



June 26 – July 2, 2020

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[Blood cell damage may explain low oxygen levels; two vaccines show promise in early testing](#)

“Since red cells circulate for up to 120 days, this could also help explain why it can take months to recover from the virus ... until enough new red cells without this damage are made and circulate,” **Angelo D'Alessandro** [assistant professor of biochemistry and molecular genetics at CU School of Medicine] told Reuters, adding that he became infected in March. “It took me three weeks to heal from the infection, but I am still recovering slowly,” he said. D'Alessandro’s team posted their findings on Tuesday on medRxiv, ahead of peer review.

*Reuters, July 1, 2020*



[Why a Pediatric Group Is Pushing to Reopen Schools This Fall](#)

**Sean O'Leary**, a pediatrics infectious disease specialist at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, helped write [the academy's guidelines](#). He is a father of two children, 12 and 16, and a survivor of Covid-19 who is still experiencing some symptoms after he and his wife contracted the coronavirus in March. “I absolutely take this seriously,” O'Leary said. “I’m still sick.”

*The New York Times, June 30, 2020*



[An Update on COVID-19 Treatments Being Researched in Colorado](#)

**Sarilumab** *How it works:* Sarilumab is a drug usually used to treat rheumatoid arthritis by blocking the [IL-6 pathway](#), an active gatekeeper of the body’s inflammatory response. That leads researchers like **Mercedes Rincon**, University of Colorado Anschutz School of Medicine professor of immunology and microbiology, to believe it can possibly help prevent COVID-19’s overactive inflammatory immune response.



This [randomized clinical trial](#) began on March 18 in collaboration with UHealth and various hospitals (over 2,000 patients are enrolled nationally). While the trial began with a broad range of COVID-19 patients, it has since narrowed to only enrolling people on a ventilator. “What’s currently being enrolled is a little further along the spectrum of severity than what the ruxolitinib study is enrolling,” says **Thomas Campbell**, professor of medicine-infectious diseases at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.



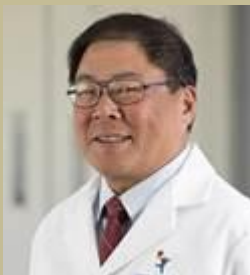
**Hydroxychloroquine Update:** On Monday, June 15, the FDA [revoked the authorization](#) for physicians to prescribe hydroxychloroquine to treat COVID-19 outside of research studies. UHealth is currently conducting four such trials: two inpatient and two outpatient ones, though due to press coverage, including President Donald [Trump’s inaccurate claims on the drug](#), patients are increasingly hesitant to participate. “We worry that people are forming opinions outside of the science. We want to encourage people to enroll in trials so that we actually can get the definitive answer,” says **Jean Kutner**, professor of medicine at [CU School of Medicine and] UCHospital.

*5280, June 26, 2020*



### [How Children’s Hospital Colorado is advancing key research for Covid-19 in children](#)

“A curious observation is that we don’t really see it happening in kids like we see it in adults,” **Andrew Liu**, [professor of pediatrics at CU School of Medicine and] director of Children’s Hospital’s Airway Inflammation, Resilience and the Environment program, told Denver Business Journal, referring to Covid-19.



What makes this work high quality, Liu added, is that it’s not just the children being observed but also their families. That means 6,000 people are involved in the study. Denver is one of the research sites, and research is being divided into two teams: Liu leads one and **Glenn Furuta** [professor of pediatrics at CU School of Medicine] leads another.

*Denver Business Journal, June 29, 2020*



### [Fewer children enrolling in cancer clinical trials, study shows](#)

According to **Kelly Faulk**, University of Colorado Cancer Center investigator and pediatric oncologist at Children’s Hospital Colorado, these findings are not altogether negative. “Good treatments have been developed for some of our most common childhood cancers, such as acute lymphoblastic leukemia,” Faulk said in an interview with Healio.

*Healio, July 2, 2020*



### [Three Stages to COVID-19 Brain Damage, New Review Suggests](#)

**Kenneth Tyler**, chair of the Department of Neurology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, disagreed that all hospitalized patients with COVID-19 should routinely receive an MRI. “Whenever you are using a piece of equipment on patients who are COVID-19 infected, you risk introducing the infection to uninfected patients,” he told *Medscape Medical News*.

*Medscape, June 29, 2020*



### [COVID-19 could cause additional problems for seniors during extreme heat this summer](#)

“One specific issue that becomes even more of concern this summer with the COVID-19 pandemic is the amount of elderly that live in isolation. This population is more at risk when it comes to heat-related illnesses and death,” **Jay Lemery**, University of Colorado School of Medicine, said. In the study, Lemery at the University of Colorado School of Medicine fears this summer could be the perfect storm for the elderly for bad things to happen.

*NBC12 (Richmond, Va.), June 25, 2020*

### [For seniors, heat and Covid create ‘a perfect storm of bad things,’ researchers warn](#)

Several factors contribute to older populations’ vulnerability to heat, said **Jay Lemery**, a professor of emergency medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, who has written two textbooks on climate and health.

*Nevada Current, June 29, 2020*



### [What crisis care standards could mean for Valley patient care](#)

“People who’ve experienced military triage and having to make these decisions on the battlefield are sometimes scarred for life by this. It’s not something you ever really forget,” said **Matthew Wynia**, an infectious disease and public health expert from the University of Colorado.

*ABC15 (Phoenix), June 30, 2020*



### [New research offers details about the mysterious ‘COVID toes’ symptom – but raises questions, too](#)

“Its close temporal appearance with the COVID-19 pandemic suggests that the two are associated,” Claudia Hernandez, a dermatologist at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, and **Anna Bruckner**, a dermatologist at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, wrote.

*Business Insider, June 27, 2020*



### [For diabetes patients, new health threats and cost concerns surface during coronavirus](#)

**Andrea Gerard Gonzalez** is an assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, and pediatric endocrinologist at the Barbara Davis Center for Diabetes. ... In the Denver metro area, Gerard Gonzalez concentrates on the disproportionately high number of childhood diabetes cases in the Latinx community, including helping newly diagnosed Type 1 families cope with the sudden demands of multiple appointments, constant glucose monitoring and self-administering shots, not to mention a complete nutrition overhaul.

*Colorado Sun, June 26, 2020*



### [Denver Doctor Starts A Portrait Series To Honor Black And Women of Color Physicians](#)

**Sarah Rowan** is an infectious disease specialist at Denver Health [and assistant professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine] by day and an artist in her free time. She also emailed some friends from local hospitals, like **Shanta Zimmer**, an infectious disease specialist at the University of Colorado Hospital Anschutz Medical Campus.



“It really made me feel very seen in the face of this pandemic. I was a little bit reluctant at first to submit my picture because I feel like part of what we’re doing in health care is just doing our jobs,” Zimmer said. “So being called a frontline worker as a physician sometimes feels a little bit like we’re taking too much credit, but I love Sarah’s project. And I love the idea of making black women and other women of color seen during this epidemic.”

*CPR News, June 27, 2020*



### [El Paso County led state in suicides, including self-inflicted firearms deaths in 2019](#)

Of Colorado's 64 counties, El Paso led the state last year with the highest number of suicide deaths as well as the highest number of suicide deaths using a firearm, recently released statistics show. "It means we've got a lot of work to do," said **Erik Wallace**, a professor and associate dean of the University of Colorado School of Medicine branch in Colorado Springs. "What is clear is when people are in a crisis, access to a firearm is a major contributor to a completed suicide."

*Colorado Springs Gazette, June 28, 2020*



### [Denver Has a Drinking Problem](#)

But **Bill Burman**, director of Denver Public Health [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine], sees just as much of a problem with the bottomless mimosas, burger-and-a-beer lunch combos, and all-day "happy hours" that restaurants and bars marketed before the COVID-19 lockdown—and will revive after it's over.



35%: Percentage increase in the death rate from alcoholic liver disease in Denver County between 1999 and 2017. "Today, liver disease is really affecting women and the young," says **James Burton**, a transplant hepatologist at UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital [and associate professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine]. "The idea of evaluating a 25-year-old for this 15 years ago would've been unthinkable."



5: Deaths each day in the state of Colorado that can be attributed to excessive drinking; 54 percent of those deaths can be attributed to binge drinking. "Statistics suggest that if you die of an alcohol-related cause," Denver Health's **Julie Taub** [associate professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine] says, "your life was likely shortened by an average of 30 years."



Parental Neglect "I ask my patients about how alcohol impacts their relationships, and they tell me their kids get upset when they drink, mostly because they are less present and don't pay attention to the things they should." —**Susan Calcaterra**, addiction medicine physician, UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital [and CU School of Medicine]



Divorce “I hear it all the time. ‘Arguments with my spouse were way worse when I was on alcohol.’” —**Josh Blum**, addiction medicine physician, Denver Health [and assistant professor at the CU School of Medicine]

*5280, July 2020*



### [Novel Program Cuts Weight Retention After Gestational Diabetes](#)

**Jacinda Nicklas**, from the University of Colorado School of Medicine, Aurora, presented findings of the BAB trial during the virtual American Diabetes Association (ADA) 80th Scientific Sessions.

*Medscape, June 30, 2020*



### [First-line stereotactic radiosurgery an option for brain metastases in SCLC](#)

Lead investigator **Chad Rusthoven** (University of Colorado School of Medicine) and colleagues explain that while SRS “is preferred for limited brain metastases from most histologies, whole-brain radiotherapy (WBRT) has remained the standard of care for patients with small cell lung cancer,” with limited data available on SRS outcomes.

*Medwire News, June 26, 2020*



### [Study Shows Many Parents Still Don't Trust Routine Childhood Vaccines](#)

“Our study provides the first national estimates of hesitancy about routine childhood and influenza vaccination among representative samples of U.S. parents of children, using a scale specifically developed and validated to assess vaccine hesitancy internationally,” the study’s lead author **Allison Kempe**, professor of pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and director of ACCORDS—which brings together investigators from across CU Anschutz Medical Campus to conduct research for real world impact—stated in a [news release](#).

*The Bump, June 29, 2020*



**Anschutz**

### [Second lady Karen Pence meets with artsy veterans in Aurora](#)

Second lady Karen Pence stopped in Aurora on Thursday to meet military veterans and hear about an art therapy program at the Anschutz Medical Campus. Pence, a former art teacher and the wife of Vice President Mike Pence, heard from three veterans, their families and experts at the Marcus Institute for Brain Health, which cares for and researches traumatic brain injuries, primarily in veterans.

*Denver Post, June 25, 2020*