Dear colleague,

I’m sitting in front of another Bronco game having just returned from Vail where I got to attend part of the Annual Colorado AHEC conference. Each year, our MD, PA and PT students have hundreds of rotations around the state with members of our clinical faculty. One of the ways we have tried to thank those faculty is to bring them together for a fall weekend in the mountains for some continuing education and the opportunity to meet and interact with many of our faculty. What made this year’s meeting even nicer was that all of the community-based research networks that work with our Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute program were part of the meeting as well. Our own internal culture of collaboration has clearly spread to engage those in the community who are interested in participating in our research and education missions.

The other annual event of this past week was the Denver Chamber of Commerce Leadership Exchange trip to Minneapolis. These visits by the corporate, educational and health care community here. Minnesota is an interesting place with a lot of Fortune 500 Companies, relatively high taxation (which has translated to excellence in education and health care). There are relatively few uninsured Minnesotans. One of the more interesting sessions was one in which we heard about United Health Care and also from the Mayo Clinic. Among the many interesting things we learned were these three:

1) United Health Care cannot sell insurance in Minnesota because the state has a law that prohibits for-profit entities from writing insurance or providing health care in Minnesota.

2) And perhaps as a result of that statute, 91 percent of insurance premiums go to provide health care for Minnesotans, markedly higher than what happens to the health care premiums in Colorado where we have many for-profit companies.

3) The Mayo Clinic has a system of care that is patient-centered, allows the physicians (all of whom make the same salary regardless of specialty) to spend as much time with their patients as they need to. But, (and it is not unrelated), does not participate in the Medicare program (meaning Medicare patients have to pay the rest of what the government will not pay), and does not accept Medicaid or other government sponsored patients.

More congratulations to Denver Health CEO Patty Gabow, MD, for her selection as a Lifetime Achievement Award winner among the Denver Business Journal’s 2009 Champions in Health Care. And congratulations also to Gary Fullerton, PhD, Director and Vice Chairman of Research in the Radiology Department, who received the Award of Merit at the International Union for Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine (IUPESM) at the opening ceremony of the World Congress, Sept. 8 in Munich, Germany.
Please add an Associate Dean title to Anita Glicken, the Director of the Child Health Associate - Physician Assistant program. Anita earned the Associate Dean title last month, but I forgot to mention it here. The CHA – PA program is still part of the Department of Pediatrics, but Anita is an Associate Dean, as is Margaret Schenkman, who is Director of the Physical Therapy program. These dean designations allow these programs to coordinate their educational efforts with those responsible for the medical curriculum.

The 17th Annual New Faculty Career Development Workshop will be held on Thursday, Jan. 21, 2010, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Shore Family Forum Auditorium, Nighthorse Campbell Building on the Anschutz Medical Campus. All faculty members are invited to attend this workshop, although the curriculum is designed especially for assistant professors in their first or second years. Workshop participants will have an opportunity to meet many of the institution’s key leaders and to learn more about the criteria for promotion, preparing portfolios and dossiers, the support systems that are available and tips for academic success. Department chairs will be asked to free faculty from their usual responsibilities for this important program. There will be no registration fee for this event, and breakfast and lunch will be provided. You can register for this workshop by clicking on the following link: http://www.uchsc.edu/som/faculty/seminars; or click “Faculty Development Seminars” on the Office of Faculty Affairs web site, www.uchsc.edu/som/faculty. If you have any problems with this registration page or need assistance, contact Cheryl Welch at Cheryl.Welch@ucdenver.edu.

I am honored and humbled to share with several terrific colleagues the Department of Pediatrics Career Teaching Scholars Award for 2009. Also getting the award are Daniel Hall, MD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, and Clinical Professors Allan Bock, MD and Daniel Feiten, MD. The teaching awards will be presented during Pediatric Grand Rounds Dec. 18, from 12:30-1:30 p.m. in the Mt. Oxford Auditorium at The Children's Hospital second floor Conference Center.

Here’s a deadline alert: All those currently using or planning to use Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CCTSI) resources, services, facilities, cores, training or funding MUST become members of the CCTSI by Nov. 3 in order to use these resources. Becoming a member is free and takes 2-5 minutes (I just enrolled as the Broncos won their game). Go to the website http://cctsi.ucdenver.edu and click on the “Become a Member” red button.

Have a great 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 Jim.Spencer@ucdenver.edu.