Doctor's commitment to health care for those in need earns Chase Faculty Community Service Award[1]
[2]

Michelle Haas, M.D., faculty member at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, is the recipient of the 2021 Chase Faculty Community Service Award, which recognizes her passionate work providing access to health care to underserved communities, and for her education in infectious diseases.

An assistant professor of medicine at the CU School of Medicine's Division of Infectious Diseases since 2012, Haas[3] has for many years provided pro bono exams for people seeking asylum, and recently helped launch a program providing essential medical and social support resources to families and communities most affected by COVID-19.

The Chase Faculty Community Service Award[4] is presented annually to a full-time CU faculty member who, in addition to his or her university responsibilities, has, pro bono, provided exceptional educational, humanitarian, civic or other service in the community. An advisory council submits a recommendation to CU President Mark Kennedy, who bestows the honor, which includes a $10,000 grant sponsored by an endowment from JPMorgan Chase through the CU Foundation.

Haas is nationally recognized for her expertise in managing people with tuberculosis (TB). She is the associate director of the Denver Metro Tuberculosis Program, where she first conducted exams after hours; later, the effort expanded to include the ICE Detention Center in Aurora. In working with asylum seekers and detainees, Haas also collaborates with the Rocky Mountain Immigration Advocacy Network, which provides legal services to people in civil immigration detention, as well as other immigration attorneys in the metro area.

Working with physician leaders at Denver Health, Haas supported the development of the Denver Health Human Rights Clinic, which provides forensic exams for individuals seeking asylum. Last year, Haas led the implementation of the COVID-19 Enhanced Patient Support Program. Besides aiding those most affected by COVID-19, the program also empowers people with trusted health information through partnerships with community-based organizations.

"When I was rounding in the hospital seeing patients with COVID-19 in late March of 2020, I noticed immediately that patients faced many of the social challenges that my patients with TB faced," Haas said. "With our TB patients we can provide resources for nutrition, short-term financial relief to stabilize housing, and free medical care. For patients with COVID-19, those services were out of reach, so patients were delaying care and/or returning to work while ill."

While a member of the CU Anschutz community, Haas simultaneously served as an adjunct assistant professor of medicine for the University of Pennsylvania Perelman (2010-2016) and as a lecturer of medicine for the University of Botswana (2010-2014). After living and working in Botswana and helping to start quality-improvement programs, which boosted the delivery of health care, Haas returned to Colorado and quickly began integrating herself into the community.

She has mentored multiple residents and fellows in quality-improvement projects to elevate care for people diagnosed with tuberculosis, including evaluating best practices for screening and treating latent TB infection. In 2015, Haas received the Golden Apple ID Division Teaching Award.

Haas is lauded by colleagues and supervisors for her passion and commitment to medical and social justice. Not content with simply being committed, she has worked tirelessly to create positive change for individuals and communities.

"Dr. Haas has a long track record of compassionate community service. In the midst of a pandemic, she saw opportunity to make an even greater contribution to those most in need," said Joseph Coleman, Chase's Business Banking Market Manager in Colorado. "With her inspired teaching and unflagging devotion to improving health care for so many, she is a very deserving honoree for this year's Chase Faculty Community Service Award."

Haas expressed tremendous gratitude to her colleagues and community partners for the Chase Faculty Community Service Award. She plans to donate all of her award to the Denver Public Health Youth Health division to specifically support racial equity initiatives directed by the Youth Advisory Team.

The Chase Faculty Community Service Award – established in 1991 with a $100,000 donation – is funded annually by an endowment from the JPMorgan Chase Foundation through the CU Foundation. The endowment provides an annual award of $10,000 to a full-time faculty member at the University of Colorado who has rendered exceptional service in his or her community.

One step on a journey toward justice: CU leaders react to Chauvin verdict[5]
[6]

Tuesday's announcement of the verdict in the trial of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, who was found guilty of the murder last year of George Floyd, inspired messages of reflection from leadership across the University of Colorado.

CU's president and chancellors acknowledged a time for healing, while calling upon the university community to join them in continuing to work toward addressing societal inequities and furthering justice and equality.

Here are some of the words they shared with the CU community:

CU President Mark Kennedy:

"While this is an important step in the right direction, it is still just a step on a journey we must travel together toward equal justice under the law for all, no matter the color of their skin or their circumstances." Read the full statement here.[7]

CU Boulder Chancellor Phil DiStefano:

"As a campus community, we hope this verdict brings some measure of justice to Mr. Floyd's family, knowing that this decision alone will not redress the inequities that Black, Asian American and other communities of color have experienced for generations." Read the full statement here.[8]

CU Colorado Springs Chancellor Venkat Reddy:

"By showing compassion, empathy and respect to all those around you, you help us to respond to the deepest challenges of our time in ways that lift up our entire community." Read the full statement here.[9]

CU Denver Chancellor Michelle Marks:

"While I am thankful that justice was served in this case, there are no winners here. … One guilty verdict does not erase the centuries of systemic racism that still exist today. As a society and at CU Denver, we have so much more work to do in the name of equity, diversity and inclusion." Read the full statement here.[10]

CU Anschutz Medical Campus Chancellor Don Elliman:

"Our job as an academic medical campus devoted to service, health and healing is to determine our role in helping to right historic wrongs and address current inequities. While we might not know exactly what that role looks like, or what the next step – or the next 50 – might be, we know without a doubt that there is much to do, and we are stronger and better together." Read the full statement here.[11]

Book your ticket to better health with Open Enrollment vendor webinars[12]

[13]

The University of Colorado's Open Enrollment ends May 7. Employee Services is working to ensure you're equipped with the information you need to make your health plan elections for the 2021-22 plan year.

The health plan coverage cycle runs from July 1 through June 30 of the following year. Open Enrollment is your chance to assess how well your current health plans meet your needs.

Each enrollee has several factors to consider when choosing from CU's many plan options – the plan's cost, its provider network and geographic coverage, and how it covers your specific care, treatments or medications.

The good news: You don't need to make decisions on the fly. Employee Services offers a full itinerary of ways to learn more in its virtual sessions and fair webpages[14]. From courses to videos to PDF guides to live webinars, you can explore the features and rates for each of our plans, compare them to one another, and make a confident choice for your health coverage.

Make sure you don't miss the live webinars we're hosting starting April 28 with representatives from plan providers.

This year, we're holding a drawing in which fair attendees can enter to win prizes such as a FitBit Versa, an Oral B electronic toothbrush kit, a Bose SoundLink Bluetooth Speaker and many others.

Basics of CU Health Plans and Pretax Savings

The Basics of CU Health Plans and Pretax Savings course[15] is an on-demand video training course that walks you through each of CU's medical, dental, vision and health savings plans. This course is available in English and Spanish and includes the plan rates for the 2021-22 plan year.

Anthem

Anthem has provided a digital on-demand presentation for employees to dig deeper into their available plan options. Visit the Anthem page of the vendor fair[16] to find this presentation, a link to register for the live webinar[17] and information on using Anthem's mobile app.

Kaiser Permanente

CU Health Plan - Kaiser[18] is rolling out several significant network changes for the 2021-22 plan year. On the Kaiser vendor fair page[19] you can find two on-demand presentations – an eight-minute video highlighting only this year's changes, plus a 15-minute video that explores the finer details of the Kaiser Health Plan.

You can also register for Kaiser's webinar[20] at 4 p.m. April 29. Meet with Kaiser Permanente representatives and discover what CU Health Plan - Kaiser has to offer, learn about new features and ask questions.

Delta Dental

Visit the Delta vendor fair page[21] for a library of PDF guides that detail each plan, plus informational flyers that introduce important features such as the Right Start 4 Kids program, the connection between oral health and whole-body health, using the mobile app and more. Then register for the webinar[22] at 2 p.m. April 29 to meet with Delta Dental representatives, discover what CU's dental plans have to offer and ask questions.

CVS Caremark Pharmacy

Enrollees in Anthem-administered health plans will use CVS Caremark for their prescription drug needs. To discover more about the prescription coverage, rates and services you can expect, CVS has provided a library[23] of short, topic-focused videos and PDF guides for your benefit. Topics include drug cost comparisons, specialty prescriptions, prior authorizations, using CVS's digital tools and more.

Optum and ASI Flex (Savings accounts)

CU also offers pre-tax savings options for employees to set aside money for health and dependent care costs. There are two key options serviced by two providers.
A **Health Savings Account (HSA)**, administered by Optum, allows enrollees to save pre-tax money for qualified health expenses. The Optum vendor fair page[24] features a slate of videos, digital guides and interactive online tools. You can also connect with Optum's online library of resources (many available in Spanish as well as English). **Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs)** are administered by ASI Flex and include two options – a Health Care FSA to cover medical expenses or a Dependent Care FSA to cover child care and qualifying adult/elder care. On the ASI Flex vendor fair page[25], you can learn more about the Health Care FSA compared to the Dependent Care FSA and access informational videos, FAQs and PDF guides.
PERA Pre-Retirement Planning Webinar

If you're enrolled in a PERA retirement plan, there are steps you can take during Open Enrollment to increase your PERA benefits in retirement. Register for this webinar[26] where PERA representatives can teach you how making certain health plan changes that can increase your Highest Average Salary – and thus your total PERA benefit in retirement – if you are planning to retire in the next year to seven years. The webinar also will cover budgeting for retirement and additional benefits in the PERA system.

More from the vendor fair

The vendor fair also offers resources from these providers:
The Standard Insurance[27] – CU's disability and life insurance administrator has provided a decision tool and calculator to help you determine how much insurance you need. **Sleepio**[28] – the digital sleep-improvement program
Foodsmart[29] – a virtual nutrition and meal planning network
Check out the vendor fair page[30] to explore your options.

Click here[30] to learn more.

Nation's biggest science communications conference back on at CU Boulder, CU Anschutz [31]

Common plants and pollinators act as anchors for ecosystems [32]

LAS faculty awarded $98k grant to explore war, trauma and life after service [33]

CU Denver invests $4 million for diversity, equity and inclusion efforts[34]

Big shot in the arm: Buoyant mood fills CU Anschutz vaccination clinic [35]

Erwin to retire; search for successor begins [36]

Henry named Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research, Director of the Office of Contracts and Grants[37]

Bates' video series helps people make informed decisions about COVID-19 vaccines [38]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/doctor-s-commitment-health-care-those-need-earns-chase-faculty-community-service-award[2] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/chase_01_1.jpg[3] https://som.ucdenver.edu/Profiles/Faculty/Profile/9129[4] https://www.cu.edu/oaa/recognitions/chase-faculty-community-service-award[5] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/one-step-journey-toward-justice-cu-leaders-react-chauvin-verdict[6] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/chauvin-verdict_top.jpg[7] https://president.cu.edu/statements/president-kennedy-statement-derek-chauvin-verdict[8] https://www.colorado.edu/chancellor/newsletter/chancellor/verdict-derek-chauvin-trial[9] https://chancellor.uccs.edu/news/chauvin-trial[10] https://www1.ucdenver.edu/about/leadership/chancellor/communications/messages/a-moment-of-justice-after-chauvin-verdict[11] https://www.cuanschutz.edu/about/leadership/chancellor/communiques/join-us-in-a-moment-of-solidarity---4-20-21[12] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/book-your-ticket-better-health-open-enrollment-vendor-webinars[13] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/oe_feat_1.jpg[14] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/open-enrollment/sessions[15] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/benefits-wellness/basics-cu-health-plans-and-pretax-savings[16] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/open-enrollment/sessions-fairs/anthem-blue-cross-blue-shield[17] https://cusystem.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2ve0SUYzSYCy8mn4xg7P3w[18] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/open-enrollment/current-employees/medical-plans/kaiser[19] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/open-enrollment/sessions-fairs/kaiser-permanente[20] https://cusystem.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gsTnzIRrQEmPUDh4NoNiOw[21] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/open-enrollment/sessions-fairs/delta-dental[22] https://cusystem.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_22Kjc1AuTHOOmw0LDgYgzQ[23] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/open-enrollment/sessions-fairs/cvs-caremark[24] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/open-enrollment/sessions-fairs/optum[25] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/open-enrollment/sessions-fairs/asi-flex[26] https://cusystem.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YbX_dIw7SnuYxDLMtEK6YA[27] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/open-enrollment/sessions-fairs/standard-insurance[28] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/open-enrollment/sessions-fairs/sleepio[29] https://www.cu.edu/open-enrollment/sessions-fairs/foodsmart[30] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/open-enrollment-sessions-fairs[31] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/nation-s-biggest-science-communications-conference-back-cu-boulder-cu-anschutz[32] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/common-plants-and-pollinators-act-anchors-ecosystems[33] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/las-faculty-awarded-98k-grant-explore-war-trauma-and-life-after-service[34] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-denver-invests-4-million-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-efforts[35] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/big-shot-arm-buoyant-mood-fills-cu-anschutz-vaccination-clinic[36] https://connections.cu.edu/people/erwin-retire-search-successor-begins[37] https://connections.cu.edu/people/henry-named-assistant-vice-chancellor-research-director-office-contracts-and-grants[38] https://connections.cu.edu/people/bates-video-series-helps-people-make-informed-decisions-about-covid-19-vaccines