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Colorado Clinical and Translational  
Sciences Institute (CCTSI)

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER | ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

## LEADERSHIP FOR INNOVATIVE TEAM SCIENCE (LITeS)

**Description & Directory** | 2016-2017

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## The **CCTSI** Program

The Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CCTSI), created in 2008, includes the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, University of Colorado Denver, University of Colorado Boulder, Colorado State University, six major hospitals, and health care organizations and local communities. The CCTSI will:

- Expand this statewide academic home for clinical and translational research.
- Implement new clinical research management strategies to improve quality, safety, efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and innovative team science as well as introduce new software systems and workflows
- Centralize the delivery of resources, services, and technologies.
- Incorporate key concepts of community engagement into the full spectrum of translational research.
- Increase the translational research workforce capacity through a broad curriculum of education, training, and career development opportunities.

A rigorous tracking, assessment, and evaluation program with a formal quality and process improvement component will ensure the best use of resources while protecting the safety of research study participants. These programs will be centralized at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, which is adjacent to participating schools, research laboratories, three hospitals, and a biomedical corporate park.

## **CCTSI** Leadership



### **RONALD J. SOKOL, MD, FAASLD | Director, Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute**

*Professor and Vice Chair of Pediatrics*

*Arnold Silverman, MD, Endowed Chair in Digestive Health*

*Assistant Vice Chancellor for Clinical and Translational Science, University of Colorado Denver*

*Chief, Section of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition and the Digestive Health Institute*

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Dr. Ronald J. Sokol received his undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana, his MD from the University of Chicago/Pritzker School of Medicine, and his pediatric residency training at the University of Colorado Medical Center in Denver. He then completed a three-year fellowship in Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition in 1983 at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Sokol has been a faculty member at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and Children's Hospital Colorado since 1983 and is now Professor and Vice Chair of Clinical and Translational Research in the Department of Pediatrics and Section Chief of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition and the Digestive Health Institute at Children's Hospital Colorado. He is Director and Principal Investigator of the Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute at University of Colorado Denver, funded by the NIH, and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Clinical and Translational Science. Dr. Sokol's major scientific interests are investigating the etiology, cellular, and immunologic pathogenesis of

biliary atresia; the mechanisms of liver cell injury in cholestatic, fatty liver disease, and parenteral nutrition associated liver injury; the role of mitochondria and oxidative stress in liver injury; and developing predictive models and novel therapeutics for childhood liver diseases. Dr. Sokol is Chair of the Steering Committee of the NIDDK-supported Childhood Liver Disease Research Network (ChiLDRen). Dr. Sokol will be president-elect of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases in 2017. He has been cited in "Best Doctors in America" since 1994 and received the 2003 Nutrition Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the 2009 James E. Strain Award in Pediatrics from Children's Hospital Colorado, and the 2009 Harry Shwachman Award from NASPGHAN. Dr. Sokol has published over 230 peer reviewed articles, 120 chapters and review articles, 10 books or monographs, and over 340 research abstracts. He is co-editor of "Liver Disease in Children," the leading textbook in pediatric hepatology.



**MARC MOSS, MD | Education, Training, and Career Development (ETCD) Director, CCTSI**

*Roger S. Mitchell Professor of Medicine*

*Vice Chair of Clinical Research, Department of Medicine*

*Division of Pulmonary Critical Care at University of Colorado Hospital*

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Dr. Moss is the Roger S. Mitchell Professor of Medicine. Funded by gifts from fundraising events, donors, the Department of Medicine, and friends of Roger Mitchell, this chair was established to advance pulmonary research at the university. Dr. Moss has been the program director for the Education, Training, and Career Development core of the CCTSI since 2008. He is also the program director for the KL2 program at the University. Dr. Moss has been continuously NIH funded for 15 years. His research examines the mechanisms by which alcohol abuse and dependence increase susceptibility to acute lung injury, exploring, in addition, the effects of a variety of therapeutic modalities for patients with ARDS in NIH sponsored clinical trials. Dr. Moss has been the recipient of multiple awards, including the American Lung Association Edward Livingston Trudeau

Scholar, the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching at Crawford Long Hospital and Grady Memorial Hospital, the Emory University Attending Teaching Award, the Emory University Dean's Clinical Investigator Award, and the J. Willis Hurst Internal Medicine Residency Program Mentorship Award. He was included on the Best Doctors in America 2007-2008, 2008-2009, and 2009-2010. Dr. Moss was also selected as the Who's Who in the American Thoracic Society for December 2007, and will serve as the president of this society from 2017-2018. As the Vice Chair of Clinical Research for the Department of Medicine, Dr. Moss is committed to improving the scientific infrastructure for all divisions that will provide continued long-term success in clinical trials and research studies.

## LEADERSHIP FOR INNOVATIVE TEAM SCIENCE (LITeS):

A Program for Academic and Research Leadership in the Health Sciences

The **Leadership for Innovative Team Science Program (LITeS)** is offered annually by the CCTSI to a selected cohort of University of Colorado senior and emerging leaders. Structured as a year-long experience, individuals attend a quarterly series of two-day workshops, collaborate throughout the year on a team project, and receive the benefit of individual coaching sessions. In addition to enhancing leadership skills, LITeS fosters team science by creating a network of colleagues who serve as resources for one another across the University and the CCTSI, expanding opportunities for cross disciplinary collaboration, and ensuring that the next generation of clinical and translational scientists receive the highest quality training for science leadership. Participants in LITeS have included deans, associate deans, department chairs, and vice-chairs, as well

as senior leadership from hospitals, major research centers, and training programs.

The LITeS program addresses three key leadership domains: **1)** individual leadership styles and behaviors; **2)** interpersonal and team skills for leading, managing, and working with people; and **3)** process skills for increasing quality and efficiency in the work of academic leadership. Participants benefit from standardized assessments in such areas as Work Style and Type, Emotional Intelligence, Conflict Management, and Influence Styles. Experienced facilitators lead the group on topics such as: Working with Challenging Colleagues, Communication Styles, Giving and Getting Feedback, Intergenerational Workplace Issues, Time Management, Effective Meetings, Project Management, Developing High Performance Teams, and Stress Management.

Additionally, participants will choose a career or professional development goal, complete a plan for its achievement, and receive guidance in putting the plan to work. Over the course of the year, participants carry out a project with a small team of other LITeS participants. They will function as a work team to address a real and immediate issue of concern for the University. Since 2014-15, University leaders have been involved as sponsors or resources for these projects. This team structure provides opportunities for peer coaching and for the assessment and development of team skills as well.

For more information about the program, contact the LITeS Director Judith Albino, PhD, 303-724-1467 ([judith.albino@ucdenver.edu](mailto:judith.albino@ucdenver.edu)) or Programs Manager Galit Mankin, MSW, 720-848-6249 ([galit.mankin@ucdenver.edu](mailto:galit.mankin@ucdenver.edu)).

## LITeS Faculty and Staff



### **JUDITH ALBINO, PhD | LITeS Director**

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Director, Center for Native Oral Health Research  
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Judith Albino, PhD, LITeS Program Director, is President Emerita of the University of Colorado and Professor of Community and Behavioral Health in the Colorado School of Public Health. A health psychologist, she began her academic career in the School of Dentistry at the State University of New York at Buffalo. She spent 15 years in academic administration, serving as Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School at Buffalo, as Vice President and subsequently President of the University of Colorado, and then as President of Alliant International University in California. Retiring from administration, she returned to Colorado to work with colleagues to build a research program in health disparities of American Indian/Alaska Native populations. She is PI and Director of the Center for Native Oral Health Research. She has served on the Council of the National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research and

on numerous NIH study sections and review panels. She also has served as President of Behavioral Scientists in Dental Research and as Treasurer of the American Psychological Association and of the Federation of Behavioral, Psychological, and Cognitive Sciences. She was named Distinguished Psychologist in Management by the Society of Psychologists in Management, and she was appointed by Governor Hickenlooper to the board of Caring for Colorado. She consults nationally on leadership and organizational development and planning for higher education and the health professions. She is certified in executive coaching and maintains a practice in that field, focusing primarily on services to leaders in the academic health professions and coaching to maximize the performance of academic, scientific, and health care teams.

## LITeS Faculty and Staff



### **SUSAN L. JOHNSON | LITeS Associate Director**

*Professor of Pediatrics, Section of Nutrition  
Director, The Children's Eating Laboratory  
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Susan Johnson is a tenured Professor of Pediatrics and is joining the LITeS Program this year as Associate Director. She came to University of Colorado Denver as a postdoctoral fellow and has continued within the Section of Nutrition in the Department of Pediatrics throughout her career. She has a secondary appointment in the Department of Community and Behavioral Health in the Colorado School of Public Health as well as adjunct faculty status at Colorado State University Food Science and Human Nutrition, University of Idaho Family and Consumer Sciences, and the University of Illinois Food Science and Human Nutrition graduate programs. Since 2010, she has been the Co-Director of the NIH T32 Nutrition Training Grant. Her major

scientific interests focus on early childhood nutrition—specifically the impacts of environment on the development of children's eating behaviors and growth. Her research portfolio includes proof of concept studies that develop novel methods to study the development of eating behavior as well as observational and intervention studies that are designed to improve children's eating and physical activity in the childcare setting, the family home, and across communities. She participated as a member of the 2014 – 2015 LITeS cohort and brings that experience to her new role as Associate Director.

## LITeS Faculty and Staff



**Galit Mankin, MSW**

*Program Administrator, Clinical Science Graduate Program, CCTSI  
Programs Manager, Education, Training, and Career Development (ETCD), CCTSI  
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Galit Mankin has been working at the University of Colorado since 1998. In her current position, she oversees the operation of the Clinical Science (CLSC) Graduate Program. In addition, she is currently serving as the Programs Manager for the Education, Training and Career Development core at the CCTSI, which provides clinical-translational scientists and trainees with knowledge, training, and career skills. Ms. Mankin holds a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Denver and an Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Colorado Denver.

## LITeS CLASS

of 2016-2017

*In their own words...*

## LITeS Class of 2016-2017



**Dan Atkins, MD**

*Associate Professor*

*Section Head of Allergy and Immunology*

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As Section Head of Allergy and Immunology in the Department of Pediatrics, my role is to foster the development and implementation of clinical, research, and educational programs that promote the delivery of optimal multidisciplinary personalized medical care, the conception and performance of innovative research, and the education and training of the next generation of clinicians and clinical researchers in this rapidly evolving field. The new Allergy and Immunology Section was established in January 2014 and has grown rapidly with the addition of faculty members with research interests in food allergy, eosinophilic gastrointestinal diseases, asthma, and immunodeficiency. This July our new Allergy and Immunology Fellowship Program will celebrate the arrival of two inaugural fellows. My role as Section Head requires that I focus on promoting the success of our faculty members and fellows by insuring that the infrastructure, funding, academic environment, mentorship, and leadership necessary for them to realize their research and clinical goals is available. Because of my career long interest in food allergies, I appreciate the

opportunity to work with Drs. David Fleischer and Matt Greenhawt in establishing a food allergy research program. In my other position as Co-Director of the Gastrointestinal Eosinophilic Diseases Program, I am working with Dr. Glenn Furuta, director of the GEDP, to expand the clinical team. Our goal is to meet increasing clinical demands while performing clinical translational research to better define the phenotypes of patients with these diseases and to aid in determining which therapies are optimal for each phenotype.

## LITeS Class of 2016-2017



**Kian Behbakht, MD**

*Professor*

*Division Director*

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I am a practicing cancer clinician, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Division Director for Gynecologic Oncology at the University of Colorado Denver and Anschutz Medical Campus. I am also the Director for the Gynecologic Oncology Fellowship and Director of a basic science and translational research laboratory. I have had successful funding since 2002 and recently these research projects have been in collaboration with teams rather than an individual primary investigator. I enjoy leading teams, but would like to attain more depth in my interactions and my successes.



**Barry Braun, PhD**

*Professor  
Department Head*  
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I received my PhD in nutrition from the University of California, Berkeley and did four years of post-doctoral work at the Palo Alto VA Medical Center/Stanford University Medical School. I subsequently spent 14 years in the Department of Kinesiology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst as Assistant, Associate, and then Full Professor and Director of the Energy Metabolism Laboratory. I am currently Professor and Head of the Department of Health and Exercise Science at Colorado State University. My research program has been centered on experimental, laboratory-based outpatient studies in obese humans with and without prediabetes/Type-2 diabetes. With funding from the National Institutes of Health, American Diabetes Association, and various foundations, my lab group focuses on optimizing the use of exercise to prevent and/or manage type-2 diabetes, the role of energy balance and short-term

dietary change, interactions between exercise, and the common diabetes drug metformin and the impact of activity and inactivity on hormonal regulation of appetite. This work has resulted in more than 90 peer-reviewed research articles in journals such as the American Journal of Physiology, Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism, and the Journal of Applied Physiology. In my role as department head at CSU, I am primarily concerned with developing clinical research partnerships within CSU and in collaboration with CU Anschutz via the CCTSI and with CU Boulder. I serve as Executive Director of the Human Performance Clinical/Research Laboratory, which has 11,500 square feet (expanding to 16,000 sq. feet by 10/2017) of state-of-the art clinical and basic science research space dedicated to translational studies of healthy human aging and prevention of age-related disease.



**Melissa Cadnapaphornchai, MD**

*Professor*  
*Professor of Pediatrics & Medicine*  
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I am a board-certified pediatric nephrologist with particular interests in water metabolism and cystic kidney disease. My early career was spent in basic science research related to water and sodium transport in animal models of endocrinopathies and other diseases. This work led to a clinical trial of novel pharmacologic intervention in congenital nephrogenic diabetes insipidus, and I continue to be involved in pediatric studies of vasopressin blockade. However, the primary focus of my career has been translational research in polycystic kidney disease. I participated in an international collaborative to provide guidelines for the evaluation and care of children with autosomal recessive polycystic kidney disease. I have conducted

the only large-scale randomized controlled phase 3 clinical trials of novel pharmacologic interventions in children and young adults with autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease. Through these clinical trials, we demonstrated the importance of early angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor treatment in specific subgroups of ADPKD children as well as the efficacy of pravastatin to slow growth of kidney cysts in this condition. We continue to submit grant applications for investigation of novel therapies in ADPKD children. I also collaborate for subject recruitment and management in clinical studies of chronic kidney disease and kidney transplantation.

## LITeS Class of 2016-2017



**Patti Davies, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA**

*Professor*

*Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Programs*

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I am the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Programs in the College of Health and Human Sciences at Colorado State University. In this capacity it is my responsibility to advocate and facilitate research for faculty and graduate students within our college. I work with other associate deans for research at CSU to develop programs that facilitate collaborations among faculty across colleges. In my personal research, I have been involved in several federally funded interdisciplinary research projects as a Co-PI. One of these projects is funded by USDA and involves the development of an intervention to prevent of obesity in preschool children in rural Colorado. I am also involved in a research project related to Brain Computer Interfaces (BCI) funded by NSF with a goal to develop BCIs for persons with severe motor impairments. For my personal research, and in my role as Associate Dean, I am interested in enhancing my leadership skills and my understanding of team science.

## LITeS Class of 2016-2017



**Nicholas Foreman, MD**

*Professor*

*Associate Section Head, for Research*

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I am a pediatric neuro-oncologist and founded the neuro-oncology program at Children's Hospital Colorado. This program now has 5 PIs, all of whom are funded researchers. I still have clinical responsibilities one day a week. I am a member of brain tumor strategy committee of the Children's Oncology Group and I head its ependymoma subcommittee. I have directed the development in North America of the two largest trials in childhood ependymoma to date. I also run a lab which has, as its primary focus, the immunobiology of pediatric brain tumors with an emphasis on ependymoma. My work in the lab over many years has resulted in trials of immunotherapy in ependymoma, the latest of these trials, with a first in childhood element, will open in July 2016. I am responsible, as the Associate Section, head for the direction of research in pediatric Hematology/Oncology/BMT as a whole. In addition, I am Deputy Director of the Pediatric K-12 and will assume responsibility for that program in due course.



**Jeffrey Galinkin, MD**

*Professor*

*Chair of Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, CHCO*

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I have had long-standing interest in pharmacology and drug analysis of opioids and drugs of abuse and a track record of peer reviewed and industry funding that supports this effort. My core interest is in pain management and study design/clinical trial management. My background includes training in mass-spectrometry based analytics, clinical study design, and analysis. I have more recently focused my efforts on the developmental pharmacokinetics and pharmacogenetics of opioids and marijuana and the creation of CUToxicology (a university based startup utilizing a novel patent pending multiplexing assay for 120 pain drugs and drugs of abuse). This effort has led my laboratory, under my guidance, to be the core analytic site for all of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) marijuana grants. Additionally, I am the primary pain researcher at CPC Clinical Research. My current research focus is in developing new translational technologies and diagnostic tools for the management of analytic samples (specifically for opioids), the individualization of pharmacotherapy, and toxicology screening.

Together with Dr. Christians, I have built a state-of-the art analytical mass spectrometry facility (17 mass spectrometers, cGLP compliant, CAP accredited and CLIA certified) to support my research interests.



**Timothy Givens, MD**

*Associate Professor*

*Section Head, Pediatric Emergency Medicine*

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My personal involvement in research has ebbed in recent years as the challenges of shepherding a large section (over 150 faculty) have increased. While I still dip my toe into clinical research, primarily in the realm of improving pediatric prehospital care, my primary functions as regards scholarly activity have been in the recruitment of academic faculty, the development, mentorship and support of faculty academic pursuits, and the procurement of necessary resources to enable faculty success in these endeavors. In recent months, one of my primary struggles has been maintaining a focus on the academic mission of our section in light of increasing demands for clinical time and the additional pressures of declining reimbursement (leaving more restricted budget room for scholarly support) and increasing competition for research funding. It is crucial to our identity, our mission, and our image both locally and nationally for our Section to maintain and extend its academic contribution to our specialty, and as the Section Head who leads what are essentially several distinct and oft-conflicting businesses, igniting the sparks, fanning the flames,

and finding enough wood to feed the academic fire is an increasingly difficult challenge.

## LITeS Class of 2016-2017



**Karyn Goodman, MD, MS**

*Professor*

*Medical Director, Cancer Clinical Trials Office*

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As a clinician-scientist specializing in radiation oncology of gastrointestinal (GI) malignancies, my research goal is to implement novel methods to enhance treatment efficacy and reduce toxicity. I have expanded the use of cutting edge technology in radiation oncology to treating GI neoplasms, including intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT), image-guided radiation therapy (IGRT), and stereotactic body radiotherapy (SBRT). My research interests encompass three areas: (1) introducing new techniques to improve radiotherapy planning and delivery for GI cancers; (2) developing appropriate guidelines and methods of quality assurance for use of advanced RT techniques; and (3) evaluating late effects and impact of therapies on quality of life. In addition to my interest in technical advances in radiation oncology, I am involved in the development of therapeutic protocols to optimally combine systemic therapies with radiotherapy and individualize care for patients with GI cancers. I am involved in both national and international research collaborations. I have served in numerous leadership roles on

multiple ASTRO, ASCO, and RTOG/NRG committees. I am the national Radiation Oncology principal investigator of the RTOG/NRG 0848 study, a phase III trial evaluating the use of post-operative radiotherapy for pancreatic cancer. I also served the national Study Chair for the recently completed CALGB/Alliance Cooperative Group phase II trial (CALGB 80803), investigating PET scan-directed therapy for esophageal cancer. I have published over 100 peer-reviewed articles, review articles, and chapters.

## LITeS Class of 2016-2017



**Nabeel Hamzeh, MD**

*Associate Professor*

*Section Head*

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I am an Associate Professor at National Jewish Health in the division of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences. My clinical and research interests are focused on granulomatous lung diseases with an emphasis on sarcoidosis and hypersensitivity pneumonitis. I work and collaborate with a large group of researchers spanning from basic science research to clinical research. Our research focuses on better understanding the pathophysiology of sarcoidosis with the goal of introducing novel diagnostic, prognostic, and therapeutic agents to the clinical care of sarcoidosis patients. Our research group is supported by NIH and foundation grants to conduct various projects related to sarcoidosis. My administrative responsibilities at NJH include section head for the clinical and translational research section for the Department of Medicine at NJH, I am a member of the clinical leadership council at NJH and supervise our division's scheduling unit.

## LITeS Class of 2016-2017



**Eric Lavonas, MD**

*Associate Professor*

*Interim Director, Department of Emergency Medicine, Denver Health*

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As Interim Director of Emergency Medicine at Denver Health, I lead a group of 30 very talented faculty members and 74 amazing residents. We already perform at the highest levels in patient care, education, and research, and my goal is to take each of these to an even higher level. To accomplish this, we encourage focus and specialization, develop and support our current researchers, and identify promising early-career clinician/scientists for mentorship, specialized training, and support. The purpose of research is to make patient care better. In the emergency department, we make critical diagnostic and therapeutic decisions, often under pressure and with partial information, that set patients on a course for recovery or treatment failure. Often our patients don't have a plan B. My goal is to develop and disseminate robust diagnostic and treatment strategies that will benefit real patients in real time.

## LITeS Class of 2016-2017



**Jenn Leiferman, PhD, MS**

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I have a multidisciplinary background in providing knowledge and training in behavioral science, kinesiology, and epidemiology. I also have extensive expertise in intervention design, implementation, and evaluation in both clinical and community settings. Over the past decade plus, my research has primarily focused on improving perinatal health outcomes for both mother and child. This work has most recently focused on improving patient-provider communication on prenatal health behaviors such as physical activity, healthy eating/weight gain, and the management of stress and mood disorders. Additional work has also involved conducting clinical and community trials to test various interventions aimed at improving perinatal health outcomes by increasing engagement in maternal prenatal health behaviors.



**Carmen Lewis, MD, MPH**

*Associate Professor*

*Vice Division Head for Strategy and Innovation*

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My passion is to improve clinical care through rigorous translational science. My overarching leadership goal in my new role as Vice Division Head of Strategy and Innovation is to accelerate translational science in the Division of General Internal Medicine and collaborate with others to do so across the Anschutz Campus. My vision is to simultaneously advance the science of health care delivery and improve clinical care with the implementation of evidence-based interventions. This will necessitate close collaborative efforts within the School of Medicine and with our colleagues in both University Physicians, Inc. and University of Colorado Health. In my position as Practice Director of the General Internal Medicine Practices over the past three years, I have already forged many of these relationships with key stakeholders and look forward to furthering translational science efforts with these partnerships. As a successful translational scientist, I will continue my own translational research in patient engagement, individualizing care in clinical practice, and improving the value of care provided. I was recently awarded an R21



**Cecilia Low Wang, MD**

*Associate Professor*

*Director, Glucose Management Team*

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I am involved with clinical trials as Safety Lead and Medical Safety Officer at CPC Clinical Research, an academic clinical trials organization on the Anschutz Medical Campus. I was a VA-funded researcher for 11 years in vascular cell biology, and examined the impact of insulin resistance in the vascular wall before transitioning to clinical research in diabetes and inpatient glucose management. My roles on campus include being Associate Director for Fellowship/Education in the Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism, and Diabetes, faculty coordinator for the Endocrinology and Glucose Management rotations for medical students, and housestaff in Internal Medicine and Family Medicine, and Director of the inpatient Glucose Management Team at the University of Colorado Hospital. I attend on the Endocrinology and the Glucose Management Team consult services and have an outpatient endocrine clinic. I worked as a panel member for Colorado Multiple Institutional Review Board for several years. I am a member of the Endocrine Society Trainee and Career Development Core Development Committee, and have served

on the Endocrine Society's Research Affairs Committee Clinical Research subcommittee and Scientific and Educational Programs Core Committee. Most recently, I was appointed to the Food and Drug Administration's Endocrinologic and Metabolic Drugs Advisory Committee.



**Pam Peterson, MD, MSPH**

*Associate Professor*

*Director*

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Dr. Peterson is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Colorado Denver, staff cardiologist at Denver Health Medical Center, and the Associate Program director for the cardiovascular fellowship training program. Dr. Peterson is a leader in quality of care and outcomes research with a focus on heart failure and device therapies. The goals of her research are to identify factors associated with high risk of adverse outcomes and to assess the effectiveness and comparative effectiveness of therapies with the goal of informing clinical decision making, policy decisions, and motivating change in clinical practice to improve the quality of care. She has an extensive peer review publication record, including three scientific publications in JAMA. She is also an active member of the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association, serving on multiple task forces and writing groups including the writing group for the Guideline on the Diagnosis and Management of Heart Failure in Adults. She is also an active member of the Colorado Cardiovascular Outcomes Research (CCOR) Consortium



**Theresa Powell, PhD**

*Professor*

*Co-Director Pregnancy Research CCTSI*

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My research is internationally recognized for determining the molecular mechanisms regulating ion and macronutrient transport in the human placenta and characterizing changes in placental function in association with important pregnancy complications. My primary research focus is to better understand how the abnormal maternal metabolic environment of obesity and/or gestational diabetes affects placental function and the long-term health of the baby. Specifically, we are interested in identifying endocrine signals linking maternal adipose tissue to placental function and fetal growth and developing novel intervention paradigms for improving the pregnancy outcomes.

The placental “phenotype” with respect to nutrient transport capacity and cellular signaling in abnormal pregnancies and potential mechanisms that regulate these functional adaptations are evaluated in relevant clinical samples to establish the role of altered placental function in human pregnancy complicated by pathological fetal growth. Once candidate systems are identified, detailed cellular

regulation studies are performed in both animal and in vitro cell culture models. For example, maternal obesity provides a “nutrient rich” environment with elevated glucose and lipids and high levels of circulating growth factors such as insulin and leptin and low adiponectin. My research has established that this maternal metabolic phenotype provides growth promoting signals for the placenta and the developing fetus and contributes to increased fetal growth and enhanced fetal fat deposition. This is critically important because long-term health consequences for intrauterine overgrowth include diabetes, obesity and cardiovascular disease.

My research group is currently investigating innovative strategies to improve placental function and fetal outcomes in pregnancy complications, such as omega-3 fatty acid supplementation in gestational diabetes and maternal obesity. In addition, we have discovered that, in complete contrast to its effect as an insulin sensitizer in muscle and liver, the adipose tissue hormone

### **Theresa Powell, PhD *continued***

adiponectin causes insulin resistance in the placenta, thereby limiting placental nutrient transport and fetal growth in lean women with high adiponectin levels. In contrast, obese women have low circulating adiponectin levels and often give birth to large babies. We have proposed that adiponectin functions as a novel endocrine link between maternal energy stores (adiposity), placental function, and fetal growth. In a recent proof-of-principle study our research group showed that adiponectin supplementation in obese mice completely prevented the adverse effects of obesity on placental function and fetal growth. By combining clinical studies with both cellular mechanistic studies and animal models, our work is highly translational with the long-term goal to develop novel therapeutic strategies to improve pregnancy outcomes and life-long health of children.



### **Jeffrey Sankoff, MD**

*Associate Professor*  
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For the past several years I have been the Director of Quality and Patient Safety for the Emergency Department at Denver Health Medical Center. Beginning in July of this year I will be assuming the title of Associate Medical Director. My responsibilities will be to assist the Medical Director Dr. French in his missions of maintaining patient satisfaction, developing and implementing processes necessary for improving patient flow through the emergency department, and quality improvement and patient safety. In addition, as a certified physician builder for Epic, I will lead the ED Epic team and also have responsibility for the physician schedule.

## LITeS Class of 2016-2017



**Elaine Scallan, PhD**

*Associate Professor*

*Director RM-PHTC; Co-Director CoE*

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I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Epidemiology where my research focuses on the burden and attribution of foodborne diseases. In this position, I co-direct the Colorado Integrated Food Safety Center of Excellence. Established in 2012, this CDC-funded center partners with CDPHE to identify and develop model practices in foodborne disease surveillance and outbreak response. We provide trainings and serve as a resource for local, state, and federal public health professionals who respond to foodborne illness outbreaks. In March, I was appointed Director of the Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center (RM-PHTC). RM-PHTC's goal is to develop and support a high quality workforce that can continuously improve population health across DHHS Region VIII.

## LITeS Class of 2016-2017



**Lisa Schilling, MD, MSPH**

*Professor*

*Medical Director Office of Value-Based Performance*

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I hold two positions which require effective leadership skills. First, I am the Medical Director the Office of Value-Based Performance for UPI and, second, I am a co-PI on one of Dean Reilly's transformational research awards. In both of these positions I regularly interact and engage with SOM, Anschutz, UCH and UPI leadership and constituents. I find my career highly rewarding and motivating, and I strive for quality in all my endeavors and interactions. I enjoy working with like-minded colleagues (not just my MD and PhD colleagues, but everyone) who bring commitment, passion, and energy to their job. I'm currently a Co-PI with the D4 (Data-Driven Discovery and Decisions) transformation award, where my goal is to advance the data and analytic capabilities of the SOM and broader Anschutz Medical Campus to be better able to address pressing health care issues. In my role with the Office of Value-Based Performance, my goal is to bring both provider- and patient-centered improvement initiatives to our practices, and to ensure that we work with our payers to bring the best health care value to our patients and families.



**Eric Schmidt, MD**

*Associate Professor*

*Associate Fellowship Director for Research*

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I am a physician-scientist interested in the translational investigation of sepsis and septic organ injury. With the recent receipt of R01 and Department of Defense funding, I have dramatically expanded the scope of my laboratory investigations, pursuing both animal and human investigations of septic lung injury, kidney dysfunction, and long-term neurocognitive dysfunction. With this expansion of my scope of investigation, my laboratory has rapidly grown from two individuals to a current team of seven investigators.

Accordingly, a major challenge I now face is maximizing my effectiveness as a leader of a heterogeneous group of research associates, fellows, and students. Additionally, I must integrate my local scientific enterprise into a growing group of national and international collaborators. These skills will be critical to establishing an internationally-recognized, multimodal research enterprise dedicated to sepsis mechanistic investigations and drug discovery.



**Lori Trego, PhD, CNM, RN**

*Associate Professor*

*Tenure Track*

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I am an Associate Professor in the College of Nursing at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. As a Certified Nurse Midwife and retired U.S. Army Nurse Corps officer with 25 years of nursing experience, I am dedicated to advancing women's health and research in military and veteran women populations and endeavor to impact military and veteran healthcare policies through research. My program of research includes translational science studies to improve the health of military women when deployed to training and combat environments. My current study, "Using REAIM to Implement a Women's Health Promotion Program for Austere Environments" is the fourth in a series of studies aimed at decreasing uro-gynecologic conditions during deployment. I have worked closely with the Veterans Administration Health Services Research & Development for Women's Health over the past seven years to develop a research agenda that will promote the health of servicewomen on a continuum into the VA healthcare system. Prior to joining the faculty at CU, I served as the Chief of the Centers for Nursing Science & Clinical

Inquiry at three Regional Military Medical Centers, where I was responsible for the conduct of all nursing research, as well as the implementation of evidence-based practice programs that facilitated the translation of research findings to practice, accomplishing strategic objectives for safe, quality care.

