Dear Colleagues:

It is a pretty quiet time of the year, and as I sit here on the last Sunday afternoon of 2009, it is not hard to think back on the last year and the last decade. Time Magazine this week called the last 10 years “the decade from hell.” While I understand the context of the article from a national perspective, in our corner of the world, with the exception of the 40 percent loss of state funding over the decade, it was a remarkable time for our school and all of our affiliated hospitals. The expansion plans of University of Colorado Hospital and Children’s Hospital, along with the mid-decade move of the Veteran’s Administration Medical Center, suggest that those looking back on us the last week of 2019 will have more positive changes to record. It remains to be seen what our governance will look like at that time, but my personal view is that the continued creativity and hard work of the faculty of this school will have us still growing, doing more research and serving ever greater numbers of patients. In fact, having made my first visit to the Texas Medical Center in Houston last week (as part of our effort to recruit a new director for the Linda Crnic Institute) and having looked at the pictures of the early days of the growth of that enormous place, I suspect that the Anschutz Medical Campus will be following a similar trajectory.

When the Webb-Waring Institute joined the School of Medicine last year, the dissolution of their 501 (c) 3 foundation was matched by the Boettcher Foundation with additional contributions from the University of Colorado Denver and the System. An endowment was created that was to support research and this week, the University of Colorado Office of the President announced this new program. Early-career biomedical researchers (defined as those within the University system who are within four years of appointment in her or his career-track academic position, and who have not previously received a major independent research award) may apply. The Boettcher Foundation’s new Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Awards Program will support work that has a direct impact on human health. Applications are now being accepted for the program. The program will provide at least $200,000 for up to three years of biomedical research. Boettcher plans to support up to 15 investigators at Colorado research institutions. The University of Colorado Office of the President will manage the competitive program and peer review process for CU grant applications. Deadline is March 15, 2010. General information and application materials can be found on the System website at www.cu.edu/Boettcher. You may email questions to Webb-Waring@cu.edu.

In the spirit of the season, a reminder that Chancellor Wilson’s Giving Back campaign ends soon, Feb. 1, 2010. All faculty and staff will be given one half day of work time to go into the community and participate in a volunteer activity of their choice. (Of course, beyond this program, faculty and staff routinely make contributions to the community). For Giving Back, the chancellor’s office asks that you submit participation forms so your hours and activities can be tracked. You can get more information on the UC Denver web
Finally, this is the final week here for Danae Booth, who has been administrator for the Department of Medicine for the last seven years. She came into the position at a difficult time but has been superb in managing the largest department in our School. We wish her well in the next phase of her career.

Have a safe New Year’s eve and weekend.

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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