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Colorado Clinical & Translational Sciences Institute

Leadership in Innovative
Team Science (LITeS)
Directory of Participants
2012-2013



- ◆ **John Adgate**
- ◆ Professor
- ◆ Chair
- ◆ Colorado School of Public Health
- ◆ Department of Environmental and Occupational Health
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Dr. Adgate's research on exposure science, risk analysis, and children's environmental health has focused on improving exposure estimation in epidemiologic studies by documenting the magnitude and variability of human exposures to chemical and biological stressors. He has taught graduate level courses in environmental health, risk analysis and advanced methods in exposure science. Dr. Adgate has served on multiple science advisory panels for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as well as NRC/IOM committees exploring technical and policy issues related to residential exposure, air pollution and public health.



- ◆ **David Bain**
- ◆ Associate Professor
- ◆ Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharm. Sci.
- ◆ Pharmaceutical Sciences
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The long-term goal of my research is to determine the molecular principles and logic that underlie transcriptional regulation in humans. As a model system, I am studying the human steroid receptors, how they assemble at complex promoter sequences, and the relationship between these interactions and cellular outcomes. My group uses thermodynamic approaches to experimentally dissect promoter binding energetics and statistical thermodynamics to synthesize overall behavior; we collaborate closely with Dr. James Lambert's lab to link these findings to in vivo behavior.



- ◆ **Inge Wefes**
- ◆ Associate Professor
- ◆ Associate Dean
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Inge Wefes, PhD was educated at the University of Tübingen, Germany, where she received an MSc in Biology and Philosophy and a PhD in Genetics. Following her dissertation, she pursued postdoctoral training and an instructorship at Harvard Medical School in Boston followed by a faculty position in the College of Medicine at the University of South Florida (USF) in Tampa. Observing shrinking career opportunities in academia for science PhD students, in 2002 she initiated and drove the development of the USF PhD-PLUS program, which allows Medical Science Graduate Students to pursue a PhD and, simultaneously, to study for a Master's degree in, for example, Business Administration, thereby obtaining a competitive advantage in the job market. She also initiated and spearheaded the development of three Master's programs, i.e. Bioethics, Bioinformatics, and Biotechnology. The latter two became the first two Master's Programs to be recognized as Professional Science Master's Programs at USF and in the State of Florida; the PSM Bioinformatics Program was developed with a grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.



- ◆ **Stephanie Teal**
- ◆ Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Pediatrics
- ◆ Chief, Section of Family Planning
- Vice-Chair for Faculty Development and Diversity
 - ◆ School of Medicine
 - ◆ Obstetrics and Gynecology
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I joined the faculty of University of Colorado Health Sciences Center after receiving my BS in Biology from Stanford University, my MD from UC San Francisco School of Medicine, and completing my residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at UC San Diego. I started the Special Needs Contraception Clinic serving women with medical issues complicating their ability to safely and effectively use contraception. I undertook a fellowship in Family Planning at Columbia University, and completed my Masters of Public Health degree in Epidemiology. I returned to University of Colorado School of Medicine to found the Section of Family Planning, in the department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. I am the Fellowship Director for the CU Fellowship in Family Planning, and the Medical Director of the Adolescent Family Planning Clinic at Children's Hospital Colorado.



- ◆ **David Tracer**
- ◆ Professor
- ◆ Associate Dean for Research and Creative Activities
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My main area of expertise is human ecology; the reciprocal relationship between humans and their environments understood within an evolutionary framework. My interests focus on aspects of both human biology and behavior within this framework. In the biological arena, I have conducted research on international maternal and child health including studies of nutrition, growth and development, and determinants of fertility. Within the area of behavioral ecology, my research has focused on decision-making, cooperation, and collective action. I have conducted field work for over two decades among populations in Papua New Guinea and have published in leading journals.



- ◆ **J Jackson Barnette**
- ◆ Professor of Biostatistics and Informatics
- ◆ Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs
 - ◆ Colorado School of Public Health
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Dr. Barnette holds a Ph.D. in Educational Research and Development from The Ohio State University (1972). He currently serves as Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs and Professor of Biostatistics at the Colorado School of Public Health. Before assuming his position at Colorado, he served in similar positions at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the University of Iowa. He has served as an American Public Health Association (APHA) Statistics Council Member and Section Representative to the APHA Action Board. He was awarded the 2009 APHA Statistics Section Award for Contributions to Academe.



- ◆ **Michelle Barron**
- ◆ Associate Professor of Medicine
 - ◆ SOM
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Dr. Barron is an Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver, Colorado. Dr. Barron received her medical degree in 1996 from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas. From 1996 to 1999, she completed an internship and a residency in internal medicine at Creighton University School of Medicine in Omaha, Nebraska. From 1999 to 2002, she was a fellow in infectious diseases at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Her research interests are in the realm of infection prevention and control, fungal disease and transplant related infections, and new antimicrobials.



- ◆ **Kathryn Beauchamp**
- ◆ Associate Professor, University of Colorado
- ◆ Chief, Division of Neurosurgery, Denver Health Medical Center
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Research interests include neurotrauma and critical care. Publications on a variety of topics including spine damage control, treatment of severe traumatic brain injury (both surgical and medical), and neurocritical care topics. Our institution is currently involved in a multi-institutional phase 3 trial for treatment of severe traumatic brain injury.



- ◆ **Jody Tanabe**
- ◆ Professor of Radiology, Psychiatry, Neurology
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I have had 20 years of experience studying neurobiology of substance dependence using structural and functional brain MRI. I have been PI on NIH and other extramural grants since 1998. My research focuses on understanding neural mechanisms of decision-making in substance dependent individuals. My recent work involves using cognitive, computational functional MRI models to investigate the role of frontal-striatal-limbic networks underlying drug-related behaviors. I have been an reviewer for NIH special emphasis panels and recently nominated to be a standing member of study section. I am a radiologist with subspecialty qualifications in Neuroradiology.



- ◆ **Suzanne Brandenburg**
- ◆ Professor of Medicine
- ◆ Vice Chair for Education and Residency Program Director, Department of Medicine
 - ◆ UCD
 - ◆ Medicine
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Dr Brandenburg is Vice Chair for Education and Residency Program Director for the Department of Medicine (DOM). She oversees students, residents, fellows, clinical faculty and continuing medical education for the DOM. She is interested in innovative approaches to medical education across the continuum from students to residents to faculty



- ◆ **Sally Tarbell**
- ◆ Associate Professor of Psychiatry
- ◆ Chief, Pediatric Psychology, Children's Hospital Colorado
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My research has focused on the translation of findings to the clinical setting, starting with a NIH funded study to develop a clinical scale to assess postoperative pain in young children, to a federally funded study to develop a family intervention for premenopausal women with breast cancer, to my work on the development of an empirically based behavioral intervention for children and adolescents with cyclic vomiting syndrome. While my research has not focused on a specific patient population, it has the common thread of targeting underserved/understudied populations, to explore clinical needs and to open up an area for further interdisciplinary investigation to optimize clinical care. My experience in developing collaborative relationships with other health care professionals provides a firm foundation to develop strong research and clinical ties between pediatric psychology and other health care professionals at Children's Hospital and the Anschutz Medical Campus .



- ◆ **Eric Simoes**
- ◆ Professor of Pediatrics and Professor of Epidemiology
- ◆ UCD SOM and CSPH
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The focus for most of my professional life has been an understanding of the pathogenesis, epidemiology, prevention and treatment of childhood respiratory tract infections in both industrialized and developing countries. Acute respiratory tract infections are one of the foremost causes of death in childhood, worldwide. My research focus has been on respiratory syncytial virus, influenza virus and pneumococcal infections, which comprise the majority of these childhood deaths.



- ◆ **Jeffrey Stansbury**
- ◆ Professor
- ◆ Associate Dean for Research
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I am the director of the biomaterials research laboratory as well as vice-chair of the Department of Craniofacial Biology and Associate Dean for Research all within the School of Dental Medicine. I also have a joint appointment in the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering in Boulder. My collaborative activities include work with faculty in Boulder, the downtown campus and with Medicine and Pharmacy on the Anschutz Medical Campus as well as several other external institutions. My training is in polymer chemistry and my research focuses on polymeric biomaterials, bioengineering and fundamental polymer science/engineering.



- ◆ **Amy Brooks-Kayal**
- ◆ Professor of Pediatrics, Neurology and Pharmaceutical Science
- ◆ Chief and Ponzio Family Chair in Pediatric Neurology, Children's Hospital Colorado
- ◆ Schools of Medicine and Pharmacy
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I am a physician-scientist and am active clinically as a Pediatric Epileptologist and run an NIH-funded translational research laboratory that studies mechanisms of and new therapies for epilepsy. I head the Pediatric Neurology Program at Children's Hospital Colorado and am Co-Director of the Translational Epilepsy Research Program (a joint program of the Schools of Medicine and Pharmacy). My research focuses on understanding cell signaling pathways that regulate neurotransmission, how these pathways are altered by brain injuries that lead to epilepsy, and how modulation of these pathways can be used to prevent and treat epilepsy.



- ◆ **Lori Crane**
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Dr. Crane is Professor and Chair in the Department of Community and Behavioral Health at the Colorado School of Public Health. Her training is in Public Health, with an emphasis in the design and evaluation of behavioral interventions. Dr. Crane teaches graduate level courses in program planning, implementation and evaluation; questionnaire design; and the social/behavioral influences on health. She has conducted numerous studies in cancer prevention and control. She has published articles in survey research, tobacco use, cervical and breast cancer screening interventions, skin cancer prevention, childhood immunization, and social support.



- ◆ **Sonia Flores**
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Dr. Flores is adjunct faculty in Microbiology, at UCD Anschutz Medical Campus. She graduated with a BS in Biology from the University of Puerto Rico in 1979 and received her PhD at the University of South Alabama in Mobile in 1988. Her project focused on genomic plasticity of mammalian tissues as a function of aging. Her studies focus on whether HIV-1 Nef signature sequences are found in HIV-infected patients with pulmonary hypertension. The idea that specific polymorphisms in HIV nef may be associated with the pulmonary hypertensive phenotype suggests that something other than stereotypical responses to the virus are driving the clinical observations. These observations have led the field to focus more closely on inflammation as well as other infectious diseases as culprits in pulmonary hypertension and vascular remodeling. responses.



- ◆ **Lynn Heasley**
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Autocrine growth factor signaling, often through receptor tyrosine kinases (RTKs), is a hallmark of cancer cells. Over the past 20 years, my laboratory has explored how multiple families of RTKs engage in autocrine growth in lung cancer, head and neck cancer and pleural mesothelioma. Our focus is presently on fibroblast growth factor receptors (FGFRs) as drivers in these cancers as well as defining novel mechanisms of resistance to inhibitors of the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR), a mutated oncogene driver in a distinct subset of lung cancers. As an investigator within the long-standing Lung SPORE program, my lab is also collaborating to perform translational studies to accelerate the deployment of novel therapeutics into patients.



- ◆ **Kevin Rens**
- ◆ Professor
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Kevin L. Rens PhD, PE is a Professor and Chair of civil engineering specializing in repair, evaluation, maintenance, and rehabilitation of Civil Infrastructure such as dams, buildings, bridges, and street and street subsystems. At the University of Colorado Denver since 1995, his teaching responsibilities include graduate and undergraduate structural mechanics, analysis, and design courses. Dr. Rens is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and is past Chair of the Technical Council on Forensic Engineering. Dr. Rens has published over 40 refereed journal articles and over 40 conference proceedings over the past 17 years with his graduate students.



- ◆ **Mary Reyland**
- ◆ Professor
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My lab has a long-standing interest in biological functions of the protein kinase C family of lipid-regulated kinases. Recent studies have focused on the role of PKCdelta in tumorigenesis using mouse tumor models. Our studies show that PKCdelta functions as a tumor promoter in both K-Ras driven lung, and Her2 driven mammary gland tumorigenesis. We are pursuing the development of inhibitors of PKCdelta for the treatment of K-Ras dependent lung tumors. I hold a faculty appointment in the Graduate School where I was recently appointed Graduate Program Director for Cancer Biology. I lead 50 faculty members comprised of basic, clinical and translational scientists from many departments and several schools. Our function is to mentor students, and to monitor their progress throughout the course of their Ph.D. studies.



- ◆ **Jill Norris**
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My research has focused on the relationship between in utero and infant environment (particularly nutrition) and the development of autoimmune diseases, including type 1 diabetes

and celiac disease, in genetically susceptible individuals. In addition, I have conducted family studies in defined high-risk populations that seek to use what is known about the environmental component in type 2 diabetes to help identify susceptibility genes for diabetes, insulin resistance, and adiposity. It is hoped that these studies may shed light on the long-standing issue of the relationship between genes and environment in the development of both metabolic and autoimmune diseases. I have mentored/am mentoring 33 master (MS, MSPH, MPH), 8 pre-doctoral and 12 post-doctoral students/fellows since joining the faculty in 1990. I am the former Head of the Section of Epidemiology and Community Health in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center (2002-2005).



- ◆ **Cindy O'Bryant**
- ◆ Associate Professor
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As an oncology pharmacy trained clinician-investigator my primary area of clinical practice and research is within the Phase 1

Developmental Therapeutics Program (DTP). The patient population within this program is primarily made up of advanced cancer patients with limited treatment options. My research interest involves both pharmacodynamic/pharmacokinetic as well as safety and tolerability outcomes in an advanced cancer population with a focus on the effect organ dysfunction has on these outcomes. I have experience in mentoring and training postdoctoral trainees in a variety of healthcare professions and am interested in continually updating my mentoring skills to best meet the needs of the mentee.



- ◆ **Dwight Klemm**
- ◆ Professor, Depart. Medicine
- ◆ Co-Director, Obesity Cell Biology Program, Colorado Obesity Research Initiative
- ◆ University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Center
- ◆ Pulmonary Sciences & Critical Care Medicine
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I am a Professor of Medicine in the Division of Pulmonary Sciences and Critical Care Medicine at the University of Colorado School

of Medicine. I also serve as Co-Director of the Obesity Cell Biology Core for the Colorado Obesity Research Initiative, and Assistant Director of a Specialized Center of Research (SCOR) that focuses on the impact of gonadal aging on adiposity. I previously served as Director of Basic Sciences for the Pulmonary and Critical Care Service at the Denver Veteran's Affairs Medical Center. My research addresses the development of distinct fat cell populations in response to diet and aging, and their impact on health. I also study the role that obesity plays in the development of pulmonary arterial hypertension.



- ◆ **Alison Lakin**
- ◆ Assistant Vice Chancellor Regulatory Compliance
- ◆ UCD
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I have been the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Regulatory Compliance at the University of Colorado Denver since September 2011 and in this role I have overall responsibility

for the day to day functioning of the University of Colorado's Human Research Protection Program in collaboration with its four affiliated hospitals. Prior to taking this new position, I was the Director of the Colorado Multiple Institutional Review Board (COMIRB) since November 2005 and before then helped to establish the Research Subject Advocate role at the General Clinical Center at the University of Colorado Denver. My academic background is in nursing and law and I obtained my doctorate from King's College London in international law, health policy and human rights.



- ◆ **Jori Leszczynski**
- ◆ Assistant Professor, Pathology
- ◆ University Veterinarian, Director, Office of Laboratory Animal Resources
- ◆ OVCR and Department of Pathology
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I am a Board Certified Laboratory Animal Veterinarian with over 10 years of experience in program management, including construction and remodeling, compliance, and personnel management. As the University Veterinarian and Director of the University of Colorado Denver Office of Laboratory Animal Resources (OLAR), I oversee the program which supports researchers using a wide range of species at both the Anschutz Medical Campus and Downtown Denver Auraria campuses. I work directly with multiple research personnel on animal model development to help facilitate high quality research, as well as developing programs to provide research technical support and training to the University community on multiple animal handling and research techniques.



- ◆ **Anne Lynch**
- ◆ Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Epidemiology
- ◆ Director Colorado Baby Blanket Research Program and Co-Director Child Maternal Program of the CCTSI
- ◆ University of Colorado School of Medicine
- ◆ Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
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Dr. Lynch received her medical degree from University College Dublin, Ireland and her MSPH from the University of Colorado. She directs the Perinatal Database and the Colorado Baby Blanket Research Program in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. The aim of the "Baby Blanket" program is to link data (medical, markers from biological samples, ultrasound data, laboratory data) obtained during pregnancy with adverse perinatal outcomes and to provide a resource for investigators across the Anschutz Medical Campus to conduct perinatal research. Dr. Lynch is an established NIH and American Heart Association investigator on the role of the complement system in adverse pregnancy outcomes.



- ◆ **Robert MacLaren**
- ◆ Associate Professor
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I am classified as clinical-teaching track within the Department of Clinical Pharmacy. My distribution of effort is evenly categorized across clinical service, scholarship, and teaching. I provide direct patient care services to the Medical Intensive Care Unit at the University Hospital. My research program encompasses clinical studies, experimental therapeutics, practice initiatives, and survey and outcomes research. I teach critical care pharmacy topics in the Doctor of Pharmacy program and I frequently have trainees on experiential rotations. I also co-direct the critical care pharmacy residency and fellowship. My 5-10 year career goals are to advance my research program in the discipline of critical care medicine by pursuing epidemiological and health services research and enhance my administrative responsibilities.



- ◆ **Debbi Main**
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Trained as a social psychologist, I have a strong background as a methodologist (both quantitative and qualitative). My personal research broadly reflects my interest in understanding and measuring the influence of social and structural factors on health and health care: (1) understanding the influence of structures and processes to improve the quality and outcomes of health care and (2) understanding the influence of built and social environments on health and health disparities. My research has involved local and national academic and community-based collaborative projects targeting a variety of health conditions within diverse medical disciplines such as primary care, oncology, palliative care, psychiatry, cardiology, and surgery.