



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

FRIDAY'S FEATURES

ISSUE 022120



NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

[*A Fat Lot of Good*](#) is the title of the March 1st [Levitt lecture](#) sponsored by the CU Department of Family Medicine, as well as the title of Dr. Peter Brukner's latest book. Dr. Brukner is a world-renowned sports medicine clinician and researcher from Melbourne whose second passion is nutrition. "His book busts the dietary myths we've been living by for decades."

[Dr. Jim Strain](#), a pediatrician who practiced in Denver for 36 years and who led the medical team in 1973 to deliver [Colorado's first sextuplets](#), died February 4th after a brief illness at the age of 96. He was one of our giants.



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[*Staying safe from COVID-19 in the U.S.: Wash hands and skip masks: Chinese food, markets are safe*](#) is an update about the coronavirus by Katie Kerwin McCrimmon in *UCHealth Today* who interviewed Dr. Michelle Barron, UC Health infectious disease expert.

[*Your personal choices affect other people in significant ways. Vaccines work best when everyone uses them.*](#) is a TEDxMileHigh Talk on vaccinating children by Jennifer Reich, CU sociology professor, who explores why some parents reject vaccines and how the movement signifies a larger problem.

[*Dutch Supermarket Introduces a Unique "Chat Checkout" to Help Fight Loneliness*](#) is a story in *Bright Vibes* by Michiel de Gooijer about how loneliness among the elderly inspired Jumbo Supermarket in Viljmen to launch two great initiatives...an "All Together Coffee Corner" and a "Chat Checkout"... opportunities to just chat or ask for help with small chores.

[*Back from Broken Podcast Explores Addiction, Recovery, and More*](#) is a new podcast hosted by CPR's Vic Vela that offers stories of addiction, recovery and redemption. This is Vic's story reported in *5280*, and his plans for this podcast.



POLICY EFFORTS

[*Opinion: Transparency and accountability needed in prescription drug industry*](#) is an opinion piece in the *Colorado Sun* by Sandra Sebbas, a retired public librarian, about how the public has the right to know the costs that are factored into the price of prescription drugs to ensure fair and ethical business practices.

[*Insurance companies can't penalize people with prescriptions for life-saving opioid overdose medication, state says*](#) is a story in *The Denver Post* by Elisse Schmelzer about how insurance companies can't deny coverage or raise prices for people who have a prescription for a medicine that reverses opioid overdoses according to Colorado's insurance oversight agency.

[*Colorado Bills Aim to Help Schools Promote Mental Health*](#) is a story by Ali Budner for *Wyoming Public Media* who reports on two bills being sponsored by Colorado Senator Rhonda Fields...one to provide funding to train teachers and administrators in mental health first aid, and the other would expand the definition for excused absences to include mental health disturbances.



RESEARCH, DATA, EVALUATION

[*Medicare for All Would Save \\$450 Billion Annually while Preventing 68,000 Deaths, New Study Shows*](#) is a story in *Newsweek* by Jason Lemon about an analysis done by researchers at Yale, the University of Florida and the University of Maryland and published in *Lancet* that found that transitioning to a single-payer health care system could save the average American family about \$2,400 annually, and save the nation about 13% in health costs.

[*Beyond Burnout: Docs Decry 'Moral Injury' from Financial Pressures of Health Care*](#) is a story in *Kaiser Health News* by Melissa Bailey about the inner struggles experienced by health workers who are often blocked from doing what's best for patients by systemic barriers related to the business side of health care...barriers that can be particularly intense in emergency medicine.

[*Simplifying Childhood May Protect Against Mental Health Issues*](#) is a post on the *Huff Post Blog* by Tracy Gillett about how we're living in a time when "parents are unable to resist providing too much" which unknowingly, creates an environment in which mental health issues flourish, according to the author.

She reports on findings from a study and book by Kim John Payne, who simplified the lives of children with ADD and the changes he observed.

[*The Rural Health Safety Net Under Pressure: Rural Hospital Vulnerability*](#) is a report by The Chartis Center for Rural Health about the accelerated rate at which rural hospitals are closing and the path toward closure.

[*The health system we'd have if economists ran things*](#) is a story in *The Chicago Tribune* by Austin Frakt of *The New York Times* who reports on findings from a survey of 200 PhD health economists that show how 70% are comfortable charging people more if they engage in unhealthy behaviors that led to higher health costs. Most also reject the repeal of Obamacare.

[*Investing more in primary care could lower health spending – if patients would go along*](#) is a story by Mitchell Schnurman for *Dallas News* about a Primary Care Collaborative study released last year that showed that less than 6% of health spending in the United States went to primary care, compared with an average of 14% in developed countries; and about a network, Catalyst Health Network in Plano, TX, where employers and insurance companies pay providers for keeping people healthy.

[*Parenting Elective Lets Physicians Spend More Time with their Babies*](#) is a story by David Kelly on the *CU Anschutz Medical Campus* site about a novel, 4-week CU Anschutz program designed to integrate work/life for pediatric residents...what a fabulous concept. The elective was created in 2010 and has been studied and published this week in *Academic Pediatrics*.



[*Medical-Legal Partnerships at Veterans Affairs Medical Centers Improved Housing and Psychosocial Outcomes for Vets*](#) is a research article in *Health Affairs* by Jack Tsai and colleagues who describe the outcomes of veterans who access legal services at four partnership sites in Connecticut and New York from 2014-16. The partnership served 950 vets and the most common problems related to VA benefits, housing, family issues and consumer issues.

[*Addressing Social Determinants of Health through Medical-Legal Partnerships*](#) is a commentary in *Health Affairs* by Marsha Regenstein and colleagues that draws upon national survey data and field research to identify three models of the medical-legal partnership that health care organizations have adopted and the core elements of infrastructure that they share. Financing and commitment from health care organizations are key considerations for sustaining and scaling up the medical-legal partnership as a health equity intervention.



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