

The Problem: Physician Shortage

There is a shortage of physicians in this country that could lead to a crisis in health care. By 2025, the Association of American Medical Colleges estimates that we will face a deficit of nearly 160,000 physicians. Here in Colorado 14 of 64 counties have one or fewer full-time doctors.

Physician shortages reduce access to health care, reduce quality and drive up overall costs. As our population increases and ages, the situation will only worsen.

Part of the solution is to boost enrollment in our medical schools. However, medical schools across the country compete for the same pool of elite students—many of whom come from the top of the socio-economic strata.

If we are to broaden the pool of qualified applicants to the medical profession, we need talented young people from diverse backgrounds. These students often have financial and cultural obstacles, and may not be encouraged to pursue challenging medical careers. Or because of the huge debt they incur, if they do enter medicine, they may steer away from primary care because it typically pays less than other subspecialties.

Nationwide, the average debt for medical school graduates is more than \$150,000; nearly 20 percent of graduates carry a debt of more than \$200,000.

The Solution: Scholarships for Medical Students

As part of its initiative called Access to Excellence in Medical Education, the University of Colorado School of Medicine wants to increase scholarship assistance for promising medical students.

We are looking for students who will enter this changing field ready to enrich the practice of medicine. We offer an outstanding medical education. In order to complete the equation, we need the best and brightest students, regardless of their ability to pay.



Taisa's Story

Taisa is one of the students who received the President's Scholarship for Medical Students in the program's first year. The School of Medicine needs additional funds to continue to expand the program to ensure we have the best, most diverse and most committed medical students.

The CU School of Medicine was Taisa Priester's first choice. She was admitted to CU and automatically said yes. But when she also got accepted to the University of Massachusetts, she did the numbers.

"Colorado was going to be so much more expensive because I would be paying out-of-state tuition. I just couldn't justify it."

She wrote a letter to Associate Dean of Admissions Rob Winn, MD, saying she was so disappointed but that she could not attend. He called her and told her she had already been chosen for the President's Scholarship for promising medical students.

"I was so thrilled!" Taisa said. The scholarship gives her the flexibility to pursue whatever field she wants without the intense pressure of debt.

Taisa is on the Rural Track, which will give her a specialty in primary care in a rural setting. She says her heart has always been in primary care. She says the scholarship is a vote of confidence, but it makes her feel a little more pressure.

"The School of Medicine knows I can do this, so I'd better not let them down," she says.

Yes, I want to support School of Medicine Scholarships

(#0222251)

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A check for the **full amount** of \$_____ is enclosed (made payable to the **University of Colorado Foundation** and designate "SOM Scholarships" in notation area of check).

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The Time is Now: University of Colorado's \$10 Million Challenge

The University of Colorado has committed \$10 million over the next five years (\$2 million annually) for medical scholarships to provide financial aid for medical students from historically underrepresented economic, geographic and ethnic backgrounds.

There are two ways that you can double the impact of your gift to support scholarships:

- 1) Designate your gift of any amount to the School of Medicine Diversity Scholarships.*
- 2) Create a new fund of \$10,000 or more to support the diversity of the medical student body.

* Once this fund reaches \$10,000, all gifts will be matched with institutional funds.

Join the President's Challenge and help create the next generation of top-notch medical professionals who will care for Coloradans for years to come.

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*Access to Excellence in
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**President's Challenge
for Diversity Scholarships**



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