For immediate release

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“Mini Med” set to teach the public about medicine
Students, grandparents ready to learn in free courses

AURORA, Colo. (Aug. 24, 2010) – From kids to grandparents, the crowd at the University of Colorado Mini Med School, which starts Wednesday, Sept. 15, is expected to be diverse. High-school students from the Aurora LIGHTS program will be there, as will adults representing a range of ages.

One of the most innovative public education programs in the world, Mini Med offers an introduction to the science that forms the basis of modern medicine. The program, created by the University of Colorado School of Medicine’s J.J. Cohen, MD, is now copied in more than 100 cities worldwide. The eight-week course involves no tests, fees or credit hours. But those who attend regularly receive an unofficial “diploma.”

Lectures offered by medical-school faculty and other experts include anatomy and physiology, cell biology, microbiology, immunology, pharmacology and cancer biology. Classes start at 7 p.m. with an hour-long lecture, followed by roughly a half hour of questions and answers. Participants get a binder of lecture notes, as well as audio-visual displays. Mini Med teachers work to make complex material understandable to those who lack technical backgrounds and vocabulary. But Cohen remains proudest of the fact that his lecturers don’t “dumb it down.”

In its 20 seasons, the Mini Med School has hosted some 17,000 students. Among them this year will be students from Aurora LIGHTS, a partnership between the University of Colorado’s Anschutz Medical Campus and the Aurora Public Schools. The program is designed to attract high school students to careers in medicine and science. Medical students will attend each session to work with the teenagers and to answer questions.

This year for the first time Mini Med School originates from the Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora. It’s fed by satellite to locations around Colorado. Participants must register. Registration links and more information are available at http://medschool.ucdenver.edu/minimed. If the site where you wish to attend is full, you will be placed on a waiting list. If you don’t have access to the web, please call 303-724-0348.
Faculty at the University of Colorado’s School of Medicine work to advance science and improve care. These faculty members include physicians, educators and scientists at University of Colorado Hospital, The Children’s Hospital, Denver Health, National Jewish Health, and the Denver Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Degrees offered by the School of Medicine include doctor of medicine, doctor of physical therapy, and masters of physician assistant studies. The School is located on the Anschutz Medical Campus, one of four campuses in the University of Colorado system. For additional news and information, please visit the UC Denver newsroom online.

The University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus is a model for the type of interdisciplinary research in translational medicine that will take basic discovery “from the bench to the bedside.”

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