

## **TSAP report for visit of Dr. Donald M. Bers to University of Colorado Denver-AMC**

### **The focus of the visit and specific benefits of the program to the departments**

The focus of the visit was discussion of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  signaling in cardiac myocytes, with special emphasis on technical and theoretical aspects of measuring intracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ .

### **The audience**

Around 85 people attended the formal seminar on Thursday 17 November. The group was composed of faculty students and post-docs from diverse affiliations. Together, the Department of Physiology and Biophysics and the research branch of the Cardiology division accounted for the majority of attendees. The seminar was also well-attended by individuals from the Department of Pharmacology and the Neuroscience program. In addition, there was a strong clinical presence because the seminar was simulcast to the Cardiology faculty on duty at the VA hospital in downtown Denver.

Thirty people attended the chalk talk session. With the exception of the clinicians, the make-up of the audience resembled that of the previous day's seminar on a smaller scale. The format of this session was designed to promote interactive discussion. Questions during this lecture were encouraged and the audience was greatly involved. Lunch was served at the end of the first hour and the session continued for another hour and a half.

### **The title of the formal seminar**

"Calcium and CAMKII Signaling in Heart Failure"

### **The topic of the chalk-talk.**

"Technical and Theoretical Considerations for Measuring Intracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ "

### **Meetings with junior scientists.**

Dr. Bers had two individual meetings with junior scientists sharing his research interests (Zhandi Liao, Postdoc, Proenza lab and Eric Larsen, graduate student, Proenza lab). Following the formal seminar, he ate lunch and had informal discussion with a group of approximately ten students. In addition, four of the ten people dining at the Falling Rock Tap House on Thursday night were junior scientists. Student participation in the informal seminar exceeded expectations.

### **Social activities**

Upon arrival in Denver, Dr. Bers dined with Drs. R. Bannister, K. Beam, C. Proenza and W. Sather at Tables restaurant in Denver's Park Hill neighborhood. The following morning, he had breakfast at the Renaissance hotel with Dr. P. Buttrick, head of Cardiology. The program for Thursday night was much less formal; Dr. Bers sampled some of Colorado's finest local ales and ate pub food with a group of ten faculty and junior scientists at the Falling Rock Taphouse in Denver's Lower Downtown area (he really liked Dale's Pale Ale). Science took a backseat to pro football as the predominant topic of discussion.