Q&A: Work still needed before COVID-19 vaccine trial can begin in Colorado

Thomas Campbell, an infectious disease physician at the CU School of Medicine, told 9NEWS they have started outreach but not recruitment. “We have received a lot of interest; we already have close to 100 people who have stepped forward and said, ‘I want to volunteer for this study,’” Campbell said.

9News, Aug. 15, 2020

COVID-19 vaccine trials need diverse volunteers to ensure safety, effectiveness and public buy-in

At the University of Colorado, Thomas Campbell [professor of medicine] said his medical practice has used its electronic medical records to identify and reach out to everyone at high risk for COVID-19. “I’ve already had over 100 people email me personally and said ‘sign me up,’” said Campbell, also an infectious disease physician at UCHealth.

USA Today, Aug. 20, 2020

COVID-19 vaccines could become mandatory. Here’s how it might work.

Flu vaccines are effective about 70 percent of the time, says Lauren Grossman, professor of emergency medicine at the University of Colorado, and new shots are needed each year.

National Geographic, Aug. 19, 2020
**Denver doctors may have found the answer to a pandemic mystery: What happened to all the heart attacks?**

When the new coronavirus first swept through Colorado earlier this year, baffling doctors with its myriad of symptoms and methods of spread, Brian Stauffer, the head of cardiology at Denver Health, soon began to notice a different kind of pandemic mystery. People, it seemed, had stopped having heart attacks. A new study from Stauffer and several Denver Health colleagues offers the first clue to the answer in Colorado.

*Colorado Sun, Aug. 17, 2020*

**Local doctor explains rise in COVID-19 cases among children, tips for parents**

Chris Nyquist with Children’s Hospital Colorado says the current uptick in COVID-19 cases among children is notable in the high school to college ages. “Elementary schools vs junior high school vs high school vs college. They all have different risks based on the populations,” said Nyquist.

*KOAA (Colorado Springs), Aug. 17, 2020*

**COVID-19 survivors talk about challenges to recovery months after contracting virus**

Bill Niehaus, one of the doctors who helped Pero through rehab, spoke about his focus during recovery. “He woke up just a few days before he came to rehab and really started to put together all the things that had happened to him, and from the get-go, he had this fire to get home,” Niehaus [assistant professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation at CU School of Medicine] told “Nightline.”

*ABC News, Aug. 17, 2020*

**Your Healthy Family: UCHealth COVID project follows patients after discharge**

“These are our future doctors and medical leaders of tomorrow. And the more experience we can give them in the pandemic today, the better equipped they will be to handle future pandemics,” said Renna Becerra, inpatient internal medicine liaison for the CU School of Medicine Colorado Springs Branch and co-investigator of the project.

Robert Lam, an emergency medicine physician at UCHealth Memorial and clinical assistant professor at the CU School of
Medicine, added it’s also important to learn whether patients are getting the resources they need once they leave the hospital.

**Danielle Davis**, who is among the roughly 20 or so third-year medical students who have so far been involved in the project, said patients have been very willing to share their stories. “I found that most people want to talk about their experiences that they’ve had with COVID-19 and most people found their experiences with COVID-19 to be a life-altering event,” she said.

*KOAA (Colorado Springs), Aug. 14, 2020*

**Colorado Springs medical school students step up to improve patient care and treatment for COVID-19**

Medical students like **Danielle Davis** is already making their mark in the medical field. “About every two weeks, I get a list from Dr. Becerra of patients to contact. And then we have a survey that has preset questions that we ask every single patient,” said Davis, a third-year medical student at the University of Colorado School of Medicine in Colorado Springs.

*Fox21 (Colorado Springs), Aug. 18, 2020*

**How parents can help their children with learning during COVID-19**

**Laura Anthony** is a psychologist at Children’s Hospital Colorado [professor of psychiatry at CU School of Medicine] and a mother. She says first and foremost, don’t assume your children are anxious at all. “I think we shouldn’t assume that maybe because we, as parents, are anxious about going back to school that our kids are anxious about going back to school,” she said.

*Fox31, Aug. 13, 2020*

**With 92% Latino Student Body, Compass Academy Does Special Outreach As Virtual School Gets Going**

**Connie Savor Price** at Denver Health [professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine] explains, “We have a lot of essential workers in these populations as well and they may be at more risk of contracting the disease in the first place. Lastly, is the ability to social distance which may be due to socioeconomic factors.”
Colorado Fires Damage Air Quality, May Threaten Recovery of COVID-19 Survivors

Mark Kearns, a pulmonary critical care physician at Denver Health [and assistant professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine]: “We know that many of our patients that have recovered from COVID, even people that have been severe enough to require care in the hospital or ICU like months later still having symptoms. Whether that be ongoing shortness of breath, fatigue — [they] just haven’t been able to return back to their normal state of health.”

Despite the warning, Sarah Jolley, director of the Post-COVID Clinic at UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital [and assistant professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine], revealed there isn’t a definitive link between those who are recovering from the coronavirus and poor air quality.

International Business Times, Aug. 14, 2020

Lung defense in the face of wildfires and a pandemic

In terms of smoke coming from the wildfires surrounding Steamboat Springs, the people who most need to take extra caution are those with existing respiratory issues, said Sarah Jolley, an assistant professor of pulmonary and critical care medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. For people with conditions including asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or COPD, or any other form of lung disease, wildfire smoke could “increase the risk of exacerbation and infection,” Jolley said.

Steamboat Pilot & Today, Aug. 17, 2020

Is it safe to exercise outdoors with all this wildfire smoke?

We posed that question and others to Anthony Gerber, a pulmonologist at National Jewish Health [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine]. “In people who are otherwise healthy, we don’t think that those symptoms translate to significant long-term health consequences,” Gerber said. “In people who do have pre-existing lung disease, or are older, or very young, we’re more concerned. To some extent, this is based on the level of the air pollution.”

The Know, Aug. 15, 2020
**Polio-like illness that paralyzes children’s limbs due to return, but will COVID-19 precautions hold it off?**

Most kids who developed AFM had a common respiratory virus roughly a week earlier, so it’s not clear if precautions meant to prevent the spread of COVID-19 will reduce the number of cases, said Kevin Messacar, a pediatric infectious disease researcher and physician at Children’s Hospital Colorado and University of Colorado.

*Denver Post, Aug. 19, 2020*

**‘Metabolic syndrome’ label imprecise, but cardiometabolic risk is real**

The definition of metabolic syndrome has been argued upon for decades, and debate continues with the definition of cardiometabolic syndrome, according to Robert H. Eckel, emeritus professor of medicine in the divisions of cardiology and endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism, emeritus professor of physiology and biophysics and Charles A. Boettcher II Chair in Atherosclerosis at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, past president of the American Heart Association and current president of medicine and science of the American Diabetes Association.

*Healio, Aug. 17, 2020*

**Dr. Bunn on Targeting HER3 in NSCLC**

Paul A. Bunn, Jr, distinguished professor, James Dudley Chair in Lung Cancer Research, Division of Medical Oncology, University of Colorado, and a 2014 Giant of Cancer Care® in Lung Cancer, discusses potentially targeting HER3 in non–small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).

*OncLive, Aug. 18, 2020*

**Sen. Cory Gardner faces questions about Postal Service slowdowns during Aurora stop**

Gardner was in Aurora on Monday to tour the Marcus Institute for Brain Health and the National Mental Health Innovation Center on the Anschutz Medical Campus. At the latter stop, Gardner heard from researchers about the role technology can play in treating mental illnesses in veterans and other civilians. “I think we are going to see the biggest mental health crisis in the history of this country” as a result of the pandemic, Matt Vogl, executive director of the innovation center, told Gardner and Sen. Jerry Moran, a Kansas Republican.

*Denver Post, Aug. 17, 2020*
LETTER: CU medical students create plan for racial justice in curriculum and local community

Letter by first-year medical student Rachael Weesner: “In the past few weeks, a hardworking group of students called the University of Colorado School of Medicine (CUSOM) Black Student Collective (BSC) has created and released comprehensive recommendations for institutional changes at and beyond the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus.... Please read the resolution and consider signing your name as an ally in the pursuit of racial justice.”

Aurora Sentinel, Aug. 19, 2020