potential role of medical pot in fighting the opioid epidemic.

Emanuel Maidenberg, a clinical professor of psychiatry at UCLA, commented on Today.com about the physical symptoms of anxiety.

Dr. Larissa Mooney, director of the UCLA Addiction Medicine Clinic, commented in MIT Technology Review about new pill capsules that send a message to a smartphone as they
move through the gastrointestinal tract to monitor whether patients are taking their prescribed medications.

Dr. Tara Vijayan, assistant professor of medicine in the division of infectious diseases, commented in Today.com on a new study about the science behind “man flu.”

BRIEFS

A Reader’s Digest article about how beauty products could affect fertility cited a study from the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health finding that perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs), which are widely used in everyday items such as food packaging, pesticides, clothing, upholstery, carpets and personal care products, may be associated with infertility in women.

A UCLA study about sleep deprivation prompted a panel discussion by hosts of the CBS show, The Talk, in New York. The segment re-aired in 14 other markets, including Los Angeles, San Francisco and Boston. Dr. Itzhak Fried, a professor of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, had recently published the findings in Nature Medicine.

UCLA Health was mentioned in a Los Angeles Times story about people affected by smoke from the Southern California wildfires. The story was picked up by 20 media outlets including the San Diego Union Tribune, Sacramento Bee and Fresno Bee.

Fox News referenced research conducted by Dr. David Yao and Dr. Jesse Mills in a story about fertility supplements. The story was syndicated on four other online news websites. Yao is associate physician diplomat in the Department of Urology; Mills is director at The Men’s Clinic at UCLA.

CONTENT CREATED BY MEDIA RELATIONS

40 years after first Ebola outbreak, survivors show signs they can stave off new infection UCLA Newsroom

Research reveals how diabetes in pregnancy affects baby’s heart UCLA Newsroom

Genomic blood test predicts survival rates after surgery for advanced heart failure UCLA Newsroom
Neuroscientists show deep brain waves occur more often during navigation and memory formation  UCLA Newsroom

Blood flow-sensing protein protects against atherosclerosis UCLA Newsroom

$6.6 million grant will fund UCLA-led study on how to increase use of HPV vaccine UCLA Newsroom

$5 million grant from NIH will enable UCLA to develop new models for autism UCLA Newsroom

After head injury, mental battle proves difficult for some student athletes UCLA Health Connect blog

Hospitalized this holiday season? It’s okay to feel sad UCLA Health Connect blog

This report features media placements from UCLA Health, which includes the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, UCLA Mattel Children’s Hospital, the Stewart and Lynda Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital at UCLA, the UCLA Health Clinics and the UCLA Faculty Practice Group.

It also includes placements from 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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