CU leads 2016 class of Boettcher Investigators[1]
[2]

Faculty from the University of Colorado lead the 2016 class of Boettcher Investigators in the Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Awards program, which supports the promising efforts of early career scientific researchers.

Seven of this year's 10-member class of awardees conduct research on CU campuses.

The Boettcher Foundation [3]Board of Trustees announced the class June 7. Each Boettcher Investigator will receive a $235,000 grant to support up to three years of biomedical research.

The prestigious award[4] supports promising, early career scientific researchers, allowing them to advance their independent research and compete for major federal and private awards in the future. The Colorado BioScience Association[5] applauded the Boettcher Foundation and its commitment to nurturing the state's most promising scientific minds.

CU researchers in the 2016 Class of Boettcher Investigators in the Webb-Waring Biomedical Research program and their areas of research are:

University of Colorado Boulder
Sabrina Leigh Spencer, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry; elucidating the causes and consequences of slow-cycling cells within isogenic population.
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
James L. Crooks, Ph.D., clinical assistant professor of epidemiology for the Colorado School of Public Health at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus and assistant professor of biostatistics and bioinformatics for National Jewish Health; wildfire smoke and pediatric asthma. **Wen-Yuan Elena Hsieh,** M.D., assistant professor of immunology and microbiology and assistant professor of pediatrics, division of allergy and immunology; immune dysregulation in pediatric SLE pathogenesis. **Ethan G. Hughes,** Ph.D., assistant professor of cell and developmental biology; intrinsic and extrinsic mechanisms regulating cortical remyelination. **Bernard L. Jones**, Ph.D., assistant professor of medical physics; achieving safe and effective dose escalation in pancreatic SBRT through tumor tracking and robust treatment planning. **Cristin Welle,** Ph.D., assistant professor of neurosurgery and bioengineering; development of high-density neural sensors for bioelectronics therapeutics. **Hongjin Zheng,** Ph.D., assistant professor of biochemistry and molecular genetics; mechanical studies of disease-related substrates entering mitochondria via protein import machinery TOM-TIM.
Completing the 2016 class of Boettcher Investigators are Rushika Perera, Ph.D., and Timothy J. Stasevich, Ph.D., both of Colorado State University, and Schuyler B. van Engelenburg, Ph.D., of the University of Denver.

"Colorado's life science sector values our most promising scientific minds, which contribute to building a robust ecosystem in our state," said April Giles, president and CEO of the Colorado BioScience Association. "The Boettcher Foundation and the Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Awards make a long-term commitment in support of that goal. We are grateful to the foundation for advancing scientific research in Colorado through its early investments in people and their possibilities."

Now in its seventh year, the Webb-Waring Biomedical Research program honors the commitments of the Webb and Waring families to scientific research and public service. Including this year's class, 45 Boettcher Investigators at CU and other leading academic and research institutions have received funding through the Webb-Waring program.

"We are proud to continue the Webb-Waring legacy by supporting Colorado's top scientific minds," said Tim Schultz, president and executive director of the Boettcher Foundation. "The research they are conducting has the potential to significantly improve human health, and we are honored to help these talented scientists bring their research to the next level."

The Boettcher Foundation[6] emphasizes a belief in the promise of Colorado and the potential of Coloradans. The foundation champions excellence across the state by investing in its most talented citizens and high-potential organizations, because supporting their hard work and leadership will enable them to give back for years to come.

The Colorado BioScience Association[5] champions life science, serving as the hub of Colorado's thriving bioscience sector by connecting innovators to funding, infrastructure, research and talent. From promising young companies to established corporations and institutions, the association provides opportunities for networking, education and professional development. It grows the bioscience workforce and leads business expansion policies to advance the industry in the state. CBSA represents more than 350 member organizations, including biotechnology, pharmaceutical, medical device, diagnostic, ag bio and mobile digital health companies, research and academic institutions and service providers.

PICTURED AT TOP: The 2016 class of Boettcher Investigators comprises, rear from left, Cristin Welle (CU Anschutz), Schuyler B. van Engelenburg (DU), Hongjin Zheng (CU Anschutz), Rushika Perera (CSU), Ethan G. Hughes (CU Anschutz), Timothy J. Stasevich (CSU), Bernard L. Jones (CU Anschutz), James L. Crooks (CU Anschutz); front left, Wen-Yuan Elena Hsieh (CU Anschutz), and front right, Sabrina L. Spencer (CU-Boulder). At center front is Tim Schultz, executive director of the Boettcher Foundation.

Five questions for Patricia Meyer[7]

We all need someone like Patricia Meyer in our lives: someone to keep us pointed in the right direction; someone to consider all the details and make things happen; someone to keep track of all the things we forget; and someone to offer a smile and a friendly greeting.

The students and her colleagues at the CU Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at the Anschutz Medical Campus are so lucky. Meyer is a program assistant for experiential programs and came to the university five and a half years ago on the recommendation of her tennis doubles partner. She had just closed her business and was spending a lot of time on the courts when the friend recommended she consider a job at the School of Pharmacy.

Her duties there are numerous, but most involve helping students navigate sometimes complex administrative requirements both on campus and in the field. She also coordinates two student outreach programs that are in partnership with several elementary schools in the area: the Pharmacist for a Day program and an annual service learning project. Meyer also coordinates CPR training at the school for students, faculty and staff. A certification is required for all students and most faculty members at the school.

Away from the office, she spends as much time as she can outdoors, playing tennis, swimming, hiking and playing golf.

1. What is the Pharmacist for a Day program and how are you involved in it?

I took over the program about four years ago. Students from fourth-grade classrooms in four elementary schools – Montview, Park Lane, Vaughn and Laredo elementary schools – take a field trip to our campus during the first week of January when our pharmacy students are on break. So the pharmacy students volunteer to present this program, which includes two sessions a day for four days. My role is to coordinate the program.

During the first session, the students learn about the differences between candy and medicine. The other half of the class teaches compounding and why it is important. The kids get to use a mortar and pestle and create a lotion-based substance, which is what compounding really is. At the end of the session, the elementary students go through what we call a "white coat ceremony," which is what our first-year pharmacy students go through at the end of orientation week. The fourth-graders are presented with a certificate of achievement and each class member signs a poster. This isn't a high-intensity program where their eyes are bugging out; it's scaled way down and is really fun.

2. Pharmacy students also participate in a service learning project, which you also coordinate. What does the program accomplish?

The program is conducted by our first-year pharmacy students and we partner with the same four elementary schools near the Aurora campus as we do for the Pharmacist for a Day program. The pharmacy students teach nutrition-based lessons to the elementary students. The content of the classes includes eating the right foods, how to stay healthy and understanding food allergies. I coordinate the project with the schools and make sure our students have everything they need to teach the lessons.

The pharmacy students have the opportunity to take the lesson content and build off of it to make the presentations their own, whether they prepare power points or a skit, etc.

3. You sound very passionate about your job and helping others. Why is it important to you to do that?

I think that if we expect our students to give back to the community then it's important that the staff and faculty be role models and also give back to the community. So I do as much as I can, including volunteering at 9Health Fairs and those types of things. I think a lot of my involvement is with the four elementary schools, too, and not just my CU job duties, but in my own personal relationships with the teachers, including sitting down with them and understanding their diverse populations and what we can do to better the program we have. That's really where I think I enjoy giving back the most.

4. How did you become interested in tennis and, as a coach, what "lesson" do you teach your students?

I've been playing well over 30 years and got involved with the game originally because I wanted my children at a young age to understand how the game is something they could enjoy for a lifetime. They played team sports when they were small, but didn't have much interest in tennis until high school. They both played four years in high school and both played in college. I was able to work out with them in both high school and college. They are both tennis teaching professionals here in Colorado.

I find tennis very rewarding, and still play at a competitive level.

When I coached the junior varsity team, the main thing I wanted the boys on the team to understand is that tennis is a sport they can take with them, and you get out of it what you put into it. I encouraged them to put into it everything they could. We had a lot of fun and they walked away with a greater understanding of the game.

5. What do you consider a favorite part of your job?

The students – and my interactions with them – are very rewarding. Most of the students are right out of their undergraduate programs, and having someone with a sympathetic ear available to them is important. It's also about having someone to hold them accountable. Everyone likes to know they are appreciated and I think the School of Pharmacy does a really great job of recognizing their employees, and the students appreciate the support we give them.

Graduation is always a rewarding time. After graduation last year, the wife of one of the students I interacted with came up to me and gave me a big hug and said, "I appreciate all that you have done for my husband. We are so grateful." Knowing I had made a difference is rewarding.

Lifetime in education leads to global gathering in Denver[8]

In the late 1940s, with World War II in the past and the world increasingly opening two-way avenues for college students and educators, Ruth Purkaple joined a new organization promoting those educational exchanges.

That nonprofit, NAFSA: Association of International Educators[9], attracted 10,000 members to Denver for its annual conference, May 29-June 3. Purkaple, a lifetime member, was among them.

“It’s fun being here,” Purkaple said, “even if none of my contemporaries are.”

Purkaple is 105.

She retired from the University of Colorado Boulder in 1978. Her work there as director of Study Abroad was the culmination of a higher-education career that had taken the Denver native to posts at institutions across the country. Some of the exchange programs she established at CU-Boulder – such as one with England’s Lancaster University[10] that dates back 45 years – still are thriving today.

“It’s what I breathed and lived,” Purkaple said of international education.

At the Colorado Convention Center, Purkaple briefly took in some of the sights and sounds of the conference’s International Education Expo Hall, where educators from more than 100 countries were on hand to reaffirm existing ties between institutions and foster new ones. Her nieces Nancy Hart and Barbara Sihombing escorted her, as did CU-Boulder’s Larry Bell, a modern counterpart of Purkaple’s, serving as executive director of international education and Global CU.

Bell recalled the last time NAFSA came to Denver, in 1999, when attendance was roughly half of this year’s event. “It continues to grow,” he said.

Purkaple, obviously, goes back further.

“I remember when we had about 200 members and thought that was terrific,” she said.

Like NAFSA, CU can proudly point to impressive growth in the ranks of international students at its campuses, which collectively counted enrollment of about 4,400 students from outside the U.S. in fall 2015.

“It’s changed dramatically in the size and scope of it,” Bell said. “At CU-Boulder, we have more than doubled the number of international students in five years, going from 1,200 in 2010 to 2,600 in 2015.” The number of Study Abroad participants has risen, too, up 30 percent.

CU-Boulder leads the state in international enrollment. CU Denver (1,463 students) and UCCS (282 students) also rank in Colorado’s top 10, at fourth and sixth respectively. The CU Anschutz Medical Campus adds another 70 international students to the CU system tally.

Purkaple’s visit included stops at the expo booths hosted by the University of Denver – her alma mater – and her former workplace, CU-Boulder. At that substantial display marked by multiple banners, all four campuses had sent representatives to engage with the world by meeting face-to-face with potential partners.

“Time marches on wonderfully,” Purkaple said. “It’s just great.”

CU’s presence at the NAFSA 2016 Conference and Expo reached far beyond its impressive station in the exhibition hall. All four campuses hosted tours for conference visitors. A series of Global Learning Colloquia included sessions at CU Denver[11], exploring topics such as STEM, business education and education for health professionals. A special session hosted by CU Denver [12]explored “Inclusion and Impact: Collaboration Between U.S. Diversity and International Offices.”

During the i-Engage Talks, a rapid-fire series of eight-minute presentations a la TEDx, Erick Mueller, a senior instructor at CU-Boulder’s Leeds School of Business, donned his motorcycle vest before presenting to an audience in the expo hall. His monologue on his Tour de Happiness shared lessons from the time he rode a Harley-Davidson cross country to gather interviews for a study of what makes people happy.

Educators from across CU also presented at sessions held throughout the weeklong event at the Colorado Convention Center. One of them brought together CU-Boulder’s Karen Crouch, program coordinator of international student orientation, and CU Denver’s Saira Yasmin Hamidi, program coordinator in the Office of International Affairs, who

demonstrated ways of using participatory theater to connect with international students during orientation. The session was chaired by Rebecca Brown Adelman, founding partner of Nederland's Affinity Arts Consulting; she co-founded and co-directed the Interactive Theatre Project at CU-Boulder from 1999 to 2015.

Paid monthly? June pay will be issued July 1[13]

University of Colorado employees who are paid monthly will receive their June paycheck on Friday, July 1. There is no change for employees who are paid biweekly.

CU employees have been paid in this manner since 2003, when Gov. Bill Owens signed into law Senate Bill 03-197, which delayed all monthly paid state employees' June pay to the first business day in July. The change eliminated one of the state's 12 monthly pay cycles during fiscal year 2002-03, saving the state $90 million in general fund expenditures, according to the Colorado Office of State Planning and Budgeting.

Five Boulder-area hikes to try this summer[14]

White House Reach Higher event comes to UCCS[15]

$2 million renovation underway at Lodge dining facility[16]

Third-graders explore Auraria Library during campus tour[17]
[18]

Auraria Library recently hosted an enthusiastic group of 80 students and their teachers from Denver's Doull Elementary School as part of a student tour of the Auraria Campus. The experience was geared toward inspiring the third-graders to set their sights on attending college.

The June 2 visit was great fun not only for the inquisitive students but for library staff as well. Research and Instruction Librarians Eric Baker and Diane Turner hosted a station featuring the library's anatomical models and skeletons. Work-study student employees Khadija Murad and George Tourovtsev assisted tech-savvy students with Mac software and photography in the Creative Technology Commons (CTC), and Digital Media Specialist Jenny Filipetti showed students how to use the Leap Motion controller to explore the anatomy of a tarantula and take a virtual world tour with Google Earth on the Discovery Wall. The campus tour was coordinated by Jaime Alvarez, assistant director of K-12 outreach at CU Denver.

The Auraria Library Discovery Wall[19] is designed to showcase and disseminate campus-created and academic content to the Auraria Community. It features faculty and student work related to teaching, learning and research on the Auraria Campus as well as featured highlights from Auraria Library collections.

The Creative Technology Commons[20] is Auraria Library's convergent space for digital teaching, learning and research. It provides technology- and multimedia-related training, consultation, and tools for scholarly use. The Commons facilitates access to hardware, software and hands-on guidance in the use of media and digital technologies; it aims to support and expand digital competencies on the Auraria Campus.

Researchers to study the influence of nutrition on brain development[21]

Alice Madden named executive director of Getches-Wilkinson Center[22]

Clauset wins international award for network science[23]

Aaron Clauset, an assistant professor of computer science and member of the BioFrontiers Institute, recently accepted the prestigious Erd?s-Rényi Prize in Network Science in Seoul, Korea, for his contributions to the study of network structure, community structure in networks, and his provocative analyses of human conflicts and social stratification.

The Erd?s-Rényi Prize is awarded annually to a scientist under 40 years old for fundamental contributions in the broad space of network science. Winners are chosen by a scientific commission of prominent network scientists. Clauset is the fifth recipient of the prize, which includes a $3,000 cash award and the opportunity to give a special prize lecture at the annual International Conference on Network Science.

Network science is an interdisciplinary field dedicated to studying complex networks of all kinds, including social networks, biological networks, technological networks and more. Advances in network science have an impact on many fields by providing new insights into how networks shape and drive complex systems, and by producing new tools for analyzing and predicting the impact of network effects.

Clauset is an internationally recognized expert in network science, and the 2016 Erd?s-Rényi Prize recognizes his fundamental contributions to advancing this field. His research focuses on developing novel computational techniques for characterizing the structure of complex networks and on applying these techniques to better understand complex social and biological systems. He joined the BioFrontiers Institute[24] and the University of Colorado Boulder's Department of Computer Science in 2010, after completing an Omidyar Fellowship at the Santa Fe Institute.

Staff recognized for service[25]

John Prine[26]

Two time Grammy-award winner, John Prine, is a singer songwriter who, from his eponymously titled first LP release in 1971, has continued to write and perform songs that have become central to our American musical heritage. Classics like, Angel from Montgomery, Sam Stone, Paradise, and Hello in There speak to the everyday experience of ordinary

people with a simple honesty, and an extraordinary ability to get right through to the heart of the listener.

With his career spanning more than 40 years Prine continues to perform at sold out shows all over the US, Canada, and Europe. Prine has become for many, not just a well loved and appreciated songwriter, but a bonafide American treasure.

Special guest, Peter Rowan.

http://events.colorado.edu/EventList.aspx?view=EventDetails&eventidn=34648&information_id=149702&type=&syndicate=syndicate[27]

Cost-conscious CU bucks the administrative myth[28]

Arctic's melting ice creates vicious warming circle[29]

The sobering thing doctors do when they die[30]

2016 Denver PrideFest[31]

The University of Colorado system and ALL Four campuses are proud to be among the sponsors of Denver PrideFest 2016. We are excited to be engaged with this event and to celebrate our diverse students, faculty and staff across all of CU.

Get Involved[32]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-leads-2016-class-boettcher-investigators[2] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/2016_investigators_044_crop.jpg[3] http://boettcherfoundation.org/[4] http://www.cu.edu/boettcher-foundation-webb-waring-biomedical-research-awards[5] http://www.cobioscience.com/[6] http://www.boettcherfoundation.org/[7] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/five-questions-patricia-meyer[8] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/lifetime-education-leads-global-gathering-denver[9] http://www.nafsa.org/[10] https://studyabroad.colorado.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=programs.ViewProgram&Program_ID=491[11] http://cudenvertoday.org/nafsa-world-comes-denver/[12] http://www.internationalnewsroom.com/diversity-inclusion-nafsa-2016/[13] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/paid-monthly-june-pay-will-be-issued-july-1[14] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/five-boulder-area-hikes-try-summer[15] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/white-house-reach-higher-event-comes-uccs[16] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/2-million-renovation-underway-lodge-dining-facility[17] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/third-graders-explore-auraria-library-during-campus-tour[18] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/ucd-auraria-tour.jpg[19] http://library.auraria.edu/discoverywall[20]

https://ctc.auraria.edu/[21] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/researchers-study-influence-nutrition-brain-development [22] https://connections.cu.edu/people/alice-madden-named-executive-director-getches-wilkinson-center[23] https://connections.cu.edu/people/clauset-wins-international-award-network-science[24] http://biofrontiers.colorado.edu/[25] https://connections.cu.edu/people/staff-recognized-service[26] https://connections.cu.edu/events/john-prine[27] http://events.colorado.edu/EventList.aspx?view=EventDetails&eventidn=34648&information_id=149702&type=&syndicate=syndicate[28] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/cost-conscious-cu-bucks-administrative-myth[29] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/arctics-melting-ice-creates-vicious-warming-circle[30] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/sobering-thing-doctors-do-when-they-die [31] https://connections.cu.edu/events/2016-denver-pridefest[32] https://connections.cu.edu/node/80192