



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

# FRIDAY'S FEATURES

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## NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

[Black Man in a White Coat](#) a memoir by Dr. Damon Tweedy, a psychiatrist at Duke University School of Medicine, is the Anschutz Medical Campus's selection for the "2020 One Book One Campus" program. Dr. Tweedy will discuss his book Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, at noon. More information to come. Other speakers throughout the academic year related to this program include: Drs. Oyo Kwate, Jonathan Metzl, and Dayna Bowen Matthew.

[Comparative effectiveness of unobserved versus in-office inductions for medication assisted treatment](#) is the name of a study to be conducted by a team at the CU Department of Family Medicine, led by Linda Zittleman, MPH, MS. This sizable award from PCORI will allow a comparison of the effectiveness of medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder in primary-care office settings and at home.

[Rebuilding in the Wake of the Pandemic with Dr. Ashwin Vasani](#) is an interview with Dr. Vasani, physician and epidemiologist/president & CEO of Fountain House, an international organization that supports people with mental illness. He discusses our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and includes steps for Joe Biden, in the event he is elected president, to advance public health. He also makes recommendations for how we should communicate about and build confidence in the adoption of a vaccine.



## COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[Back to School Mental Wellness Checklist](#) contains tips for parents and kids by *Your Mom Cares* given the uncertainty of our current circumstances.

[Solutions for Local Leaders to Improve Mental Health and Well-Being During](#)

[and Post-COVID-19](#) is an action guide produced by de Beaumont and Well Being Trust for local policymakers and civic institutions. It contains recommendations that can be implemented to address mental health in both the immediate response and recovery phases of the pandemic.

['Forever Altered' Health Care Workers Face Mental Health Struggles after Caring for COVID Patients](#) is a story on WBUR by Lynn Jolicoeur and Lisa Mullins who interviewed Dr. Tracey Dechert, a trauma surgeon who oversees a COVID-19 intensive care unit at Boston Medical Center. She describes feeling exhausted emotionally, which “actually feels physical,” after the end of her 12-hour shifts where most of her patients died.

[We must stop relying on police alone to handle mental health crises](#) is a commentary in *The Dallas Morning News* by Octavio N. Martinez about how shifting this work to mental health professionals, in partnership with police, would reduce the risk of violence.

[Pandemic spurs surge of mental health needs across Michigan, creating 'perfect storm'](#) is a story in *The Detroit News* by Karen Bouffard about how this time of crisis is highlighting the barriers for care for many Michigan residents, depending on the severity of their condition, their insurance status and where they live.

[Low-Income Housing Community Gets Geriatric Medicine Clinic on Site](#) is a story on *4 CBS Denver* by Kathy Walsh about how CU Geriatric Medicine has established a clinic on the 14<sup>th</sup> floor of an affordable housing community for more than 400 adults aged 62 years and older...a wish come true for many.

[An 'Unprecedented' Effort to Stop the Coronavirus in Nursing Homes](#) is a story in *The New York Times* by Gina Kolata about how researchers are testing an experimental drug, sponsored by Eli Lilly and the NIH, to halt sudden outbreaks. The trial may bring a new type of treatment for the virus.

[How to spot signs of stress because of COVID-19 as students return to school](#) is a story covered by Alexis Dominguez for *KRDO* who reports on signs to look for in kids of different ages according to Dr. Jessica Hawks, a clinical psychologist and clinical director of outpatient services at CU School of Medicine.



[Softening the Blow: Policies to Support Hard-Hit Communities](#) is a blog post on the *Milbank Memorial Fund* site by president, Chris F. Koller, who comments on the recent analysis by Steven Woolf and Heidi Schoomaker of 60 years of mortality data. They studied the varied life expectancy by state and whether states' positions on certain types of social policies were related to outcomes. Chris suggests that state policymakers can soften the blow for individuals and communities if they pay persistent attention to the broader impacts of policy proposals and implementing ones that have been shown to have long-term systemic benefit.

[\*Our health system is built on an antiquated model of care\*](#) is a commentary by Former Rep. Patrick J. Kennedy for *The Hill* who discusses how the U.S. health care system still fails to acknowledge the brain as an essential part of the body, and how people with behavioral and physical health conditions drive up total health care costs.

[\*Naloxone Products and their Pricing in Medicaid, 2010-18\*](#) is a research report posted on *Urban.com* by Lisa Clemans-Cope and colleagues about trends for opioid overdose reversal drugs. Without new federal policies regulating prices and/or promoting robust price competition, including for generics, Medicaid enrollees' naloxone options will remain limited, potentially worsening the overdose crisis.

[\*Pandemic-related 'deaths of despair' were forecast at about 75,000 back in May – now they could be up to 150,000\*](#) is an article in the *Business Insider* by Marguerite Ward who talks about how joblessness during this time is not just an economic issue but a public health crisis waiting to happen.

[\*Telemedicine: What Should the Post-Pandemic Regulatory and Payment Landscape Look like?\*](#) is an article on *The Commonwealth Fund* site by Ateev Mehrotra and colleagues about policies and recommendations they believe represent the best way to encourage higher value forms of telemedicine while also balancing the need to decrease complexity.

[\*Spotty mental health and addiction care worsens COVID pandemic's impact\*](#) is an editorial reprinted from the *San Francisco Chronicle* about how a bill authored by Sen. Scott Wiener would oblige insurers to cover mental health and substance abuse more fully for the 13.4 million people enrolled in state-regulated plans...was a good idea then (January 2020) and an even a better one now. It's now up to F. Gavin Newsom to sign it into law.



[\*Sex and gender: modifiers of health, disease, and medicine\*](#) is a review article in *The Lancet* authored by a host of folks, two of whom (Drs. Neill Epperson and Judith Regensteiner) are from the CU School of Medicine. The study findings serve as a guide for clinicians and researchers when considering sex and gender in their approach to diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of disease as a necessary and fundamental step toward precision medicine.

[\*No spike in suicide rates in Victoria during COVID-19 lockdowns, coroners court figures show\*](#) is a story by Erin Handley and Danny Tran for ABC News in Australia who report on new data that show no change in the data from this year when compared to that of the same time last year (although the numbers from 2019 were considered staggeringly high), but that mental health experts warn of increases in self-harm. Takeaway for the United States, we need to adopt a real-time data strategy for suicide.

[\*GOP Policies Are Shortening American Lives\*](#) is a story in *Huff Post* by Michael

Hobbs about a new study led by Dr. Steven Woolf that suggests that state disparities in life expectancy come down to the conservative-liberal divide, and how conservative policies are the driving force behind America's declining lifespans.

[\*Employees Three Times More Likely to Experience Poor Mental Health Now\*](#) is a story in Forbes by Barnaby Lashbrooke about survey results done by FlexJobs in partnership with Mental Health America. N = 1,500 U.S. adults, 53% employed and 47% unemployed.

[\*Therapies Offered at Residential Addiction Treatment Programs in the United States\*](#) is a research letter in *JAMA Network* by Tamara Beetham and colleagues about results from a survey designed to simulate patient calls to audit treatments offered by programs nationally.

[\*Analysis of Recent National Trends in Medicaid and CHIP Enrollment\*](#) is a data note on the *Kaiser Family Foundation* site by Robin Rudowitz and colleagues that looks at national and state-by-state Medicaid and CHIP preliminary enrollment data through May 2020, as states were still in the early stages of experiencing the health and economic effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

[\*Young Adults' Pandemic Mental Health Risks\*](#) is a *New York Times* story by Dr. Perri Klass who writes about a new CDC survey that shows how 18 to 24 year-olds reported the highest levels of symptoms of anxiety and depression, and a quarter of them said they had seriously considered suicide.



[\*National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership renewed as HRSA-funded technical assistance partner for health centers\*](#) for 2021. As part of the 2021 contract, NCMLP will develop and release a new toolkit in the fall that guides health centers step-by-step through setting up a medical-legal partnership.

[\*What Happened When the Heat Went Off? An MLP Patients-to-Policy Story\*](#) is a utilities case study of an MLP in action from screening patients to improving the law.

[\*Preventing homelessness in 15 minutes\*](#) is a story from a couple of years ago about how a clinician and her legal partner were able to prevent a patient's housing voucher from being cancelled in 15 minutes.



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