Dear Colleague,

It was another full week. Tuesday the Faculty Senate spent much of its meeting in a dialogue with Chancellor M. Roy Wilson and Provost Rod Nairn. It was a good conversation, followed by my monthly update on searches and affiliation news. I also reported that the committee to review whether we should have a new Department of Pediatric Surgical Subspecialties had recommended against a department, but for a Center to be modeled after the Cancer Center. The Chairs of the Cognate Surgical Departments and Children’s President Jim Shmerling and I will discuss the report today, the Executive Committee will discuss it tomorrow at its meeting with the Senate getting the report in June.

There was a very nice dedication ceremony last Wednesday for the College of Nursing’s Commemorative Garden. Located east of the Ed 2 North Building, the garden has two meaningful memorials. One is for former Nursing Associate Professor Joanne Supples, PhD, RN. She’s remembered by these words etched in stone: “Worthy friend and artful nurse.” The other is for Lt. Sharon A. Lane, the only American servicewoman killed by enemy fire in the Vietnam War. Lt. Lane was assigned to Fitzsimons before deploying to Vietnam and the drive that leads to Building 500 here used to be named for her.

The Bonfils Stanton Foundation on Thursday honored two of our faculty. Patricia Gabow, MD, CEO of Denver Health was recognized for Community Service. She’s worked tirelessly to expand health care to vulnerable and underserved populations while running a hospital known for quality and efficiency. And Charles Dinarello, MD, Professor of Medicine (Infectious Diseases) received the Science and Medicine Award for his pioneering work in inflammatory disorders and autoimmune diseases.

Friday, Postdoctoral Research Day, more that 80 posters were shown to more that 200 of our faculty, staff and students. It was a great event for a group that is enormously important to our research enterprise here. Awards were given for the posters judged to be the best by a graduate faculty jury. The list of winners is attached. Congratulations to them and all the participants.

Then, Saturday, I drove up to Boulder for the last day of the Gold Lab Symposium. Former Gov. Dick Lamm and former Kaiser Permanente Chairman David Lawrence were among the very interesting speakers discussing the future of health care delivery in the United States. I had a nice lunch conversation with Tom Blumenthal, PhD, our former Chair of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics, Art Pardi, PhD, Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry in Boulder and a collaborator in our Molecular Structure Program, and Larry Hunter, PhD, Professor of Pharmacology here. With the science programs at Boulder growing, they are facing some of the challenges of having programs split between their main campus and the developing east campus, with all the challenges that engenders (as we well remember).
I am told that while I was in Boulder, there was an open house at the UCH Center for Integrative Medicine, directed by Lisa Corbin, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of General Internal Medicine. Over 200 people attended and learned about ways that alternative therapies, such as acupuncture, therapeutic massage, nutrition planning, counseling, chiropractic, yoga, bio feedback and meditation can help patients in general and also benefit patients as adjunct therapy for cancer, pain management and a variety of other health care needs. Opportunities to sample these services were provided without charge during the event!

The main speaker for the School of Medicine graduation ceremony May 28 will be Connie Carpenter Phinney, an Olympic Gold Medalist in cycling and all around amazing athlete. At the 1984 Olympics she edged out a competitor to win the road race by inches. (See video). One of just a few dual-sport Olympians, she competed as a speed skater in the 1972 Olympics. She was a champion rower at Cal-Berkeley, before going on to CU for a Master’s in Science. She says she’ll talk about her own journey and the challenges of parenting two children who also are top athletes. And she’ll likely talk to our medical students about her husband, Davis Phinney, also an Olympian and famous cyclist, who has been public about his struggle with Parkinson’s disease. The medical school Hooding and Oath ceremonies should start by 10:30 am. All-School Campus Commencement begins at 8:30 a.m. in the Education Quadrangle. SOM faculty are urged to attend both ceremonies. There’s a link to graduation information for the other Programs and Schools are on our web site.

The University of Colorado Hospital’s Board of Directors has approved a vast expansion of the hospital and its programs. Scheduled for completion in January 2013, the expansion includes a new 12-story tower and four-story critical care wing west of the Anschutz Inpatient Pavilion. This will give the hospital wonderful opportunities and should expand both training and clinical revenue for the medical school. There are lots of details in the latest UCH Insider, attached.

Child care is coming to campus. The Anschutz Medical Campus will share a portion of the 248 spots at a child care center on North Wheeling Street, expected to open in the summer of 2011. The number of openings available to AMC employees will be proportionate to the university’s financial contribution to the center, with details to be worked out in the next few months. Contact Julia Agazio, in human resources.

Congratulations to John Cambier, PhD. He’s to receive the University of Iowa Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumni Award for Achievement. John, Chair of the Integrated Department of Immunology, is known for his work decoding how the human body launches its defense against disease.

I heard over the weekend about the death of John W. Cowee, PhD, who was Chancellor of the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center from 1976-1984. I’ll have more next week.

I had the pleasure of attending the Denver VA Research Day recently. Among the highlights were the impressive array of posters and oral research presentations (a list is attached). This was all part of the VA's National Research Week.
And finally, I spent a half hour Friday being filmed for the Senior Skit which will be rolled out Thursday evening this week in the Ed 2 South 600 seat auditorium. Anyone attending will have the opportunity to find out What’s Really Going on Here, as well as an expose on how I compose these weekly e-mails.

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, or to unsubscribe, please contact Cheryl.Welch@ucdenver.edu.

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