Researchers question national quality measure for childhood asthma[1]

Researchers studying the first national quality measure for hospitalized children found that no matter how strictly a health care institution followed the criteria, it had no actual impact on patient outcomes.

The scientists examined 30 hospitals with 37,267 children admitted for asthma from 2008 to 2010 and discovered that the quality of discharge planning made no difference to the rate of return to the hospital for another asthma attack in seven, 30 or 90 days.

“Our research concluded that there is no relationship between compliance with this measure and readmission rates for asthma patients,” said study co-author Marion Sills, M.D., MPH and associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine[2].

The findings are published in the Oct. 5 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA).

Asthma is the leading cause of admissions in children’s hospitals. To help provide the best care, the Joint Commission, a nonprofit that accredits and certifies more than 19,000 health care organizations programs nationwide, adopted three core process measures for evaluating how hospitals treat childhood asthma.

The Children’s Asthma Care (CAC) measures include giving asthma relievers upon admission, providing systemic corticosteroids and creating a home management plan of care when they are discharged. Hospitals’ compliance with the first two measures was high and did not vary enough for researchers to study the impact on outcomes.

By studying hospitals’ compliance with the third measure – devising a home health management plan – researchers concluded that it had no effect on hospital readmissions or return emergency department visits for asthma.

“No matter how well your hospital did in complying with this, there was no difference in readmissions,” Sills said. “For a parent trying to choose a hospital for a child with an asthma attack, this quality measure doesn’t help determine which hospital will provide better care. From a policy standpoint, these measures may not meet the Joint Commission’s own criteria for an accountability measure – that compliance should lead to better outcomes. This is especially important for measures that will be used for public reporting and pay for performance. Requiring a hospital to meet a certain criteria of patient care and then finding out that it makes no difference is reason to re-evaluate these measures."

The findings are significant because until recently none of the more than 50 Joint Commission measures evaluated care for hospitalized children. They have been used for numerous other conditions with varying success. For example, acute myocardial infarction mortality rates decreased but congestive heart failure death rates did not during times when compliance with process measures increased.

Sills and the other researchers concluded by saying the Joint Commission should reconsider whether a hospital’s compliance with the CAC measures is suitable for public reporting, accreditation or pay for performance.

The Child Health Corporation of America Research Group also took part in the study.

Five questions for Laura DeLuca[3]

Laura DeLuca

The idea to write a book came from a chance meeting and a mutual interest in peace, conflict issues and Africa. Laura DeLuca, Ph.D., an anthropology lecturer at the University of Colorado Boulder, and Sylvester Bongani Maphosa, Ph.D., director of the peace and security unit at the Africa Institute of South Africa (AISA), first broached the subject of

collaboration nearly a year ago. Both had attended an October conference sponsored by the Center for the Study of Conflict, Collaboration and Creative Governance.

DeLuca teaches several Africa-related courses at CU-Boulder and has published numerous articles concerning Africa-related issues; Maphosa's institute – a research organization and think tank that focuses on a variety of topics including socio-economics, politics and development – was considering a book project.

DeLuca's interest in Africa began as a Peace Corps volunteer who lived and worked in a remote area of western Kenya in a Luo village near Lake Victoria. After earning her doctorate at the University of Colorado Boulder in 2002, she began work as an anthropology lecturer, teaching courses on Africa, international development and social entrepreneurship. She has conducted research in Kenya and Tanzania on conservation issues, written about African refugee issues, participated in the Sudan Field School, and has published works on the crisis in Darfur and education in Kenya.

She recently spent nearly three weeks as a research fellow with AISA in Pretoria, South Africa. Now, DeLuca and Maphosa will co-edit a book emphasizing the successful community-based approaches to peace-building in Africa. The project will draw on global authorities and is scheduled for completion in October 2012.

1. What is the focus of the book?

The title of the book is "Peace From Below." Post-colonial Africa has experienced a lot of unrest and civil war. Instead of looking at the top-down failures of peace and conflict issues, the idea is to look at the grass-roots, bottom-up approaches that have worked and document them. We don't want to ignore the fact there have been real challenges, but we want to try to focus on the positive and what is working to showcase those methods as models. Instead of being just academic theory, we want the book to have a strong practice piece.

Book collaborators Sylvester Bongani Maphosa and Laura DeLuca at the Africa Institute of South Africa.

2. What is the goal of the publication?

After we publish the book, we'd like to do some outreach. South Africa is a regional leader economically and in terms of development and peace and security. AISA has relationships with five historically disadvantaged universities and we hope to take this information and develop capacity building and training, and to work with future leaders on peace and conflict studies.

Our audience would be academic first, then civil society organizations, nonprofits working on peace and conflict issues, and governments.

3. Although the project is still evolving, you already have a number of prestigious contributors. What are some of the institutions that will be participating?

This book is particularly exciting because Boulder is a hotbed for peace and conflict issues. Stanley Deetz, director of both the Center for the Study of Conflict, Collaboration and Creative Governance (C3G) and the Peace and Conflict Studies Program, has been supportive of the book project. In fact, the book is a direct result of the C3G conference he organized with the support of C3G and Peace and Conflict staff and affiliates including Colleen Scanlan-Lyons, Heidi and Guy Burgess, and Dai Kato. Other faculty will be involved. For example, Mara Goldman, assistant professor of geography and faculty research associate in the environment and society program at the Institute for Behavioral Science (IBS), and a Tanzanian colleague will write a chapter about conflict resolution in Maasai communities in Tanzania.

Some others involved are Georgetown University, the Kroc Institute at Notre Dame University, the University of Nairobi, the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa, the Institute for Peace and Security Issues at Addis Ababa University, researchers at AISA, and the Institute of Peace, Leadership and Governance in Zimbabwe.

Our hope is to bring everyone who is working on the book together in Pretoria in January 2012. There we will build relationships and have an exchange of knowledge so people who might not otherwise have this opportunity can meet. At a round-table seminar meeting, contributors will share the drafts of their chapters, but not as an academic exercise. There will be high-level practitioners from around Africa interacting with experts from the United States. The ultimate goal is to not only contribute to the academic literature on peace and conflict studies, but also to influence practitioners working to create peaceful communities often in the midst of violence.

4. What are some bottom-up concepts that have worked?

One example is conflict resolution and peace building in Tanzania. Instead of using external legal structures, the Maasai have traditionally solved their own conflicts. Another idea comes from a man I met through Boulder's Unreasonable Institute. Morris Matadi is a former child soldier and is working with child soldiers in Liberia and the Republic of Sierra Leone. He's developing a method of dealing with trauma, not as an outsider but as someone who has had the same experiences and is trained in peace and conflict issues. His is a voice that might not be normally heard in a traditionally academic book.

5. What are some of the biggest impediments to peace in Africa?

From my perspective, one major impediment began in 1885 with the Berlin Conference and the "Scramble for Africa." In many African countries, the borders were artificially created during the competition between European powers to grab resources and gain political influence. They were concerned less about creating nations that had any sense of coherence internally. That's not the only challenge, but it remains an important factor. An example is South Sudan, which became the newest country in Africa on July 9, 2011. Some would argue that north and south Sudan should never have been put together because the boundaries didn't take into account local groups. When Kenya and Tanzania were formed, the Maasai ethnic group was split in half even though most Maasai see themselves as one nation, a coherent whole. Suddenly there's this arbitrary outside power saying this is Tanzania and this is Kenya and you can't cross over and visit this person who used to be your neighbor, you can't take your cattle across the line, and you can't go to a market without some sort of pass saying you're moving into Kenya.

Photos courtesy of Laura DeLuca

Surprise donation spurs Heller guest house restoration[6]
[7]

The latest renovation project at the Heller Center for Arts and Humanities is under way as a result of an unexpected $200,000 donation to the CU Foundation.

The Heller guest house is undergoing a complete restoration that includes drainage corrections, foundation repairs, wall repairs, a new roof, new electrical and lighting systems and a complete new heating system.

According to Gary Reynolds, executive director, Facilities Services, a restroom will be installed so classes will not need to use the main house lavatory and the greenhouse will be restored. Aller Lingle Massey, the same architectural firm that did the design for the renovation of the main Heller house, is on the job again, as is the same contractor, Gerald H. Phipps Construction. Reynolds said the guest house will be completely renovated to the same standard as the main house.

[8]

This is all thanks to a donor who wishes to remain anonymous and who has promised another $200,000 early next year. It is also thanks to the UCCS staffer who did his best to serve the donor and meet the donor's needs.

"The CU Foundation often faces a dilemma," said Jaime McMullen Garcia, associate director of development at the CU Foundation. "Someone makes a significant donation and we want to publicly praise that person's generosity. We want to tell the world about that person's foresight for supporting education and say on behalf of the university how grateful we are. Then, that person wants to remain anonymous, and we can't make a public acknowledgement of his or her good deed. We can only say 'thank you' privately."

With the donor's desire for anonymity in mind, she described what occurred, noting that many details are vague or omitted.

[9]

The donor grew up in the Broadmoor area of Colorado Springs, McMullen Garcia said, spending a lot of time at the polo fields. The donor came to admire the members and lifestyle of the bon vivant society that frequented the Broadmoor Hotel and polo games. That society included the late Larry and Dorothy Heller.

The donor developed an interest in preserving the tradition and spirit of the local culture, including the Hellers' contribution. The donor was among the guests who were privileged to see the Heller property and hear about the university's plans in 1997 when the property was deeded to the CU Board of Regents. The donor saw firsthand the buildings on the property, which were constructed in the 1920s through the 1940s, and showing their age. McMullen Garcia said the donor thought the plans for an artistic center were something of a fantasy.

[10]

After more than a decade of restorations and work relying on private donations, the Heller main house was transformed and the Heller Center for Arts and Humanities opened in October 2010. One of the donor's associates saw the renovated structure and told the donor the change was impressive.

The donor learned about the ongoing plans at the Heller Center that included the guest house restoration. The donor was invited to lunch at the Heller Center with UCCS Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak, College of Letters, Arts and Sciences Dean Tom Christensen and McMullen Garcia last spring. A few days before the lunch, the donor came to campus to orient himself to the Heller Center. Unable to access the center because of a locked gate, the donor found a Facilities Services staff member who served as the donor's guide.

[11]

The unnamed facilities employee took the donor to the center, opened the gate and unlocked doors, and showed the donor around the property. According to McMullen Garcia, the donor was quite pleased with his treatment that day, praised the staff member enthusiastically to the chancellor and others at the luncheon, and announced the gift he is making to the university.

The surprise donation moved up the timetable on the guest house restoration, and all parties involved with the project are pleased. McMullen Garcia said Shockley-Zalabak and members of the foundation are thrilled. She conceded that the donor is a longtime supporter of education who has been generous in the past. She acknowledged that the history, tradition and spirit the Heller Center represents has a personal appeal to the donor. But she is not discounting the influence of a UCCS facilities employee on the donor's generosity.

[12]

Shockley-Zalabak has praised UCCS staff over the years and voiced her gratification that so many of the people on campus go unselfishly above and beyond their job requirements to serve the university. McMullen Garcia said she would not be surprised if that facilities staffer would likely say he was just doing his job.

“So, if we find out his name,” she said, “the foundation wants to at least buy him a cup of coffee.”

For more information about the Heller Center, visit http://www.uccs.edu/~heller/index.html[13].

(Author’s note: When the donor received a draft of this article, he presented the foundation with a check for $100,000 of the additional $200,000 that was promised.)

[14]

Photos by Jeff Foster, University Advancement

Nominees sought for Elizabeth Gee Award[15]

Award nominations for the 2011 Elizabeth D. Gee Memorial Lectureship Award are requested by the Faculty Council Women’s Committee.

The award honors an outstanding faculty member of the University of Colorado for efforts to advance women in academia, interdisciplinary scholarly contributions and distinguished teaching. Instituted in 1992, the award is named for Elizabeth Gee, a faculty member in the Health Sciences Center School of Nursing and the late wife of former CU President Gordon Gee.

The Gee Award, which includes a $1,000 prize, is the only award in the CU system that specifically recognizes outstanding work on women’s issues and efforts to advance women in the academy. The recipient will be asked to present his or her scholarly work at the CU Women Succeeding Annual Professional Development Symposium set for Feb. 24, 2012.

Deadline to submit proposals and nominations is Nov. 16. Click here[16] for nomination information and past winners. Questions: Email Melinda Piket-May, mjp@colorado.edu[17].

Online science project at CU-Boulder to receive international award[18]

The PhET Interactive Simulations project at the University of Colorado Boulder has been named a laureate of the Tech Awards 2011, one of 15 global innovators recognized each year for applying technology to benefit humanity and spark global change. The Tech Awards, a signature program of the Tech Museum, San Jose, Calif., and presented by Applied Materials Inc., selected the PhET project from among hundreds of nominations representing 54 countries.

The PhET project -- one of three laureates selected for the Microsoft Education Award -- provides fun, interactive, research-based simulations of science and math concepts. The simulations are available for free at http://phet.colorado.edu[19].

Since 2002, PhET has created more than 100 simulations for teaching and learning science and math. Going beyond traditional educational resources, PhET simulations offer an intuitive, game-like environment where students can learn through scientist-like experimentation and exploration, where dynamic visual representations make the invisible visible, and where science ideas are connected to real-world phenomena.

The simulations are widely used by K-12 and university students and instructors worldwide. With an easy translation process, PhET simulations have been translated into 64 languages by volunteer teachers and scientists throughout the world, allowing students to access these high-quality science teaching and learning tools in their native language. In 2010, the simulations were used more than 15 million times, reaching more than 200 countries and territories around the world. Use is expected to grow to more than 22 million in 2011.

The PhET project was founded by Nobel laureate Carl Wieman in 2002 with money from his Nobel Prize, and has been supported over the years by the University of Colorado, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the O'Donnell Foundation, King Saud University, and the Kavli Foundation, as well as smaller gifts from individual and corporate donors.

The Tech Awards: Technology Benefiting Humanity is one of the premier annual humanitarian awards programs in the world, recognizing technical solutions that benefit humanity and address the most critical issues facing our planet and its people. The awards program honors 15 scientists and innovators annually alongside the recipient of the Global Humanitarian Award. Laureates are selected by a prestigious panel of international judges organized by the Center for Science, Technology, and Society at Santa Clara University, and made up of Santa Clara University faculty as well as leaders from educational and research institutions, industry and the public sector around the world.

“We are honored to receive this prestigious award, which recognizes innovators using technology to benefit humanity,” said Kathy Perkins, director of PhET. “In our vision, advancing science education is key to addressing many of today’s global challenges. The PhET team is very excited to see our work used by so many teachers and learners around the world, and we are grateful for the generous support of the University of Colorado and our other sponsors, which makes this work possible.”

“The global challenges of the day have become increasingly strident, more deeply rooted,” said David Whitman, vice president of Signature Programs at the Tech Museum. “Still, there is hope. These incredibly impressive laureates have all proven to be equal to, or better than, the challenge to make the world a better place. By celebrating their accomplishments today, we are encouraging future innovators to work toward solutions to make the world healthier, safer and more sustainable.”

Established in 2000, the Tech Awards recognizes 15 laureates in five universal categories: education, equality, environment, economic development and health. These laureates have developed new technological solutions or innovative ways to use existing technologies to significantly improve the lives of people around the world. One laureate in each category will receive a $50,000 cash prize during the annual Awards Gala in Santa Clara, Calif., on Oct. 20.

This year, the laureates represent the global vision of the program, spanning countries such as India, Honduras and Ethiopia. Their work impacts people in many more countries worldwide.

The Tech Awards collaborates with humanitarian, educational, and business partners through global outreach efforts, giving people around the world the opportunity to benefit from the successful technologies recognized through the Tech Awards. The selected laureates’ projects address multiple humanitarian efforts including developing alternate ways to generate electricity, creating free educational tools and improving literacy among children.

Key sponsors supporting the Tech Awards include Applied Materials Inc., Intel Corporation, Nokia, Microsoft, Swanson Foundation, Flextronics, Polycom, Skoll Foundation, KPMG, Ernst & Young, Accenture, eBay, Qatalyst, Google, Wells Fargo, Xilinx, American Airlines, Ogilvy Public Relations Worldwide, Bain & Company, NBC11, San Jose Mercury News, Forbes, Stanford Social Innovation Review, TIME, Xfinity, MEMC Electronic Materials, Brassfield Estate Winery, Hilton San Jose, Convention Plaza Hotel, and Hayward Quartz Technology.

For more information visit http://thetechawards.thetech.org/[20].

Butcher Symposium registration deadline is next week[21]

[22]
The Butcher Symposium[23] returns Nov. 11 to the Westin Hotel in Westminster, gathering University of Colorado faculty who collaborate – or are interested in collaborating – with the Biofrontiers Institute and others across the system.

Deadline for registration is Oct. 21.

The annual symposium was launched in 2002 with two primary goals: to bring together scientists from across the CU system to catalyze important new collaborations, and to openly share data and progress being made on research funded by previous rounds of Butcher Seed Grant[24] funding.

The event is open to CU-affiliated faculty who are either collaborating with or interested in collaborating with faculty associated with the Biofrontiers Institute (formerly CIMB), or across departments and campuses at CU.

All scientific (faculty) attendees are asked to prepare and present a scientific poster about their work and scientific interests, particularly if they plan to apply for a Butcher Seed Grant[24].

A full list of frequently asked questions can be found here[25]; questions also may be e-mailed to biofrontiers@colorado.edu[26].

The full agenda will be available online after registration has closed.

Women's symposium seeks proposals on 'Building Community'[27]

The Faculty Council Women's Committee is requesting proposals for the CU Women Succeeding 10th Annual Professional Development Symposium: Building Community[28], set for Feb. 23-24, 2012, at the University of Colorado Boulder.

Proposals, due Nov. 15, may be for the Friday session's workshops, roundtables, panels, book discussions and other interactive and innovative formats focused on the theme of "Building Community," while addressing the interests and concerns of CU women faculty and staff. Session topics may span teaching, clinical, research or broader educational/professional issues related to women in academia.

For more information about submitting a proposal, please visit:
www.cu.edu/facultycouncil/women/symposium/workshops.html[29]

Registration to attend the CU Women Succeeding Symposium has opened to all faculty and staff. Click here[30] to register.

New technology: How inclusive can it be?[31]

How best to make technology inclusive is the focus of this year's Accessing Higher Ground[32], to be presented by the University of Colorado Boulder Nov. 14-18 at the Westin Hotel in Westminster.

The annual event draws national and international experts in the area of accessible media, universal design and best

practices for Web and media design.

The CU campuses and CU system are eligible for a 50 percent discount on main conference registration fees. Click on the registration link[33] to receive the campus discount and for other information.

The issue of the usability and accessibility of new technology – including mobile devices, web pages, cloud applications and e-Readers – is a pressing and crucial issue on both college campuses and in the business sector. These issues can sometimes have legal ramifications. For example, in November of last year the National Federation for the Blind (NFB) and the Department of Education filed a formal complaint against Pennsylvania State University because of the inaccessibility of university web pages and computer programs. A lawsuit against JetBlue for the inaccessibility of its website and airport kiosks is still working its way through the courts. A number of universities, including the University of Arizona and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, have abandoned plans to deploy the Amazon Kindle as a means of distributing e-books to students because of the inaccessibility of the device for blind students.

In this context, program coordinators at CU-Boulder are bringing together national leaders in the field of accessibility, universal design and digital media to educate staff, faculty, businesses and the community on the availability and potential benefits of designing for inclusiveness when developing web pages, digital media and other information and communication technology. The impact of e-book technology and techniques for developing accessible electronic materials will be one focus of the conference.

Other conference highlights include a number of talks on the accessibility features of the new HTML5 specification and best practices for implementing this new standard. A keynote talk by Jonathan Lazar, director of the Universal Usability Laboratory at Towson University, will discuss integrating universal design for information technology into the university curriculum. Other presentation topics include best practices for mobile technology, real-world testing for accessibility, implementing an organizational policy for digital inclusiveness, and legal and policy issues around digital accessibility.

A sampling of this year's conference sessions include:
ARIA and HTML5 Accessibility Bring your own computer (or not) session: Nuts and Bolts of Captioning Digital Multimedia Accessibility Testing in the Real World Evaluating web content accessibility – using WAVE to facilitate human evaluation Integrating Accessibility into the Design of Online Learning Management systems: Theories and Practice Implementation of a Multimedia Accessibility and Captioning Policy: a case study from the University of Illinois Don't Ask, Do Tell: Making Third Party Web Sites Accessible Without the Owners' Help and Educating Owners How to Make Better Sites Lab: Working with Accessible PDF Documents Recent Developments in Office of Civil Rights (OCR) Cases--Focusing on Assistive Technology Accessible Digital Textbooks in the Mobile Learning Environment
For a complete agenda, workshop listing and registration, visit the conference website at http://www.Colorado.EDU/ATconference/campus2011.html[32].

Contact Howard Kramer at 303-492-8672 or ahg@colorado.edu[34] for more information.

Accessing Higher Ground is sponsored by Adobe Systems, Inc., Dolphin Computer Access, the Coleman Institute for Cognitive Disabilities, Disability Services, MICROCOMPUTER Science Centre Inc., ATHEN, the Consortium of Support Programs for Students with Disabilities, Office of Information Technology, and the University of Colorado Boulder.

UCCS, CU-Boulder team for electric vehicle development studies[35]

Plett

Zane

Maksimovic

Faculty from the University of Colorado Boulder and University of Colorado Colorado Springs will team to teach courses in the design and implementation of electric vehicle drivetrains to new and retraining engineers.

The U.S. Department of Energy recently awarded a five-year, $954,000 grant to UCCS for the development of courses to prepare engineers for careers in developing new technologies for vehicles that use electric drivetrains. The master's-level courses will be taught by UCCS and CU-Boulder faculty members with expertise in batteries, battery controls and power electronics.

The courses will be available through distance-learning technologies such as online courses and, possibly, CISCO Telepresence, in addition to traditional in-person classrooms, making them available to people nationwide.

"There are thousands of engineers who have either been displaced as the U.S. auto industry shifted or who have an interest in learning about creating vehicles of the future," said Greg Plett, professor in the UCCS College of Engineering and Applied Science. "This program offers them the opportunity to retrain without relocating."

Plett, principal investigator on the project, has spent his career working with battery controls and has close relationships to many Colorado-based companies that manufacture batteries or their controls as well as large corporations such as General Motors. He is working with General Motors engineers on new methods for battery controls in future extended-range electric vehicles beyond the Chevy Volt.m

CU-Boulder already offers its power electronics courses online – with high enrollment – and also offers a successful Certificate in Power Electronics program.

The GATE Center of Excellence in Innovative Drivetrains in Electric Automotive Technology Education will provide students the opportunity to earn a graduate certificate in electric drivetrain technology by taking four courses in battery dynamics, battery controls, power electronics and detailed courses in adjustable alternating current drives. Plans also call for creating options for students in master's of science in electrical engineering programs at UCCS and CU-Boulder to pursue specialization in fields such as battery controls, taught by UCCS faculty, and vehicle power electronics, taught by CU-Boulder faculty.

"This program combines the strengths of the faculty of two CU campuses for the benefit of students," said Plett, who also believes the collaboration will lead to new research in battery technology. Battery life and power outputs have long been considered hindrances to the development of electric vehicles including cars, trucks and mass transit vehicles.

Plett envisions that fellowships to reduce the cost of the graduate coursework will be available with 30 to 40 students enrolled annually beginning with the fall 2012 semester.

Working with Plett will be Scott Trimboli, assistant professor in the UCCS College of Engineering; Regan Zane, associate professor in the Department of Electrical, Computer, and Energy Engineering at CU-Boulder; and Dragan Maksimovic, professor in the Department of Electrical, Computer and Energy Engineering at CU-Boulder.

Lisnow reflects on establishing CeDAR[39]

Lisnow

You might say **Frank Lisnow's** life began to change the day he went to jail. No, he never spent a day behind bars. But it was 40 years ago at a jail in Vermont where Lisnow embarked on a then-unlikely path that eventually led him to Colorado, where he became the first executive director of the Center for Dependency, Addiction and Rehabilitation

(CeDAR) at University of Colorado Hospital.

Lisnow officially retired from the hospital Oct. 3 after a highly successful six-year tenure. He played a key role in transforming CeDAR from drawings and dreams into a nationally respected and recognized addiction and treatment center.

He leaves CeDAR in the strongest shape it has ever been. Earlier this year, a five-year anniversary benefit concert headlined by Bon Jovi raised $1 million for the facility. In March, it opened a second cottage for patients, and admissions for fiscal year 2011 (which ended June 30) were up nearly one-third from the year before.

From a humble beginning as a corrections officer and counselor at that jail in northeastern Vermont, a career was born. In 2004, he got a call “out of the blue” from Mame Fuhrman, who was then employment manager at University of Colorado Hospital. She had obtained Lisnow’s name from a colleague in Arizona. He wasn’t prepared for the experience that followed. The facility he came to visit wasn’t a facility at all. “CeDAR was just a design,” he says. But he was immediately interested after he met the late Robert Harmon, M.D., CeDAR’s founding medical director and an addiction psychiatrist.

“We clicked immediately,” Lisnow remembers. “We had the same passion and love for helping people get into recovery. Our philosophy was the same – that people change when they decide their behavior needs to change. We both wanted to help people in recovery through a commitment to behavioral change.”

When the hospital offered him the position of executive director, Lisnow, then 60, was up front about his plans. “I told them I was a five- to six-year man, that I’d already planned to retire at age 66.”

True to his word, Lisnow now moves on to what he calls “a new adventure with his wife and grandkids.”

He’s off to Oak Island, N.C., where he and his wife, Karen, have built their retirement home. He plans plenty of golf, deep-sea fishing and time with his extended family.

“It’s the right thing to do, but I have mixed emotions,” he says. “This is absolutely the greatest place I have ever worked. The hospital lives its mission of caring for the patients they serve.”

Obviously proud of his accomplishments, he says the credit for CeDAR’s success goes to the staff. “They have made CeDAR a nationally known, quality treatment center,” he says. “That’s an amazing thing in six-and-a-half years. And people recognize that our affiliation with University of Colorado Hospital puts us a step ahead of other facilities.”

Cancer investigators’ mission bolstered by three new grants[41]

DeGregori

James DeGregori, Ph.D., investigator at the University of Colorado Cancer Center and professor of biochemistry and molecular genetics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, says cancer cells “have fallback pathways.”

“You may hit them hard in one spot,” he says, “but they often find ways to eke by.”

With the help of three new grants, DeGregori hopes to add ammunition to the fight against cancer.

First is the continuation of a grant from the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society that piggybacks onto an ongoing clinical trial, run by **Chris Porter**, M.D., CU Cancer Center investigator and pediatric oncologist at Children’s Hospital Colorado.

Working in the DeGregori Lab, postdoctoral fellow **Mark Gregory**, Ph.D., discovered that a fraction of leukemia cells need something called calcineurin signaling to escape the standard drug treatment (a tyrosine kinase inhibitor).

And so Porter's recently initiated trial will test a novel combination of drugs for the treatment of chronic myeloid leukemia.

DeGregori's second recent grant, also from the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, will enable DeGregori and collaborators to explore similar escape mechanisms in the leukemia cells of patients with acute myeloid leukemia. **Douglas Graham**, M.D., Ph.D., CU Cancer Center investigator and pediatric oncologist at Children's Hospital Colorado, is co-investigator on this grant, and also plans to lead any clinical trial that could spring from these studies.

"We've uncovered some classic stress response pathways," DeGregori says. All cells respond to damage and stress with survival strategies that might allow them to ride out a storm. But because these tyrosine kinase inhibitors stress cancer cells more than their healthy neighbors, these stress responses are more activated in cancer cells – and more important to the cancer cells' survival.

If DeGregori and colleagues can find ways to block cancer cells' fallback plans – these "classic stress response pathways" – cancer cells may have nowhere to run, nowhere to hide in the face of multiple targeted cancer drugs.

Last but certainly not least is DeGregori's new RO1 grant from the National Cancer Institute, which funds the extension of a pilot project initiated with the Cancer Center's Lung Cancer SPORE (the institutional grant for multidisciplinary research focusing on an institution's proven area of strength).

Like leukemia, in recent years tyrosine kinase inhibitors have seemed a promising drug for the treatment of lung cancer – cut off the kinase and you strangle the cancer, goes the theory. But the cancer also can acquire new means of survival.

Discovering these cancer workarounds is the goal of his recent RO1 grant, and will require the collaborative efforts of multiple CU Cancer Center labs, including those of **Paul Bunn**, M.D., **Aik ChoonTan**, Ph.D., and **Dan Chan**, Ph.D.

Competition continues among health plan participants[43]

Chances to win such prizes as iPads and REI gift cards remain available to health plan participants who take part in Be Colorado, the new health and wellness initiative at the University of Colorado.

A competition will determine which campus has the greatest participation, by percentage of eligible participants, in the SUCCEED health assessment. The confidential, online health assessment tool is available through Oct. 28. Once the winning campus is determined, anyone from that campus who completed a health assessment will be entered in a drawing for one of 25 REI gift cards, each worth $50.

Progress reports on how each campus is faring are expected next week.

A new video[44] features campus leaders Phil DiStefano (Boulder), Pam Shockley-Zalabak (Colorado Springs), Jerry Wartgow (Denver) and Lilly Marks (Anschutz Medical Campus) talking about their own view of healthy Colorado lifestyles. Each finishes with a friendly bit of cheerleading aimed at inspiring their respective communities.

Participants may go to www.BeColorado.org[45] and take the confidential SUCCEED health assessment and sign up for a free biometric screening. When you complete the health assessment you will be automatically entered to win one of 12 iPads. If you also take the free biometric screening, you will receive an additional entry into the iPad drawing.

The SUCCEED health assessment and health screenings are absolutely private and confidential. Your employer will never see your private health information; to do so would violate the federal HIPAA law. As an employer, CU only will

receive de-identified, aggregate reports. The purpose of the reports will be to provide information that can help inform future health benefit design changes that better meet the health needs of employees.

In this initial phase, the SUCCEED health assessment tool and onsite health screenings will be available to health trust-enrolled employees and retirees of the University of Colorado, University of Colorado Hospital and University Physicians Inc., i.e., those who are the primary members of UA Net, UA Net Colorado Springs, HMO Colorado, Lumenos, CU Kaiser and Medicare Primary plans.

University employees who are on the Kaiser and United Health Care plans offered by the state of Colorado are not eligible because this program is funded by university medical plans.

Dropping names … [46]

Noel

Keranen

Tom Noel, professor of history at the University of Colorado Denver, has received the Denver Public Library's Elanor Gehres Award. Noel, known as Dr. Colorado, is the 12th recipient of the award. He is being honored for his longstanding support and involvement with the library, especially the Western History and Genealogy Department. Gehres directed the department for 25 years. Noel will give a historic tour of LoDo on Wednesday, Oct. 19, during homecoming; to sign up, visit the homecoming website[49]. … **Lisa Keränen**, associate professor and director of graduate studies of the University of Colorado Denver Department of Communication, has received the National Communication Association's 2011 Marie Hochmuth Nichols Award for Outstanding Scholarship in Public Address for her book "Scientific Characters: Rhetoric, Politics and Trust in Breast Cancer Research."

Tumor battle led to commitment to fundraising[50]

Lillehei

Fifteen years ago this month, **Kurtis Roose** was in his primary care physician's office for a routine physical exam when he experienced a seizure. He didn't realize it had happened.

"It was frustrating," says Roose, a nurse on University of Colorado Hospital's 10 West Cardiac Intensive Care Unit.

Another occurred a week later. The 26-year-old Roose went to the hospital the next day for a CAT scan that shockingly

revealed a roughly 1-inch tumor in the left temporal lobe of his brain. A subsequent MRI confirmed the tumor's malignancy.

Hospital surgeon **Kevin Lillehei**, M.D., now chair of the University of Colorado School of Medicine's Department of Neurosurgery, removed a grade 3 tumor. Grade 4 is the worst, Lillehei said.

Roose's surgery was successful, but his road to recovery was far from over.

"Brain tumors are not surgically curable," Lillehei said. "Surgery, however, is an important adjunct to treatment to decrease the tumor burden within the body, allowing additional treatments to be more effective."

More than a year of medical therapy followed, but Roose emerged from his grueling battle with the disease with his health restored and, later, a longstanding commitment to help others stricken by cancer.

While attending a brain tumor conference, Roose met the family of Michele Plachy-Rubin, a Denver mother and kindergarten teacher diagnosed with brain cancer in December 1996 – just three months after Roose received the same diagnosis. Plachy-Rubin lost her battle, and in the wake of her death, Plachy-Rubin's mother began the Race for Research, an annual fundraising 5K run/walk for local cancer research. He successfully persuaded the hospital's marketing department to sponsor a team for the race, which is managed by the Cancer League of Colorado. A good portion of the money raised goes to the University of Colorado Cancer Center.

The most recent race in August raised more than $60,000. The total included more than $1,800 from Roose's team – the greatest individual team amount, he said.

Money from the race is pooled and made available to researchers who submit grants. Among other things, the money so far has funded preliminary work in cancer vaccination research and studies to understand the genetics of high-grade tumors.

CU Denver makes joint admission promise to community college grads[52]

CU President Bruce Benson discusses the Admission Promise program.

A degree from the University of Colorado Denver can begin at one of the Colorado Community College System campuses under a new program called the CC to CU Denver Admission Promise[54]. The program will provide joint admission at a Colorado Community College and CU Denver as well as on-campus advising from CU Denver and from the Colorado Community Colleges as part of guaranteed seamless transfer between the institutions.

"The CC to CU Denver Admission Promise spotlights the University of Colorado Denver's commitment to educating more of our state's citizens and supporting them – wherever they begin their college education – in completing their bachelor's degree," said Chancellor Jerry Wartgow, Ph.D. "Advising from both CU Denver and the community college counselors will make the difference in helping these students not only earn their associate's degree at their community college but also their bachelor's degree from CU Denver."

It's well-documented that students who complete their associate's and bachelor's degrees have more secure financial futures than those who don't. Research shows that a full-time worker with a bachelor's degree earns 84 percent more money over a lifetime than someone with only a high school diploma. Workers who earn an associate's degree have earnings 35 percent higher than high school graduates and up to 100 percent higher in the health care fields. Likewise, college graduates' unemployment rates in 2011 were less than half that of those who only graduated from high school.

Advisers often play a critical role in a student's degree completion. High-quality academic advising has been

repeatedly shown to have a positive impact on student retention. The CC to CU Denver Admission Program[54] partners students with CU Denver and Colorado Community College advisers from the time they begin their studies and ensures the students meet regularly with the advisers to assure they are on track.

Colorado Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia, who also serves as executive director of the Department of Higher Education and who has led both community college and university campuses, voiced his support of the program: “Bringing the opportunities of a college education to first-generation and low-income students is important for these students, their families and the whole community. Programs like this Admission Promise strengthen the pipeline from community college to four-year colleges and universities and play a vital role in increasing the college education of our future workforce.”

Nancy McCallin, president of the Colorado Community College System, lauded the agreement.

“Our community colleges look to serve students in every aspect of their educational aspirations,” McCallin said. “The CC to CU Denver Admission Promise is a valuable partnership with University of Colorado Denver that provides a clear pathway from high school to an associate’s degree and from an associate’s degree to a baccalaureate degree. This partnership offers affordable higher education opportunities to our citizens in a seamless manner. We know that to be competitive in the 21st century global economy, we must educate more Coloradans and this new partnership will increase college attainment and student success in the state.”

Besides joint admission to both the participating community college and the University of Colorado Denver, the Admission Promise also is the first adviser-intensive program by a public Colorado university to extend across metro Denver. It’s modeled after the very successful Denver Transfer Initiative (DTI) between CU Denver and the Community College of Denver. The DTI program’s success underscores the importance of advising in students’ success, with 98 percent of these students staying in school.

Students in the Promise program agree to meet certain academic standards that are established by the CU Denver schools and community colleges they choose to attend. They must enter the community college as a first-time freshman and have not had any previous courses to be eligible for this program. Students also agree to meet with their assigned CU Denver academic adviser at least once a term. These advisers will travel to the community colleges to make meetings as convenient as possible for their students.
Learn more about the CC to CU Denver Admission Promise: Application Process[55]Student Testimonials[56]FAQ[57]Admission Promise Agreement[58]
What the Admission Promise means to Karly Porter[59]

Department of Energy taps CU-Boulder for cleantech competition [60]

The University of Colorado Boulder has been selected as one of six recipients that will receive a total of $2 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Energy to create a network of student-focused cleantech regional competitions as part of a broader strategy to expand the nation’s renewable energy efforts.

Trent Yang, director of the CU Cleantech Program at the Deming Center for Entrepreneurship in CU-Boulder’s Leeds School of Business, says the award reaffirms the university, as well as the Deming Center, as a leader in the commercialization and research of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies.

CU Cleantech has a business board of seven cleantech companies that provide market guidance and research collaboration with the university, as well as serving as a steadfast partner via student internships and an incubation program. College students are the bridge to commercialization for researchers in many ways because they have the time and energy to commit to the demands of challenging yet promising renewable energy and cleantech startups, according to Yang. CU-Boulder has a student body interested and active in this arena; in fact, the CU Energy Club is the fastest growing club in CU history, with more than 1,500 members in less than three years.

“We are bridging science and business in many ways here at CU Cleantech and the Deming Center,” Yang said. “Clean renewable energy is profoundly important for the next 20 to 50 years as we seek new ways to reduce our carbon footprints and our dependence on foreign oil. We’re in great company with the other universities that were selected as well. It’s a great opportunity for our students to be active participants and leaders in the next generation of cleantech companies coming out of the nation’s universities.”

CU-Boulder will focus its competition on the western Midwest region, which includes Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri and Iowa. Students with cleantech business plans from these states will compete in the DOE-sponsored regional competition, which will work in conjunction with CU-Boulder’s annual cross-campus business plan competition, the New Venture Challenge.

The other awardees are Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, Mass.; University of Maryland in College Park; Clean Energy Trust in Chicago; Rice University in Houston; and California Institute of Technology in Los Angeles. These academic institutions will host regional competitions to increase clean energy businesses coming out of universities and research labs, create a new generation of entrepreneurs to serve the nation’s energy mission, and elevate the nation as a secure and strong leader in the global marketplace.

The funding will be distributed during a three-year period. Winners of the regional competitions will receive $100,000 to start their businesses and go on to compete for a national grand prize at the Department of Energy competition in Washington, D.C., in May 2012. Students interested in participating in the CU Cleantech New Venture Challenge should email Steve.Herschleb@colorado.edu[61].

“We are immensely pleased that CU-Boulder has been selected as a host for this DOE-sponsored competition,” said Paul Jerde, director of the Deming Center for Entrepreneurship at the Leeds School of Business. “This represents the next stage of opportunity after years of commitment by the Deming Center in promoting new student ventures in the cleantech sector. The Deming Center was an early leader in this mission when, in 2006, it launched the Cleantech Venture Challenge, a cleantech business plan competition for students from around the world.

“As student interest in cleantech career opportunities has increased, we have increasingly dedicated our efforts to this mission. This award from the Department of Energy helps us and our many colleagues to advance that mission in a more powerful way to the benefit of students.”

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/researchers-question-national-quality-measure-childhood-asthma[2] http://www.uchsc.edu/som/[3] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/five-questions-laura-deluca[4] https://connections.cu.edu/file/5q-deluca1jpg[5] https://connections.cu.edu/file/5q-deluca2jpg[6] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/surprise-donation-spurs-heller-guest-house-restoration[7] https://connections.cu.edu/file/uccsheller6jpg[8] https://connections.cu.edu/file/uccsheller5jpg[9] https://connections.cu.edu/file/uccsheller41jpg[10] https://connections.cu.edu/file/uccsheller31jpg[11] https://connections.cu.edu/file/uccsheller21jpg[12] https://connections.cu.edu/file/uccsheller11jpg[13] http://www.uccs.edu/%7Eheller/[14] https://connections.cu.edu/file/uccsheller7jpg[15] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/nominees-sought-elizabeth-gee-award[16] https://www.cu.edu/facultycouncil/awards/elizabeth-gee.html[17] mailto:mjp@colorado.edu[18] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/online-science-project-cu-boulder-receive-international-award[19] http://phet.colorado.edu/[20] http://thetechawards.thetech.org/[21] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/butcher-symposium-registration-deadline-next-week[22] https://connections.cu.edu/file/dykbutcherjpg[23] http://cimb.colorado.edu/butcher/symposium[24] http://cimb.colorado.edu/butcher/Seed%20Grants[25] http://cimb.colorado.edu/butcher/symposium/faqs[26] mailto:%20biofrontiers@colorado.edu[27] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/women%E2%80%99s-symposium-seeks-proposals-%E2%80%98building-community%E2%80%99[28] https://www.cu.edu/facultycouncil/women/symposium/workshops.html[29]

http://www.cu.edu/facultycouncil/women/symposium/workshops.html[30]
https://www.cu.edu/facultycouncil/women/symposium/index.html[31] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/new-technology-how-inclusive-can-it-be[32] http://www.colorado.edu/ATconference/campus2011.html[33] https://www.cvent.com/events/accessing-higher-ground-2011/registration-e359a4faf5c442d49ba5bd95b861caff.aspx?r=570f2946-1aeb-4e81-9e18-3a8fe17c68e1[34]
mailto:ahg@colorado.edu[35] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/uccs-cu-boulder-team-electric-vehicle-development-studies[36] https://connections.cu.edu/file/ucb-uccs-elecplettjpg[37] https://connections.cu.edu/file/ucb-uccs-eleczanejpg[38] https://connections.cu.edu/file/ucb-uccs-elecmaksimovicjpg[39]
https://connections.cu.edu/people/lisnow-reflects-establishing-cedar[40] https://connections.cu.edu/file/peoplelisnowjpg[41] https://connections.cu.edu/people/cancer-investigators%E2%80%99-mission-bolstered-three-new-grants[42]
https://connections.cu.edu/file/peopledegregorijpg[43] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/competition-continues-among-health-plan-participants[44] http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iHpHsF_r8go[45] http://www.becolorado.org/[46]
https://connections.cu.edu/people/dropping-names-120[47] https://connections.cu.edu/file/dykdnnoel2jpg[48]
https://connections.cu.edu/file/dykdnkeranenjpg[49] http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/WhoWeAre/Chancellor/ChancellorWartgow/OutreachEvents/homecoming/events/Pages/Historical-LoDo-Tour.aspx[50]
https://connections.cu.edu/people/tumor-battle-led-commitment-fundraising[51]
https://connections.cu.edu/file/peoplelilleheijpg[52] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-denver-makes-joint-admission-promise-community-college-grads[53] https://connections.cu.edu/file/ucdbbensonjpg[54]
http://www.ucdenver.edu/admissions/bachelors/freshman/admission-promise/Pages/admission-promise.aspx[55]
http://www.ucdenver.edu/admissions/bachelors/freshman/admission-promise/Pages/Application-Process.aspx[56]
http://www.ucdenver.edu/admissions/bachelors/freshman/admission-promise/Pages/Student-Testimonials.aspx[57]
http://www.ucdenver.edu/admissions/bachelors/freshman/admission-promise/Pages/FAQ.aspx[58] http://www.ucdenver.edu/admissions/bachelors/freshman/admission-promise/Pages/Admission-Promise-Agreement.aspx[59]
http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/newsroom/newsreleases/Pages/What-the-promise-of-admission-means.aspx[60]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/department-energy-taps-cu-boulder-cleantech-competition[61]
mailto:Steve.Herschleb@colorado.edu