



Breakthrough News and Views



July 2026

Behind Every Breakthrough

Over the past several months, we've celebrated companies on our campus reaching extraordinary milestones: FDA approvals. Breakthrough discoveries. New ventures launching with the potential to change the way diseases are diagnosed, treated and managed. These wins represent years of persistence, collaboration and a belief that better solutions are possible.



Every achievement is a reminder that the work happening at Fitzsimons has the potential to improve lives beyond our campus, and reflects the continued growth of Colorado's life sciences industry.

A recent analysis of Colorado's innovation landscape confirms what many of us have witnessed firsthand. This state has become one of the country's most competitive places for life sciences companies to launch, grow and succeed because of its exceptional research institutions, talented workforce and ability to move discoveries from the laboratory to the marketplace.

My confidence in Colorado's future comes from seeing the work happening across this campus every day. It comes from watching companies reach milestones that once seemed out of reach and meeting entrepreneurs whose ideas will shape the next generation of healthcare and bioscience.

Every company that chooses Fitzsimons becomes part of a community intentionally built to support innovation. Researchers, entrepreneurs, clinicians, investors and industry partners work alongside one another, sharing expertise, solving problems and creating opportunities that would be difficult to achieve alone.

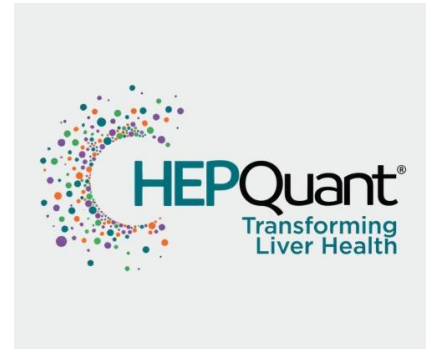
Each time I walk across campus, I'm reminded that behind every laboratory door and office is a team working to solve a problem that matters. It is rewarding to watch your progress, celebrate your achievements and know that many of the next breakthroughs in health care will begin with you.

Innovation Spotlight: HepQuant

HepQuant Achieves FDA Approval for Innovative Liver Diagnostic Test

A major milestone has been reached by [HepQuant](#), a company based in The Foundry, CU Innovations' startup incubator in Bioscience 1.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved the HepQuant SHUNT® Liver Diagnostic Test, making it the first FDA-approved diagnostic test of its kind to help physicians assess the risk of large esophageal varices in adults with compensated cirrhosis. The noninvasive test measures liver function and provides clinicians with additional information to support treatment decisions, with the potential to reduce unnecessary invasive procedures for some patients.



The approval represents years of scientific research, clinical validation and collaboration, demonstrating the role that innovative startups play in advancing healthcare. HepQuant's achievement reflects the strength of Colorado's life sciences ecosystem and the importance of environments like The Foundry, where emerging companies have access to the resources, partnerships and support needed to transform breakthrough ideas into real-world solutions.

Congratulations to the entire HepQuant team on this significant accomplishment. We are proud to celebrate another success story from the Fitzsimons Innovation Community and look forward to following the company's continued impact on liver disease diagnostics and patient care.

[Learn More](#)

Have a win to share? [Email us](#) your updates and milestones – we'd love to highlight your work.

Innovation Trends



Is AI Transforming Drug Discovery, or Changing Expectations?

Artificial intelligence (AI) has become one of the defining topics in biotechnology, with the conversations shifted away from whether it will influence drug development to how it should be evaluated.

According to the **U.S. Food and Drug Administration**, the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research reviewed more than 500 drug submissions containing AI components between 2016 and 2023, with applications spanning drug discovery, clinical development, manufacturing and post-market safety monitoring.

As adoption accelerates, regulatory expectations are evolving alongside the science. In January 2026, the FDA and the European Medicines Agency jointly introduced **10 Guiding Principles of Good AI Practice in Drug Development**, establishing a shared framework centered on human oversight, data quality, transparency, model validation and risk-based governance. The agencies emphasize that AI systems should be developed and evaluated within multidisciplinary teams, with clearly defined contexts of use and appropriate oversight throughout the product lifecycle.

At the same time, questions remain about what AI is actually changing.

Supporters point to its growing role across the development pipeline and its ability to identify patterns in increasingly complex biological datasets. Global management consulting firm **McKinsey & Company** estimates that generative AI could create \$60 billion to \$110 billion in annual value across the pharmaceutical value chain. Skeptics argue that the industry's greatest challenges remain biological rather than computational, noting that every AI-generated hypothesis must ultimately withstand experimental validation, clinical testing and regulatory review.

For life science communities, this conversation highlights the importance of environments like Fitzsimons Innovation Community, where scientific expertise, computational talent, regulatory

strategy, translational research and commercialization support can work together to delivery real-world patient impact.

We'd love to hear from our community: How is your organization using AI, and where do you believe it will have the greatest impact on the future of biotechnology?

Let Us Know

Welcome to Fitzsimons

Fitzsimons Innovation Community Welcomes Terumo Blood and Cell Technologies President & CEO to Board of Directors

Fitzsimons Innovation Community is pleased to welcome **Antoinette Gawin**, President and CEO of Terumo Blood and Cell Technologies, to our Board of Directors.



A respected leader in blood and cell technologies, Antoinette was named a 2026 "Outstanding Women in Business" honoree by the *Denver Business Journal*. She brings decades of experience spanning healthcare, innovation, business growth and global leadership. Throughout her career, she has focused on advancing technologies that improve patient outcomes while helping organizations navigate complex and rapidly evolving healthcare landscapes.

"As innovation continues to accelerate across disciplines, it can be difficult for emerging companies to navigate the many pathways to growth. I hope to help connect people with the resources, relationships and expertise they need to move their ideas forward," she shares.

As Colorado's biotech and life sciences sector continues to grow, Antoinette sees tremendous opportunity in connecting emerging companies with the resources, expertise and relationships needed to accelerate innovation. Her commitment to collaboration, patient impact and supporting the next generation of innovators will bring valuable perspective to the board and help strengthen the community that makes breakthrough discoveries possible.

Save the Date: Summer BBQ

Join Us for the Fitzsimons Innovation Community Summer BBQ & Recycling Event on July 15

We can't wait to enjoy Fitzsimons Innovation Community's favorite summer tradition with you!

On Wednesday, July 15, take a break from your day and enjoy a complimentary BBQ lunch while connecting with colleagues, neighbors and fellow innovators from across campus. Whether you're catching up with familiar faces or meeting someone new, it's a great opportunity to strengthen the relationships that make our community thrive.

While you're here, bring along your outdated electronics for our E-Recycling Event, taking place from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Approved items will be securely recycled, making it easy to support a more sustainable campus while clearing out unused technology.

We look forward to seeing you between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on the lawn between Bioscience 1 and The Chapel. Bring your team, enjoy lunch and spend some time connecting with the Fitzsimons community.

FITZSIMONS **SUMMER BBQ** **& E-RECYCLING EVENT**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2026



COMMUNITY BBQ

11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.
Between BS1 & The Chapel

Join your Fitzsimons community
for a complimentary
summer BBQ!



E-RECYCLING EVENT

10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Drop off approved
electronic items for
secure recycling
throughout the day.



ACCEPTED ITEMS

- Computers & Laptops
- Monitors
- Keyboards & Mice
- Tablets & Cell Phones
- Cables & Power Cords
- Other Electronic Equipment



NOT ACCEPTED

- Batteries
- Light Bulbs
- Ink/Toner Cartridges
- Household Appliances
- Hazardous Materials
- Paper or Cardboard



fitzsimons
Innovation Community

Events & Opportunities

The Watson Institute Environmental Sustainability Entrepreneurship Program

August – November

Denver, CO

Do you know someone building a business that's good for people and the planet? ESEP is a fully-funded, no-cost fellowship for early-stage entrepreneurs who are creating environmental products or services. Fellows will receive:

- 16-week expert-led entrepreneurship and leadership training
- Financial tools and workshops
- Pitch coaching
- \$1,000 community development grant
- Global network of 2,400 peers and alumni

Priority application deadline EXTENDED to July 1, 2026.

Apply [HERE](#).

AI in Regulated Industries | FortyAU

Tuesday, July 7 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Virtual

A practical look at the AI tools and models reshaping software development inside healthcare, life sciences and other regulated environments.

Register [HERE](#).

Discover CBSA | Exclusive Savings + Member Orientation

Wednesday, July 15 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Virtual

Hear about CBSA Member Savings Programs from Fisher Scientific and BIO Business Solutions, including special state association member pricing for laboratory and safety supplies, production essentials, equipment, chemicals and reagents and general business solutions.

Prospective and CBSA Members Register [HERE](#).

2026 Gates Grubstake Funding Webinar

Wednesday, July 15 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Virtual

The 2026 Gates Institute at CU Anschutz has opened the 2026 Gates Grubstake Funding Opportunity application cycle for CU Anschutz investigators and external collaborators. Join an informational webinar to learn more about funding opportunities up to \$1.5 million to support translational projects in cell and gene therapies, biologics, diagnostics, devices and platform technologies.

Final Submissions Due Sept. 14.

Register [HERE](#).

Apply [HERE](#).

Colorado School of Mines: Fall 2026 Career Days

Tuesday, September 15 – Wednesday, September 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Golden, CO

One of the largest career fairs in the Rocky Mountain region! Recruiters can attend to connect with students, network with industry peers and find ready-to-hire talent.

Learn more and register [HERE](#).

Redefining Early Stage of Investments (RESI) Boston

Tuesday, September 22 – Wednesday, September 23

Boston, MA

Learn how investors evaluate early-stage life science companies, assess risk and determine what makes a scientific innovation truly investment-ready.

Learn more and register [HERE](#).

2026 Rocky Mountain Life Sciences Investor & Partnering Conference

Wednesday, September 30 – Friday, October 2

Grand Hyatt Vail | Vail, CO

Nearly 40 investor-ready companies from Colorado and the broader Rocky Mountain West will participate in a comprehensive pitch training process before presenting to investors and strategic partners from across the U.S. Learn about fast-growing quantum companies deepening the state's technology base and enjoy Vail during peak fall color season.

Sponsorships available.

Registration Open Now [HERE](#).

The MedTech Conference

Sunday, October 18 – Wednesday, October 21

Boston, MA

Hosted by AdvaMed, The MedTech Conference will feature cross-cutting education led by top MedTech minds, live company presentations, hands-on tech demos and networking. Exhibition and sponsorship opportunities are available. CBSA member discount available with MTC Flex Pass.

Register [HERE](#).

Immunogenicity & Bioassay Summit

Monday, October 19 – Thursday, October 22

Alexandria, VA & Virtual

Explore the latest advances in immunogenicity assessment and bioassay development through expert-led sessions featuring industry, academic and FDA leaders focused on accelerating the development of clinical biotherapeutics.

Register [HERE](#).

European Congress Series

October 26-27 – Controversies in Leukemia (Munich, Germany) Register [HERE](#).

October 26-27 – Cosmetic Science & Regulatory Strategies (Munich, Germany) Register [HERE](#).

November 12-13 – Dermato-Onco (Rotterdam, The Netherlands) Register [HERE](#).

Explore the latest advances in leukemia management, cosmetic science and skin cancer research at international congresses bringing together leading clinicians, experts and innovators.

Dermato-Onco 2026

Thursday, November 12 – Friday, November 13

Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Explore the latest advances in skin cancer research, diagnosis, prevention and treatment at an international congress bringing together leading experts in dermatology.

Community & Partner News



Community News

Leading the Conversation on Colorado's Innovation Economy

Fitzsimons Innovation
Community Chief
Operating Officer

Kenneth Ho recently joined industry leaders as a panelist at Bisnow's Denver Metro Life Sciences, Biotech & Quantum Conference, where experts explored how Colorado can continue building a competitive innovation ecosystem. The discussion examined the intersection of life sciences, biotechnology and quantum technology, with panelists sharing perspectives on research growth, venture activity, flexible laboratory environments and the partnerships needed to support commercialization and long-term economic development.



Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Bill Ranshaw reflected on the panel discussion, noting, "Their natural leadership shined through their ability to focus on the goals and the visions of the projects, without getting mired in the insurmountable challenges that come with these massive projects."

The conversation reinforced the importance of collaboration across industry, academia and the public sector as Colorado continues to strengthen its position as a destination for innovation. By focusing on practical solutions, shared vision and long-term investment in the region's research and commercialization ecosystem, panelists highlighted the leadership needed to advance the next generation of life sciences and quantum technologies.



Partner News

[National Institute for Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering C3i program seeks applicants for 24-week Concept to Clinic program. Applications due July 31, 2026.](#)

[The Center for Devices and Radiological Health launches an innovation challenge to give patients access to home medical devices to reduce hospital readmission. Submissions due Sept. 30, 2026.](#)

[Open AI launches Rosalind Biodefense Program tool to help develop new biodefense and pandemic preparedness capabilities.](#)

[FDA authorizes Colorado's drug importation program under Section 804 of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, creating pathway to seek authorization for prescription drug import from Canada.](#)

[Proposed rule from the Office of Management and Budget could create new restrictions on government grants, including those supporting scientific research. Submit public comments by July 13, 2026.](#)

[Ophthalmology risks linked to premature births in mothers with asthma according to research conducted by CU Anschutz Department of Ophthalmology.](#)

[Colorado School of Mines appoints biomedical engineer Mark Van Dyke as Vice President of Research.](#)

[Researchers at CSU progress through a phase 1 human clinical trial for pediatric osteosarcoma in collaboration with colleagues at Children's Hospital Colorado.](#)

[CU Anschutz CAR T-cell therapy helps patient with stiff person syndrome walk again, with hope for FDA approval.](#)

[FDA and General Services Administration \(GSA\) break ground on new \\$228 million FDA lab building at the Denver Federal Center in Lakewood.](#)

[Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health and Centers for Disease Control discuss reforms to expedite phase 1 trials by 6 to 12 months.](#)

[Eight early stage researchers from CSU and CU Anschutz named to the 2026 class of Boettcher Investigators, with \\$250,000 grants to advance innovative biomedical research.](#)

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