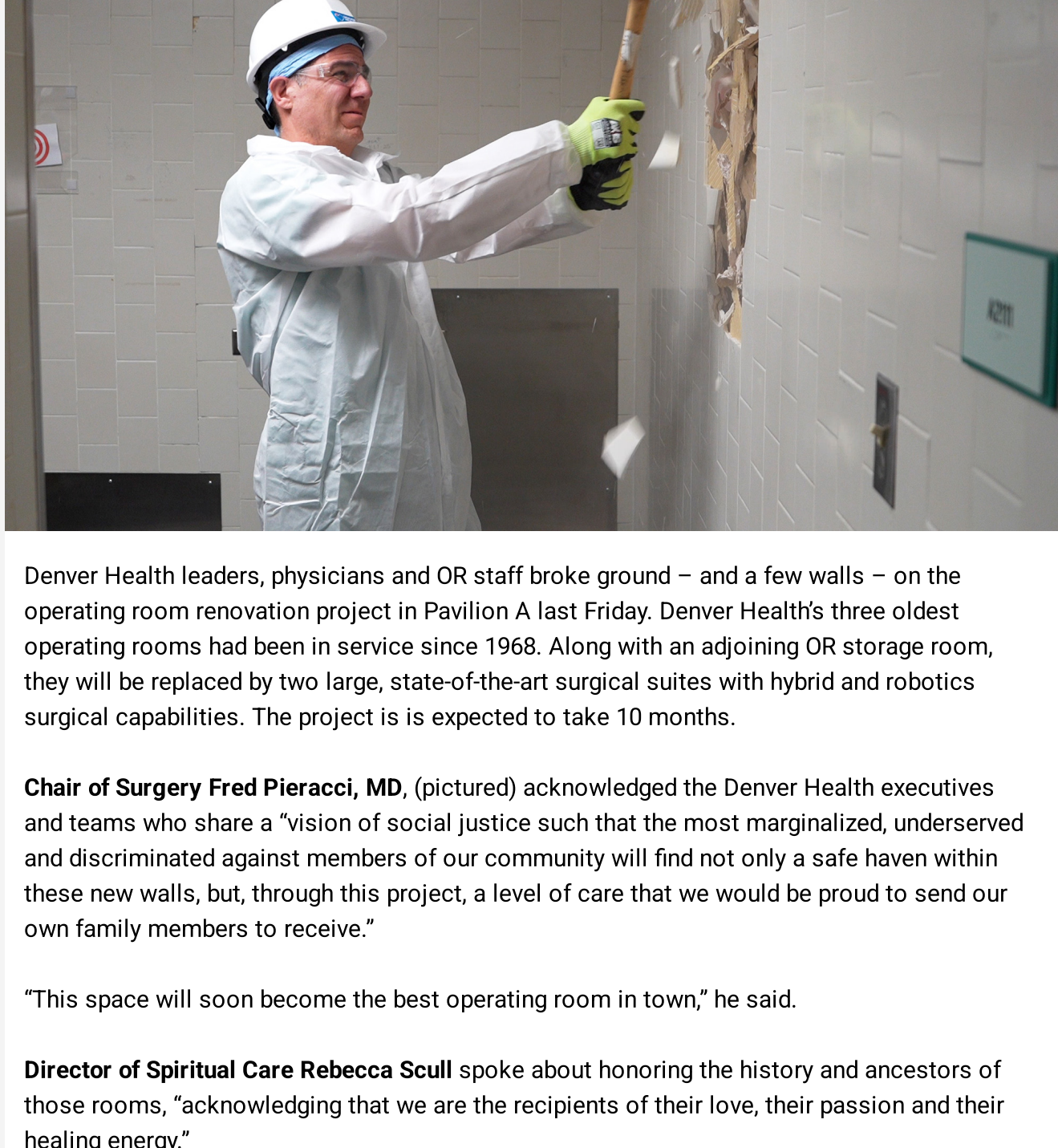


Thursday, March 28, 2024

## Leaders come out swinging at OR renovation ceremony



Denver Health leaders, physicians and OR staff broke ground – and a few walls – on the operating room renovation project in Pavilion A last Friday. Denver Health's three oldest operating rooms had been in service since 1968. Along with an adjoining OR storage room, they will be replaced by two large, state-of-the-art surgical suites with hybrid and robotics surgical capabilities. The project is expected to take 10 months.

**Chair of Surgery Fred Pieracci, MD**, (pictured) acknowledged the Denver Health executives and teams who share a "vision of social justice such that the most marginalized, underserved and discriminated against members of our community will find not only a safe haven within these new walls, but, through this project, a level of care that we would be proud to send our own family members to receive."

"This space will soon become the best operating room in town," he said.

**Director of Spiritual Care Rebecca Scull** spoke about honoring the history and ancestors of those rooms, "acknowledging that we are the recipients of their love, their passion and their healing energy."

"As we watch this expansion of our OR come into reality, may we never lose sight of our mission to inspire, encourage and care for each other and for the wider community in which we live," she said.

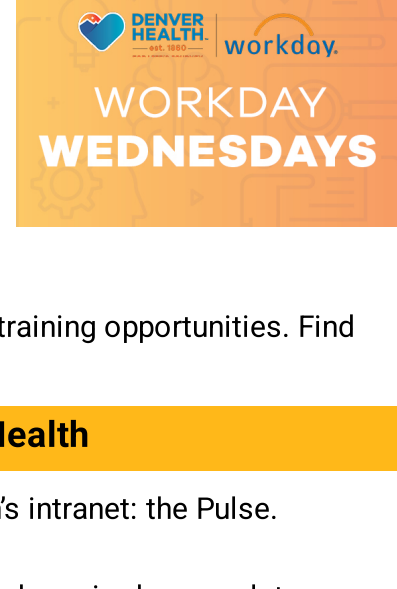
After the ceremony, those in attendance were offered tools to start the teardown process and a commemorative "Hybrid OR Project" coin.

[See more photos](#)

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION & BELONGING

### Transgender Day of Visibility: Celebrating resilience and ensuring equitable health care

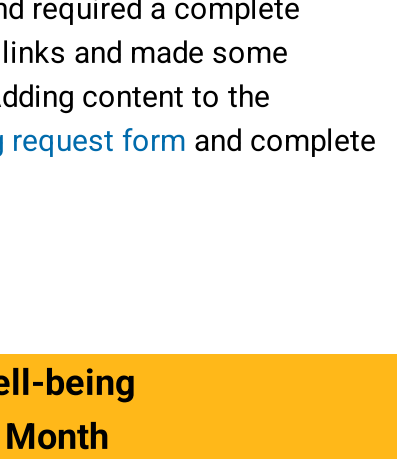
**Sunday, March 31**, marks International Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV). This day serves as a critical opportunity for the medical community to celebrate the lives and contributions of transgender and non-binary individuals while acknowledging the ongoing challenges they face in accessing quality health care.



[Learn more](#)

### LGBTQ+ community leaders share feedback with executives

**CEO Donna Lynne** and **Chief Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Officer Jorge Avendano-Curiel** this week hosted a reception for LGBTQ+ community leaders. The goal was to educate on the work Denver Health does, to introduce our chief DEIB officer to talk about the Equity Blueprint, DEIB Council and Employee Resource Groups, and to share the work that came out of the Denver Health Sustainable Funding Task Force. These annual community receptions are an opportunity for Denver Health to educate partners and stakeholder groups on the work happening throughout our organization and to hear from the community about what they have experienced in their circles regarding Denver Health.



## STAY INFORMED

### Workday Learning now live

Workday Learning is up and running as Denver Health's new learning management system. More than 300 courses are loaded and available to employees, and many more are under development and will be added when complete.



You can find transcripts to all prior completed courses in the profile section under Cornerstone Transcript History.

Job aids as well as Workday Wednesdays will provide additional training opportunities. Find details on the [Workday Resources Hub](#).

### Pulse upgrade coming to Denver Health

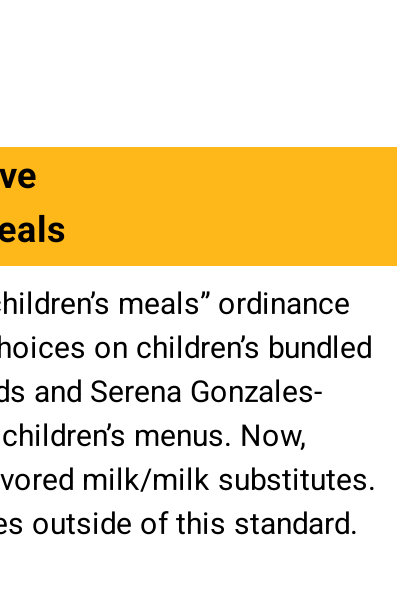
This coming Monday brings a new look and feel to Denver Health's intranet: the Pulse.

The change was driven by the upgrade of Microsoft SharePoint and required a complete redesign. The Communications Team reviewed the most popular links and made some changes, but in general, most of the content remains the same. Adding content to the homepage follows the same steps: simply click on the [marketing request form](#) and complete the fields.

Your feedback is welcomed. Send comments or questions to [Jacque.Montgomery@dhha.org](mailto:Jacque.Montgomery@dhha.org).

### Denver Health promotes employee well-being ahead of National Stress Awareness Month

This April, become more familiar with some of the resources, benefits and techniques available for helping you identify, cope with and manage stress.



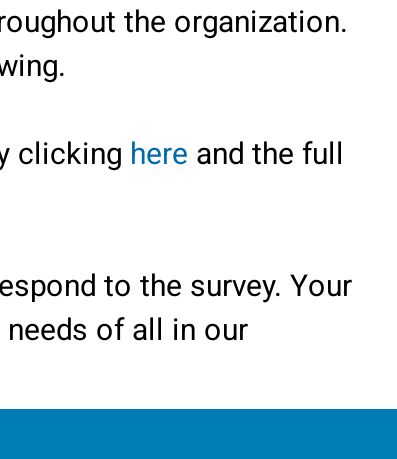
[Learn more](#)

### February Strategic Plan scorecard now available

A number of key measures have been updated on the 2024-26 Strategic Plan scorecard. You can find February results posted [here](#) on the Pulse. Among the highlights: improvements month over month with the operating margin and a successful month of receiving research, training and service awards as a Learning Health System.

### Denver Health's NICU babies bring Easter joy

We're hopping into springtime with a holiday-themed photo shoot for the little ones! The Denver Health NICU Patient and Family Advisory Committee made this event possible and supports our families by capturing priceless photos of their babies on special occasions. Their love for our tiniest patients and creativity in making this Easter so memorable for all is heartwarming.



[See more photos](#)

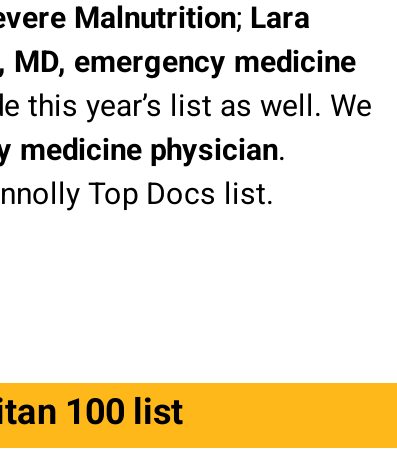
### Public Health Institute helps drive change for healthier children's meals

The Denver City Council this week approved a "healthy drinks in children's meals" ordinance that requires Denver food establishments to offer healthy drink choices on children's bundled menus. The ordinance, sponsored by council members Chris Hinds and Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez, will remove the targeted marketing of sugary drinks on children's menus. Now, bundled kids' meals should list the option of either water or unflavored milk/milk substitutes. However, parents will still have the option to order other beverages outside of this standard.

[Read more](#)

### Denver Health survey reveals key factors in treating alcohol use disorder

The Center for Addiction Medicine recently released survey results of Denver Health clinicians conducted in 2023 regarding the treatment of patients with alcohol use disorder (AUD). The report highlights the various factors Denver Health clinicians consider when recommending treatment for AUD.



The report also identified areas that need alignment and improvement in AUD care, such as the need to develop a method of tracking for evidence-based treatment practices that do not have a specific billing code, but are happening on a large scale throughout the organization. These practices include warm handoffs and motivational interviewing.

You can access the AUD Treatment Survey Executive Summary by clicking [here](#) and the full report by clicking [here](#).

Thank you to the more than 170 clinicians who took the time to respond to the survey. Your participation helps Denver Health to better deliver the health care needs of all in our community.

## Celebrating NATIONAL DOCTORS' DAY

Ahead of National Doctors' Day on **Saturday, March 30**, for Denver Health thanks the incredible physicians who provide extraordinary care to our patients and community and serve as a model of professionalism to their teams across our health care system. Doctors' Day will be celebrated this Friday with special offerings in the Medical Staff Office lounge in Pavilion E.

## RECOGNIZING YOU

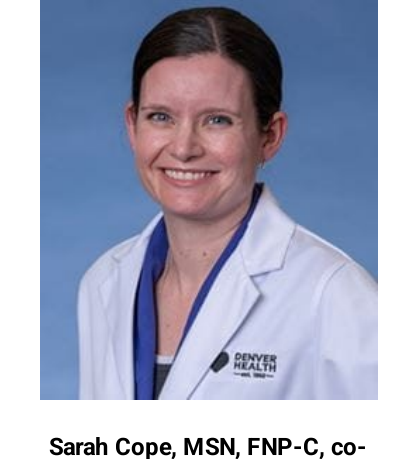
### Additional physicians included on Castle Connolly Top Docs list

We would like to recognize an additional five doctors who made this year's Castle Connolly Top Docs list. **Morris Askenazi, MD, family medicine**; **Philip Mehler, MD, executive medical director, ACUTE Center of Excellence for Eating Disorders and Severe Malnutrition**; **Lara Penny, MD, department chair, family medicine**; **Jennifer Whitfield, MD, emergency medicine physician**; and **Robert Yasui, MD, internal medicine physician**, made this year's list as well. We also want to correct the name of **Jeffrey Sankoff, MD, emergency medicine physician**. Congratulations to all of the physicians, who made the Castle Connolly Top Docs list.

[See full list](#)

### Donna Lynne named to 2024 Colorado Titan 100 list

Congratulations to **Denver Health CEO Donna Lynne** for being named a 2024 Colorado Titan 100 by Titan CEO. The Titan 100 program recognizes Colorado's top 100 CEOs and C-level executives using criteria that include demonstrating exceptional leadership, vision and passion.

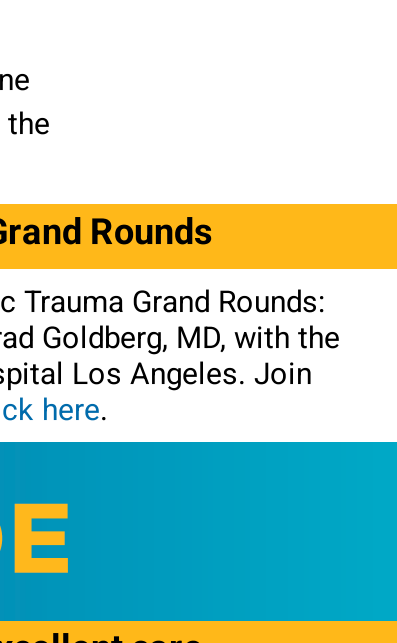


"My role at Denver Health is in many ways the culmination of everything that I value and have championed throughout my career and life – accessibility, equity, high-quality health care and community," Lynne said about the recognition. "I am honored to work alongside such committed, passionate care teams to improve the health and well-being of Denver and patients from all over Colorado."

Read more about the recognition [here](#).

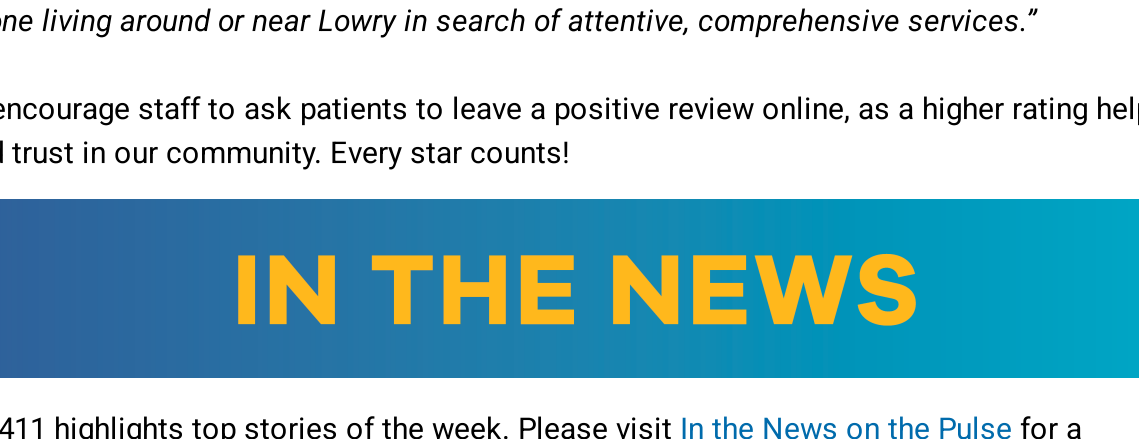
### Paramedics, HIT Team present at national conference

Denver Health's innovative training to address high-risk infectious diseases was on the national stage this week at the 2024 NACCHO Preparedness Summit. Members of the HIT team presented the paramedic-led virtual assessment model for at-home evaluation of high-consequence infectious disease cases. Special thanks to **Paramedic Capt. Liz Lenz**; **Jacob Wiersch, Region 8 RESPTC program manager**; and **Bill Neville, emergency preparedness coordinator**, for introducing this specialized approach to treating biohazards where members of our Paramedic Division and HIT team members travel to the ill patient to avoid unnecessarily standing up the biocontainment unit and exposing more people.



This is one of several upcoming presentations for the team including sharing Denver Health's Virtual Assessment Model (VAM) for At-Home Assessment of Suspect Special Pathogen Cases with international audiences later this year.

### Denver Health nurses shine at Nightingale Awards

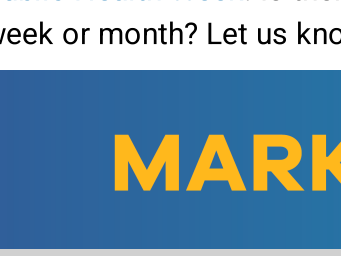


Since 1985, the Nightingale Awards have recognized the outstanding work of Colorado nurses. This year, **19 nurses** from various areas of practice at Denver Health were nominated for their demonstration of evidence-based practice, innovation and compassionate caring that enhances patient care.

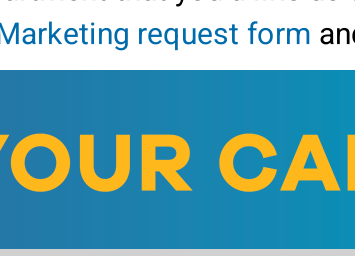
On March 23, our nurses and their guests participated in the Denver regional event, where statewide finalists were announced.

Our three finalists are **Sarah Cope, MSN, FNP-C, co-medical director of oasis medicine service, division of hospital medicine**; **Whitney Miller, FNP, DNP, lead APP, division of infectious disease**; and **Natalie Nicholson, DNP, MBA, RN, CNP, NEA-BC, hospital-based associate chief nursing officer, nursing management**.

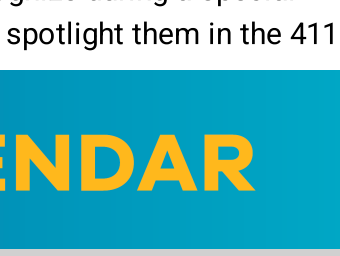
On May 18, our finalists and their guests will join the statewide event where the Nightingale winners will be announced. Please join us in congratulating all of our nominees and finalists.



**Whitney Miller, FNP, DNP, lead APP, division of infectious disease**



**Natalie Nicholson, DNP, MBA, RN, CNP, NEA-BC, hospital-based associate chief nursing officer, nursing management**

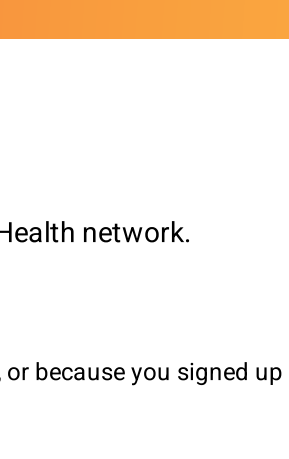


**Sarah Cope, MSN, FNP-C, co-medical director of oasis medicine service, division of hospital medicine**

## GET INVOLVED

### Explore a career in medical laboratory science

Looking for a way to use your BS degree? Consider a career in medical laboratory science. The Denver Health School of Medical Laboratory Science, an 11-month post-baccalaureate certificate program, is hosting an informational session via **Webex from 5-5:45 p.m. Wednesday, April 3**. If you are interested in the program, please contact [joan.polancic@dhha.org](mailto:joan.polancic@dhha.org) for the Webex meeting link.



The next class will begin in **January 2025**. The application deadline is **June 15, 2024**. For more information about the program, go to the [School of Medical Laboratory Science](#) website.

### Join us for this month's Pediatric Trauma Grand Rounds

Please join us from **noon-1 p.m. Wednesday, April 3**, for "Pediatric Trauma Grand Rounds: Mass Casualty Incidents: Pediatric Perspectives," presented by Brad Goldberg, MD, with the Department of Emergency & Transport Medicine at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. Join virtually via WebEx. For additional information and registration [click here](#).

## GRATITUDE

### Lowry Family Health Center praised for excellent care

It is rewarding to hear from patients who have received outstanding care at Denver Health. This week, we would like to highlight a five-star online review of our incredible team at Lowry Family Health Center.

*"The Lowry clinic provides such critical, urgent care for many folks who would otherwise go without access to needed services. It's a social worker, they are my number one referral for anyone living around or near Lowry in search of attentive, comprehensive services."*

We encourage staff to ask patients to leave a positive review online, as a higher rating helps build trust in our community. Every star counts!

## IN THE NEWS

The 411 highlights top stories of the week. Please visit [In the News on the Pulse](#) for a rundown of all recent stories featuring Denver Health.

### Mobile methadone treatment serving Denverites with opioid use disorder

March 25, Denver7

Jarratt Pytell, MD, an addiction medicine and primary care doctor at Eastside Clinic, explained the MOMAT unit is an extension of [Denver Health's primary location for methadone treatment](#) on the main campus. The mobile unit will serve both the Eastside Clinic and the Sam Sandos Westside Family Health Center. "It's a really innovative approach to integrating addiction treatment into the context of primary care," Dr. Pytell said.

### Denver Health offering free gun locks, violence prevention services

March 27, FOX31

Benjamin Li, MD, emergency medicine physician at Denver Health, sat down with Fox31 to talk about what Denver Health is doing through the Firearm Safety Collaborative to ensure proper storage of firearms and education about safe storage within at-risk communities.

### The importance of primary care in cancer prevention for young people

March 23, KOA

With the news that Britain's Princess Kate is being treated for cancer, Sonia Okuyama, MD, an oncologist at Denver Health, says it's important for everyone, even young people, to have a primary care physician. "This person will know you through the years and may be able to detect some symptoms that just seem odd for your age," Dr. Okuyama said.

### National awareness and recognitions

April is **National Volunteer Month, Earth Month, Autism Awareness Month, National Child Abuse Prevention Month, National Donate Life Month, National Facial Protection Month, National Minority Health Month, Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month, Sarcoidosis Awareness Month, Occupational Therapy Month, Oral Cancer Month, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, STI Awareness Month, National Stress Awareness Month, Alcohol Awareness Month and Irritable Bowel Syndrome Awareness Month**. April 1-7 is **National Public Health Week**. Is there a department that you'd like us to recognize during a special week or month? Let us know in a [Marketing request form](#) and we'll spotlight them in the 411.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### March | April

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>March 29:</b> Creative Arts Sessions: diversity bracelets                             | <b>April 3:</b> Pediatric Trauma Grand Rounds: Mass Casualty Incidents                                 |
| <b>April 1:</b> Sabin and John Mortensen Burman Nursing Scholarship application deadline | <b>April 9:</b> Office of Research: Research Workshop Series: "Disseminate Your Work to New Audiences" |
| <b>April 2:</b> RESTORE Group Support: Grief & Loss                                      | <b>April 10:</b> RESTORE free message  |
| <b>April 3:</b> Workday Wednesdays   | <b>April 17:</b> Workday Wednesdays  |
| <b>April 3:</b> School of Medical Laboratory Science Informative session                 | <b>April 17:</b> Spanish financial workshop: Credit Scores   |
| <b>April 3:</b> Free yoga Wednesdays   | <b>April 22:</b> Meditation Monday   |

[CLICK HERE FOR A PDF VERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER.](#)



**SUBMIT A REQUEST TO THE WEEKLY 411** Submit content for consideration in the Weekly 411 through the employee outreach request form [here](#). Accuracy and quality matter, so please provide all material as early as possible. Your submission should detail who, what, when, where, why and how, with correct spelling and explanation of acronyms. We encourage you to include photos and any links or attachments that may help to communicate your message. Content received after noon on Tuesday will be considered for the following week's edition.

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