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**Contact:**

Lauren Baker

303-726-0026

[lauren.baker@ucdenver.edu](mailto:lauren.baker@ucdenver.edu)

## NBHIC Showcases Virtual Reality for Mental Healthcare at Premier Events

National Behavioral Health Innovation Center to Present at The Colorado Health Foundation Symposium and Stanford University Innovations Conference

DENVER, (July 27, 2017) – The [National Behavioral Health Innovation Center](#) has been invited to present at prestigious events hosted by The Colorado Health Foundation and Stanford University. These are high-profile opportunities to showcase NBHIC's unique approach to finding bold new solutions to our nation's mental health crisis.

From demonstrations of virtual reality applications, giving attendees the chance to experience it for themselves, to presentations about the potential for virtual environments to transform mental health care, NBHIC will be in the spotlight in front of important audiences.

On Aug. 2-4, more than 600 leaders in healthcare, policy, media and other fields will convene for [The Colorado Health Symposium](#) in Keystone, CO, focusing on health inequity.

NBHIC Director of Technology Strategy, [Walter Greenleaf, PhD](#), is presenting “How Virtual Reality Will Impact the Future of Mental Health Treatment, Training and Prevention.”

Greenleaf, a pioneer and leading authority on healthcare applications for virtual reality (VR), will talk about how simulations can have multiple uses, such as to treat post-traumatic stress disorder and phobias by recreating experiences such as flying, attending a crowded party or serving as a soldier in a war zone, or to help build empathy by enabling people to experience life through the lens of others from different cultures, environments or socioeconomic status.

Attendees will hear about the decades of research that supports the effectiveness of VR in a wide range of health care applications. In addition, NBHIC is providing VR demonstrations that participants may use to experience the immersive power of VR.

NBHIC also has been invited to present at the [Stanford University 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Innovations in Psychiatry and Behavioral Health Conference](#) Oct. 6-7, 2017. This year, the conference is devoted to virtual and augmented reality technologies and behavioral change.

Greenleaf is the opening day keynote speaker, presenting an “Overview of Medical VR.” He will be followed that day by [Matt Vogl](#), executive director, NBHIC, who is speaking about the “Translation of Technology into Clinical Care.”

As the Stanford University conference website notes, “This symposium seeks to fulfill the need for physicians, psychologists, nurse practitioners, and clinical social workers to increase their knowledge and competence regarding innovations in the application of virtual reality (including augmented reality) in psychiatry and behavioral health, including appropriate referral of patients for these treatments.”

### **ABOUT THE NATIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INNOVATION CENTER**

The National Behavioral Health Innovation Center was established in 2016 with a mission to find, develop and put in to practice big new ideas to prevent, treat and change the way people think about mental illness. As part of the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, NBHIC has a unique role in connecting academic research, patient treatment and industry innovation to accelerate mental health solutions that have significant impact for patients and entire communities.

[www.behavioralhealthinnovation.org](http://www.behavioralhealthinnovation.org)