

Creating Futures

Center for Women's Health Research

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

The spirit of discovery. The focus of science. The health of women.

Supporting an Endowed Chair

An endowed chair signifies a rare level of faculty achievement in research, teaching, or professional achievement. But its significance is more than merely honorary. It provides reliable funding that can help a faculty member focus time and energy on promising research. It perpetually supports a position in a vital niche, funding that will endure for generations. It can improve a program's ability to recruit and retain exceptional educators and researchers. And it is a bellwether of a program's stature, increasing its standing and influence, and shining a positive light on the University of Colorado as a whole.

Your support for a Center for Women's Health Research endowed chair will help us achieve our vision of transforming women's health through research, mentoring, education, and outreach—bringing vital knowledge to women, their families, their practitioners, and their communities.

Closing the Knowledge and Research Gap

The facts are daunting. One third of U.S. women with diabetes do not know they have heart disease. Cardiovascular mortality is declining in men, but not women. Heart disease is the No. 1 biggest killer of women, yet 43 percent of women do not know this fact.

So many unanswered questions remain regarding why men and women exhibit symptoms differently, and why they vary in susceptibility and treatment. Yet until the late 20th century, medical research rarely addressed these distinctions. Women need knowledge in order to be effective stewards of their own health and the health of their families.

In 2004, three accomplished scientists at the CU School of Medicine launched the Center for Women's Health Research to increase knowledge about cardiovascular disease and diabetes in women. For seven years, the Center has fueled the efforts of scientists focused on research in these areas, providing seed grants and mentorship to selected researchers and junior faculty, and education to the community at large.

We have the experience, dedication, and passion to pursue solutions. With your support, we'll be better able to achieve our goal of making women's cardiovascular disease and diabetes a thing of the past.



Profile in Science

CU School of Medicine perinatal epidemiologist Anne Lynch, MD, MSPH has explored links between blood markers of inflammation in early pregnancy and preeclampsia--a hypertensive disease of pregnancy that can have long-term implications for women's cardiovascular health. Her findings may suggest a more proactive, preventive approach to obesity in women.

But Lynch is reaching out beyond the lab to educate women about the importance of perinatal health, as co-chair of a regional Healthy Women, Healthy Babies initiative. "The Center opens up new areas for me," she says. "I had originally just been thinking about pregnancy-related research. Now, I've been thinking more about women's health in general, and have seen my work come full circle."



“Women’s health improves with the knowledge gained through research. We believe the only way to ensure this continues long term is to train and foster the development of researchers in the field of women’s health.”

**Judith Regensteiner, PhD,
and JoAnn Lindenfeld, MD**

Director and Associate Director,
Center for Women’s Health
Research

Significant Opportunities

The Center for Women’s Health Research has been able to sponsor nearly 20 junior researchers, who are generating groundbreaking insights in numerous novel areas of inquiry. They are mentored through a unique collaborative research model, by which the Center’s seasoned mentors provide scientific and career guidance for tomorrow’s leading investigators.

The Center fosters broad collaboration among researchers in diverse fields such as cardiology, hematology and neonatology; this holistic approach breaks down silos. Along the way, the Center has attracted a groundswell of support from grantmakers and community members whose philanthropic support has yielded more than \$10 in federal grants for each dollar contributed, including a prestigious \$2.5 million program grant from the National Institutes of Health and \$7 million in total research funding. This funding fuels not only our researchers, but also our region’s economy.

With our growing research expertise and the committed volunteers, philanthropists and ambassadors on our community-based advisory board, this is the perfect time for the Center to make a substantial leap in what it can do. You can maximize our ability to make a positive impact by supporting this endowed chair.

Significant Challenges

Our program’s success has come despite significant challenges along the way. We face a difficult federal funding landscape with the National Institutes of Health, a primary supporter of academic research, funding fewer than 15 percent of grant applications. This tightened funding makes it a daunting climate for junior researchers, whom we must motivate to retain in the field of scientific research despite the greater financial rewards of clinical practice.

And while our strong, experienced leadership gives the program prestige and expertise on a national level, inadequate funding reduces the amount of time the Center’s director and associate director can dedicate to their important work guiding the center. Your support for an endowed chair could increase their ability to lead and provide mentorship for the Center.

How You Can Help

Your support for an endowed chair for the Center for Women’s Health Research can pay homage to a cherished friend or loved one, or an influential colleague or mentor. As an honor that will endure for generations, a named endowed chair is a fitting way to leave a powerful, enduring legacy.

With your gift, you provide strong momentum for our program going forward. Most importantly, it will help us bring vital knowledge to women, their families, their practitioners, and their communities. By funding scientists focused on heart disease and diabetes in women, we’re tackling unanswered questions today in order to give women a higher quality of life and health tomorrow.

With your help, there is so much more that we can do. Join us on this vital endeavor, and help us turn visions into action.

To learn about the many ways you can make a gift contact:

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