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## Combating chronic obstructive pulmonary/lung disease (COPD/COLD) by early recognition of risk factors

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COPD is the fourth leading cause of death worldwide and some speculate COPD will reach the 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of death by 2020. Smoking and environmental pollution is well known to contribute to the development of COPD however, there are many other risk factors that are less well known and poorly understood. If health care providers are to facilitate a reduction in COPD deaths, it is imperative that providers recognize those at risk and intervene early. This presentation will discuss the lesser known risk factors for COPD such as alpha1 antitrypsin deficiency, prematurity, occupational hazards and others. Additionally, a discussion regarding vulnerable populations will be addressed. A summary of the results of a survey exploring Colorado advanced practice nurses (nurse practitioners) awareness of risk factors will be presented.

### Biography

Kathryn A. Blair is a professor at UCCS has been an educator and practicing advanced practice nurse (family nurse practitioner) for over 25 years. Dr. Blair had written 17 refereed journal articles, book chapters, serves on several editorial boards and is active in many professional nursing organizations.

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