Dear Colleague,

It was quite a week. A lot went on, here and nationally. Like many of you, on Sunday I watched off and on as health care reform was debated and, finally, approved by the House. I have felt throughout the year-long debate that, although the process resembled sausage-making, not passing any legislation would be a whole lot worse than losing the opportunity to finally implement some rationalization of our tortuous health care system. Listening to the shouting matches on the morning talk shows Sunday, I thought how nice it would be to have the raging sound-bite war perpetrated by all sides of this debate finally stop, if just for a moment … until it is picked up in the campaigns for the fall elections.

In one of the most hazardous weeks in years for my efforts to restrain caloric intake, I had seven meetings last week involving meals. The events, however, were great. The happiest was Match Day for the medical school Class of 2010. There was very nice media coverage (you can see some of the words, photos, audio and video at our web site). By the way, it’s an example of what the new website can do in terms of presenting timely information in various formats. Other notable events with caloric challenges last week included the dinner following the St. Geme Lecture by Tom Cech, the Denver Health Medical Staff Quarterly meeting (where CEO Patty Gabow gave a terrific overview of their strategic plan), a dinner to celebrate approval of the Charles C. Gates Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Biology, a welcome dinner for Dan Theodorescu, MD, PhD, incoming head of the Cancer Center, organized by their Advisory Board, and the annual Beaux Arts Ball, with 1100 guests, for National Jewish Health.

The state budget forecast came out Friday afternoon and was better than most people feared but no one is halting preparations for significant cuts in our state appropriation next year.

Congratulations to the nursing leadership and staff of University of Colorado Hospital, which for the third consecutive time received international recognition for excellence in nursing by the American Nurses Credential Center’s (ANCC) Magnet Recognition Program®. The four-year designation recognizes continuing excellence in nursing and overall patient care at UCH, one of only 32 hospitals nationwide to three-peat. “To earn Magnet status for another four years underscores our nursing staff’s continuing commitment to high quality, always improving patient care,” said Bruce Schroffel, president and CEO of University of Colorado Hospital.

The College of Nursing and School of Medicine were selected, as a team, to participate in a national conference designed to develop new education models that foster inter-professional training and curriculum reform to better prepare the future health care workforce. We were one of only seven applicants chosen (out of 32) for the conference, called “Educating Nurses and Physicians: Toward New Horizons.” The event, hosted by the Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation and The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, is scheduled June 16-18, 2010 at Stanford University. An announcement about the event says, “These seven institutions were chosen because of the commitment … of both schools of nursing and of medicine to work
together. They were also selected based on what they have already accomplished in inter-professional education and their commitment to future work.”

The Academy of Medical Educators seeks proposals to support innovation or scholarship in medical education at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. One or more grants will be awarded in amounts up to $3500. The proposals can’t exceed five pages in length and must include:

- Brief background describing the importance of the project and relevance to the University of Colorado School of Medicine
- Goals or specific objectives
- Description of project or study
- COMIRB status (if appropriate)
- Brief budget

Applications must be received by April 15th. Please send applications and questions to Eva Aagaard at eva.aagaard@ucdenver.edu.

Applications are due April 1 for the Robinson Durst Scholarship offered by the Center for Global Health. The grant of up to $2,000 is available to anyone in a health-related program in the University of Colorado Denver. It’s named for Professor Emeritus William Robinson, MD, PhD and Denver sculptor/ceramicist Peter Durst. They provide personal and donor funds so that students can engage in a culturally diverse clinical and/or research experience during their graduate training. On the Global Health web site you’ll see links on the right side of the page or information and an application. Contact is Michelle Shiver, Program Manager, at michelle.shiver@ucdenver.edu or 303-724-9771.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is accepting applications for the 2010 Faculty Loan Repayment Program. Faculty members from disadvantaged backgrounds with degrees in the health professions are eligible to apply. Participants in the program will receive up to $40,000 from the federal government to repay student loans in exchange for at least two years of service as a faculty member at an accredited health professions institution. Applications will be accepted until April 22.

Have a good week,

With warm regards,

Richard D. Krugman, MD
Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs and
Dean, School of Medicine
"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.

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