

CU in the News

November 2012



University of Colorado Boulder

CU-Boulder, NIST share four Nobel Prize winners

The relationship between the National Institute of Standards and Technology and CU-Boulder continues to yield Nobel Prize winners for the two Boulder institutions. Nobel Prize-winning physicists tied to both NIST and CU since 1997 have been **David J. Wineland**, at right, whose award was announced earlier this month; Carl Wieman and Eric Cornell, who won in 2001; and John Hall, who won in 2005. **Daily Camera**, Oct. 9

Deborah Jin among prestigious women in science

Deborah Jin, professor of physics at CU-Boulder and a fellow of NIST, has received a prestigious women in science award. Jin, previously a MacArthur "genius" award winner, is among five women who were chosen L'Oréal-UNESCO Women in Science laureates last week, which comes with a \$100,000 award at a ceremony in Paris this spring. Jin was the only winner from North America. **Daily Camera**, Oct. 23

Milos Popovic recipient of \$875,000 Packard Fellowship

Milos Popovic, a CU-Boulder assistant professor of electrical, computer and energy engineering, is among 16 researchers nationwide to win the prestigious \$875,000 Packard Fellowship. Popovic will investigate light-based devices for future microchip technology where light particles are squeezed into nanometer-scale dimensions in silicon nanowires on chips to create unique physics. **Daily Camera**, Oct. 18

Research highlights new DNA target area for cancer drugs

Scientists at CU-Boulder's BioFrontiers Institute have identified a target area within human DNA that might be susceptible to future anti-cancer drugs. The study, led by Director **Tom Cech**, right, and Chief Scientific Officer Leslie Leinwand, pinpoints a patch of amino acids at the ends of chromosomes that, if blocked by a yet-to-be-developed drug, may prevent the reproduction of cancerous cells. Daily Camera, Oct. 28

Racial 'hierarchy of bias' drives decision to shoot armed, unarmed suspects, study finds

Police officers and students exhibit a "hierarchy of bias" in making a split-second decision whether to shoot suspects who appear to be wielding a gun or, alternatively, a benign object such as a cell phone. Both police and students were most likely to shoot at blacks, then Hispanics, then whites and finally, Asians, researchers found. Joshua Correll, Bernadette Park, right, and Charles M. Judd of CU-Boulder's Department of Psychology and Neuroscience and Melody Sadler of San Diego State University conducted the study. Phys.org, Oct. 25





Climate conflict: Warmer world could be more violent

If climate change predictions turn out to be true, some parts of the world could become more violent, according to a new study. "The relationship between temperature and conflict shows that much warmer-than-normal temperatures raise the risk of violence," the authors write in the study. The study was led by John O'Loughlin, a professor of geography at CU-Boulder. It was done in concert with the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder. USA Today, Oct. 23

Discovery could lead to new treatments for hepatitis B virus

A research team led by CU-Boulder scientists has discovered two prime targets of the hepatitis B virus in liver cells. For more than three decades, scientists have been trying to find the cellular targets of the hepatitis B virus, which affects 400 million people, said professor **Ding Xue**, who led the study. Researchers have known that the virus encodes a pathogenic protein, allowing tumors to flourish. But how that protein operates has remained largely unknown until now. **Daily Camera**, Oct. 22

University of Colorado Colorado Springs

Body language a factor for undecided voters

In post presidential debate analysis it is common seeing body language getting as much attention as the words and thoughts spoken by candidates. "Those kinds of things can affect people's view of the candidate," said UCCS political science professor Joshua Dunn.

From previous debates there has been a lot of talk about attitudes conveyed by things like eye contact, smiles, even how many times a candidate sipped water. For voters loyal to a party or candidate these things may seem trivial or distractions, but some undecided voters are swayed be such things. **KOAA**, Oct. 22

Mental health task force to address gaps in care

Educating more doctors about behavioral health issues, helping people navigate the complex system of care and aiding people without insurance locally in mental health care delivery will be studied during the next six months. In April, three task forces made up of 100 mental health professionals will make recommendations about how to fix the gaps and improve behavioral health care in El Paso County.

"We're not going to be whining anymore; we're not going to be pointing fingers anymore; we're going to find solutions to these problems," said Sara Qualls, professor of psychology and director of the gerontology center at UCCS. "We're going to come up with solutions, and we're going to come up with how to pay for them."

Colorado Springs Business Journal, Oct. 12

UCCS prof leaps from virtual world to reality with social i2i device

Michael Larson, provost, hopes a small device worn like a broach or button will put the social back into social networking. The button, called i2i, is an electronic device that stores a person's professional and personal interests. When a person meets someone wearing the i2i button, the buttons communicate wirelessly and a colored light flashes to let them know they have common interests.

"The button could link up moms who have an interest in macramé or particle physics," he said. Colorado Springs Business Journal, Sept. 28

History lesson prompts Fountain cemetery crawl

When **Barbara Headle**, senior instructor of history, and her students learned the Fairview Cemetery in Fountain had been the target of vandals, they were angry. That anger soon was channeled into energy. Headle and her students joined forces with community leaders to create the Friends of Fountain Fairview Cemetery and the first-ever cemetery crawl 10 a.m. -2 p.m. Nov. 3 at 757 South Santa Fe Ave., Fountain. **Communique**, Oct. 23









University of Colorado Denver

Female officers accept risk of undercover work

The job requirements could hardly be more off-putting: Hang out in dark, deserted places and try to entice sexual predators. And yet, according to those who study law enforcement, the female officers who are pressed into decoy work couldn't be keener.

"Going into my research, I thought they must hate this, standing around waiting for men to pick them up or abuse them in some way," said Mary Dodge, criminal justice programs director at CU Denver. "To my surprise, they love it. It takes them out of the drudgery of the job and gives them experience in undercover work, a field mostly dominated by men." The Globe and Mail, Oct. 26

Dark days for whitebarks — and birds, bears and fish

The endangered whitebark might be history — and soon. A blister rust brought from Eurasia with imported plants and native bark beetles assisted by climate change have made chalky graveyards of the twisted pines. Its free fall threatens a chain of creatures from birds to bears to trout.

"I feel sorry for the birds," said **Diana Tomback**, a CU Denver ecologist and director of the Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation. "The [disease] prevalence is unbelievable." **Salt Lake City Tribune**, Oct. 28

Young people driving epidemic of prescription drug use

A new study by CU Denver reveals that adolescents are abusing prescription pain medications such as vicodin, valium and oxycontin at a rate 40 percent higher than previous generations. That makes it the second most common form of illegal drug use in the U.S. after marijuana, according to **Richard Miech**, Ph.D., lead author of the study and professor of sociology at CU Denver. **Science Blog**, Oct. 16

Study: Facebook can reduce the spread of STDs

A new study in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* suggests that public health messages on Facebook are effective at increasing condom use among young adults—thus decreasing the chance of spreading STDs. Researchers at CU Denver recruited 1,578 young adults between 18 and 24 for the study.

Participants in the control group signed up for a Facebook page called Just/Us, which shared articles about condom use and sexually transmitted infection testing, others signed up for 18-24 News, which provided general news items targeted to the age group. The study found that 68 percent of those who signed up for Just/Us said they'd used condoms during their last sexual encounter, compared to 56 percent of those in the control group. Forbes, Oct. 9

Anthropologist finds evidence of hominin meat eating 1.5 million years ago

A skull fragment unearthed by anthropologists in Tanzania shows that our ancient ancestors were eating meat at least 1.5 million years ago, shedding new light into the evolution of human physiology and brain development.

"Meat eating has always been considered one of the things that made us human, with the protein contributing to the growth of our brains," said **Charles Musiba**, Ph.D., associate professor of anthropology at CU Denver. "Our work shows that 1.5 million years ago we were not opportunistic meat eaters, we were actively hunting and eating meat." **Science Codex**, Oct. 4









University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

Need CPR? Whether you get it may depend on the neighborhood

Patients suffering cardiac arrest in poorer, predominantly black neighborhoods were half as likely to receive CPR from a bystander as those in richer, predominantly white neighborhoods, according to research published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Even cardiac arrest victims in well-to-do black neighborhoods were 23 percent less likely to receive bystander assistance. And overall, blacks and Latinos were less likely to receive aid, regardless of where they were. **Comilla Sasson**, M.D., an emergency medicine physician at the CU School of Medicine, led the study. **Los Angeles Times**, Oct. 25

Haven offers place for mothers challenged with addiction to start again

Women treated at the Haven Therapeutic Community at CU Anschutz Medical Campus have addictions ranging from meth, heroin and cocaine, to alcohol and prescription drugs. Most of the women are addicted to more than one substance, said **Daniele Wolff**, program director for the Haven.

"It's not just about learning how to stop using drugs, it's about learning why they took drugs in the first place and how they can stop forever." The Haven celebrates its 20th anniversary in November. The facility is a 65-bed residential substance abuse program for women and the first treatment facility in the state to accept infants into residence while their mothers receive treatment. **Life Science**, Oct. 18

In scouting reports, a pattern of molestation

There is no single predator profile in child molestation cases, but analysis of confidential scouting files shows "grooming behavior," a gradual seduction. For years, scout officials ignored the advice of experts to study the files.

Richard Krugman, dean of the CU School of Medicine and a member of the advisory board during much of the 1990s, recalled asking Scouting officials to study whether the incidence of sexual abuse changed after an abuse prevention program was adopted. "I said it would be really nice to have the data to support everyone's impression that these interventions are working," he recalled. "The answer was no. We weren't given reasons." **Los Angeles Times**, Oct. 17

San Luis teens work on healthy lifestyle

The Sanford School is overrun with nothing to do. The school in Conejos County in southeastern Colorado is many miles from the amenities of larger places. It's the kind of place **Elaine Belansky**, an assistant professor in community and behavior health in the Colorado School of Public Health at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus, could find fertile ground for testing a project designed to get young adolescents talking about healthy environments and being engaged in creating them. Belansky is the lead researcher on the Working Together Project, a five-year project funded by the Centers for Disease Control. **Ed News Colorado**, Oct. 3







