



May 1 – 7, 2020

Distributed by the University of Colorado School of Medicine



[Interview with Dr. Thomas Flaig](#)

Thomas Flaig, vice chancellor for research for University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, interviewed about research on vaccines and treatments for COVID-19. UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital and University of Colorado School of Medicine are conducting clinical trials on potential treatments.

KOA Radio, May 6, 2020

[Colorado hospital working to develop treatments for COVID-19](#)

“The earliest any of us are hoping to see a vaccine is early 2021, and if you’d asked me a year ago, we’d say it would take twice or three times as long,” said **Thomas Flaig**, the Vice Chancellor for Research at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus.



“I think remdesivir is the first step in developing effective treatments for COVID-19. It’s probably not the last step, and it may not turn out to be the best,” said **Thomas Campbell**, professor of Medicine-Infectious Diseases at the CU School of Medicine. Doctors at UCHealth are also examining Ruxolitinib, Sarilumad, and hydroxychloroquine, other drugs touted as potential game changers. Only time will tell if any of them are effective. “We will have treatments that will allow people to get better faster,” said Campbell.

Fox31, May 4, 2020



[Anti-vaccine movement could impact the effectiveness of a COVID-19 vaccine](#)

“Herd immunity means that most of the people in the population are immune to a particular pathogen, and so that really slows down the spread of that pathogen within the community,” said **Heather Young**, an infectious disease expert with Denver Health [and assistant professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine].

KATC 3 (Lafayette, La.), May 4, 2020



[COVID-19: 8 Steps for Getting Ready to See Patients Again](#)

After COVID-19 hit the Denver area, internist **Jean Kutner**, and her clinical colleagues drastically reduced the number of patients they saw and kept a minimum number of people in the office....“We have to embrace the fact that the way we practice medicine has fundamentally changed,” said Kutner, professor of medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, and incoming president of the Society of General Internal Medicine.

Medscape, May 7, 2020

[How doctors are keeping patients safe as elective surgery resumes](#)

“We’ve always had universal safety precautions for everyone in the hospital and operating room. Now, they are enhanced,” said **Jean Kutner**, chief medical officer for UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine].



“I know that some people may be concerned to come to a hospital right now, but because we are taking so many precautions ... the emergency departments are safer than most stores and public areas,” **Richard Zane**, chief innovation officer for UCHealth [and chair of emergency medicine at CU School of Medicine], said in a statement. “The likelihood of dying from delayed treatment of common conditions is far higher than dying from COVID-related illness.”

ABC News, May 2, 2020



[“It’s not like the flu. It’s far more deadly.”](#)

Both Schmitt and **Tim Tran**, who is an anesthesiologist specializing in cardiothoracic critical care at UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital (UCH) [and assistant professor of anesthesiology at CU School of Medicine], say that it takes several nurses as well as a respiratory specialist to turn a patient, which has to be done every two hours.

Front Porch, May 1, 2020



[U.S. Scientists Scramble to Study Life-Threatening Syndrome in Kids Linked to Coronavirus](#)

At least one child in Britain has died. No children are believed to have died so far in the United States, “but that could change,” said **Sean O’Leary**, a pediatric infectious disease expert at Children’s Hospital Colorado [and CU School of Medicine] who serves on the American Academy of Pediatrics committee on infectious disease.

The New York Times via Reuters, May 7, 2020



[Colorado’s coronavirus hospitalizations and deaths peaked in April, but health officials warn “we could go backwards”](#)

“I am encouraged by the death data,” said **Katie Colborn**, an assistant professor of surgery at the University of Colorado’s Anschutz Medical Campus who has been involved in modeling the coronavirus pandemic. “I think there’s a positive trend.”

Denver Post, May 7, 2020



[As We Watch Out For Coronavirus, A Silent Killer, Are Coloradans Wearing Masks Properly?](#)

For professionals, there’s a sort of “grin and bear it” reaction with every trip to the grocery store, as described by UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital [and CU School of Medicine] infectious disease specialist **Michelle Barron**. “Of course I don’t say anything but I sort of think about it. I’m like, how many times have you gone under your mask?”



“Really for it to work, cover your nose, tighten it under your face, around your chin,” she said. **Connie Price**, chief medical officer at Denver Health Medical Center [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine], has been working on a video to share procedures. “You want to be careful not to contaminate your hands when you’re putting it on,” she notes. It’s important to remember that putting your hands around your face is a potentially big problem.

CBS4, May 1, 2020



[Antibody testing is coming, but for now, it doesn't prove immunity](#)

A false positive could be a dangerous piece of information, said **Richard Zane**, UCHealth's chief innovation officer, professor and chair of emergency medicine at University of Colorado School of Medicine. "I'm extremely worried because it has become a free for all," Zane said.

Steamboat Pilot & Today, May 4, 2020



[Coronavirus in Context: Neurological Effects of COVID-19](#)

Coronavirus in Context Video Series, with WebMD's Chief Medical Officer, John Whyte, MD, MPH, who discusses neurological effects of COVID-19 with **Kenneth Tyler**, department chair of neurology at University of Colorado School of Medicine.

WebMD, May 5, 2020



[Coronavirus is triggering a range of emotions in Colorado kids](#)

It's very common for kids to "feel frightened or confused during a public health emergency like COVID-19," said **Jessica Hawks**, a child and adolescent psychologist and clinical director of outpatient services at Children's Hospital Colorado [and assistant professor of psychiatry at CU School of Medicine]. "The great news is that most of our kids are relatively resilient, and so they adjust to these new normals."

Colorado Sun, May 3, 2020



[The COVID-19 Life: On Juggling Young Children and Telemedicine](#)

Amanda L. Piquet, assistant professor of neurology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, said it was after the first day that the five weeks of "stay-at-home" restrictions had been lifted that she realized she really needed a vacation. Dr. Piquet, who has a 4-year-old and an 8-month-old child, is a neurohospitalist and works part-time in the hospital where she has inpatient duties.



Samantha K. Holden, assistant professor of neurology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, encountered her first work-family challenge during her first week of full-time telemedicine at home. Dr. Holden had asked an older patient to walk around his room so she could examine his gait—when all of a sudden, a little 4-year-old face appeared behind her on the screen.

Neurology Today, May 5, 2020



[The COVID-19 Diary of the University of Colorado Cancer Center](#)

D. Ross Camidge is the director of thoracic oncology and the Joyce Zeff Chair in Lung Cancer Research at the University of Colorado Cancer Center, that had to rapidly react to the developments of the COVID-19 pandemic. Here, Dr. Camidge details the early days of the pandemic's effect on cancer treatment and how it crystalized for him the experiences patients with cancer were already going through prior to the pandemic.

CURE, May 6, 2020



[Meet the Children's Hospital Colorado doctor who fought off coronavirus and returned to the front lines](#)

Matthew Harris sat in the parking lot of Children's Hospital Colorado in the early hours of March 11 before an overnight shift with a fever, chills, dry cough, aches and trouble breathing. *It can't be happening to me*, Harris thought, totally unaware he would soon fear death. Harris, 38, is the pediatric emergency medical attending at Children's in Aurora, and a supervising emergency room doctor [and assistant professor of pediatrics at CU School of Medicine].



The moment Harris got his results back, his wife, **Hillary Yaffe**, [a transplant surgery fellow at CU School of Medicine] was drawing blood from a patient at the UHealth campus in Aurora. Her cell phone kept ringing. "I couldn't answer it, so I asked the nurse to pull it out of my back pocket," Yaffe said. "It was my husband and she said that I needed to call him back urgently. I got blood out of the patient as quickly as I could, and when I picked up my phone, there was a text message."

Denver Post, May 3, 2020



[Alumni Physician Sisters Battle Covid-19 In Three Cities](#)

The Kagihara sisters – Jamie '04, Jodi '06 and Jaclyn '08 – are physicians fighting COVID-19.... **Jodi Kagihara** is a hematology/oncology fellow at University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus....I am a second-year fellow completing my fellowship in hematology and oncology with a focus on breast cancer. During this pandemic, fellows are asked to help with management of hematologic complications of COVID-19 and have been working in our clinics to best take care of our oncology patients who may be immunosuppressed from chemotherapy.

The Rafu Shimpo (Los Angeles), April 30, 2020



[Students of medicine find new ways to learn – and help – during COVID-19 crisis](#)

With campuses closed and hospitals becoming front lines in the fight against the novel coronavirus, students like those at University of Colorado School of Medicine have been thrown for an unprecedented loop. “It’s really changed everything,” says **Erik Wallace**, associate dean of the university’s Colorado Springs branch, who adds that when the pandemic hit, program officials essentially had to scrap normal curriculum at every level.... Wallace says School of Medicine students, as well other health professional schools tied to the university, have been contributing approximately 1,000 hours of volunteer service per week during the pandemic.



Madeline Huey, a third-year student who is planning on specializing in either primary care or surgery, says after getting hands-on with patients through clinical rotations, it’s been difficult to sit on the sidelines while the pandemic unfolds. “I’m very disappointed that I’m not able to help take care of patients,” Huey says. “Because I think this is an amazing opportunity to learn — as unfortunate as that is for patients who are sick — and the best learning happens in the hospital. Not online in virtual classes. And I think after having the taste of being in the hospital, now the fact that I can’t go — it’s been encouraging that this is the right career path for me — because I know I want to be there.”



Nikki Bloch, a third-year student, says prior to the pandemic she spent between 60 and 80 hours per week on school work, between clinical rotations and studying. So when her rotation workload was drastically reduced, she and her fellow students began service work in the community. Bloch volunteered with the Mission Medical Clinic and has been involved in other efforts, but her focus has been helping design a screening process for those staying at the local homeless isolation shelter.



Josten Overall, another third-year student who has a master’s degree in public health, has been spending much of her time working triage lines for a local health care organization, answering questions about when to seek additional care.



Megan Kunkel, who also participated in the sidewalk art project, says the service opportunities have helped ease the sting of missing clinical rotations. “It’s just been nice to replace some of that uncertainty of where the rest of the year is going to go,” Kunkel says.

Colorado Springs Independent, May 6, 2020



[The Medical Students Who Joined the Battle Against the Coronavirus](#)

On April 14th, **Erin Aldag**, a member of the class of 2020 at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, wrote an op-ed for the blog of the Association of American Medical Colleges, in which she cited a research study on the long-term effects of working during the SARS outbreak in Toronto: front-line health-care workers, the study found, experienced significantly higher levels of psychological distress.

The New Yorker, May 6, 2020



[Why People With Down Syndrome May Be At Risk for Severe COVID-19](#)

In his conclusion, **Joaquin M. Espinosa**, the author of the monograph, acknowledges the current lack of clinical and epidemiologic data showing that COVID-19 poses a special risk for people with Down syndrome

Managed Healthcare Executive, May 6, 2020

[Incyte and Eli Lilly may have JAK inhibitor edge over Pfizer for Covid-19](#)

The rationale behind using JAK inhibitors during a SARS-CoV-2 infection is immune system cells activate each other by producing cytokines, and many cytokines require JAKs to function, said **Joaquin Espinosa**, Professor of Pharmacology, University of Colorado School of Medicine, Anschutz Medical Campus.

Pharmaceutical Technology, May 1, 2020



[How Two Colorado Tech Companies Are Helping UCHealth Cope With COVID-19](#)

“Everything that we’ve built from a virtual health perspective is hardwired into the platform so that when you scale it was really already available across the entire system,” said **Richard Zane**, chief information officer at UCHealth and executive director of the hospital’s emergency services division [and chair of emergency

medicine for CU School of Medicine]. “It was able to be scaled robustly, almost immediately.”

Built In Co, May 4, 2020



[Opinion: How technology is shaping the brave new world of health care in the coronavirus era](#)

By **Ankita Arora**, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Colorado-Anschutz Medical Campus: “If you haven’t yet [connected to a doctor remotely](#) via an app, chances are during COVID-19 you will. Using a combination of video conferencing, remote monitoring through health/fitness trackers, electronic consults and e-records, doctors can assess the symptoms and make recommendations about the course of action.”

Colorado Sun, May 5, 2020



[Type 1 diabetes goals out of reach for many](#)

Reporting in *Diabetes, Obesity, and Metabolism*, **Viral Shah** (University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora, USA) and co-workers suggest that “more studies are needed to understand the patient and provider related barriers in optimizing diabetes and cardiovascular risk management.”

medwireNews, May 5, 2020



[Racial disparities observed in guideline-recommended lung cancer imaging](#)

“After reading several studies that showed minority patients with cancer experience worse outcomes, the question arose about how the imaging that patients undergo after a diagnosis may contribute to this disparity,” **Rustain L. Morgan**, assistant professor of nuclear radiology and program director of the diagnostic residency program at University of Colorado [School of Medicine].

Healio, May 6, 2020



[Fewer Children Enrolling in Pediatric Cancer Trials](#)

Kelly E. Faulk, from the University of Colorado, and colleagues evaluated upfront trial enrollment for U.S. pediatric cancer patients (0 to 29 years old between 2004 and 2015). Data and U.S. population estimates from the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program were compared to data from the Children’s Oncology Group (COG).

Physician's Weekly, May 6, 2020



[Heart transplant outcomes similar for cardiac amyloidosis, other HF causes](#)

Christopher D. Barrett, who was an internal medicine resident at Stanford University during most of this study and is now a cardiology fellow at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, and colleagues analyzed data from 31 patients ... with amyloid cardiomyopathy who underwent heart transplantation at Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara Medical Center or Stanford University Medical Center between 2004 and 2017.

Healio, May 6, 2020



[Why does my sneeze smell bad? An expert explains](#)

Sneezing allows your nose or airway to get rid of an irritant, like smoke or dust, says **Vijay Ramakrishnan**, who is also an otolaryngology professor at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. Usually, it's a sign of irritation, not infection. "The nose is basically the initial filter that separates your lungs and respiratory system from the environment," he explains, trapping pollutants and irritants from the air.

Mic, May 6, 2020