Selected Coverage September 2012

**New York Times (September 3)**

**How to Cope at the Airport Without a Wallet**

*By Mark Zupan*

Despite all the traveling I do, I’m still a bit of a nervous flier. Therefore, it doesn’t really make any sense that I flew with the Blue Angels last year after they offered the University of Rochester one seat on one of their planes. Several of us at the university received an e-mail invitation, and the first person to respond would get to go. I responded first. I figured it would be a good thing to do, until the day started approaching.

*Mark Zupan is the dean of the Simon School of Business at the University of Rochester.*  (Also Reported in: *Seattle Times*)

**Daily Mail (September 14)**

**Taking statins every day could slash risk of cancer**

Scientists at the University of Rochester Medical Center discovered new genetic evidence linking cholesterol and cancer. The find means patients could one day be given statins to protect against developing cancer and to treat potential tumours. Lead researcher Dr. Hartmut Land said: “Scientifically it is very satisfying to have data that support longstanding ideas about cholesterol in the context of cancer. Our paper provides a rationale for cholesterol-targeting as a potentially fruitful approach to cancer intervention or prevention strategies.”  (Also Reported in: *CBSNews.com, MSN.com*)

**UPI (September 12)**

**Study: Bacteria made a meal of gulf spill**

Researchers from the University of Rochester and Texas A&M University analyzed an extensive data set to determine not only how much oil and gas was eaten and removed by naturally occurring bacteria following the Deepwater Horizon disaster, but also how the characteristics of this feast changed with time. “A significant amount of the oil and gas that was released was retained within the ocean water more than one-half mile below the sea surface,” study co-author John Kessler of the University of Rochester said.  (Also Reported in: *ABC News, MSNBC, Mother Nature Network, Yahoo! India, Democratic Underground, R&D Magazine, Science Daily, 13WHAM-TV*, and others)

**Inside Higher Ed (September 11)**

**U. of Rochester Adopts ‘Test-Flexible’ Admissions Policy**

The University of Rochester has announced that it will no longer require all undergraduate applicants to submit either the SAT or ACT, but they will still have to submit some test. Others that might be used include the SAT subject exams, Advanced Placement tests or International
Baccalaureate tests. In a statement, Jonathan Burdick, dean of admissions and financial aid, said: “Many prospective students ‘test well’ on general standardized exams, and bring that ability to campus, while some are best at mastering specific material in subjects that interest them most, and bring that diligence and focus. Both kinds of students can thrive at Rochester, and both will do best when they find each other here and develop many ways to collaborate and challenge each other.”

NIH Research Matters (September 17)
New Brain Cleaning System Discovered
Scientists have discovered a system that drains waste products from the brain. The finding may reveal new ways to treat neurodegenerative disorders like Alzheimer’s disease. In a new study, a research team led by Drs. Jeffrey Iliff and Maiken Nedergaard at the University of Rochester Medical Center used a method called 2-photon laser scanning microscopy to analyze the flow of cerebrospinal fluid in living mouse brains. This new technology allowed the scientists to study the intact brain in real time. They injected tracer molecules into the subarachnoid space, a cerebrospinal fluid-filled cavity between the membranes that cover the brain and spinal cord. Their work, funded in part by NIH’s National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), appeared in the August 15, 2012, issue of Science Translational Medicine.

Rochester Business Journal (September 14)
UR researcher wins $630,000 award
The director of the University of Rochester’s Center for Visual Science has received the Antonio Champalimaud Vision Award at a ceremony Friday in Lisbon, Portugal, winning some $630,000 for research along with it. The award was given to David Williams, a faculty member at UR’s Institute of Optics and dean for research in Arts, Science, and Engineering. (Also Reported in: 8WROC-TV, Messenger Post Media, San Marino Tribune, News-Medical.net, Photonics.com, AZoOptics.com)

Gramophone.co.uk
Dominick Argento endows Eastman School of Music with professorship worth $1.5m
Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Dominick Argento is to endow a professorship to the University of Rochester’s Eastman School of Music in the US state of New York. The position, worth $1.5m, will be named the Dominick J Argento Professor in honour of the composer, who received his PhD from the School.

Huffington Post (September 26)
The White Elephant in Romney’s Room (blog)
For decades, scholars in the field of critical race theory have demonstrated how “whiteness” is not a universal standard but instead a specific social identity built upon unearned entitlements. Romney’s whiteness is most flagrant not in the remarkable privilege he enjoyed, but in his denial of how his race has fundamentally influenced his life’s trajectory.
Stephanie Li is an associate professor of English at the University of Rochester and the author of Signifying Without Specifying: Racial Discourse in the Age of Obama (2012, Rutgers), Something Akin to Freedom, which won the First Book Prize in African American Studies (2010, SUNY Press), and a short biography of Toni Morrison.

NPR (September 8)
In Campaign, A Battle Over Owning America’s Story
“Storytelling forms the heart of political rhetoric,” says Curt Smith, who wrote many of the speeches that George H.W. Bush delivered while in the White House. “Ronald Reagan once told me, if you give someone 10 facts and one story and if the story is told well, it’s the story that you recall.” Both carve out America as something that, more than 200 years later, remains unique. And both use their version of the story as what Smith, who teaches presidential rhetoric at the University of Rochester, calls “an umbilical cord – connecting tissue between the speaker and the audience, between one human being and millions of human beings.” (Also Reported in: ABC News, Newsday, Tennessean, Santa Maria Times, Scottsbluff Star-Hearld, Florida Times-Union, Minneapolis Star Tribune)
ABCNews.com (September 7)
Red Wine and Blood Pressure (video)
Dr. John Cullen, University of Rochester Medical Center, says red nonalcoholic red wine relaxes blood vessels.

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (September 12)
University of Rochester ranked 33rd in latest U.S. News & World Report
Three local colleges rose in the U.S. News & World Report’s annual rankings, while four others dropped and another college stayed the same.
The University of Rochester was rated 33rd in the National University category – two notches above its ranking a year ago. Harvard University and Princeton University finished tied for first in this category. (Also Reported in: 10WROC-TV, YNN, 13WHAM-TV, Rochester Business Journal, Syracuse Post-Standard, Boston Globe, Boston Herald)

Wall Street Journal (September 23)
Change in GMAT Equation: Chinese Flock to the Test
Meanwhile, new specialized master’s programs appeal to students, particularly those from China, eager to delve deeper into a single subject and gain a credential to compete with the growing population of educated young adults, without taking much time out of the workforce. The University of Rochester’s Simon Graduate School of Business has received a sharp uptick in interest from China, particularly for its relatively young master’s degrees in finance and accounting. The school beefed up its recruiting effort in China three years ago, said Dean Mark Zupan, after recognizing that the Chinese education system’s focus on quantitative skills would provide a good grounding for students in its finance-heavy programs. After posting a 14% gain in applications from Chinese students for the class that started in the fall of 2011, the M.S. in accountancy recorded a 50% jump for this year. Chinese applications also rose for the M.S. in finance and M.S. in business, though not quite as dramatically.

Neurology Today (September 21)
Promising Step Forward Toward Muscular Dystrophy Treatment: Symptoms Reversed in Mice
The investigators say that while the work is an encouraging step forward against myotonic dystrophy, one of the most common forms of muscular dystrophy, it’s too soon to know whether the approach will work in patients. But they are cautiously optimistic, noting that the compound is extremely effective at reversing the disease – whose genetic underpinnings make it particularly vulnerable to an antisense approach – in a mouse model. “These results give us strong encouragement about the possibility of developing a treatment that could fundamentally alter the disease. It’s an important step on a long path,” said senior author Charles Thornton, M.D., a neurologist at the University of Rochester Medical Center who has been pursuing new treatments for the disease for more than two decades.

Rochester City Newspaper (September 19)
Wall wizardry
The Memorial Art Gallery holds four exhibitions per year in its Grand Gallery, and its exhibition program “tries to run along a similar track, although not exactly mirroring” the broad permanent collection, says Director of Exhibitions Marie Via, who will soon celebrate her 30th anniversary at the MAG. “So we’re trying to pick shows that cover a span of media, local versus national and international, historical versus contemporary art.” With only those four slots per year, it’s difficult to cover that diversity in any 12 months, “so we’re really looking at a three-year period,” she says. Over the course of three years, MAG aims for dynamism in order to meet the diverse tastes of its broad audience. From the fall of 2009 through the current exhibit, the Grand Gallery has presented a wide variety of shows, ranging from the locally focused Rochester-Finger Lakes and Rochester Biennial shows, to the ancient-to-modern “Wine & Spirit,” to the popular “Extreme Materials.” These are a combination of
packaged traveling exhibitions rented from other institutions that MAG interprets for the Rochester audience, and built-from-scratch shows that originated at the MAG.

**ABCNews.com (September 26)**

**Increase In Knee Replacement Surgery**

A new study, completed in part by a University of Rochester researcher, shows that knee replacement surgeries increased by 142 percent among Medicare patients in the past 20 years. University of Rochester researcher Dr. Stephen Kates co-authored the study. Dr. Kates said knee replacement surgery has become one of the most expensive diagnoses because it is growing disproportionately to the population.

**WXXI (September 4)**

**Debussy “La Mer” manuscript offers tantalizing mystery**

In October, students and faculty at the Eastman School of Music will kick off a major festival to celebrate the sesquicentennial of the birth of French composer Claude Debussy. Rochester is an important destination for Debussy fans and researchers because of a single, rare document, a document that presented scholars with an unexpected puzzle.

**ABC News (September 19)**

**MS Patients Might Benefit From New Oral Drug**

Thousands of Americans who suffer from multiple sclerosis (MS) might one day be able to take advantage of a drug that new research suggests is both safe and effective. “There is a great need for effective oral agents with acceptable safety profiles for MS patients with mild disease,” said Dr. Lawrence Samkoff, associate professor of neurology at the University of Rochester in Rochester, N.Y., who was not involved with the study. “These newer oral medications will inaugurate a new era in the treatment of relapsing MS, giving patients and their physicians more choices.” (Also Reported in: Yahoo! News, Akron News-Reporter)

**CNN (September 5)**

**Household chemical linked to heart disease**

Prior studies in humans, animals, and petri dishes have suggested several pathways through which PFOA might affect heart health. PFOA exposure has been associated, for instance, with blood-vessel dysfunction, high “bad” cholesterol (LDL), low “good” cholesterol (HDL), and insulin resistance, all of which are risk factors for cardiovascular disease. Even if this preliminary research is borne out, however, it’s important to remember that obesity, smoking, high blood pressure, and other classic risk factors are responsible for an overwhelming majority of heart attacks, says Eugene Storozynsky, M.D., Ph.D., a cardiologist and internist at the University of Rochester Medical Center, in Rochester, N.Y. (Also Reported in: Health.com)

**Technology Review (September 10)**

**Artificial Intelligence, Powered by Many Humans**

Personal assistants such as Apple’s Siri may be useful, but they are still far from matching the smarts and conversational skills of a real person. Researchers at the University of Rochester have demonstrated a new, potentially better approach that creates a smart artificial chat partner from fleeting contributions from many crowdsourced workers.

**U.S. News & World Report (September 20)**

**Year of Taking Risky Blood Thinners May Be Unnecessary After Stent Surgery**

But Dr. Christopher Cove, associate professor of medicine and assistant director of the cardiac catheterization lab at University of Rochester Medical Center in New York, cautioned it would be a mistake to think it’s safe to stop double anti-platelet therapy based on the new research. Larger studies are needed, he added. “We know that [double anti-platelet therapy] is beneficial as compared to aspirin alone in large groups of patients, and that there’s a high risk of bleeding with it,” Cove said. “What we really need to know is, if we have to stop double anti-platelet therapy, when is the safe time to do that.” (Also Reported in: iVillage, Newsday, MedBroadcast.net, MSN.com)
**ABC News (September 19)**  
Weight and Taste Sensitivity Are Linked, New Study Says  
The secret to avoiding weight gain may be residing on the top of your tongue. According to a new German study, obese children have less sensitive taste buds than kids of normal weight, and that may drive them to eat more. **Dr. Stephen Cook**, associate professor at the **Golisano Children’s Hospital**, at the **University of Rochester**, said he thought obese kids might also become over-habituated to taste over time. “They may get so used to certain flavors, they need to consume them at an ever-increasing threshold to notice their taste,” he said. (Also Reported in: **Akron News-Reporter**)

**Inside Higher Ed (September 7)**  
Lost in the Storm  
**David M. Primo**, director of graduate studies at the **University of Rochester**, said that the political science conference is different from disciplinary meetings in economics or philosophy because it happens months earlier. “As a result, most research universities tend not to conduct formal interviews at APSA. Liberal arts and other four-year schools [colleges] are much more likely to do so,” Primo said in an email. For many liberal arts colleges, APSA is where the hiring process begins, he said. Many research universities interview candidates based on their job applications with no “pre-interviews at APSA or through Skype,” Primo said. “The cancellation of APSA may reduce the likelihood of informal meetings or advisers parading their job candidates around reception to reception, but it probably won’t make much of a difference in hiring for research universities,” he said. “And, for the job candidates, there is a belief (imported by advisers) that it’s important to attend APSA for networking, but I have seen no evidence of an ‘APSA effect’ in this regard.”

**U.S. News & World Report (September 3)**  
How Dog-Savvy Is Your Child?  
“In the summer, dogs are out more, kids are out more, and the more contact that dogs and people have, the more likely it is that somebody will get bitten,” **Dr. Anne Brayer**, a pediatrician in emergency medicine at **University of Rochester Medical Center**, in New York, and director of Injury Free Coalition for Kids, based at URMC, said in a medical center news release. Remaining calm and not aggravating a dog are key elements in preventing dog bites. Dogs bite when they feel anxious or threatened. Staying relaxed when dealing with an aggressive dog can help minimize the threat, Brayer said. (Also Reported in: **MSN.com**)

**San Antonio Express-News (September 5)**  
Candidates boost power of the small business vote  
Small business is almost always an issue in presidential campaigns. This year, it’s morphed into one of the biggest. “The phrase ‘small business’ encompasses the mom-and-pop store, but even somebody who owns a company with 300 employees can think of themselves as a small business,” says **David Primo**, a professor of political science and business administration at the **University of Rochester**. (Also Reported in: **Albany Times Union, Deseret News, Lakeland Ledger**)

**Wall Street Journal (September 14)**  
What to Do When a Fund Manager Retires  
A **University of Rochester** study updated in August didn’t find any outperformance or underperformance. Trailing funds did better after management changes, but that could be chalked up to funds’ tendency to revert to average performance after periods of ups and downs, says **Leonard Kostovetsky**, finance professor at Rochester’s **Simon School of Business**. “Performance does improve, but it’s not because you fired the manager,” he says. Mr. Kostovetsky says investors are more apt to invest in a particular fund once an underperforming manager has been given the boot.

**U.S. News & World Report (September 17)**  
Vitamin D in Pregnancy Critical for Brain Development, Study Says  
To get a better idea of what these differences in developmental scores mean, the authors should evaluate the children when they are 7 or 8 years old and starting to learn to read and write, said **Dr. Ruth Lawrence**, medical director of the Breastfeeding and Human Lactation Study Center at the **University of Rochester Medical Center** in New York. Also, this study does not address
the diet of the babies, Lawrence said. Although vitamin D is in both breast milk and infant formula, cholesterol and the amino acid taurine are only found in breast milk and also affect brain development after birth, she added. (Also Reported in: Newsday, health24.com, MSN.com)

USA Today (September 22)
Heading to college with ADHD brings extra challenges
But parents still play a key role in monitoring their child, staying in touch, and calling attention to small problems before they become big ones. “I think parents have to find the right balance between continuing to be involved in their kids’ lives, but allowing the son or daughter to become their own individual and figure out how to solve their problems,” says physician Ralph Manchester, director of the University Health Service at the University of Rochester (N.Y.), where roughly 5% of students take prescription medication for ADHD. Demand for counseling services has jumped 45% in the last five years.

Innovation Trail (September 26)
Forum told that community engagement is critical to turning around dropout rates
Panel member Dr. David Hursh from the Warner School of Education at the University of Rochester says the standardized tests often used aren’t always the right measure of the level of standards a student is at. “We live in an age where there is an increasing number of high stakes standardized tests being given to students and they’re being used for all sorts of purposes. The concern that I have is that high stakes testing does not necessarily lead to higher standards which is one of the assumptions that’s made.”

WebMD (September 13)
Taking a Shot at Sinking the “Cruise Ship” Virus
Norovirus is responsible for about half of all outbreaks traced to contaminated food or water. It causes 21 million cases of acute gastroenteritis (stomach flu) per year in the United States. “You really can’t do anything while it runs its course,” says researcher John Treanor, MD, chief of the infectious diseases division at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York.

New York Daily News (September 12)
US News & World Report’s Top 10 New York Colleges of 2013
4. University of Rochester – Rank: 33; City: Rochester; Total Enrollment: 10,319; Application Deadline: January 1; 2012-2013 Tuition and Fees: $43,666 (Also Reported in: 10WHEC-TV)

Financial Times (September 4)
Eli Lilly’s solanezumab faces grim prospects of attaining conditional FDA approval in mild Alzheimer’s
In both the EXPEDITION study protocols, mild AD was defined as a baseline Mini-Mental Status Examination (MMSE) score of 20 to 26 and moderate AD was defined as a baseline MMSE score of 16 to 19. Solanezumab would need to have clear benefit on brain imaging scans and beta-amyloid levels that consistently support the cognitive outcomes seen in Phase III in order to gain conditional approval, said Dr. Anton Porsteinsson, professor, Department of Geriatric Psychiatry, University of Rochester Medical Center. Beta-amyloid is a protein most often found in brains of AD patients.

New York Times (September 15)
Michael Wreszin, Biographer of American Radicals, Dies at 85
Michael Wreszin, a biographer of radical 20th-century American intellectuals who were prominent antiwar activists, among them the social critic Dwight Macdonald, died on Aug. 12 in Manhattan. He was 85. Robert Westbrook, a history professor at the University of Rochester, described Mr. Wreszin as a scholar of “American radicals who were hard to pin down.”

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (September 18)
Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council submits plan
The Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council has officially made its 2012 bid for state largesse, submitting a broad-based growth proposal that foresees 50,000 new jobs in the region by 2016. “We believe that – with the continued support of New York state – the region can accelerate its transformation to a diverse and knowledge-based economy and continue to
outperform much of the nation and the state in job growth,” council co-chairs Joel Seligman and Danny Wegman said in a statement accompanying the submission. Seligman is president of the University of Rochester and Wegman is CEO of Wegmans Food Markets Inc. They are the region’s two largest employers.  
(Also Reported in: Rochester Business Journal)

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (September 26)

Rochester-area high tech watches Maggie Brooks-Louise Slaughter race

Brooks disagrees with Slaughter about existing trade agreements and said free trade needs to be supported. “That allows us to be competitive,” she said. Slaughter said supporting research at Rochester’s universities will also help high-tech industries in the area. The Department of Energy, for example, is backing fuel cell research done at the University of Rochester.

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (September 8)

Big donation helps tiny patients at Golisano Children’s Hospital

A $5 million gift will help the littlest patients at the new Golisano Children’s Hospital at the University of Rochester Medical Center. The donation from Georgia Gosnell will go to the 60-bed, newly renamed Gosnell Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. “We view this with gratitude and appreciate the support for what we’re doing,” said Dr. Patricia Chess, a neonatologist at the hospital. “We’re one of those places no one wants to use our services, but it’s good to know we’re there when you need it.”  
(Also Reported in: Rochester Business Journal, YNN, 10WHEC-TV, 13WHAM-TV)

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (September 10)

At Golisano Children’s Hospital site, kids wield ceremonial shovels

UR president Joel Seligman, Golisano Children’s Hospital pediatrician-in-chief Dr. Nina Schor and URMC chief executive officer Dr. Bradford Berk talked about how the new hospital would transform care for children in Rochester and upstate New York. The hospital is the largest capital project in the history of the university. Seligman said its economic impact would go beyond the 1,000 construction jobs expected to be generated.  
(Also Reported in: Rochester Business Journal, Messenger Post Media, 8WROC-TV, 10WHEC-TV, WHAM AM 1180, WXXI)