



**UCLA HEALTH SCIENCES MEDIA REPORT**  
**For the week of Dec. 16-22, 2016**

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**Media interest in Zika-linked birth defect continues**

[STAT](#), [Medscape](#), [MedicalXpress](#), [Science Daily](#), [Health Canal](#), [News-Medical.net](#) and [Lab Manager](#) reported Dec. 16; [India Today](#), [Business Standard](#), [Deccan Chronicle](#), [NDTV](#), [News Nation](#) and [Zee News](#) reported Dec. 17; [Daily Kiran](#) reported Dec. 18; [Latinos Health](#), and [Managed Care](#) reported Dec. 19; and [Medical News Today](#) reported Dec. 21 on research led by Dr. Karin Nielsen suggesting that Zika-linked abnormalities occurring in babies prior to birth are more extensive – and severe -- than previously

thought, with 46 percent of 125 pregnancies among Zika-infected mothers showing birth defects or resulting in fetal death. Nielsen is a professor of clinical pediatrics in the division of pediatric infectious diseases at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA.

### **Spinal-cord injury patient recovers some hand control**

An experimental device that helped a young man who broke his neck five years ago regain some voluntary use of his hands was reported Dec. 15 by Latin America's [EFE Newswire](#), NBC Radio Network and multiple local TV affiliates, including in Washington, D.C., Detroit and many others. Dr. Daniel Lu, the UCLA neurosurgeon who implanted the device in the patient's spine, was interviewed.

#### **LINKS:**

WUSA-TV, Washington, D.C.: <http://bit.ly/2hzxK5T>

WJBK-TV, Detroit: <http://bit.ly/2i6pB7U>

WPMT-TV, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: <http://bit.ly/2hQbBTa>

KOMO-AM, Seattle: <http://bit.ly/2i6vB0B>

### **NPR highlights WORLD Policy Analysis Center research**

[NPR](#) on Dec. 18 featured research from the WORLD Policy Analysis Center in an article about countries' efforts to address the rights of persons with disabilities. Dr. Jody Heymann, dean of the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and founding director of the Center, was quoted. The story was also carried Dec. 18 by [KPCC-FM](#) and other NPR stations in Oregon, Nebraska and Minnesota.

### **Study on drug use in East L.A., Tijuana garners media attention**

[United Press International](#), [Science Daily](#) [Hoy](#), [MedicalXpress](#) and [News-Medical.net](#) reported Dec. 21 on research led by Dr. Lillian Gelberg finding that drug use in Tijuana and East Los Angeles is so prevalent that community clinics should routinely screen for it. Gelberg is a professor of family medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.

### **UCLA part of massive imaging study of children's brains**

[KABC-TV](#) reported Dec. 19 on a UCLA/Children's Hospital Los Angeles study to track the brains of 10,000 9- to 10-year-olds over the next decade to determine what makes someone successful. Susan Bookheimer, director of the Staglin/One Mind Institute Center for Cognitive Neuroscience at UCLA and an investigator on the project, commented.

### **Link between sleep deprivation and traffic accidents**

Dr. Alon Avidan, professor and vice chair of the UCLA Department of Neurology and director of the UCLA Sleep Disorders Center, was featured Dec. 14 in a report on NPR's [WOSU-FM](#), in Columbus, Ohio, about a study finding that drivers who sleep only five or six hours a night are twice as likely to get into a car accident than those who sleep more than seven hours. (Segment begins at the 16 minute, 15 second point.)

### **Making flu prevention fun**

The January 2017 edition of [Parents](#) magazine offered three tips from Dr. Nina Shapiro, a professor of head and neck surgery and director of pediatric otolaryngology at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine and Mattel Children's Hospital, for making fighting the flu fun for kids.

### **How the brain repairs itself after "silent strokes"**

[Science Daily](#) on Dec. 20 featured a UCLA study showing how the brain can repair itself, restoring function, after stroke. Dr. Thomas Carmichael, chair of neurology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, a senior author of the study, was quoted.

### **This week on "Ask the Doctors"...**

UCLA Health internists Dr. Robert Ashley, Dr. Eve Glazier, and Dr. Elizabeth Ko addressed a variety of health-related questions in the recurring "Ask the Doctors" column, syndicated in more than 50 outlets nationwide. A sampling of this week's stories:

- On whether there's a genetic component to craving caffeine, featured Dec. 15 in [Scranton Times-Tribune](#)
- On the safety of statins, featured Dec. 16 in [Cumberland Times-News](#)
- On the use of glucosamine supplements, featured Dec. 18 in [Herald-Standard](#)
- On whether vitamin D supplements are necessary, featured Dec. 19 in [Hanford Sentinel](#)
- On the use of over-the-counter medications to overcome seasickness, featured Dec. 20 in [Frederick News-Post](#)

### **Media highlight data about impact of the Affordable Care Act**

New data from the California Health Interview Survey, conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, finding that people with low incomes and people of color benefitted significantly from the Affordable Care Act, was featured by the following news media outlets:

- Dec. 14 by [Insurance News Online](#) and [Disabled World](#) in articles about California residents who could not afford health insurance prior to the Affordable Care Act. The coverage included commentary from Ninez Ponce, professor of health policy and management and associate center director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research.
- Dec. 14 by [Dimensions of Dental Hygiene](#), which included mention of the survey's new and updated questions about dental care.
- Dec. 20 in a [New America Media](#) article about the effect on people of color and the poor if the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is repealed.
- Dec. 21 by California Broker in an article about California's uninsured rate reaching historic lows after implementation of the ACA.

### **Understanding obesity's role in atrial fibrillation**

[The Cardiology Advisor](#) on Dec. 20 featured Dr. Noel Boyle, a professor of medicine and director of Cardiac Electrophysiology Labs and Fellowship Program at the UCLA Cardiac Arrhythmia Center, discussing obesity as a risk factor for atrial fibrillation.

### **Moving story of Santa Monica family**

[Santa Monica Daily Press](#) on Dec. 17 published an article featuring a young cancer patient whose room was decorated by volunteers from "Once Upon a Room," a nonprofit that decorates rooms of hospitalized children. The girl's family previously lived in Santa Monica, but moved to West Los Angeles to be at equal distance between Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica, during her treatment.

### **UCLA Health expansion in Ventura County is in spotlight**

The Pacific Coast Business Times reported Nov. 19 on new UCLA Health clinics in Ventura County and the health system's plans for future expansion in nearby communities. Dr. Matteo Dinolfo, medical director of the UCLA Department of Medicine's community offices and associate professor of internal medicine, was quoted.

### **Young patients in Santa Monica featured in photo montage**

Santa Monica Daily Press published Dec. 21 a photo montage of a holiday visit by local firefighters to UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica's pediatric unit. The firefighters, who have made these visits for the past 10 years, bring gifts and good cheer to patients and their families.

### **Dietitian discusses how to stay healthy during the holidays**

[MedicalXpress](#) posted Dec. 20 a story on how to avoid gorging during the holiday season. The story originally appeared in the UCLA Newsroom and featured Erin Morse, chief clinical dietitian at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, with suggestions on nutrition and healthy eating.

### **Experimental breast cancer drug continues to show positive results**

[Targeted Oncology](#) and [Onclive](#) reported Dec. 20 on the first randomized trial of a CDK4/6 inhibitor in early-stage breast cancer patients. Lead author Dr. Sara Hurvitz, associate professor of medicine in the

division of hematology/oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and medical director of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center Clinical Research Unit, was quoted.

### **Chinese herbal regimen's possible role in cancer prevention**

[Newsmax](#) on Dec. 19; [Science Daily](#), [MedicalXpress](#), and [Bioportfolio](#) on Dec. 15; and [Public News](#) on Dec. 14 highlighted research on a Chinese herbal regimen that shows signs of improving bone marrow failure, a condition many cancer patients can develop during treatment.

### **Are humans 'hardwired' for generosity?**

Dr. Marco Iacoboni, professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences and director of the Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Lab at the Ahmanson-Lovelace Brain Mapping Center at UCLA, discussed his research suggesting that human behavior is guided more by generosity than selfishness Dec. 19 in a [LiveScience](#) article.

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## **NOTABLE BRIEFS**

Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center was cited Dec. 21 in a [Daily Breeze](#) story about a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department deputy who donated a kidney to a fellow deputy. The Daily Breeze article ran in the San Gabriel Valley Tribune, Long Beach [Press-Telegram](#), [Whittier Daily News](#) and [Los Angeles Daily News](#).

A UCLA study on medical residents and work-related fatigue was referenced Dec. 16 in a [Los Angeles Times](#) story on raising the limit on young doctors' shift lengths. The story was picked up Dec. 19 in the [Chicago Tribune](#) and Dec. 21 in [MedicalXpress](#).

A study conducted by the G. Oppenheimer Center for Neurobiology of Stress and Resilience at UCLA on how probiotics in yogurt affect brain function was referenced Dec. 16 in [ProHealth](#) and Dec. 20 in [Health Nut News](#) in stories about boosting brain health.

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## **NOTABLE QUOTABLES**

Dr. Jody Heymann, dean of the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and founding director of the WORLD Policy Analysis Center, commented Dec. 12 in an article in [Romper](#) comparing lengths of maternity leave around the world.

Emanuel Maidenberg, professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted Dec. 20 in a [Nylon](#) story on coping with depression around the holidays.

Dr. Emeran Mayer, director of the G. Oppenheimer Center for Neurobiology of Stress and Resilience at UCLA and co-director of the CURE: Digestive Diseases Research Center, was quoted Dec. 20 in a [True Viral News](#) story on how the connection between the brain and the digestive tract plays a role in stress.

Nadereh Pourat, adjunct professor of health policy and management and research director at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented Dec. 16 in a [California Healthline](#) article about a California state program that would fund healthcare projects for California's vulnerable populations. The article was carried Dec. 17 by The Orange County Register. She also commented Dec. 15 in [Dentistry Today](#) and Dec. 14 in [New America Media](#) articles about the quality and access to oral health care services at Federally Qualified Health Centers.

Dr. Beate Ritz, professor of epidemiology at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, commented Dec. 20 in a [New York Times](#) article about paraquat, one of many pesticides that can't be used in Europe but is sold in the United States and elsewhere.

Dr. Wenyuan Shi, professor of oral biology at the UCLA School of Dentistry, was quoted Dec. 21 in a [Jezebel](#) article about whether Listerine has the ability to kill gonorrhea. He said it can kill gonorrhea-associated bacteria in the throat, not the STD gonorrhea.

Dr. Peter Szilagyi, executive vice chair of pediatrics, was quoted Dec. 15 by CQ Roll Call about a federal advisory panel's vote to recommend that Congress renew the Children's Health Insurance Program through fiscal 2022.

Dr. Eric Vilain, a professor of human genetics, urology and pediatrics at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine and Mattel Children's Hospital, was quoted in an article in the January 2017 issue of [National Geographic](#) magazine about how science is helping society understand gender.

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