Could pot help solve the U.S. opioid epidemic?

A trial just getting underway at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus, led by neurobiologist Emily Lindley, will be the first to directly compare cannabis and opioid painkillers in patients with back and neck pain.

The impetus for the study was a survey finding that nearly one-fifth of the 184 patients with chronic back and neck pain reported using marijuana to treat their pain. “We expected to see some positive effects regarding pain control but not quite to that extent and not with that many patients,” says Vikas Patel, chief of orthopedic spine & surgery at CU.

*Science, Nov. 3, 2016*

Coloradans coping with post-election stress disorder

“It’s really been interfering with a lot of people’s normal functioning,” said Liz Chamberlain, a psychologist with the CU Anschutz Health and Wellness Center.

*Fox 31, Nov. 9, 2016*
Eating disorders may change how the brain works, CU Anschutz researchers find

“The appetite region of the brain should drive you off your chair to get something to eat,” stated Guido Frank, lead author of the study and associate professor of psychiatry and neuroscience at the CU School of Medicine. “But in patients with anorexia or bulimia nervosa that is not the case.”

Fox31, Nov. 7, 2016

Some babies may need allergy tests before trying peanuts

“Guidance regarding when to introduce peanut into the diet of an infant is changing…” said Matthew Greenhawt, a food researcher at the CU School of Medicine. “This is an amazing opportunity to help potentially reduce the number of cases of peanut allergy.”

Yahoo Sports (Reuters), Nov. 8, 2016

The doctor revamping emergency departments in the US has some advice for Irish hospitals

In 2012, Richard Zane was tasked with overhauling the ED at the University of Colorado, in the US: “We looked at every aspect of patient care from the lens of the patient. We identified areas of waste – from both the patient’s perspective and what we were delivering.”

TheJournal.ie (Dublin, Ireland), Nov. 6, 2016

Suncor admits to releasing 150 times the limit of sulfur dioxide

“All I’ve seen is that there was this big emission,” said Anthony Gerber, an air quality expert at National Jewish Health. “But with my understanding with how we monitor air around these plants, I don’t think it’s so easy to be definitive that there wasn’t a health risk associated.”

9News, Nov. 1, 2016
Denver Health and UC lock in $90M DoD contract

“This is a highly coveted contract,” said Ernest E. Moore, the principal investigator for both Colorado medical centers. He said competition was so intense that Denver Health was invited to join rival groups vying for it.

Business Den, Nov. 7, 2016

Previous issues of the School of Medicine media report are posted online.