### Insurers Hand Out Cash and Gifts To Sway Brokers Who Sell Employer Health Plans

These industry payments can’t help but influence which plans brokers highlight for employers, says Eric Campbell, director of research at the CU Center for Bioethics and Humanities. “It’s a classic conflict of interest,” Campbell says.

*National Public Radio, Feb. 20, 2019*

### A push to fix Colorado’s lowest-in-the-nation vaccine rates has an unexpected critic: Jared Polis

“The facts are that vaccinations are incredibly safe and that the benefits of vaccines far outweigh the risks. And most parents see that and accept that,” said Sean O’Leary, an associate professor in pediatrics and infectious diseases at the CU School of Medicine.

*Colorado Sun, Feb. 21, 2019*

### Teen suicide bill would allow children as young as 12 to see a psychologist without parental consent

“If we know that isolation and stress is overwhelming, then we need to rethink – what are the causes of that?” said Steven Berkowitz, professor of psychiatry at the CU School of Medicine.

*Channel 7, Feb. 20, 2019*
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<td><strong>Salida man survives after heart stops for almost an hour due to complications from rare infection</strong></td>
<td>Upon further testing, Muhammad Aftab, a cardiac surgeon at the Anschutz, discovered the problem in Brian’s heart. “There was just so much extensive vegetation which was covering all the valves.” Fox31, Feb. 20, 2019</td>
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<td><strong>Newborn Health Harmed by Cannabis Exposure</strong></td>
<td>“As marijuana has been legalized” in an increasing number of states, “become more potent, and gained acceptance, we have many women using it who do not necessarily engage in other negative health behaviors, such as tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use,” said Beth Bailey, from the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. Medscape, Feb. 19, 2019</td>
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<td><strong>Fit and Healthy: Is marijuana safe for seniors?</strong></td>
<td>“I get 90 year olds who come in and say, ‘Do you think I should try marijuana? My daughter says I should,’” says Gretchen Orosz, a geriatrics internal medicine doctor at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. “It’s surprising how many older adults, who never used marijuana in the ’60s, are open to using it for medicinal purposes.” Pikes Peak Courier, Feb. 19, 2019</td>
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<td><strong>Complex, Hidden Genes May Be Tied to Autism Severity</strong></td>
<td>“It took us several years to develop accurate methods for studying these sequences, so we fully understand why other groups have not joined in.” said James Sikela, a professor in the department of biochemistry and molecular genetics at the CU School of Medicine. “We hope that by showing that the link with autism severity holds up in three independent studies, we will prompt other autism researchers to examine this complex family.” Psych Central, Feb. 17, 2019</td>
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**Children With Autism More Often Have Sleep Problems**

More children with autism spectrum disorder have sleep problems compared with other children, according to a study published online Feb. 11 in *Pediatrics*. Ann M. Reynolds, from the CU School of Medicine, and colleagues compared sleep habits in young children ages 2 to 5 years old.

*Neurology Advisor, Feb. 18, 2019*

**Atherosclerotic risk factors increase as patients age**

“[Atherosclerotic risk factors] are very rare in children, including in those with strokes,” wrote Sharon N. Poisson, associate professor, co-director of stroke services and director of the vascular neurology fellowship in the department of neurology at CU School of Medicine, and colleagues.

*Healio, Feb. 21, 2019*

**15 Weird Medical Conditions You Probably Haven’t Heard Of**

What can initially seem like digestive issues could actually be a rare genetic disorder called Fabry disease. “My patient had many years of gastrointestinal problems—mostly around abdominal pain and diarrhea. He also had problems with heat intolerance and had a small diffuse rash around his waist area,” says Matthew Taylor, clinical geneticist and genomics expert at UCHealth [and professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine].

*Prevention, Feb. 21, 2019*

**Genetic clues to high rate of asthma in African ancestry found with 4 chromosomal regions**

“In the largest GWAS of asthma in African ancestry populations to date, we found strong evidence for association at four previously reported asthma loci whose discovery was driven largely by non-African populations, and we also identified two novel loci on chromosome 8 that may be specific to asthma risk in African ancestry populations,” said the study’s first author Michelle Daya, assistant professor in the division of Biomedical Informatics and Personalized Medicine at the CU School of Medicine.

“From this study, we can say chromosome 17q is important for the development of asthma not just in populations of European or Asian ancestry, but also those of African ancestry. This is a big step forward in untangling what is happening at this loci,” opined Kathleen Barnes,
the senior author on the study and director of the Colorado Center for Personalized Medicine at CU Anschutz.

*Devdiscourse, Feb. 20, 2019*

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**Study Explores Popular Foods and Heart Health Evidence**

“The current nutritional recommendations show a heart-healthy diet is high in fruits, vegetables, whole grains and nuts in moderation,” said Andrew Freeman, director of cardiovascular prevention and wellness at National Jewish Health [and assistant professor of medicine at CU School of Medicine] and the review’s lead author. “However, there are many food groups which can result in confusion for patients, including dairy, added sugar, coffee and alcohol.”

*Julesburg Advocate, Feb. 20, 2019*

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**Separating myths from realities regarding food allergies**

The most basic misunderstanding is the nature of food allergy symptoms, according to Kanao Otsu, an allergist and immunologist from National Jewish Health [and faculty affiliate with University of Colorado]. “Some think a food allergy is the stomachache or headache they get after eating certain foods,” she said. “But these are not an allergy.”

*Healio, Feb. 21, 2019*