



Colorado Clinical & Translational Sciences Institute

At the University of Colorado Denver



Leadership for Innovative Team Science (LITeS)

Description & Directory 2014-2015

An Institute at the University of Colorado Denver ♦ cctsi.ucdenver.edu ♦ 720 848 7100

The University of Colorado is committed to diversity and equality in education and employment.

CCTSI is supported in part by Colorado CTSA Grant UL1 TR001082 from NCATS/NIH



The CCTSI Program

The **Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute** (CCTSI), created in 2008, includes the University of Colorado Denver, the 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

Director and Principal Investigator of the Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute

Professor and Vice Chair of Pediatrics

Arnold Silverman MD Chair in Digestive Health

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

University of Colorado School of Medicine and

Children's Hospital Colorado

Ronald.Sokol@ucdenver.edu, Ronald.Sokol@childrenscolorado.org

720-777-6669

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. Dr. Sokol's major scientific interests are investigating the etiology and 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 for childhood liver diseases. Dr. Sokol is Chair of the Steering Committee of the NIH-supported Childhood Liver Disease Research and Education Network (ChILDREN). Dr. Sokol is a former President of the North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (NASPGHAN). He has been cited in the book, "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 185 peer-reviewed articles, 100 chapters and review articles, 10 books or monographs, and over 300 research abstracts. He is Co-Editor of "Liver Disease in Children," the leading textbook in pediatric hepatology.

CCTSI Leadership



Marc Moss, MD

*Education, Training, and Career Development
(ETCD) Director, CCTSI*

Roger S. Mitchell Professor of Medicine

Pulmonary Critical Care at University of Colorado Hospital

Marc.Moss@ucdenver.edu

303-724-6079

Dr. Moss is leading a five-year clinical study to look at a dysfunction of the nerves or muscles called polyneuromyopathy, which is often a consequence of being on mechanical life support for seven days or more. He is the Roger S. Mitchell Professor of Medicine. Funded by gifts from fund-raising 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. Since 2006, he has been the Head of Critical Care Medicine, Division of Pulmonary Sciences and Critical Care Medicine. Dr. Moss' research examines the mechanisms by which alcohol abuse and dependence increase susceptibility to acute lung injury, and 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. As the new 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.

The LITeS Program

Leadership for Innovative Team Science (LITeS) 2014-15
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 28-32 University of Colorado senior and emerging leaders for clinical and translational research. The program is structured as a year-long experience requiring participation in a quarterly series of 2-day workshops, as well as small group projects carried out over the course of the year, and individualized coaching and feedback sessions.

In addition to enhancing leadership skills of participants, the goals of LITeS are to foster team science by creating a network of colleagues who serve as resources for one another across the University, to expand opportunities for cross-disciplinary collaboration, and to ensure that the next generation of clinical and translational scientists receive the highest quality training for science leadership under the guidance of a skilled cadre of faculty. Over the past six years, participants in LITeS have included all of the Anschutz campus deans and a number of department chairs, as well as senior leadership within the CCTSI and from major research centers, projects, and training programs. In 2014-15, participation also was extended to a few mid-career faculty who demonstrate interest and potential for expanded leadership roles.

The LITeS program is designed to address three major domains for leadership: 1) knowledge of 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 will benefit from standardized assessments in such areas as Work Style and Type, Emotional Intelligence, and Conflict Management Style. Experienced trainers and facilitators will lead the group in work that is focused on topics such as: Managing Up, Mentoring as Coaching, Working with Challenging Colleagues, Intergenerational Influences on the Academic Workplace, Giving and Getting Feedback, Time Management, Effective Meetings, Project Management, Developing High Performance Teams, and Stress Management. Each participant will choose a career or professional development goal, complete a plan for its achievement, and then will receive guidance in putting the plan to work. Over the course of the year, participants also will carry out a project with a small team of other LITeS participants. Together, they will address a real and immediate issue of concern for the University. This team structure provides opportunities for peer coaching and for the assessment and development of team skills as well.

LITeS Faculty



Judith Albino, PhD

LITeS Director

President Emerita and Professor

Director, Center for Native Oral Health Research

Associate Dean for Planning and Development

Colorado School of Public Health

Judith.Albino@ucdenver.edu

303-724-5523 or 303-724-1467 or 415-577-7157 (mobile)

Judith Albino, PhD, LITeS Program Director, is Associate Dean for Planning and Development with 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. 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 she currently is a member of the NIDCR Special Grants Study Section. She has served as president or 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 small 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.



Anne Libby, PhD

LITeS Faculty

Associate Professor

Center for Pharmaceutical Outcomes Research (CePOR)

Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Anne.Libby@ucdenver.edu

303-724-0682

Dr. Libby is a tenured Associate Professor at the University of Colorado (CU) Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Center for Pharmaceutical Outcomes Research. She holds joint appointments in the School of Medicine Center for Health Outcomes (COHO) and Departments of Psychiatry, Family Medicine, and Pediatrics; in the Colorado School of Public Health Department of Community and Behavioral Health; in the Graduate School; and in the UC-Denver Downtown Campus Department of Economics. She directs the CU-Kaiser Permanente PharmD Fellowship in Outcomes Research. Dr. Libby's research expertise is comparative effectiveness research and the organization and financing of health care systems, with a focus on mental health. She has an active externally funded research portfolio and is a standing member of the AHRQ study section Health Systems and Value Research.

The LITeS Class of 2014-2015



Greg Austin, MD, MPH
Associate Professor of Medicine
School of Medicine
Department of Medicine/GI Division
Gregory.Austin@ucdenver.edu
303-724-1857

My research has focused on defining the influence of meals and diet composition on gastrointestinal function, energy intake, and body weight regulation. More recently, we have focused on assessing the influence of acid suppression medications on the bacteria that inhabit the gastrointestinal tract (gut microbiota) and how the gut microbiota may influence body weight changes. Additionally, I have research interests and several publications related to outcomes for screening and surveillance with colonoscopy. In 2012, I became Director of CO-Mentor, which is the flagship mentoring program for UCD. Based on my experience directing CO-Mentor and my mentoring success with fellows and Internal Medicine residents, I recently accepted the Directorship position to create the Junior Faculty Mentor Program (JUMP) within the Department of Medicine. I also recently agreed to take on the role of Assistant Director of Resident Research for the Department of Medicine.



Elaine Belansky, PhD
Associate Professor
Colorado School of Public Health
Department of Community and Behavioral Health
Elaine.Belansky@udenver.edu
303-724-4383

I am the Associate Director of the Rocky Mountain Prevention Research Center located in the Colorado School of Public Health and I have been conducting translational research in K-12 schools since 1999. In that capacity, I serve on the Executive Committee which is responsible for strategic planning, fiscal management, hiring, personnel matters, and ensuring that high quality research is conducted. I also serve as PI for large-scale community-based translational research interventions with staff located hundreds of miles from the AMC campus. Finally, I serve as Director of the CCTSI's Colorado Immersion Training in which we provide opportunities for junior faculty to learn about community-based research and then mentor those faculty in their research and funding acquisition activities.



David Clouthier, PhD
Associate Professor
School of Dental Medicine
Department of Craniofacial Biology
David.Clouthier@ucdenver.edu
303-724-4565

My lab studies the molecular cues that drive facial morphogenesis. Since 1998, we have made seminal contributions to the field of craniofacial biology, including elucidating the mechanism and timing by which endothelin-A receptor (Ednra) signaling establishes the identity of neural crest cells in the lower jaw. I have created and utilized mouse models to further my research since starting as a graduate student in 1988. Since making the first knockout mouse produced at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas as a PhD student and publishing the first report of xenogenic transfer of spermatogonial stem cells in the mouse as a post-doc, I have strived to maintain innovative approaches to dissect cues that drive morphogenesis. Indeed, my lab now currently uses both mouse and zebrafish models to further understand the cellular and molecular basis of human birth defect syndromes. One of the main areas we are now focusing on is how Ednra signaling is regulated within the developing facial region and how dysregulation leads to human pathology. Loss of Ednra signaling leads to Auriculocondylar Syndrome, mimicking the changes observed in mutant mouse embryos. We are now studying how a point mutation in the human Ednra leads to maxillary changes observed in patients with mandibular dysostosis with alopecia. In addition, we are initiating a new study to map gene expression and associated regulatory elements within neural crest cells during early facial patterning.



Christopher Colwell, MD
Chief of Emergency Medicine, Denver Health
School of Medicine
Department of Emergency Medicine
Christopher.Colwell@dhha.org
303-602-5170

I am the Director of Service and Chief of Emergency Medicine at Denver Health as well as a Professor and Executive Vice Chair in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. As we move toward a more integrated academic department combining the faculties at Denver Health and the School of Medicine, and the growth of the Emergency Medicine faculty and focus of that faculty on clinical research, I am very interested in improving my management skills to better guide our Department in this new territory. With my responsibility for over 80 faculty members and 68 residents in Emergency Medicine, it is critical that I am able to establish and provide leadership for an environment that will train the next generation of clinical scientists. While we have a strong track record of training and developing clinical scientists, it is even more important now as our faculty grows and we integrate more closely with the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of Colorado, School of Medicine, that I have strong leadership and management skills.



Ellen Fisher, PhD

Professor of Chemistry, Faculty Advisor to VPR
Colorado State University
College of Natural Sciences, Office of VPR
Department of Chemistry
Ellen.Fisher@colostate.edu
970-491-5250

I have recently been appointed as the Senior Faculty Advisor to the Vice President for Research (SFA-VPR) at Colorado State University. Prior to this appointment, I served for 5 years as the Chair of the Department of Chemistry and have been a faculty member in physical, analytical, and materials chemistry for over 20 years. I have a broad background in physical, analytical, and materials chemistry with specific training in optical diagnostics, mass spectrometry, nanomaterials and surface characterization. As a graduate student, I studied gas-phase ion molecule reactions related to low-temperature plasmas used in the semiconductor industry. From that very fundamental work, I developed my interest in plasma chemistry during my postdoctoral work at Sandia National Laboratories where I learned laser-based spectroscopic techniques and performed rudimentary studies of semiconductor materials. As a faculty member, my research has diversified and expanded to include research interests that span biomedical applications, drug delivery systems and antimicrobial separations systems, as well as other technological fields such as semiconductors and energy-related materials. The very nature of my work is interdisciplinary and I have been involved in many multidisciplinary efforts. Recently, I have spearheaded a new effort to create a School of Advanced Materials Discovery (SAMD) that will span the Colleges of Natural Sciences and Engineering as well as Health and Human Sciences. The SAMD is scheduled to launch early in 2015 and will involve interdisciplinary degree programs at both the graduate and undergraduate levels.



Andrew Fontenot, MD

Professor
School of Medicine
Division of Allergy & Clinical Immunology
Andrew.Fontenot@ucdenver.edu
303-724-7192

I am a lung immunologist and a leader in the field of adaptive immunity in the lung. My research interests center around the role of T cells in lung inflammation and fibrosis. Using chronic beryllium disease (CBD) as a model of T cell-mediated inflammation leading to fibrosis, I have extensively characterized the frequency and functional capability of beryllium-specific CD4+ T cells in lung and blood. I have also focused on T cell recognition of beryllium. I have recently identified mimotopes and self-peptides that complete the $\alpha\beta$ TCR ligand for a set of beryllium-specific TCRs, suggesting a unique role of these peptides in metal ion coordination and the conversion of these self-peptides into neoantigens in the presence of beryllium. I have recently developed an HLA-DP2 transgenic murine model of CBD. Upon exposure to beryllium oxide (BeO), these mice develop granulomatous inflammation and an adaptive immune response to beryllium while wild-type mice are protected. In the current proposal, I will build on my recent findings to investigate antigen-specific effector and regulatory T cells and their role in the generation of the beryllium-specific immune response in HLA-DP2 Tg mice and HLA-DP2-expressing CBD patients.



Debashis Ghosh, PhD

Chair

Colorado School of Public Health

Department of Biostatistics and Informatics

Debashis.Ghosh@ucdenver.edu

303-724-4365

I am beginning a position as Chair of Biostatistics and Informatics at the Colorado School of Public Health (CSPH). My methodological and collaborative research interests focus on biostatistics and bioinformatics I have collaborated with researchers in a variety of disciplines on various aspects of “-omics” data analysis. My methodological research interests are in the areas of biomarker evaluation, genomic data integration, multiple testing procedures and machine learning methodology and will be of major relevance to the proposed project.



Patricia Givens, DHA, EdM, RN, NEA-BC

VP Patient Care Services/ACNO

Children's Hospital Colorado

Patricia.Givens@childrenscolorado.org

720-777-6113

In my current role as Vice President Patient Care & Family Services/Associate Chief Nursing Officer at Children's Hospital Colorado I am responsible for providing leadership for clinical and nursing services. My clinical background is in pediatric healthcare and my work for the past 30 years (from bedside to boardroom) has been focused on promoting health and wellness of the child, family & community. I have served as Pediatric Intensive Care Nurse (PICU), PICU Manager, Administrator Emergency Services, Nursing Administrator, Assistant Professor (Faculty of Nursing) and Chief Nursing Officer.

Early in my career my focus was on front line clinical practice. I began teaching nursing in the 80's and continued to advance my education through graduate studies. While in a faculty position my research interests and activities included nursing education and children's copying behaviors. I returned to the acute care settings where I moved into leadership roles in Children's Hospitals and Academic Medical Centers. My clinical research and program interests included child abuse & neglect prevention, quality and safety and access to care for children & families. I have been and continue to be an active volunteer in agencies that support the needs of abused and neglected children. I currently have a Governor's appointment to the Medical Services Board, Health Care Policy & Finance, State of Colorado. My experiences have been within the Canadian and US healthcare systems.



Nancy Hadley-Miller, MD

Professor

Children's Hospital Colorado

School of Medicine

Department of Orthopedics

Nancy.Miller@childrenscolorado.org

720-777-4033

I am a pediatric orthopaedic surgeon with a long-standing interest in the etiology of idiopathic scoliosis. I have been intimately involved with the current line of research for twenty years, and continue to maintain an active laboratory and clinical practice directed to the pathophysiology of this disease. I have developed a large well-defined study sample of families with at least two affected individuals (more than 2000 individuals from over 350 families). I have personal knowledge of all individuals within the study cohort, and have extensive ongoing collaborations with multiple investigators in this field. This application builds specifically on a body of work and a study cohort that can aid us in expanding our understanding of the biological underpinnings of idiopathic scoliosis. Over time, I have directed the work from the study of pathological tissues, to candidate genes, to the recognition of family based disease, need for a large study cohort, genome-wide STRP and SNP analyses, and finally to the potential of genome-wide sequencing initiatives. The ultimate goal is to define the genetic variants that contribute to the incidence and, ultimately, to the progression of idiopathic scoliosis, in order to identify the individuals at risk for severe progression and to develop more specific therapeutic algorithms.



Susan Johnson, PhD

Professor

School of Medicine

Department of Pediatrics/Nutrition

Susan.Johnson@ucdenver.edu

303-724-2923

My research focuses on the development of children's eating behaviors and weight outcomes and the impact of the mealtime environment upon children's eating patterns. Specifically, The Children's Eating Laboratory currently conducts research which:

- investigates how family eating and child-feeding strategies impact children's eating behavior and weight outcome—specifically related to the etiology and prevention of childhood obesity.
- implements longitudinal interventions to prevent obesity in early childhood, including aspects of the preschool and home food and activity environments.
- focuses on differences in child-feeding and physical activity that are related to ethnicity, gender and socioeconomic status and how these relate to childhood obesity.
- investigates children's growth trajectories and the prediction of abnormal growth patterns.
- investigates the feeding strategies and nutrition knowledge of child care professionals.



Mark Johnston, PhD

Professor and Chair

School of Medicine

Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Genetics

Mark.Johnston@ucdenver.edu

303-724-3203

As Chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics, it is my job to create an environment that enables, actually encourages, collaborative, team science. This is especially important in the current research funding climate, in which opportunities for multi-investigator projects are increasing in the face of decreasing funding for individual laboratories. I am constantly seeking ways to bring investigators together to seize those opportunities. I have done this in the past as one of the leaders of the yeast genome sequencing project (1992-1996) and of the yeast gene deletion project (1998-2002).



Craig Jordan, PhD

Professor, Chief of Hematology

School of Medicine

Department of Medicine/Division of Hematology

Craig.Jordan@ucdenver.edu

303-724-8165

As the Chief of Hematology, I am deeply involved with clinical/translational research, both as an investigator myself and in the management of resources for our group. My own work involves the development of novel therapeutic modalities for the treatment of leukemia. In studies that span close to 20 years, I have been involved in nearly all aspects of drug development, and have worked closely with teams involved in basic science, medicinal chemistry, preclinical modeling, toxicology, PK/PD studies, and clinical trials. On behalf of the Division of Hematology, I manage multiple resources which support clinical translational research, including laboratory space, equipment, pilot funds, clinical trials support, data management, grants management, etc.



Katerina Kechris, PhD
Associate Professor
Colorado School of Public Health
Department of Biostatistics and Informatics
Katerina.Kechris@ucdenver.edu
303-724-4363

I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Biostatistics and Informatics and core faculty in the Computational Bioscience Program, where my research focuses on the development and application of statistical methods for analyzing high throughput omics data. I have several focus areas: (1) analyzing transcription factor binding and miRNA data to study the regulation of transcription and post-transcriptional processing, (2) examining the genetic and epigenetic factors controlling gene expression, and (3) the integration of heterogeneous omics data. I collaborate with investigators studying alcohol abuse using animal models and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in the COPDGene genetic epidemiology study.



Jeffrey Kern, MD
Professor
National Jewish Health
School of Medicine
Department of Medicine/Division of Oncology
kernj@njhealth.org
303-398-1812

I am currently Chief of Oncology and Vice-Chair of Medicine at National Jewish Health. I was recruited to National Jewish Health in 2010 to develop a new Oncology division and begin a medical oncology program. My time is split between running a basic/translational science laboratory, building a new Division and managing the Department of Medicine to a more fiscally responsible status.

My research program focuses on tyrosine kinase signaling in lung epithelial cells, studying signaling in normal cells as well as transformed cells. The focus of the work is on a particular tyrosine kinase receptor, called HER2, which I discovered in lung cancer early in my research career. This work has basic laboratory aspects, and with a better understanding of the function of the receptor, we have begun to move the work to investigating the potential therapeutic role of this receptor in human disease. I have maintained a successful research career with over 90 publications that have been cited over 4,000 times and carry an H-index of 19. I have successfully competed for funding through the NIH, the VA and many private foundations.



Jean Kutner, MD, MSPH

Professor, Chief Medical Officer

School of Medicine

Department of Medicine/General Internal Medicine

Jean.Kutner@ucdenver.edu

303-724-2240

I am a tenured Professor of Medicine in the Divisions of General Internal Medicine (GIM), Geriatric Medicine, and Health Care Policy and Research at the University of Colorado School of Medicine (UC SOM). In 1991, I earned my MD from the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) and then completed residency training in internal medicine at UCSF from 1991-1994. Subsequently, I completed a NRSA primary care research fellowship, earning an MSPH degree with honors, and a fellowship in geriatric medicine at UC SOM (1994-1997). I served as the Acting GIM Division Head November 2002 through June 2005 and as the permanent GIM Division Head July 2005 through June 2014. On July 1, 2014, I assumed new leadership roles as the inaugural Chief Medical Officer of University of Colorado Hospital and Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, UC SOM. My research is focused on improving symptoms and quality of life for hospice and palliative care patients and their family caregivers. In addition to building my own successful extramurally-funded research program, I have mentored many trainees and faculty from multiple disciplines. I've developed and directed the Population-based Palliative Care Research Network (PoPCRN) and am currently Co-Chair of the NIH-funded Palliative Care Research Cooperative Group (PCRC). I am a member of the Nursing and Related Clinical Sciences Study Section and of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) Transforming End of Life Care Committee. I also serve as President of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM).



Cari Levy, MD, PhD

Associate Professor

Denver Veterans Affairs Medical Center

School of Medicine/Health Care Policy

Cari.Levy@va.gov

303-907-7132

I am an internist board certified in Geriatrics and Hospice and Palliative Medicine with a PhD in Clinical Sciences. I serve as Director of Palliative Medicine at the Denver Veterans Affairs Medical Center and Associate Director of the Denver-Seattle Center for Veteran-Centered and Value-Driven Research (DiSCOVVR). My research focuses on innovative models of long term care delivery and optimizing palliative care for frail adult populations.

In October 2013, I began serving as the Associate Director of the Denver-Seattle Center for Veteran-Centered and Value-Driven Care (DiSCOVVR) Center of Innovation (COIN). This role involves working with the local director, Dr. Michael Ho, and our partners at the Seattle VA Medical Center to coordinate the work of 31 health services researchers and serve as a mentor to junior investigators.



Cara Mack, MD
Associate Professor
Children's Hospital Colorado
Pediatric Gastroenterology
Cara.Mack@childrenscolorado.org
720-777-6470

As a physician scientist I have focused my research studies on immune-mediated liver diseases, with a vested effort on deciphering the role of the immune system in the pathogenesis of biliary atresia. Our group has made significant inroads into the mechanisms of T cell-mediated inflammation and autoimmunity in biliary atresia. My clinical research efforts include clinical and translational studies pertaining to diagnosis, treatment and outcomes in biliary atresia, through the NIH-funded Childhood Liver Disease Research Network (ChiLDReN). Within ChiLDReN I am a co-PI in a national pilot study analyzing the efficacy of intravenous immunoglobulin in the treatment of biliary atresia. In addition, I am a co-investigator in a clinical trial on the use of ursodiol for primary sclerosing cholangitis (PSC) and have plans to initiate a future multi-centered trial on the use of vancomycin for PSC. In tandem with my research, I care for a large group of children with a variety of chronic liver diseases. The overarching goal of my research endeavors is to utilize my immunology expertise to explore the mechanisms underlying the pathogenesis and treatment of immune-mediated biliary and liver diseases.



James McManaman, PhD
Professor/Vice Chair
School of Medicine
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Jim.McManaman@ucdenver.edu
303-724-3500

I am a tenured Professor of Reproductive Sciences and Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. In the area of education, I founded and currently direct the Integrated Physiology Graduate Program, and I serve as the Program Director of an NIH sponsored Women's Reproductive Health Research Scholars Program. In the area of research, I serve as the Associate Director of an NI sponsored Program Project on mammary gland development and co-direct the Adipose Biology Program of the University of Colorado's Obesity Research Initiative (CORI). I also serve on the Dean's Research Advisory Committee and on the Executive Committee of the Nutrition Obesity Research Center (NORC). At the national level, I served as a permanent panel member on the Integrated Clinical Endocrinology and Reproduction study panel of the NIH for 5 years and continue to be an ad hoc member of this panel. I currently serve as a permanent science advisory panel member for the US Environmental Protection Agency on insecticide use.



Elaine Morrato, DrPH, MPH

Associate Professor

Colorado School of Public Health

Department of Health Systems, Management and Policy

Elaine.Morrato@ucdenver.edu

303-724-4760

I have 25 years of applied dissemination and implementation experience with a focus on translation of pharmaceutical innovation. Previously, as an R&D manager in the healthcare industry I directed prescription and OTC drug development and technical marketing programs to promote the adoption of new medicines and indications. Today, my research focuses on implementation of drug warnings, preventive services and other patient-centered/comparative effectiveness evidence. Certified in public health, I have served on the FDA's Drug Safety and Risk Management Advisory Committee which advises on issues of national risk management implementation and remain an ad hoc consultant. I have also completed an AHRQ career development award on "Accelerating the Diffusion of Comparative Effectiveness Evidence into Clinical Practice" where I gained additional skills in social network and geospatial analyses to understand diffusion patterns. I direct an NIMH-funded study to prioritize implementation interventions for the adoption of diabetes and lipid screening for persons with mental illness in partnership with state public health directors of Medicaid and Mental Health. I am also the Collaborative Scientific Lead for an AHRQ Center of Excellence for Research in Implementation Science and Prevention and the Director of the Pragmatic Trials and Dissemination and Implementation Core Unit for the Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute. I am also developing and directing a new Health Industry Analytics professional program at the CU South Denver Campus intended to facilitate clinical translation to the community and improve population health.



Manisha Patel, PhD

Professor

Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Manisha.Patel@ucdenver.edu
303-724-3604

I received my PhD in Pharmacology and Toxicology at Purdue University and post-doctoral training in Neuroscience at Duke University. I am currently a tenured Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. My research goals are closely aligned with those of the CCTSI. The overarching theme of my basic and translational research program is to understand the role of reactive species and mitochondria in neuronal disorders. Using biochemical, metabolic, transgenic and translational approaches, research in the laboratory is focused on three major areas: a) oxidative stress and mitochondrial dysfunction in temporal lobe epilepsy, b) mitochondrial mechanisms of oxidative damage in age-related neurodegenerative diseases and c) development of neuroprotective drugs for the treatment of acute and chronic neuronal disorders. Ongoing preclinical studies are aimed at testing their efficacy in animal models of neurological diseases.

I have authored more than seventy-five scientific publications including articles in the journals *Neuron*, *Journal of Neuroscience*, *Journal of Biological Chemistry* and *Proceedings in the National Academy of Sciences*. I serve on the editorial board of *Free Radical in Biology and Medicine*, *Epilepsy Currents* and *Redox Biology*. I have been the recipient of numerous grants from the National Institutes of Health, Michael J. Fox Foundation, Parkinson's disease foundation and CURE. I am involved in didactic and laboratory-based teaching to graduate and professional students.

I am active in leadership roles at the national level as Chair of the Basic Science Committee, Chair of the Scientific Program Committee and incoming Chair of the Research Council of the American Epilepsy Society. At the institutional level, I am Chair of the Graduate Training Committee in the UCD Neuroscience Training Program and member of the Associate Dean for Research Advisory Committee in the UCD School of Pharmacy.



J. Mark Petrash, PhD

Professor and Vice Chair for Research

School of Medicine
Department of Ophthalmology
Mark.Petrash@ucdenver.edu
303-724-0681

As Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Ophthalmology, I have responsibility for working with our basic research faculty to explore the translational potential of discoveries made in their laboratories every day. Our department's significant commitment to research has enabled us to recruit new faculty with expressed interest in translational research; however, most of our new recruits have little experience in how to push their research discoveries beyond the laboratory. My introduction to key topics in this area should enable me to increase faculty productivity and develop innovation as one of the features that distinguishes my department from our peers in other university settings.



David Raben, MD
Professor
School of Medicine
Department of Radiation Oncology
David.Raben@ucdenver.edu
720-848-0116

My goal as a translational radiation oncologist has been and continues to be a search for molecular biomarkers and targets that will enhance the effects of radiation therapy in head and neck cancer (HNC). Radiation therapy is rapidly evolving with the use of image guided intensity modulated radiation therapy, however; we struggle with finding the optimal therapies and sequences to combine with radiation for patients with locally advanced HNC. Typical approaches include chemotherapy and high dose radiation therapy, induction chemotherapy followed by radiation or surgical resection and chemo-radiation. My main focus in 2014 is conducting pre-clinical and clinical investigations for patients with locally advanced HNC who have poor prognostic features and evaluate for correlations with DNA repair markers. Our laboratory efforts have demonstrated the effectiveness of this type of approach. With new orally bio-available DNA repair inhibitors, we are actively accruing patients to a Phase I clinical trial in incorporating Olaparib, a PARP inhibitor that prevents DNA strand repair in conjunction with an EGFR inhibitor and concurrent radiation therapy to determine if this is the most effective approach for heavy smokers in contrast to conventional chemo-radiation. We are also investigating the hedgehog pathway and its relationship to radiation upregulation. Based on preliminary data we hope to develop a clinical trial combining hedgehog inhibitors with stereotactic body radiation for locally recurrent HNC. Finally, we are exploring the utility of TGF β inhibition for radioprotection. Thus, our theme of "bench to the bedside" in HNC has been one of our successes at UCCC. In this regard, we have a very productive and innovative HNC team with close collaborations with ENT and our medical oncology group. We are one of the most active groups in terms of clinical trial accrual in the cancer center. I serve on the head and neck steering committee for the NRG cooperative cancer group sponsored by the NCI as well as the current chair for the ASTRO/ASCO/AHNS head and neck cancer bi-annual symposium. I enjoy teaching within our department and within the Foundations of Doctoring Program as well as the Problem Based Learning program.



Carol Rumack, MD
Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education
School of Medicine
Graduate Medical Education and Radiology
Carol.Rumack@ucdenver.edu
303-724-6027

I work with a team that oversees the accreditation of 87 residency and fellowship programs and 1000 residents/fellows within our 5-core teaching hospitals as well as their stipends and benefits personnel system and evaluation of residents, faculty and the programs. We are accredited nationally by ACGME. We are constantly involved in Quality Improvement of our programs. Our research has been on the struggling learner, reporting on the outcomes of Probation and Remediation over the past 10 years.



Pepper Schedin, PhD
Professor
School of Medicine
Department of Medical Oncology
Pepper.Schedin@ucdenver.edu
303-724-3873

I obtained my PhD in 1988, and for the last 25 years have focused on building a translational research program in breast cancer as well as on training pre-doctoral and postdoctoral fellows. Over the last 8 years, I have co-established the Young Women's Breast Cancer Translational program with Virginia Borges, MD, the 'fat rat' group with Drs. Paul MacLean, Steve Anderson and Ann Thor, and the ECM Proteomics Working Group with Dr. Kirk Hansen. All of these groups are currently funded by NIH. In the next 10 years of my career, I want to help young investigators establish successful team-based translational science, as well as work with the University of Colorado and OHSU to recognize and address barriers to team based translational science.



John Tentler, PhD
Associate Professor
School of Medicine
Department of Medical Oncology
John.Tentler@ucdenver.edu
303-724-3887

As the Senior Scientist in the Developmental Therapeutics Translational Research Laboratory in the Division of Medical Oncology, I am responsible for overseeing a team of scientists research fellows and medical oncologists involved in our projects evaluating novel, experimental therapeutics for advanced cancers. My research is focused on pre-clinical studies of molecularly-targeted therapies for the treatment of advanced melanoma, GI and breast cancers. A major area of research is the development of predictive and pharmacodynamic biomarkers for these novel anticancer agents. The model systems we are developing and utilizing for these studies include cell lines, cancer stem cells, 3-D cultures, orthotopic and metastatic cell line xenograft models, and patient-derived tumor explant models of melanoma, GI and breast cancer. I work in close collaboration with clinicians, scientists and bioinformaticians in order to focus my research efforts so that it translates into the best possible care for the cancer patient. Thus, the primary goal of my laboratory is to provide oncologists with data and information that allow for accelerated drug development and to improve clinical trial design and implementation for the benefit of their patients.



Tammi Vacha-Haase, PhD

Associate Dean

Colorado State University - Office of the Provost

Office of the Provost

tvh@lamar.colostate.edu

970-491-5729

I am currently serving as the Associate Dean of the Graduate School at Colorado State University, where I have been a faculty member in the Department of Psychology since 1998. In the past I have been in leadership roles and positions focusing on graduate education and research. I headed the accredited Counseling Psychology doctoral program at CSU for many years, and continue as the Director of the Aging Clinic of the Rockies, a community-based mental health care clinic that offers assistance to older adults and their families.

As a licensed psychologist, my research focuses on the clinical treatment of those over age 65. My scholarship has involved preparing the next generation of doctoral level psychologists to care for the mental health needs of the rapidly expanding aging population. Almost a decade ago I established the Geriatric Research, Education, Assessment, and Treatment (GREAT) team, consisting of doctoral students who are dedicated to increasing the well being of older adults through clinical practice and research. We have been recognized nationally and received awards for our innovative work with older adult populations. I am the author of numerous peer reviewed articles, invited chapters, and a book on the psychological treatment of older men. I have served on the editorial boards of various professional journals and hold Fellow status in four divisions of APA.



Ivana Yang, PhD

Associate Professor

School of Medicine

Department of Medicine/Division of Pulmonary Medicine

Ivana.Yang@ucdenver.edu

303-724-6499

I have 15 years of experience performing research in human and mouse genetics and genomics and most recently epigenetics. As a postdoctoral fellow with John Quackenbush, I identified gene expression fingerprints for molecular classification of tumors and outcome prediction in colon cancer. As an Assistant Research Professor at Duke University and then a Staff Scientist at NIEHS/NHLBI, I worked with David Schwartz to identify novel innate immune genes in mice by using genetic and genomic approaches. As the Deputy Director for the Center for Genes, Environment and Health, I provided oversight of next-generation sequencing, expression profiling, genotyping, and epigenomic technologies at National Jewish Health. The primary focus of my current research is on the role of genetics and epigenetics in innate immunity, pulmonary fibrosis, and asthma. However, I am also collaborating with a number of individuals and applying my knowledge and skills to a variety of other diseases including but not limited to diabetes, maternal health/preterm birth, and chronic beryllium disease. As such, my work is interdisciplinary and I work as a part of large research teams. My primary appointment is in the Pulmonary Division of the Department Medicine at the University of Colorado and I have secondary appointments in the Department of Epidemiology in the Colorado School of Public Health and the Center for Genes, Environment, and Health at National Jewish Health. I currently mentor, either as a primary mentor or co-mentor, six postdoctoral fellows, three predoctoral students, and two junior faculty members. I am a member of the mentorship committees for two additional junior faculty members.



Richard Zane, MD

Professor and Chair

School of Medicine

Department of Emergency Medicine

Richard.Zane@ucdenver.edu

720-848-7630

I currently serve as Professor and Chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. In that role, I oversee a large clinical, education and growing research enterprise including a department based altitude research center. The mission of emergency medicine is, by definition, to provide care to those who are in crisis and is defined by locus and acuity and not system or cell. Our mission informs our science and is intimately related to other specialties and areas of investigation and is by nature translational. Our scientific future depends on integration and collaboration.





To participate in the LITeS Program, **candidates are asked to submit their cv's, a brief application, and a statement of interest.** Nominations from campus leadership, deans, department chairs, and former LITeS participants are especially sought in order to identify emerging leaders from across the campus who may be considered for the program.

For more information about the program, contact LITeS Director: **Judith Albino, PhD**, at 303-724-1467 (judith.albino@ucdenver.edu).