The Academy of Medical Educators was developed to build and sustain a cadre of outstanding faculty of educators, to encourage innovation and research in medical education and to recognize excellence in medical education at the University of Colorado. It is for this last reason that we are here this afternoon.

Late last year some 40 outstanding educators applied for entry into the Academy of Medical Educators. These applications were then reviewed by at least two external reviewers - nationally recognized educators around the country. The applications were also reviewed by a committee of internal reviewers composed of members of the Academy Executive committee, students, residents and fellows. Reviewers were asked to judge the applications based on specific criteria. Excellence needed to be demonstrated in direct teaching, as well as at least one other area of medical education - curriculum development, mentoring and advising, leadership or research and innovation. In addition, new members needed to demonstrate a clear commitment to the ongoing mission of the Academy.

This afternoon, we recognize the 20 individuals who were selected for entry into the Academy. They represent the best in medical education at the University of Colorado. As I call each of them up, I will briefly describe their accomplishments.

Marsha Anderson is an Associate Professor in Pediatric Infectious Diseases and has been at Children’s Hospital since she matched in the Pediatric Residency Program in 1991. Her passion for medical education lies in the areas of direct teaching and curriculum development. Her contributions extend from serving as a highly valued medical student block director to CHA/PA, to Associate Program Director of the nationally recognized pediatric residency program to direct teaching of fellows and practicing physicians.

Associate Professor of Medicine, Dennis Boyle, luckily failed at improv acting and became a physician instead. Following a successful private practice in Wheat Ridge of twenty years, he returned to his love of
teaching. A master of communication, his time is now split between being a rheumatologist at Denver Health (complete with bedside teaching), serving as the Associate Director of the Foundations of Doctoring Communications Program and working at COPIC (Colorado Physicians Insurance Program) to educate community physicians to be effective communicators. Dennis was a member of the initial Executive Committee and has already contributed substantially to the Academy’s missions through an ongoing faculty development series on effective public speaking, among other things.

Suzanne Brandenburg is Director of the Internal Medicine Residency Training Program for the SOM. Suzanne’s stint as an education leader at the University began when she became a Chief Medical Resident. From that time on she has been a leader in residency education, initially in primary care and now the residency program as a whole. Suzanne is widely recognized as an outstanding teacher, having won several teaching awards. Within the residency program, she has demonstrated excellence in administration and leadership, but more importantly, a commitment to continuous educational improvement and innovation at the GME level.

Professor John (JJ) Cohen has been teaching immunology for over 30 years. From early in his career, he recognized the importance of learning objectives and keeping the student’s needs central in the classroom. A CU President’s Teaching Scholar, he continues his interest in innovative instructional methodologies and the neurobiology of learning. I venture to guess that he is by a significant margin the most highly awarded teacher in the School of Medicine. In 1989, he founded the CU Mini Med School where he uses his skill at making difficult topics understandable to audiences of varying backgrounds. He has already contributed substantively to the Academy through a highly rated series of workshops aimed at improving all of our lecturing and presentation skills.

Professor of Family Medicine, Dr. Colleen Conry, has a deep interest in teaching and leading. She has been a resident preceptor and teacher of medical students for > 20 years. Additionally, she has served in multiple educational leadership positions including Residency Program Director, a member of the Residency Assistance Program and Director of Graduate
Medical Education. She has created competency-based curricula and co-authored the AAFP Residency Assistant Program’s Criteria for Excellence. She is a nationally and internationally recognized figure in medical education, serving on the Commission on Education and the American Academy of Family Physicians as well as the National Institute of Program Director Development.

Mark Earnest, an Associate Professor in Medicine, believes in, teaches and lives the skills of life-long learning. Teaching in the classroom, inpatient service and in the outpatient clinic setting, he demonstrates a clear and consist commitment to excellence. Mark has been a leader and visionary in curriculum development and educational innovation where he has spearheaded efforts to build the Medicine and Society thread and created the highly successful LEADS program. He now turns his considerable skills to the important area of Interprofessional education, where he currently directs efforts to build longitudinal curricula in team-based and interprofessional care.

David Gaspar is an Associate Professor in Family Medicine. He believes in patient-centered medical care and medical education. Dave is a faculty member in the Department of Family Medicine and the Director of the Rural and Community Care Clerkship. A didactic and clinical instructor at the University and in the Rose Residency programs, he demonstrates excellence in direct teaching wherever he goes. He has served as mentor to over 200 medical students in the 10 years he has been at the University. He is a leader in curriculum innovation and a role model to faculty who aspire to be effective, thoughtful and skilled leaders in medical education.

Wendy Madigosky is an Assistant Professor in Family Medicine and leads the Foundations of Doctoring Program and the Hidden Curriculum in the School of Medicine. Her love of integrating pivotal concepts with educational experiences has led to innovations in curriculum and learner assessment in the Foundations curriculum, as well as development of integrated curriculum and leadership in the areas of patient safety, quality improvement, professionalism and self-reflection. She works on several national curriculum committees in these important areas, including the Institute for Healthcare Improvement.
Robin Michaels is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Cell and Developmental Biology, Director of the DEMS Block and former Director of the Integrated Curriculum Course where she has worked diligently to create high yield basic science content and integrate it throughout the medical student curriculum. Her leadership during the curriculum reform process led to her appointment as Director of the Essentials Core Curriculum and now the Assistant Dean of the Essentials Core Curriculum. Passionate about teaching medical students, this past year Robin received the University of Colorado School of Medicine Excellence in Teaching Award from the Class of 2011 as the Most Caring and Committed Teacher and from the Class of 2012 as the Most Inspiring Professor.

Steven Ojemann is an Associate Professor of Neurosurgery in the SOM. His principal clinical work is done in Deep Brain Stimulation, an area for which he is nationally renowned. He is a lecturer and trainer of other physicians, helping to further the understanding of this specialized area of medicine. Education and mentoring of residents and medical students comprise the bulk of his teaching commitment. Dr. Ojemann is co-director of the Nervous System Block and consistently receives outstanding evaluations from his students and other faculty involved in his courses as an educational leader, innovator of curriculum and teacher. He has won multiple teaching awards, including the prestigious President’s Excellence in Teaching Award.

Mary Jane Rapport is a Professor in the Physical Therapy Program and Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Department of Pediatrics. Mary Jane began her doctoral studies in special education and educational leadership culminating in a PhD. Besides being a teacher, mentor and advisor, she led the redesign of the transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy Program and helped with the curricular design and development of the entire Doctor of Physical Therapy curriculum, now ranked among the top PT programs in the nation. Last but not least, she has demonstrated a true and persistent commitment to educational scholarship with over 20 peer-reviewed publications in education-related topics, multiple books and chapters, and over 80 conference and workshop presentations.
Carol Rumack is Professor of Radiology and Pediatrics and Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education. She is also the Women’s Liaison for the AAMC and Director of the Women in Medicine Office at the University. As Director of GME she oversees and ensures excellence in all of our GME programs. She is a nationally and internationally recognized educational leader. However, Carol’s greatest passion and obvious strength is mentoring. She advises and mentors huge numbers of residents, fellows and faculty. Carol is also the senior author of an upcoming textbook on Diagnostic Ultrasound.

Matthew Taylor is Associate Professor of Medicine in the SOM, Director of Adult Clinical Genetics and co-director of the Molecules to Medicine block. The first part of his teaching career was mostly small group and bedside teaching as a chief medical resident. His path has now taken a turn and he delivers a mix of basic and clinical science material to over hundreds of medical students, graduate students and faculty each year, in addition to teaching in the clinic and hospital. His involvement in curriculum and course development, as well as educational administration, has helped to build and refine the Molecules to Medicine block. He recently developed and directed the MSTP transition to clinical studies program to help these students transition from the laboratory back to the clinical setting.

Stephen Wolf is an Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at the University, attending staff physician in EM at Denver Health and Assistant Dean for Advanced Studies at the University. As such, he teaches a variety of learners at the bedside – military personnel, physician assistant students, dental and medical students, residents. As the former Program Director of the Denver Health Residency in Emergency Medicine, he was responsible for the oversight and coordination of the residency’s didactic curriculum and helped lead that program to its reputation as one of the premier EM residency programs in the country. As Assistant Dean of Advanced Studies, Dr. Wolf is spearheading curriculum reform in the 4th year of medical school- helping to define what is core and elective, and what our expectations should be for a students during this final year.
Not present but equally outstanding

- Sonya Erickson, Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Director, Women’s health Track and Co-Director of the Life Cycle Block
- Robert Feinstein, Professor of Psychiatry, Vice Chair for Education and recent Senior Associate Dean for Education SOM
- Anita Glicken, Professor of Pediatrics, Associate Dean, SOM Physician Assistant Studies and Director of the CHA/PA program
- Celia Kaye, Professor of Pediatrics, Current and former Senior Associate Dean for Education, and Medical Director of the CHAPA Program
- Tod Sloan, Professor of Anesthesiology
- Joel Yager, Professor of Psychiatry
Associate Professor in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Sonya Erickson, serves as Clinical Co-Director for the Life Cycle Block here at the University and founder and director of the Women’s Health Track. On the national scene, she has served as Chair of the Undergraduate Medical Education Committee for the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics. Dr. Erickson has helped write seven educational books, monographs and pamphlets, including the cornerstone of the OB/GYN clerkship curriculum that is used by over 90% of the clerkships in the US.

Anita Duhl Glicken, our only Master of Social Work inductee, began in the children’s hospital system over 30 years ago. At that time, she realized that the system needed to teach providers the importance of communication. Early in her career, she worked to translate and develop ways of sharing knowledge and skills from clinical social work to medical education and into practice. She gives faculty development workshops nationally and internationally, including her work with the Walter Sisulu University in South Africa where the goal is to increase the capacity of mid level providers in South Africa.

Professor and PhD, Celia I. Kaye, is a geneticist, a pediatrician and a researcher. Currently serving as Medical Director of CHAPP and Associate Dean of Integrated Curriculum, she is a soft spoken teacher, mentor, supervisor of medical students, residents, PhD students, interdisciplinary health professional students and teacher of multidisciplinary medical faculty. Throughout her rich career, she believes in listening twice before speaking once.

Tod B. Sloan is Professor of Anesthesiology in the SOM. His classroom is the operating room and his students are anesthesiology students, fellows medical students, CRNAs and student CRNAs. He also presents regularly at grand rounds at the University and other local institutions, and has presented and lectured at many, many venues around the US and internationally – American Society of Neurophysiological Monitoring, Beth-Israel Medical Center, Northwestern University, University of Texas, Alabama Society of Anesthesiologists, Indiana State Society of Anesthesiology, Berlin, Capetown, London, Montreal, Moscow. Dr. Sloan currently sits on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Neurosurgical
Joel Yager has been an educator his entire professional life. Currently he is Professor of Psychiatry at the University. He is also Professor Emeritus, Dept of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences at Univ of California at Los Angeles and Professor Emeritus, Dept of Psychiatry, Univ of New Mexico. His students have been medical students, resident, fellows and mental health professionals including psychologists, nurses and social workers. Dr. Yager focuses on training his students to be compassionate and humanistic, dedicated to their patients, highly educated and knowledgeable, discerning and curious consumers of medical knowledge. He has been pleased to train other leaders and administrators over his rewarding and successful career. Many of his professional associations surround the topic of eating disorders. He has served as chair of the Council of Medical Education and Career Development of the American Psychiatric Association.