NEW YEAR, Big Changes!

Administration Changes and Faces

Emily Dailey, MA
Program Administrator

Hi y'all! I moved to Colorado from my home state of Kentucky in January 2013, where I was the Neuroscience Program Administrator here at Anschutz before moving to MSTP in June 2015. Previously, I worked at the University of Kentucky, first as an undergraduate recruiter (GO CATS!) and then as an academic advisor in the College or Arts and Sciences. I have a MA in Higher Education Administration (fitting, eh?) and LOVE what I do– especially working with students! I hope to make your time in MSTP an enjoyable one; my door is always open. Stop by and I’ll try to not overwhelm you with adorable pictures of my pups. No promises.

Michelle Tellez, BS
Administrative Assistant

I moved here from San Marcos, TX where I attended Texas State University. I graduated with bachelors in Biology and Biochemistry. I have worked at University of Colorado for the past nine years managing the fish facility on campus and working in the Physiology and Biophysics department under Dr. Ribera. I look forward to getting to know everyone within the MSTP program.

Kristin Artinger, PhD
Associate Director, Pre-Clinical Years

I am excited to work with MSTP students as the Associate Director, Pre-Clinical Years. I am excited to work with MSTP students as the Associate Preclinical Director. I am a Ph.D. scientist who studied at the University of California Irvine and trained as a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard Medical School. I have been at CU since 2002 and am currently an Associate Professor in Craniofacial Biology and Associate Director of the Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program.

Jorge DiPaola, MD
Associate Director, Clinical Years

I am truly honored to become the Associate Clinical Director of the MSTP. I am a pediatric hematologist and physician scientist who moved to the University of Colorado in 2008. I have been involved with the MSTP as Chair of the Admissions Committee for the last 3 years. I am a Professor of Pediatrics and the Program” Leader in Hematology in our Department. I am looking forward to working with Arthur, Kristin and all the students.
Matriculating Class of 2015

Katherine (Katie) Wu—I grew up in Greenwich, CT, but moved to New York City during my junior year of high school. I studied Animal Science at Cornell University, where I completed two very different research theses. For my first thesis, I worked with Dr. Robin DeBruyne to investigate temporal and spatial comparisons of double crested cormorants in Lake Champlain. Additionally, I joined Dr. Yung-Fu Chang’s lab for my honors thesis, where I studied the pathogenesis of C. difficile infection and host immune response to infection. After graduating, I spent a year as a Corps Member with City Year/Americorps in Washington, DC. I was then fortunate to join Dr. Jason Prescott’s lab at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Under Dr. Prescott’s mentorship, I worked to generate a transgenic zebrafish model of thyroid cancer, which is designed for the rapid development of new treatments in both Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma and Anaplastic Thyroid.

Wells LaRivière — I was born and raised in Greenwich, CT and went to Reed College in Portland OR, where I received a BA in Political Science. After graduation, I pursued extensive post-baccalaureate, pre-medical studies which culminated in a BS in Molecular & Cell Biology from the University of Connecticut. During this time, I had the pleasure of working in labs at both the Oregon Health & Science University and UConn, and most recently finished 2 years as an NIDDK research trainee at Mayo Clinic in Rochester MN. In my free time I like to play soccer (the one true sport) and do anything that gets me outdoors (including Netflix mountaineering documentaries, which totally count).

Marlie Fisher — I’m a Denver local and attended the University of Colorado at Boulder where I studied Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology. As an undergraduate, I spent time studying tumor immunology at UC Denver and the tumor microenvironment at Memorial Sloan Kettering. After graduation, I worked in an immunology lab studying cytoskeletal effectors mediating the process of leukemia metastasis. I’m looking forward to further pursuing my studies of cancer and feel so lucky to have the opportunity to do so in the beautiful state of Colorado! I also enjoy being with my dog, playing golf, and spending time with my family.

Evan Lester — I grew up in Westport, Connecticut in a family of musicians and artists. After studying percussion at McGill’s University Schulich Conservatory, I transferred to Brown University where I graduated magna cum laude with a Sc.B. in music and neuroscience. Over the years, I have been involved in a variety of research projects from modeling human musical timing with Dr. Russell Church to high throughput screening for novel immuno-oncology therapeutics in the lead discovery wing of Bristol-Myers Squibb’s pharmaceutical research institute. This coming summer, I will be rotating in Dr. Hesselberth’s lab using new sequencing techniques to investigate mechanisms of viral resistance. When not on campus, I enjoy exploring the mountains, traveling, snowboarding, and playing drums.

Hae (Harry) J. Park — I was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, and moved to South Korea when I was 2. I grew up in Gyeongju, South Korea. As I had desired to broaden my horizon, I moved back to the U.S. when I was 19. I attended the University of Oregon (Go DUCKS), where I studied Biochemistry. During my undergraduate studies, I worked in Dr. Tom Stevens’ lab to study trafficking pathway of V-ATPase in budding yeast. After I graduated, I decided to pursue my research interest in molecular medicine, and worked as a research assistant for 2 years in Dr. Jim McCormick’s lab to study molecular mechanism of renal failure and hypertensive diseases. My future research interest is molecular medicine and physiology. In my free time, I enjoy indoor bouldering, snowboarding, and hiking.
Leah Bowen — I grew up outside Seattle and did my undergrad in biomedical engineering at Northwestern. After graduation, I worked as a research technician and later as a biomedical engineering master’s student in Vadim Backman’s lab at Northwestern studying nanoscale imaging of cells and tissues as a cancer prescreen. I am currently interested in medical device design and development. In my free time I like DIY projects such as paintings and dehydrators. I also like eating, deadlifts, and the outdoors. During my time in Colorado I plan on improving my skiing, rock climbing, and mountain biking skills.

Anand (Andy) Tekriwal— I was born and raised in the coastal town of Toms River, NJ where I attended public school until leaving for the University of Pennsylvania in 2009. I graduated with a degree in Biological Basis of Behavior with Honors and was a member of several labs while I was an undergraduate. My most formative experience was in Dr. Tracy Bale working with then neurosurgical resident Dr. Casey Halpern. My interest in deep brain stimulation and related neuromodulatory treatments was piqued then and has continued since, although I took some time away from research to pursue a catering start up following graduation. I have been enjoying the food scene in downtown Denver and my subsequent runs on the many trails in and around the city.

Matthew Svalina — Matthew earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences with a minor in Chemistry from the University of Illinois-Chicago. Following completion of his undergraduate degree, Matthew earned a paramedic license through Malcolm X College in Chicago, where he completed his field internship with the Chicago Fire Department on ambulances serving the south side of Chicago. He then joined the lab of Charles Keller at the Oregon Health & Science University where he led basic science and preclinical studies in rhabdomyosarcoma and medulloblastoma. He is co-founder of the Portland, Oregon-based Children’s Cancer Therapy Development Institute, a unique non-profit focused on the preclinical gap in childhood cancer research.

Faye Camp - I grew up in Philadelphia, PA and graduated from Temple University with a degree in Biology. My involvement in research began as an intern in the Oncology Drug Discovery group at Teva Pharmaceuticals. My engagement in drug discovery at Teva focused on indentifying and characterizing kinase inhibitors targeting activated oncoproteins implicated in multiple signal transduction pathways and inhibitors of metabolic oncoproteins that confer a selective survival advantage to specific subtypes of cancer. After graduating, I continued this work for a few years before applying to medical school. I enjoy being outdoors and am excited to explore the unending beauty Colorado has to offer.

We are so glad you’re here!
Congratulations to the 2015 Keystone Conference Committee on a SPECTACULAR conference!

Awards and Recognition

Aaron Bowen (2010) received a NIH NRSA in May 2015.

Tara Carlisle (2007) was selected for Senior AOA.

Kenny Felsenstein (2014) had a piece selected as an American Chemical Society Editor's Choice.


⇒ And was selected out 1,800 students to give a talk at the National Graduate Student Symposium in April at St. Jude.

Tom Vogler (2012) was awarded the NIH F30 AR068881 for "Manipulating FGFR1 Signaling to Enhance Satellite Cell Function and Potentiate Muscle Regeneration" and also received the Gordon Stone Junior Graduate Student Scholarship.


Peach SE, York K, Hesselberth JR. Global analysis of RNA cleavage by 5'-hydroxyl RNA sequencing. Nucleic Acids Res. 2015 Sep 30;43(17)


Pathology concordance levels for meningioma classification and grading in NRG Oncology RTOG Trial 0539.


Please note to have personal information included in future newsletters, you MUST e-mail Emily (emily.dailey@ucdenver.edu). We will not publish information without your permission.


Jon Kibbie (2013) and his wife welcomed baby girl, Penny on September 27, 2015.

Cecilia Levandowski (2012) and her husband Will, welcomed Oliver Watson Levandowski (OWL) on 12/17/15 (7 lbs. 6 oz.)

Mario Lintz (2010) and his wife, Monica welcome their 3rd child, Josephine Ynez Lintz born on 10/23/15 (8 lbs 5 oz). She joins big sister Delilah (4) and brother Oliver (2).

Jon Kibbie (2013) and his wife welcomed baby girl, Penny on September 27, 2015.
Sally Peach (2011) completed the Double Triple Bypass, a two-day bike ride in the Colorado mountains that covers 240 miles and 20,000' elevation gain in 36 hours!! GO SALLY!

Aaron C. Spalding (class of 1997) was awarded the following grants

* 2015 Norton Healthcare Foundation Grant 15-83 “Dexamethasone Administration during Definitive Radiation and Temozolomide Renders a Poor Prognosis in a Retrospective Analysis of Newly Diagnosed Glioblastoma Patients”
* 2015 Norton Healthcare Foundation Grant 15-62 “Heterogeneity Correction for Intensity-Modulated Frameless SRS in Pituitary and Cavernous Sinus Tumors: A Retrospective Study”
* Norton Healthcare Foundation Grant 15-57 “MGMT Methylation in Glioblastoma Patients”

Audrey Brumback (class of 1999) was awarded the following:

* K08 from NINDS funded
* Stroup family award received from Johns Hopkins
* Child Neurology Foundation research award received

And 15 month old daughter Ruby is thriving

Pippa Cosper (class of 2004)

* Graduated in 2013 and is now a resident in radiation oncology at Wash U.
* Awarded the Holman Pathway through the American Board of Radiology.

Charles G. Drake (class of 1995)

* Promoted to full professor (Oncology, Urology and Immunology) at Johns Hopkins University
* Named co-director of the Division of Immunology at the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center
* New papers and grants - one interesting paper showing how Radiation primes an anti-cancer immune response in Cancer Immunology Research
* Starting a clinical trial of a listeria-based vaccine against prostate cancer
* Working with another MSTP graduate, (Jeremy Bender, COO at Tizona Therapeutics) on selected projects within the company
2016 Revisit Day
Friday, March 4, 2016

2016 Graduation Dinner
Monday, May 23, 2016 at 6 pm

31st Annual Keystone MD/PhD Student Conference
July 15-18, 2016