

An aerial photograph of the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. The image shows a large, modern medical building complex with multiple wings, a central courtyard with a green lawn, and surrounding parking lots filled with cars. The sky is blue with some light clouds. The image is partially obscured by a large black diagonal shape on the left side, which serves as a background for the text.

2024

ANNUAL REPORT



Center for Bioethics and Humanities
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS**

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends of the Center for Bioethics and Humanities,

Our team is pleased to present the Center's 2024 Annual Report, which highlights some of our remarkable accomplishments. But for me, in these uncertain times, it does two things more.

First, it presents an opportunity to celebrate our community. Reading the report made me incredibly grateful for the people who have helped the University of Colorado become a national example of excellence in bioethics and health humanities. Given the challenges we face today, it is critical to be surrounded by excellent colleagues. We can face any adversity together!

Second, this report marks the 10th year since I arrived on campus full-time, so it prompted me to reflect on our Center's extraordinary growth and evolution.

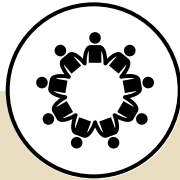
- Our research team today has a \$25 million research portfolio.
- Our education team now runs a dedicated track in the medical school and a graduate certificate program, and our public-facing programs frequently bring hundreds of attendees from around the nation and overseas.
- Many new offerings, like the National Collaborative on Humanities and Ethics in Dentistry, Pharmacy Ethics webinars, and Health Humanities and Arts Research Collaborative, have joined our longstanding programs like The Human Touch, Music and Medicine, and Holocaust education initiatives.
- Our clinical ethics programs continue to grow, offering new micro-credentials for our Ethics Ambassadors at UC Health and CME for those attending ethics grand rounds.

We invite you to stand with us— participate in our programs, engage in our outreach, contribute to our mission. Your support is more necessary than ever.

Matthew Wynia, MD, MPH, FACP
Director, Center for Bioethics and Humanities

MISSION AREAS

Throughout this report you'll see mission area icons on the bottom of the pages, indicating where the program lives within the Center.



ARTS & HUMANITIES IN HEALTHCARE

Fostering transformative learning and creative expression at the intersection of health, education and the human experience, nurturing compassion, imagination, and human values



CLINICAL ETHICS

Promoting a clinical culture of ethical excellence, ensuring that compassion, integrity, and respect for human dignity remain at the forefront of health care delivery



EDUCATION

Reaching learners across the CU system through innovative curricula, special programs and presentations, and integrated content in ethics and humanities



RESEARCH

Conducting world class research on ethics issues arising in biomedicine, health policy, organizational practices, and emerging technologies

ABOUT US

MISSION

The Center generates unique opportunities to create transformational learning, groundbreaking scholarship, thought-provoking culture and arts, and inclusive conversations for health professionals, students, patients and communities in Colorado and beyond.

VISION

The Center is home to world-class programs that are proven to cultivate values, celebrate imagination, and produce vibrant community conversations.

CORE VALUES

Our work, conversations and interactions are guided by a set of core values, which align to support us in achieving our Mission together.

RESPECT

We celebrate diversity and treat each other with kindness and compassion, creating inclusive spaces where everyone is valued and where empathy, critical reflection, humility, and dialogue are actively encouraged.

HONESTY

Transparency, integrity, and courage guide our interactions, relationships and work.

TEAMWORK

We are intentional in our collaborative work, bringing all our unique individual and group strengths to bear in developing sustainable approaches to complex challenges.

EXCELLENCE

We produce top-quality initiatives and scholarship in bioethics and health humanities and seek continuous learning and improvement in all that we do.

PASSION

In pursuing our shared mission, we find delight in the creative energy our work requires and joy in the relationships we build within and beyond our Center.

JUSTICE

Upholding fairness and equity is central to our work, as we actively seek opportunities to understand the roots of injustice, elevate historically marginalized voices, and repair harms.

TRANSITIONS & GROWTH

Leadership

2024 was a time of transition and growth. In late 2023, **Kathryn Rhine, PhD, MA** (Director, Arts & Humanities in Healthcare) and **Chelsey Patten, DBE, HEC-C** (Director, Clinical Ethics) joined the Center after the retirements of their predecessors. Check out pages 7-8 (A&H) and 9-11 (Clinical Ethics) to see what they did in their first year at the Center!



L to R: Kathryn Rhine, Director for Arts & Humanities in Healthcare; Eric G. Campbell, Director of Research; Daniel Goldberg, Director of Education; Chelsey Patten, Director of Clinical Ethics; Danielle Chaet, Manager of Operations; Matthew Wynia, Center Director



Farewell

David Weil, former Manager of Operations and an employee of CU for over 20 years, has retired. A dedicated member of the team since the early days, David played a key role in the planning and construction of the Fulginiti Pavilion. He was also a passionate advocate for the arts and the campus's first mural, which powerfully highlights the experiences of children in migration. We thank David for his many years of service and lasting contributions.

EXPANDED TEAM & SPACE



Natalie Banacos
Senior Professional
Research Assistant



Pranjali Maneriker
Professional Research
Assistant



Anna McLean
Research Program
Coordinator



Gianna Morales
Clinical Ethicist



**Gabriela (Gabi)
Oliva Montes**
CBH Administrative
Coordinator



Natascha Palmer
Digital Media Manager



Rachel Topazian
Assistant Professor

Dori's Den

You may remember the **Dori Biester** Student Lounge, named in recognition of her generous support and longstanding commitment to the Center. That space is now home to Dori's Den, where staff and PRAs work in four newly built, beautifully designed workspaces. An additional four workspaces have been added throughout the Fulginiti to support our growing team.



ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Establishing Research Excellence: Launch of the Health Humanities and Arts Research Collaborative

The establishment of HHARC marks a milestone in developing humanities research infrastructure at CU Anschutz. This innovative collaborative hosts monthly sessions fostering interdisciplinary partnerships, provides mentorship for early-career researchers, and develops novel research methodologies. HHARC has successfully engaged faculty across health science disciplines, creating a vibrant community for exploring intersections between humanities, arts, and healthcare while advancing scholarly excellence.



Building Community Through Strategic Partnerships: Music, Medicine, and the Arts

The Arts & Humanities program built vital partnerships to expand arts and music integration across the University of Colorado and the Denver metro area. Highlights include **Dr. Richard Kogan**'s performance and lecture on Leonard Bernstein's creativity and mental health, featuring the **Denver Young Artist Orchestra** as an opening act. We were grateful to bring music and arts programming to Aurora STEM Middle School, Compositive Primary School, the Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education, and the Office of Access & Engagement's Community Circles. We also entered into partnerships with Urogynecology and Psychiatry on the Anschutz campus, CU Boulder's CU Presents, and CU Denver's College of Arts & Media and College of Architecture and Planning for programs launching in 2025!



ARTS AND HUMANITIES



HeLa No 1, by Jeffrey Kent

Advancing Health Equity Through the Arts: Three Major Gallery Exhibitions

The Art Gallery at the Fulginiti Pavilion launched three groundbreaking exhibitions exploring intersections of health and social justice. "Raw Material: Quilts by NedRa Bonds" examined issues of gender equity, racial justice, and healthcare through textile art. "7,000 Babies" celebrated **Dr. Justina Ford**'s legacy as Colorado's first licensed Black female physician. "Recovering Secrets: The Art of Jeffrey Kent" explored the story of **Henrietta Lacks** and HeLa cells while examining critical connections between addiction, science, and structural violence. These exhibitions fostered crucial dialogues about health equity while engaging diverse audiences across CU Anschutz.

National Collaborative on Humanities & Ethics in Dentistry

In 2024, the CU Center for Bioethics and Humanities and the **School of Dental Medicine** brought together the **University of Texas Health**, the **University of Rochester**, and **Loyola University** to form the National Collaborative on Humanities and Ethics in Dentistry (NCHED). NCHED aims to create unique and valuable opportunities for reflection, learning, and teaching on ethical issues in dentistry and to stimulate progress nationwide in using arts and humanities to improve dental practice, research, policy, and education.

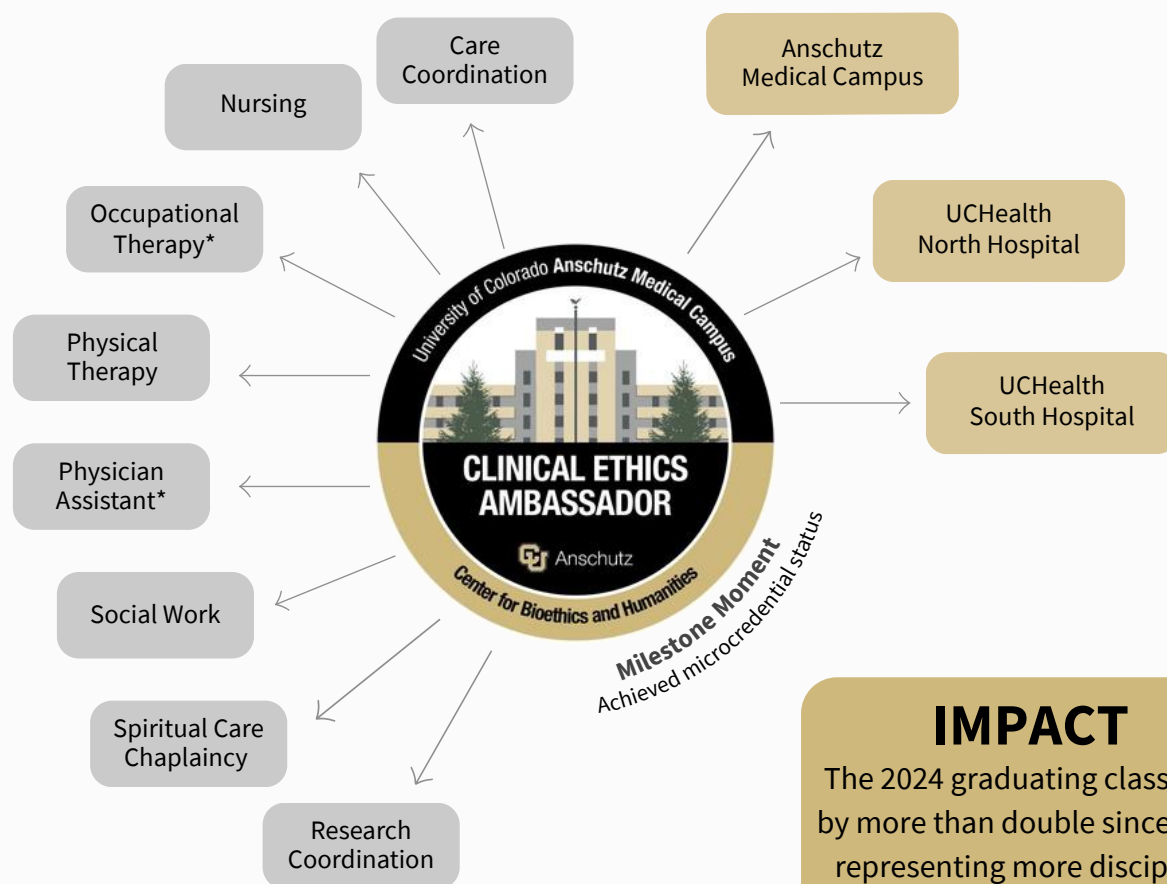
Five NCHED events were held in 2024, including CBH's production featuring **Catherine Flaitz, DDS** and **Howie Movshovitz, PhD**, which focused on the humorous and horrifying portrayal of the dental profession in film and the ethical concerns of capitalizing on the emotions of fear and pain for entertainment value. ***Scan the code at the end of this booklet to join our mailing list and hear about future events!***



CLINICAL ETHICS

Clinical Ethics Ambassador Program

The mission of the Clinical Ethics Ambassador Program (CEAP) is to empower individuals within various units and departments in the clinical setting with fundamental ethics concepts, equipping them to proactively identify and address ethical concerns within their spheres of influence. By fostering a community of Ethics Ambassadors, we aim to create a network of knowledgeable and vigilant professionals who serve as catalysts for early recognition and resolution of ethical challenges. Through collaborative education and open dialogue, the program seeks to further enhance the ethical climate of the UHealth system.



**Indicates new discipline*



A series of parallel diagonal lines slanting downwards from left to right, located at the bottom of the page.

A world map illustrating the global distribution of EGR attendees. The map uses black dots to mark the locations of attendees. The highest concentration of dots is in North America, with a dense cluster in the United States and several dots in Canada. Other notable clusters include a group in Western Europe (primarily the UK and France) and a smaller group in East Asia (China). Dots are also scattered across Africa, the Middle East, and Oceania. The map includes labels for major countries and oceans.

Locations of EGR global attendees



CLINICAL ETHICS



Pharmacy Ethics

2024 marked the second year of our partnership with the **CU Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences** for the Pharmacy Ethics Speaker Series. Created by faculty and students from the School of Pharmacy and the CU Center for Bioethics and Humanities, the series explores ethical issues in pharmacy aligned with both institutions' missions. It aims to foster a community focused on addressing complex challenges at the intersection of ethics, healthcare, pharmacy, and business—while attracting and retaining pharmacy students, faculty, and early career pharmacists. Notable events included “From Prohibition to Prescription: Ethical Considerations in Medical Cannabis Use” and “Walking the thin line: Compounding Ethics of Weight Loss Drugs.”

25th Annual Pediatric Ethics Conference: Exploring the Ethical Frontiers of Precision Medicine

On April 26, 2024, **Children's Hospital Colorado** hosted its 25th Annual Pediatric Ethics Conference, bringing together over 125 healthcare professionals to explore ethical challenges in pediatric precision medicine. With the theme “Precise but not Perfect,” the event addressed issues of access, equity, affordability, and regulation. As conference organizer and CBH Elected Core Faculty **Brian Jackson, MD**, reflected, “Precision medicine is transforming pediatric care at an incredible pace, but we must ensure that ethical considerations keep pace with scientific progress.” The conference remains a vital forum for navigating the intersection of innovation and ethics in pediatric care.



EDUCATION

Doctor of Public Health

Core Curriculum Development

At the **Colorado School of Public Health**, the Center leads two consecutive seminars in the Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) Program.

Innovative Yearlong Course

Integrated seminars on structural violence and public health

- Fall: History of public health
- Spring: Applied ethics tools and methods

Critical Skills Development

Students gain historical fluency and systematic ethical reasoning capabilities essential for advancing health justice

Longitudinal Support

Center faculty serve on dissertation committees, ensuring integration of key concepts throughout students' academic journey



EDUCATION

Med-Peds Residency Program

Launched in 2019, the two-year curriculum provides residents with essential knowledge on structural racism in medicine and incorporates competency-based learning objectives. It has evolved to focus on the practical application of this knowledge through the concept of structural competency. Consistently highly rated by residents, the curriculum fosters open discussions and equips learners with actionable skills to address racism in clinical practice. Covering topics like health inequalities, structural violence, and social determinants of health, it addresses critical gaps in traditional medical education. The leadership of CBH Director of Education **Daniel Goldberg, JD, PhD** has been instrumental in advancing this important work, positioning our Program as a national leader in integrating equity-centered education into graduate medical training.

Dr. Daniel Goldberg, alongside Dr. Claudia Douglas, played a pivotal role in creating and shaping the Racism & Medicine curriculum within our Med-Peds Residency Program.



Carolina P Gutierrez, MD
Associate Program Director
MED-PEDS Residency Program



Julie Venci, MD
Program Director
MED-PEDS Residency Program



EDUCATION

American Jewish Experience in Medicine Program: Celebrating Heritage and Advancing Healthcare

2024 IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

The American Jewish Experience in Medicine Program at the Center for Bioethics and Humanities continued its mission of spotlighting the rich history and intellectual contributions of the American Jewish community in medicine and healthcare throughout 2024.

GROWTH & ENGAGEMENT

- **3× increase** in event attendance from previous years
- **Nearly 50%** of our audience were first-time attendees
- **Expanding community reach** across healthcare disciplines

Distinguished Speaker Series

Our thought leadership events featured prominent voices addressing critical contemporary issues:

- **Healing Across Generations** - *Dr. Galit Atlas & Dr. Matt Wynia* explored intergenerational trauma, how it's passed through families and how it can be healed.
- **Science & Society** - *Dr. Peter Hotez* tackled the rise of anti-science movements and their link to antisemitism.



Our Legacy

Founded through the generous philanthropy of **Dr. Helen Morris**, the program builds on her legacy of breaking barriers and fostering inclusion. We continue to create spaces for meaningful dialogue that honors heritage while advancing healthcare for all.



EDUCATION

Holocaust Genocide and Contemporary Bioethics Program

Promoting education, scholarship, and community engagement on the lessons of the Holocaust for health care and society.

Learning from the Past, Leading for the Future

What happens when healers become killers? The Holocaust shows us the devastating consequences when medical professionals abandon their ethics. Here at the Center for Bioethics and Humanities, we're turning this dark history into powerful lessons that help today's healthcare workers stand strong as protectors and advocates for all patients.

2024 Programs

Community Outreach

"Unraveling the Past, Confronting the Present, and Charting an Ethical Future in Medicine: The History and Legacy of the Pernkopf Atlas" brought together **Dr. Sabine Hildebrandt** and **Dr. Howard Israel** to examine the controversial anatomical atlas created during the Nazi era.

2024 Annual Grand Rounds Lecture

Our 2024 Grand Rounds featured **Dr. Sabine Hildebrandt**, an internationally acclaimed expert on anatomy during the Third Reich. Her presentation "From Healing to Killing: The Role of Anatomists in the Holocaust" explored historical transgressions while offering powerful frameworks for ensuring that contemporary anatomy education honors the dignity of body donors.

Lancet Commission Teacher Training Program

Launched in 2024, this pilot for a year-long fellowship on Medicine, Nazism, and the Holocaust, invited early-career health professionals on a transformative journey through the history of medicine's role in the Holocaust. Through immersive site visits, discussions with global experts, and pedagogical training, fellows gained powerful tools to bring ethical insight into today's clinics, classrooms, and communities.

How Healers Became Killers Lecture

Dr. Matt Wynia's annual lecture was followed by a discussion titled "War Crimes, Social Influence & Justice: Lessons from the Holocaust for Today," featuring **Kathrin Janzen, MA, and Hans-Christian Jasch, JD, PhD.**

To celebrate the 75th birthday of **program founder Dr. Bill Silvers**, we hosted a gathering that brought our community together in support of the Holocaust Genocide and Contemporary Bioethics program. Friends donated \$40,000 in his honor, which Bill matched, helping to raise an incredible \$80,000 to help ensure the lessons of the Holocaust remain integral to medical education today.



EDUCATION & ARTS & HUMANITIES

Expanding Health Humanities and Ethics Education: Strategic Growth of Graduate Certificate Program

The Bioethics and Humanities in Health Graduate Certificate Program is undergoing significant expansion, establishing an innovative partnership with the **School of Dental Medicine** and securing approval for 11 new courses. This strategic redesign created accessible pathways for professionals in health fields to engage with humanities and ethics education, including new courses addressing research methods in health humanities, moral distress, and incarceration as a structural determinant of health.

FOR MORE
INFORMATION OR TO
REGISTER, SCAN
BELOW



RESEARCH

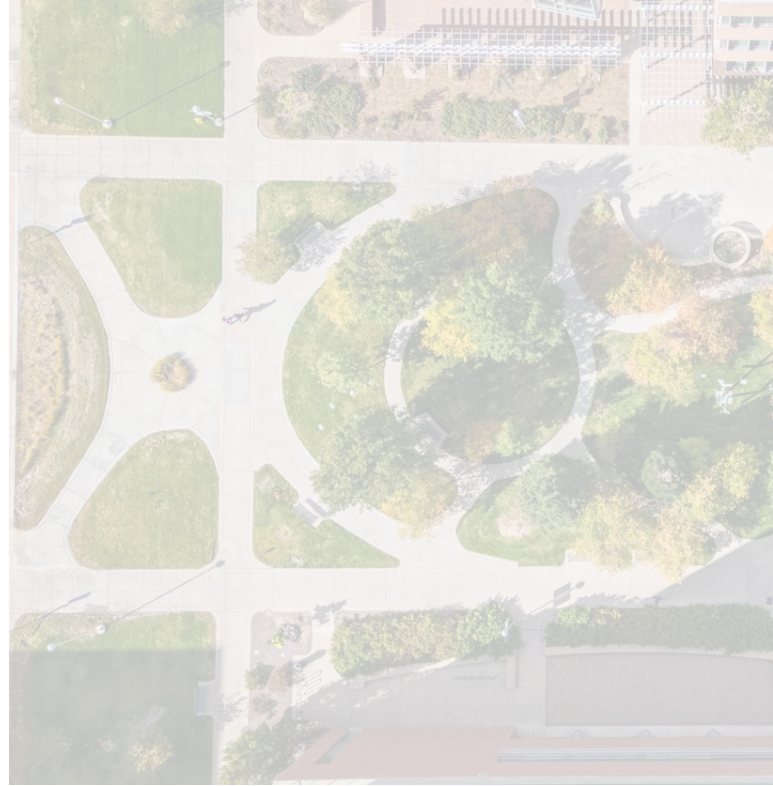
7 Total research faculty

65 Papers published

17 Grant applications

10 Grants awarded

59% Grant hit success



Selected Media Coverage

- Giant study finds untrustworthy trials pollute gold-standard medical reviews | *Nature* Dec 18, 2024 [🔗](#)
- Uncovering hidden bias in clinical research | *Issues in Science and Technology* Oct 22, 2024 [🔗](#)
- Doctors try a controversial technique to reduce the transplant organ shortage | *NPR* July 8, 2024 [🔗](#)
- Alzheimer's Takes a Financial Toll Long Before Diagnosis, Study Finds | *New York Times* June 3, 2024 [🔗](#)

14th Annual CCTSI Research Ethics Conference: Exploring the Ethical Challenges of Decentralized Clinical Trials

Decentralized clinical trials (DCTs) have soared in popularity, fueled by COVID-19 restrictions and the rise of telehealth in recent years.

While DCTs offer potential benefits such as increased access and convenience for research participants, the lack of a central study location or trained staff conducting visits makes maintaining oversight far more complex than traditional trials, posing unique ethical challenges.

You can read the full story in the Center's newsroom. [🔗](#)



RESEARCH

Selected Studies

Health effects of high-concentration cannabis products

Faculty: Lisa Bero, PhD

The research team conducted a comprehensive review to assess the health impacts of high-THC cannabis products and support policy development.

Key findings:

- THC levels in cannabis have risen significantly, prompting public health concerns.
- States are exploring regulations to manage risks from high-concentration products.
- Research gaps include inconsistent exposure data, varied methodologies, and limited standardized findings.
- Current evidence is insufficient to inform robust policy decisions.
- We developed an interactive, public evidence map to support policymakers and researchers.

Addressing Bias in Healthcare AI

Faculty: Matthew DeCamp, MD, PhD

This work highlights how AI bias stems not only from data and algorithms but also from the broader health system context.

Key Insights:

- Bias in AI can affect patient care and arises from multiple sources.
- Equitable outcomes require ethical, context-aware deployment—not just technical accuracy.
- Shared responsibility across all stakeholders is essential.
- Continued research is needed to identify and protect at-risk patient populations.
- Our efforts position us as leaders in advancing responsible, equity-focused AI in health care.



RESEARCH

Evidence and Influence in Federal Rulemaking

Faculty: Rachel Topazian, PhD

This study reveals which types of evidence and communication strategies most impact federal policy decisions, providing guidance for academic institutions aiming to inform rulemaking.

Key Insights:

- Surveyed 115 former EPA regulators on evidence use in decision-making.
- Most valued inputs: legal analysis, problem scope, tech assessments, and rule impact.
- Key gaps: racial equity (16%) and financial data (30%).
- Effective comment letters include strong data (94%) and technical recommendations (90%); repetition had little effect.
- Highlights a clear opportunity for academics to fill evidence gaps and shape policy through targeted, high-quality input.



Scan the QR code to read about our current grants, explore faculty publications, and meet our research team!



CAMPUS & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Student Interest Group

This campus group of students interested in humanities and ethics in healthcare continues to grow. Representing all CU Anschutz schools and colleges, new members are always welcome!



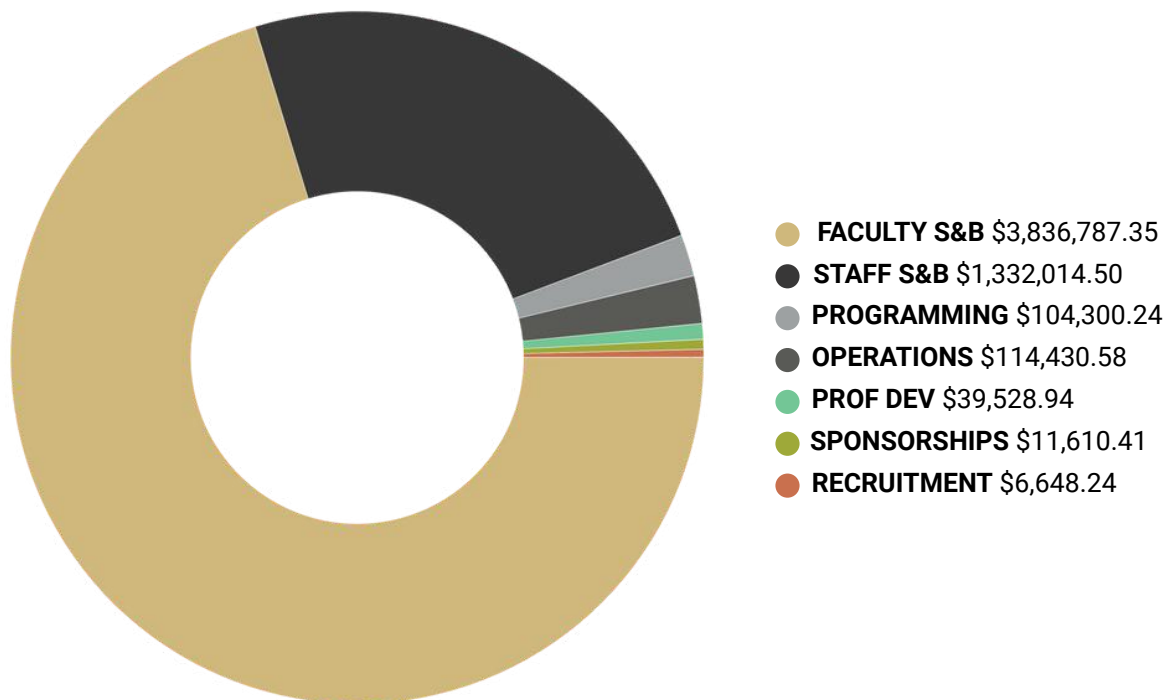
Colorado Collaborative for Health Ethics and Arts (CCHEA)

The Colorado Collaborative for Ethics, Arts and Health (CCHEA) connects, coordinates and enhances the work of the CU Center for Bioethics and Humanities with initiatives of organizations that work to promote human health and wellbeing at the intersections of health humanities, bioethics and the arts.

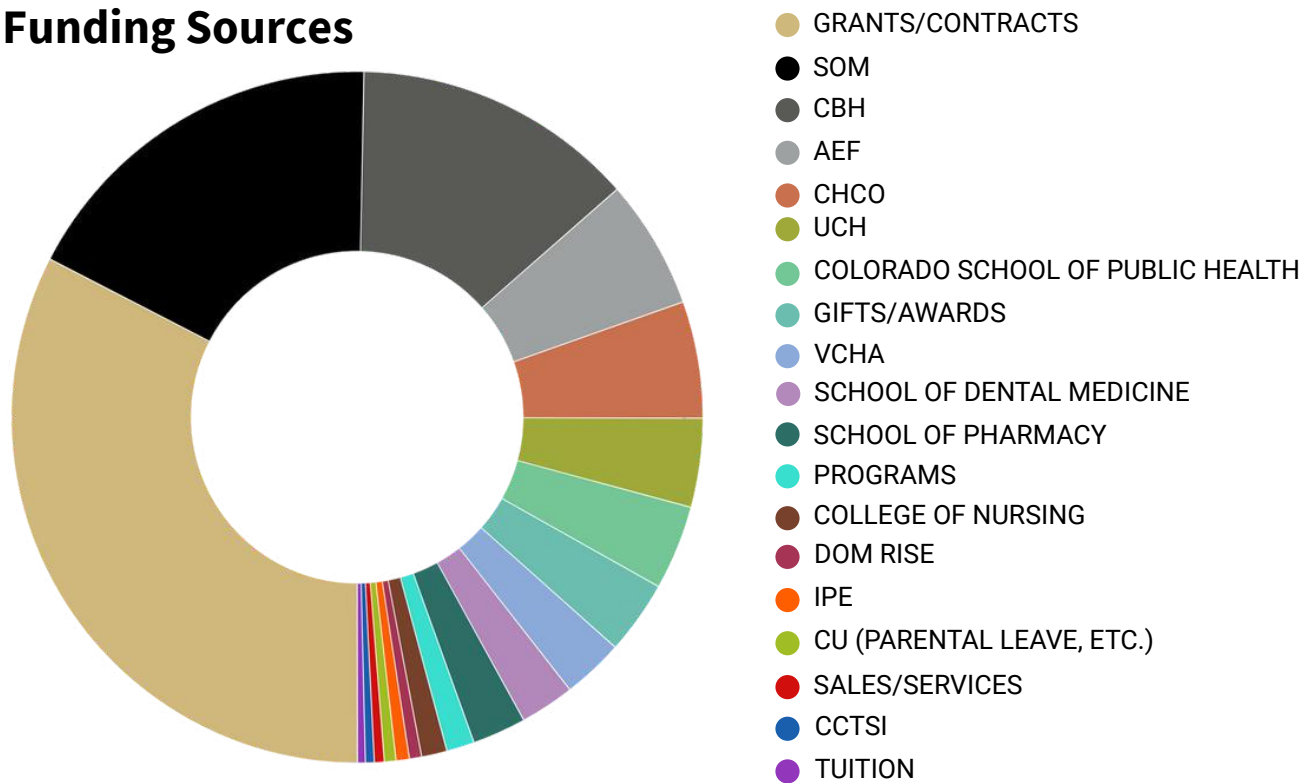


FINANCIALS

Expenditures



Funding Sources



THANK YOU

To everyone on the CU Anschutz Medical Campus who has supported and partnered with us this year, and to our donors—both returning and new—thank you for your invaluable contributions. We are deeply grateful for your continued commitment and look forward to building an even brighter future together.

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