Selected Coverage December 2012

New York Daily News (December 7)
Quit Smoking for Less Back Pain
University of Rochester researcher Dr. Glenn Rechtine, whose findings are published in the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery, said: ‘We know that nicotine increases pain. ‘In this study, if you quit smoking during treatment, you got better. If you continued to smoke, there was statistically no improvement, regardless of the treatment you had.’ (Also Reported in: Boston.com, Science Daily, Dallas Morning News, and Orthopedics Today)

Huffington Post (December 4)
Your Next Phone Will Know What You’re Feeling
University of Rochester graduate student Na Yang, who co-authored the research paper, has already developed a Windows Phone smartphone app, Listen-n-Feel, that functions as a “mobile emotion sensor” and allows the phone to detect a speaker’s feeling, showing a smiley face or frown-y face depending on the speaker’s tone. “We actually used recordings of actors reading out the date of the month -- it really doesn’t matter what they say, it’s how they’re saying it that we’re interested in,” said Wendi Heinzelman, a professor of electrical and computer engineering at the University of Rochester, according to a press release issued by the university. (Also Reported in: New York Daily News, Yahoo! News, MSNBC, Gizmag, Gizmodo, 8WROC-TV, 10WHEC-TV, Computerworld New Zealand, Science Daily, Red Orbit, Winnipeg Sun, Topnews.in, ZeeNews.com, Northumberland Today, KSFA 860 and others)

New Scientist (December 17, 2012)
Warning, Speedsters: You Can’t Fool Quantum Radar
Radar and lidar systems bounce radio or light signals off an object and measure how long they take to return. That information can be used to determine the object’s position and shape - identifying it as a war plane, say - or to calculate its speed. But both military and police systems can be fooled by devices that generate photons of the same frequency as in the outgoing beam. This is how the speed gun jammers installed in some cars work.
To reveal when returning photons have been faked, Mehul Malik and colleagues at the University of Rochester, New York, borrowed a trick from quantum cryptography, polarizing each outgoing photon in one of two ways according to a sequence. (Also Reported in: Gizmodo, Engadget, England Daily Mail, NetIndia123.com, Armed Forces International, PhysOrg.com, TruthDive)
Huffington Post (December 12)
Study Details Brain Damage Triggered by Mini-Strokes
A new study appearing December 12 in the Journal of Neuroscience details for the first time how “mini-strokes” cause prolonged periods of brain damage and result in cognitive impairment. “Our research indicates that neurons are being lost as a result of delayed processes following a mini-stroke that may differ fundamentally from those of acute ischemic events,” said Maiken Nedergaard, M.D., D.M.Sc., the lead author of the study and professor of Neurosurgery at the University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC). “This observation suggests that the therapeutic window to protect cells after these tiny strokes may extend to days and weeks after the initial injury.”

WXXI (December 20, 2012)
Could A Mobile App Beat The Flu?
Imagine using your smart phone to avoid getting the flu. A new mobile app designed by researchers at the University of Rochester could make it possible. The Germ Tracker app is the brain child of Adam Sadilek, a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Rochester who has taught a computer program to ‘read’ twitter messages, and use GPS tracking to predict where infection may occur. “There is really no product like this that enables you to understand how these millions of people feel every second, because they self-report on their activities and they self-report on their health,” Sadilek says. (Also Reported in: 8WROC-TV)

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (December 4, 2012)
UR Scientist Helping the World See Better
It was a career moment for a University of Rochester scientist. In September, David Williams, 59, traveled to the Champalimaud Foundation in Lisbon, Portugal, to receive one of the highest honors in the field of vision science and ophthalmology, Antonio Champalimaud Vision Award. “The president of Portugal presented (the award) as the sun set gloriously into the ocean behind us. My wife Inger was with me. It was a magical moment that you can’t imagine you would be lucky enough to experience even once in an entire lifetime,” said Williams, who is a faculty member of UR’s Institute of Optics, director of the school’s center for visual science and dean for research of arts, science and engineering.

ABC News (December 14)
Mystery Rash Leads to Cure of Deadly Cancer
“The skin has an amazing ability to tell the story of a person,” said Dr. Brian Poligone, 40, an assistant professor at Rochester and an attending physician at its James P. Wilmot Cancer Center, who treated Williams. “I know if they like the sun, or if they smoke, if they are scarred from war, if they are jaundiced with alcoholism -- or what color they painted their porch last weekend,” he said. “It can give you a glimpse inside sometimes even telling you that they have cancer, before they know it.”

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PBS Newshour (November 30)
Promoting Safe Sex with Posters on World AIDS Day
Originally developed for public health campaigns to promote HIV testing, safe sex, and better knowledge of the virus and disease, Dr. Atwater began collecting the posters for their social and cultural importance. After years of collecting from job growth,” the co-chairs said. (Also Reported in: Wall Street Journal, New York Newsday, Rochester Business Journal, Rochester City Newspaper, 13WHAM-TV 12-19-12, 13WHAM-TV 12-20-12, YNN, 8WROC-TV, 10WHEC-TV, WHAM AM 1180, and Ithaca Journal)
all over the world, he donated all the posters to the University of Rochester. (Also Reported in: YNN, NET Website)

**MSNBC (December 4)**

**Most Teens with Mental Disorders Not on Meds**

“The concern regarding the overtreatment versus undertreatment of mental health conditions is really a difficult problem to answer,” said Dr. Robert Fortuna from the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York, who has studied psychiatric drug prescribing to youth but wasn’t involved in the new study.

“It really requires a more nuanced view that we are possibly overprescribing in some situations and missing opportunities to treat in other situations,” he told Reuters Health. (Also Reported in: Fox News, NBC, Reuters, Chicago Tribune, GMA News, and Yahoo! News)

**MSNBC (December 4, 2012)**

**Want Happy Workers? Pour On the Praise**

When it comes to rallying the troops, bonuses aren’t always the best way to go -- or the cheapest. Others agree. Using money to motivate people doesn’t work, especially if they anticipate the reward before they’ve finished the task, Edward Deci, a University of Rochester human motivation psychologist, says in this Entrepreneur.com blog post.

**Fox News (December 5)**

**Genetic Test Could Better Reveal Fetal Abnormalities**

Some doctors have held back on using microarrays for prenatal testing because it’s not always clear how a genetic disease will manifest, said Dr. Monique Ho, an obstetrician and prenatal geneticist at the University of Rochester Medical Center, who was not involved in the study. One child with a particular genetic mutation may be disabled, while another with the same mutation may appear healthy.

Ho said microarrays could replace karyotyping in some but not all cases. Doctors might want to use microarrays if time is a factor, because the test is faster than karyotyping. (Also Reported in: Yahoo! News)

**Christian Science Monitor (December 23, 2012)**

**Video Games And Shooting: Is The NRA Right?**

Joan Saab, director of the visual and cultural studies program at the University of Rochester in New York, says the gaming industry should share in the blame for promoting military weaponry to young people, but adds that the popularity of such games reflect the “larger culture we live in, which is heavily militarized,” in the midst of lengthy combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Ms. Saab says that the NRA’s call for armed guards in schools would make that kind of military culture more pervasive for children. “If there are more armed guards in schools, kids are exposed to more guns. That’s when fantasy and reality aren’t blurred. When there are guns in schools, it becomes real life and the day-to-day environment becomes more dangerous than the game,” she says. (Also Reported in: Yahoo! News, Alaska Dispatch)

**Fox News (December 5)**

**McNabb Three-Pointer in Final Seconds Lifts UR to Wendy’s Title**

Junior Danielle McNabb hit a game winning three pointer with 3.3 seconds to lead the University of Rochester to a thrilling 60-58 victory over SUNY Geneseo in the championship game of the 20th Wendy’s College Classic.
UR Men’s Basketball Claim Wendy’s Classic Title

Led by tournament MVP John DiBartolomeo, the University of Rochester men’s basketball team won its 11th Wendy’s Classic Tournament Title with a 73-64 win over Hobart College Saturday night at the Palestra.

Reuters (December 28)

Early Scheduling Gets More Patients to Cardiac Rehab

Dr. Frank Richeson, director of the cardiac rehabilitation program at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York, said he’s not surprised by the finding that more people attended the orientation when it was scheduled soon after discharge. “I was surprised that we didn’t know that already. Recruitment early when the iron is hot makes a lot of sense intuitively,” said Richeson, who was not involved in the new research. (Also Reported in: Chicago Tribune)

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (December 17, 2012)

University Of Rochester Creates Institute for Popular Music

With its Eastman School of Music, the University of Rochester has a world-class institution for classical music and jazz. “In many ways, we are bringing together what we are already doing but we are sort of corraling everything together and creating a central point,” said John Covach, director of the institute. (Also Reported in: Rochester Business Journal, Newsday, Wall Street Journal, NorthJersey.com)

Bloomberg Businessweek (December 6)

Lothar Stitz: A Vaccine for Every Strain of the Flu

Four years of clinical tests have shown that all mice, rats, ferrets, and pigs immunized using mRNA survived, even after being injected with deadly infectious diseases, Stitz says. Still, challenges remain. Stitz’s mRNA vaccine has similarities to DNA vaccines that proved effective in mice but less so in humans, says John Treamor, chief of infectious diseases at the University of Rochester (N.Y.) Medical Center.

NPR (December 26)

Climate Change Gets Real For Americans

ROBERT SIEGEL, HOST: Now to a scientist looking back at the year that’s about to end, commentator Adam Frank is an astrophysicist. And in the category of science, he is confident about the headline for 2012.

ADAM FRANK: Something remarkable has happened that may etch this year into history for centuries to come. Twenty-twelve’s importance comes not through elections, economic shifts or the new movements in art. No, 2012 may well be remembered for something far more elemental. (Also Reported in: KUHF)

Adam Frank, a professor of physics and astronomy at the University of Rochester, is the author of “About Time: Cosmology and Culture at the Twilight of the Big Bang” and a co-founder of NPR’s “13.7 Cosmos and Culture” blog.

The New York Times (December 28)

How to Prepare When Next Year’s Tax Rates Are Anyone’s Guess

The Pew Center on the States, using the states’ own actuarial data, estimates that there is a $1.38 trillion dollar gap between what governments have set aside to pay for public employees’ pensions and retiree health care costs and their actual obligations. Robert Novy-Marx, an assistant professor at the University of Rochester’s Simon Graduate School of Business, and Joshua D. Rauh, a professor at the Stanford Graduate School of Business, believe the shortfall in pension financing alone is actually $3 trillion to $4 trillion. If states were to try to fill the gap solely by raising taxes, Mr. Novy-Marx and Mr. Rauh estimate that the cost per household in 2011 would have been $2,250 in New York, $2,000 in New Jersey and $1,994 in California — and we’d need to pay that amount every year for 30 years, with adjustments for inflation. Happy New Year! (Also Reported in: Bend Bulletin, Fresno Bee)

USA Today (December 24)

Two Webster Firefighters Shot, Treated At URMC

Scardino and firefighter Joseph Hofstetter survived their gunshot wounds and were “convalescing and doing as well as I would expect at this stage,” a doctor at University of Rochester Hospital said.
Wednesday. “Mr. Scardino and Mr. Hofstetter are both receiving supportive care and are making small steps on their long road ahead,” Dr. Nicole Stassen, a trauma surgeon said. “It is critical that they remain in an environment where they can focus on rest and recovery.” (Also Reported in: New York Times, CNN.com, ABC News, NPR, Chicago Tribune, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, and others)

**USA Today (December 4)**

**Ford Engine Fire Recall Big Blow to Escape, Fusion**

As embarrassments go, Ford Motor couldn’t face a worse recall than one that wraps together two critical 2013 vehicles and a technology that it has spent the most time and money trying to burnish: Fusion sedan, Escape crossover and the EcoBoost turbocharged engine. “It does beg the question: ‘Does Ford have a serious quality problem?’” says George Cook, executive professor of marketing at the Simon Graduate School of Business at the University of Rochester and a former Ford marketing executive.

**Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (December 26)**

**Firefighters Recovering; Release Statement**

“Both of the firefighters have been incredible, but are being absolutely affected by what’s happened to them, today,” said Nicole Stassen, M.D., Trauma Surgeon at the University of Rochester Medical Center.

The main issues in the short term are with the healing in that lung,” explained Stassen.

“At this point he hasn’t required surgery on that lung but that may change depending on how the lung does or does not heal.” (Also Reported in: CNN.com, Fox News, New York Daily News, New York Times, and others)

**Huffington Post (December 5, 2012)**

**The Empty Closet: Reminiscence**

R.J. Alcala and I never would have imagined, in the fall of 1970 as we sat at my kitchen table kicking around possible titles for a proposed gay liberation newspaper that it would become, by 1978, the oldest continuously published LGBT publication in New York State, a distinction that it holds to this day. After 42 years, I have no recollection of the rejected titles, but when he came up with The Empty Closet both of us instantly knew we had a winner. The Empty Closet meanwhile grew from a student publication at the University of Rochester to a community-based newspaper. It gained wider circulation. The quality of its journalism rose with the hiring of professional staff. More and more advertisers wanted space in its pages. The size of the visible gay community in Rochester increased. Dozens of gay and gay-friendly organizations appeared providing more news for its readers.

Today, a person reading the Closet can get an immediate sense of our vibrant and integrated gay population.

**Huffington Post (December 28, 2012)**

**From Rochester to Washington: Students from the Eastman School of Music Excited, Privileged to Perform at President Obama’s Inauguration**

Curious, I opened the email, and soon found my eyes widening in excitement as I read its contents: New York Senator Chuck Schumer, the chair of the Presidential Inaugural Committee, had invited Eastman to send a string quartet comprised entirely of students to perform at the presidential inaugural luncheon on January 21, 2013. While this event would not be a part of the inaugural ceremony itself, it would happen immediately afterwards and include the president, vice president, and several other notable politicians amongst its attendees.

Unsurprisingly, the email appeal generated great interest throughout the school, and a month later several hopeful quartets auditioned before a panel comprised of both chamber music faculty and members of the Eastman administration. When the results were released, I was pleasantly surprised to discover that I knew the members of the winning ensemble: violinists Che Ho Lam and Markiyan Melnychenko, violist Kelsey Farr and cellist Hyeok Kwon.

**13WHAM-TV (December 19)**

**URMC Opens Stem Cell Manufacturing Facility**

“One of the critical barriers to moving cell-based therapies into clinical trials is the requirement that these cells be manufactured in a facility that meets strict federal requirements,” Stephen Dewhurst, chair of the medical center’s Department of Microbiology and Immunology and author of the
state grant application, said. “Without this resource, much of this science gets stuck in the lab.”

“I anticipate that this new facility will accelerate research across the state and make Rochester a center for the development of new cell-based therapies,” Dr. Bradford Berk, CEO of the UR medical center and a member of the Empire Stem Cell Board, said. (Also reported by WXXI, WHAM AM 1180, Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, and Rochester Business Journal)

Yahoo! Canada (December 18, 2012)
Music Student Gets a Surprise 11 Months in The Making
Tara Fayazi was performing a solo with the Tuba Euphonium Ensemble at Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, on Monday when the conductor stopped her. He told her that something sounded wrong with the tuba she was playing. He started fiddling with the instrument, and then called out for someone backstage to bring him a screwdriver.

The ruse worked. Instead of a screwdriver, a friend of Tara’s brought out a tuba with a big red bow on it.

“It’s really hard to describe,” Fayazi said of the moment. “I had to stand up and say something. But between the tears and the overwhelming emotion, I’ve never felt so much pure happiness in my life because it’s just unbelievable.”

Rochester City Newspaper (December 19, 2012)
Hydrogen hopes
A team of University of Rochester professors may have found a way to improve the process of using light to produce hydrogen. The secret: a common metal and miniscule chunks of a semiconductor material. Chemistry professors Richard Eisenberg, Patrick Holland, and Todd Krauss aren’t the first researchers to generate hydrogen using light; that’s been happening for several decades. But the other processes have largely used precious metals like platinum, which are expensive and rarer than other metals, Krauss says.

Rochester Business Journal (December 19)
URMC among Research Institutions to Share $12.1 Million Grant
The University of Rochester Medical Center, Upstate Medical University in Syracuse and SUNY Buffalo’s School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences are in line to share a $12.1 million grant, Associated Medical Schools of New York officials said Wednesday. URMC and the Syracuse and Buffalo research institutions are allied in a three-member multiple sclerosis research consortium led by Upstate Medical University. URMC’s share of the grant would come to $5.3 million, medical center spokesman Mark Michaud said. While there is now no cure for multiple sclerosis, “Our study may in fact change all of this by preventing disease progression to the secondary stage, while repairing damage already done, and hence bring new hope to people affected by the disease,” said Steven Goldman M.D. (Also Reported in: Buffalo Business First, Central New York Business Journal, and Syracuse Post Standard)

Rochester Business Journal (December 10)
UR Selects Its New General Counsel
The University of Rochester has named a new vice president and general counsel after a national search to replace the retiring Sue Stewart. Gail Norris, who has served at UR as senior legal counsel for all aspects of operations, will take over the position beginning Jan. 1. In her work with the university, Norris has managed complex legal matters related to research, technology transfer and licensing, UR officials said.

Fortune (November 21)
Can You Beat The Stock Market?
Most people interested in the stock market fall into one of three categories: (1) academic scholars who doubt that anybody really knows how to beat the market; (2) professional investors who indignantly reject this view of the matter; and (3) amateur investors who also believe that you can beat the market but don’t realize how controversial this assumption is. I have long been a partisan of the first group, and until the last year or so had assumed that its case was airtight. Michael C. Jensen of the University of Rochester, who has no doubts at all about market efficiency, nevertheless worried recently about the battle having been won so thoroughly, and added: “It’s dangerously close to the point where no graduate student would dare send off a paper criticizing the hypothesis.”
**Rochester Business Journal** (December 21)  
**URMC Pursues Pacts in Asia**  
The University of Rochester Medical Center is on the verge of signing alliances with Chinese medical schools and Indian hospitals. The deals would follow trips by URMC officials, including CEO Bradford Berk M.D. and Chief Operating Officer Peter Robinson, who respectively led delegations to China and India in October. Such ambitions are crucial to the university’s future, said UR provost Peter Lennie, who along with President Joel Seligman visited two Chinese universities and two in Hong Kong last May. He and Seligman plan a second excursion to explore ties with Chinese schools sometime in 2013, Lennie said.

**ArsTechnica** (December 7, 2012)  
**An Accelerometer So Good That Only Quantum Mechanics Limits It**  
So, the perfect accelerometer has a very tiny test mass that doesn’t have a strong resonant response, and that response should be at high frequencies so that it’s also fast. Of course, such an accelerometer would pick up every vibration, including those due to thermal noise inside the case of the device; generally not a desirable feature. Obviously, a grand compromise plus some innovative thinking is required to break this trifecta of embuggerance. This is exactly what a team of researchers from Cal Tech and the University of Rochester have done. They recognized that if you take a very tiny mass and make it part of a very high Q resonator, then the mass will be very insensitive to excitation due to temperature. But if you could measure the amplitude of the oscillations, you could measure very tiny accelerations. The key, then, is in how you measure things.

**Education Week** (December 17, 2012)  
**In the Wake of Newtown, Helping Children Cope**  
The headlines seem too horrific to be true: 20 1st graders and six adults murdered senselessly inside a school in Connecticut; survivors led away from the carnage being told to close their eyes so as not to witness their surroundings. No one should have to bear the scars of last week’s heinous events.

**Bonnie Rubenstein** is a professor of education at the Warner School of Education at the University of Rochester in Rochester, N.Y.

**Rochester Democrat and Chronicle** (December 5)  
**State Report Card Shows Infection Rate Trends in Area Hospital**  
Hospitals in Monroe County performed better than or as well as others across the state in 2011 as far as preventing certain infections that patients can pick up during their stay. Strong Memorial reduced its rate of central line-associated blood stream infections in the cardiothoracic ICU and was at the state average. Dr. Paul Graman, the hospital’s epidemiologist, said procedures in that unit stayed the same and there could have been fewer high-risk patients in 2011 than the previous year.

**13WHAM-TV** (December 9, 2012)  
**Music Students Fine-Tune Skills with Boxing**  
“You’re always working on technique, you’re always focusing on that,” Eastman School of Music student Andrew O’Connor said. That’s a technique O’Connor has not only developed in a practice room, but on the gym floor with jabs and upper cuts.

**Brighton Pittsford Post** (December 8, 2012)  
**Newsmaker Q&A: David Higgs**  
Brighton resident David Higgs got an early start on his career as a church organist when he was 10 years old, and he hasn’t slowed down since. He was director of music and an organist at Park Avenue Christian Church and associate organist of the Riverside Church, where he also conducted the Riverside Choral Society. He has also served on the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music and is now chair of the Organ Department at the Eastman School of Music.

**Rochester Democrat and Chronicle** (December 4)  
**Area Colleges Consider Total Smoking Bans**  
University of Rochester: Smoking is prohibited on the Medical Center and the Eastman Dental Center campuses, as well as the School of Medicine and Dentistry and the School of Nursing. On the River Campus, smoking is prohibited within a 30-foot boundary of building entrances and air intakes.
Rochester Institute of Technology: Smoking is prohibited within 25 feet of any residential facility.

**10WHEC-TV (December 6)**
University Of Rochester A Capella Group To Perform At White House
Eleven undergraduate members of the University of Rochester’s all-female a cappella group, Vocal Point, have been invited to sing at the White House. (Also Reported in: Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, 13WHAM-TV, Brighton-Pittsford Post, YNN)

**Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (December 10)**
Renée Fleming, Other Eastman Grads Nominated For Grammys
Eastman School of Music graduate Renée Fleming, who grew up in Churchville, has again been nominated for a Grammy award. The soprano is up for best classical voice solo for Poèmes, her album of French songs by Ravel, Messiaen, and Dutilleux, recorded with the Orchestra National de France and Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France.

**Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (December 22)**
University Of Rochester Computing Center Gets Boost with $5 Million In State Aid
The University of Rochester’s partnership with IBM for using supercomputers to help make UR a biomedical research center got a big boost with Wednesday’s announcement that this initiative is getting $5 million in state aid. “We are building on our investment. This will allow us to stay competitive with other medical centers and universities,” said David Topham, director of the center.