

For immediate release

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Med School Lands Two Posts on National Depression Center Board

AURORA, Col (Nov. 6, 2008) – A psychiatrist and a family physician from the University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine will serve on the board of directors of the National Network of Depression Centers (NNDC).

Dr. Marshall Thomas, director of the medical school's new Depression Center, and Dr. Frank deGruy, chair of the Department of Family Medicine, will help direct a new national coalition of 16 schools and hospitals that hopes to attack depression with the same comprehensive, countrywide approach that is employed to battle cancer.

"I am very excited that the University of Colorado Denver's comprehensive Depression Center is now one of the founding members of a National Network of Depression Centers," said Thomas. "Fifteen other prestigious institutions, including Stanford, Harvard, Duke, Cornell, and Columbia have signed on to be part of this network. By pooling the strengths of each of these institutions we should be able to move research, clinical care and public policy forward in a way that improves the lives of people with mood disorders on a national as well as local level."

Thomas and deGruy each spoke at a national charter signing ceremony for the network in Ann Arbor, Mich. in late October.

In his speech, deGruy stressed the multi-disciplinary approach of the network. He will serve as the Director of Primary Care Outreach and Research at the UC Denver Depression Center.

Dr. Robert Freedman, chair of psychiatry at UC Denver, and George Wieggers, a retired investment banker whose \$3 million gift started the depression center on the Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora, also attended the signing ceremony. Wieggers was moved to donate money for the center because of his mother's lifelong battle with bipolar disorder.

The facility at Anschutz became the second center in the national network behind the University of Michigan, where Dr. John Greden spearheaded the concept. The Colorado center, which began seeing patients in September, has been designated a "center of excellence" in the national network.

The UC Denver Depression Center specializes in trying to help patients with treatment-resistant depression, bipolar disorder and some other mental illnesses. It also works to raise awareness of depression among primary care doctors around the state. The center is

a fee-for-service facility that works not only with drug and talk therapy, but also with diet, exercise, education and other holistic approaches to mental illness. Patients receive a comprehensive assessment, recommendations and a treatment plan based on the most current knowledge in the field.

Besides, the University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine, other members of the National Network of Depression Centers include the University of Michigan, Stanford University, Johns Hopkins University, Columbia University, Weill Cornell Medical College, Duke University, the University of Cincinnati, Harvard Brigham & Women's Hospital, Harvard Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard McLean Hospital, the University of California San Francisco, Emory University, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Texas Southwestern and the University of Louisville.

The [School of Medicine](#) faculty work to advance science and improve care as the physicians, educators and scientists at University of Colorado Hospital, The Children's Hospital, Denver Health, National Jewish Health, and the Denver Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Degrees offered by the UC Denver School of Medicine include doctor of medicine, doctor of physical therapy, and masters of physician assistant studies. The School is part of the [University of Colorado Denver](#), one of three campuses in the University of Colorado system. For additional news and information, please visit the [UC Denver newsroom](#) online.