

Employee News



Lakers Player Ron Artest connects with UCLA Patients

Lakers player Ron Artest, an advocate for mental health issues, visited adult and pediatric patients at the Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital at UCLA on March 21 to share his personal experiences with mental illness and to de-stigmatize mental health disorders.

To watch a video of his visit, go to: <http://www.uclahealth.org/Resnick>

On the web:

UCLA Primary Care Offices in the Community

UCLA Health System offers patients convenient access to top-quality physicians and primary-care faculty practices throughout neighboring communities.

Visit: www.uclahealth.org/PrimaryCare to learn more.



Jeff Furrows, Wally Ghurabi, D.O. and Elizabeth George

Volunteers Unite at LA Marathon

Torrential rain and cold, windy conditions failed to dampen the spirits of UCLA Health System volunteers caring for many of the

19,000-plus Honda LA Marathon runners competing on March 20.

UCLA served as a medical provider for the event, which began at Dodger Stadium and ended on Ocean Avenue in Santa Monica. More than 125

physicians, nurses and other health professionals donated their time and talents to staff the first-aid station at mile 24 in Santa Monica and three medical stations beyond the finish line. "Many of the runners had some degree of hypothermia, ranging from mild to moderate, when they reached the finish line in Santa Monica," explained Wally Ghurabi, D.O., medical director of SMUCLA's Nethercutt Emergency Center, who served as medical commissioner for the marathon.

The weather posed many challenges for the medical team, but members responded in

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Pediatric Neurosurgeon Discusses Radical Brain Surgery

What can you do with half a brain?

That was the question UCLA pediatric neurosurgeon Gary Mathern, M.D., tackled last month at a TEDx multidisciplinary conference that aimed to share “ideas worth spreading” among leaders from the worlds of technology, entertainment and design.

Dr. Mathern, who specializes in surgical treatments for children with severe uncontrolled seizures, is an expert on cerebral hemispherectomy, a rare, radical surgery involving the removal of half a child’s brain. Children with catastrophic neurological disorders such as Rasmussen’s encephalitis, Sturge-Weber

syndrome, hemimegalencephaly and cortical dysplasia are candidates for the surgery.

“It sounds like it would be pretty devastating, but the reality is, if you didn’t stop the seizures, over 90 percent of these kids would have IQ scores less than 50,” Dr. Mathern says. “With this intervention, they get language, they go to school, and they know who their mom and dad are. They don’t necessarily have normal brain functions, but they are far better off than if you didn’t stop the seizures.”

Dr. Mathern’s talk at the TEDx conference focused in part on the brain’s ability to adapt to trauma or illness by forming new neural

connections — a process known as “neuroplasticity.” UCLA researchers have found that children have especially adaptable brains and that various forms of focused therapy can help children gain new skills for years after hemispherectomy.

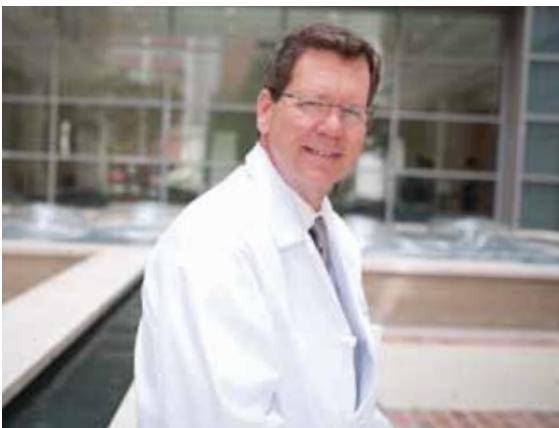
Last year, UCLA’s Pediatric Epilepsy Program provided comprehensive evaluation and treatment to about 700 infants and children suffering from uncontrolled seizures. While most seizures can be controlled with medication, about 50 children a

year undergo surgical treatment, which involves removing the part of the brain that is causing the seizures. Of those children, 17 received a hemispherectomy, making UCLA’s pediatric neurosurgeons among the most experienced in the country, Dr. Mathern says.

“Our national and international reputation is such that we get the youngest children with the biggest, baddest brains — the most severe disease,” Dr. Mathern states. “It’s another example of how UCLA is a place that people come to for taking care of things that other institutions don’t.”

Dr. Mathern is also involved with a national and international initiative sponsored by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) to focus more attention, public policy and research dollars on epilepsy, an umbrella term for more than 40 different neurological conditions that cause recurrent seizures. Epilepsy afflicts 1 in 100 adults and 1 in 20 children, according to the IOM.

“Roughly 1 percent of all those in the United States — that’s three million people — have epilepsy, and yet hardly anyone who has it wants to talk about it,” says Dr. Mathern. “The fact that epilepsy affects so many kids makes it even more critical that it gets the attention and resources it deserves.”



Gary Mathern, M.D.

Outstanding Employees Receive CICARE Awards

Each quarter, a select number of employees are chosen from a competitive pool of thousands of nominees for the UCLA Health System CICARE Award. This coveted award is presented to outstanding employees who are consistently recognized by patients and peers for their extra effort to fulfill our vision of healing humankind, one patient at a time, by improving health, alleviating suffering, and delivering acts of kindness. Each recipient receives a CICARE Award statue and \$250.

Congratulations and thank you to:

Sima Amjadian, Clinical Nurse
8 West, RRUCLA

Todd Bates, Respiratory Therapist
Cardiac & Pulmonary Rehab
200 UCLA Medical Plaza

Nora Yamamoto, Clinical Care Partner
6 Tower, SMUCLA





Providing Vision Care on the Road

Faye Oelrich spent five years at the Jules Stein Eye Institute before she joined the Mobile Eye Clinic in 1978, where she has been ever since.

The UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic, located in a 40-foot-long coach that holds two ophthalmology exam rooms, rolls out four days a week to schools, health clinics and homeless shelters around the city — almost always with Faye Oelrich on board.

What is an orthoptist?

Under the supervision of an ophthalmologist, an orthoptist evaluates strabismus, which is a disorder of eye movement or eye alignment and is usually detected in childhood. Orthoptists deal with very specific eye problems, such as lazy eye (amblyopia), “crossed” eyes or “wall” eyes, and lack of binocular vision (use of the eyes together). Without binocular vision, a person can’t appreciate “3-D” vision.

What do you like about working with the Mobile Eye Clinic?

This has been such a beautiful job for me and has given me the opportunity to give back to the community, do a variety of different things, and work with donors, ophthalmologists, residents, medical students and volunteers. The environment is always stimulating. Driving around in the Mobile Clinic has taken me to so many places I would have never seen and has shown me the diversity of Los Angeles. The scientific discoveries and technological advances that I’ve witnessed in the past 33 years have also been amazing.

Who does the Mobile Eye Clinic serve?

We provide free eye examinations annually to 3,500 children and 800 adults in our community who would not otherwise receive care. We also provide free screenings to

1,000 adults at health fairs. Our mission is to discover eye diseases or eye problems and to try to get people connected with their own ophthalmologists so they can get the care they need. We target first graders because it’s very important to catch eye problems early. For instance, if they have amblyopia, they need patching to prevent permanent vision loss. We prescribe eyeglasses for over 20 percent of the patients we see and give free eyeglasses to children in need.

of Ophthalmology provides some free care through Eye Care America. It’s frustrating not knowing how many people get the follow-up care they need. It doesn’t do much good to find out they have an eye problem if they don’t get follow-up care.

Has the Mobile Eye Clinic always operated out of the same bus?

No. Our first bus was actually a tram from Universal Studios. We replaced that in

“This has been such a beautiful job for me and has given me the opportunity to give back to the community.”

How did you become interested in eye health?

I started wearing glasses for nearsightedness in first grade and I remember how amazed I was at being able to see. I also remember being embarrassed, which helps me relate to the children who get glasses from us. When I was in eighth grade, I did a science project on the physiology of the eye. But it was my aunt who first suggested I might like this career, since I enjoy working with children and have always been interested in eye health.

What’s the most challenging part of the job?

It’s always difficult to find places to refer adults because so many don’t have insurance or are unable to pay for services. We refer to the county hospitals and clinics and also have a treasured list of ophthalmologists who will accept some referrals. The American Academy

1979 with a used mobile clinic from Baylor University that we refurbished, which eventually wore out. But this one is my baby. It’s a 1995 Blue Bird bus that took about a year to customize. I was very “hands on,” working with the coach company to design the interior. Getting everything to fit was challenging, but I consider this to be one of my biggest accomplishments.

What are your hobbies or interests?

I’m an empty nester and just started taking classes in ceramics. I love the outdoors, especially camping, backpacking and hiking. I also like to garden. We just took out our lawn and planted a drought-tolerant garden that reduced our water bill by a third!

2011-2015 Strategic Plan Provides Roadmap for the Future

UCLA Health System and the David Geffen School of Medicine (DGSOM) at UCLA recently completed a comprehensive strategic planning process to develop a roadmap for the organization's education, research, community engagement and clinical care activities for the next five years. Implementing the plan, according to A. Eugene Washington, M.D., vice chancellor of UCLA Health Sciences and dean of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, is critical to success in a rapidly changing healthcare environment.

"As a leading academic medical center in the U.S., we face many challenges and opportunities from a number of internal and external forces," says Dr. Washington, who initiated the strategic planning

process immediately after joining UCLA early last year. "In the last 15 years, UCLA has undergone unprecedented growth, expanded its research and clinical enterprises and contributed to dramatic advances in science, medicine and technology," he says. "At the same time, state support has declined, competition for the best people has increased and the impact of national health reform legislation is likely to pose new challenges."

In order to identify goals and objectives to address future challenges, UCLA's strategic planning team solicited and received input from 2,500 internal and external stakeholders — including faculty, staff, trainees, senior campus leadership and external partners. In addition, approximately 120 faculty, staff and students were recruited to teams for each of the four mission areas (education, research, community engagement and clinical care) and met over a four-month period to develop strategies and tactics to achieve the specified goals.

"It was gratifying to witness firsthand just how smart, committed and passionate people in the UCLA community are," says Joyce Fried, assistant dean of DGSOM and director of the strategic planning initiative. "People were willing to sit around the same table — even though they may have come from different backgrounds and perspectives — and work together toward the common goal of making UCLA an even better place in the future than it is today. The process is proof that the whole is truly greater than the sum of its parts."

For more information about the development of the strategic plan and progress toward implementing the specific strategies and tactics, visit <http://strategy.healthsciences.ucla.edu>



Volunteers Unite at LA Marathon *(continued from page 1)*

ingenious ways, including setting up a makeshift MASH unit on two Santa Monica Big Blue buses after a medical station flooded. Bus handrails were used to hang IVs. Blankets not only warmed runners, but also served as privacy curtains.

When it became apparent that the medical stations would be inundated with runners who simply needed to dry off and get warm after crossing the finish line, the medical team worked with the nearby Fairmont-Miramar Hotel to open a Wellness/Comfort area inside the hotel's ballroom.

Overall, about 250 runners received medical treatment and hundreds more were aided at the

hotel. One 74-year-old "legacy" runner — those who have completed all 26 LA Marathons — fell and cut his head at mile 25. He finished the marathon before going to SMUCLA for treatment. He was diagnosed with a subdural hematoma and transported to RRUCLA, where he was successfully treated.

"This was a massive undertaking involving a huge commitment of resources and personnel from throughout our health system," says Posie Carpenter, team leader and chief administrative officer at SMUCLA. "Under the worst of conditions, our team demonstrated the best of community service. I'm incredibly proud!"



UCLA Health System volunteers at LA Marathon.



Chase Child Life Program

The Chase Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to financially supporting hospital-based programs that cater to the social, emotional and developmental needs of children, has donated \$2.125 million to the Child Life/Child Development program at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA. In recognition of the gift, UCLA officially rededicated the program as the Chase Child Life program at a March 28 ribbon-cutting event held at the hospital.

The Child Life program helps address the unique needs of pediatric patients by promoting effective coping through play, preparation, education and self-expression activities. It provides emotional support for families and encourages the optimal development of children facing a broad range of challenging experiences, particularly those related to healthcare and hospitalization.



Photo by Todd Cheney

The Chase Foundation also announced additional funding to create a therapeutic healing garden on the hospital's outdoor Tisch Family Children's Terrace to promote coping and wellness. Pediatric patients and their families will be able to participate in gardening lessons and enjoy the garden's fragrant beauty. An artist's rendering of the healing garden, which is still in the early planning stages, was unveiled at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

"We are tremendously grateful for the generous support of The Chase Foundation," says Child Life program director Amy Bullock. "There is no doubt that in the decades to come, their significant gift will help transform a hospital stay into a much brighter experience for countless children and their families."



Photo by Ann Johnsen Photography

Surgeons perform 14-hour hand transplant at UCLA.

UCLA Performs First Hand Transplant in the Western United States

Surgeons at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center performed the first hand transplant in the western United States in an operation that began one minute before midnight on Friday, March 4, and was completed 14-and-a-half hours later, on Saturday, March 5.

The transplant was performed on a 26-year-old mother from Northern California who lost her right hand in a traffic accident nearly five years ago. UCLA is only the fourth center in the nation to offer this procedure, and the first west of the Rockies. This was the 13th hand transplant surgery performed in the United States.

A team of 17 surgeons, anesthesiologists, operating room nurses and technicians were involved in the effort to graft the hand onto the patient. The operation began with two surgical teams working simultaneously to prepare the donor graft and the recipient. At 4:30 a.m. on Saturday, four-and-a-half hours after the operation began, the donor limb was joined to the recipient. The surgeons then began the complex work of attaching tendons, blood vessels and nerves to complete the surgery, which concluded at 2:30 p.m.

Following the surgery, the patient was brought back to her room, where she was met by grateful members of her family. She remains at the medical center and will begin extensive physical rehabilitation and a regimen of immuno-

suppressant medication to help prevent her body from rejecting the new appendage.

The transplant team will closely monitor the patient's progress and how well her body adjusts to the new hand. As part of this, doctors will map her brain at key points in her recovery, observing which parts "light up" when she is asked to move her fingers or other parts of the new hand. "I am ecstatic with the results — a little tired, but ecstatic," said lead surgeon Kodi Azari, M.D., surgical director of the UCLA Hand Transplant Program and associate professor of orthopaedic surgery and plastic surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, at the conclusion of the marathon surgery. "Everything went well. The size, color and hair pattern match between the donor and recipient is nearly perfect. We are so proud to have been able to give our patient the gift of a new hand." Dr. Azari was a surgeon in four previous hand transplant surgeries performed in the U.S. prior to coming to UCLA.

The transplant was made possible by the generosity of the family of a deceased donor in San Diego. The donor's family worked with the staff at Lifesharing, who had been briefed by the transplant team at UCLA. Lifesharing, a division of UC San Diego Medical Center, is a nonprofit, federally designated organ and tissue recovery organization serving San Diego and Imperial counties.

news SHORTS

wellness INITIATIVE

UC WALKS IS BACK!

Join employees of all UC campuses and medical centers for the Annual UC Walks event. Local walks will be announced for most locations. Stay tuned!

INTRODUCING LUNCHTIME YOGA AT SMUCLA!

This all-levels lunchtime yoga class will help you unwind from your busy morning and prepare you to greet the afternoon with calm and serenity.

Beginning April 12, classes will be held on Tuesdays, Noon to 12:30 p.m., SMUCLA Chapel. Please bring a yoga mat, bottle of water and towel and wear loose-fit clothing. This class is for employees only.



live life well.



CareConnect News: Got Questions about CareConnect?

Q. What does EHR mean?

A. The Electronic Health Record (EHR) is a digital record of patient health information including patient demographics, progress notes, problems, medications, vital signs, past medical history, immunizations, laboratory data and radiology reports. The EHR automates and streamlines the clinician's workflow. It can provide a complete record of a patient's visit, and can also support other care-related activities including quality management and outcomes reporting.

Q. What is the difference between CareConnect and Epic?

A. CareConnect is the name of the UCLA Electronic Health Record Program. The name reflects UCLA's commitment to care and the ability of the EHR to connect people to an integrated source of knowledge. Epic Systems is the name of the vendor that is providing the software foundational to the CareConnect program.

For more information, visit our new website:
www.careconnect.uclahealth.org

New Medical Director of Heart Transplant Program



Mario C. Deng, M.D., has been appointed the new medical director of the Advanced Heart Failure, Mechanical Circulatory Support and Heart Transplant Program for the Division of Cardiology, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

Mario C. Deng, M.D. Dr. Deng is an internationally recognized leader in heart transplant, mechanical circulatory support and the management of advanced heart failure. His research interests focus on the survival and quality-of-life benefits offered by heart transplantation, mechanical circulatory support and other treatment options.

April Recognitions

Please take a few minutes to recognize April national healthcare observances for:

- *Donate Life Month*
- *Earth Day*
- *Healthcare Volunteers*
- *March for Babies*
- *Medical Laboratory Professionals*
- *Neurodiagnostic Week*
- *Occupational Therapy*
- *Transplant Professionals*

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