Six CU researchers named Boettcher Investigators[1]
[2]

Six University of Colorado researchers at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus and CU Boulder have been named Boettcher Investigators in the Boettcher Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Awards Program[3] for 2018.

The awards support promising, early career scientific researchers, allowing them to establish their independent research and compete in the future for major federal and private awards. Recipients are awarded $235,000 in grant funding to sustain up to three years of biomedical research. They also receive the title of Boettcher Investigator.

"The 2018 class of Boettcher Investigators represents Colorado's most dynamic emerging scientists, leaders who are committed to improving human health," said Katie Kramer, president and CEO of the Boettcher Foundation. "The Boettcher Foundation is honored to support their research at this critical juncture in their careers and to elevate scientific innovation across our state."

The 2018 Class of Boettcher Investigators and their research topics are:

CU Anschutz Medical Campus
Kathleen M. Gavin, Ph.D., assistant professor of medicine, Division of Geriatric Medicine – Cellular composition of adipose tissue **Jean M. Mulcahy Levy, M.D.**, assistant professor, Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders – New therapy development for pediatric brain tumors **Matthew Taliaferro, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of biochemistry and molecular genetics – Regulation of subcellular RNA localization **Eszter K. Vladar, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of medicine and cell and developmental biology – Airway epithelial development, homeostasis and dysfunction
CU Boulder
Edward Chuong, Ph.D., assistant professor of molecular, cellular and developmental biology – Evolution of gene regulatory networks **David H. Root, Ph.D.,** assistant professor of psychology and neuroscience – Neurobiology of drug addiction
Also named to the 2018 class of Boettcher Investigators: Jesse W. Wilson, Ph.D., of Colorado State University.

The Boettcher Foundation Board of Trustees formally announced its annual class of Boettcher Investigators on June 7. The year's total funding from the Boettcher Foundation's Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Awards program is $1.41 million.

With the addition of the ninth class, there are 39 Boettcher Investigators at CU receiving over $9 million in biomedical research support.

See all CU Boettcher Investigators[4].

In its ninth year, the Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Awards honor the commitments that the Webb and Waring families made to scientific research. Including the class of 2018, 61 Boettcher Investigators have received funding through the Webb-Waring program.

Since 2010, Boettcher Investigators have gone on to earn a collective $34 million in subsequent independent research funding. Some 95 percent of award recipients still reside at Colorado research institutions, advancing the foundation's mission of keeping Colorado's top scientific minds in the state.

"We are continually impressed by the caliber of the community of Boettcher Investigators and the promise of their research to build better lives" said April Giles, president and CEO of the Colorado BioScience Association. "The research supported by the Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Awards undoubtedly improves the health of the bioscience industry and the residents of Colorado."

Weeding through innovations[5]

[6]

Weeding out the winners was the daunting task faced by the voting body for the 2018 CU Innovation and Efficiency Awards. In the end, the weeds won.

At this year's CU I&E Expo, CU Boulder employees David Lawson, Darren Willett and Pedro Vasquez Silva won the $1,500 grand prize for their creative approach to weed control on the campus. In the wake of the 2013 floods, they noticed that vegetation around a steam pipe rupture was killed. Inspired, they found a viable steam weed control process and machine in Australia and successfully implemented it on the pesticide-free grounds.

Four other individuals/teams won $1,000 cash awards for their innovative practices.

Parking gurus Jim Spice, Matthew Broderick, Renee Cinkosky and Natalie Skaggs implemented an enhanced "virtual" parking system at UCCS. Campus users now may register their vehicles rather than be required to stand in line each semester to obtain a permit. Technology also enables electronic parking enforcement and payment by cell phone.

Undergraduate adviser Maura Hollister faced a challenge as sole adviser to over 450 electrical engineering students in Boulder. She stepped up to the task by devising paperless approaches to sharing critical information, including dry-erase course flow diagrams and the use of GoogleDrive. Students use cell phones to store and study pictures of their degree progress.

Mikayla Greenfield and Chavon Harrell worked with Colorado Springs Utilities to create a spreadsheet that consolidated 75 monthly utility bills for campus properties, simplifying the payment process and state-mandated energy usage reporting. The utility company was so pleased with the spreadsheet approach that it is being rolled out to other large public entities in the area.

Finally, a joint effort from UCCS and University Information Systems (UIS) resulted in the implementation of the previously unused Veterans Benefit Module in PeopleSoft. They integrated it with the OnBase and CU Student Integrated Systems (CU-SIS) to simplify and expedite the processes for adding and tracking information related to veterans and their benefits. The team brought together Jacqueline Gatlin, Allison Noel and Jennifer Phillips of UCCS, and John Hanna, Phillip Curry, Phillip Jones and Stefan Garman of UIS.

Thanks and kudos also go out to five other teams who made it to the semi-finals:

Amy Cole developed an electronic coding process for invoices and journal entry upload spreadsheets, streamlining the month-end processing and reconciliations for the Boulder Events Planning and Catering department.

Jefferson Butler and Alan Brown made utility delivery more reliable for students and employees by implementing a backup system for the compressed air that powers heat, hot water and condensate evacuation pumps for Boulder's residence halls.

Rhea Taylor and Suzanne Scott developed the creative "You Rock!!!!" peer recognition program in the UCCS Budget Department. Employees are recognized for their good work with colorfully painted rocks; after collecting five, the employee is treated to lunch, courtesy of their manager. Everyone benefits from this show of appreciation – and there's no cost to CU.

Greg Brown, Kathy Phillips, Sharon DeCarlo and Stephanie Rosario developed a Cognos report (the Sponsored Project Routing Process Tool) that summarizes critical sponsored award information. The report saves Grant Accountants 400 person-hours of labor.

Chris Seek, Mike Cusic and Normandy Roden from the Office of University Controller at CU system redesigned boring policy websites with brain-friendly graphics, summaries and quizzes to create a more interactive and appealing user experience.

The CU Innovation and Efficiency Awards Program promotes and rewards creative approaches to solving work-related

challenges and simplifying or streamlining business processes. The program period runs Dec. 1-Feb. 28 each year. See the website here[7] and be sure to tell about your own innovations.

Hundreds of CU faculty, staff ready to roll for Bike to Work Day[8]
[9]

On Wednesday, June 27, hundreds of CU staff, faculty and students will join thousands of other Coloradans in riding on Bike to Work Day[10].

Last year, more than 34,000 riders from across metro Denver and more than 1,100 in Colorado Springs registered for Bike to Work Day, including more than 500 from CU campuses. Riders enjoyed free breakfast at more than 300 breakfast stations, rode more than 600,000 miles, helped avoid 265 tons of CO_2 – and burned countless millions of calories.

For 2018, it's All Four: Bike to Work Day, as the campuses are joining together in the effort to increase our positive impact with the goal of surpassing 1,000 registered participants.

To get involved:
Register and find out what is happening on your campus and in your area (see links below) Show your colors by ordering a Bike to Work Day T-shirt[11] Ride your bike on June 27
CU Boulder - Register[12]

On Bike to Work Day, swing by the breakfast station at the Rec Center on your way to work. Showers will be available to all participants with CU ID. After work, ride over to the Bike Home Party Station at the University Memorial Center from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Hop on a blender bike to make your own smoothie, grab some snacks, play games and win prizes from CU Bike Program and various vendors from the Hill.

All of June is Walk and Bike Month in Boulder; find other events leading up to Bike to Work Day posted on the Walk and Bike Month Website[13]. Questions? Contact clark.rider@colorado.edu[14].

UCCS - Register[15]

Join us any time from 6-9 a.m. at the University Village Colorado amphitheater for free breakfast. Every UCCS faculty or staff member who registers by June 25 will receive a free day pass to the Gallogly Recreation and Wellness Center's shower facilities. This also is an opportunity to sign-up for UCCS' Pedal Perks bike incentive program. Receive an RFID tag and a Polar water bottle and enter to win monthly prizes and learn about community rides.

For ideas on how to make your commute flat and fun, or more details about breakfast stations and after-work activities, visit www.bikecoloradosprings.org/calendar[16] or send questions to kreeves2@uccs.edu[17] or Ext. 3089.

CU Denver, CU Anschutz Medical Campus and CU system - Register[18]

Last year, more than 750 cyclists – CU and non-CU staff – rode to work at CU Denver, CU Anschutz, CU hospitals and medical centers and CU system administration. This year's goal is to eclipse 1,000 participants. Breakfast stations will be hosted at CU Denver and CU Anschutz:
CU Denver and CU system are combining efforts to increase the cool factor. The location downtown will be at Cherry Creek Front Park, right off the bike path between Speer Boulevard and 14th, Lawrence and Larimer streets. Come enjoy live music and dance with Milo. Pedal to CU Anschutz and enjoy food, music, a prize drawing for registrants and more. The station will be at the grass oval in front of Building 500. CU Anschutz's registration goal is 600 participants. Your registration will include entry into the DRCOG/WaytoGo Bike-to-Work-Day raffle (open to all Denver-Boulder participants) which includes a chance to win a cycling trip for two to Iceland. Many other great prizes are available; the earlier you register, the greater your chance of winning a prize. Click here to register.[19]

Visit the Bike to Work website[11] for more details about all breakfast stations, group rides, T-shirts and more.

Heritage Society welcomes 140 new members at annual luncheon[20]

University of Colorado MOOC enrollments top 2 million[21]

A leader in massive open online courses – or MOOCs – the University of Colorado recently exceeded 2 million enrollments since first offering the classes in 2013.

"Reaching the 2 million enrollment mark is a testament to CU's innovative faculty and the quality of the content they and their development teams have produced," said Deborah Keyek-Franssen, associate vice president for digital education and engagement at the CU system.

Now offering 95 courses reaching 194 countries, CU has long been a pioneer in the MOOC space. In 2017-18, CU launched more than 60 new MOOCs, such as the Compassionate Leadership Through Service Learning[22] with world renowned primatologist and anthropologist Jane Goodall; Science of Exercise[23]; and Coexistence in Medieval Spain: Jews, Christians and Muslims[24]; and over three dozen courses in cybersecurity.

CU's four campuses also offer 18 specializations composed of four to seven MOOCs that work together as a series and may include certification and/or a capstone experience. New specializations range from Programing for Unity Game Development[25] to Fundamentals of Computer Network Security[26] to The Teacher and Social and Emotional Learning[27].

Besides being a leader in online offerings, the university is stepping into revolutionary territory this fall as CU Boulder launches a new and innovative MOOC-delivered master's degree in electrical engineering[28] – the first of its type in the world. The specialization will enable those who already have a background in electrical engineering to take the next step and attain their master's degree – anywhere across the globe.

"The online master's in electrical engineering is a truly innovative project that advances the platform in a number of ways," said William Kuskin[29], CU Boulder vice provost and associate vice chancellor for Strategic Initiatives. "The department, and the university as a whole, has come together to create a cutting-edge degree that will afford access to higher education to a tremendous amount of people who would not otherwise be able to reach it. I'm very proud of everyone involved."

On average, MOOCs comprise a four-week course with one to three hours of effort each week by a student, Keyek-Franssen said. Learners may access videos, formative (non-graded) assessments, and discussion forums for free. To receive feedback and grades on assessments, learners may pay a subscription fee – around $49-$79 a month – and receive a certificate that's valued in the market.

"One of the best outcomes of innovations in at-scale learning is that CU faculty excellence is recognized around the globe," she said. "The majority of learners enrolled in CU courses and specializations on the Coursera[30] platform are from continents other than North America, which brings a global perspective to discussion forums and peer interactions."

Is an immunization for stress on the horizon?[31]

[TEDx conference 'Uncommon' to feature three CU Boulder affiliates](#) [32]

[Gov. Hickenlooper signs bill for cyber workforce development and research funding](#)[33]

[Rockin' litigation in the entertainment industry](#) [34]

[Fear fighter: Anxiety disorders take center stage in early VR testing](#)[35]

[Schulick named director of CU Cancer Center](#) [36]

[Baldwin joins CU Denver as vice chancellor of advancement](#) [37]

[Abraham appointed as new interim CUPD chief](#)[38]

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[In memoriam: Ronald M. Fitz](#)[40]

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://cuontheair.blubrry.net/2018/02/27/cu-offers-revolutionary-fully-mooc-delivered-masters-in-electrical-engineering/[29] https://www.colorado.edu/academicaffairs/william-kuskin[30] http://coursera.org/[31] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/immunization-stress-horizon[32] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/tedx-conference-uncommon-feature-three-cu-boulder-affiliates[33] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/gov-hickenlooper-signs-bill-cyber-workforce-development-and-research-funding[34] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/rockin-litigation-entertainment-industry[35] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/fear-fighter-anxiety-disorders-take-center-stage-early-vr-testing[36] https://connections.cu.edu/people/schulick-named-director-cu-cancer-center[37] https://connections.cu.edu/people/baldwin-joins-cu-denver-vice-chancellor-advancement[38] https://connections.cu.edu/people/abraham-appointed-new-interim-cupd-chief[39] https://connections.cu.edu/people/plunkett-direct-cu-news-corps-program[40] https://connections.cu.edu/people/memoriam-ronald-m-fitz