CU Medical School is adding resources, emphasis to plastic-surgery program

Mickey Gordon, who came to the medical school as a fellow in 1989 and became a faculty member in 1990: “Plastic surgery offers tremendous opportunities for a physician. It’s one of the last areas [of specialty] where you can operate basically on any part of the body. But that means you have to be learned as well.”

Currently, the plastic-surgery division at the medical school features eight surgeons, each with various specialties, said Brooke French, director of the cosmetic surgery program and an expert in cranio maxillofacial surgery, which deals with the head, face and jaw.

*Denver Business Journal, Feb. 21, 2017*

Colorado teen cancer survivor story featured in commercial to air during the Oscars

“We were all very surprised and actually didn’t believe it at first because it would be one of the youngest cases ever,” said Saketh Guntupalli, Gynecologic Oncologist with University of Colorado Hospital.

*7News, Feb. 22, 2017*
‘You Saved My Life’: Cancer Survivor to Peyton Manning

“So our patient here came in with a massive tumor encompassing his whole right lung,” explained Victor Villalobos, Medical Oncologist and Director of Sarcoma at the University of Colorado Hospital. In December, Murphy had a six pound tumor and his right lung removed at UCH.

CBS4, Feb. 22, 2017

Vomiting Syndrome on the Rise in Heavy Pot Smokers

“When the decriminalization of medical marijuana occurred and the number of medical (marijuana) licenses in the state went up dramatically, we started seeing more and more cases of young, otherwise healthy people who would have multiple recurrent episodes of severe abdominal pain and vomiting and often end up in the emergency room,” said Kennon Heard, chief of medical toxicology for the CU Anschutz Medical Campus.

“People have been smoking pot for a long time, but the widespread availability of very high-potency marijuana is recent,” says Eric Lavonas, interim chief of emergency medicine at Denver Health Medical Center. “Prior to legalization, marijuana was something that was grown in a field and smuggled in from wherever it was grown, but marijuana for sale in dispensaries … is much more potent than the marijuana that was around 20 years ago.”

WT AJ-TV (Altoona, Penn.), Feb. 21, 2017

There’s Fun and Fitness in the Pool for Asthmatic Kids

“When it comes to cardio activities that are well-tolerated, swimming, specifically, is highly recommended, particularly in indoor swimming pools,” said Tod Olin, a pediatric pulmonary specialist at National Jewish Health.

The Post-Star (Glens Falls, NY), Feb. 21, 2017
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<td><strong>Everything You Need to Know About Biosimilar Drugs for Ulcerative Colitis</strong></td>
<td>Mark Gerich, an IBD specialist and clinical director of the Crohn’s and Colitis Center of the University of Colorado Hospital, says that the track record of cost savings for biosimilars in the countries where they’ve been adopted is mixed. “My concern,” he says, “is that the actual financial savings are not going to be as great as we might hope.” Everyday Health, Feb. 15, 2017</td>
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<td><strong>Healthy living through better habits: How changes in sleep, stress and diet can lead to a happier you</strong></td>
<td>“Yes, exercise would work if you did enough of it — it’s just so much easier to eat less,” says James Hill, professor of pediatrics and medicine at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. Los Angeles Times, Feb. 23, 2017</td>
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<td><strong>Billings Clinic formalizes partnership with Children’s Hospital Colorado</strong></td>
<td>Michael Narkewicz, pediatric gastroenterologist and physician lead for Children’s Hospital Colorado Care Alliance, said the goal of the new alliance is to help keep that care local, whenever possible, by supporting the physicians, the care teams and their patients. Billings Gazette, Feb. 21, 2017</td>
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<td><strong>Threat of Obamacare Repeal Leaves Community Health Centers in Limbo</strong></td>
<td>Denver’s Federico F. Peña Southwest Family Health Center is part of Denver Health — the safety net system that takes care of low-income people. “Definitely this clinic has benefited from Obamacare,” says Michael Russum, who practices family medicine for Denver Health and helps lead the clinic. “And this population has benefited from Obamacare by the expansion of Medicaid.”</td>
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That’s what helped make the economics work as Denver Health put a new $26 million clinic in a high poverty neighborhood in 2016, says Simon Hambidge, Denver Health’s CEO of Community Health Services. “We’ll survive. We may not be able to be as expansive, because we would be back to less secure times.”

*NPR, Feb. 22, 2017*

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**Stripping health care from 20 million people is unconscionable**

Guest commentary by Mark Earnest, Steve Federico and David Keller, faculty members at the CU School of Medicine: “Twenty million people who stand to lose their health care if the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is repealed. As physicians, we know these people. We care for them, we laugh and cry with them. We partner with them to ensure they are healthier than before we met. We became doctors to care for human beings, to promote health, and to alleviate suffering. Above all, we all pledged an oath to do no harm.”

*Denver Post, Feb. 20, 2017*