Selected Coverage May 2010

USA Today (May 19)
Special diet doesn’t help kids with autism in small study
“Subsequent studies have not confirmed this to be true,” says Susan Hyman, a University of Rochester pediatrician who led the new study, which she’ll report at the International Meeting for Autism Research in Philadelphia. Still, many parents and teachers say they’ve seen improvement when children with autism stop eating these foods. But, Hyman says, behavioral therapy, not their diets, might deserve credit. (Also Reported in: Time, CNN, Reuters, CNBC, Fox, Psychology Today, MSNBC, ABC News, Los Angeles Times, BusinessWeek, San Francisco Chronicle, Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, UPI, Chicago Sun-Times, and others)

PBS.org (May 14)
Conversation: Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves…and Screen
“On the prequel issue, I think that all Robin Hood movies have to do this little trick in which they need to explain to us how it is we can idealize an outlaw, make him into a noble hero,” says Thomas Hahn, professor of English at the University of Rochester and Robin Hood scholar.

New York Times (May 12)
Robin Hood’s Appeal Tested Again At Cannes
“America more or less hijacked Robin Hood at that point,” says Thomas Hahn, a professor of English at the University of Rochester and Robin Hood scholar. “The movie took a local English folk hero and turned him into an international icon of popular culture.” (Also Reported in: ABC News, Yahoo!News, WOUB, Hollywood Reporter, and others)

BusinessWeek (May 30)
Acupuncture May Trigger Natural Painkiller
“Acupuncture has been a mainstay of medical treatment in certain parts of the world for 4,000 years, but because it has not been understood completely, many people have remained skeptical,” lead author Dr. Maiken Nedergaard, co-director of the Center for Translational Neuromedicine at the University of Rochester Medical Center, said in a news release. (Also Reported in: Boston Globe, Wall Street Journal, Discovery News, U.S. News & World Report, BBC News, Yahoo! News, Independent, Guardian, YNN, London Daily Telegraph, Syracuse Post-Standard, and others)
**BBC News** (May 4)

**African rocks record ancient magnetic field**

Earth’s magnetic field protects all life on the planet. It forms a shield that deflects harmful particles from the Sun around our world, and limits the ability of this “solar wind” to erode our atmosphere. The new work by Professor John Tarduno, from the **University of Rochester**, US, and colleagues has been discussed at a major Earth sciences meeting in Vienna, Austria.

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**U.S. News & World Report** (May 18)

**Suicide Risk May Be Higher in Senior Facilities**

“The risk of suicide may be heightened during the first year,” said the report’s lead author, Carol Podgorski, an assistant professor of psychiatry at the **University of Rochester** in New York. “There’s relocation stress, and that’s when they’re dealing with whatever caused them to move.” (Also Reported in: **ABC News, MSNBC, Yahoo! News, Reuters, Business-Week, MSN**, and others)

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**InsideHigherEd** (May 6)

**The Early Word on Yield**

At the **University of Rochester**, where yield is up by about 2 percentage points, and the discount rate is down a few percentage points, Jonathan Burdick, dean of admissions and financial aid, described the year as “obscenely good” for the institution. (Also Reported in: **USA Today**)

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**Time** (May 21)

**Study: Yoga Improves Quality of Life After Cancer**

That’s why Dr. Karen Mustian of the **University of Rochester Medical Center** decided to put a favorite practice of cancer survivors — yoga — to the test. In a paper she will present at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) annual meeting in June, Mustian designed a standardized program based on hatha yoga — a slow-moving form of the discipline — and tested its effect on improving the quality of life for cancer survivors. (Also Reported in: **ABC News, Bloomberg, USA Today, Yahoo! News, Reuters, UPI, WebMD, BusinessWeek, MSNBC, New York Times, Fox News, CNN, and others**)

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**MSN** (May 10)

**Crowe brings scruffy new look to ‘Robin Hood’**

“The one consistent thing is he’s an outlaw,” said Alan Lupack, director of the **University of Rochester**'s Robbins Library, which houses the Robin Hood Project, a collection of texts, images and other materials. “He’s outside the law and often resisting unjust authority, but whatever he’s doing, there’s always that conflict with authority.” (Also Reported in: **Huffington Post, Yahoo! News, Boston Globe, San Francisco Chronicle, Canadian Press, and others**)

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**New York Times** (May 28)

**Violent Video Games Touted as Learning Tool**

“People that play these fast-paced games have better vision, better attention and better cognition,” said Daphne Bavelier, an assistant professor in the department of brain and cognitive science at the **University of Rochester**. (Also Reported in: **ABC News, CBS News, Boston Globe, NPR, Forbes, Chicago Tribune, Los Angeles Times, MSNBC, Yahoo! Finance, Huffington Post, Washington Post, Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, Finger Lakes Times, and others**)

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**Rochester Business Journal** (May 14)

**Engineering schools feed interest in new technologies**

Enrollment is up, more women are pursuing engineering as a field, starting salaries continue to climb, and career options are expanding, says Robert Clark, dean of the **Hajim School of Engineering and Applied Sciences** at the **University of Rochester**.

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**News-medical.net** (May 20)

**Androgen receptors promote hepatitis B virus in growth and development of hepatoma cells**

Dr. Ming-Heng Wu of the Institute of Basic Medical Sciences at National Cheng Kung University (NCKU), Taiwan, in collaboration with Prof. Chawnshang Chang’s laboratory of the **University of Rochester** (UR), United States, have discovered that androgen receptors (AR) can promote hepatitis B virus-induced hepatocarcinogenesis through modulation of hepatitis B virus (HBV) RNA transcription. (Also Reported in: **Science, China National News, Medical News Today**

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Luke Flockerzi returns to UR as men’s basketball coach
What’s interesting for Luke Flockerzi is that he worked one season as an assistant men’s basketball coach under Mike Neer at the University of Rochester, so he knows exactly how difficult the chore will be. (Also Reported in: 13WHAM-TV, WHAM AM 1180, Saratogian)

More ‘Good’ Cholesterol Is Not Always Good for Your Health
“It seems counterintuitive that increasing good cholesterol, which we’ve always thought of as protective, leads to negative consequences in some people,” said James Corsetti, M.D., Ph.D., professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of Rochester Medical Center and lead author of the study. “We’ve confirmed that high HDL cholesterol is in fact associated with risk in a certain group of patients.” (Also Reported in: Telegraph)

Phthalates: Are They Safe?
Congress came under pressure to act because of a study by Dr. Shanna Swan, an epidemiologist at the University of Rochester Medical School. Dr. Swan compared the levels of phthalates in a group of pregnant women with the health of the baby boys they gave birth to. (Also Reported in: ABC News)

Is the Search for Immutable Laws of Nature a Wild-Goose Chase? (blog)
by Adam Frank
If you want to build a star, start with the rules. That is the advice I give to my Ph.D. students at the University of Rochester.

UR grads get advice for life
Under a sky as bright as any future, graduates at the University of Rochester’s 160th commencement for arts, sciences and engineering were advised to find something to believe in, to embrace potential, to help others and to live with humility. (Also Reported in: 13WHAM-TV, 10WHEC-TV, WHAM AM 1180, WXXI, YNN)

Amazon Branches Out with Publishing Arm
Chad Post, director of the University of Rochester’s Open Letter Books, which specializes in literature in translation, said translators typically command between $100 and $125 per thousand words. “There’s a perception that books in translation don’t sell as well, so you have to spend more on marketing than you might with a typical American author,” he added. “You have to spend more to get their name into circulation.”

Robin Hood’s fluid identity flows on
“Robin Hood is infinitely adaptable,” says Thomas Hahn, a professor of English at the University of Rochester, who hosted an academic conference there last year on Robin Hood as a “media creation” from the start. “The myth is always changing,” agrees Stephen Knight, a professor of English at Cardiff University in Wales and author of Robin Hood: A Mythic Biography. (Also Reported in: Cleveland.com)

Gene Therapy Shows Promise for Muscular Dystrophy
“This study has shown that a normal gene packed into a virus and injected directly into a muscle can actually produce the protein that is either defective or missing in this particular form of muscular dystrophy,” added Dr. Rabi Tawil, a professor of neurology at the University of Rochester Medical Center. (Also Reported in: Yahoo!News, MSN, U.S. News & World Report, and others)

UR names vice provost for diversity
The University of Rochester has promoted the former interim vice provost for faculty diversity to the post permanently, the university announced this week. “Over the last eight months Vivian [Lewis] has been outstanding in leading our faculty diversity office and in implementing the recommendations of the recent Faculty Listening Tour report,” said Joel Seligman, UR president, in a statement.
U.S. News & World Report (May 5)
H1N1 Often Hit the Young and Healthy
“Here’s the definitive reference that shows in black-and-white what many people have said in meetings and talked about,” said Dr. John Treanor, a professor of medicine and of microbiology and immunology at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York. (Also Reported in: BusinessWeek, MSN, Yahoo! News, Bio-Medicine)

CNN (May 19)
Do 6 Catholics + 3 Jews = 9 Protestants? (blog)
Shortly after I filed my USA Today piece, I had a conversation with Nora Rubel, a University of Rochester religion professor and an observant Jew. Professor Rubel said that most Catholics in America think pretty much like most Protestants, so the Supreme Court’s Protestant/Catholic mix doesn’t really matter.

Psychology Today (May 1)
New Ideas About the Origin of Language
There’s some new research coming out of the University of Rochester that sheds a bit of light on the origin of language in humans. What these researchers were looking into was if there’s one certain area of the brain that gives humans advanced language capabilities over other animals.

Wall Street Journal (May 24)
‘Lost’ Finale: The Ending Explained
Chad W. Post is the director of Open Letter Books at the University of Rochester and Three Percent, a website dedicated to promoting international literature. (Also Reported in: PBS, Milwaukee JS Online)

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (May 1)
NOW president brings equality message to the University of Rochester
Most of the people listening to National Organization for Women President Terry O’Neill weren’t alive for the first attempt at passing the Equal Rights Amendment. So they weren’t familiar with what O’Neill called the “bathroom argument” against passage. She made her points during a talk to an audience of about 50 predominantly young women Friday morning at the University of Rochester Interfaith Chapel that was part of a weekend of events in Rochester and Seneca Falls, Seneca County. (Also Reported in: YNN, 13WHAM-TV, 10WHEC-TV)

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (May 7)
Study reaffirms that UR is a powerhouse in N.Y.
Since University of Rochester President Joel Seligman has been at the helm, UR has continued to grow as the biggest employer in the area. But a new report by the Center for Governmental Research shows that UR is not only the top employer locally but also the sixth-largest in a state where eight of the top 20 employers are health care providers. (Also Reported in: WHAM AM 1180, 13WHAM-TV, 10WHEC-TV, YNN, Rochester Business Journal)

Pittsburgh Post Gazette (May 2)
Expert sees plenty of blame for financial woes
As a student of the Securities and Exchange Commission and its efforts to patrol the nation’s financial markets, University of Rochester president Joel Seligman finds a lot of similarities between the inappropriate behavior that caused the agency to be created in 1934 and the fine mess we find ourselves in today.

Buffalo News (May 26)
Cuomo taps mayor of Rochester as running mate on ticket
Valeria Sinclair-Chapman, assistant professor of political science at the University of Rochester, said Duffy has never shied away from difficult topics and has a knack for reaching out to the community. “His approval ratings are high, and they’re high across the city and across several demographic groups,” she said. “Duffy has assumed a real mantle of leadership.”

Daily Record (May 27)
Duffy in the spotlight
Dave Primo, associate professor of political science at the University of Rochester, said Duffy’s role as lieutenant governor — if elected — will depend on his relationship with Cuomo and that it’s ultimately up to Duffy “to shape” the job.

13WHAM-TV (May 28)
Duffy Saying Goodbye to Rochester?
“This election is a done deal, it’s a slam dunk partly because of Cuomo but moreover because of the Republican Party’s weakness today,” Curt Smith, a University of Rochester professor and former speechwriter for President George Herbert Walker Bush said. “I think if you believe political sources and insiders, that Andrew Cuomo could be measuring the office drapes right now in the Governor’s office.”
**UPI (May 5)**
Purple periwinkle may dampen inflammation
Researchers at New York’s University of Rochester Medical Center say a plant extract from purple periwinkles — vinpocetine — may someday be used to treat chronic inflammatory diseases including those linked to cardiovascular disease.

**Christian Science Monitor (May 12)**
‘Robin Hood’ at Cannes Film Festival: ‘Batman Begins’ meets ‘Men in Tights’
The story has something for everyone. “Robin Hood continues to be a story that everyone can relate to – conservatives, liberals, adults, children,” says University of Rochester’s Tom Hahn, a Robin Hood scholar, “because the story and the outlaw hero is constantly re-shaped by popular culture, media, and the movies.” (Also Reported in: Yahoo! News)

**Business Week (May 14)**
Rotavirus Vaccine Helps Kids Avoid Severe Gastro Illness
But, “it remains essential to continue monitoring acute gastroenteritis hospitalization rates during subsequent rotavirus seasons to fully understand and document the impact of vaccination as the program matures in this country,” added Dr. Geoffrey A. Weinberg and Dr. Peter G. Szilagyi of the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry in New York. (Also Reported in: U.S. News & World Report, MSN, Yahoo! News)

**New York Times (May 24)**
Game Theory TV
William Spaniel, an enterprising graduate student at the University of Rochester, has created a useful set of twenty-six short YouTube clips on game theory.

**Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (May 25)**
Rochester sculptor Albert Paley helps students imagine art
Fourth-graders at School 52 preparing for a field trip to the Memorial Art Gallery to see the works of metal sculptor Albert Paley got the rare opportunity to not only meet the famous Rochester artist, but to work with him on their own creations. (Also Reported in: YNN)

**Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (May 16)**
UR spinoffs get national mention
Commercializing research done at the University of Rochester, Rochester Institute of Technology and other local schools has long been seen as a key to economic growth in the Rochester region.