



Breakthrough News and Views



October 2026

The Power of Proximity

A few days ago, I had a conversation with someone on campus about what originally brought their company to Fitzsimons. We talked about laboratory space and access to resources, but as the conversation continued, they mentioned how much it mattered to be surrounded by people working to solve equally complex problems. The exchange affirmed my belief that innovation accelerates when we bring the right people, resources and expertise together.



At Fitzsimons, we have an extraordinary concentration of all three. Our Community sits alongside three nationally ranked health care institutions, and within our own campus, researchers, entrepreneurs and companies at different stages of development work within close reach of one another. Each day, I'm reminded that proximity creates opportunity, but people determine what becomes possible.

Proximity gives our members the opportunity to tap into the knowledge, expertise and experience around them when it can support their work. Innovation often requires long periods of independent focus, but there are also moments when an exchange of ideas, an introduction or a conversation with someone who understands a particular challenge can make a big difference.

At Fitzsimons, those connections can happen through formal collaborations or simply between people working a few doors or buildings apart.

I appreciate the researchers and innovators who contribute to that supportive environment, whether by sharing an insight, making an introduction, celebrating a colleague's success or simply being willing to have a conversation when the opportunity arises. Those interactions strengthen the sense of community we are building while respecting the independence, focus and persistence that innovation also requires.

As I look toward the future of Fitzsimons, I see even more opportunities to build on what already exists here. Our vision for the campus will create more places for people to gather and connect, alongside the spaces where they research, build and grow. It is a future where people have

greater opportunities to live, innovate and thrive within a community designed to support the people doing this work.

That future will take shape over time, but the foundation for it is already here. It is in the expertise concentrated across this campus, the institutions that surround us and the people who choose Fitzsimons as the place to pursue ambitious ideas.

Thank you for being part of this Community and for everything you contribute to it.

Kelly Jean Brough

President & CEO

Fitzsimons Innovation Community

Innovation Spotlight: Gates Biomanufacturing Facility

FDA Clears CU Anschutz CAR T-Cell Therapy for Colorectal Cancer Clinical Trial

Congratulations to researchers at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus and **Gates Biomanufacturing Facility** on an important step forward in cancer research.

The FDA has cleared a clinical trial testing an experimental CAR T-cell therapy for adults with advanced colorectal cancer and pediatric patients with solid tumors who have exhausted standard treatment options, with Gates providing the specialized biomanufacturing capabilities needed to produce the therapy for clinical use.

Developed by CU Anschutz researchers, the therapy is designed to target B7-H3 and IL-8, two pathways associated with tumor growth and cancer's ability to evade the immune system. The approach aims to address one of the major challenges in CAR T-cell therapy by extending a treatment strategy that has shown success in blood cancers to solid tumors.

Gates Biomanufacturing Facility will manufacture the CAR T-cell product, playing a critical role in moving the therapy from research into a first-in-human clinical trial.

The trial, led by Christopher Lieu, MD, will initially evaluate the treatment's safety and ability to attack cancer in patients. If successful, researchers believe the approach could eventually be studied in other solid tumors involving the same biological targets. Enrollment is expected to begin in December 2026.



[Learn More](#)

Have a win to share? **Email us** your updates and milestones – we'd love to highlight your work.

Annual Community Check-Ins

Each year, we set aside time to connect one-on-one with the organizations that make Fitzsimons Innovation Community what it is. These 30-minute conversations give us a chance to hear what you're working on, learn more about your priorities for the year ahead and better understand how we can support your continued growth.

Your feedback also helps inform our annual community report, which reflects the collective progress and impact of organizations across Fitzsimons.

Keep an eye on your inbox for an invitation and scheduling link. We look forward to connecting with you!

Share Your Priorities for the Year Ahead

Join us for a brief annual check-in and help shape how we support your work.



Recognizing Excellence



Who is changing the game in Adams County?

Nominations are now open for the 2026 AC-REP Gamechangers Awards, which recognize the businesses, organizations, projects and leaders making a transformative impact across the region.

Gamechangers are helping strengthen the local economy, create new opportunities, advance emerging industries and develop solutions that respond to the needs of businesses and communities. This year's awards will recognize nominees across four categories: Economic Vitality, Inclusivity, Innovation and Sustainability.

Community members are encouraged to nominate the people and organizations whose work deserves broader recognition. Whether through a major investment, a new idea, a collaborative project or a long-term commitment to the region, each nomination helps bring attention to the work shaping Adams County's future.

Nominations are due October 7. Honorees will be recognized at the AC-REP Gamechangers Awards celebration on November 12 at Balistreri Vineyards.

Submit a Nomination

Learn. Educate. Network.

Events & Opportunities

Foundations of Leadership: CBSI

Monday, October 5 – Monday, November 9

Boulder, CO + Virtual

Hosted by the Colorado BioScience Institute, this six-week professional development program is designed for emerging and aspiring leaders across Colorado's life sciences ecosystem.

Learn more and register [HERE](#).

BioInnovate 2026

Thursday, October 8 from 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

1101 Center Ave Mall - Fort Collins, CO

A 2-in-1 recruitment experience hosted by the Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES), combining traditional career fair tabling with private 1:1 chat sessions and recruiter breaks.

Learn more and register [HERE](#).

RVC Angel Accelerator: Intro to Angel Investing

Friday, October 9 at 10:00 a.m.

Virtual

Learn how to become a successful angel investor and acquire necessary skills for successful investing through hands-on exercises and mentorship from experienced investors. After the information session, Rockies Venture Club will host a 10-week cohort with a combination of asynchronous learning, mastermind sessions, RVC Investor Forums and virtual office hours.

Register [HERE](#).

Apply to the RVC Angel Accelerator [HERE](#).

Hogan Lovells Cadwalader's Life Sciences & Health Care Webinar

Tuesday, October 13 from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Virtual

Hear insights into the key trends shaping the current U.S. transactions market and what they mean for life sciences and health care companies with operations, supply chains or commercial interests connected to the U.S., particularly those across the APAC region.

Register [HERE](#).

The Venture Summit

Wednesday, October 14: Growth Capital
Virtual

A curated gathering connecting funders with leaders of venture accelerators, builders and hubs to explore growth and catalytic capital opportunities for the organizations that support and scale startups.

Register [HERE](#).

CO-IL Institute Inaugural Gala Dinner Reception

Thursday, October 15

Safta Restaurant, Denver

Join business leaders, innovators, public officials, academia and community partners for the Inaugural Gala supporting the Colorado-Israel Economic Partnership Institute.

Register [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](#).

CDMO Live Americas

Tuesday, October 20 – Wednesday, October 21

39 Dalton St., Boston, MA

Biopharma development, manufacturing and outsourcing leaders will gather in Boston to connect with potential partners, exchange ideas and strengthen outsourcing strategies. CBSA members can also access discounted registration.

Learn more & register with code CBSA20 to save 20% [HERE](#).

MSU Denver Fall Job & Internship Fair

Wednesday, October 28

Denver, CO

Connect with students seeking internships and full-time post-graduate job opportunities.

Register [HERE](#).

Colorado BioScience Association 23rd Annual Awards Celebration

Thursday, November 12

Denver, CO

An evening of impact, inspiration and connection. This uplifting signature event shines a spotlight on individuals and organizations dedicated to transforming health and care for patients.

Get tickets [HERE](#).

2027 RESI Conferences: Global Capital, Strategic Partnerships & Life Science Innovation

January 11-12: San Francisco

April 13: Tokyo

June 7: Philadelphia

September 22: Boston

Life Science Nation's 2027 RESI conference calendar connects early-stage life science companies with global investors, pharma partners and industry leaders across major life science hubs. Register by October 2 to save \$900 with Super Early Bird Pricing.

Register [HERE](#).

Were You There?



Were you at the Colorado BioScience Association's 2026 Rocky Mountain Life Sciences Investor & Partnering Conference? We'd love to see the moments you captured.

 Share your photos with us or tag Fitzsimons Innovation Community on LinkedIn so we can see who was there, who you connected with and what stood out from the conference. We may feature selected photos in an upcoming newsletter or reshare them on our social channels as we celebrate the people and partnerships driving Colorado's life sciences community forward.

Community & Partner News



Community News

Fitzsimons Hosts North Fulton Leaders for Innovation Ecosystem Discussion

Fitzsimons Innovation Community recently welcomed a delegation of business, government and education leaders from North Fulton, Georgia, as part of the Greater North Fulton Chamber of Commerce's 2026 Strategic Leadership Visit to the Denver region.



The annual visit gave leaders an opportunity to study approaches to economic and community development and bring ideas back to their own region. During the visit, Fitzsimons COO Kenneth Ho and Fitzsimons Board Member and Aurora City Manager Jason Batchelor joined leaders from the City of Aurora, Aurora Public Schools and the University of Colorado Anschutz for a panel on building an innovation ecosystem. The discussion explored the partnerships and long-term decisions that have shaped Fitzsimons,

including the roles of research, education, workforce development, public leadership and commercialization.

The conversation focused on a central lesson from the Fitzsimons experience: strong innovation ecosystems are built through sustained collaboration across sectors. Fitzsimons' leaders appreciated the opportunity to share its perspective and exchange ideas with North Fulton leaders as they consider how those principles could inform growth in their own community.



Partner News

[Denver Business Journal announces call for nominations for 2027 40 under 40 Awards \(deadline Oct. 12\) and Best Place to Work Awards \(deadline Oct. 23\).](#)

[Applications due Jan. 7 for Colorado School of Public Health microcredentials on poverty, health, social structure and the epidemiology of poverty and social determinants.](#)

[Children's Hospital Colorado named best in Colorado and the Rocky Mountain Region, earning recognition as one of the nation's top children's hospitals for 2026, with multiple specialties receiving national Top 10 rankings.](#)

[UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital offers Colorado's first vagus nerve stimulation program for ischemic stroke rehabilitation.](#)

[Innosphere Ventures named one of America's Best Incubators & Accelerators of 2026 by TIME.](#)

[Studies by U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and a U.S. Chamber of Commerce examine economic and societal value of intellectual property-driven industries, including biotechnology and pharmaceuticals.](#)

[U.S. announces drug-pricing agreements with nine additional pharmaceutical companies under new pricing initiative.](#)

[Colorado Bioscience Association President and CEO Elyse Blazeovich highlights Colorado and the Rocky Mountain West as a growing hub for life sciences investment.](#)

[GelSana collaborators receive the American Burn Association's 2026 Robert B. Lindberg Basic Scientist Paper Award for research evaluating CleraFlex in infected burn wounds](#)

[Unshackled Ventures accepting pitches from immigrant founders seeking early-stage investment and support, including pre-product, pre-traction and pre-revenue.](#)

[UCHealth hospitals earn multiple 2026 honors from U.S. News & World Report and other national organizations, including top rankings for University of Colorado Hospital in Colorado and recognition across several specialties.](#)

[Breva's Thrive Grant program offers a \\$5,000 grant to revenue-generating small businesses demonstrating community impact. Submission deadline October 31.](#)

[The Colorado School of Public Health receives its first-ever NIH training grant, a five-year, \\$1.95 million award from NIGMS to support doctoral training in epidemiology and biostatistics.](#)

[CU Anschutz and Indiana University School of Medicine researchers identify biological process linked to cancer cachexia in](#)

[colorectal cancer, with the findings published in Nature Communications.](#)

[Terumo Blood and Cell Technologies acknowledged for converted 62.5% of 2025 intern cohort into full-time employees.](#)

[Colorado BioScience Association welcomes new Member Success Manager, Alex Delaney.](#)

[New 100% tariffs on patented pharmaceuticals and certain input materials took effect Sept. 29, while biotechnology companies await federal guidance on exemptions, compliance and implementation details.](#)

[U.S. House members introduce legislation to permanently authorize the FDA's Rare Pediatric Disease Priority Review Voucher Program to incentivize development of treatments for rare pediatric diseases.](#)

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