Supporters learn firsthand about CU's impact, challenges at CU Advocacy Day[1]

[2]
By Chris Casey and Cathy Beuten

The vital role the University of Colorado plays in ensuring student success and creating the next generation of leaders was celebrated and affirmed at CU Advocacy Day[3] at the state Capitol March 22.

The morning program featured guest speaker Natalie Mullis (CU-Boulder, '94, '98), chief economist from the Colorado Legislative Council staff, who told advocates some good news: Colorado's general fund revenue is projected to be $227.9 million higher this fiscal year than an earlier forecast, which might mean a one-time boost to CU and other institutions of higher education. The better-than-expected growth in income tax revenue, from individuals and corporations, is credited with the forecast's increase, she explained.

Advocates visited the galleries at the Senate and House.

She cautioned, however, that the boost is short term and -- as Todd Saliman, CU's vice president for budget and finance and chief financial officer reinforced in his presentation – state funding for higher education is on a trajectory to disappear within the next decade.

CU Advocacy Day drew more than 200 participants from throughout the community, including CU Advocates, campus leadership, more than 35 members of the legislature and several students who spoke about the university's life-changing influence during a lunch reception at First Baptist Church.

"I always knew I wanted to go to CU-Boulder. I chose it because of its focus on sustainability, and being just far enough away from home (in Denver)," CU-Boulder undergrad Julia Harrington told participants. "I was confident that I would find my passion at CU and I was right. It ended up being more than I imagined… I've been exposed to a vast diversity of thought that has shaped how I see this world."

From left, Sen. Rollie Heath, President Bruce D. Benson, and CU Denver Chancellor Don Elliman

"The difference CU Denver has made in my life, and the CU system, is mind boggling," said Gordon Hamby, a senior in communications. "There's been so much outreach and support." "All of the things going on at the Anschutz Medical Campus can't be rivaled at any other institution in the country," said Ajay Thomas, a candidate for doctorate and doctor of medicine degrees at CU Anschutz Medical Campus. "I can't imagine a better place that I'd want to be besides CU."

CU President Bruce Benson, along with campus leadership, highlighted the university's powerful economic impact and key contributions to workforce development. "Employers want people with high- quality degrees that bring strong skill sets and critical thinking. We generate nearly half of all the degrees in the state of Colorado and the vast majority of graduate and professional degrees," Benson said. He also thanked all the legislators and advocates for their support of CU.

CU Advocacy Day was hosted by the CU Office of Government Relations[6] and CU Advocates Program[7]. Congressman Cory Gardner, R-Yuma, spoke at the event. Regents Steve Bosley, Joe Neguse and Vice Chair Sue Sharkey also participated.

Five things you need to know right now about the microbiome[8]

Rob Knight is a professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, a BioFrontiers Institute faculty member and a transplanted New Zealander

To pore through a list of Rob Knight's publications is overwhelming. The topics jump from lake sediments to pulmonary hypertension, and they span the globe from the Tibetan Plateau to the Midwestern United States. A professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, and a BioFrontiers faculty member, Knight walks, talks and lives at a rapid-fire pace because he is a busy researcher, and because he will never have enough time to tell you all he knows about the microbiome.

The microbiome is made up of microbes that live on us and among us. Scientists are becoming increasingly acquainted with the 100 trillion or so microbes that live on and in our bodies. In fact, these bacterial cells outnumber our human cells by 10 to 1, which means you can say you are more bacteria than you are human. Knight was part of the Human Microbiome Project Consortium that genetically sequenced the microbial mosaic of 300 healthy humans. What Knight is finding is that the microorganisms in our bodies make us more unique than our genes do.

For those just getting up to speed on the small universe taking up residence in our bodies, here are five things Knight wants you to know about the microbiome:

The microbiome is more important than you think.

Part wet lab, part computational lab, Knight shares space with a biologist and a computer scientist who share his interests in big data science.

Becoming friendly with the microorganisms living in and on your body should be fairly easy. They live in your gut, ears, mouth, nostrils and even your inner elbows. There are more than 400 known bacterial species in the human microbiome, which also includes viruses and fungi. The microbiome has been linked to a broad spectrum of diseases, from diabetes to depression. Influencing bacterial communities to support your health goals is a challenge, but might be easier than somehow modifying your genes to get the disease-free life you are after. Knight knows it is time to build some alliances with about 100 trillion new bacterial friends.

Each of us is as diverse as our microbiome.

Our own personal collection of bacteria is unique, with the similarities between any two people being only about a shared 10 percent. A similar genetic background might give you more common ground, but diet, environment, genetics and early microbial exposure can add variety to your personal universe.

Variety being the spice of life, the more diverse the community of bacteria, the better your health. Having little diversity in the microbial population in your gut, for example, could indicate problems with obesity or inflammatory bowel disease. In the gut, microbes break down vitamins and tough plant cells and extract valuable nutrients to deliver to your body. The more diverse your digestive team is the better.

“This is the Holy Grail of personalized medicine, “ says Knight, describing how drugs can be tailored to respond to specific bacterial communities to increase their effectiveness. “We're finding that optimizing the microbes you have may be even more important than optimizing your lifestyle.”

The microbial communities living within our bodies undergo rapid and dramatic changes in early childhood.

The easy answer to harnessing the power of the microbiome for better health is to cultivate a healthy one in the first place—in childhood. Part of the process of being born installs some of the healthy bacteria babies need, as they travel through the birth canal and into the world. Babies delivered via C-section may miss out on some of this. Breastfeeding will also supply youngsters with healthy microbes. Exposures to new foods, new environments and new illnesses all help babies grow their own unique microbiome.

In the first few years of life, babies go through a rapid overhaul of their gut microbial communities. Some of these changes can impact human health 60 or 70 years down the road. It seems the message new parents get about disinfecting everything in their baby's world may not be entirely correct. Some of the best opportunities for creating a healthy microbiome could seem counterintuitive.

Tasked with parenting his own young human at home, Knight pauses for a minute when asked how he is helping his daughter develop a healthy microbiome. "Letting her play outside is important . . . fresh air and grass and dirt. And we have a dog."

The long-term effects of antibiotics on gut microbial communities needs to be addressed.

Antibiotic medications are designed to kill dangerous bacterial colonies, but they are indiscriminate about it. These drugs are life-saving for people with very serious infections, but they also significantly impact the nature of the body's microbiome.

Today, more antibiotics sold in the U.S. are used in animals. Most are administered through their food and water, versus through an injection, indicating that they are not being used to treat a specific illness in a single animal. Antibiotics were used originally to keep animals in close quarters healthy, but farmers quickly noticed additional benefits: rapid animal growth and increases in fat mass.

Knight's lab is working to understand how antibiotics are impacting human microbial communities and our propensity for obesity. In addition, widespread use of antibiotics has contributed to the rise in antibiotic-resistant bacteria like MRSA and drug-resistant tuberculosis. An estimated 99,000 people die each year from hospital-acquired infections, most of which come from antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

"We are only now understanding the impact of antibiotics," Knight says. "We now need to figure out how to balance the necessity of antibiotics with the harm those drugs do to beneficial microorganisms."

Studying these small organisms requires big computing power

Knight's genre of study is often called "Big Data" for good reason. Genetic data requires massive computing power, big storage and tons of computer coding.

"Big science is hard. Metagenomic science is hard. And metagenomic, big science is the square of hard," said Doyle Ward, a scientist at the Broad Institute, in the institute's online newsletter.

Knight is constantly on the hunt for bigger and faster computing power and the expertise it takes to look across huge datasets for patterns. At the BioFrontiers Institute, Knight shares a lab with biologist, Robin Dowell and computer scientist, Aaron Clauset. All are working on big data projects and understand the need for effective analysis of huge sets of data. For example, a single flow cell used in genetic sequencing, about the size of a microscope slide, can generate in the neighborhood of 300 gigabytes of data. Never before, has computer science been such a good job prospect for college graduates, especially bioinformatics: a hybrid of computing and biology.

"As an undergraduate, I was told there was no career future in combining biochemistry with computer science, and that I should take 'more useful' courses like organic chemistry and genetics," says Knight. "It was in grad school that I realized computer science was necessary and I picked up those skills on my own."

Undaunted by the challenges of big data science, Knight is seemingly everywhere, sequencing the world around him. A Google image search shows him gingerly approaching a komodo dragon at the Denver Zoo, armed with a testing swab. Another shows the Knight family Labrador, Wash, unsure about having his tongue sampled. At the moment, Knight is participating in microbial-related research in Malawi on malnutrition http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/notrocketscience/2012/05/09/three-nations-divided-by-common-gut-bacteria/#.UUot3HDmpN0[11], and in the crowdfunded "American Gut" http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/american-gut[12] program to study our gut microbial communities stateside.

His sense of scientific urgency aside, Knight reflects on the impact of his research. “It is such an exciting time,” he says. “We are uncovering how valuable this microbial world is and figuring out creative ways to use new tools to solve problems. Part of our job now is to inspire the next generation of scientists to take the tools and make new discoveries. There is far too much here for one lab to take on.”

Annual $300 reward has potential to move employees[13]

[14]
Beginning April 1, University of Colorado employees who are enrolled in a CU Health Plan will be eligible to earn up to $300 a year by exercising for at least 12, 30-minute periods per month and tracking their progress through the free Be Colorado Move. program.

Mark Gelband, who is directing the program, discussed the new initiative during the March 21 monthly meeting of the University of Colorado Staff Council.

To document their exercise online, participants will be able to use certain mobile devices and a free app from Be Colorado Move. as well as a variety of wireless trackers, including FitBit or a Garmin device, Gelband said.

Gelband said data shows that claims associated with a sedentary lifestyle are among the leading drivers of health care costs. “We wanted to make the largest investment in people, because for individuals, it will be the single best thing they can do for their health,” he said. “And collectively for our university community, it’s the best investment we can make for everybody’s wellness.”

CU, University of Colorado Hospital and University Physicians Inc. employees and retirees who are primary members of a CU Health Plan are eligible to participate. Gelband said he is exploring ways to expand the program to dependents and other members of the CU employee community.

Along with tracking physical activity, to collect incentives participants must complete a SUCCEED Health Assessment, a questionnaire that evaluates their current health and is a tool that helps users achieve their goals. Gelband said anyone completing the assessment by April 1 will be entered in a drawing to win one of 12 $300 airfare vouchers.

Participants must also complete an annual biometric screening in the fall, or submit a physician's form. The screening, considered a preventative test and therefore covered by insurance, records basic measurements including blood pressure, height and weight, and cholesterol.

Visit http://becolorado.org/programs/[15] for more information about Be Colorado programs.

“We want to invest in our community being healthier in a way we know that makes a difference,” Gelband said. “We’re trying to help change the culture.”

Gelband also is exploring successful programs that encourage physical activity on other campuses that might be possible systemwide initiatives. One is CU Walks, a free, social, 1.5-mile daily walk on the Boulder campus. (For more information, visit http://www.colorado.edu/cuwalks/[16].)

“It’s a very communal thing and something that we would like to try to extend in the near future to all the campuses,” Gelband said.

Council members also selected winners of this year’s Service Excellence Awards, which are presented to one individual from each campus and system administration who have provided outstanding volunteer service to their campus, community/civic/professional activities, and the university as a whole through involvement in staff issues,

committee work, teamwork, professional development of peers and community relations.

The awards, which include a $1,000 cash prize, will be presented at the All Staff Council Conference on April 12 at Lawrence Street Center on the Denver campus.

Get on the Move. and SUCCEED
Complete the SUCCEED Health Assessment[17] by April 1 to be entered to win one of 12 $300 airfare vouchers and to be counted for the campus participation contest. The Be Colorado Move. initiative pays participants $25 a month for meeting baseline movement goals of 30 minutes 12 times a month of moderate to intense exercise. You must complete the SUCCEED Health Assessment to be eligible for the Move. incentive. The Be Colorado Move. app will be available for download April 1. Verizon phone users - the Boulder Verizon store is offering 25 percent off of FitBits, hardware that can be used to track movement and is compatible with the Move. website, for plan participants. The Anschutz Health and Wellness Center and campus rec centers are offering one week free membership as part of the introduction of Move.
Learn more at www.becolorado.org.[18] If you have questions or concerns, email questions@becolorado.org[19]

University Advancement and Student Engagement to enhance student success[20]

Chris Dowen

Connecting with students early in their academic careers will be a primary goal of Chris Dowen, who started last week as the university's first director of K-12 outreach.

Dowen comes to the University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus from the University of Denver's Morgridge College of Education, where he was assistant dean of admissions, marketing and communications. Previously, Dowen led admissions offices at the University of Northern Colorado and Sterling College (Kan.).

Dowen is excited by the university's forward-thinking approach of establishing early-on connections with potential students. "We want to expose students at a very young age to the university and hopefully build on that through junior high and high school," he said. "This will build a reference, early on, for what we are."

Genia Larson

The university is also establishing a new Office of University Advancement and Student Engagement, which will include outreach, events, alumni relationships and a new subdivision for parent and student engagement. Genia Larson, who has served as director of outreach, events and alumni relations, will lead the office as assistant vice chancellor.

In his state of the university address on the Denver Campus[23] last fall, Chancellor Don Elliman set a goal of developing a comprehensive strategy to enhance student access, increase enrollment, improve student satisfaction and increase student retention and graduation rates.

Raul Cardenas, Ph.D., associate vice chancellor for student affairs, said Dowen and Larson will guide the initiatives that move students into the admissions pipeline. "We have many K-12 outreach efforts taking place on both campuses and everyone is working really hard," he said. "The plan is to leverage all of that work and build on it."

The University of Colorado brand provides an "unbeatable starting point" for developing relationships with students and their parents, Dowen said.

In his new position, Dowen will facilitate university partnerships on both campuses with Colorado K-12 schools, where he already has strong relationships because of his previous admissions posts. The keys to K-12 outreach, he said, are relationship building and leveraging the full resources of both campuses.

"If we can effectively build on those keys as fundamental cornerstones we will be headed in the right direction," he said. "Ultimately, a lot of students will benefit, which is the bottom line."

University of Colorado Cancer Center elected to elite group[24]

University of Colorado Cancer Center has been added to an elite group of cancer centers that establish and deliver the gold standard in cancer clinical care. CU Cancer Center has been elected as a member institution by the National Comprehensive Cancer Network[25]® (NCCN[25]), an alliance of the world's leading cancer centers dedicated to improving the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of care provided to patients with cancer.

NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines®)[26] are used as the standard of care for oncology patients and are developed through a rigorous review of the evidence integrated with expert medical judgment and recommendations by multidisciplinary panels from NCCN Member Institutions.

"We are honored and humbled by being elected to institutional membership by NCCN," says Dan Theodorescu, M.D., Ph.D., director of the CU Cancer Center. "NCCN has been a national leader in advancing the quality and practice of cancer medicine. We look forward to contributing our expertise and ideas while supporting NCCN's national and international initiatives in patient care and research."

CU Cancer Center is Colorado's only National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center. The center is a consortium of three state universities, including the University of Colorado Boulder and University of Colorado Denver, and six institutions (University of Colorado Health, a network comprised of University of Colorado Hospital, Poudre Valley Hospital, Medical Center of the Rockies and Memorial Hospital; Children's Hospital Colorado; Denver Health, Denver VA Medical Center, Kaiser Permanente Colorado and National Jewish Health).

In addition to CU Cancer Center, UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center[27] in La Jolla, Calif., has been elected as a member institution by NCCN.

"We are extremely pleased that the University of Colorado Cancer Center and UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center have been elected to institutional membership in NCCN," says Dr. Robert Carlson, CEO of NCCN. "These two institutions add substantial strength and expertise to the excellence of cancer care, research and education characteristic of the other 21 world-class member institutions."

Online tool helps find youth development programs[28]

Colorado communities have a new tool to help identify programs aimed at developing healthy children, free from problems such as bullying, violence, obesity and depression.

The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence at CU-Boulder, in partnership with the Annie E. Casey Foundation, launched a new interactive website called Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development. The website will

allow schools, communities and government agencies to find scientifically proven programs based on their specific needs.

“Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development builds on decades of research about what works to help children reach important developmental milestones,” said Delbert Elliott, Blueprints founder and founding director of CU-Boulder’s Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence. “We used to focus primarily on programs that prevented or reduced juvenile delinquency, but research shows that we need to look at the full range of approaches to improve outcomes for young people.”

The website allows users to easily search for programs that target specific age groups, risk factors (such as the availability of drugs), protective factors (such as strong bonds with adult role models) and desired outcomes, among other factors. The website then generates appropriate matches from among 44 Blueprints programs.

Blueprints programs were launched in Colorado in 1996 and many are in long-term use around the state today. The new website makes it easy to select cost-effective programs in addition to accessing critical information about training, staffing and financial resources. The website is located at http://www.blueprintsprograms.com[29].

Programs include Multisystemic Therapy, which works with juvenile offenders and their families to reduce antisocial behavior and keep them in their homes and schools, rather than in juvenile detention. The program has been shown to generate nearly $25,000 in savings per participant, primarily through reduced crime.

The Denver-based Nurse Family Partnership helps low-income, first-time mothers have a healthy pregnancy and provide responsible care for their children. The program provides home visits from registered nurses until the child is 2 years old and also helps the mothers become more economically self-sufficient.

The Montbello community recently used Blueprints to identify and invest in programs that match their community’s prioritized risk and protective factors.

The Casey Foundation plans to use Blueprints as part of Evidence2Success, a new model aimed at increasing public investment in proven programs that promote children’s health and development. The first Evidence2Success site, in Providence, R.I., will use Blueprints later this year.

“Today’s leaders are seeking programs that are grounded in solid evidence that shows they have a positive impact on children’s lives,” said Patrick McCarthy, president and CEO of the Casey Foundation. “Blueprints gives leaders easy access to valuable information they can use to make critical decisions about which programs offer the greatest likelihood of creating a path to success for our nation’s young people.”

Each Blueprints program has been reviewed by Blueprints staff and an external advisory board of prevention experts that thoroughly examines the evidence for each program.

Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development is developed and managed by the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence in CU-Boulder’s Institute of Behavioral Science in partnership with the Dartington Social Research Unit in the United Kingdom, and is funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

National Board for Certified Counselors recognizes UCCS program for excellence[30]

The master’s degree program in counseling and human services at UCCS recently received a 2012 Professional Identity Award from the National Board for Certified Counselors Inc.

NBCC, based in Greensboro, N.C., is the premier counseling certification organization in the United States and certifies

more than 52,000 National Certified Counselors.

Each year, NBCC presents the Professional Identity Award to three counselor education programs in the United States in recognition of exemplary efforts to prepare the next generation of counselors. In addition to an award plaque, the honored programs receive $5,000.

In her award letter, Devika Dibya Choudhuri, chair, NBCC Board of Directors, cited the quality of the faculty at UCCS and their commitment to the counseling profession. Other recipients for 2012 are the University of New Orleans and the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

“The Department of Counseling and Human Services offers tremendously strong programs,” Mary Snyder, dean, UCCS College of Education, said. “The College of Education is thrilled and honored by this recognition. We take seriously the challenge of educating the next generation of counselors in the areas of clinical mental health and school counseling.”

Snyder said faculty in the Department of Counseling and Human Services will make recommendations about how best to use the award funds to benefit the program. She also expressed her appreciation to Leann Morgan, assistant professor, College of Education. Morgan submitted the nomination on behalf of the counseling program.

The College of Education’s clinical mental health counseling and school counseling programs are accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs. The College of Education is known for its focus on diversity and has pioneered partnerships with educational institutions in Asia, including the acclaimed Daegu Gyeongbuk English Village at Yeungjin College in South Korea and Milo International Kindergarten in Guangzhou, China.

In addition to preparing clinical mental health and school counselors, the department offers a specialized counseling and leadership program for the United States Air Force Academy. Each year, 20 mid-career Air Force officers are selected by the USAFA for training in counseling and leadership.

Obituary: Longtime CU Foundation President Charlie McCord[31]

Charlie McCord

Former President of the University of Colorado Foundation Charles Gillette (Charlie) McCord died March 16 surrounded by his family. He was 78. McCord served as president of the foundation from 1981 to 2000.

During his career, McCord received a number of awards and recognitions. He was honored with the Alumni C Club Award from the University of Colorado in 2002. He also received the University of Colorado Medal in 2004; and the Ira C. Rothgerber Award, for “extraordinary contribution” to CU in 2013. He was a member of Phi Delta Kappa, a professional education fraternity.

McCord is survived by his wife Sue, his daughter Jennifer, his son Kyle and two granddaughters, Cassie and Riley. Memorial contributions can be made to TRU Hospice Care, 2594 Trailridge Drive East, Lafayette, Colo. 80026. Share your memories with the family at www.howemortuary.com[33].

A celebration of McCord’s life will be held at 3 p.m., Saturday, April 13, 2013, at Old Main on the University of Colorado Boulder campus.

Obituary: Chancellor Emeritus Vincent Fulginiti[34]

Vincent Fulginiti

Vincent Fulginiti, M.D., chancellor emeritus, died March 19, 2013. He was 81. Fulginiti was a faculty member at CU in pediatric infectious diseases in the 1960s and left to be the first chair of pediatrics at the University of Arizona College of Medicine. He became chancellor of the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in 1993, resigning that position after five years in 1998.

Fulginiti returned to Tucson in 2001, where he was an active member of the medical community, serving as a writer, lecturer and innovator for organizations including the CDC, American Pediatric Society, Medscape Medical Journal and the federal response to bioterrorism. During his career, Fulginiti, an internationally respected expert in pediatric infectious disease, wrote four books and more than 200 scholarly articles.

Fulginiti and his wife of 56 years, Shirley, held a lifelong interest in biomedical ethics and in 2012 CU honored their commitment with the dedication of the Fulginiti Pavilion for Bioethics and Humanities on the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. He is survived by his wife and three children, John, Laura and Paul, and their families.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be considered to the Fulginiti Pavilion to continue his commitment to biomedical ethics. See the full obit[36].

Three CU-Boulder engineering faculty win prestigious CAREER awards[37]

Abbie Liel

Matthew Hallowell

Mahmoud Hussein

Three University of Colorado Boulder engineering faculty were selected this spring to receive National Science Foundation CAREER awards.

Assistant professors Abbie Liel and Matthew Hallowell of civil, environmental and architectural engineering, and Mahmoud Hussein of aerospace engineering sciences, were selected to receive the awards.

The NSF's Faculty Early Career Development Program, or CAREER, provides one of the nation's most prestigious honors for young faculty. The award, which comes with a five-year grant of about $400,000, helps establish the recipients' integrated research and educational activities and addresses areas of important need.

"Receiving an NSF CAREER award is a strong indicator of the outstanding accomplishments of these junior faculty and the likely impact of their research on our society," said Kurt Maute, associate dean for research in the College of Engineering and Applied Science. "I look forward to seeing their research programs flourish and their teaching and

mentoring to further excel."

Liel, who specializes in structural engineering and structural mechanics, plans to develop a multiscale methodology for assessing the reductions in seismic risk possible through building retrofit design and policy. Her emphasis on retrofit is motivated by the large number of older buildings that predate major changes to seismic code provisions and, as a result, are vulnerable to earthquake-induced damage.

Hallowell, who is part of the construction engineering and management group, is focusing on predictive modeling of construction injuries in complex environments. He will test the hypothesis that more than half of the variability in construction injury statistics can be explained by a few basic and inherent attributes of construction environments.

Hussein, who specializes in structural and material systems, will investigate the nonlinear, dissipative mechanics of phononic materials, providing formulations and analytical tools to investigate their application to acoustic/vibration control, blast protection, radio frequency sensing, acoustic imaging, digital signal processing, energy conversion and other areas.

For more information on CU-Boulder's College of Engineering and Applied Science visit http://www.colorado.edu/engineering[41].

Santoro, McManaman honored for research by March of Dimes[42]

Nanette Santoro and **James McManaman**, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the CU School of Medicine, recently accepted an award from the March of Dimes honoring the University of Colorado for Excellence in Research. The award, recognizing research in birth defects and premature birth, was presented during a ceremony at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

Since 2000, March of Dimes has awarded $4.3 million in Colorado research grants. Twenty-three of the 38 awards have come to the University of Colorado, totaling $3.2 million. Among the research projects funded are: developing treatment to prevent or halt preterm labor and prevent premature birth; developing drugs to prevent or treat preeclampsia, which effects up to 8 percent of pregnancies and accounts for 15 percent of preterm deliveries; understanding the causes of birth defects such as spina bifida and cleft palate and understanding the origin and development of various birth defects as a means of preventing or correcting them.

The University of Colorado Hospital, Children's Hospital Colorado and the March of Dimes have worked together for years to ensure babies have a healthy start. That partnership continues this year as the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus joins with its partner hospitals to become joint-presenting sponsors for the March for Babies walk April 27 in Denver's City Park.

Thanks to the caring employees who work on behalf of babies on the CU Anschutz Medical Campus and grateful patients and families, more than $150,000 was raised last year.

Dropping names …[43]

Robert Metcalf

Tony Robinson

Robert Metcalf, associate professor and chair of philosophy at the University of Colorado Denver, has been selected to participate in Emory University's Institute for the History of Philosophy this June, a two-week workshop involving 10 scholars in philosophy from across the country. In July, Metcalf will teach a weeklong text seminar on Heidegger as part of the Collegium Phaenomenologicum, in Citta di Castello, Italy. … **Tony Robinson**, associate professor and chair of political science at CU Denver, along with students Jessie Dryden and Heather Gomez, have an article in the latest issue of "The Journal of Workplace Rights: Intersecting Oppressions: Racial-Ethnic Stratification in Domestic Work, and Implications for Identity-Based Organizing" (Vol.16, No. 2, 2012, pp. 171-194). … **Mary Weber**, associate professor, endowed professor in Psychiatric Nursing and option coordinator for the Family Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program, has been inducted as a Fellow in the American Association of Nurse Practitioners. … **Mary Beth Makic**, associate professor adjoint and research nurse scientist of critical care at University of Colorado Hospital, has been inducted as a Fellow in the National Academies of Practice.

Proposals for technology conference due April 9[46]

Faculty, staff and graduate students are reminded to submit proposals for the COLTT (Colorado Learning and Teaching with Technology) 2013 conference. The program committee looks for dynamic sessions that explore groundbreaking and/or proven uses of technologies in teaching and learning settings.

The 16th annual COLTT is set for Aug. 7 and 8 at the Wolf Law Building on the CU-Boulder campus.

The call for proposals is now open and the submission deadline is April 9.

Click here[47] for details about the call for proposals.

COLTT 2012 broke previous attendance records and the new venue was resoundingly popular. Comments from COLTT 2012 attendees:

"Fascinating and thought-provoking options for learning and teaching"

"I have no experience with WordPress or website design, so this provided a great introduction- my mind is swimming with ideas!"

"Provided really great resources and examples for creating Android apps. No programming required!"

"I gained some personal tips and tricks to make how I personally use social media less cumbersome."

"Got me thinking in a whole new way."

The COLTT 2013 Keynote Speaker will be CU Regent At-Large Stephen Ludwig.

Click here[48] for more information about the conference. Registration will open soon.

Scholarship partners include Arts and Sciences Support of Education Through Technology (ASSETT) ATLAS, and the Graduate School on the CU-Boulder campus and the Colorado Community College System (CCCS) for their affiliates.

Questions: Jill Lester, COLTT Conference Coordinator, jill.lester@colorado.edu[49].

President's campus town hall meetings scheduled[50]

President Bruce D. Benson will host a town hall meeting on each of the four campuses and at system administration where he will give an update on the university. All university employees are encouraged to attend. The schedule is below:

Friday, April 12

University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Trivisible Room[51]

8 – 8:30 a.m. – Bagels and coffee

8:30 – 9:30 a.m. – Town Hall

Monday, April 15

University of Colorado Colorado Springs, Berger Hall

2 – 3 p.m.

Wednesday, April 24

University of Colorado Boulder, Old Main

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 25

University of Colorado Denver, Lawrence Street Center, Terrace Room[52]

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 8

System Administration, 1770 Sherman Street Events Center

7:30 – 8:15 a.m. – Bagels and coffee

8:15 – 9 a.m. – Program

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/supporters-learn-firsthand-about-cu%E2%80%99s-impact-challenges-cu-advocacy-day[2] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/cuadvocacy_capitol.jpg[3] https://www.cu.edu/content/universitycoloradoadvocacydaystatecapitol0[4]

https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/cuadvocacy_capitol2.jpg[5]
https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/cuadvocacy_greeting.jpg[6]
https://www.cu.edu/governmentrelations[7] https://www.cusys.edu/cuadvocates/[8]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/five-things-you-need-know-right-now-about-microbiome[9] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/5-questions-Biotech_Lab.CC190sized-knight-03-28-2013.jpg[10] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/5-questions-Biotech_Lab.CC196sized-knight-03-28-2013.jpg[11] http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/notrocketscience/2012/05/09/three-nations-divided-by-common-gut-bacteria/#.UUot3HDmpN0[12] http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/american-gut[13]
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