

## **CU hospital receives major grant**

AURORA — A nationwide effort to reduce the time it takes for laboratory discoveries to become treatments for patients has resulted in a \$76 million, five-year grant to the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center.

The award from the National Institutes of Health is the largest biomedical research and training award in the state's history.

At a press conference this morning, school officials said the money will be used to create an unprecedented state-wide network of research, healthcare, and community facilities.

The effort will be coordinated by a newly created organization called the Colorado Clinical And Translational Science Institute.

The CCTSI will combine and coordinate the efforts of research scientists, health care providers, and representatives of five hospitals, six health care professional schools and 12 community health organizations.

"We're going to have the right scientist doing the right research on the diseases that are important to the people of Colorado," said doctor Dr. Ronald Sokol, who will direct the organization.

"We plan to convert discoveries into treatment, prevention, lifestyle changes and education," he said.

UC Denver is one of 14 academic health centers in 11 states which will receive \$533 million from NIH over the next five years.

The 14 academic health centers join 24 others announced in 2006 and 2007 that have received NIH's Clinical and Transitional Science Awards.

The 2008 CTSA grants expand state representation and the consortium to Alabama, Colorado, Indiana, Massachusetts, and Utah.

"With more than half of NIH's funding allocated for basic research, the CTSA consortium is perfectly poised to help move discoveries in the laboratory to improve patient care," said NIH director Elias Zerhouni.

UC Denver Chancellor M. Roy Wilson said the award is unique.

"For us at the University of Colorado Denver, this award is a special one, not only for its size and relative rarity," said Wilson. "For us this award is a special acknowledgment of what we strive to do everyday- using the unique gifts our University has to offer to improve the lives of our community both locally and globally."