Four CU researchers named 2013 Boettcher Investigators[1]

Four University of Colorado medical researchers whose lab work is leading to better human health have been named to the 2013 Class of Boettcher Investigators in the Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Program.

The early career scientists each will receive grants of $225,000 to further their groundbreaking work.

The members of the fourth Class of Boettcher Investigators in the Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Program from CU campuses:
[2]

Amrut V. Ambardekar, M.D., assistant professor of medicine – cardiology, School of Medicine, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus; Myocardial Recovery After Ventricular Assist Device Implantation. The goal of Ambardekar's work is to better understand how heart muscle cells and proteins are affected by heart failure and how the heart may improve while being supported with an artificial pump. Ultimately, he and his team hope to develop protocols and new treatments to improve the failing heart's contractile function during left ventricular assist device (LVAD) support so that a patient's failing heart may recover enough for successful removal of the device – very rare in current clinical practice.[3]

Joseph A. Brzezinski, Ph.D., assistant professor of ophthalmology, School of Medicine, CU Anschutz Medical Campus;Mechanisms of Retinal Development and Disease. Brzezinski investigates the early events that control the formation of rod and cone photoreceptors within the eye. By discovering how photoreceptors develop, his lab will help design the next generation of therapies with the potential to restore lost vision.[4]

Soyeon Park, Ph.D., assistant professor of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology, University of Colorado Boulder;Molecular Mechanisms of Proteasome Biogenesis. Park's lab asks how cells build a molecular machine known as the proteasome, which removes normal as well as damaged proteins in cells. To pursue this question, she and her team focus on elucidating the functions of the recently identified assembly chaperones, conserved and dedicated for proteasome biogenesis. The scientists aim to provide novel insights into the pathogenic conditions involving systematic problems in protein degradation, such as cancers and neurodegenerative diseases.[5]

Abigail L. Person, Ph.D., assistant professor of physiology and biophysics, School of Medicine, CU Anschutz Medical Campus;Corollary Discharge Pathways Underlying Schizophrenia Symptoms. As Person explains, people with schizophrenia often believe that external forces are controlling their bodies. Her laboratory team aims to understand how the brain keeps track of what it is doing using specialized neural circuits – corollary discharge pathways – which carry copies of motor commands to areas of the brain that process sensory input. The team studies a specific corollary discharge pathway that expresses numerous genes associated with schizophrenia, testing the idea that these circuits may contribute to a deficit in correctly attributing self-generated thoughts and actions to the self.

The grants awarded by the Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Program support the work of promising Colorado ECIs – Early Career Investigators; these faculty members are four years or less from their first academic appointment at a research institution. Eligible investigators apply through a competitive process within their respective institutions.

Other researchers joining the four CU scientists in the 2013 Class of Boettcher Investigators in the Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Program: Michael Strong, Ph.D., National Jewish Health, assistant professor of genes, environment and health; Lucas Argueso, Ph.D.,Colorado State University, assistant professor of radiation and cancer biology; Brad Borlee, Ph.D.,CSU, assistant professor of bacteriology; and Melissa Krebs, Ph.D., Colorado School of Mines, assistant professor of chemical and biological engineering.

With the addition of the 2013 Class, there are now 22 Boettcher Investigators conducting research at two CU campuses and three other Colorado institutions.

“The Boettcher Foundation Board is very pleased to embark on the fourth year of furthering the research of Early Career Investigators,” said Edward D. “Ted” White III, chairman of the Boettcher Foundation Board of Trustees, who made the announcement May 30. “Our support enables these junior investigators to continue their valuable research and to compete in the future for major grants.”

The Webb-Waring Biomedical Research program fills an unmet need in the state by assisting ECIs engaged in biomedical sciences to advance their research. The program also honors the tradition of Colorado’s Webb and Waring families by investing in science that has the possibility of making significant contributions to human health.

“Through this program, the Boettcher Foundation has been able to bring resources to an area where funds are currently lacking and where federal and private research programs provide limited support,” said Timothy W. Schultz, president and executive director of the Boettcher Foundation. “Early Career Investigators quite frequently have a difficult time securing a first opportunity at an independent research effort that will move them out of the laboratory of their mentors and onto their own new and exciting areas of discovery.”

The Boettcher Foundation announced the creation of the program in 2008 as the result of an innovative agreement between the Boettcher Foundation, the Webb-Waring Foundation for Biomedical Research and the University of Colorado. Through the program, Boettcher Foundation now invests more than $1.5 million each year to increase Colorado’s competitiveness in biomedical science.

“We’ve made every effort to ensure that the legacies of the Webb and Waring families live on in the discovery of new knowledge to improve human health and in the advancement of young scientists,” Schultz said. “The Boettcher Foundation wanted the Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Program to invest where the impact would be the most substantial. To fund excellence in people, to partner with the state’s research institutions and to further the Webb and Waring families’ long tradition of commitment to science and human health.”

Five questions for Tom Napierkowski[6]

[7]

In the General Prologue to “The Canterbury Tales,” Geoffrey Chaucer says of the Clerk of Oxenford, “And gladly would he learn and gladly teach.” It’s a line that Tom Napierkowski says is “central to my identity. I want to continue to be a learner and I love teaching.” Chaucer has greatly influenced Napierkowski, so much so that at times he takes on the persona of the man considered the greatest English poet of the Middle Ages.

The professor in the Department of English at the College of Letters, Arts and Sciences has just finished his 40th year of teaching at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs – he earned his master’s and doctoral degrees at CU-Boulder – and along with his interest in Chaucer, specializes in minority and immigrant American literature and the history of the English language.

His classical high school education – four years of Latin, three years of Greek, two years of modern language – prepared him to be a philologist, and he saw literature as the logical next step. But once at Boulder, he says, “I fell under the influence of medievalists Harold Kane, Don Baker and J.D.A. Ogilvy. They were marvelous scholars and I fell under their spell and the joy of medieval literature.”

Napierkowski recently received the Distinguished Service Award for his years as a faculty member and for serving on the Faculty Senate Committee on Privilege and Tenure (20 years) and four terms as president of the UCCS Faculty Senate and Faculty Assembly. He also has spent 15 years working with the UCCS Educational Policy and University

Standards Committee.

Outside of his research interests, he admits to enjoying historical fiction. “But I have high standards. Authors can’t take history and run off with it. Historical figures should be in the background, and an author can’t write in attitudes or actions or speeches for which there is no historical basis. And I love reading literary criticism when the critic is helping me appreciate the work I’m studying.”

Once he had an ambition to climb all of the state’s 14ers. “A few of them require technical climbing, and at no age has that seemed particularly attractive to me. At the age I am now, it seems particularly unattractive.” He says Mount Elbert is one of his favorite climbs. “It was a great climb in the early fall; the trees were beautiful. There’s something special about being above timberline, looking over the beauty of the state. It’s pretty spectacular.” Now he’ll likely climb a few more 13ers and continue a favorite winter activity – snowshoeing.

1. What prompted your studies of Polish American literature and what have you learned?

I grew up in a predominately immigrant Polish American neighborhood on the south side of Chicago. While I was a grad student in Boulder, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated and the English Department wanted to put together a course in African American literature. We had one prominent African-American scholar and no African-American students in the program. The faculty organizing the effort asked a few of us from the inner city if we would be interested in putting together and teaching courses on African-American literature. I was thrilled to accept. That experience led me to explore and become more knowledgeable about immigrant literature, especially Polish-American literature.

During the period of mass immigration (about 1890-1920), millions of people came here from eastern and southern Europe. This was a migration categorized as one “for bread.” The immigrants had a hard time making a living in Europe and many were escaping political oppression. They primarily were of peasant status, and the assumption made for many years was that these were people just trying to adjust. They were seen as, at best, semi-literate. As it turns out, these people had an enormous appetite for literature – fiction, poetry, theater – and they produced a wealth of it, some lost in backrooms. People like my grandfather and grandmother had voracious appetites for literature penned by fellow immigrants. I’ve been involved in efforts to entice some scholars from Eastern Europe to help discover, preserve and evaluate this type of literature. Without an appreciation of what these immigrants wrote, we will never really understand them. One can look at census reports and ship manifestos, but if we really want to climb into their souls, we need to look at their literature.

2. You visited Romania as a Fulbright Specialist. What did you accomplish there and what did you gain from the appointment?

I didn’t want to seek an appointment that would fill up a whole semester or whole year; the Fulbright Specialist Program provides the opportunity to go abroad for two to six weeks, depending on the needs of the host institution. I’d like to think I was a good ambassador for the U.S. in a part of the world where Americans aren’t regularly encountered. I hope that I brought to my students some sense of how English as a second language can be profitably approached. The students are enthusiastic but they don’t have language labs and their approach to improving their language skills is a bit different. I gave a few lectures on Middle English, Chaucer and African-American literature, and I think that I further excited their interest in learning.

3. You recently were recognized with the Distinguished Service Award. What are some of the achievements you’ve made of which you are most proud?

First, I’ve always tried to prevent faculty governance from slipping into a crisis organization. I’ve worked to keep the dialogue open and cooperated with the administration to achieve certain goals and to avoid what could have become crisis situations.

For a great many years, I was on the Privilege and Tenure Committee, which is, in essence, the in-house grievance committee for the CU system. On the many cases with which I’ve been involved, I have worked to resolve grievances equitably from both the faculty’s and administration’s perspective.

I've been involved for many years in the review of the status of non-tenure-track faculty. One of the big changes we've seen in higher education in this country is the higher percentage of courses taught by non-tenure-track faculty. Sometimes, these faculty members were treated as second-class citizens, and I'd like to think I have helped to gain a better appreciation and standing for them.

I really believe that when it comes to faculty responsibilities, it's use it or lose it. Nature hates a vacuum. If faculty members don't get involved in those parts of academic life that naturally fall to them, then others will take over. The faculty needs to be heard.

4. How have the university and/or teaching changed since you've been at UCCS?

When I came to UCCS in 1973, there was a dirt road to campus and the old sanitarium that had been changed into a university. Now we're a significant regional, national, and even international university. We've grown in numbers of students and size of faculty. And we have more programs. But there's some nostalgia, too. In 1973, the only thing that brought people down that dirt road to this emerging campus was their desire to get an education. There were no bells and whistles. We didn't even have a cafeteria, only a few coin machines where one could get a Coca-Cola. That desire for education was inspirational.

5. Do you have a favorite item or artifact in your office?

[8]
I've been in that office for 40 years, so I have lots of little artifacts that have special meaning, but I'll choose two. One is a photo of me with Lech Walesa, who led the Solidarity movement in Poland. The other is a photo of Chaucer. You might say that is impossible. But several years ago, the Colorado Endowment for the Humanities put together a program of VIPs. We were invited to apply for support for Chautauqua performances, and I applied to be Chaucer. My grant was accepted and from time to time I give performances as Chaucer. So the photo is Geoffrey Chaucer, alias Tom Napierkowski.

It has special meaning because it is a chance to identify with Chaucer. He's a comic poet in two important and different ways. He genuinely likes to make people laugh. But he's also a comic poet in that he had a metaphysical, philosophical and theological view of the world that is positive despite the fact he lived through incredibly trying times. Partly under his influence, I share that comic view of the world.

One of the skills that Chaucer is remarkable at in his literature is characterization. His Canterbury pilgrims are a wonderful cross-section of medieval society. I tell my students that I have met all of those pilgrims. Not that I'm 600 years old, but because they still walk the streets of the modern world.

"Being" Chaucer is great fun. One performs for 40 minutes as the person. Then there are 10 minutes of questions from the audience to that person, and finally, in the last 10 minutes, one comes out of character. At one performance, after I had ripped off my little goatee and was speaking as Tom Napierkowski to the attendees, one of the ladies said, "My grandson is doing a dissertation on you …"

Regents OK sale of part of Ninth and Colorado property[9]

The University of Colorado Board of Regents on Tuesday voted to authorize the sale of 6.74 acres of the East Ninth Avenue and Colorado Boulevard campus property in Denver, the first step in pursuing collaboration with other developers on the remaining acreage.

The sale to LPL Denver Colorado Development LLC is expected to close Friday.

On a conference call, the regents voted 7-0 to approve the sale; Chair Michael Carrigan abstained, as the chair is not

required to vote if there's no tie to break; Regent Stephen Ludwig was absent.

The former site of the CU Health Sciences Center encompasses 28.55 acres.

Developer plans call for apartments to be built on the 6.74 acres being sold. Previous plans for mixed-use retail, restaurants and housing on the entire parcel have not yet come to fruition, but the pending sale is expected to be followed by new proposals for development on the site.

CU-Boulder prof to lead NASA campaign to study North American air quality[10]

A scientific campaign to study weather and air pollution over North America will include the use of NASA's DC-8 Airborne Science Laboratory. The project is being led by CU-Boulder Professor Brian Toon. Image courtesy of NASA

A University of Colorado Boulder professor is leading a major NASA airborne science campaign this summer that will probe weather patterns and air pollution over a vast expanse of North America – with potential global climate consequences.

The campaign, known as the Studies of Emissions, Atmospheric Composition, Clouds and Climate Coupling by Regional Surveys, or SEAC4RS, will allow researchers to look at the atmosphere from top to bottom at a critical time of year when strong weather systems pump chemicals from regional air pollution high into the atmosphere, said CU-Boulder Professor Brian Toon, the project science leader.

The team will use a suite of scientific instruments aboard three aircraft: a NASA DC-8 airliner converted into a flying laboratory, the agency's high-altitude ER-2 – a modern version of the Air Force U2-S reconnaissance aircraft – and a Spec Inc. Lear Jet from Boulder equipped with advanced sensors to measure the properties of clouds.

The multimillion-dollar project will involve more than 250 scientists, engineers, students and flight personnel from five different NASA centers, the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and 15 universities, including CU-Boulder, Harvard University, the California Institute of Technology and the University of Innsbruck. The research flights in the SEAC4Rs campaign are slated to begin in August and run through the end of September.

There are several mission goals, said Toon, a professor in CU-Boulder's atmospheric and oceanic sciences department. The team wants to understand how air pollution and other substances such as water, for example, are carried from Earth's surface to the stratosphere, since they can impact climate and the ozone layer. While such vertical transport occurs daily during random thunderstorms, it also occurs in organized systems such as hurricanes and the North American Monsoon, which covers a large region of the American Southwest, Mexico, Central America and northern South America each summer, bringing rain to arid lands, he said.

A second goal is to chart how emissions from plants and domestic animals are interacting with air pollution, said Toon, who also is affiliated with CU's Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics. "In the southeast United States, there are large atmospheric emissions from plants and people that affect air quality," he said. "When the air from these two sources is mixed, unusual chemistry can occur, potentially impacting human health. Satellites show a large change in these emissions between August and September, which we would like to know more about."

The team also is interested in better understanding how smoke impacts climate and will study intense North American forest fires sending huge plumes of smoke into the atmosphere that can drift across the Atlantic Ocean to Europe. "By altering cloud properties and by absorbing sunlight, smoke can have a significant effect on the climate," he said.

In addition, the SEAC4RS air campaign will measure the accuracy of NASA satellites, develop new techniques for gathering atmospheric data, and to learn more about the planet from space. Numerous NASA Earth-observing satellites are involved in the project, including CloudSat, CALYPSO and GOES.

The SEAC4Rs campaign will be based at Ellington Field in Houston, which is operated by NASA's Johnson Space Center, and at NASA's Dryden Research Center in Edwards, Calif.

LASP's Sebastian Schmidt and Peter Pilewskie -- Pilewskie also is a professor in CU-Boulder's atmospheric and oceanic sciences department -- will be studying radiation from the sky and how it is impacted by aerosols such as smoke, air pollution and clouds. LASP's Lynn Harvey will help with flight planning and forecasting, while two of Toon's students, Chris Maloney and Pengfei Yu, also will help with flight planning.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for graduate students," Toon said. "Not only do they get involved in a large field program, they also get to meet the scientists from the United States and other countries involved in the project. These types of campaigns are a great opportunity for our students to become part of the wider scientific community and to demonstrate their own abilities."

Some of the NOAA researchers involved in SEAC4RS are affiliated with the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences, a joint venture of CU and NOAA. CIRES scientist Jose Jimenez, also a professor in CU-Boulder's chemistry and biochemistry department, will be studying air pollution particulates, including soot unleashed by forest fires. Several CU-Boulder graduate students from CIRES also are involved in the campaign.

Toon was one of two mission scientists for a $12 million NASA campaign in 2007 operating out of Costa Rica and involving 600 scientists, students and support staff to measure how tropical storms influence global warming and stratospheric ozone depletion. In 2011, the American Geophysical Union awarded Toon the Revelle Medal for his groundbreaking work on the effects of aerosols and clouds and climate.

The SEAC4Rs campaign is sponsored by the Earth Science Division in the Science Mission Directorate at NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C., with support from the National Science Foundation and the Naval Research Laboratory.

UCCS hires Sadie Farnsworth as first women's golf coach[12]

Sadie Farnsworth

Sadie Farnsworth was recently hired as the first UCCS women's golf coach.

Farnsworth was selected after a national search. Her appointment was announced by Steve Kirkham, director of athletics.

"We are very excited to have Sadie with her playing background at the Division II level and in the RMAC," Kirkham said. "She exemplified our philosophy as a student-athlete at Colorado Mesa with her accolades on the course and in the classroom. We are pleased that she will be the first coach in the program's history."

Farnsworth was the team captain at Colorado Mesa in the 2008-09 season. She holds the Maverick record for lowest round against par and is sixth in Colorado Mesa records in career win-loss percentage and seventh in career rounds played. Farnsworth led Colorado Mesa to the NCAA regional tournament and was an RMAC Second Team selection in her senior season.

Farnsworth was the RMAC Academic Golfer of the Year, the Colorado Mesa RMAC Honor Student-Athlete in 2009 and was a three-time member of the RMAC All-Academic Teams. She earned her bachelor's degree in kinesiology and exercise science in 2009.

"After taking some time away from golf to start my family, I couldn't be more excited to get back into it with UCCS and the inaugural women's golf team," Farnsworth said. "I am anxious to get out on the course with the girls and start what I hope will become a very successful program in the RMAC. I am honored that Athletic Director Kirkham has instilled his trust in me to take on this responsibility, and I look forward to working alongside men's head coach, Phil Trujillo, and hope to mirror the success he has had with the men's program."

Women's golf will be the first sport added to the NCAA lineup since women's soccer in 2008, increasing its varsity total to 14 teams. UCCS also fields teams in volleyball, men's and women's cross country, men's and women's soccer, men's golf, men's and women's basketball and men's and women's indoor and outdoor track and field.

The Mountain Lions will join the RMAC as the ninth institution with women's golf, along with Adams State, Black Hills State, Chadron State, Colorado Christian, Colorado Mesa, Colorado State-Pueblo, Regis and Western New Mexico.

Watch for benefits information in the mail[14]

Employee benefits for the 2013-14 fiscal year will begin July 1. In the coming weeks, University of Colorado benefits-eligible employees and retirees will receive the necessary ID cards and information to take full advantage of their benefits.

Watch your mail for the following items:
Late June: Medical and dental ID cards will arrive by the end of the month. Please confirm that ID card information is correct. For employees and retirees enrolled in CU Health Plan Exclusive or Access Network, check that the ID card lists the correct primary care physician for you and covered dependents. **July 1:** Benefit confirmation statements will be mailed before July 1. Immediately open and review the statement for accuracy. If you find any errors, promptly contact the Employee Services' Benefit Office at 303-860-4200 option 3 or 1-855-216-7740. **Mid-July:** Important benefit notices, including plan benefit booklets, privacy notice, COBRA notices and more, will be mailed in mid-July. If you have questions, please call Employee Services at 303-860-4200 and select option 3 or call toll-free at 855-216-7740.

At CU Advocates event, officials spell out challenging funding environment[15]

Jeff Parker, vice chancellor of administration and finance, CU Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus, explains some of the funding challenges confronting CU at the May 29 lunch-and-learn session.

CU Advocates wrapped up a four-campus series of discussions about the university's economic future with a lunch-and-learn session at the University of Colorado Denver Business School.

State funding for higher education remains on a significant downward trend and is predicted to worsen in the next decade, officials said. In response, the university is implementing various strategies to lessen the impacts of state funding cuts, including reducing expenditures through budget cuts and efficiency initiatives, increasing tuition, and increasing foundation and fundraising efforts. In addition, the university is working to inform the public and legislators about the funding crisis and CU's substantial value to the state and nation.

Program presenters were Jeff Parker, vice chancellor of administration and finance, CU Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus, and Todd Saliman, CU system vice president and chief financial officer.

A similar lunch-and-learn took place on the CU Anschutz Medical Campus in April[17]. This week's session filled a lecture room in the Business School. View the slideshow of their full presentation here[18] (PDF).

Parker and Saliman opened the budget conversation by focusing on a few positive highlights, including CU's economic impact ($5.3 billion to Colorado's economy in 2011) and outstanding academic achievements (five Nobel Laureates and eight MacArthur Genius Fellows). CU Denver confers the most graduate degrees (master's level) of any institution in the state and boasts the most diverse student population among public research universities in Colorado. It offers the state's only schools of architecture and public affairs, the only bioengineering program (joint with the Anschutz Medical Campus), the largest graduate business school and school of education, and was among the first international colleges approved by the Chinese Ministry of Education.

The funding picture has grown increasingly bleak during the past decade. In 1991, almost 20 percent of the state budget went to higher education. By 2001 the state share had dropped to 14 percent for higher education and now it's at about 8 percent. Projections show that state higher-ed funding could run out by 2023.

The bulk of general fund obligations goes to K-12 and Medicaid -- and those portions will steadily increase in the coming years, the finance charts show. Higher education bears the brunt of cuts "because higher education is the most flexible part of the state budget, and it's the easiest part for them to cut," Saliman said.

He said the funding challenges will become especially acute around fiscal years 2016 and 2017 when the state is projected to dip into the red because "there isn't enough money coming in the door" to cover all the state obligations. The shortfall is projected to hit $1 billion by 2023.

CU has coped with the reductions by becoming even more efficient -- the university's administrative expenses rate well below peer institutions -- and increasing the share of each campus's budget made up by tuition and fees. But the current approaches to balancing the budget are not sustainable, Parker and Saliman said.

"It's becoming a choice for the people of Colorado: What do you want your institution to look like from a quality standpoint vs. how much do you want it to cost?" Saliman said. "That's why this is so important, because the people of Colorado need to know this is going on and that different choices need to be made if we want to keep CU affordable in the future while maintaining current quality, and if we want it to be accessible to Coloradans in the future."

Parker said if current funding trends continue, a tipping point will be reached. Cuts have thus far occurred mostly in the administrative areas in order to preserve academic quality. "The quality of education at this institution -- at all four campuses -- is still there, but at some point, if we keep cutting, that will be brought into question," he said.

In response to a question about innovation in education, Parker pointed out that CU Denver is entrepreneurial and continually assessing what programs are desired to fill workplace needs. He pointed to innovative Business School programs including Global Energy Management and Risk Management. "I would say the Denver campus is notorious for doing that -- we have one-of-a-kind programs." He added that the university is engaging with faculty and leadership to ensure that CU remains a leader in technology. "Technology is obviously going to be key to how we deliver higher education in the future," Parker said.

Saliman noted that the recent Colorado Supreme Court reversal of the Lobato school finance lawsuit provided a dose of good financial news. It was feared that the suit, which argued that the state's current school funding system is unconstitutional, would have required the state to kick as much as $4 billion more a year into K-12.

Saliman said supporters of a new funding method for K-12, which passed the Legislature this year, are assessing a taxing mechanism to put on the ballot this fall.

"When you have more flexibility someplace else, that might reduce the amount of pressure that we see on higher

education," Saliman said. "That being said, does that conversation going on about the November ballot provide direct support to higher ed? It doesn't."

The CU Advocates program is a way to arm faculty, staff, students and alumni with information on how to be better advocates for the university. To sign up for CU Advocates click here[19].

Study: Clinicians often wait for 'red flags' before discussing elderly driving[20]

[21]
Clinicians often wait too long before talking to elderly patients about giving up driving even though many may be open to those discussions earlier, according to a new study from the University of Colorado School of Medicine[22] and the CU College of Nursing[23].

"These conversations often don't happen until clinicians see a 'red flag' which could mean an accident or some physical problem that makes driving more difficult for the elderly," said Marian Betz, M.D., MPH, at the CU School of Medicine[22] and lead author of the study. "But what's interesting is that most elderly drivers we spoke with said they were open to having earlier discussions."

The study, published recently in the Journal of General Internal Medicine, involved focus groups and interviews with 33 drivers over age 65 and eight health care providers including physicians, nurses and physician assistants. The research was done at three clinics at the CU School of Medicine and drivers were recruited from a local senior center and senior living community.

The study found that while clinicians were often the first to raise the subject of elderly drivers handing over their car keys, they tended to wait for red flags before bringing it up. They also reported that those conversations were usually "unpleasant."

Elderly drivers, meanwhile, said they were open to these discussions and generally saw their medical providers as fair minded. At the same time, the majority said they didn't believe their providers were aware of their driving status or ability. The elderly also tended to see a smaller role for family members in conversations about whether they should stop driving.

"Driving is linked to independence and asking for someone's keys is very emotional," said Betz, who conducted an earlier study on creating advanced directives to help drivers plan for future changes in driving. "Studies have shown that most people outlive their ability to drive safely by more than six years."

Betz said health care providers should start conversations with elderly drivers earlier, perhaps at age 65 when Medicare benefits kick in. That way, drivers can be thinking about it years before having to make the decision.

"A primary theme that emerged from this study was the overall importance of improved communication about driving safety," the study reads. "Both clinicians and drivers supported the idea of regular questioning about driving as a way to make it an easier topic, as patients might be more receptive if they heard it once before."

The researchers recommended a practice known as anticipatory guidance in gently preparing elderly drivers - by monitoring physical and mental changes - for the day when they could no longer operate a vehicle safely. Doctors could include driving status in their patient questionnaires and talk about it during regular office visits, they said.

"It's not just about taking the keys, it's about making plans," said Betz, an emergency room physician. "Drivers in our studies reported needing help in preparing for that transition, including learning about transportation alternatives."

Issues surrounding elderly drivers have been around for decades, but with 10,000 baby-boomers turning 65 every each day, it has taken on a new urgency, Betz said.

“It is now a public health issue,” Betz said. “Driving is such an important part of living in America. Mobility is critical, mobility is freedom. But at some point most people will develop difficulties with driving, so we all need to prepare for it.”

Allen honored with WiLMA during Mountain Region Economic Summit[24]

[25]
Brenda J. Allen, associate vice chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion at the University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus, was one of four women honored at the recent Women in Leadership and Management Awards (WiLMA) luncheon, which was part of the Mountain Region Black Economic Summit in Denver.

The award — named in honor of Wilma J. Webb, former legislator and Denver's first African-American first lady — recognizes women who have made a significant impact in business, education, the community and politics. This premier networking luncheon is designed to inspire guests by honoring several local women for their service and accomplishments.

Other recipients were Glynis Avila Albright, CEO and founder of Just Sweet Enough; Priscilla Brown, executive director of the Black United Fund of Colorado; and State Rep. Rhonda Fields (D-Aurora).

Knight, Lin receive research award on cell function, or malfunction[26]

University of Colorado Denver Department of Chemistry colleagues **Jefferson Knight**, assistant professor, and **Hai Lin**, associate professor, have received a multi-investigator Cottrell College Science Award from the Research Corporation for Science Advancement.

Knight and Lin are researching the subtle differences in how two similar proteins “dock,” or attach themselves to cell membranes. The proteins under investigation are called “synaptotagmins,” based on their functions in synapses, the communication junctions between brain cells.

Protein molecules are composed of strings of amino acids in tremendous varieties of sequences and forms, and participate in nearly all aspects of life at the cellular level. Studying how proteins inside a cell interact with the cell’s membrane, or outer “skin,” is one important key to understanding protein function. Proteins affect how the cell functions, or in the cases of disease such as cystic fibrosis, how it malfunctions.

The award is meant to fund research that will build teams of students and faculty that cross traditional disciplinary and department boundaries as well as promote basic research as a vital component of undergraduate education at the nation’s public and private small colleges and universities.

Knight, Lin and their students will perform experiments to identify the key amino acid residues contributing to electrostatic and hydrophobic interactions. Using modeling techniques, they will measure and compare the structures of the two protein molecules, and then they will employ computer simulations to theoretically alter the molecules’ shapes to see how these changes affect docking preferences.

The researchers said they hope their work will lead to better membrane-targeted drugs. (Roughly 50 percent of all modern medicinal drugs are targeted to the proteins composing our cells' membranes.)

During the past 15 years, the Cottrell College Science Awards, which are reviewed by a panel of top scientists, have supported the research work of more than 1,500 early career scientists at 400 institutions.

Truesdale recognized for community service[27]

Rhonda Truesdale, human resources and finance manager for the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus Police Department, was honored by the National Council of Negro Women Inc. (NCNW).

Truesdale, a Denver native, is the youth director of the Youth Ministry at True Light Baptist Church where she also leads the Wednesday Night Youth Bible Study Group. While not a member of NCNW, she was nominated by a member.

"This is an honor and a surprise," Truesdale said. "I am a behind-the-scenes person, but I enjoy working with young people because of their energy. They need to be encouraged and a lot of them need a caring person who will listen to them. I want to be that encouraging person."

NCNW is a council of national African-American women's organizations and community-based sections. Founded in 1935, the NCNW mission is to lead, develop and advocate for women of African descent as they support their families and communities. NCNW fulfills this purpose through research, advocacy, and national and community-based services and programs on issues of health, education and economic empowerment in the United States and Africa. With its 39 national affiliates and more than 240 sections, NCNW reaches nearly 4 million women.

Employees recognized for length of service[28]

'Let Your Light Shine recipients include, from left, Brooke Fitzpatrick, Meredith Lopez, Paula Wallace, Marlinda Hines-Sloan and Kerrie Bathje. Also in the photo are, starting fifth from left, Danny Felipe-Morales, chair of the Exempt Professional Assembly; Deserae Frisk, chair of the Staff Council; Don Elliman, chancellor; Lilly Marks, vice president for health affairs and executive vice chancellor for the Anschutz Medical Campus; and Kevin Jacobs, assistant vice chancellor for human resources

University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus employees who have reached milestone years of service were applauded May 31 for their uncommon loyalty, energetic spirit and dedication to students.

The annual awards ceremony recognizes employees who have completed five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of service, or even longer. It also honors Employees of the Month (Staff Council) and Let Your Light Shine (Exempt Professional Assembly) award recipients.

The luncheon recognized 230 employees at the Four Seasons Hotel Denver. Vice President for Health Affairs and Executive Vice Chancellor for the Anschutz Medical Campus Lilly Marks and Chancellor Don Elliman spoke to the large crowd before Kevin Jacobs, assistant vice chancellor for human resources, announced the long-term employees.

"For the past five years or the past 40 years -- and I have to say I know some of you from almost back that far -- this institution has excelled in your capable hands," Marks said. "This gathering today represents literally thousands of

years of collective experience, and we thank you, our honorees, for the professionalism that you have provided and the commitment and loyalty to our institution. You are truly the backbone of our institution. We are fortunate to call you colleagues."

Marks said the university's employees continually rise to the challenge, particularly in these times of shrinking resources and demands to do more with less. Employees have responded with creativity, flexibility and hard work. "You have been so vital to the growth and improvement of the university over a significant number of years," Marks said. "This is a celebration of your impressive record of service and a sincere expression of appreciation by the university for all that you've made possible."

Elliman echoed remarks made by Marks, and noted that the people in the room impact students' lives "as much or maybe more than any of us do." He added, "It means more to this enterprise, and most importantly to the students, who are the key to this enterprise, than we can possibly ever express to you."

Four employees reached the 35-year plateau and one, **Susan Hom,** a library technician at the Auraria Library, reached 40 years.

Each honoree received a certificate of service and they will also receive a gift card.

The full list of honorees can be viewed at http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/newsroom/newsreleases/Documents/PDF/2013EmpRecForPubPDF.pdf[30].

Kautzer curates new exhibit on home and homelessness[31]

[32]

Chad Kautzer, assistant professor of philosophy at CU Denver, is curating an art exhibition at RedLine gallery[33], 2350 Arapahoe St., Denver. “Not Exactly: Between home and where I find myself” is RedLine's signature exhibition for 2013. It involves 21 international, national, local and "not exactly" homeless artists, as well as the work (and presence as a visiting artist) of Inocente Izucar, featured in this year's Academy-Award-winning short documentary "Inocente."

Kauzter described the idea behind the exhibit as “How resources are distributed, spaces ordered and boundaries policed reflect particular values. Values are written into the brick and mortar of our communities and structure our institutions, creating varying levels of vulnerability and privilege. Where we find ourselves—housed, homeless or incarcerated—is thus the result of more than the sum of our own actions.”

“Not Exactly” explores the material conditions and social relations that help constitute “home” or foreclose the possibility of belonging, for being homeless is not exactly the same as being without shelter, explained Kautzer. “The artists in this exhibition challenge the values that produce social marginalization and unsafe places for so many. Their work calls upon all of us to reimagine our communities and cultivate the possibilities for living otherwise.”

“Not Exactly: Between home and where I find myself” is on display through July 28.

Award recognizes Camidge’s work in lung cancer[34]

[35]
Ross Camidge, director of the thoracic oncology clinical program and associate director for clinical research at the CU Cancer Center, has received the Hank Baskett Sr. Spirit Award. The award was created to raise funds and awareness for those affected by lung cancer.

Hank Baskett Sr. was diagnosed with lung cancer and in 2012 his son, Hank Baskett III, an NFL wide receiver and co-star of a reality television show along with his wife Kendra Wilkinson, created the Hank Baskett Golf Classic to raise funds and awareness for those affected by lung cancer.

Dropping names …[36]

Lorna Moore

Lorna Moore, professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the CU School of Medicine, joined a group of distinguished colleagues last month when she was awarded the Robert F. Grover Prize from the American Thoracic Society during a ceremony in Philadelphia. The award recognizes “outstanding contributions to the study of the effect of hypoxia and high altitude on the pulmonary circulation” and is named after Robert F. Grover, a member of the CU School of Medicine faculty 1957-84. …**Timberley Roane** and **Aimee Bernard**, CU Denver Integrative Biology faculty, were on the Steering Committee for the 20th annual American Society for Microbiology Conference for Undergraduate Educators (ASMCUE - www.asmcue.org[38]), May 16-19 in Denver. They helped recruit several talented scientists/educators from the Denver area as speakers at the conference. Bernard participated in a group presentation titled “Doing the Classroom Flip: Are You Ready to Turn Your Classroom on its Head?” The ASMCUE is an intensive four-day working conference that brings together 300-plus educators from colleges, universities and international institutions to learn and share the latest information in the biological sciences and education research. ASMCUE participants are focused on the same goal: to improve teaching and learning in the biological sciences. …**Bryan Haugen** and **Marvin Schwarz**, professors of medicine at the CU School of Medicine, are among the 64 physicians elected this year to the Association of American Physicians, which has about 1,300 active members and 600 emeritus and honorary members. The nonprofit, professional organization was founded in 1885 for “the advancement of scientific and practical medicine.” Members are from the United States, Canada and other countries. The goals of its members include the pursuit of medical knowledge, and the advancement through experimentation and discovery of basic and clinical science and their application to clinical medicine. Each year, individuals having attained excellence in achieving these goals, are recognized by nomination for membership by the Council of the Association. Their election gives them the opportunity to share their scientific discoveries and contributions with their colleagues at the annual meeting.

Department of Higher Ed sets meetings for input on college admissions standards[39]

The Colorado Department of Higher Education has scheduled a series of meetings in communities across the state to gather input on proposed changes to the state’s college admissions standards policy and its remedial education policy.

Task force members began meeting in May 2012 to evaluate current policies governing how students are admitted to college and whether they need remedial education before taking college-level courses. Their initial recommendations are aimed at increasing student success in college.

Key recommendations of the Admissions and Transfer Policy Review Task Force include:
Eliminate the admissions index and focus on demonstrations of competency Use results of new K-12 state tests as a factor in admissions Guarantee admissions for community college graduates at most four-year universities
Key recommendations of the Remedial Education Policy Review Task Force include:
Add to the number of tests used, including new K-12 state tests, to determine remedial needs Adopt differentiated placement for determining the need for math remediation
The DHE is required by state law to review these policies. The Colorado Commission on Higher Education is scheduled to vote on final recommendations from the task forces by December 2013.

Upcoming meeting times and locations are as follows; a meeting in Pueblo remains to be scheduled:
Monday – Fort Collins, 1-3 p.m., campus, and 5-7 p.m., community, both at Lory Student Center Tuesday – Denver/Littleton, Arapahoe Community College, Half Moon M 1800, 4-6 p.m. June 24 – Durango, Durango 9-R administration building, 5-7 p.m. June 26 – Grand Junction, Colorado Mesa University, University Center, 5-7 p.m.
Additional information, including detailed recommendations and task force membership:
Admissions and Transfer Policy Review - http://highered.colorado.gov/Academics/Groups/AdmissionTransferReview/default.html[40] Remedial Education Policy Review – http://highered.colorado.gov/Academics/Groups/RemedialReview/default.html[41]

Safely browsing the Internet[42]

The Internet has become a powerful tool for many tasks, such as searching for information, communicating with friends and co-workers, shopping online and managing your finances.

In almost all of these cases, the primary tool you use is your browser, such as Internet Explorer, Chrome, Safari or Firefox. Your browser is in many ways your gateway to the Internet. It is also the top target for cyber-criminals. By protecting your browser, you protect yourself against many of today's attacks.

For details on how to browse the Internet safely, see the June 2013 Office of Information Security Cyber Security newsletter[43].

Anschutz Health and Wellness Center rolls out free cycling workshops[44]

The Anschutz Health and Wellness Center (AHWC) offers a number of ways for you to start living more healthfully, including a series of free cycling workshops that continues today.

Performance training: 5:30-6:30 p.m. today and Aug. 14

Benefit from the same expertise as elite professional cyclists. A leading researcher in sports performance, Iñigo San Millan, Ph.D., will help you base your training on science, not subjectivity.

Bike maintenance: Wednesday

Wheat Ridge Cyclery will help you understand basic bike maintenance and best practices to ensure you're tour ready.

Sports nutrition: July 9, Aug. 6, Aug. 27

Proper nutrition is critical for endurance athletes. Learn what to eat before, after and during long rides.

For more information, please visit the AHWC website[45].

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/four-cu-researchers-named-2013-boettcher-investigators[2] https://connections.cu.edu/news/four-cu-researchers-named-2013-boettcher-investigators/bfww_ambardekar_r[3] https://connections.cu.edu/news/four-cu-researchers-named-2013-boettcher-investigators/bfww_brzezinski[4] https://connections.cu.edu/news/four-cu-researchers-named-2013-boettcher-investigators/bfww_park[5] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/bfww_Person.png[6] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/five-questions-tom-napierkowski[7] https://connections.cu.edu/file/5qs-napierkowski-toppng[8] https://connections.cu.edu/file/5qs-napierkowskipng[9] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/regents-ok-sale-part-ninth-and-colorado-property[10] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-boulder-prof-lead-nasa-campaign-study-north-american-air-quality[11] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/nasa_ucb.png[12] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/uccs-hires-sadie-farnsworth-first-women%E2%80%99s-golf-coach[13] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/farnsworth_uccs.png[14] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/watch-benefits-information-mail[15] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-advocates-event-officials-spell-out-challenging-funding-environment[16] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/advocates_ucd.png[17] http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/newsroom/newsreleases/Pages/CU-Advocates-present-lunch-and-learn-on-funding-outlook.aspx[18] http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/newsroom/newsreleases/Documents/PDF/Advocates-May-13-final.pdf[19] https://www.cusys.edu/cuadvocates/[20] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/study-clinicians-often-wait-%E2%80%98red-flags%E2%80%99-discussing-elderly-driving[21] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/driving_amc.png[22] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/medicalschool[23] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/nursing/Pages/default.aspx[24] https://connections.cu.edu/people/allen-honored-wilma-during-mountain-region-economic-summit[25] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/brenda-allen_people.png[26] https://connections.cu.edu/people/knight-lin-receive-research-award-cell-function-or-malfunction[27] https://connections.cu.edu/people/truesdale-recognized-community-service[28] https://connections.cu.edu/people/employees-recognized-length-service[29] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/employees_people.png[30] http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/newsroom/newsreleases/Documents/PDF/2013EmpRecForPubPDF.pdf[31] https://connections.cu.edu/people/kautzer-curates-new-exhibit-home-and-homelessness[32] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/kautzer_people.png[33] http://redlineart.org/art/events/exhibitions/not-exactly.html[34] https://connections.cu.edu/people/award-recognizes-camidge%E2%80%99s-work-lung-cancer[35] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/camidge_people.png[36] https://connections.cu.edu/people/dropping-names-153[37] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/moore_people1.png[38] http://www.asmcue.org[39] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/department-higher-ed-sets-meetings-input-college-admissions-standards[40] http://highered.colorado.gov/Academics/Groups/AdmissionTransferReview/default.html[41] http://highered.colorado.gov/Academics/Groups/RemedialReview/default.html[42] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/safely-browsing-internet[43] https://www.cu.edu/content/oismonthlycybersecuritynewsletter[44] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/anschutz-health-and-wellness-center-rolls-out-free-cycling-workshops[45] http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=001IbCSOJTqO3J9_Z7Q4HiMz0fV1jm3ecA76EOzSUViaM7OKAkjlr1uxZPJbFwNpcg9jIGK9AT4jfCo6H2Uh8V-1D0hUMkiZD_Vo5DOPBU1IsPips87LhIVBwcvK7oaRbUsht-1acI5toBtmh1oYoQAEQhWPz7o-_69Xtdb64oO3M8me5LLiLNR5C60ZiCsauRMO-oG5Ml8_Z9hwnHfaSXdqoc72UZGa11UUe_SZV78eUV6G62sDiPG1kpBQaJB1ppM8M4KzE18JQJxHeA49c_BZzvoiwL0-Xdc2MXao-L52DhptXrVE40paTAZ_mmu98z80N93tvg_LPw=