CU Depression Center data indicates large rise in Colorado suicides last year[1]

In partnership with the Office of Suicide Prevention at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the University of Colorado Depression Center has released data that suggests a dramatic rise in suicides in Colorado in 2009.

Last year, 940 Coloradans died by suicide, 155 more than any previous year and an 18 percent increase since 2007; the previous high was 805 suicide deaths in that year. It also represents a suicide rate – 18.4 deaths per 100,000 residents – that is the highest Colorado has experienced since 1988 (18.9 per 100,000).

The largest increase has been in men age 25 to 44. The rate for younger people did not increase significantly, but four times as many teenagers killed themselves as died of cancer in 2009. The data was approved by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

"There are a lot of things that confer some risk of suicide. At any given time, there are many people who are vulnerable and then things happen that throw people into crisis," said Michael Allen, M.D., director of research at the Depression Center. "However, suicide is preventable. It's OK to ask for help and everyone should be prepared to help. The tragedy of 940 suicides and many more near-misses touches thousands of Colorado families, friends, schools and businesses."

High unemployment rates, decreasing mental health and other safety-net services, the current conflicts in the Middle East, and continued societal stigma that keeps those in need from seeking help may have contributed to the increase.

While mental health and suicide prevention experts cannot say that the 2009 data represent a trend that will continue in 2010 and 2011, the 2009 data indicate a strong need to make suicide prevention and intervention a priority public health issue in Colorado. More Coloradans die by suicide each year than die in motor vehicle crashes and homicide combined. Motor vehicle fatalities have been dramatically reduced through public health efforts and yet we continue to view suicide as an individual issue rather than a public health problem. More people must be made aware that suicide is preventable and that suicidal thoughts should be viewed and treated like any other serious health problem.

September is Suicide Prevention Month, providing Coloradans an opportunity to learn more about suicide and suicide prevention. Colorado remains a leader in suicide prevention and intervention efforts, with many great organizations throughout the state working to decrease the burden of suicide in their communities and throughout Colorado. Working statewide, the Office of Suicide Prevention at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the Depression Center at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, the Suicide Prevention Coalition of Colorado and Mental Health America of Colorado are dedicated to promoting suicide prevention and intervention efforts throughout Colorado.

Locally, many nonprofit organizations and community mental health centers work to reduce suicide in urban and rural areas throughout Colorado. For information about suicide prevention and intervention, or to find out about the organizations dedicated to preventing suicide in your community, please visit the Office of Suicide Prevention at www.coosp.org[2], or the Depression Center at www.coloradodepressioncenter.org[3].

Conference on Cognitive Disability to explore cloud computing, more[4]

What does cognitive disability have to do with the law, regulatory policy, civil rights, the Internet, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), technology companies, Medicaid, and residential service providers?

The connections will be explored at the Coleman Institute's 10th annual conference, "All Together Now: The Power of Partnerships in Cognitive Disability and Technology," set for Oct. 21 at the Westin Westminster Hotel. The conference

agenda and registration, which is free, may be found at www.cu.edu/ColemanInstitute[5].

Cognitive disability refers to intellectual and developmental disabilities, acquired brain injury, Alzheimer's disease, and severe and persistent mental illness. These conditions affect more than 20 million Americans and the numbers are growing rapidly as people live longer and as medicine and rehabilitative sciences extend the lives of people with disabilities.

With increasing technological reliance has come a rapidly growing "digital divide" based on technology usability and accessibility, particularly for those with cognitive limitations who may require adaptive personalized modifications and training.

Inside the Coleman Institute

General mission: to catalyze and integrate advances in science, engineering and technology to promote the quality of life and independent living of people with cognitive disabilities

Principal activities:
• Research and development grants and related support to CU faculty and their research partners, and promoting commercialization of derivative intellectual property • The Coleman Institute Fellowship Program for postdoctoral and graduate students and for faculty • The Annual Coleman Institute Conference on Cognitive Disability and Technology • Public policy advocacy and outreach on matters pertinent to cognitive disability and technology
Building on the strength of the diverse communities typically represented at past Coleman conferences, the event promises three days of exploration, conversation and coalition-building around critical issues that are relevant to people with cognitive disabilities.

"This year's conference is all about partnerships, networking, and bringing together disparate players to create a dialogue and a series of outcomes around a common thread: the use of technology as a way to enhance quality of life for people with cognitive disabilities," said David Braddock, associate vice president for the CU system and the institute's executive director. "The Coleman Institute's mission is at the core of this gathering of opinion leaders, researchers and those who understand and can impact public policy and law."

Topics include:

Is there a right to technology access? A look at the seminal 1971 federal court case that established the constitutional right of children with developmental disabilities to a public education, presented by the attorney who was its legal champion.

Cloud computing and the implications for people with cognitive disabilities: A full-day, pre-conference workshop Oct. 20 at the University of Colorado at Boulder Law School, "Implications of Cloud Computing for People With Cognitive Disability," hosted by the Coleman Institute in partnership with CU's Silicon Flatirons Center for Law, Technology and Entrepreneurship and the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This event is followed by a moderated summative panel at the institute's conference.

Technology advances: Presentations and discussions on hardware, software and application strategies including topics such as accessibility, e-medicine/tele-health, building a broader market for cognitive technologies commercialization, and forming coalitions around common purpose.

Roundtable discussions: Informal, guided dialogues on the use of mobile technologies, smart technologies in residential settings, adoption strategies for direct service providers to embrace technology, social networking as a tool for communication, community building and inclusion, and more.

"Stories That Fill the Empty Places": A creative prose and photographic essay capturing the history of mental disability institutions and the stories of the people who lived there.

Second annual post-conference Technology Leadership Summit: An event for members of the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR), the national association representing private providers of community living and employment support and services to more than 500,000 people with disabilities throughout the United States, and members of the National Council on Community Behavioral Healthcare (NCCBH). The council represents mental health care providers.

Presenters and confirmed key participants in the upcoming events include:
Distinguished computer science and engineering faculty from CU and the universities of Rochester, Washington and Wisconsin; Representatives from Microsoft, Oracle, AT&T, CableLabs, AbleLink Technologies, Alsop Louis, and more; Special Counsel for Innovation, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, from the FCC; Chief Research and Innovations Officer, the Arc of the United States; President, American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities; Deputy assistant secretary, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, U.S. Department of Education; Former chief counsel from the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania's former secretary of education; CU faculty from all campuses, presenting research projects.
For more information and to register for the Institute's 10th annual Conference on Cognitive Disability and Technology, please visit www.cu.edu/ColemanInstitute/[6]

Five Questions for Cindy Gutierrez[7]

[8]
Cindy Gutierrez, Ph.D., says she "stumbled into" what has become the most passionate part of her work as an educator: tending to the success of students in urban schools. The Pueblo native came from a lineage of teaching – her grandmother once taught in a one-room schoolhouse in Yuma County – but she hadn't thought much about urban schools until she began her own career working in them.

At the University of Colorado Denver for the past four years, she has put that experience to use in reinventing theSchool of Education and Human Development's[9] teacher preparation program. She's director of Urban Community Teacher Education, which partners with Denver-area schools and communities to make sure the next generation of teachers is equipped to thrive in increasingly diverse classrooms.

She works where she earned her Ph.D., while her master's degree is from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. She received her bachelor's degree at the University of Northern Colorado.

— Jay Dedrick

1. How long has it taken to establish the Urban Community Teacher Education program?

It's taken three years to get where it is now. We always had a highly respected teacher preparation program, and had strong partnerships with our six metro-area school districts, where our teacher candidates intern. We're really trying to answer the question of, what does it take to prepare an exceptional urban teacher? What's the unique knowledge and what are the skills they need to be effective?

When we say 'urban,' it's not necessarily referring to geography. We're talking about schools with significant percentages of students of color, students often living in poverty, students for whom English is not their first language.

We make sure our teacher candidates have internships in urban classrooms, and we really work to help them see that the school and its surrounding community are not places filled with challenges, but that those communities have significant assets that are sorely undervalued in our education system.

2. How do your teacher candidates go about engaging with the communities where they teach?

They have to get past their assumptions. The media – the general news media, but also Hollywood – typically inform us that urban schools are scary places with gang problems and too many challenges that can't be overcome. We demystify that and help them engage with families and organizations.

For example, we might have a teacher candidate who is planning a social studies lesson on immigration. They can really collaborate with families who have immigrated here from Mexico or somewhere else and invite them to be part of the learning: What's it like to be a new immigrant in this country? Or a teacher candidate might start an after-school club for kids that might connect with another club at a local church, or a Boys and Girls Club. They learn there's a lot more to teaching than the hours those students spend inside their classrooms.

3. Is it difficult to recruit university students for the program?

We haven't seen difficulty at all. It's funny, because when we started this transformation process three years ago, many deans and people above us were worried – is this too specific a niche in the market? Will people be offended or not attracted? It's actually attracting incredible talent.

I also think this program has the potential to really attract students from our undergraduate pipeline who grew up in urban centers or environments. They can return to their communities to make that difference.

We currently have 175 students admitted, and we'd like to get up to a capacity of 350 or 400 in the next couple of semesters. It's a very complicated logistical matter to build up to that.

4. What kind of response from schools and communities have you had so far?

There's been an incredible response. Part of the reason for that is because we created this in partnership with them. We see each other as equal partners. It's not that we can magically save these communities, but we're working together to go after challenging issues.

5. How do you enjoy spending free time?

I spend it with my family – we have two incredible kids, an 8-year-old boy and 6-year-old girl, and they participate in a lot of sports. I see my job through their eyes: What kind of teachers would I want for my children? I can't expect any less for any child in Denver.

Want to suggest a faculty or staff member for Five Questions? Please e-mail Jay.Dedrick@cu.edu[10]

Buff Bike Classic canceled, but cause continues[11]

The Elevations Credit Union Buffalo Bicycle Classic (BBC) will not be rescheduled this fall, the event's organizing committee announced this week.

Organizers of the event, which benefits scholarships in the University of Colorado at Boulder College of Arts and Sciences, had previously agreed not to hold the event on its scheduled date, Sept. 12. That decision was made at the request of Boulder County officials in response to the Fourmile Fire, the worst in county history.

Both the county and event organizers were concerned about the potential for riders to impede the access of emergency crews to the fire and about air quality for riders. They also were concerned about already overtaxed law-enforcement officials who would be asked to monitor the event.

Because the ride generates so much needed scholarship support, the classic's organizers strove to find a way to reschedule the event this fall.

But the logistical hurdles of rescheduling included navigating local permitting processes, reorganizing hundreds of volunteers and facing the possibility of poor weather. Those factors carried the risk of reducing available funds for scholarships.

Since the Buffalo Bicycle Classic's founding in 2003, the event has raised more than $1.2 million in scholarships for good students who have demonstrated financial need. So far, 448 scholarships have been awarded. The BBC is the largest single source of scholarships in arts and sciences, the largest college at the university.

In view of the extraordinary circumstances this year, the BBC's all-volunteer organizing committee has agreed to waive the event's no-refund policy for those registrants who request refunds.

However, the committee asks riders to dedicate their registration fees to their charitable purpose: supporting students such as Shervin Rahimpour, whose family fled religious persecution in Iran when he was 5 years old.

As Rahimpour said recently, "The BBC scholarship helped give me and my family the support I needed to pursue my education with an ease of mind. As a result, I have been able to focus on my studies both during college and even now in (CU's) medical school."

Those who choose to donate their registration fees will still be able to receive T-shirts and water bottles by mail.

In addition, riders who donate their registration fees will be publicly recognized and invited to the annual Buffalo Bicycle Classic scholarship awards ceremony, where scholarship winners are formally announced and celebrated.

The event's sponsors are doing their part to maintain a stable level of scholarship funding. Elevations Credit Union, the BBC's title sponsor, has pledged an additional $25,000 to support the scholarship fund and to encourage riders to donate their registrations instead of seeking refunds. Other sponsors have followed Elevation's lead and expressed a willingness to leave their support intact.

Sponsors and donors of food products–including Clif Bar, Everlast Sports Nutrition, Powerade and Glacéau vitaminwater–have made similar gestures. Food that would have been used on ride day was donated to firefighters.

Those who seek a refund may make the request via e-mail to bbcinfo@colorado.edu[12] . A form that must be completed under state fiscal guidelines will be e-mailed back to each requester. Those who request a refund will be refunded the registration cost minus a $10 administrative fee. Refund requests will be accepted through Sept. 20.

More information about the decision and its implications–along with a list of frequently asked questions and answers–is posted on the Buffalo Bicycle Classic's website. See www.buffalobicycleclassic.com[13].

The BBC regrets the inconvenience, appreciates the continuing support of riders and sponsors and pledges to return next year.

CU-NREL energy institute launches study of plug-in hybrid vehicles[14]

The University of Colorado at Boulder's Renewable and Sustainable Energy Institute (RASEI) – a joint venture with the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory – will partner with Toyota Motor Sales U.S.A. Inc. in a field study of household experiences and the technical impacts of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHVs) in a "smart grid" environment.

Toyota Motor Sales will supply 18 Prius PHVs for the two-year program. The cars, which are expected to arrive this month, will be circulated in three-month stints among 108 randomly selected Boulder households that volunteered to be part of "smart grid" pilot tests.

"This is a great example of CU working together with industry to address big-picture energy questions," said Michael Knotek, director of RASEI. "RASEI is here to make a real-world impact. With these partnerships and our 'smart grid' research expertise, we'll be able to get some new insights into the intersection of transportation and the electric grid."

RASEI and Toyota Motor Sales, with the participation of Xcel Energy, will gather data on vehicle performance and electricity usage, as well as how households interact with vehicle feedback through "smart grid" technology. The Boulder location also presents the opportunity for researchers to monitor the performance of Toyota's first-generation lithium-ion battery at high altitudes and in cold weather.

The 18 vehicles being used in the field study are part of a 150-vehicle demonstration program that Toyota is conducting throughout the United States.

The Prius PHV can be charged in approximately three hours from a standard 110-volt electrical outlet, or in one and a half hours with a 220-volt electrical outlet, and can cruise in electric-only mode for approximately 13 miles. For longer distances, the PHV reverts to its hybrid mode and operates like a regular Prius.

A community blog on the field study will be hosted at http://cupluginhybrid.org[15]. For more information on the PHVs and Toyota Motor Sales' demonstration program visit http://www.toyota.com/esq/[16].

New research sheds light on why our brains get tripped up when we're anxious[17]

A new University of Colorado at Boulder study sheds light on the brain mechanisms that allow us to make choices – and ultimately could be helpful in improving treatments for the millions of people who suffer from the effects of anxiety disorders.

In the study, CU-Boulder psychology Professor Yuko Munakata and her research colleagues found that "neural inhibition," a process that occurs when one nerve cell suppresses activity in another, is a critical aspect in our ability to make choices.

"The breakthrough here is that this helps us clarify the question of what is happening in the brain when we make choices, like when we choose our words," Munakata said. "Understanding more about how we make choices, how the brain is doing this and what the mechanisms are, could allow scientists to develop new treatments for things such as anxiety disorders."

Researchers have long struggled to determine why people with anxiety can be paralyzed when it comes to decision-making involving many potential options. Munakata believes the reason is that people with anxiety have decreased neural inhibition in their brain, which leads to difficulty making choices.

"A lot of the pieces have been there," she said. "What's new in this work is bringing all of this together to say here's how we can fit all of these pieces of information together in a coherent framework explaining why it's especially hard for people with anxiety to make decisions and why it links to neural inhibitors."

A paper on the findings titled "Neural inhibition enables selection during language processing" appeared in the Aug. 30 Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. CU-Boulder professors Tim Curran, Marie Banich and Randall O'Reilly, graduate students Hannah Snyder and Erika Nyhus and undergraduate honors thesis student Natalie

Hutchison co-authored the paper.

In the study, they tested the idea that neural inhibition in the brain plays a big role in decision making by creating a computer model of the brain called a neural network simulation.

"We found that if we increased the amount of inhibition in this simulated brain then our system got much better at making hard choices," said Hannah Snyder, a psychology graduate student who worked with Munakata on the study. "If we decreased inhibition in the brain, then the simulation had much more trouble making choices."

Through their model they looked at the brain mechanisms involved when we choose words. They then tested the model's predictions on people by asking them to think of the first verb that comes to mind when they are presented with a noun.

"We know that making decisions, in this case choosing our words, taps into this left-front region of the brain, called the left ventrolateral prefrontal cortex," Munakata said. "We wanted to figure out what is happening in that part of the brain that lets us make these choices. Our idea here, which we have shown through the word-choosing model, is that there's a fight between neurons in this area of the brain that lets us choose our words."

They then tested the model's predictions that more neural inhibition in the brain makes it easier to make choices by examining the effects of increased and decreased inhibition in people's brains. They increased inhibition by using a drug called midazolam and found that people got much better at making hard choices. It didn't affect other aspects of their thinking, but rather only the area of making choices. They investigated the effects of decreased inhibition by looking at people with anxiety.

"We found that the worse their anxiety was, the worse they were at making decisions, and the activity in their left ventrolateral prefrontal cortex was less typical," Munakata said.

There are two ways in which the research could be helpful in improving treatments for anxiety, according to Snyder. While specific medications that increase neural inhibition are currently used to treat the emotional symptoms of anxiety disorders, the findings suggest that they might also be helpful in treating the difficulty those suffering from anxiety have in selecting one option when there are too many choices.

"Secondly, a more precise understanding of what aspects of cognition patients are struggling with could be extremely valuable in designing effective approaches to therapy for each patient," she said. "For example, if someone with an anxiety disorder has difficulty selecting among multiple options, he or she might benefit from learning how to structure their environment to avoid choice overload."

The work was done in CU-Boulder's Center for Determinants of Executive Function and Dysfunction, which brings together researchers from different areas of expertise on campus and beyond including experts on drug studies, neuroimaging and anxiety. The center is funded by the National Institute of Mental Health.

Longtime benefactor's name now graces ballroom[18]

The University Center Ballroom was named in honor of a longtime behind-the-scenes UCCS benefactor at ceremonies on Tuesday, Sept. 14.

The ballroom now is named Berger Hall in recognition of James C. Berger, a principal in Col-Terra Investments Ltd., BVR Investments and numerous other Colorado Springs businesses. Berger, a former member of the CU Real Estate Foundation Board, has helped with several UCCS real estate transactions and plans to establish a student scholarship program for low-income, high-potential students at UCCS.

"Jim's involvement with the university – through his vision, counsel and personal generosity over the span of many years – helped form the solid foundation that has enhanced the ability of this campus to progress at an impressive pace," said Brian Winkelbauer, vice president of the CU Foundation.

Together with his associates, Berger, a 1956 CU-Boulder graduate, provided the land now occupied by Alpine Village Apartments. He also has provided counsel to UCCS on numerous real estate acquisitions important to the university's growth, including the purchase of University Hall from Compassion International. Early in his career, he formed Berger & Berger Inc., a real estate brokerage firm, and later organized, together with two associates, Col-Terra Investments Ltd., a real estate company that developed land, office, retail, multifamily residential and special-use properties. Since then, Berger has been involved in and continues to operate numerous real estate developments throughout the Pikes Peak region.

He served on the CU Real Estate Foundation Board from 2002 to 2009 and is a current member of the Chancellor's Roundtable, a UCCS advisory board.

Berger Hall was created by the construction of the Gallogly Events Center. The former University Center gymnasium was remodeled to serve as a space for large campus events and conferences.

"What the space has lacked, however, is an appropriate namesake," said Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak. "It is fitting that this space, which is so critical to the mission of our campus, be named in recognition of Jim Berger."

Peers honor dedicated faculty on Wall of Fame[19]

UC Denver Chancellor Jerry Wartgow, left, and Provost Rod Nairn, right, congratulate Stephan Durham at the Celebration of Faculty Excellence.

There are countless honors that a faculty member may achieve, but there's nothing quite like being honored by colleagues. On Friday, Sept. 10, in North Classroom, Denver Campus faculty were recognized by more than 80 attendees and honored for their accomplishments.

"There are a lot of different ways to get recognized," Chancellor Jerry Wartgow told honorees and attendees, "but the fact that you are being recognized by your peers is the ultimate recognition."

Wartgow thanked all faculty for their commitment and dedication to education and the students, especially in tough budgetary times.

"In the five weeks I've been here, I've been tremendously impressed with the spirit and attitude I've seen with everyone I've met at UC Denver," Wartgow said. "It makes me very happy to be here. ... Thank you for choosing education as a career."

Honorees received their awards and will be featured on the Faculty Wall of Fame in North Classroom.

Award winners included:
Provost's Award for Excellence in Practices Related to Non-Tenure-Track Faculty: Department of Psychology
Excellence in Teaching: Assistant Professor Stephan Durham Excellence in Teaching: Sue Giullian Excellence in Research and Creative Work: Jan Mandel Excellence in Service: Leo Bruederle Excellence in Librarianship: Ignacio Ferrer-Vinent Thomas Jefferson Award: Stephen Hartnett
Each UC Denver school and college and the Auraria Library nominated a total of 29 faculty members for awards for

Excellence in Teaching, Research and Creative Activities and Service. The Thomas Jefferson honoree and the inaugural provost's award were honored at the ceremony as well. Read the full story on the award winners.[21]

Major gift to benefit cardiology, neurology research at School of Medicine[22]

A gift of more than $1.9 million will bolster two areas of health care research at the University of Colorado School of Medicine on the Anschutz Medical Campus.

The generous, unsolicited gift from the estate of Joseph and Rose LaConte, to be split equally between the Department of Neurology and the Division of Cardiology, is unusual in that the couple has no known ties to the university, its clinical program or its doctors. The LaContes, hard-working vegetable farmers, developed commercial real estate in Westminster for years as well as a drive-in movie theater; the LaConte Shopping Center in Westminster bears their name. Joseph died in 2001 at age 91; Rose died in 2006 at 94.

"It's a stunning gift," says Peter Buttrick, M.D., S. Gilbert Blount professor and head of the cardiology division, which will use its approximately $965,000 allocation from the bequest to fund an endowed research professorship to lead translational research, helping to convert basic laboratory science into new cardiovascular therapies.

For the neurology department, the LaConte bequest represents the second major gift received recently for Alzheimer's research (another $1.1 million bequest was received last spring). The latest gift of about $965,000 will, like the earlier gift, fund the hiring of a faculty member with high-caliber research expertise in Alzheimer's, according to Kenneth Tyler, M.D., Reuler-Lewin family professor and department chair. Alzheimer's disease is a priority research area for the department, as its incidence is expected to increase rapidly, and Colorado's 47 percent incidence increase since 2000 is greater than that of any state except Alaska.

Boulder company to commercialize CU hybrid aircraft propulsion technology[23]

The University of Colorado recently completed an option agreement with Boulder-basedTigon EnerTec Inc.[24] for CU technology enabling efficient management of hybrid engines in aircraft.

Conventional airplanes employ an internal combustion engine that is sized for the high-power requirements of takeoff and climbing. However, most of a typical flight is conducted at lower-power cruising speeds, during which time the larger engine is burning fuel inefficiently. Electric motors, on the other hand, are able to operate at high levels of efficiency over a broader range of power output, but energy storage problems preclude the use of all-electric power systems in airplanes.

A team led by Jean Koster[25] in the aerospace engineering department at the University of Colorado at Boulder have developed a method for switching between an internal combustion engine (powered by conventional fuel or biofuels) and an electric motor (powered by batteries, photovoltaic cells, fuel cells or other alternative power sources). The ability to transition seamlessly between these two motors maximizes overall efficiency and minimizes fuel consumption, while still meeting the high-power needs of takeoff and climbing. The research group also has made a number of adjustments to the system, nicknamed HELIOS, to reduce the weight, complexity and cost of the hybrid engine.

"Being able to selectively choose from torque sources, or combine them for maximum power, without the use of a clutch, opens up a range of propulsion options that can be optimized around whatever the mission need might be," said

Tigon CEO Les Makepeace. Tigon is working with aerospace and defense customers to investigate unmanned air vehicle applications; the company also is investigating general aviation, marine and ground transportation applications.

"This is an exciting time for the company," Makepeace said.

The HELIOS project is a recent graduate of the CU-Boulder Renewable and Sustainable Energy Institute (RASEI[26]) Market Assessment Program.

"Tigon represents CU and RASEI's strong focus on developing market relevant technologies that have immediate and broad real world applications," said Trent Yang, director of entrepreneurship and business development at RASEI. "Our incubation program identified the original market opportunity and we look forward to working with and supporting Tigon as it successfully transitions our lab technology into the real world."

RASEI recently funded a $40,250 proof-of-concept investment that will allow Tigon to further develop the technology.

Cancer Center has new top administrator[27]

Kochevar

Mark Kochevar, M.B.A., has joined the University of Colorado Cancer Center (UCCC) as its top administrator.

Kochevar, who will be the associate director for administration and finance, comes to the center from the Medical College of Georgia Cancer Center, where he led the administrative development and management of the newly established center.

"Mark has the proven chops to do this job, and he has an all-star team to lean on in our administrative core," said UCCC Director Dan Theodorescu, M.D., Ph.D. "He will have a lead role in taking UCCC to the next level as we develop a strategic plan and complete our National Cancer Institute comprehensive cancer center grant renewal."

Kochevar began his career at the National Cancer Institute, where he spent 17 years as an administrator for cancer treatment and causation programs. He then was the administrative director of the University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Cancer Center, where he led the administrative process for the center's NCI P20 Center Planning Grant application, awarded in 1999, and its P30 Cancer Center Support Grant application. Kochevar also led a successful development of a Cancer Research Grant application under the Maryland Cigarette Restitution Funds Program.

"I am truly honored to have been selected as the administrator for UCCC," Kochevar said. "Building upon the strong foundations created under the leadership of Dr. Paul Bunn, UCCC is poised to reach new levels of success in its research endeavors while continuing to increase its presence in the Rocky Mountain region. I look forward to being a member of Dr. Theodorescu's leadership team as we develop and implement an ambitious strategic plan, taking UCCC to a new level in innovation and leadership."

Chemistry professor receives grant[29]

Reed

Scott Reed, an assistant professor in the department of chemistry at the University of Colorado Denver, received a $395,000 grant from the NSF Biosensors program.

The title of the grant, "Collaborative Research: A Nanostructured Model of the Apoptotic Cell Surface," reflects that the project is a collaboration with Michelle Knowles at the University of Denver. Together, they will create sensors that mimic the surface of damaged (apoptotic) cellular membranes. They will study how the body recognizes changes in membrane shape to identify damaged cells for removal.

Sensors designed using this approach will be useful for understanding how proteins interact with curved membrane surfaces. In turn, this will allow for the design of sensors that recognize physiological responses to apoptotic cells that could be critical in diagnosing cardiovascular disease.

UCCS faculty members published[31]

Four University of Colorado at Colorado Springs faculty members recently published books in their respective fields.

Chancellor **Pam Shockley-Zalabak** and fellow communications professor **Michael Hackman**, and **Sherry Morreale,** assistant professor in communication, published "Building the High-Trust Organization: Strategies for Supporting Five Key Dimensions of Trust" (International Association of Business Communicators, San Francisco). **Sonja Tanner**, assistant professor of philosophy, is author of "In Praise of Plato's Poetic Imagination" (Lexington Books, Lanham, Md.).

Dropping names ...[32]

Goldstein

Bruce Goldstein, associate professor of planning and design at the University of Colorado Denver, is the author of two new manuscripts: "The Weakness of Strong Ties: Why Scientists Almost Destroyed the Coachella Valley Multispecies Habitat Conservation Plan In Order To Save It," in Environmental Management 46(2): 268-284, and with William Hale Butler, "The U.S. Fire Learning Network: Providing a Narrative Framework for Restoring Ecosystems, Professions, and Institutions," in Society and Natural Resources, 23(10): 935-95.

Simonian

... **Philip Simonian**, M.D., professor of pulmonary sciences and critical care medicine at the University of Colorado Hospital, is one of four clinicians awarded a two-year grant from the Coalition for Pulmonary Fibrosis and the American Thoracic Society to fund research into pulmonary fibrosis (progressive scarring or thickening of the lungs). Each researcher will receive $50,000 per year to support their work.

Postdoc Appreciation Week celebrates vital community[35]

The second annual National Postdoc Appreciation Week[36] begins Monday, Sept. 20, and wraps with National Postdoc Appreciation Day on Friday, Sept. 24.

To celebrate, the University of Colorado at Boulder and the Postdoctoral Association of Colorado (PAC) host a postdoc social from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 23, in the British Studies Room (M549) at Norlin Library. Beer, wine and food will be provided; attendees must RSVP by **Monday, Sept. 20, and** must bring to the event a Faculty/Staff Buff OneCard and a valid ID. For more information and to RSVP, click here[37].

PAC was formed in 2004 to serve the needs of those holding postdoctoral positions at CU-Boulder or in the national labs collaborating on campus research projects. The association organizes professional development and social events for postdocs, including three workshops this fall. The first, "From Lab to Entrepreneurship: CU Resources, Tech Transfer and the InDevRCase Study," is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 16. For more information, go to www.colorado.edu/PAC[38].

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-depression-center-data-indicates-large-rise-colorado-suicides-last-year[2] http://www.coosp.org/[3] http://www.coloradodepressioncenter.org/[4] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/conference-cognitive-disability-explore-cloud-computing-more[5] https://www.cu.edu/ColemanInstitute[6] https://www.cu.edu/ColemanInstitute/[7] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/five-questions-cindy-gutierrez[8] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/5q-page-12.jpg[9] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/SchoolOfEducation/Pages/Home.aspx[10] mailto:Jay.Dedrick@cu.edu[11] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/buff-bike-classic-canceled-cause-continues[12] mailto:bbcinfo@colorado.edu[13] http://www.buffalobicycleclassic.com/[14] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-nrel-energy-institute-launches-study-plug-hybrid-vehicles[15] http://cupluginhybrid.org/[16] http://www.toyota.com/esq/[17] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/new-research-sheds-light-why-our-brains-get-tripped-when-were-anxious[18] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/longtime-benefactors-name-now-graces-ballroom[19] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/peers-honor-dedicated-faculty-wall-fame[20] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/ucd-chance.jpg[21] http://www.ucdenver.edu/faculty_staff/stories-events/ourstories/Pages/facultyexcellence2010.aspx[22] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/major-gift-benefit-cardiology-neurology-research-school-medicine[23] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/boulder-company-commercialize-cu-hybrid-aircraft-propulsion-technology[24] http://tigonenertec.com/[25] http://www.colorado.edu/aerospace/koster_jean.html[26] http://rasei.colorado.edu/[27] https://connections.cu.edu/people/cancer-center-has-new-top-administrator[28] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/people_kochevar1.jpg[29] https://connections.cu.edu/people/chemistry-professor-receives-grant[30] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/people_reed.jpg[31] https://connections.cu.edu/people/uccs-faculty-members-published[32] https://connections.cu.edu/people/dropping-names-20[33] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/people_goldstein.jpg[34] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/people_simonian.jpg[35] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/postdoc-appreciation-week-celebrates-vital-community[36] http://www.nationalpostdoc.org/meetings-and-events/appreciation[37] http://www.colorado.edu/PAC/Social/index.html[38] http://www.colorado.edu/PAC