Dear Colleague,

It was a nice weekend at home for a change and you can tell it is nearly Spring. The sun is almost back rising due east where Colfax Avenue meets Kansas in the morning; in 10 days, the day will be longer than the night (five days after we move the clock ahead again next Sunday morning). Some of us, however, have already begun the annual Spring rite of allergic rhinitis. I spent most of last Friday sneezing. Allergy was a condition denied by my virologist father, who thought little of the field in the 1950’s. There weren’t many things he was wrong about, but this one was!

Saturday night was the annual Health Profession Scholar Banquet at the downtown Marriott. The event was organized by our Colorado AHEC program and 22 students (out of >100 applicants) from a variety of health professions schools throughout the state shared the $600,000 of scholarship awards provided by the Colorado Trust. We had six students from the School of Medicine honored this year: David Baumgartner and Corey Dobson from our MD program; Casey Beardsley and Aimee Jacobs from the Child Health Associate/Physician Assistant Program; and Amber Matthews and Clayton Shaw from the Physical Therapy Program. Congratulations to all of them.

It was then nice to wake up to a very positive series of four articles in the Business Section of the Sunday Denver Post that looked at the transition of the Fitsimons base to the Anschutz Medical Campus, along with the adjacent science and technology park. The reporter and photographer accompanied Ron Sokol, MD, and me Tuesday when we gave a campus tour to Barbara Alving, MD, Director of National Center for Research Resources at NIH. The difficulty the media have in really understanding our governance and relationships here was clear in the identification of the Barbara Davis Center under the banner: University of Colorado Hospital. Oh, well. The Denver Business Journal had an article last week on the “Anschutz Medical Campus” as a health care destination campus – and given the complexity of this place, it may just be the right way to identify ourselves.

A key component of our successes in research is our technical staff, yet they haven’t always gotten the recognition they deserve. I am happy to announce the creation of the Steven Fadul Award, an annual $1500 prize to an outstanding PRA. The prize was created in honor of Steve Fadul, a PRA here for 30 years, who died last year. To learn how to nominate a PRA for the award, go to this web site. The description of Steve there reminds us of how he represented the best of the School of Medicine: “Steve made people feel comfortable and welcome and he was very generous with his time and his help.”

Welcome to James Jaggers, MD, who will become Chairman of Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery at The Children’s Hospital and a Professor in the Department of Surgery of the School of Medicine. An internationally recognized cardiothoracic surgeon, he comes to us from Duke University Medical School. At TCH, he will lead one of the best programs in the country.
Many of you also read the UCH Insider but in case you missed it I have attached the article on recent “State of the Hospital” remarks by Bruce Schroffel, President and CEO. One headline sums it up as “no complacency allowed,” and here’s a quote from Bruce to give you more of the tone: “For those of you who are happy with where you are today, this is not the place you want to be.”

Last week, in its continuing effort to improve communication with its members, UPI launched the online newsletter Faculty Focus. In the first edition which I have attached, UPI Executive Director Lilly Marks writes, “In each issue we hope to provide education and updates to UPI providers on a wide range of topics including billing, contracting, health care legislation, UPI financial performance, and other timely issues of interest and importance.” If you are not already on the UPI member list and want to sign up for it contact Ardith Hughes.

April 15 is the deadline for the 2010-11 Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program. This is a collaboration between the Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene at Columbia Psychiatry and the American Political Science Association Congressional Fellowship Program. This national fellows program seeks to provide professionals in health and aging with the experience and skills necessary to contribute to the development and implementation of health policies that affect older Americans. There are residential and non-residential tracks. A brochure about the program is attached. You also can get more information here or by contacting the program’s deputy director, Phuong Huynh.

This Wednesday, the Department of Psychiatry and the Depression Center will host the second annual Aaron Bailey Memorial Grand Rounds Lecture Series. The topic is, “The Effect of Clozapine and Other Psychotropic Drugs on Suicide: Knowledge and Its Application,” by Herbert Y. Meltzer, MD, Professor of Psychiatry and Pharmacology at Vanderbilt. The series was started with a gift from the parents of Aaron Bailey, a Coloradan who, after a lifelong battle with schizophrenia, took his life in 2007 at age 36. Aaron’s parents started the lecture series to prevent similar tragedies. The event will be in the Ben Nighthorse Campbell building (first floor auditorium) from 12:10 - 1:15pm.

There was a nice reception for Mark Yarborough, PhD, who has been Director of the Center on Bioethics and Humanities for a little over 15 years. Mark was honored by the faculty, staff and advisory board of the program last Wednesday evening. He will be moving to the University of California Davis. I hope to announce an Interim Director within a week or so.

A correction – last week I referred inaccurately to another medical school, which gave one of our students an award for poetry. It is the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine.

Have a good week,

With warm regards,
"What's Going On Here" is an email news bulletin from Richard Krugman, MD, Dean of the CU School of Medicine, that is distributed to inform University of Colorado School of Medicine faculty members about issues pertaining to the School’s mission of education, research, clinical care and community service. If you would like to receive these emails directly, please contact Cheryl.Welch@ucdenver.edu.

Click on this link to view the UCH-Insider: http://www.uch.edu/for-employees/uch-insider-archives.aspx