For Immediate Release
Contact: Mark Couch, 303-724-5377, mark.couch@ucdenver.edu

Dan Theodorescu elected to the Institute of Medicine

AURORA, Colo. (Oct. 20, 2014) – Dan Theodorescu, MD, PhD, director of the University of Colorado Cancer Center, has been elected to the Institute of Medicine (IOM). Election to the IOM is one of the highest honors in health and medicine and recognizes individuals for their outstanding professional achievement and commitment to service.

“My election to the Institute of Medicine is humbling,” says Theodorescu. “To be recognized by IOM is a great honor and motivates me even more to find ways to treat this horrible disease.”

New IOM members are elected by current active members through a selective process that recognizes individuals who have made major contributions to the advancement of the medical sciences, health care, and public health.

Most recently, Theodorescu was senior author on a paper in the journal NATURE that identified Ral protein activation as a new target in the growth and spread of cancer and developed drug candidates to block its activation. This new class of drugs could have applications in lung, colon and pancreatic cancers.

Theodorescu, a professor of urology and pharmacology at the CU School of Medicine, is also a developer of the COXEN (CO eXpression ExtrapolatioN) bioinformatic principle of personalized therapy assignment in cancer. It is currently being tested in a national clinical trial through SWOG, a cancer research cooperative group, funded through the National Institutes of Health (www.clinicaltrials.gov, NCT02177695).

Richard D. Krugman, MD, dean of the CU School of Medicine and the University’s vice chancellor of health affairs, who was elected to the IOM in 2005, said Theodorescu’s election recognizes him for leadership and the high quality of his research.

“Dan is making a difference every day,” Krugman said. “Survival rates for those who are diagnosed with advanced cancer are significantly higher at CU Cancer Center compared with national averages and that is because of the excellent care and research provided by Dan and his team.”

James Hill, PhD, executive director of the University of Colorado Anschutz Health and Wellness Center, also is among those elected to IOM. Hill most recently co-authored State of Slim, a
fitness and nutrition plan focusing on small changes, implemented in phases that can be sustained for a lifetime.

**About University of Colorado Cancer Center**
Located on the Anschutz Medical Campus, the University of Colorado Cancer Center is Colorado’s only [National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center](https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/designated-cancer-centers), a distinction recognizing its outstanding contributions to research, clinical trials, prevention and cancer control. CU Cancer Center’s clinical partner University of Colorado Hospital is ranked 15th by US News and World Report for Cancer and the CU Cancer Center is member of the prestigious [National Comprehensive Cancer Network®](https://www.nccn.org/), an alliance of the nation’s leading cancer centers working to establish and deliver the gold standard in cancer clinical guidelines. CU Cancer Center is a [consortium](https://www.colorado.edu/cancer-center) of more than 400 researchers and physicians at three state universities and six institutions, all working toward one goal: Translating science into life. For more information visit [Coloradocancercenter.org](http://www.coloradocancercenter.org) and follow CU Cancer Center on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/cuchcancer) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/cuchcancer).

**About the University of Colorado School of Medicine**
Faculty at the University of Colorado School of Medicine work to advance science and improve care. These faculty members include physicians, educators and scientists at University of Colorado Health, Children’s Hospital Colorado, Denver Health, National Jewish Health, and the Denver Veterans Affairs Medical Center. The school is located on the [Anschutz Medical Campus](https://www.ucdenver.edu/), one of four campuses in the University of Colorado system. To learn more about the medical school’s care, education, research and community engagement, visit its [web site](https://www.ucdenver.edu/).