



Eugene S. Farley, Jr. Health Policy Center  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

# FRIDAY'S FEATURES

ISSUE 111320 Editor: Linda Niebauer



NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

[\*Lost on the Frontline\*](#) is a series published by *The Guardian* and *Kaiser Health News* that includes a database of 1,361 U.S. health care workers who have died fighting COVID-19, a sad testament of the courage and compassion exhibited by the health care professions.

[\*Fauci shares pandemic insights with CU Boulder students\*](#) is a 13-minute video conversation between CU Boulder Chancellor Philip P. DiStefano and Dr. Anthony Fauci as part of a new class that addresses various aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The first annual *CSTAGR Greg White Lecture: A Feature of the Distinguished Levitt Speaker Series* is scheduled for December 9<sup>th</sup>, 12-1:30PM MT. The featured speaker is Dr. Folasade P. May, director, Melvin and Bren Simon Gastroenterology Quality Improvement Program, UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center whose presentation is titled, "Colon Cancer and Black Race: Barriers & Opportunities." [Link for the Zoom session.](#)

[\*Quick COVID-19 Primary Care Survey 11/14 Series 23\*](#) sponsored by the Larry A. Green Center and the Primary Care Collaborative is this week's survey to better understand response and capacity of U.S. primary care practices to COVID-19. Survey takes only 3 minutes to complete.

[\*Struck with Memory Loss, A Dancer Remembers 'Swan Lake.' But Who Is She?\*](#) is an NPR story by Anastasia Tsioulcas that contains a 3-minute video that will blow you away. This story is of a former ballet dancer afflicted with memory loss, and the touching video shows her gracefully dancing as she hears the music from Tchaikovsky's ballet *Swan Lake*, which has gone viral worldwide.

[\*A 90% Effective Vaccine!\*](#) is the title of the 11/11/20 "In the Bubble" podcast with Andy Slavitt and Eric Topol who evaluate the news that Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine proved more than 90% effective with physician, scientist and author

Eric Topol.

Dr. Vivek Murthy, dad, husband, 19<sup>th</sup> Surgeon General of the United States, and author of NYT best seller, *TOGETHER: The Healing Power of Human Connection in a Sometimes Lonely World* (about social connection and loneliness), has been selected to be in charge of Joe Biden's COVID task force.



[\*Veteran who fought on frontline of pandemic reminds everyone to stay vigilant\*](#) is a story by Colette Cordelon for KOAA News about Dr. Matt Bershinsky, currently in the Air Force Reserves and clinician at Children's Hospital in Colorado Springs, who draws parallels between military members and health care workers.

[\*Colorado Doctors Plead with Everyone to Step Up: 'Now Is the Time'\*](#) is a story by Danielle Chavira for CBS Local about how the Colorado Hospital Association and medical professionals are sounding the alarm given the number of hospitalizations the state is seeing right now, the most since the start of the pandemic.

[\*Colorado's coronavirus deaths haven't yet spiked as cases have. Health leaders say that's not a reason for complacency.\*](#) Is a story by John Ingold for *The Colorado Sun* who reports that "though hospitals are better at treating COVID-19 patients now than in the spring, strained hospital capacity makes it harder to sustain those advances.

[\*Mental health improves in employees after company moves to 4-day work week\*](#) is a story by Lindsey Boetsch for *The Denver Channel* about an experiment (hatched before COVID, piloted this past summer in a Denver-based company found that performance didn't suffer, and culture and mental health improved.

[\*A South Philly rowhouse is becoming a free primary-care clinic with a specialty in equity\*](#) is a story in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* by Bethany Ao who writes about how unequal access for people of color has existed in Philadelphia's health care system for decades, and the coronavirus pandemic has brought these longstanding disparities, and their life-changing consequences, to the forefront.

[\*How a Minneapolis Clinic Is Narrowing Racial Gaps in Health\*](#) is an NPR story by Yuki Noguchi about the NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center that started as part of a 14-city pilot program funded by President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty. It's the only one of those health and social services clinics still in business.



## POLICY EFFORTS

[\*'Election Day is over, and guess what?'\*](#) is a story from Dr. Tom Dean, a South Dakota physician, on the dire pandemic situation there as told to Eli Saslow for *The Washington Post*. Dr. Dean is one of three doctors in the county, so you can only imagine how neck-deep he is daily.

[\*America Chose Sickness, and Lost the Economy\*](#) is a story in *The Atlantic* by Annie Lowrey who calls out how there is no saving the economy without guaranteeing worker health, which emphasizes how those who have argued that the pandemic has an either-or relationship with the economy...is a false dichotomy.

[\*What Trump's four years taught me about the two White Americas\*](#) is an analytic piece by John Blake of CNN who now knows that a president can refuse to denounce a far-right group that's been labeled misogynistic, Islamophobic and anti-immigration during a president debate while urging them to "sand back and stand by." And millions of white voters won't care.

[\*Governments Must Implement Wider Policy Reforms to Address Mental Health, Root Causes, Says Editorial\*](#) is a post on the *KFF* site by the editorial board who call out how wider policy reforms to address mental health, root causes must be the responsibility of governments, not business.

[\*No One Is Listening to Us\*](#) is a story in *The Atlantic* by Ed Yong about how more people than ever are hospitalized with COVID-19, and how healthcare workers can't go on like this.

[\*The Enraging Deja Vu of a Third Coronavirus Wave\*](#) is a story in *ProPublica* by Caroline Chen about how health care workers don't need patronizing praise. They need resources, federal support, and for us to stay healthy and out of their hospitals.

[\*Study: Mental health patients cost most, but little is spent on treatment\*](#) is a post on *State of Reform* by Shawna de la Rosa about how individuals with a mental health diagnosis often have higher healthcare costs...and perhaps one reasons why is that we spend so little on actual treatment.

[\*The Center for Pandemic and Economic Crisis Are Wake-Up Call for State Medicaid Expansion\*](#) is post on *Center for American Progress* by Tarun Ramesh and colleagues about how Medicaid expansion is an opportunity to improve health insurance coverage for low-income residents, narrow racial disparities in access to treatment, and help insulate low-income residents from the effects of the economic recession.

[\*Biden's ready to start his pandemic response immediately\*](#) is a post on *STAT* by Lev Facher about how president-elect Biden is already preparing a mid-pandemic transition of power that aims to reboot the COVID-19 response.



## RESEARCH, DATA, EVALUATION

[\*New Study Suggests Common Cold Antibodies Could Protect Against COVID-19\*](#) is an article on *HuffPost* by Catherine Pearson about how preliminary data shows some people, particularly children, may have pre-existing antibodies that could help mitigate the impact of COVID-19.

[\*Economic and Clinical Impact of COVID-19 on Provider Practices in Massachusetts\*](#) is a commentary by Dr. Dirui Song and colleagues in *NEJM Catalyst: Innovations in Care Delivery* about a survey of health care providers that reveals significant adverse effects on the ability to serve patients and sustain practice. Without policy solutions and financial support, practice sales and closures may be imminent.

[\*We're in this Together\*](#) is a post on the *Colorado Health Institute* site that features a one-hour panel discussion that highlights how, rather than a new normal, we need a new better.

[\*ACA Offers Protection as the COVID-19 Pandemic Erodes Employer Health Insurance Coverage\*](#) is a fact sheet produced by Michael Karpman and Stephen Zuckerman and developed with data from the Urban Institute's Coronavirus Tracking Survey. Public and private health insurance coverage options bolstered by the ACA are mitigating the impact of employer-sponsored health insurance losses during the COVID-19 pandemic.



## MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS

[\*Infographic: Where legal services fit within a health care organization's response to SFDOH\*](#) is a tool from the National Center for Medical Legal Partnership that explains the difference between social determinants of health, social needs, and legal needs.

[\*Planning Tool: How many lawyers do we need to meet the legal need\(s\) of our patients?\*](#) is another tool from the National Center for Medical Legal Partnership that describes the factors that impact an MLP lawyer's capacity and the types of activities – such as training, curbside consults, and legal representation of patients – that MLP lawyers engage in and the approximately time involved in each.

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