‘Ums’ and ‘Ahs’ Help Toddlers Learn Language

“Look at the, uh, zebras, honey,” a mom might say to her 2-year-old during a visit to the zoo. While the stumble or hesitation may seem like the most unimportant part of the conversation, it can play a major role in the toddler’s language development. So says a new study from the University of Rochester published in the journal Developmental Science. Researchers found that young children used those “ums” and “uhs,” technically known as speech disfluencies, to acquire new words. (Also Reported in: NPR, Discovery Channel, Bloomberg BusinessWeek, The Independent, LiveScience.com, MSNBC, Fox News, U.S. News & World Report, Daily Mail, Telegraph.co.uk, Yahoo! News, MSN, Vancouver Sun, Ottawa Citizen, Georgia Public Broadcasting, New Zealand Herald, Express.co.uk, and others)

U.S. News & World Report (April 5)
Implantable Device May Lower Tough-to-Treat Hypertension

“People with resistant hypertension – high blood pressure that doesn’t respond to multi-drug therapy and lifestyle changes – are a growing group, and they’re in desperate need of additional treatments,” study lead author Dr. John D. Bisognano, professor of medicine in the cardiology division of the University of Rochester, said in a meeting news release. (Also Reported in: Bloomberg BusinessWeek, Yahoo! News, MSN, MSNBC, Newsday, News-Medical.net, Fox News)

U.S. News & World Report (April 29)
Low Vitamin D Levels Linked to More Aggressive Breast Cancers

In the study, to be presented Friday at the annual meeting of the American Society of Breast Surgeons, a team from the University of Rochester Medical Center tracked 155 women who had surgery for breast cancer between January 2009 and September 2010. (Also reported by Bloomberg BusinessWeek, Yahoo! News, Newsday)

MSNBC (April 19)
Antidepressants could help heal brain injuries

Injured mice given the antidepressant imipramine (known commercially as Tofranil) had 70 percent more brain cells after four weeks than mice not treated with antidepressants, said study researcher Dr. Jason Huang, an associate professor of neurosurgery at the University of Rochester Medical Center and chief of neurosurgery at Highland Hospital in New York. (Also Reported in: ScienceDaily.com, LiveScience.com)
Chronicle of Higher Education (April 24)
Teaching a Tough Course Led Chemistry Professor to Push Peer-Learning
Jack A. Kampmeier was one of the most recognized and beloved teachers at the University of Rochester, but each semester he lost a significant share of the students in his notoriously difficult organic-chemistry class.

Daily Mail (April 18)
Nurse with deadly golf ball-sized heart tumour saved after doctors fill it in with superglue
Dr. [Chris] Cove, from the University of Rochester Medical Centre, USA, where the world-first operation took place, said: “There are no patients in the world alive with this type of tumour. Surgeons had operated to try and remove the tumour but it was impossible so there was nothing that could be done to save her. I decided to try the medical superglue to fill the tumour as a last attempt to save her life. We had no idea whether it would work, but it was her only option.”

USA Today (April 9)
After Civil War, blacks fought for rights for 100 years
“The Reconstruction period was alive with grassroots activism among blacks,” said Victoria Wolcott, interim director of the Frederick Douglass Institute in Rochester, N.Y. She said it was an era of “self-determination” as black women, men and children came together as communities to educate themselves and build institutions, particularly churches. “Church became the base for community organizing, a legacy that would be important going forward into the next century.”

New York Times (April 25)
Childbirth: More Labor Interventions, Same Outcomes
Dr. J. Christopher Glantz, a professor of obstetrics at the University of Rochester, reviewed records of almost 30,000 births from 10 upstate New York community hospitals without specialized neonatal intensive care units.

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (April 30)
UR panels focus on diversity
Francis L. Price found out what it’s like to feel unwelcome on campus the hard way. In 1973, as an undergraduate at the University of Rochester, Price was handcuffed and detained for four hours by campus security because his identification card was out of date. Price, who is of Jamaican descent, went on to become a UR trustee – and on Friday participated in the college’s second annual Diversity Conference. (Also Reported in: YNN)

ABC News (April 13)
Vitamins and Vitamin Supplements: Use Increases in America
“Vitamin D and calcium [supplements] are the flavors of the month and it’s the impulsive nature of our society to get that quick fix instead of getting back to eating whole foods,” said Dr. Stephen Cook of University of Rochester Medical Center in New York.

Toronto Globe and Mail (April 27)
An economic theory changed the way CEOs get paid
In 1976, finance professor Michael Jensen and Dean William Meckling of the Simon School of Business at the University of Rochester published a seemingly innocuous paper in the Journal of Financial Economics entitled “Theory of the Firm: Managerial Behavior, Agency Costs and Ownership Structure.” It would go on to be the single most frequently cited article in business academia and forms the prevailing theory of the role of the firm and proper compensation in our society today. (Also Reported in: Huffington Post)

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (April 4)
Philip Saunders gives $10M to University of Rochester Medical Center
A Rochester businessman has given the University of Rochester Medical Center one of its largest donations. E. Philip Saunders, a major supporter of the neuromuscular disease program at URMC, has donated $10 million for neuromuscular and other research. (Also Reported in: New York Daily News, Rochester Business Journal, Albany Times Union, Syracuse Post-Standard, WROC-TV, WXXI, WHAM AM 1180, YNN, 13WHAM-TV, 10WHEC-TV)
Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (April 8)
$60M URMC building named for businessman E. Philip Saunders
The University of Rochester Medical Center this morning dedicated the Saunders Research Building, which will be home to the medical center's Clinical and Translational Science Institute. (Also Reported in: 13WHAM-TV, WHAM AM 1180, 10WHEC-TV, 8WROC-TV, WXXI)

Bloomberg Business Week (April 2)
Ex-SEC Economist May Help Rajaratnam's Defense in Trading Case
Gregg Jarrell, who was the SEC's top economist from 1984 to 1987 and now teaches at the University of Rochester's graduate school of business in upstate New York, will testify about Rajaratnam's trades in Goldman Sachs Group Inc. stocks and dozens of other companies. If permitted by the judge, he'll say that allegedly illegal tips involved information that was already public or immaterial or had been incorporated into Galleon research by the time Rajaratnam got them. (Also Reported in: Wall Street Journal, San Francisco Chronicle, Denver Post, and others)

Toronto Globe and Mail (April 28)
Can an autism checklist screen one-year-olds for warning signs?
“This is very exciting work, to think we may be able to identify children with autism this early,” said Susan Hyman of the University of Rochester and a pediatrics academy autism specialist, who wasn't involved in the new study. (Also Reported in: ABC News, Boston Globe, CNBC, NPR, Newsday, Huffington Post, Chicago Tribune, CBC, Fox News, MSNBC, New York Times, Yahoo! News, Austin American Statesman, and others)

MSN (April 20)
Women Taking Calcium Supplements May Risk Heart Health, Researchers
Dr. Susan V. Bukata, associate professor of orthopaedic surgery at the University of Rochester Medical Center, said that the study really doesn't provide enough information to make a definitive conclusion. “With diet plus a supplement combined, women should be getting 1,000- to 1,500-milligrams a day,” she said. (Also Reported in: Newsday, Yahoo! News, U.S. News & World Report)

innovations-report.com (April 13)
Report provides NASA with direction for next 10 years of space
Duncan's committee, which consisted of Nicholas Bigelow from the University of Rochester, Paul Chaikin from New York University, Ronald Larson from the University of Michigan, W. Carl Lineberger from the University of Colorado, and Ronald Walsworth from Harvard University, developed two overarching “quests” and four specific “thrusts” for fundamental physics research as part of the report, “Recapturing a Future for Space Exploration: Life and Physical Sciences Research for a New Era.”

Vancouver Sun (April 1)
Sloppy medical scribbles may compromise health, say experts
The University of Rochester Medical Center attempted to bring some clarity to its staff's writing by bringing in handwriting experts to lead a seminar in 2003. Robert Panzer, the hospital's chief quality officer, said that the free course taught staff to write legibly at a speed suitable for a hospital's hectic pace. “We all got better. There's absolutely no question,” he said. “At the end of this course I was able to write a legible note, which I really struggled with before.” (Also Reported in: Edmonton Journal, Calgary Herald)
\textit{NPR} (April 19)  
\textbf{Our ‘Toxic’ Love-Hate Relationship With Plastics}  
\textbf{Dr. Shanna Swan} at the University of Rochester in Rochester, N.Y., has published several articles on prenatal exposure to phthalates. In one study, she found that newborn baby boys born to mothers with more phthalates in their bodies had a subtle difference in their genitals. (Also Reported in: \textit{USA Today, Boston Globe, Montreal Gazette})

\textit{YNN} (April 4)  
\textbf{Xerox CEO To Deliver U of R Commencement Speech}  
Xerox CEO Ursula Burns will serve as the commencement speaker at the University of Rochester later this Spring.

\textit{Health.com} (April 14)  
\textbf{Lowering Cholesterol, Blood Pressure May Reduce Alzheimer’s Risk}  
Researchers have long been aware of an apparent link between blood-vessel health and Alzheimer’s, but this study is “the first one that shows that treating mild cognitive impairment can have results,” says \textbf{Anton Porsteinsson, MD}, director of the Memory Disorders Clinic at the University of Rochester School of Medicine, in New York. (Also Reported in: \textit{CNN.com})