

UC is the engine driving the state and the country's economic growth. Whether it is in California or across America, UC's scientific and technological discoveries are improving health care outcomes, agricultural outputs and technology. For example, these [Berkeley graduates](#) are making a big difference in rural California, contributing to the economy by revolutionizing almond-growing practices and generating infrastructure improvements in small towns. Returning to the rural communities where they grew up, they're equipped with a UC education and ready to reinvest in the places that gave them so much. UC is also doing its part to keep America's competitive edge over China, India and other global economies by coming out on top in a [National Academy of Inventors](#) ranking of U.S. schools granted the most U.S. utility patents. This isn't just about a #1 spot, it's about ensuring Americans are the first ones with access to the best innovations in health and technology.

There's a lot to celebrate across the University of California right now, so here are some highlights:

- The UCLA women's basketball team won their first [national championship](#).
- Researchers from UC-affiliated Los Alamos and Lawrence Berkeley National Labs won the [National Lab Research Slam](#).
- Three UC alumni [won Oscars](#) at the Academy Awards.
- 73% of UC-trained medical students matched for residency programs in California -- an even better [retention rate](#) than the state's 63% overall rate, already the country's highest.

-- Chris Harrington, UC Associate Vice President,
Federal Governmental Relations

What We're Watching

1.

Health breakthroughs in space

UC San Diego is pioneering [health research in space](#), conducting experiments partially funded by NASA to develop treatments for Alzheimer's and cancer. They're sending experiments to the International Space Station to

age human cells more quickly than they can on Earth, providing better insights into possible treatments.

2.

Able to walk again

Researchers at **UC Irvine** developed a brain-computer interface, allowing a person to control a [robotic walking exoskeleton](#) using brain signals. Through support from the **National Science Foundation (NSF)**, this research could one day provide paraplegic patients the ability to walk and move.

3.

Healthier pregnancies

At **UCSF**, researchers are improving maternal and infant health outcomes with earlier interventions for [high-risk pregnancies](#). They created the most detailed map yet of how cells interact between a pregnant woman and her developing baby, which could help better predict pregnancy risks and miscarriage, leading to targeted treatments all made possible by funding from the **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**.

4.

Why electronics degrade

Researchers at **UC Santa Barbara** discovered that a single high-energy electron can break chemical bonds inside silicon chips, gradually [degrading electronics](#) over time. This quantum-level model, which was supported by the **U.S. Air Force Office of Scientific Research** and used computing resources funded by the **NSF**, could help design more durable semiconductors in smartphones, medical devices and energy systems.

5.

Pesticides and pregnancy

With funding from the **NIH**, scientists at **UCLA** found a correlation between women's exposure to [agricultural pesticides](#) -- even before becoming pregnant -- and poorer health in infants. Based on the findings, the researchers have simple recommendations for people who live close to agricultural areas to reduce their risk of exposure.

Did You Know?

The [University of California](#) generates **\$12 billion in federal, state and local taxes**.

The [University of California](#) is the **second-largest employer** in California.

The [University of California](#) generates **\$82 billion in economic activity** per year.

From Coast to Capital

UC Washington Center: Upcoming Events

Washington, D.C.

Upcoming events at UCDC can be explored [online here](#), including an alumni networking night on May 13.

The UC Washington Center (UCDC) serves as a live-learn facility for the University in the nation's capital, offering a dynamic environment for education, research and engagement.



Federal Governmental Relations
1608 Rhode Island Ave. NW
2nd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 974-6300