



Colorado Clinical and Translational
Sciences Institute (CCTSI)

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER | ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

LEADERSHIP FOR INNOVATIVE TEAM SCIENCE (LITeS)

Description & Directory | 2017-2018

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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.



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

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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.

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) or Programs Manager Galit Mankin, MSW, 720-848-6249 (galit.mankin@ucdenver.edu).



Judith Albino, PhD | LITeS Director

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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 more than 20 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.



Susan L. Johnson | LITeS Associate Director

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Susan Johnson is a tenured Professor of Pediatrics and joined the LITeS Program last 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 role as Associate Director.



Galit Mankin, MSW

*Program Administrator, Clinical Science Graduate Program,
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Galit Mankin is 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. In addition, she oversees the operation of the Clinical Science (CLSC) Graduate Program. Working at the University of Colorado since 1998, Ms. Mankin holds a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Denver and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Colorado Denver.



Michelle Lamere, MPA

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Michelle Lamere, MPA, has served as the Assistant Director of Education Programs at the University of Minnesota - Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) since its initial funding in 2011. She was responsible for designing, building, and administrating seven educational programs that serve over 90 translational researchers annually. She has developed and administered NIH---funded training grants for over ten years. Michelle holds a Masters of Public Affairs with a focus on policy and leadership, and a graduate minor in Integrative Therapies and Healing Practices with a focus on resilience. Michelle is a certified coach through the International Coach Federation (ICF) and also holds a certification in Hogan Leadership Assessments. She provides coaching and career development workshops to junior faculty and research staff.



Jayne Fulkerson, RN, PhD

*Professor of Nursing and Epidemiology
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I have a long history of participating in and leading interprofessional and interdisciplinary research teams in clinical and translational science. My program of research, teaching and service are built on the foundations of health promotion and prevention science. My research is focused on changing the home food environment and promoting family meals (meals in which most family members eat together), which are key components for improving children's dietary intake and preventing childhood obesity. I have received several NIH grants to conduct this research and much of it involves significant community engagement. It is in this context that I have been most involved in clinical and translational science and the Community Engagement core of the University of Minnesota's Clinical and Translational Science Institute. In addition to content expertise, I have skills in instrument development and evaluation to advance family-focused research, particularly in regard to measurement in randomized controlled trials. This background led to my role as co-director of the evaluation component of the UMN's Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) and membership on the University of Minnesota's and School of Nursing's (SoN) research committees. Thus, my responsibilities in clinical research have been conducting research and supporting others in their research endeavors.



Caroline Gaither, PhD

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My current responsibilities involve overseeing the 45 member Professional Education Division in the College of Pharmacy. I manage four teams within my division that support our Doctor of Pharmacy program. These teams include experiential education, student services, on-line learning and outreach, and teaching, learning and assessment. The Division is made up of a mix professional/administrative staff and faculty. Our organizational structure is a matrix in which my division must work with team members who don't report to me, but are crucial for the work we do. These teams also serve a number of constituents which include faculty, other collegiate staff and students. One of my tasks has been to take these disparate teams and make them into one cohesive unit. Another task is to work with the faculty which includes basic, clinical and social and administrative scientists to deliver an integrated, relevant and dynamic curriculum. I am also a member of our Academic Health Center's Associate Dean's group for professional education. This requires working with various health sciences schools and programs on our campus to develop interprofessional education instruction for all our students. Our programs supply the majority of health professionals in the state.



David Ingbar, MD

*Professor of Medicine, Pediatrics and Integrative Biology
& Physiology*

Director, Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care & Sleep Division

Associate Director, UMN CTSI and Director Education Core

Past President, American Thoracic Society (2007-2008)

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My personal research is focused on ways to stimulate repair of the injured lung and clearance of edema fluid. This involves molecular, cellular, organ and living animal research crossing biochemistry, physiology and molecular biology. I now am working on FDA IND approval for taking some of our lab discoveries to human clinical trials in the ICU patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome. I spend 1/3 of my time leading the Research Education and & Career Development Core and as Associate Director of our CTSI. I work closely with trainees on career development, particularly junior faculty.



Donald R. Nixdorf, DDS, MS

Associate Professor

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I am the Director of the Division of TMD & Orofacial Pain at the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry. Our School has an active and diverse group of investigators exploring pain-related research topics. As a dentist, my career is centered around the diagnosis and management of painful orofacial conditions by engaging in related research, teaching, and patient care activities. One especially difficult clinical conundrum that I have focused on is understanding the development of persistent dentoalveolar pain, especially when it is related to the dysfunction of the somatosensory system as opposed to a symptom of disease, such as local inflammation. My research interests encompass three areas: (1) development of Dental MRI for the detection of sources of inflammation within the orofacial region, (2) discovering the factors involved in the development of persistent dentoalveolar pain within the context of root canal treatment as a model system of post-surgical pain in humans, and (3) design and testing of diagnostic criteria and classification systems for orofacial pain conditions.



Edward (Ned) Patterson, PhD, DVM

Professor

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I have a long-standing interest and track record in the genetics and treatment of naturally occurring canine epilepsy as a comparative model to human epilepsy. I have conducted comparative research in normal and epileptic dogs. The canine model is underutilized and despite that, my work has also helped improve the diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy in dogs. The work has also improved the understanding of the development of epilepsy in dogs I have received funding from animal foundations, industry, and NINDS. In current EEG work in collaboration with Dr. Greg Worrell at Mayo Clinic and partly from a U01 grant we have published results showing that the EEG changes in canine epilepsy are very similar to human epilepsy, that automated seizure detection is plausible with continuous iEEG in dogs, and seizure prediction with EEG biomarkers is better than chance prediction in dogs, and that EEG seizure prediction in dogs and humans can be improved by crowdsourcing and sharing data. I have also recently completed a clinical trial with fosphenytoin for canine status epilepticus, in client owned dog for which dogs had a similar response rate (60%) as the response rate for people with fosphenytoin.



Elizabeth Seaquist, MD

*Professor of Medicine & Pennock Family Chair in
Diabetes Research
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Past President of Medicine & Science, American Diabetes
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Dr. Elizabeth Seaquist is the Director of the Division of Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism and holds the Pennock Family Chair in Diabetes Research. As a clinical investigator, Dr. Seaquist is interested in hypoglycemia and the complications of diabetes. Her research focuses on the effect of diabetes on brain metabolism, structure, and function. She directs the University of Minnesota sites for the Glycemia Reduction Approaches in Diabetes: A Comparative Effectiveness Study (GRADE) study and the Researching Cardiovascular Events with a Weekly Incretin in Diabetes (REWIND) study. She was the site investigator for the Action to Control Cardiovascular Risk in Diabetes (ACCORD) trial. Dr. Seaquist is also the principal investigator on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) T32 Research Training Grant for fellows in endocrinology and diabetes at the University of Minnesota. She served as the President of Medicine and Science of the American Diabetes Association in 2014. She has an active clinical practice and is board certified in Internal Medicine and Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism.



Brianne Bettcher, PhD

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Dr. Bettcher obtained a PhD from Temple University in Clinical Psychology with a specialization in Neuroscience, and she completed her fellowship at the University of California San Francisco's Memory and Aging Center. She sees patients clinically at the Memory Disorders Clinic, and specializes in early onset Alzheimer's disease and frontotemporal dementia. Dr. Bettcher is Co-Leader of Clinical Research and Director of Neuropsychology Research at the Rocky Mountain Alzheimer's Disease Center. Dr. Bettcher's research laboratory is focused on the neurobiology of aging, and seeks to understand the role of immune dysregulation in pathological aging and Alzheimer's disease. Dr. Bettcher is principle investigator of the longitudinal Biomarker and Clinical Phenotyping (Bio-AD) study at the Rocky Mountain Alzheimer's Disease Center, which aims to annually follow healthy adults, adults with Mild Cognitive Impairment, adults with Alzheimer's disease, and adults with Down Syndrome at risk for developing Alzheimer's disease. The goal of this study is to understand how neuroimaging, cognitive testing, and blood markers might help us better understand the onset and progression of Alzheimer's disease – and ultimately prevent or delay cognitive decline.



Timothy Boyd, PhD

Faculty Research Instructor

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I am a Faculty Research Instructor in the Department of Neurology, the Rocky Mountain Alzheimer's Disease Center (RMADC), and the Linda Crnic Institute for Down Syndrome. I received my BA/BS in Chemistry/Microbiology, my MS in Biotechnology, and my PhD in Medical Sciences all from the University of South Florida. I have completed postdoctoral training at CU-AMC, and I am currently pursuing my MBA at CU-Denver. In my role as a member of the RMADC and based on my graduate studies of GM-CSF/Leukine®, I am an investigator for an ongoing randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled Phase II pilot safety and efficacy trial in which Leukine® is administered to mild-to-moderate AD subjects for 15 days over a 19-day period (NCT01409915) as a potential cognitive therapy. I am also an investigator for a recently funded trial at CU-AMC in which Leukine® will be administered to mild-to-moderate AD subjects for 5 days/week for 24 weeks. As an investigator on these trials, I am performing blood biomarker analyses on the subject samples. My research program is focused on the systemic immune system and its roles in both the amelioration and exacerbation of neurodegenerative disease.



Heidi Chial, PhD

Faculty Research Instructor

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I am a Writing Specialist and Faculty Research Instructor in the Department of Neurology and a member of the Rocky Mountain Alzheimer's Disease Center (RMADC). In these roles, I work with members of the RMADC, the Department of Neurology, and the Linda Crnic Institute (LCI) for Down Syndrome to develop and write grant applications, design experiments and analyze data, prepare manuscripts for publication, and draft patent applications. I received my BA in Chemistry, Biochemistry, and Molecular Biology from Gustavus Adolphus College, and my PhD in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology at CU-Boulder. I completed postdoctoral research training and coursework at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Wake Forest University School of Medicine, the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL), and Stanford University School of Medicine. I also have experience as an Assistant Professor of Biology and Chemistry at St. Olaf College, as a Technical Specialist at an intellectual property law firm, and as the President/CSO of BioMed Bridge, LLC, a biomedical writing and editing company. My research interests are focused on the intersection between Alzheimer's disease, Down syndrome, and abnormal chromosome number/aneuploidy, and I have been involved in the development and writing of nearly every grant application submitted under the RMADC.



Samantha Holden, MD

Assistant Professor

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After three years of fellowship training in both Movement Disorders and Behavioral Neurology, I have joined the faculty of the Department of Neurology at the University of Colorado as an Assistant Professor. I plan to use my combined clinical training to pursue a research career in neurodegenerative conditions, namely Alzheimer's disease (AD) and Parkinson's disease (PD). I received a B.S. in Neural Science from New York University and an M.D. from Stony Brook University School of Medicine. During my neurology residency at Rush University Medical Center, I worked on several projects validating and operationalizing diagnostic criteria for mild cognitive impairment in PD. During my fellowship, I worked with members of the Rocky Mountain Alzheimer's Disease Center to develop additional expertise in AD clinical research. I also obtained funding from the Michael J. Fox Foundation to validate a performance-based measure of functional abilities related to cognition in PD, the results of which will serve as the starting point for a longitudinal project investigating the ability of functional abilities to predict future cognitive decline in PD. I am pursuing a Master of Science degree in Clinical Science at the University of Colorado Denver, with an expected degree completion date of May 2018.



Brice McConnell, MD, PhD

Assistant Professor

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I am a formally-trained physician scientist, having completed the National Institute of Health Medical Scientist Training Program at the University of Colorado. After earning a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology, I completed my M.D. training and began a clinical residency within the Department of Neurology at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Center. I am currently completing my clinical fellowship training in Behavioral Neurology and have joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Neurology at the University of Colorado. During my training, I characterized pathological neurophysiology in neurodegenerative disease and developed novel treatment modalities for clinical application. I am currently working within the Rocky Mountain Alzheimer's Disease Center (RMADC) to develop non-invasive brain stimulation for treatment of amnesic mild cognitive impairment (aMCI) and Alzheimer's disease. Most recently, I designed and implemented a pilot-scale randomized, controlled clinical trial designed to aid in technological development of an automated, at-home transcranial electrical stimulation (tES) system as a potential treatment for aMCI. I recently obtained funding from the CCTSI to support this project. The long-term goal of this clinical trial is to develop a disease-modifying therapy with the potential to prevent progression of Alzheimer's disease pathology.



Victoria Pelak, MD

Professor

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Director of the Brain and Vision Research Laboratory

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I am a Professor of Neurology and Ophthalmology with 17 years of academic experience within the dual subspecialties of Neuro-ophthalmology and Behavioral Neurology. During the past 16 years, I have built a well-characterized research cohort in order to investigate visual motion processing in aging and neurodegenerative disease, with a particular emphasis on Alzheimer's disease. I am currently the Co-Leader of Clinical Research at the Rocky Mountain Alzheimer's Disease Center (RMADC) and the Director of the Brain and Vision Research Laboratory in the Department of Neurology. When I arrived at the University in 1999, there were no established cohorts for research studies on aging and cognition. I have developed new collaborations and research cohorts, across departments and throughout the community, with colleagues who have a vested interest in studying aging and cognition, including the Department of Radiology (Division of Neuroradiology), the Department of Medicine (Division of Geriatrics), and community Neurologists and Geriatricians. I will use our team's experience in the LITeS program to inform my role in helping to lead clinical investigations in Posterior Cortical Atrophy, a unique neurodegeneration condition that presents with profound visual dysfunction and is most often due to Early Onset Alzheimer's Disease.



Peter Pressman, MD

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I am currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Neurology at CU-Anschutz and a member of the Rocky Mountain Alzheimer's Disease Center. I received my MD from Oregon Health & Science University, and completed my residency training in Neurology at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago. I received fellowship training in Behavioral Neurology and Clinical Research at the Memory and Aging Center of the University of California, San Francisco, where I focused on communication disorders, particularly in frontotemporal dementias. I was also a visiting scholar at the Berkeley Psychophysiology Laboratory at the University of California, Berkeley, where I worked to better understand emotion in neurodegenerative diseases. My current research program aims to better understand linguistic and paralinguistic communication deficits in neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's disease and frontotemporal dementia. I have an interest in using naturally occurring conversational phenomena, such as the timing of laughter, in the diagnosis and prognosis of these disorders. I am also further exploring how different aspects of communication influence the caregiver's perception of patient empathy and their impact on outcomes for both caregivers and patients.



Jonathan Woodcock, MD

Assistant Professor

Clinical Director, Memory Disorders Clinic

Clinical Director, Rocky Mountain Alzheimer's Disease Center

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Having completed Residencies in both Neurology and Psychiatry, I have spent my career in behavioral neurology and neuro-psychiatry. Since being recruited as Clinical Director of the CU-AMC Rocky Mountain Alzheimer's Disease Center (RMADC) in 2012, I have supervised the development and growth of our Memory Disorders Clinic. We now have five physicians and two advanced practice providers evaluating patients. In addition, two behavioral neurology Fellows will be joining us as faculty in July 2017. I am also supervising our clinical research staff in the Phase II GM-CSF clinical trial in mild-to-moderate Alzheimer's disease subjects and the Biogen EMERGE amyloid antibody study in Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI). While our clinics and clinical research programs have benefited from the earlier establishment of the clinical research infrastructure in the Department of Neurology, we are now making substantial contributions to the expansion of these resources. Participation in the LITeS program would come at a very strategic time in the current expansion of our Alzheimer's disease clinical research program. I have enjoyed team development throughout my career and believe that the opportunity to participate in LITeS will facilitate vital interactions and collaborations among RMADC members, which will ultimately allow us to achieve our goals.



Laura Bellows, PhD, MPH, RDN

Associate Professor

Director, Health Behaviors Laboratory

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I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition and Director of the Health Behaviors Laboratory. Additionally, I am an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Community and Behavioral Health in the Colorado School of Public Health. My research is focused on the development of eating habits and physical activity patterns in early childhood; interventions in the early care setting; and the influence of parental behaviors and the home environment on the development of these behaviors. Much of my work is focused on health disparate populations, including those with limited resources, who are Latino, and living in rural communities. Collectively, this work has generated two large interdisciplinary, multi-institutional grants from USDA in which I serve as P.I. These projects have engaged faculty, students and staff with a multitude of backgrounds, and as such, I am seeking to enhance my leadership skills related to team science.



Maria Valeria Canto-Soler, PhD

Associate Professor

Director, CellSight Ocular Stem Cell & Regeneration Program

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CellSight, the recently launched Ocular Stem Cell and Regeneration Program at the Department of Ophthalmology, is a synergistic cross-disciplinary team of investigators, leading cutting-edge research, and working in a highly collaborative manner with basic researchers and clinicians with a common goal: catalyzing stem cell innovations to save and restore sight.

In my role as Director of CellSight, I am responsible for leading the recruitment process of new faculty, and providing professional development guidance for junior investigators, as well as scientific direction and strategic leadership for the program as a whole. I take on a primary leading role in providing general oversight for CellSight programmatic goals, by defining priority areas while fostering collegial discussions and decisions and coordinating a dynamic working plan. I also stimulate and facilitate collaborations among research groups from within and outside the program, fostering a strong collaborative NIH-funded portfolio including multi-investigator grants. Equally important, I spearhead fundraising efforts from private and philanthropic foundations to ensure the necessary financial support for groundbreaking translational projects that may not qualify for standard sources of funding.



Debra Faulk, MD

Associate Professor

Chair, Children's Hospital Colorado Sedation Committee

President-Elect, Children's Hospital Colorado Medical Staff

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My research interest is in the area of sedation. Currently I am participating in the investigation of the use of pain medications given prior to sedation and its effects on respiratory events. This is being conducted within our emergency department, but may have implications for all sedating locations that practice in this manner. My vision as the Chair of the Children's Hospital Colorado (CHCO) Sedation Committee is to encourage and support projects like this among the various sedating locations. Beyond our institution, I am actively involved in the Society of Pediatric Sedation as our institution's representative to Society's research arm, the multi-institutional Pediatric Sedation Research Consortium. Through this platform, I believe that events pertinent to safety and efficacy in procedural sedation at CHCO as identified through our research may be expanded through multi-institutional efforts. This would be especially important for high risk, low frequency events that are cannot be reasonably or meaningfully studied through a single institution study. I believe participating in the LITeS program would help give me key skills and resources to successfully lead these projects on both a local and national level.



David Frisbie, PhD

Professor

Director of Research, Orthopaedic Research Center

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My professional career includes an Internship, Surgical Residency in Large Animal Surgery, Master's Degree and PhD.

I am a Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at Colorado State University (CSU). I am a Diplomate in both the American College of Veterinary Surgeons the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation. My research and clinical career have been focused on novel therapeutics to help athletic horses as well as human athletes.

I am the Interim Director of Operations for the Translational Medicine Institute (TMI) at CSU. In this role, I am charged with creating the program as well as guiding the construction of a new building to house the program. Our Mission is "Create novel biologic therapies and learning opportunities uniquely focused on improving the lives of both animals and humans by fostering diverse collaborations of leading scientific minds in a state of the art facility that encourages entrepreneurial models that optimize innovation timelines".



T. Rajendra Kumar, PhD

Professor

Associate Vice-Chair of Research

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Dr. Kumar received his PhD in Endocrine Biochemistry from the University of Delhi, India and obtained his postdoctoral training at the Vollum Institute, Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland, OR. He then moved to Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX, as a Research Associate and became an Assistant Professor in the Departments of Pathology and Molecular & Cellular Biology. In 2004, he moved to University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, KS, where he became a Tenured Professor in the Department of Molecular & Integrative Physiology and Director of the Center for Reproductive Sciences, Institute for Reproductive Health and Regenerative Medicine. In May 2016, he joined the Division of Reproductive Sciences, Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Anschutz Medical Campus. His research was published in *Nature*, *Nature Genetics*, *Cell*, *PNAS*, *J Clinical Investigation*, *Molecular and Cellular Biology*, *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, *Molecular and Cellular Endocrinology*, and *Endocrinology*. He co-edited a textbook entitled “Transgenics in Endocrinology”, edited a book entitled “Gonadotropins: from bench side to the bedside” and guest edited Seminars in Reproductive Medicine special issue “Innovations in Reproductive Sciences”.

The Kumar laboratory investigates all aspects of gonadotropin biology, including gonadotrope development and tumorigenesis, mechanisms of pituitary gonadotropin subunit gene expression and post-transcriptional regulation, gonadotropin biosynthesis with a focus on agedependent glycosylation, gonadotropin secretion and action with one focus on somatic cell development and regulation in the gonads and the other on osteoclasts in the bone. His laboratory uses a variety of mouse genetics and high throughput genome-wide approaches. These translational studies have significant impact in understanding the physiology and pathology of the reproductive axis including abnormal reproductive tract development, infertility, ovarian aging, bone loss and cancers of the pituitary and gonad.



Tomer Mark, MD, MSc

Associate Professor

Clinical Director, Plasma Cell Disorders Program

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My research is specifically focused on improving the overall health and survival of patients with plasma cell disorders. To this end, I pursue clinical research using new combinations of existing and emerging therapies to treat multiple myeloma and light chain amyloidosis. I have designed and participated in clinical trials of novel therapies for the care of multiple myeloma, including stem cell collection protocols and transplantation conditioning regimens. I have worked both with national research consortium groups and as a member of the International Myeloma Working Group to enhance clinical outcomes and clarify the prognostication of multiple myeloma. In addition to leading the plasma cell disorders program at University of Colorado – Anschutz, I also am the clinical director of the autologous stem cell transplantation program. As a program, we work to improve the transplant experience and overall health for our patients – from stem cell apheresis to hospital discharge and beyond. I am a member of the working committee for plasma cell disorders at the Center for International Blood and Marrow Research (CIBMTR) and help outline priorities for autologous stem cell transplant studies in on a national level.



Daniel Matlock, MD, MPH

Associate Professor

Director, Shared Decision Making Core at ACCORDS

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Dr. Matlock is the Director of the Shared Decision Making Core at ACCORDS (The Adult and Child Consortium for Outcomes Research and Delivery Science). He is board certified in Internal Medicine, Geriatrics, and Palliative care. His research is aimed at fundamentally changing and improving how patients make decisions around invasive cardiovascular technologies. He has been funded under an NIH career development award, three NHLBI RO1s (two Co-I, one PI), and three PCORI projects studying questions related to T3 and T4 translation of shared decision making among older adults making decisions around invasive technologies (implantable cardioverter-defibrillators and left ventricular assist devices). He is a member of the Colorado Cardiovascular Outcomes Research Group, one of the top outcomes research groups in the country. He has participated in the American College of Cardiology's shared decision making task force and he is also an active participant of the International Patient Decision Aid Standards writing committee. Recently, he has also been named Director of Implementation Research for the recently funded Denver Veterans Affairs Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center.



Martin McCarter, MD

Professor

Surgical Director, Esophageal and Gastric Program

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My research interests are broad and cross multiple disciplines related to immunology and cancer. I have active basic and translational research projects, including an investigator initiated clinical trial, studying ways to modulate the tumor microenvironment myeloid derived suppressor cells in melanoma patients undergoing standard immunotherapy. In addition, I serve as the surgical director for the Esophageal and Gastric Multidisciplinary program and have developed an esophageal and gastric tumor tissue bank for research purposes. Other research interests include clinical outcomes and quality improvement projects for cancer patients undergoing surgery. Being on faculty at the University of Colorado School of Medicine has afforded me the rewarding opportunity to pay it forward and mentor dozens of medical students and residents. As a clinically active surgical oncologist, and surgeon investigator, I look for opportunities to collaborate with other disciplines outside the department of surgery.



Daniel Pollyea, MD, MS

Associate Professor

Clinical Director of Leukemia Services, University of Colorado Hospital

Medical Director, Hematology Clinical Trials Unit

Department of Medicine

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My research interests revolve around understanding the unique properties and weaknesses of leukemia stem cells, and translating this knowledge into therapeutic strategies that allow for the eradication of this population in the clinical setting. I serve as the clinical resource for my laboratory-based colleagues; in this role we work closely on the development and execution of pre-clinical projects designed to characterize leukemia stem cells. Additionally, in the context of clinical trials, I provide patient samples and input into correlative endpoints designed to improve the understanding of how novel therapies do or do not effectively target leukemia stem cells in vivo. This is an exciting and dynamic role that allows me to be at the forefront of a wide spectrum of research related to leukemia stem cell biology and its clinical applications. In addition, I cofounded the Hematology Clinical Trials Unit, a Hematology divisional resource that operates all malignant hematology-focused clinical research studies on the Anschutz campus. I currently serve as the Medical Director of the Hematology Clinical Trials Unit.



Jennifer Reese, MD

Associate Professor

Director, Inpatient Medicine

Director, CU SOM Resilience Program

Interim Section Head, Pediatric Hospital Medicine

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My scholarly efforts are somewhat non-traditional for a large academic setting. Since much of my time is spent in administrative roles of Inpatient Medical Director and Interim Section Head, I pursue quality improvement efforts focusing on care improvement in the inpatient setting. My projects have addressed improvements in communication among health care providers, identifying deteriorating patients in the inpatient setting, and clinical care guideline development. Communication efforts have addressed escalation curriculum for residents, and beliefs and practices among nurses and physicians in the inpatient setting. Early identification of deterioration of inpatients is essential in improving hospital outcomes. I have contributed to Clinical Care Guidelines for conditions including community acquired pneumonia, musculoskeletal infections, asthma, bronchiolitis, and opioid prescribing practices. Additionally, as Director of the Resilience Program for CU School of Medicine I am studying interventions that mitigate burnout and promote resilience among health care providers. As a leader in Pediatric Hospital Medicine, having a diverse range of expertise in inpatient operations and quality improvement is important for mentoring trainees and junior faculty, and being an effective leader in the hospital and administrative settings.



Natalie Serkova, PhD

Professor

Director, Animal Imaging Shared Resources

Director, Cancer Center Metabolomics Core

*Director, Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute
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I am the Director of an internationally recognized, high profile Imaging and Metabolomics Program, which serves as the Shared Resources for the University of Colorado Cancer Center (UCCC) and Colorado Clinical Translational Sciences Institute (CCTSI). I develop and apply state-of-the-art metabolic and molecular magnetic resonance imaging and spectroscopy (MRI/MRS), as well as other imaging modalities, to understand human pathophysiologies, improve diagnosis and treatment. My flagship Imaging and Metabolomics program has an outstanding expertise in translational multimodality imaging, biochemistry, and instrumentation. As the Founder and Director of the UCCC/CCTSI Imaging Core I have been actively involved in basic and translational research, as well as clinical trials utilizing imaging and metabolomics end-point. Over the last 10 years I have built a high-end translational imaging technology core, which provides comprehensive technological services, collaborations and training in animal imaging and quantitative image analysis for cancer research. The state-of-the-art animal scanners (brought by me to the Anschutz campus), advanced physiology-based imaging protocols (developed in my group based on my expertise in magnetic resonance and medical physics) and novel contrast agents/ molecular probes (developed in my facility) have revolutionized pre-clinical cancer research at the SOM. I am also overseeing the CCTSI Methods Development Pilot Grant program.



Jeanelle Sheeder, PhD

Associate Professor

Associate Vice Chair for Clinical Research

Program Director, Women's Reproductive Health Research

Scholar's Program

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I am a clinical researcher focused on women's reproductive health, particularly family planning, contraceptives and contraceptive decision-making, adolescents, and comprehensive prenatal and postpartum care, based in the Departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Pediatrics. I have extensive experience in intervention design, implementation, and evaluation in the clinical setting. My driving motivation is to ensure that women, particularly those who are young or underserved can effectively access the best possible reproductive healthcare. I developed two highly successful and complementary programs to achieve this goal: the adolescent Title X clinic at Children's Hospital Colorado, BC4U, and the Pregnancy and Parenting Partners (P3) program. BC4U offers confidential, free, same-day access to the most highly-effective contraceptives to adolescents and has served as a national model for this type of care as well as becoming an excellent example of how clinical care and research can occur simultaneously. P3 is an innovative model of group-based prenatal and postpartum care and education and support. P3 is built on the foundations of the Nurse Family Partnership program and offers access to high quality medical care and promotes positive behavior change, shared learning, and social support for socially-disadvantaged women.

The other focus of my work has been to promote and support research among my clinical colleagues through mentorship, education, and consultation. Being part of a clinical Department allows me to appreciate the challenges clinicians face in conducting research, and help them integrate their unique perspectives and experience into more meaningful scholarly outcomes. As Associate Vice-Chair for Clinical Research, I work with clinical fellows and faculty in every Division of the Department, from Oncology to Maternal-Fetal Medicine. I greatly enjoy being able to help them design and implement feasible and important studies, learn to analyze their data, and utilize it to improve the care they provide.



Darcy Thompson, MD, MPH

Associate Professor

Associate Medical Director, Research Institute at Children's Hospital Colorado

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Dr. Darcy A. Thompson MD, MPH is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. She is an Associate Medical Director for the Research Institute at Children's Hospital Colorado. Her research focuses on early childhood obesity, with a specific focus on obesity-related behaviors and the family context. Because of the disparate risk of obesity in low-income Latino populations, a large portion of her work has focused on this population. Her research has been both clinic- and community-based, including community-based participatory research. As an educator, her work focuses on both childhood obesity and the care of limited-English proficient patients. She currently directs the Pediatric Clinical Nutrition and Obesity Fellowship and is chair of the Pediatric Clinical Nutrition Education Workgroup for the Section of Nutrition. Clinically, she works in the Lifestyle Medicine clinic at Children's Hospital Colorado, which is a multi-disciplinary referral clinic for obese children.



Jeannie Zuk, PhD
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As Co-Director of Research for the Colorado Fetal Care Center in the Department of Pediatric Surgery, I oversee and participate in all research activities in the Colorado Institute for Maternal-Fetal Health (CIMFH). Ongoing research studies range from proteomics and other biomarkers in amniotic fluid to identifying surgical outcomes following prenatal surgery in high-risk pregnancies diagnosed with a fetal anomaly. My current research interests focus on the relationship between parental mental health, infant neurodevelopmental outcomes and quality of life (QOL) measurement with an emphasis on family functioning, screening for depression, anxiety and trauma following a prenatal diagnosis of a fetal anomaly. I am Co-Chair of the Children's Hospital Colorado Quality of Life Research Partnership, where we are developing a QOL registry connecting researchers across the Children's Hospital Colorado campus interested in collecting QOL measures for research. As a member of the International Society of Quality of Life research (ISOQOL) I am hosting an education course that will provide the foundation for QOL theory and measurement, providing a rigorous approach to QOL research. I am also a methodologist for the CHCO Department of Anesthesiology, working closely with junior faculty on developing research methods including survey design, Q methodology, and qualitative research analysis.



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