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**Notes from the Editor**

A big thank you to Newsletter readers for taking time to respond to our online survey. Nearly 500 responses have been collected, and we'll be telling you about the findings in the weeks to come. It's the end of this first survey, but just the start of this Web site's evolution.

As always, I invite you to send in story ideas, suggestions, comments and criticism. Send feedback to [newsletter@cu.edu](mailto:newsletter@cu.edu). If you have a news item you'd like to share with the CU community, please send it to [Jay.Dedrick@cu.edu](mailto:Jay.Dedrick@cu.edu).

Finally, a reminder that the CU Faculty and Staff Newsletter will not publish Dec. 23 and 30. Submissions for the Jan. 6 issue must be received by Tuesday, Dec. 22.

# Hank Brown, CU president emeritus, announces retirement from university

*He'll continue to teach fall class that has students travel to Washington D.C.*

University of Colorado at Boulder political science professor and CU President Emeritus Hank Brown will retire on Dec. 31, but plans to continue teaching a class each fall that takes students to Washington, D.C.

Brown served as president of the University of Colorado from 2005 to 2008. He then was named to the Quigg and Virginia S. Newton Endowed Chair in Leadership at CU-Boulder and was an adjunct professor in the CU Law School.

"For Nan and me, Boulder really is a second home," Brown said. "I was here when I was an undergraduate for four years, in graduate school for a year and then three years in law school. It's a place that keeps drawing you back. It has some of the most pleasant memories of my life. It was where Nan and I met and fell in love and where our twins were born."

Being president of CU was a very fulfilling experience, Brown said. "CU has always been a great institution and it was just a process of letting people know that."

Just last month, Brown returned from a three-day trip to Washington with 31 CU students from the Boulder and Colorado Springs campuses as part of his "Icons of the American Republic" class, the course he intends to continue teaching. The class introduces students to the founding period of the United States through the events, concepts and individuals depicted in art exhibited in the U.S. Capitol.

Brown's future plans also include continuing to serve as chair of the Daniels Fund, on the executive committee of the National Western Stock Show and on several corporate boards.

Born in Denver, Brown was the first student body president of the Boulder campus to later become president of the university. He played football as a freshman but later traded his football scholarship for academic and wrestling scholarships when his football career fell short. He graduated from CU-Boulder with a bachelor's degree in accounting in 1961 and earned a law degree in 1969. He also earned a master's degree in law from George Washington University.



He served in the U.S. Navy from 1962 to 1966 as an aviator; he was decorated for his combat service in Vietnam. He served in the Colorado Senate from 1972 to 1976, the U.S. House of Representatives from 1981 to 1991 and the U.S. Senate from 1991 to 1997. Brown was president of the University of Northern Colorado from 1998 to 2002 and president of the Daniels Fund from 2002 to 2005.

Working with students has been extremely rewarding, he said. When asked which university position he enjoyed more, being an administrator or being a professor, Brown laughed heartily before responding. "It was a lot more fun being a professor," he said.



Brown served in the U.S. Navy from 1962 to 1966 as an aviator; he was decorated for his combat service in Vietnam.

# Faculty Council: Proposed early retirement incentive could be greater

## *Resolution promotes three-year cap on salary payout rather than two-year plan*

The Faculty Council likes the idea of a proposed early retirement incentive, but says the offer would be a bigger success with a greater financial benefit.

The council on Thursday unanimously passed a resolution initiated by the council's budget committee, a response to a proposed early retirement incentive for tenured faculty. E. Jill Pollock, senior associate vice president and chief human resources officer, presented her review of the university's early retirement programs at last month's Faculty Council meeting.

"We were very pleased with the general tone of what they were trying to do," said Mark Malone, chair of the budget committee. "This (resolution) is just a recommendation to the people working on this."

Malone said the committee recommended a "richer tool" than the proposed offer of two years' base salary to be paid over five years after a retirement date agreed upon by the faculty member and university administration. Though the amount paid ultimately would depend on what each campus can afford, the resolution suggests the potential payout be as high as three years' salary to be paid over five years.

Council chair John McDowell told the council he would bring the resolution to university administration. Also at Thursday's meeting at 1800 Grant St., Denver, the council again discussed input on the presidential search process, specifically composition of the search committee. The Board of Regents is gathering comments on the topic. With such groups as the regents, students and staff members each seeking as many as four members on a future search committee, McDowell noted that such a committee could wind up as large as 23 members. R L Widmann, immediate past chair of the Faculty Council, has noted that any search committee larger than the 16-member group convened for the most recent search would be unwieldy. Five of those 16 were faculty members.

Widmann said by phone it would be a mistake for the Board of Regents to insist on having four members on the presidential search committee. Roxanne Byrne, vice chair of the Faculty Council, said faculty members should comprise at least half the search committee; McDowell will take the recommendation to the regents' laws and policies committee next month.

In other business, the Faculty Council:

- o Gave unanimous approval to proposed changes that clarify the university's administrative policy statement regarding intercampus transfer of students among campuses.
- o Approved an administrative policy statement on conflict of interest and commitment. One member, Bruce Neumann, voted against the motion from the **Educational Policy and University Standards committee**, stating that "it seems like the university is intruding into people's right to privacy."
- o Heard an update on the Task Force on Efficiency from Dan Montez, director of the Office of Policy and Efficiency. He spoke to the council about the start of a new round of policy reviews by the task force. The first phase was successful in streamlining policies and enabling more electronic processes that reduce paperwork — objectives that he called "low-hanging fruit." "It's time to put the ladder up the tree and see what else we can find," Montez said. The task force seeks suggestions from employees throughout the system; feedback may be provided by going to [this link](#).

# Tuition benefit all in the family at UCCS

## *Program winning fans during two-year test*

A tuition benefit extended to immediate family members of employees at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs has proven a hit, making it likely that the Board of Regents will eventually consider whether to broaden the program beyond its pilot basis.

In 2008-2009, the first year of the two-year pilot program, 14 dependents took advantage of the benefit for 108 credit hours. This year, 20 dependents are enrolled for 122 credits, with more likely to be added in the spring.

The tuition benefit is meant to help the university in recruiting and retaining faculty and staff. Eligible participants must have been a permanent employee for at least a year. It allows the employee to transfer his or her unused tuition assistance, maximum nine credits, to an immediate family member for undergraduate work.

"As an employee, it is a very nice benefit to have for your children if they decide to come to a CU campus," said Martin Wood, vice chancellor for university advancement and chief operating officer at UCCS. As a sophomore studying criminal justice, his daughter Michelle is able to take advantage of the benefit.

Though his daughter would have been able to attend school even without the benefit, Wood said the tuition offered is an influential, if not determining factor for many families. "Over the course of a year, getting nine hours of tuition picked up is a pretty significant number." He added that continuing the benefit would result in "a positive reason for people to consider employment at the university if they have a son or daughter who would like to come here."

Steve Ellis, executive director of student systems, was involved in establishing and managing the program, and expects the Board of Regents to consider expanding the benefit once information on the two-year pilot program is assembled next year.

Though Ellis said the process for approving, reviewing and tracking students who use the benefit has made for a heavier workload for staff, "the good will and benefit it has provided to our dependents and families far outweighs the work." He added, "A number of family members may not have taken courses except for this program."

For more on the tuition benefit at UCCS, [click here](#).



Nineteen years ago, Jason Katzman was a stock clerk at the CU Book Store. The fit was so good, he continued to work there, and has risen in the ranks to become assistant director for academic resource support, overseeing the textbook, general book, supply and computer departments.

He's responsible for making sure students can find the textbooks they need before spring and fall semester classes begin. As a manager, he also provides his staff with direction when it comes to buying other products, controlling inventory levels and dealing with customers.

Away from the store, Katzman has an 11-month-old son who keeps him busy. One night a week, however, he sneaks away for a good poker game with friends.

### **How do you determine what to stock at the bookstore?**

In textbooks, we have a huge inventory during fall and spring rush, but we work very hard to minimize that inventory at other times. This is one of the principle reasons for our success. We have buyers for textbooks, insignia, supplies and technology, and computers. Buying is part science and part art, which kind of means we make a lot of educated guesses. However, I've worked with bad buyers and good buyers and we're fortunate in that we have a lot of good buyers. Our competitors have a lot to do with what we stock ... we try very hard to look at both the good and the bad of it and make ourselves better in every way we can.

We sell a lot of insignia stuff. We sell a lot of the basics — hooded sweatshirts, for example. We also sell a lot of Apple computers.

(Right now) we're busy getting ready for spring rush.

### **Reports say students are buying fewer textbooks. Have you noticed a decline and what do you do to help students with the high costs of some texts?**

I think it's accurate to say that students are purchasing fewer textbooks. Whether that's happening because of cost or because the nature of education is shifting slowly away from the book is where the argument is. I think the perception is clearly that the cost-to-value proposition for textbooks is wildly out of whack.

The main thing we do to help students is try very hard to offer as many used textbooks as possible. Doing so involves consistently scouring the market and communicating with the faculty to get book information in a timely manner. I regard our store as one of the more innovative in the country. We're constantly trying new things. We offered e-books very early in their evolution and although we haven't discovered a huge market for

them, we have a very good idea of what needs to happen for them to succeed. We'll also be piloting a rental program soon.

**Have online book sellers hurt your bottom line?**

One thing people don't seem to understand about the differences between the online world and brick-and-mortar businesses is that the latter tend to have a higher cost of doing business. Everything, including textbooks, is cheaper online. So, yes, online textbook vendors like Amazon and Half.com have hurt our business. We sell fewer textbooks to CU students, but continue to be hopeful that whatever increased price there is gets made up for with considerable convenience.

**What's the craziest thing you've ever stocked at the store?**

When I was the general book buyer, I brought in a book called, "The 50 Greatest College Drinking Games," or something like that. Not surprisingly, it sold like crazy. It didn't take long for somebody to be offended and I found myself in the vice chancellor's office answering some questions. Frankly, I was unapologetic about the entire thing because I felt as though, as a retailer, it was simply my job to offer up interesting products and it was the consumer's decision whether or not they wanted to buy them. The vice chancellor presented his opinion and we had a pretty good argument about it. Even though I disagreed with the decision at the time, we stopped carrying the book. However, I learned a lot from the conversation and that vice chancellor and I remained friendly ever since simply because we had an honest exchange and were able to appreciate each other's opinion, even though we disagreed.

The irony of that story is that now it is my job to make sure that everyone is sensitive about selling items that might have the potential to cause the store headaches.

**What do you like most about your job, and if you could change one thing, what would it be?**

I like the variety in my job. There's always something new going on. If there was one thing I could change, it would probably be to reduce the number of meetings. It seems that the higher you get on the proverbial administrative food chain, the more meetings you have to attend. I'm starting to appreciate the amount of work we get done in them now, but it's not my favorite thing. That being said, a lot of those meetings have produced some impressive collaboration that's important to the overall mission of the university and communication between the store and other departments.



# People

## Veteran financial aid director to take post at UCCS



Bode

**Robert Bode** will direct the office of financial aid, student employment and scholarships at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. The current financial aid director for Metropolitan State University, St. Paul, Minn., will begin work at UCCS in January.

"Robert Bode has vast experience in helping students reach higher by assisting them with their financial needs," said Chancellor Pamela Shockley-Zalabak, who announced the appointment Nov. 19. "Students will benefit from his knowledge and caring approach."

Starting in 2004, Bode led the offices of student financial aid and gateway student services at Metropolitan State, a 9,000-student university. Previously, he was associate director of financial aid for law and graduate programs at the University of St. Thomas and assistant director of financial aid at Northwestern College, both in St. Paul.

"The University of Colorado at Colorado Springs provides many outstanding benefits for students, and we will continue to work together to reduce the burden of paying for a college education," Bode said. He succeeds Lee Ingalls Noble, who retired in October following a 30-year career at the university.

In Minneapolis, Bode is active in adoption issues and is a former board member and treasurer of the MICAH Fund, a nonprofit organization that promotes the adoption of African-American children. He is president-elect of the Minnesota Association of Financial Aid Advisors.

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## UCD finance and administration has interim vice chancellor



Parker

**Jeffrey D. Parker** has been chosen interim vice chancellor of finance and administration at the University of Colorado Denver. Parker follows Teresa Berryman, who retired in October.

Parker began his career with the University of Colorado in 1999 as controller for what was then named the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. In 2002, he was promoted to assistant vice chancellor for finance and controller. In 2005, after consolidation of the Health Sciences Center with the University of Colorado Denver campus, he was promoted to associate vice chancellor of finance and administration.



## Associate professor awarded funding for folk-healing project



Bull

**Sheana Bull**, an associate professor of community and behavioral health at the Colorado School of Public Health, recently was awarded pilot project funding for a collaborative effort to integrate traditional Hispanic folk healing, or curanderismo, with primary care.

The funding came from the Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute's community engagement program. Bull and her team — Rick Padilla of the Denver Health and Hospital Authority and Charlene Ortiz of the Colorado School of Public Health — will partner with Eliseo Torres, vice president for Student Affairs, University of New Mexico; Arturo Ornelas Lizardi, director of El Centro de Desarrollo Humano, Cuernavaca, Mexico; and Sofia Chavez-Frederick, Estara Integrative Programs, Lakewood.

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## Fundraising leader to boost Colorado Initiative for Molecular Biology



Wright

**Jessica Wright** will lead efforts to generate private support for the Colorado Initiative for Molecular Biology (CIMB), the University of Colorado Foundation announced last week. For two years, Wright has led fundraising efforts for the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences on the Boulder campus, where she has restructured the college's team fundraising approach, reconnected the college and departments with key alumni, and managed critical donor relationships resulting in multimillion-dollar gifts. A primary responsibility for Wright will be fundraising for the 257,000-square-foot Biotechnology Building, begun in September and slated for completion in fall 2011.

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## Child health expert honored



Niermeyer

**Susan Niermeyer, M.D.**, a professor of pediatrics in neonatology, recently was recognized for her contributions to international child health by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). The E.H. Christopherson Lectureship on International Child Health honored her with an award of the same name.

Niermeyer practices and teaches clinical neonatology at The Children's Hospital, University of Colorado Hospital and community hospital nurseries in the Denver area. Her areas of emphasis include neonatal resuscitation and cardiopulmonary physiology in infancy. She is a former co-chair of the AAP neonatal resuscitation program steering committee and is editor of "Helping Babies Breathe," the AAP program for neonatal resuscitation in the developing world. Niermeyer's research focuses on adaptation, particularly cardiopulmonary adaptation and low birth weight at high altitude.

*Want to suggest a colleague — or yourself — for People? Please e-mail information to [Jay.Dedrick@cu.edu](mailto:Jay.Dedrick@cu.edu)*

## Did you know...

Career-based training often can be costly and time-consuming for employees. The University of Colorado provides a large selection of free online courses — available around the clock — that can enhance skills in many relevant areas.

Employees may now access three new KnowledgeCenters on SkillPort:

- Java KnowledgeCenter
- Management KnowledgeCenter
- Oracle KnowledgeCenter

Each portal contains a comprehensive array of learning material, including learning "road maps," selected books, course spotlights, information on featured topics and other related resources. KnowledgeCenters are frequently updated by SkillSoft to ensure relevant content.

Try it out: Go to the shortcuts menu on SkillPort, click on KnowledgeCenter, then click "GO" next to the topic you wish to explore.

Questions? Please contact Employee Learning and Development at [system.training@cu.edu](mailto:system.training@cu.edu).

## **News from the CU system - CU-Boulder**

### **CU-Boulder contingent makes trek to Copenhagen climate conference**

A contingent from the University of Colorado at Boulder is attending the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which began Monday, Dec. 7, in Copenhagen and continues through Dec. 18.

Known as the 15th Conference of the Parties, or COP 15, the international climate conference includes representatives of 192 countries. The U.N. is seeking an agreement on reductions of greenhouse gas emissions that will either extend or replace the 1997 Kyoto Protocol in order to reduce global temperature increases believed by scientists to be climbing as a result of greenhouse gas emissions.

Events will include a presentation by Waleed Abdalati, director of CU-Boulder's Earth Science and Observation Center at the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES), on recent changes in polar ice cover and interactions between polar ice and the rest of Earth's climate system. Abdalati, also an associate professor in the geography department, will present the latest observations and research findings on Arctic sea ice and the rapidly changing Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets.

CU-Boulder also has been admitted as an observer organization under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, entitling the university to nominate representatives to observe the sessions of the conference and the Kyoto Protocol, including COP 15.

CU-Boulder observers at the Copenhagen conference include Marilyn Averill, an attorney who is a doctoral student in the environmental studies department and the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research, and Ben Hale, assistant professor of the environmental studies department. Both are members of CU-Boulder's Center for Science and Technology Policy Research, part of CIRES.

The University of Colorado Law School has three observers at the Copenhagen conference: Associate Professor William Boyd, Senior Research Fellow Kevin Doran and Research Fellow Julie Teel. All are with the school's Center for Energy and Environmental Security.

Also, Richard Armstrong of CIRES and the National Snow and Ice Data Center is a member of a task force writing a document on the status of the planet's snow and ice resources, which will be presented by Al Gore and Norway Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Stoere at the conference.

Averill and Jim White, director of the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research, coordinated the credentialing process for CU-Boulder's designated observers at the event.

## **UCCS**

### **University to program downtown art gallery**

The University of Colorado at Colorado Springs will begin its artistic management of the art gallery space at 121 N. Tejon in the Plaza of the Rockies building. UCCS — along with representatives of Norwood Development Group and the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center — made the announcement Nov. 20.

The space currently known as the FAC Modern will be reborn as the UCCS Gallery of Contemporary Art 121, or GOCA 121, and will continue to build on the long tradition of contemporary art exhibits at UCCS. Since

1981, UCCS has operated the Gallery of Contemporary Art in the Science Building at UCCS.

"Our goal was to provide a space downtown for the arts," said Chris Jenkins, president of Nor'wood. "The presence of UCCS in downtown with an arts and culture focus builds on downtown's momentum."

UCCS Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak thanked Nor'wood for providing the university the opportunity to showcase the work of regional, national and international artists in an additional venue made available to the university without charge. GOCA 121 will be situated between two other downtown artistic centers, Nosh and the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region (COPPeR).

"We believe the strength of the downtown is vital to our community's future," Shockley-Zalabak said. "By bringing art to the area, we are contributing to the overall health of downtown."

The gallery space is currently operated by the Fine Arts Center of Colorado Springs and called FAC Modern. Its final exhibition closed Nov. 13; UCCS will open its first exhibit Feb. 5. Details of the exhibit will be announced later.

The Gallery of Contemporary Art recently launched a new public art program, "AWOL: Art Without Limits," to create new venues for art through site-specific installations and nontraditional exhibit spaces such as downtown parking garages and beneath the Colorado Avenue bridge. Caitlin Green, interim director of the gallery, said the new venue will provide an opportunity to reach new audiences and develop a forum for critical discourse on contemporary art.

For more information on the Gallery of Contemporary Art, visit <http://www.galleryuccs.org/>

## UC Denver

### **Gift from Wal-Mart will help small Colorado communities go green**

Colorado's small communities are going green, thanks to the Colorado Municipal League (CML) and a gift from the Wal-Mart Foundation.

The University of Colorado Denver plans to expand a community outreach program to help Colorado's smaller towns and cities conduct urban infrastructure reviews and greenhouse gas evaluations, followed by the development of customized action plans to reduce their carbon footprints. The \$30,000 Wal-Mart gift will help offset the costs of conducting the reviews in Colorado communities with populations of 35,000 and lower. The Colorado Municipal League is helping to connect these communities with UC Denver.

"Sustainable energy and infrastructure planning can help save money, protect the environment, and build vibrant communities across Colorado," said Anu Ramaswami, Ph.D., professor of environmental and sustainability engineering and director of the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) and [Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship \(IGERT\) programs on Sustainable Urban Infrastructure](#) at UC Denver. "It is often difficult for a community to know how to get started on developing a sustainability plan; this grant is helping us to conduct outreach so we can help Colorado communities become leaders in sustainability."

The outreach program offers carbon footprint measurement and sustainable energy benchmarks for individual communities, along with future scenario models and customized sustainable infrastructure action matrices. The carbon footprint baseline helps measure and benchmark how much energy is consumed in various essential sectors such as buildings, industry, transportation, waste management, water treatment, food production and infrastructure materials. The benchmarks allow communities to track their progress in energy efficiency, use of

renewable and conservation, while the scenario models allow communities to envision their future with and without sustainable actions. The action matrixes give a variety of options for each community to consider, taking into account public participation, cost, long-term monetary savings, and long-term energy savings.

"UC Denver is pleased to partner across private industry, government and the nonprofit arena to support Colorado's small and rural communities as they work to create more sustainable infrastructures for their citizens," said UC Denver's Chancellor M. Roy Wilson.

The Wal-Mart Foundation gift, facilitated by the University of Colorado Foundation, is the first for a planned collaborative center at UC Denver that will focus on research, teaching and outreach programs with a spotlight on sustainability and sustainable infrastructure development. UC Denver's [Center for Sustainable Infrastructure Systems](#) will be anchored by UC Denver's College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and will partner with the School of Public Affairs, joining engineers who design innovative technologies with experts who look at implementation and public policy solutions. UC Denver's other schools and colleges likely will join the collaboration as the center grows.

Towns and cities in Colorado that are scheduled to work with UC Denver's sustainable infrastructure experts include Golden, Dillon, Fowler, Eagle and Steamboat Springs/Routt County. This work builds upon UC Denver's research and outreach in sustainable urban infrastructure conducted over the last five years in partnership with such cities as Denver, Broomfield, Arvada, Aurora, Central City and Durango.

"Wal-Mart is very proud to be partnering with the Colorado Municipal League, UC Denver and these towns," said Joshua Phair, senior manager of public affairs and government relations for Wal-Mart Stores Inc. "Our hope is that this program brings cutting-edge knowledge to all corners of the state to help make Colorado's communities more sustainable."

The innovative community outreach program at UC Denver was initially launched in 2005 through a [GAANN](#) award from the U.S. Department of Education. The initial award to UC Denver's College of Engineering was used to foster innovative research and curriculum to address sustainable urban infrastructure in U.S. cities — recognized as an area of national need. That initial grant was followed by a \$3.2 million [IGERT](#) grant from the National Science Foundation. The resulting work done by UC Denver's sustainable infrastructure research team is estimated to have directly affected more than 1 million people across the state.

The Center for Sustainable Infrastructure Systems at UC Denver will focus on five major areas of research and service related to sustainability:

- Measuring sustainability baselines via tools developed by UC Denver's faculty/researchers and students (carbon footprints, greenhouse gas emissions, etc.);
- Developing innovative technologies and designs for sustainable infrastructure systems;
- Coordinating strategic planning and policy for creating and implementing sustainable infrastructure systems in cities;
- Designing public participation and engagement processes; and
- Assessing and implementing outcomes of urban sustainability projects.

For more information about the upcoming Center for Sustainable Infrastructure Systems, please visit [www.cudenver.edu/IGERT](http://www.cudenver.edu/IGERT).

# Anschutz Medical Campus

## School of Pharmacy researcher receives funding from Michael J. Fox Foundation

The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research recently announced \$1.5 million in total awards to six research teams, including an associate professor from University of Colorado Denver's School of Pharmacy, who are working to develop potentially disease-modifying therapies for Parkinson's disease (PD). The funding was awarded under the Novel Approaches to Drug Discovery for Parkinson's disease program made possible by funding from Elan Corporation, a neuroscience-based biotechnology company.

"Current therapeutic approaches to treat PD are associated with serious adverse effects and fail to provide long-term control of this relentlessly progressive disease," said Manisha Patel, Ph.D., an associate professor at the School of Pharmacy, and recipient of \$300,000 of the \$1.5 million awarded. "There is an urgent need for novel classes of therapeutic agents for the treatment of PD. Neuroprotective catalytic antioxidant compounds that are orally active and capable of penetrating the brain hold tremendous therapeutic potential for the treatment of PD."

Patel's laboratory has been involved in the development of catalytic antioxidants for the treatment of neuronal disorders for more than a decade. If the project is successful, potential drug candidates can be further developed by Elan for treatment of Parkinson's.



Photo courtesy of Isabella Muturi Sauve  
Manisha Patel, Ph.D.

Awardees under Novel Approaches, a program that is an important component of the foundation's strategy of providing resources to underfunded areas of the drug development pipeline, include both academic and industry scientists. Of the six awardees, four teams including Patel are developing technologies to prevent the degeneration of dopaminergic neurons, the main type of cell affected in Parkinson's, by focusing on the reduction of oxidative stress and the inhibition of a protein associated with cell death. The remaining two will target the protein alpha-synuclein, whose clumping is a hallmark of Parkinson's pathology.

This is the second time in 2009 that the Michael J. Fox Foundation has provided funding to UC Denver researchers. Curt Freed, M.D., received a grant in August to further investigate his discovery that a drug called phenylbutyrate can prevent brain deterioration in animal models of Parkinson's by turning on a protective gene.

## Tech Transfer

### Soligenix options CU vaccine technology

[Soligenix Inc.](#) recently announced that it has formed a consortium to develop thermostable technology to advance its RiVax and other rapidly acting vaccines.

Soligenix received a \$9.4 million grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), a division of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), to support this work. As part of the initiative, Soligenix has executed an option agreement with the University of Colorado covering novel technology to develop vaccines



that can maintain stability at elevated temperatures. This new technology will form the cornerstone of the company's research and development effort, which will involve the development of formulation and manufacturing processes for vaccines, including RiVax, that are stable at elevated temperatures.

"Each of our academic and industry consortium members brings impressive expertise to our vaccine stabilization program," said Dr. Robert N. Brey, Ph.D., chief scientific officer of Soligenix. "This association has the potential to address the practical issue of long-term stability in stockpiled biodefense vaccines, using a technology basis that can ultimately be applied to other commercial vaccine products."

"Our progress with RiVax has been notable, and this grant award further validates the previous work and merits of our biodefense program," stated Christopher J. Schaber, Ph.D., president and CEO of Soligenix. "We look forward to working with our outstanding partners in this consortium to develop thermally stable biodefense vaccines to address two high-priority biothreats."

**University of Colorado  
Faculty and Staff Newsletter**

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