

**Pathology: The Science
Behind the Cure**

**2026
ANNUAL
REPORT**

**DEPARTMENT OF
PATHOLOGY**

Department of Pathology	<u>3</u>
• Education	<u>9</u>
• Research & Innovation	<u>14</u>
• Executive Committee	<u>16</u>
• Financials	<u>17</u>
• Highlights	<u>19</u>
School of Medicine	<u>22</u>
University of Colorado Hospital	<u>24</u>
Children’s Hospital Colorado	<u>25</u>
Veteran’s Administration Medical Center	<u>26</u>
Denver Health	<u>27</u>
University of Colorado Anschutz	<u>28</u>



In the **Department of Pathology**, our work is value driven and focused on scientific investigation, lifelong learning, and a balance of personal and professional values.

Vision

To be a premier academic Department of Pathology for our region as well as worldwide, based on outstanding education, research, and clinical programs

Mission

To Discover, Define, and Transform

Values

- Education and lifelong learning
- Medical knowledge
- Diagnostic excellence
- Integrity and professionalism
- Diversity in our people and our discipline
- Resource stewardship
- Innovation, Discovery, and Translation
- Collaboration



**Faculty, Researchers,
Staff, and Trainees**

350+



**Annual Anatomic
Pathology Cases**

75,847



**Annual Clinical
Pathology Cases**

5.6 Million



**CU Diagnostic
Disagreement Rate**

0.08%

*A rate that is 10-fold lower than the national
median (0.8%).*

UNITS

Anatomic Pathology

Anatomic Pathology is a medical specialty that diagnoses diseases by examining organs, tissues, and cells, under a microscope or with the naked eye

Autopsy & Decedent Affairs

Autopsy service performs the important function of determining the immediate and underlying cause of death, and the Decedent Affairs team works with the family of the deceased to assist them with consent, pre-arrangements, and autopsy matters

BioBank

The BioBank is a secure facility that collects, processes, and stores biological samples like blood, saliva, and tissue, along with health data for medical research

Blood Bank/Transfusion Medicine

Blood banking and transfusion medicine is a medical subspecialty that manages the collection, testing, processing, and clinical administration of blood and cellular products

Children's Hospital Pathology

Pediatric Pathology is a medical subspecialty focused on diagnosing diseases in embryos, fetuses, infants, children, and adolescents through laboratory and tissue analysis

Clinical Pathology

Clinical Pathology is a medical specialty that is concerned with the diagnosis of disease based on the laboratory analysis of bodily fluids, such as blood, urine, and tissue homogenates or extracts

Colorado Genetics Laboratory (CGL)

CGL provides comprehensive conventional cytogenetic and molecular cytogenetic testing services for constitutional (prenatal and postnatal) and oncology conditions

Colorado Molecular Correlates Laboratory (CMOCO)

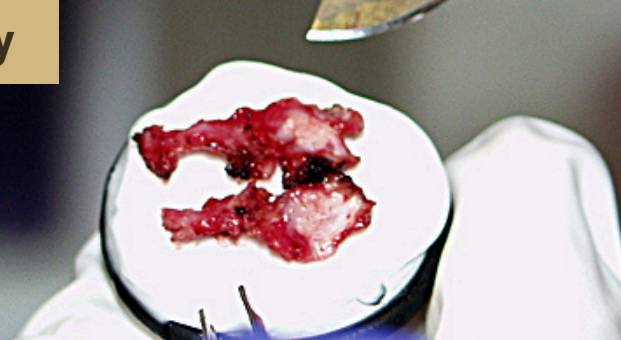
CMOCO offers a broad assay menu for the detection of clinically relevant molecular biomarkers for solid tumors, hematologic malignancies, infectious diseases, and constitutional disorders

Highlands Ranch Hospital Pathology

Highlands Ranch Hospital Pathology offers a wide array of outpatient lab testing to serve our patients in the south metro Denver area

Pathology Research

Pathology Research is the scientific study of disease causes, mechanisms, and progression through laboratory analysis of tissues, cells, and body fluids



Department of Pathology Faculty Dashboard

MD FACULTY DASHBOARD

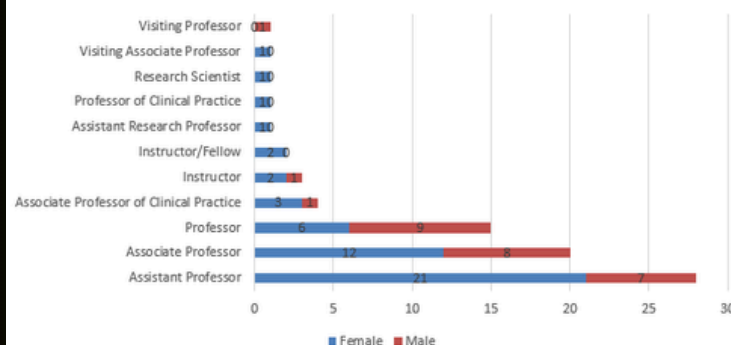
Standalone MD credential analysis by rank, gender, and years at rank | Live from FacultyRoster

MD faculty	Female share	Avg years at rank	7+ years at rank
77	64.9%	4.7	20.8%

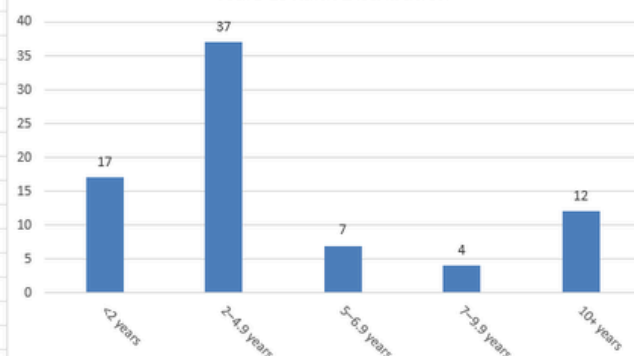
STORY IN BRIEF

1. The MD cohort includes 77 faculty: 50 women (64.9%) and 27 men.
2. Assistant Professor is the largest MD rank with 28 faculty; women hold 21 of those positions. Associate Professor has 20 and Professor has 15.
3. Average time at rank is 4.7 years; 16 faculty (20.8%) have 7+ years at rank, including 12 at 10+ years.

MD Faculty by Rank and Gender



Years at Rank Distribution



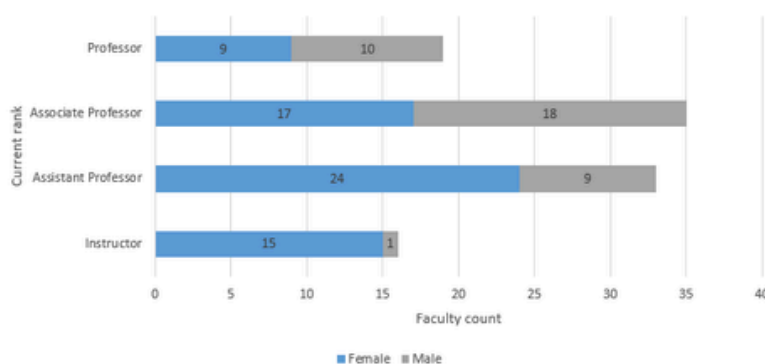
RANK PIPELINE AND APPOINTMENT STRUCTURE

Core rank	Female	Male	Female share
Instructor	15	1	93.8%
Assistant Professor	24	9	72.7%
Associate Professor	17	18	48.6%
Professor	9	10	47.4%

Appointment class	Count	Share
LIMITED	63	50.8%
AT-WILL	39	31.5%
INDETERMINATE	16	12.9%
TENURED	6	4.8%

Location	Count	Share
SOM	103	83.1%
DHHA	10	8.1%
VAMC	6	4.8%
CHC	4	3.2%
Other	1	0.8%

Gender Mix Across Core Academic Ranks





Department of Pathology Faculty



Seven departmental faculty members were successfully approved for promotion and appointment actions in 2026.

Residents and fellows are matched with faculty mentors before the start of training, ensuring early engagement and support. Clearly defined mentoring expectations help foster meaningful relationships that contribute to trainee well-being, career development, and academic success.

The Department continued to invest in faculty development in 2025/2026 through institutional mentoring and career advancement programs. Faculty participation was strong across offerings including the Foundations in Equity Certificate Program, the Mentoring Academy, and other initiatives focused on mentorship, leadership, and career growth.



26
RESIDENCY
POSITIONS

The Department of Pathology offers a comprehensive and dynamic curriculum that blends rigorous academic training with hands-on clinical experience. The program emphasizes innovative pathological techniques, cutting-edge research, and a welcoming and supportive learning environment that prepares our residents to grow into independently practicing pathologists and future leaders in the field.



The Department of Pathology has 26 Residency positions, and 12 Fellowship positions with 8 being ACGME certified, and 4 non-ACGME certified.

12
FELLOWSHIP
POSITIONS

[Learn more about our Education Programs here](#)



Residency Program

The Department of Pathology has 26 residency positions and offers intensive yet flexible training in clinical, autopsy, surgical, cytological, and experimental pathology. This training is designed to prepare physicians for careers in academic and private practice pathology, and consists of 48 months of training.

The first year involves training in surgical and autopsy pathology as well as clinical pathology. Residents spend the remaining 36 months training in surgical and cytopathology, hematopathology, microbiology, transfusion medicine, clinical chemistry, molecular pathology, informatics/lab management, dermatopathology, neuropathology, pediatric pathology, and forensic pathology. Many residents also pursue research projects. Didactic seminars and tutorials exploring fundamental problems in all aspects of pathology enhance the apprenticeship aspects of the training program. Additional fellowship training is available in blood banking/transfusion medicine, cytopathology, dermatopathology, forensic pathology, hematology pathology, and pediatric pathology.

Our Residency Director, Dr. Lindsey Westbrook, and our team of coordinators work directly with our residents to ensure a robust and comprehensive learning experience.



Fellowship Programs

The Department of Pathology offers one-year fellowship programs providing advanced training and experience in ten sub-specialty areas with 12 fellowship positions.

Blood Banking & Transfusion Medicine

This 12-month fellowship is designed to prepare individuals for a career in blood banking/transfusion medicine at an academic medical center, a community blood center, or a private practice setting where the individual will be responsible for managing a transfusion service and/or donor center.

Bone & Soft Tissue Pathology

The Bone and Soft Tissue Pathology program design provides a unique experience and offers broad exposure to both pediatric and adult soft tissue pathology. Reflecting the broad scope, expertise, and growth of the institution's related surgery and clinical oncologic services, our group sees the entire range of medical and oncologic mesenchymal diseases.

Cytopathology

This fellowship provides one year of advanced training in diagnostic cytopathology and the performance of fine needle aspirations of palpable lesions under the supervision of faculty, all of whom are board-certified in Cytopathology. The fellow will perform fine needle aspirations and provide immediate interpretations for specimens with faculty supervision.



Fellowship Programs

Forensic Pathology

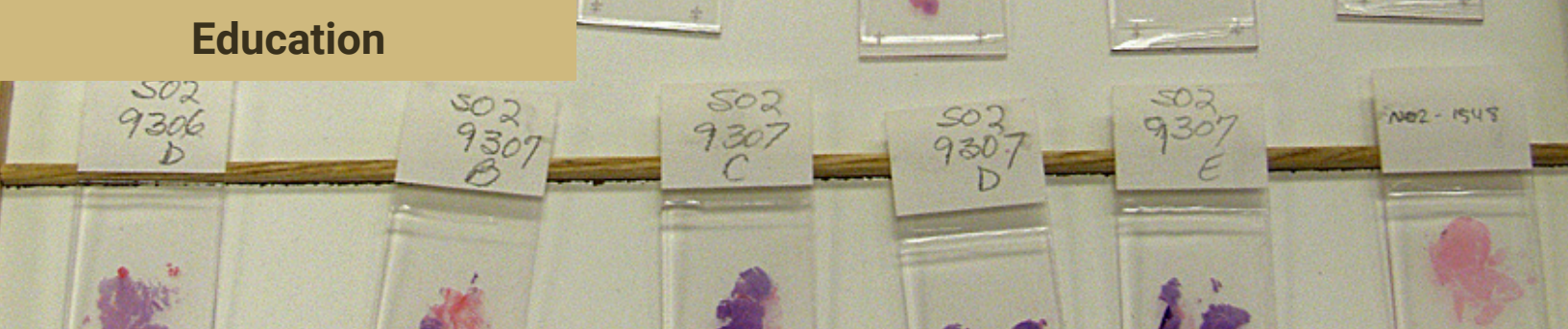
This fellowship provides primary training at the Denver Office of the Medical Examiner, which is accredited by the National Association of Medical Examiners and with academic ties to the University of Colorado School of Medicine. Additional rotations at the Denver Police Department Crime Laboratory and local forensic toxicology laboratory provide training in DNA/serology, firearms/ballistics, trace evidence, crime scene investigations, latent prints, and drug analysis.

Gastrointestinal (GI) & Liver Pathology (2 positions)

The GI and Liver program design provides broad exposure to gastrointestinal, pancreaticobiliary, and hepatic surgical pathology. Over the last few years, our digestive disease service provides care for approximately 19,000 to 21,000 patients per year. Reflecting the broad scope, expertise, and growth of the institution's related surgery, gastroenterology, hepatology, and liver transplant services, our group sees the entire range of medical and oncologic adult digestive diseases, including a top quartile amount and variety of pancreaticobiliary, hepatic, and liver transplant cases.

Gynecologic & Breast Pathology

This program design provides a unique experience and offers broad exposure to breast, gynecological, and obstetric pathology. The UCH breast and gynecological multidisciplinary clinics see hundreds of complex patients every year that are discussed at weekly multidisciplinary conferences.



Fellowship Programs

Hematopathology

This program is designed to provide training in all aspects of hematopathology including evaluation of bone marrow, peripheral blood, lymph node, flow cytometry, immunohistochemistry, molecular genetics, hemoglobinopathy, and coagulation.

Molecular Genetic Pathology

These labs see over 7000 clinical cases per year in solid tumor molecular oncology, molecular hematopathology, and inherited disease. Fellow time will focus on designing, interpreting, and reporting molecular diagnostics testing.

Pediatric Pathology

The Pediatric Pathology program provides training in pediatric surgical pathology, perinatal pathology, autopsy pathology, pediatric forensic pathology, electron microscopy, and comprehensive pediatric clinical pathology, including transfusion medicine and apheresis, clinical chemistry, hematology, microbiology, flow cytometry, and molecular diagnostics. Areas of pediatric subspecialty expertise include GI and liver disease, pulmonary disease, cancer and blood disorders, solid tumors, bone and soft tissue pathology, neuropathology, and dermatopathology.

Surgical Pathology (2 positions)

The Surgical Pathology fellowship consists of approximately 10 months of rotations across all surgical pathology subspecialties, in addition to the frozen section service. While rotating, the fellow individually works up cases in a self-directed manner, with feedback and instruction obtained from the assigned faculty during regular clinical practice workflow.



The Department of Pathology has 12 research labs with 22 researchers who have built a strong program in basic, clinical, and translational research

**RESEARCH
PROGRAM
ESTABLISHED
1916**

The Department of Pathology 2025-26 grants:

- Total Current: \$7,451,573
- NIH Funding: \$5,388,785
- Non-NIH Funding: \$1,112,788
- Foundation/Gift Funding: \$950,000

Cross Collaboration: \$820,000 across 76 projects

In 2025, the Department of Pathology faculty had 222 publications, including:

- 16 Abstracts
- 5 Book Chapters
- 2 Editorials
- 193 Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

Through our innovation, research, and development, the department highlights its continued commitment to advancements in pathology and patient care

**PUBLICATIONS
222**



Interdepartmental Collaborations

To Name a Few...

Dr. Bonetto: Department of Orthopedics joint appointment, joint research as co-collaborator

Dr. Cittelly: Cancer Center and Neurosurgery support and collaborate

Dr. Cittelly: Co-leader Tumor Host Interactions Program, University of Colorado Cancer Center

Dr. Galambos: Pulmonary Research investigators, CHCO

Dr. Lambert: actively collaborates with School of Pharmacy investigators on his drug development, although he is the PI

Dr. Scott Lucia and Dr. Adrie Van Bokhoven: Directors, CU AMC Tissue Bank

Dr. Lucia: Chair of SWOG Pathology Committee, Study pathologist for 2 active clinical renal trials and 2 active bladder cancer trials

Dr. Merrick: active collaborator with others in the Pulmonary SPORE group, as well as several other off-site collaborators at different institutions with whom he shares grant support and projects

Dr. Richer: active collaborator at CU Boulder (immunology) and CU Anschutz (Oncology, Surgery, CCC)

Dr. Sartorius: actively collaborates with many in medicine/oncology and breast research

Dr. Thor and Dr. Wahdan-Alaswad: active collaborations with Dr. Haugen, Endocrinology, and School of Pharmacy

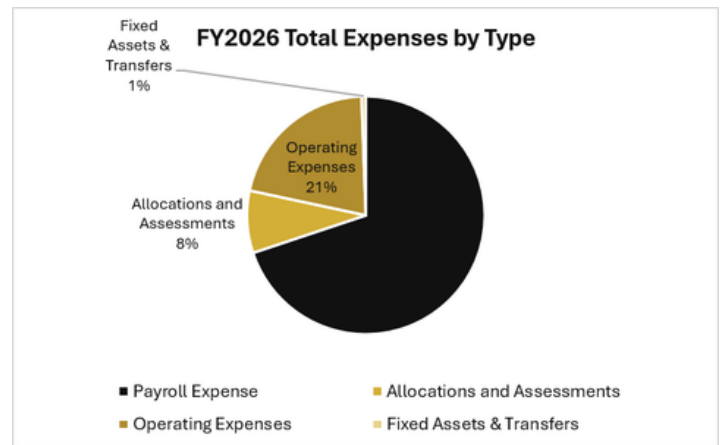
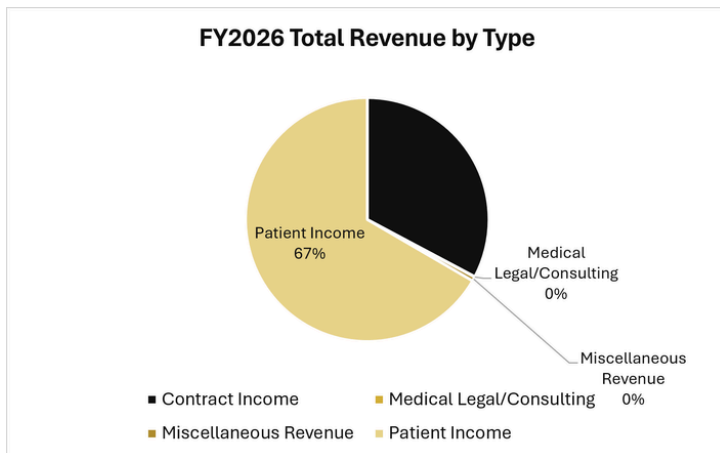
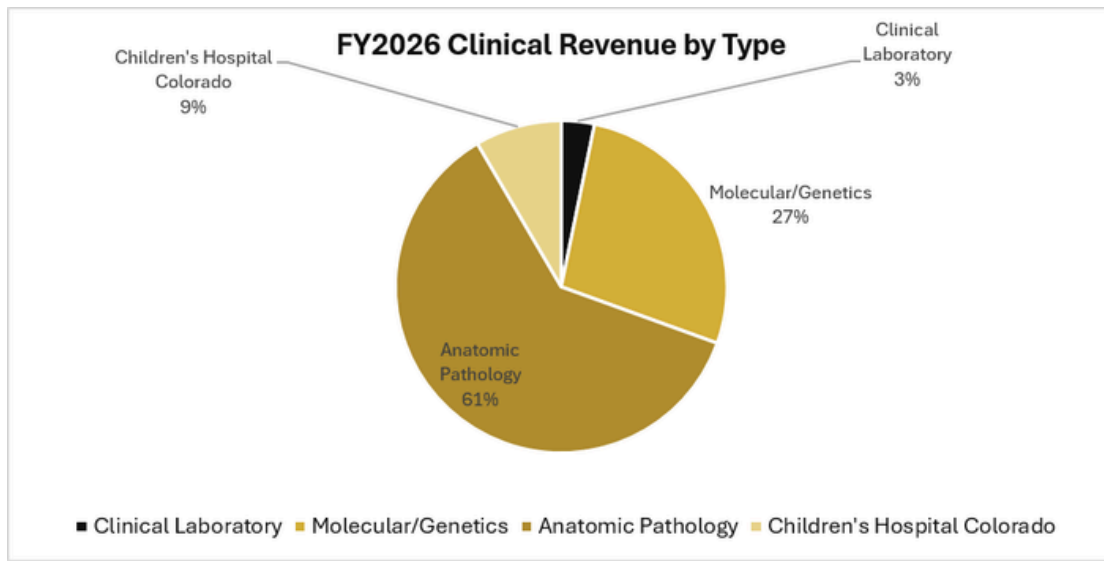
Dr. Willard: highly collaborative with neurodegenerative investigators, CHCO

Dr. Young: active collaborator with H and N SPORE, including Dr. Wang at UC Davis



Pathology Leadership



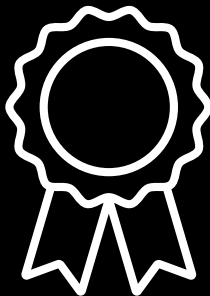




FY2026 Highlights

Metric	FY2026 Change
Charges	+16.18%
Payments	+7.14%
Discounts	-1.78%
DOS/DOP	-4.72 days
wRVUs	+8.84%

Philanthropy						
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
Ending Net Assets	\$4,506,999	\$4,127,009	\$4,771,196	\$4,996,904	\$5,369,989	\$6,364,734



2026 Departmental Awards



Angus Toland, MD

Assistant Professor, Neuropathology
Pathologist of the Year



Monica Sanchez-Avila, MD

Assistant Professor, GI, Liver, and Pancreaticobiliary
*William S. Hammond, MD, Excellence in Teaching Award for
Exceptional Commitment to the Education of Pathologists*



Joshua Wisell, MD

Associate Professor, Dermatopathology
*Robert L. Low, MD, PhD, Education Excellence in the
Foundations of Pathology*



McKinzie B. Johnson, MD

Pathology Resident
*Robert H. Fennell, Jr., MD Award for Excellence in Performance
as a Pathology Resident*



Michael Wilson, MD

Professor, Vice Chair of Denver Health
*BK DeMasters Award for Service and Major Contribution to the
Science of Laboratory Medicine*



Morgan S. Fox, BS

Graduate Student, Cancer Biology Program
Gary J. Miller, MD, PhD Award for Outstanding Research



James Lambert, PhD

Research Professor

Holds two patents, and is developing a novel small molecule drug designed to target aggressive cancers such as triple-negative breast cancer, ovarian cancer, and melanoma

Miriam Post, MD

Professor

Appointed as Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs at the University of Colorado Anschutz School of Medicine in 2026



Ann Thor, MD

Professor

Selected for the 2026 Association for Academic Pathology (AAPath) Distinguished Service Award

Dr. Ann D. Thor: A Legacy of Leadership

After 20 years of service as Chair of the Department of Pathology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, Ann D. Thor, MD leaves a legacy of exceptional leadership, academic excellence, and national impact. Serving as Professor and Todd Chair from 2006 to 2026, she guided the department through a period of significant growth in clinical service, research, education, and faculty development.



An internationally recognized physician-scientist, Dr. Thor built a distinguished career in breast cancer research, authoring more than 200 peer-reviewed publications, leading major translational research initiatives, securing significant research funding, and contributing to advancements in cancer diagnostics and targeted therapies.

Her influence extended far beyond Colorado. Dr. Thor served as President of the Association of Pathology Chairs, President of the International Society of Breast Pathology, Chair of Women in Cancer Research, and held numerous national leadership and advisory positions that helped shape the future of academic pathology.

A dedicated educator and mentor, she trained and inspired generations of medical students, residents, fellows, scientists, and faculty. Her commitment to education earned repeated teaching awards, while many of her mentees have gone on to become leaders in pathology and academic medicine around the world. Throughout her tenure, Dr. Thor championed innovation, collaboration, diversity, and excellence, helping establish a department recognized nationally for its strengths in patient care, education, and discovery. Her contributions have left an enduring foundation for future success and a lasting impact on the faculty, staff, trainees, patients, and communities served by the department.

Tier 1

Best Medical Schools
Research

Tier 2

Best Medical Schools
Primary Care

#3

Nationally **Ranked**
Physician Assistant Program



The University of Colorado
School of Medicine achieves
national recognition.

*U.S. News & World Report 2026 Rankings



\$276M

Total **Research Grants**
awarded in FY 2025

6000+

Total **Faculty** in 2025

School of Medicine



Education

through the design, implementation and evaluation of educational programs for medical students, allied health students, graduate students, residents and fellows, practicing health professionals and the public-at-large



Research

through the development of new knowledge in the basic and clinical sciences, as well as in public and community health, health policy and health sciences education



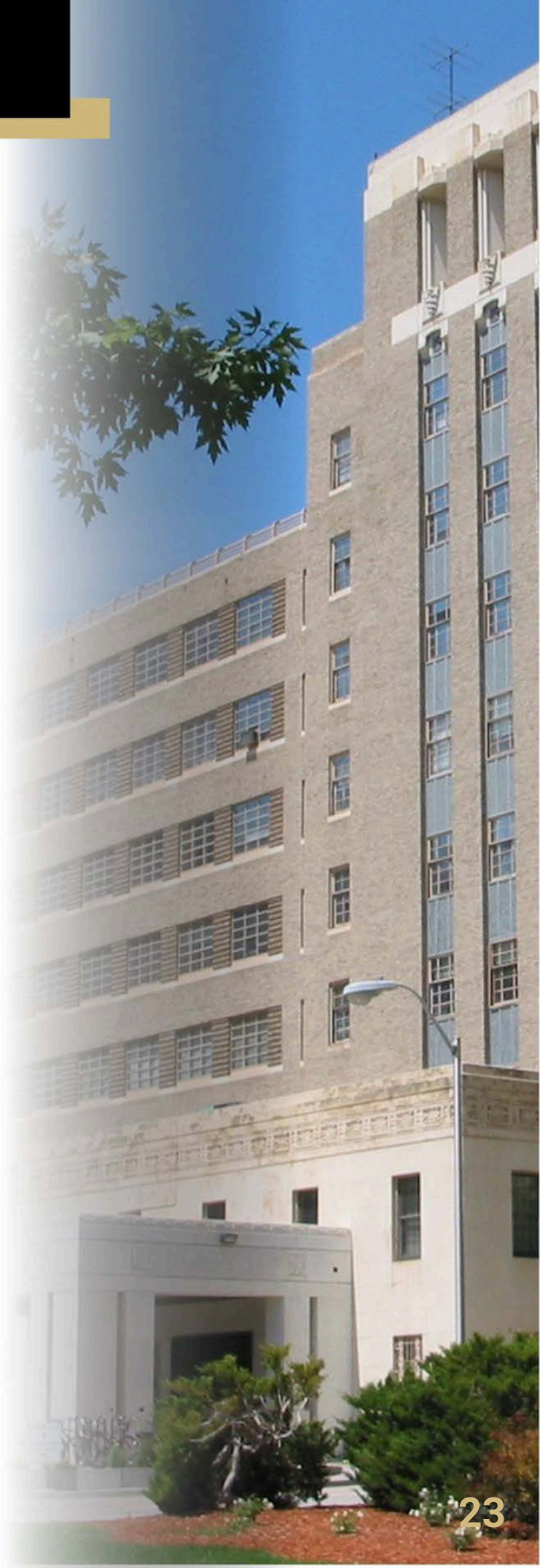
Clinical Care

through state-of-the-art clinical programs which reflect the unique educational and scholarly environment of the University, as well as the needs of the patients and communities it serves



Community Collaborations

by forming partnerships with the broader community, learning from the experiences of community members and sharing the School's expertise and knowledge, in order to promote healthier and more resilient communities, address the social, environmental and economic determinants of health, and advocate for health equity



University of Colorado Hospital



*U.S. News & World Report 2025-2026 Rankings



Regionally Ranked
#1 Best Hospital
in Colorado annually
since 2012



Nationally Ranked in
4 Adult Specialties



Nationally Ranked
High Performing in
**5 Adult Specialties &
12 Procedures/Conditions**

Children's Hospital Colorado



*U.S. News & World Report 2025-2026 Rankings



#1 in Colorado and the Rocky Mountain Region

Top 10 in five Specialties

#2 for Cardiology and Heart Surgery

#3 for Diabetes and Endocrinology

#4 for Cancer

Learn more about Children's Hospital Colorado [here](#)

Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center



VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System offers a wide range of health, support, and facility services for Veterans.

At the VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System, their expert health care teams focus on your needs and the needs of other Veterans, your families, and caregivers. Find a health care facility near you and manage your health online. Sign up for community events and updates, and learn what's new at your local VA medical center and clinics.

In 2026, the Department of Veterans Affairs awarded \$28.9 million in grants to 13 community organizations to help veterans in FY 2027 who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in Colorado.





*U.S. News & World Report 2025-2026 Rankings

Colorado's only Academic Safety-Net Hospital, delivering expert care to all patients regardless of ability to pay

Ranked #1 in Colorado and #4 nationally for **Social Responsibility** by the Lown Institute Hospitals Index 2025-2026

Recognized by U.S. News & World Report among the **Best Hospitals for Maternity Care**

Home to Colorado's first Level 1 Trauma Center, now designated as a **Level I Adult** and **Level II Pediatric Trauma Center**



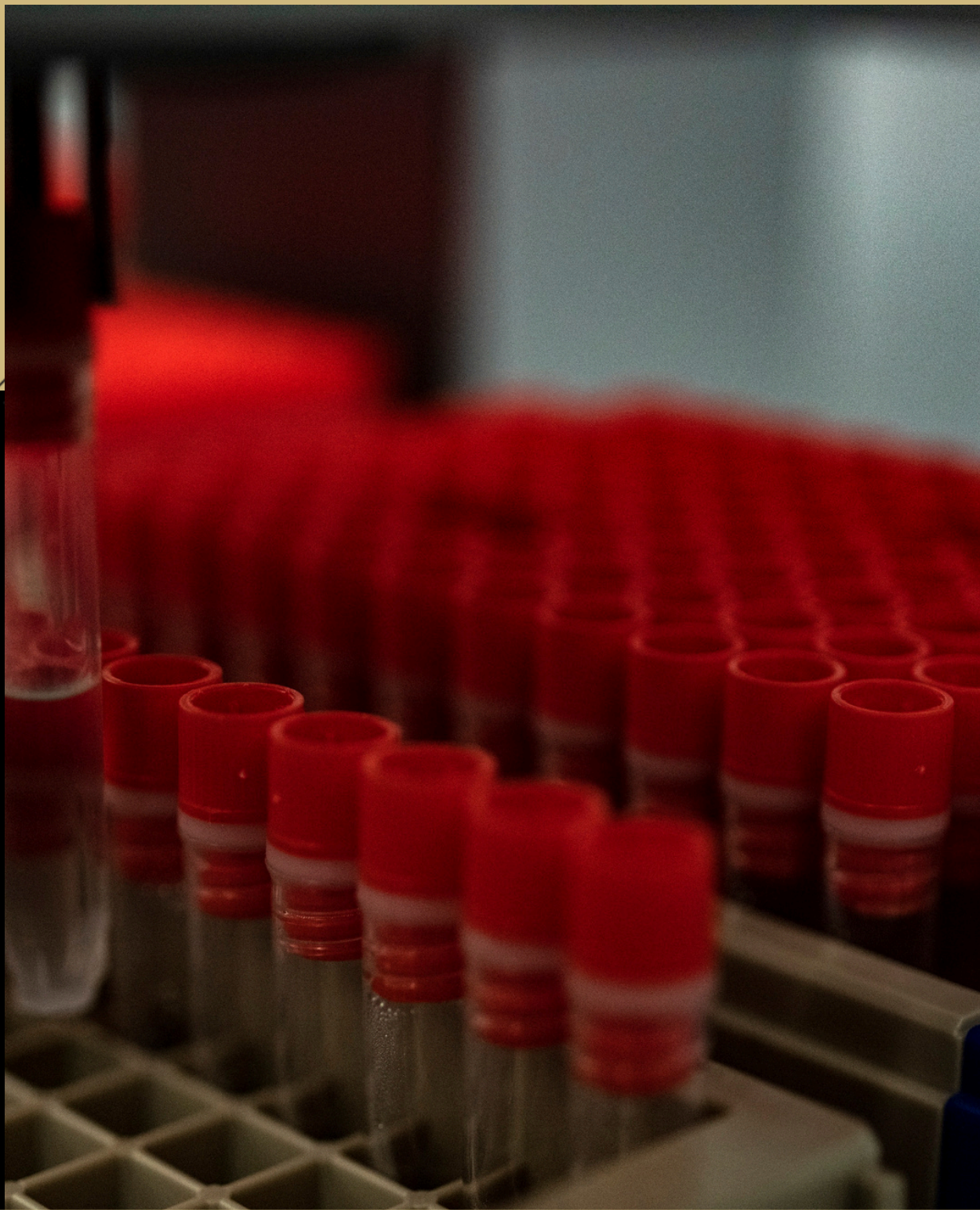
University of Colorado Anschutz

The University of Colorado Anschutz campus is the **largest** academic health center in the **Rocky Mountain Region** and a world-class medical destination at the forefront of transformative education, science, medicine, and healthcare.



The campus encompasses the University of Colorado health professional schools, more than **60 centers and institutes**, and **two nationally ranked hospitals**, UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital and Children's Hospital Colorado, that treat more than **two million patients** each year.

The CU Anschutz campus generated **\$20 billion** in annual economic impact in FY 2025 while serving **4,600+ students** in more than 40 highly rated degree programs across **six schools and colleges**, delivering life-changing treatments and patient care, and conducting world-renowned research supported by nearly **\$900 million** in research awards.



DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY