Selected Coverage May 2012

MSNBC (May 23)
Babies Know What’s Boring, Study Finds
Babies may be sponges for learning new information, but they are indeed active sponges, with new research showing that babies as young as 7 months are able to parse out the too-complex and downright boring, homing in on situations with just the right amount of “wow, how interesting” learning potential. The study results, detailed this week online in the open-access journal PLoS ONE, provide evidence for an idea about baby cognition that makes intuitive sense, said lead study author Celeste Kidd, a doctoral candidate in brain and cognitive sciences at the University of Rochester. (Also Reported in: MSNBC, New York Times, Discovery News, LiveScience.com, ABC News, Daily Mail, The Telegraph, Yahoo! News, Sify, Science Daily, and others)

UPI (May 4)
Stroke patients not getting diagnosed
A study of 40,777 stroke patients found 42 percent underwent brain imaging within the recommended 25 minutes of hospital arrival, researchers say. Lead author Dr. Adam Kelly, a neurologist at the University of Rochester Medical Center, said brain imaging is an essential tool in the diagnosis of a stroke and determines which treatment to pursue. Strokes caused by a blockage in one of the arteries that serve the brain – ischemic strokes – are candidates for the clot-busting drug tissue plasminogen activator, which can restore blood flow and improve clinical outcomes.

New York Times (May 5)
Zvi Zeitlin, Violinist Who Championed Modernist Composers, Dies at 90
Zvi Zeitlin, an internationally renowned violinist known for interpreting the work of contemporary composers, died on Wednesday in Rochester. He was 90. His death was announced by the Eastman School of Music. At his death, Mr. Zeitlin was distinguished professor of violin at the University of Rochester. Mr. Zeitlin, who had announced his intention to retire from Eastman this summer, had taught there since 1967. Simultaneously maintaining an active concert schedule, he was for decades part of a triumvirate of sought-after violin pedagogues – the others were Dorothy DeLay of the Juilliard School and Josef Gingold of Indiana University – teaching at major American conservatories. Over the years Mr. Zeitlin appeared as a soloist with many of the world’s leading orchestras, under conductors including Pierre Boulez, James Levine, Zubin Mehta, Lorin Maazel and Antal Dorati. (Also Reported in: NPR, Rochester Democrat and Chronicle)


**U.S. News & World Report (May 2)**

**Study Redefines What a Healthy Vagina Is**

Bacteria that live normally in the vagina differ from woman to woman and can even change dramatically in short periods of time in the same woman, a new analysis reveals. “This certainly changes the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of vaginosis (bacterial infection in the vagina),” said Stephen Dewhurst, chairman of microbiology and immunology at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York. “Among other things, this makes vaginosis much harder to diagnose. If [vaginal bacteria] change over time, how sure are you that this really is vaginosis?”

(Also Reported in: Yahoo! News, Newsday, HealthDay, MSNBC, Health.com)

**Washington Post (May 13)**

**Ryan budget still an issue in congressional races**

The issue in question is the budget proposal issued by House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-Wis.), and what it does to Medicare in particular. A few hours away at the University of Rochester, Rep. Kathy Hochul (D-N.Y.) used a meeting with college students to blast Ryan’s idea of cutting $200 million in Pell grants and for not initially supporting an extension of lower student loan interest rates.

**Irish Times (May 22)**

**Why is the ApoE4 gene linked with Alzheimer’s risk?**

When it comes to genes and the risk of developing a disease, the relationships are seldom clear-cut. But it does seem that carrying a particular type of apolipoprotein E (ApoE) gene is linked with an increased risk of Alzheimer’s disease. “We are beginning to understand much more about how ApoE4 may be contributing to Alzheimer’s disease,” says researcher Dr. Robert Bell from the University of Rochester in a release. “In the presence of ApoE4, increased cyclophilin A causes a breakdown of the cells lining the blood vessels in Alzheimer’s disease in the same way it does in cardiovascular disease or abdominal aneurysm.”

(Also Reported in: The Guardian, Times of India)

**New York Times (May 18)**

**Early Word on 2012 College Admission Yields and Wait-List Offers**

Every year, as one cohort of college students is accepted and another crop starts filling out applications, colleges across the country calculate one final measurement of their admission season success: the admission yield. University of Rochester: Yield of 23.9 percent, down slightly from 24.1 last year. It expects to admit fewer than five students from its wait list.

**MSN (May 3)**

**Many Breast Cancer Patients in Their 40s Aren’t ‘High-Risk’: Study**

More than half of women in their 40s diagnosed with breast cancer after a routine mammogram had no family history of the disease, finds a new study that may add to the debate over the timing of breast cancer screening. Family history usually means a first-degree relative with the disease (parent, sibling or child). Of those without family history who were found to have breast cancer, “64 percent of these women had invasive disease,” said researcher Dr. Stamatia Destounis, a radiologist at Elizabeth Wende Breast Care Center and a clinical associate professor at the University of Rochester in New York. (Also Reported in: U.S. News & World Report, Newsday, Philadelphia Inquirer, HealthDay, Newsday, Health.com)

**Bloomberg News (May 14)**

**Common Cause Seeks End to Republicans’ Use of Filibuster**

Common Cause, a Washington-based watchdog organization, is asking a federal court to overturn the Senate filibuster, which Republicans have used more since Democrats captured the chamber in 2007. “All Senate rules exist because a majority believes that they are better off with the rules than without them,” said David Primo, a professor of political science at the University of Rochester in New York. “The majority party always complains about filibuster abuses, but they never get rid of it because they want the same protections when they are in the minority.”
**New York Times (May 5)**

**Books From Japan and Poland Win Translation Awards**
A novel from Poland and a collection of Japanese poetry have received prizes for best translations. Winning authors and translators will divide $20,000 in prize money donated by Amazon.com. The awards were announced Friday by Three Percent, an online resource for international literature based at the University of Rochester. (Also Reported in: ABC News, CBS News, NPR, Wall Street Journal, San Francisco Chronicle, Seattle Times, Miami Herald, Newsday, and others)

**Yahoo! News (May 23)**

**IUDs, Implants Best for Long-Term Birth Control: Study**
Long-term, reversible birth control options include IUDs and implants. An IUD is a small, T-shaped device inserted into your uterus. “It’s a simple office procedure that you can have the same day you talk to your doctor about it. It’s inserted through a small tube, and it takes about 30 seconds,” said Dr. Sarah J. Betstadt, an assistant professor in the department of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York. (Also Reported in: U.S. News & World Report, Huffington Post, Newsday, WebMD, MSN, Philadelphia Inquirer, HealthDay)

**Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (May 6)**

**Over Garbage Plates, Charles Schumer vows to push for College Town project**
The suited trio was there, in part, to talk about University of Rochester’s College Town, and Sen. Charles Schumer’s pledge to push for federal approval of a loan and tax credits that will cover $25 million of the $140 million project. They also were there because Schumer, D-NY, wanted a cheesburger Garbage Plate, with macaroni salad and home fries – light on the onions. UR President Joel Seligman and his colleagues suggested Chipotle, a restaurant on Mt. Hope Avenue where College Town will develop. Schumer wouldn’t have it. The project is seen as both fueling neighborhood revitalization in an area of the southeast already on the rise, and creating an even stronger connection between the city and UR campus. UR has likened College Town to its front porch. Mayor Thomas Richards called it a gateway to the city. (Also Reported in: 13WHAM-TV, 10WHEC-TV, YNN)

**Rochester Business Journal (May 21)**

**UR’s education school gets nearly $2M for program**
The University of Rochester Warner School of Education has received $1.95 million from the U.S. Department of Education for a project to provide instruction to English language learners, university officials announced Monday. The program, funded through the education department’s office of English language acquisition, will last five years and provide English language learners with instruction across academic subjects and prepare them for success after high school, UR officials said. New York is home to a rapidly growing population of these students.

**NPR (May 31)**

**With Prostate Cancer, Is It Better Not To Know? (“Talk of the Nation” caller)**
You know, so I’m kind of grateful. I had actually gone through an experimental ultrasound procedure at the University of Rochester, where they’re trying to develop a Doppler-enhanced device that would be able to better monitor potential prostate cancer. And they did find an abnormal tissue area. I knew enough about the imaging science to understand what was going on.

**UPI (May 31)**

**Exercise helps no matter fitness level**
Karen Mustian, an assistant professor of radiation oncology at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York, and colleagues said when patients walk in the door, they want to know how to tailor exercise to their situation. “The scientific community has not settled into a place where we’ve developed explicit exercise prescriptions, or can effectively narrow the choices for patients,” Mustian said in a statement.

**Fox Providence (May 2)**

**Brown will pay Providence $31.5M more**
Brown University on Tuesday bowed to heavy pressure and agreed to pay the city of Providence
$31.5 million over the next 11 years, helping Mayor Angel Taveras in his efforts to keep the capital out of bankruptcy the same day another Wall Street firm downgraded its bond rating. “At some point it’s necessary to turn the page,” Simmons said. She expressed hope that in the coming years the university can boost economic development in Providence the way the University of Rochester and other institutions there have helped that New York city weather the decline of Kodak, its largest employer.

_Rochester Business Journal (May 4)_
**New UR major to focus on digital media**
The University of Rochester plans to begin offering an interdisciplinary digital media studies major this fall and envisions a multimillion-dollar facility to house it. The major will focus on analyzing and producing digital media, from a science and technology background as well as the arts and humanities. University officials said it continues in UR’s tradition of interdisciplinary research and learning. (Also Reported in: _Democrat and Chronicle_)

_Chicago Tribune (May 30)_
**Field guide to the overachiever: Being too good can be bad**
“Overachievers have an underlying fear of failure or a self-worth contingent upon competence,” says University of Rochester psychologist Andrew Elliot. “Rather than setting and striving for goals based on a pure desire to achieve, their underlying motivation impels them out into the world to avoid failure.”

_MSN (May 28)_
**Doubt Case on Usefulness of ‘Sensory’ Therapies for Autism**
Sensory therapies using brushes, swings and other play equipment are increasingly used by occupational therapists to treat children with developmental issues such as autism, but a large pediatricians organization says there isn’t much evidence that such therapies actually work. Instead, some other issue could underlie their reactions to stimuli, such as a behavioral issue, said Dr. Susan Hyman, chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics subcommittee on autism and an associate professor of pediatrics at University of Rochester Medical Center, in Rochester, N.Y. (Also Reported in: _Newsday, Yahoo! News, U.S. News & World Report, Philadelphia Inquirer_)

_MSNBC (May 7)_
**Mothers like chubby toddlers, study suggests**
Mothers of overweight toddlers often mistakenly think their children are normal weight, and mothers of underweight toddlers often wish they were plumper, U.S. researchers said on Monday. The concern among scientists is that children’s eating habits are shaped when they are very young, said Dr. Stephen Cook, a member of the Executive Committee of the Section on Obesity for the American Academy of Pediatrics and associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Rochester Medical Center. (Also Reported in: _ABC News, Chicago Tribune, CNBC, Reuters, Toronto Sun, and others_)

_Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (May 20)_
**Viola Congress bringing world-class musicians to Rochester**
Imagine 400 violists unpacking their dark-voiced instruments and plunging into five days of concerts and master classes in Rochester. From May 30 to June 3, roughly 400 violists will perform, teach and learn at the 40th Annual International Viola Congress. The Eastman School of Music will host musicians from Gibbs Street to China in a unique celebration of the violin’s big sister.

_Forbes.com (May 23)_
**Will More Follow GM’s Facebook Exit – or Leave Super Bowl?**
General Motors has decided to make dramatic exits from advertising on Facebook and during the Super Bowl, for now. But while GM had its own particular reasons for busting those moves, are others in the auto industry compelled by parts of its rationale? George Cook, executive professor of marketing at the University of Rochester and a former Ford marketing executive, agreed that “Facebook will suffer [more than] Super Bowl advertising since the average CMO’s perspective is that, albeit very pricey, the Super Bowl with its vast audience will grant the auto manufacturer the highest level of product exposure. Facebook is still very, very new and has a lot to prove with regard to producing sales results.”
CNN.com (May 24)
More evidence links calcium supplements to heart attacks
Calcium supplements, widely taken by older people to prevent bone fractures, may be doing more harm than good, a large new study suggests. “People who take supplemental calcium have a surge in [blood] calcium levels, and we know that surge increases calcium uptake in atherosclerotic plaques,” says Christopher Cove, M.D., assistant director of the cardiac catheterization lab at the University of Rochester Medical Center, in Rochester, N.Y. (Also Reported in: Health.com)

MSNBC (May 7)
1 in 8 teens misuses prescription painkillers
One in eight older teens has used powerful painkillers when they weren’t prescribed — and many of them start misusing the medications earlier than was previously assumed, according to new research. “The non-medical use of controlled medications in (teens) has surpassed almost all illicit drugs except for marijuana,” said pediatrician Dr. Robert Fortuna, from the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York. (Also Reported in: Huffington Post, Baltimore Sun, Chicago Tribune, Fox News, South Florida Sun Sentinel)

U.S. News & World Report (May 11)
4 Benefits for International Students at U.S. High Schools
4. Social acculturation: The college experience in the United States doesn’t end when class is dismissed, and coming to high school here can prepare students to succeed socially, too. “[Parents] are probably giving their students a big leg up when it comes to being socially integrated,” says Jon Burdick, dean of admissions and financial aid at the University of Rochester.

Rochester City Newspaper (May 10)
Paley sculpture announced for MAG park
Paley sculpture announced for MAG park Memorial Art Gallery announced today that it has commissioned a 25-foot stainless steel sculpture by Albert Paley as one of the anchor installations of its planned Centennial Sculpture Park. The new work, titled “Soliloquy,” will sit at MAG’s Goodman Street entrance, and will be installed next year as the Gallery counts down to its 100th anniversary. (Also Reported in: Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, 13WHAM-TV)

U.S. News & World Report (May 8)
That Long Commute May Be Harming Your Health
For busy people, “the key is not being intimidated by exercise,” said Dr. Bryan Henry, an assistant professor of medicine at the University of Rochester Medical Center in Rochester, N.Y. “No one after an hour-long commute home from work is going to want to jump on an elliptical machine,” Henry said. “But just short exercise commitments can work. That could mean walking farther from the parking lot or taking a 10-minute walk here and there. It can easily add up to the equivalent of a 40-minute brisk walk.” (Also Reported in: MSN, HealthDay)

ABC News (May 3)
Tasty Food Fuels Run for Seconds
People who fill up on tasty treats are more likely to return for seconds than those who eat food that’s boring and bland, a new study found. Dr. Stephen Cook, a pediatrician at the University of Rochester Medical Center, said the study offers some important food for thought on the development of food preferences.

Wired (May 31)
‘Schrödinger’s Hat’ Uses Invisibility to Measure Quantum World
“Conceptually, a Schrödinger’s hat is like an invisible battery. It captures a tiny bit of energy without fiddling with the [energy] waves so you can later get a measurement,” said Allan Greenleaf, a mathematician at the University of Rochester. Greenleaf co-authored a study of the Schrödinger’s hats published May 29 in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. “If you’re trying to image something at the nanoscale, say a computer chip or nanodevice, you might get very close to it without disturbing it,” continued Greenleaf.

EconomicPrincipals.com (May 14)
History Matters
When Harvard president Drew Faust, a historian, overruled her economics department in the spring of 2008 and passed up the chance to hire the husband-and-wife team of Christina and David Romer, certain compensations were set in train. The Harvard economics department was permitted to hire as part-time visiting professor, Stanley Engerman, of the University of Rochester, the most distinguished economic historian in the country, not counting Nobel laureate Robert Fogel, his research partner on their landmark study of the economics of slavery before the US Civil War, Time On the Cross.

Yahoo! News (May 14)
Have a Nice Colonoscopy: New Test Eliminates Probing, Laxative
Colonoscopies could be made a bit more comfortable for people if they involved lying in a CT scanner, rather than being probed with an endoscope, and at the same time didn’t require drinking upward of a gallon of laxative fluid beforehand – current requirements that most consider unpleasant. While laxative-free screening
might increase the number of people who get colon cancer screening, “I don’t think it will be the big game changer that [the authors] suggest,” said Dr. John Monson, chief of the division of colorectal surgery at the University of Rochester Medical Center, in New York, who was not involved in the study. (Also Reported in: MSNBC)

MSN (May 23)
Cancer Docs Often Deal With Own Grief, Doubts When Patients Die
Some cancer doctors may build up emotional walls – distancing themselves from the patients they can’t save – to avoid grief, sadness and even despair, new research shows. An accompanying journal commentary described how one institution is dealing with the situation. Since 2008, the University of Rochester Medical Center in Rochester, N.Y. has held staff-support meetings – mandatory for oncology fellows – where practitioners are encouraged to discuss their experiences with patient loss and grief. (Also Reported in: Newsday, HealthDay, Yahoo! News, U.S. News & World Report, Toronto Star)

U.S. News & World Report (May 30)
Infant ‘Smarts’ Similar With Different Types of Formula: Study
“This study should be a great relief to people who have been using soy formula,” said Dr. Ruth Lawrence, medical director of the Breastfeeding and Human Lactation Study Center at the University of Rochester Medical Center, who was not involved in the study. “[But] you really have to see what the babies do when they have to learn to read and do social things,” Lawrence said. Badger and his colleagues will test the babies in the study when they are 6 years old to see if there are differences in test scores or behavior later in life. (Also Reported in: Yahoo! News, MSN, Newsday, HealthDay)

ABC News (May 31)
Girls Can Hang Athletically With the Boys, Says Study
Nevertheless, Dr. Stephen Cook, a fellow in pediatrics at University of Rochester Medical Center, said, “it is far better to participate in regular exercise and active forms of leisure that can be lifelong, like biking, jogging, hiking, swimming, versus competitive sports. Parents can and do role model this in good ways to their children, both boys and girls.”

Rochester Business Journal (May 9)
UR receives funding for crop protection project
A biologist at the University of Rochester has received a $100,000 grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for research into how to protect crops without using toxic pesticides, UR officials announced Wednesday.

Rochester Business Journal (May 16)
UR boosts faculty diversity, report shows
A greater number of women and underrepresented minorities were hired on the faculty at the University of Rochester during the 2010-2011 academic year, making incremental progress toward the university’s goals of creating more diversity in the faculty and throughout curricula.

USA Today (May 5)
CDC has yet to respond to lead-standards recommendation
Four months ago, a federal scientific advisory panel made a landmark recommendation that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention cut by half the amount of lead in a child’s blood that should trigger protective actions by doctors, health departments and parents. Yet the agency still hasn’t responded, raising concerns among some advisers and health organizations whether politics is delaying the action and putting children at risk. “Clearly the committee made this recommendation expecting some response back from CDC,” said Deborah Cory-Slechta, co-chair of the workgroup at CDC’s Advisory Committee on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention that wrote the Jan. 4 report recommending the change and giving CDC a 90-day deadline to respond. “I think this is causing a lot of stomach acid. I think that’s what’s happening,” said Cory-Slechta, a professor of environmental medicine at the University of Rochester.

USA Today (May 4)
Suicide: The fourth-leading cause of American deaths abroad
Suicide by an American in a foreign country is a more common occurrence than might be thought. It’s the fourth-leading cause of death abroad from non-natural causes after road accidents, homicides and drowning, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Some people intentionally travel to landmarks or “iconic sites” – including well-known bridges, towers, mountains and buildings – to commit suicide, says Eric Caine, chairman of the psychiatry department of the University of Rochester Medical Center in Rochester, N.Y. Some psychologists suggest that the relatively large number of American suicides overseas in South Korea may involve many dual-
national parks, returning to their home country, and Shira and Caine point out that South Korea has a high suicide rate.

**Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (May 8)**

Secrets for startups
Over the past decade, the University of Rochester licensed technologies to more than 50 start-up companies. We have watched these companies grow, struggle and develop. While all start-ups are different, and they succeed or fail for a variety of reasons, those that are successful share some important characteristics.

**Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (May 14)**

Aspiring entrepreneurs to present proposals at UR
Aspiring University of Rochester student entrepreneurs will present their business proposals to a panel of judges during the sixth annual Mark Ain Business Model Competition, which will be held Wednesday. The competition is open to UR undergraduate and grad students, with the top three teams receiving a total of $13,500 in cash to be used for starting up their businesses.

**CNN (May 17)**

Coffee drinking linked to longer life
Drinking a daily cup of coffee – or even several cups – isn’t likely to harm your health, and it may even lower your risk of dying from chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease, a new study in the New England Journal of Medicine suggests. Although these reductions in risk might seem modest, they could have potentially dramatic implications for public health if spread out over the tens of millions of coffee drinkers in the United States, says Susan Fisher, Ph.D., chair of community and preventive medicine at the University of Rochester Medical Center, in Rochester, New York.

**WXXI (May 9)**

New Exhibit Accompanies Documentary on Mental Illness at the MAG
An annual Rochester film series – aiming to dispel the stigmas of mental illness – expands this year including artwork by artists suffering from mental health problems. The Reel Mind Film Series at the Memorial Art Gallery will feature 50 pieces of artwork from the Mental Health Association’s Creative Wellness Coalition. Veronica Weider is the director of the coalition. She says melding the art exhibit with the film series would help eliminate misconceptions and fears about mental illnesses.

**WebMD (May 24)**

Vigorous Exercise Might Protect Against Psoriasis
Exposure to ultraviolet light is a psoriasis treatment, so time spent outdoors exercising, and not the exercise itself, might have explained the lowered risk of the disease, Qureshi says. But his study found that women who ran for only an hour a week had a significantly reduced risk of developing psoriasis than women who spent at least four hours walking outside at an average pace. Chris Ritchlin, MD, MPH, a University of Rochester rheumatologist, calls Qureshi’s findings “very interesting.” Still, Ritchlin says, while exercise is known to be associated with reduced inflammation, “is there something about people who are really athletically inclined that we’re not thinking about that would prevent them from getting psoriasis?”

**Huffington Post (May 1)**

Mindfulness Meditation May Help Doctors Provide Better Care, Study Suggests
Mindfulness meditation doesn’t just lower stress and regulate our emotions – it could also improve a doctor’s ability to care for his or her patient, according to a new study. Researchers from the University of Rochester Medical Center found that training doctors in mindfulness meditation helped them to listen better and not be as judgmental both at home and at work. The study will be published in the June issue of the journal Academic Medicine. For the study, doctors in Rochester, N.Y., participated in a mindfulness meditation training course that consisted of eight weekly two-and-a-half-hour sessions, one all-day session, and then 10 monthly two-and-a-half-hour sessions of mindfulness training. The researchers interviewed 20 of these doctors after the training program.

**Rochester Business Journal (May 25)**

Heart association leader lauds research done here
Federal research funding has gotten scarcer in recent years and competition for the remaining money has intensified, but the University of Rochester’s collaborations and investments in research infrastructure have given it an advantage, the head of the American Heart Association said this week. On a visit to Rochester for an event honoring local organizations for their efforts to promote cardiovascular health and stroke prevention, national association CEO Nancy Brown praised UR for its research.

**Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (May 11)**

UR adds supercomputer for health science center
The IBM supercomputer – Blue Gene/P – that was given the University of Rochester four years ago has the power of 4,000 desktop computers. Blue Gene/P will soon be joined by Blue Gene/Q, which is 14 times more powerful than UR’s first supercomputer. It could be here by early summer. UR officials, who announced details of the acquisition on Thursday, said the new supercomputer costs $3.5 million – purchased with funds from a $5
million state grant – and marks another step in UR becoming a computational center of national note in the health sciences. “Rochester has generated large data sets that require powerful computers to make sense of that data,” said David Topham, director of UR’s Health Sciences Center for Computational Innovation. (Also Reported in: Rochester Business Journal)