

UCLA Newsroom

UCLA Headlines June 11, 2013

By Office of Media Relations | June 11, 2013

IN THE NEWS:

Super-Rugged Stem Cells Found in Fat

Emax Health reported Sunday that scientists led by Gregorio Chazenbalk, an associate researcher with UCLA Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, have discovered a new population of human pluripotent stem cells that are highly resistant to environmental stresses and can be easily derived from fat tissue through liposuction.

Gift to Fund Armenian Research Program at UCLA

Armenia's **Hetq**, **Masis Post**, **Hye Biz** and **Public Radio of Armenia** report today that the UCLA Cotsen Institute of Archaeology has received a \$2 million gift to establish the first permanent research program in Armenian archaeology and ethnography at a major American university. Cotsen director Charles "Chip" Stanish was quoted.

Charlie Sheen and Carlos Estevez

Friday's **Huffington Post** featured a column by Chon Noriega, director of UCLA's Chicano Studies Research Center and a professor at the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television, about Charlie Sheen's Latino heritage.

Center Focuses on Latin American Health, Poverty

NBC Latino reported Friday on the new UCLA Blum Center on Poverty and Health in Latin America, which promotes an interdisciplinary approach, both in the U.S. and internationally, to solving problems of poverty and improving health in Latin America. Center director Dr. Michael Rodriguez, professor of family medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted.

What's Wrong With Being Fat?

Abigail Saguy, associate professor and vice chair of the UCLA Department of Sociology, was interviewed Monday on Massachusetts's **WICN-90.5 FM** about her new book, "What's Wrong With Fat?", which looks at discrimination against obese people and contends that our current negative view of obesity obscures other important issues associated with being overweight.

Economics of a College Education

A column in Monday's **U.S. News & World Report** offering tips on how to choose a college cited findings from the annual nationwide Freshman Survey, conducted by UCLA's Higher Education Research Institute, showing that 43 percent of current freshmen cited cost as a major factor in their choice of college.

Fighting to Save Public Hospitals

The June edition of the journal **Health Affairs** features an article by Katherine Neuhausen, a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar in the UCLA Department of Family Medicine, about efforts by activists in Georgia to keep a safety-net hospital open and to expand Medicaid in that state. The article cited research by Jack Needleman, professor of health policy and management at UCLA's Fielding School of Public Health, showing the percentage of public hospitals in the U.S. that closed between 1983 and 2003.

Electric Boost Helps Brain Learn Better

The **Pakistan Observer** reports today on a study led by Dr. Itzhak Fried, professor of neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior at UCLA, showing that human memory can be improved by electrically stimulating a key area in the brain as it learns to navigate a new environment. Fried is quoted.

Bad Morning Sickness? Refrain from Antihistamines

An **Examiner** blog reported Monday on a study led by Dr. Marlena Fejzo, assistant professor of hematology–oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, that found that women with a severe form of morning sickness who take antihistamines are at significantly higher risk of experiencing problems with their pregnancy. Fejzo was quoted.

Gay Community and Economic Stereotypes

National Public Radio's "**Tell Me More**" reported Monday on a study by the UCLA School of Law's Williams Institute and the Gallup organization showing that the percentage of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the U.S. earning less than \$24,000 each year is higher than among the general population. M.V. Lee Badgett, visiting professor at the UCLA School of Law and research director at the Williams Institute, was interviewed.

Ape, Human Infants Share Similar Gestures

UCLA research showing that chimpanzees, bonobos and humans use similar physical gestures when learning to communicate was reported Monday by **Times of Malta** and **Day News**. Patricia Greenfield, a UCLA distinguished professor of psychology, and Kristen Gillespie-Lynch, a former graduate student in Greenfield's laboratory, were quoted in the coverage.

QUOTABLE:

Dr. Gregg Fonarow

Fonarow, UCLA's Eliot Corday Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science and director of the Ahmanson–UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center, was quoted Monday in a **HealthDay News** article about a study suggesting that lower-than-normal blood pressure may weaken the brains of individuals with cardiovascular disease.

Dr. Sarah Gee

Gee, clinical instructor of dermatology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, was quoted Saturday in a **Los Angeles Times** article about new labels on sunscreen products.

Gerald Kominski

Kominski, director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and a professor at UCLA's Fielding School of Public Health, was quoted Friday in a **Reuters** article about President Obama promoting the Affordable Care Act in California.

Glen MacDonald

MacDonald, director of the UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability and a professor of geography and of ecology and evolutionary biology, was quoted May 20 in **Pacific Standard** article about water supply issues in the western United States.

Jo Anne Van Tilburg

Van Tilburg, a research associate at UCLA's Cotsen Institute of Archaeology and director of the institute's Rock Art Archive, was quoted Monday in a **Huffington Post** article about the mystery behind the construction and transportation of the giant stone heads on Easter Island.

© 2013 UC Regents