



School of Medicine

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

February 19 – 25, 2021

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### [CU School of Medicine launches endowed scholarship to support Black, underrepresented students in medical field](#)

The University of Colorado School of Medicine announced Monday the establishment of an endowed scholarship fund to support Black and other underrepresented medical students. The \$2 million **Charles J. Blackwood, MD, Endowed Memorial Scholarship**, named after the school's first Black graduate, was organized by the Mile High Medical Society, a Denver-based group of Black health professionals.

*Denver Post, Feb. 22, 2021*

### [New CU School of Medicine Scholarship Honors Black History & Dr. Charles Blackwood](#)

In an effort to increase diversity among medical school students, the University of Colorado School of Medicine is celebrating a new scholarship fund. Organizers chose to name it after **Dr. Charles J. Blackwood** who became the first African American to graduate from the school in 1947 and was in the top 10 of his class.

*CBS4, Feb. 22, 2021*

### [University of Colorado creates medical scholarships for Black students](#)

"We are proud to honor **Dr. Blackwood**, who was a pioneer in the medical profession and who remains an inspiration for our students today," School of Medicine Dean John Reilly Jr. stated Monday. "We are grateful to the Mile High Medical Society, Centura Health, Colorado Permanente, and the many other contributors to this scholarship fund because it is so important to our future."

*Colorado Politics, Feb. 22, 2021*



### [Dr. Deb Saint-Phard Asks All To Choose Compassion Over Prejudice](#)

When **Deb Saint-Phard** [associate professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation at CU School of Medicine] thinks of her life up to last summer she says she envisions a frozen lake. “The image I have is that I have been skating and just underneath that lake I can see the Black faces of people who have suffered,” she explained. “There’s a long history of Black people being seen and treated as animals. I am privileged and now I’m awake.”

*CBS4, Feb. 19, 2021*



### [Barred From Denver Hospitals, Black Woman Doc Practiced Medicine at Home and Delivered 7,000 Babies](#)

“This is someone who applied year after year to the American Medical Association, the Colorado Medical Society and the Denver Medical Society. And, it’s not until 1950 that they let her in. “They kept telling her ‘no,’ but she kept trying year after year. It’s beautiful to have that persistence,” said **Jacqueline Ward-Gaines**, who leads Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Education for the [Department of Emergency Medicine](#) at the [University of Colorado School of Medicine](#), where she is also an assistant professor.

*Colorado Times Recorder, Feb. 19, 2021*



### [UCHealth has administered over 215,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses in Colorado](#)

“UCHealth’s vaccine list has grown to hundreds of thousands of people 65 and older, and we are providing vaccinations as quickly as possible, up to 30,000 each week,” said **Richard Zane**, UCHealth chief innovation officer and professor and chair of emergency medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. “UCHealth is proud to have administered almost 20% of all COVID-19 vaccinations in Colorado.”



“We want everyone, especially those in underserved and vulnerable communities, to have access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Minority communities have been disproportionately impacted during the pandemic,” said **Jean Kutner**, chief medical officer of University of Colorado Hospital and professor at the CU School of Medicine.

*Fox31, Feb. 22, 2021*



### [COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations are still dropping. Can Colorado keep it up until enough are vaccinated?](#)

Photo: C. Lamont Smith, right, receives the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine from **Hillary Lum** [associate professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine] during the UHealth COVID-19 vaccination clinic inside New Hope Baptist Church on Feb. 13, 2021 in Denver. UHealth is coordinating with the church, the Center for African American Health, the NAACP and other organizations to distribute 750 vaccines to underserved and minority communities in the metro area.

*Denver Post, Feb. 23, 2021*



### ['We're not there yet': UHealth doc says now is not the time to let our guard down](#)

"I will give everyone a sense of caution," said **Michelle Barron**, Senior Medical Director of Infection Prevention at UHealth [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine]. "We don't know when that next wave is going to come and we're not at the point yet where we're done with this."

*Fox31, Feb. 19, 2021*



### [Q&A: Vaccine impact on transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19](#)

We asked UHealth's Chief Innovation Officer **Richard Zane** to walk us through why the effect on transmission remains relatively unknown at this point. "What we know about the impact on transmission is very preliminary. There are some promising studies out of Israel and others in the United States and elsewhere that show patients who have been vaccinated may have a lower rate of transmission than those who have not been vaccinated."

*9News, Feb. 23, 2021*



### [In Colorado, It's A Race Between COVID-19 Variants And The COVID Vaccine](#)

"I'm nervous about the variants," said **Anuj Mehta**, a pulmonologist with National Jewish Health and Denver Health [and assistant professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine], who serves on the Governor's Expert Emergency Epidemic Response Committee. "I'm just concerned that the variants could potentially fuel another surge."

*CPR News, Feb. 24, 2021*

### [Doctors say COVID-19 vaccine is safe for 'long haulers' despite lack of hard data](#)

Despite a lack of hard data on the effects of the vaccine on long haulers, **Anuj Mehta**, professor of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at Denver Health, says there's no reason to believe it isn't safe for them.

*Fox31, Feb. 24, 2021*



### [Colorado Doctor: As COVID-19 Evolves, Vaccines May Need To Be Retooled](#)

"We think less frequently than the flu and so I don't know whether every year or every five years, but there's probably going to be some sort of revaccination effort for COVID-19," said **David Beuther**, associate professor of medicine at National Jewish Health [and CU School of Medicine].

*CBS4, Feb. 19, 2021*



### [Colorado professor says he wishes he had the Johnson and Johnson vaccine](#)

"There are some potential reasons for that. This was being done at a time when the virus load was considerably higher. There was an increase in the variants," said **Ross Kedi**, a professor of immunology at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. Kedi says there is some very promising data about the Johnson and Johnson option. "It's equally effective at keeping you alive," he said. "They also came out with some really good data that it actually seems to prevent transmission."

*Fox31, Feb. 24, 2021*



### [360: Should employers mandate a COVID vaccine?](#)

"We still have a lot more to learn. But everything I am seeing from those two manufacturers appears to be promising," said **Connie Savor Price**, the Chief Medical Officer at Denver Health [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine]. "We're learning more and more every day."

*Channel 7, Feb. 19, 2021*



### [Experts weigh in on top pediatric concerns a year into pandemic](#)

**Sonja O'Leary**, chair-elect of the AAP Council on School Health Executive Committee [and assistant professor of pediatrics at CU School of Medicine], is concerned about the educational attainment of students. In one of the schools in her network of 18 school-based health centers, O'Leary said she heard that 70% of high school seniors were not on track to graduate on time because of missed schoolwork.

*AAP News, Feb. 22, 2021*



### [Coronavirus has stolen some kids' sense of smell, and it stinks](#)

Various pre-pandemic studies have found positive results from olfaction training in adults, but only one study involved children, said **Kenny Chan**, a professor at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and chair of the otolaryngology department at Children's Hospital.

*Colorado Sun, Feb. 22, 2021*



### [Loss of Smell Lingers Post COVID](#)

Also commenting for *Medscape Medical News*, **Kenneth L. Tyler**, professor of neurology, University of Colorado School of Medicine, and a fellow of the American Academy of Neurology, said the study was relatively large and the results "interesting." Although it "provides more evidence there's a subset of patients with symptoms even well past the acute phase" of COVID, the results are "mostly confirmatory" and include "nothing super surprising," said Tyler.

*Medscape, Feb. 23, 2021*



### [Heart Damage Seen in 50% of People Hospitalized With COVID-19](#)

"Troponin is basically a measure of heart muscle damage," **Andrew M. Freeman**, a cardiologist at National Jewish Health [and associate professor of clinical practice at the CU School of Medicine], told Healthline. "So when heart muscle dies, like during a heart attack or marked inflammation, and for whatever reason, the heart muscle cells actually burst, they release an enzyme called troponin."

*Healthline, Feb. 19, 2021*



### [Colorado sees “extraordinary” and “unprecedented” drop in flu during pandemic](#)

“I’ve never seen flu this low,” said **Larissa Pisney**, medical director of infection prevention and control for UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital [and assistant professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine]. “This is certainly unprecedented.”

*Denver Post, Feb. 24, 2021*



### [Scientists Say ‘Health Warning’ Needed on Vit D/COVID-19 Preprint](#)

“Firstly the study was unpowered. Second, the authors excluded patients who required invasive mechanical ventilation and those admitted to the intensive care unit...[so] the results cannot be generalized to critically ill patients,” write David E. Leaf, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts, and **Adit A. Ginde**, University of Colorado School of Medicine.

*Medscape, Feb. 23, 2021*



### [Coffee Drinking Tied to Lower Risk of Heart Failure](#)

“Usually, researchers pick things they suspect would be risk factors for heart failure — smoking, for example — and then look at smokers versus nonsmokers,” said the senior author, **David P. Kao**, an assistant professor of medicine at the University of Colorado. “But machine learning identifies variables that are predictive of either increased or decreased risk, but that you haven’t necessarily thought of.”

*The New York Times, Feb. 18, 2021*

### [Why Drinking More Coffee Could Reduce The Risk Of Heart Failure](#)

“The association between caffeine and heart failure risk reduction was surprising,” summarised the author of the study **David Kao** [assistant professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine].

*Men’s Health, Feb. 23, 2021*

### [Coffee may help reduce risk for heart failure](#)

“The association between caffeine and heart failure risk reduction was surprising,” senior author **David Kao** said in a news release. Kao is an assistant professor of cardiology and medical director at the Colorado

Center for Personalized Medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

*News-Review (Petoskey, Mich.), Feb. 19, 2021*



[Local teen able to hop back on the saddle six weeks after spine surgery at Children's Hospital Colorado](#)

"We do know about 2% to 3% of adolescents will develop scoliosis. Most kids have small curves that don't need any treatment and don't really impact their life. But there are some that will unfortunately have larger curvatures that require treatment," said Pediatric Spine Surgeon at Children's Hospital Colorado, **Sumeet Garg** [associate professor of orthopedics at CU School of Medicine].

*Wyoming News Now, Feb. 22, 2021*



[Weight Loss After HER2-positive Early Breast Cancer Diagnosis Associated With Worse Outcomes](#)

"It was surprising to see that more than 5% weight loss at 2 years was associated with poorer distant disease-free survival," said **Anthony D. Elias**, University of Colorado Cancer Center, a member of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network Clinical Practice Guidelines Panel for Breast Cancer, in the press release.

*Pharmacy Times, Feb. 19, 2021*



[Guys, Exercise Will Boost Your Aging Hearts, Testosterone Won't: Study](#)

That thought was echoed by **Robert Eckel**, past president of the American Heart Association and immediate past president of medicine and science with the American Diabetes Association and a professor of medicine emeritus at the University of Colorado. "This trial was not [designed] to assess safety of testosterone," he noted, leaving the question of whether taking testosterone replacement therapy might actually pose a heart risk unanswered.

*HealthDay, Feb. 23, 2021*



[Heart Health in Pregnancy Tied to CV Risk in Adolescent Offspring](#)

"We've always talked about cardiovascular health as if everyone is born with ideal cardiovascular health and loses it from there, and I think what this article points out is that not everybody starts on equal footing," said **Stephen R. Daniels**, University of Colorado School of Medicine, who wrote an [editorial](#) accompanying the study.

*Medscape, Feb. 23, 2021*



[Daylight Saving Time Tips for Parents: Everything Parents Need to Know](#)

In the spring, having your child go to bed 15 minutes earlier each night over the next few nights will help them adjust, suggests **Lisa J. Meltzer**, associate professor of pediatrics at National Jewish Health, associate professor of family medicine at University of Colorado School of Medicine, and the Sleep Education Fellow for the National Sleep Foundation.

*NYMetroParents, Feb. 22, 2021*



[Columbia professor: I do heroin regularly for 'work-life balance'](#)

Plus, weed can have serious health effects: "Smoke a couple times a day and marijuana will knock off your memory. That is pretty certain," **Christian Hopfer**, a professor of psychiatry at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, [told The Post](#). "And there is no question that legalization has a normalizing effect on something that used to be against the law."

*New York Post, Feb. 19, 2021*



[Could blind hiring improve diversity in the endocrine workforce?](#)

Column by **Rocio Pereira**, chief of endocrinology at Denver Health, associate professor of medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, and a former chair of the Endocrine Society Committee on Diversity and Inclusion: "To bring about significant change in the endocrine workforce, blind hiring/selection practices would need to be applied at every stage in the workforce development pipeline, starting from undergraduate and medical school training, through junior faculty and promotion to senior leadership."

*Healio, Feb. 18, 2021*