



Colorado Clinical and Translational
Sciences Institute (CCTSI)

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER | ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

LEADERSHIP FOR INNOVATIVE TEAM SCIENCE (LITeS)

Description & Directory | 2019-2020

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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

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

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

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Dr. Ronald J. Sokol received his undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana, his MD from the University of Chicago/Pritzker School of Medicine, and his pediatric residency training at the University of Colorado Medical Center in Denver. He then completed a three-year fellowship in Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition in 1983 at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Sokol has been a faculty member at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and Children's Hospital Colorado since 1983 and is now Professor and Vice Chair of Clinical and Translational Research in the Department of Pediatrics and Section Chief of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition and the Digestive Health Institute at Children's Hospital Colorado. He is Director and Principal Investigator of the Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute at University of Colorado Denver, funded by the NIH, and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Clinical and Translational Science. Dr. Sokol's major scientific interests are investigating the etiology, cellular, and immunologic pathogenesis of biliary atresia; the mechanisms of liver cell injury in cholestatic, fatty liver disease, and parenteral nutrition associated liver injury; the role of mitochondria and oxidative stress in liver injury; and developing predictive models and novel therapeutics for childhood liver diseases. Dr. Sokol is Chair of the Steering Committee of the NIDDK-supported Childhood Liver Disease Research Network (ChiLDRen). Dr. Sokol will be president-elect of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases in 2017. He has been cited in "Best Doctors in America" since 1994 and received the 2003 Nutrition Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the 2009 James E. Strain Award in Pediatrics from Children's Hospital Colorado, and the 2009 Harry Shwachman Award from NASPGHAN. Dr. Sokol has published over 230 peer-reviewed articles, 120 chapters and review articles, 10 books or monographs, and over 340 research abstracts. He is co-editor of "Liver Disease in Children," the leading textbook in pediatric hepatology.

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) has been offered annually by the CCTSI to a select cohort of University of Colorado senior and emerging leaders. Structured as a yearlong 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 labs, and training programs. This year's LITeS program will increase the focus on team science. The cohort of participants will include two clinical/translational teams already intact and functioning at the University, and an additional 14 participants who will be assigned to team within the program.

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 others; 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, Influence Styles, and Team Emotional and Social Intelligence. 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. All LITeS participants will create professional development plans, and receive coaching in putting the plan to work. Over the course of the year, participants also carry out a project with their team of other LITeS participants, functioning as a work team to address a real and immediate issue or concern for the University or for health care or research. 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@cuanschutz.edu); LITeS Associate Director, Susan Johnson, PhD, 303-724-2923 (susan.johnson@cuanschutz.edu); LITeS Associate Director, Scott Markowitz, MD, FAAP, (720) 777-4823 (scott.markowitz@cuanschutz.edu); or Programs Manager Galit Mankin, MSW, 720-848-6249 (galiit.mankin@cuanschutz.edu).



Judith Albino, PhD | LITeS Director

President Emerita and Professor

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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. She began her academic career as a health psychologist in the School of Dentistry at the State University of New York at Buffalo. She has 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 was PI and Director of the Center for Native Oral Health Research, completing two major NIH clinical trials with American Indian populations. 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, which she currently chairs. 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. Dr. Albino currently is serving as Project Co-Director and Scientific Editor for the 2020 Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health in America.



Susan L. Johnson | LITeS Associate Director

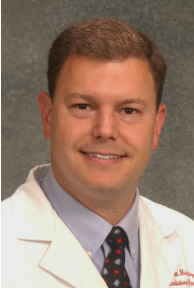
Professor of Pediatrics, Section of Nutrition

Director, The Children's Eating Laboratory

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Susan Johnson is a tenured Professor of Pediatrics and joined the LITeS Program in 2016 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 Nutrition 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.



**Scott D. Markowitz, MD, FAAP | LITeS
Associate Director**

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Scott has worked at Anschutz since 2007 as a Pediatric Anesthesiologist, with an academic focus in medical education and faculty development. Scott works with other leaders to create opportunities for growth, mentorship and professional development within his Department. He has also worked with the Dean of Faculty Affairs team on projects related to mentoring support at Anschutz. Scott is a certified executive leadership coach, and consults with faculty members from varied areas, including clinical, research and administration, who are looking to achieve next-level success in their leadership role. His other leadership focus is in the creation, development and support of high-performing healthcare and research teams.



Galit Mankin, MSW

*Program Administrator,
Clinical Science Graduate Program, CCTSI
Programs Manager,
Education Training and Career Development (ETCD), CCTSI*
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Galit Mankin 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.

LITeS Class of 2019-2020



Kasey Bowden, MSN, FNP, AG-ACNP

Assistant Professor – Clinical

Associate Clinical Director

Department of Medicine – Hospital Medicine

University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

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I have been a Nurse Practitioner for nearly 9 years, and am currently the Associate Clinical Director, Co Lead APP for the Division of Hospital Medicine, as well as the APP Director for Extended Recovery at the University of Colorado Hospital and am the newly appointed Medical Director of the CARE (Clinical Assessment and Rapid Evaluation) Clinic. I completed the Advanced Practice Fellowship at the University of Colorado Hospital in 2012, and have since focused my career in the areas of clinical operations, faculty development and direct patient care. My clinical research interests include examining APP integration into medical teams, identifying means which APPs can improve quality and productivity metrics, as well as APP impact on provider burnout and patient satisfaction. With my operational role, I have been heavily involved in planning, coordination and implementation of new service lines, hospital throughput processes, and APP efficiency and utilization. I have helped lead our current D2V grant implementing an EMR tool to improve discharge communication through stakeholder engagement, providing feedback on development and modifications of the discharge tool, and organizing and leading the multi-disciplinary APP-led discharge team. I am also interested in capacity management and patient flow, and ways to utilize clinical operations to improve the quality and efficiency of care.



Marisha Burden, MD, FACP, SFHM

Associate Professor

Division Head of Hospital Medicine

Department of Medicine – Hospital Medicine

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I am an academic hospitalist, educator, Division Head of Hospital Medicine, and researcher. I am very involved in hospital administration and quality improvement and utilize my administrative and clinical duties to help drive my research initiatives. My interests include hospital systems improvement, which includes patient experience, patient flow, quality, and transitions of care. I have a long track record of developing clinically and operationally successful research projects. My projects include a multinational study on opioid prescribing and patient experience and a recent 5 site study assessing barriers to discharge that has since resulted in additional funding. Our research team is now developing a communication tool in the electronic health record to communicate discharge readiness across the care team in real-time. This past year I helped Dr. Calcaterra (PI) along with several other colleagues successfully receive upper payment limit funding to develop a hospitalist run addiction medicine service. We hope to harness our operational and clinical excellence and develop a deliberate framework and approach to our hospital systems improvement work. I believe this program will help our leadership team accomplish these goals.



Angela Keniston, MSPH

Instructor

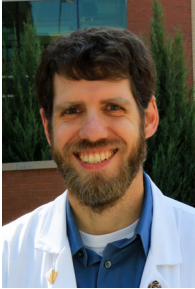
Director, Data and Analytics

Department of Medicine – Hospital Medicine

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I completed my Master of Science in Public Health at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in 2005. I then worked for 13 years supporting research and data analytics for the Department of Medicine at Denver Health. My role as the Director of Data and Analytics for the Division of Hospital Medicine at the University of Colorado includes research design, regulatory compliance and human subjects protection, application of EHR innovations, data collection, management, analyses, and reporting, qualitative analyses, and drafting manuscripts to publish results. I am a co-investigator on two multi-center prospective studies, the first recently accepted for publication and the second recently published, 1) a cross-sectional study exploring the cultural implications of pain management, “Opioid Prescribing Practices and Satisfaction with Pain Management in Patients Hospitalized on Medical Wards: an International Survey” and 2) a cross-sectional study exploring the barriers to discharge, “Barriers to Early Hospital Discharge: A Cross-Sectional Study at Five Academic Hospitals.” Most recently, I have been working with Hospital Medicine physicians, UCHealth Epic analysts, and University of Colorado hospital staff to design and implement a tool in Epic that facilitates communication in real-time between hospitalists and other clinicians about discharge readiness and barriers to discharge.



Dimitriy Levin, MD

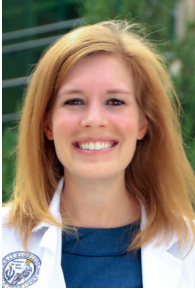
Associate Professor – Clinical Practice

Department of Medicine – Hospital Medicine

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Dr. Levin is the Associate Professor of Clinical Practice with the Division of Hospital Medicine. In 2011, Dr. Levin founded the Oncology Hospitalist Service, one of the largest and longest-running teams in the world specializing in care of hospitalized patients with cancer. Dr. Levin is the Clinical Co-Director managing operations in the Division of Hospital Medicine, a group of over 90 practitioners providing care for about half of inpatients at University of Colorado Hospital. Clinical operations tasks include scheduling, capacity management, patient flow, liaising with University of Colorado Hospital leadership, and extensive data analysis. Dr. Levin has experience with both basic science and clinical research resulting in publications in peer-reviewed journals, as well as quality improvement, having led several successful initiatives at University of Colorado Hospital. Dr. Levin's interests include innovation and scholarship around clinical operations, including leveraging electronic medical records, and data analysis using statistical process control methods.



Julia Limes, MD

Assistant Professor

Associate Program Director, IMRP

Department of Medicine – Hospital Medicine

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My education and research interests include optimizing residency operations in conjunction with hospital medicine operations, developing residency curricula, studying and optimizing transitions of care, and teaching clinical reasoning. I have specifically been the primary investigator and done research in multiple areas of care transitions including the handoff between the day and night teams, how to teach interns how to cross-cover patients overnight, and resident training and experience with transitioning patients to skilled nursing facilities and home health care at discharge. By identifying gaps in each of these areas, I have designed new curricula for residents to fill the gap in their knowledge to ensure safer transitions of care for patients. I have also designed the triagist workflow that determines the team placement for every patient admitted and transferred to the Division of Hospital Medicine services and would like to continue to study patient flow, how to optimize it, and translate that back to triagist operations. Finally, I developed and deliver clinical reasoning curriculum for the internal medicine residency and have studied the effectiveness of these curricula. By enhancing residents' clinical reasoning skills, we are directly impacting patient care now and for their entire careers.



Leah Lleras, MS

Division Administrator

Department of Medicine – Hospital Medicine

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I have been involved in the administrative support of various research projects in both the Departments of Neurology and Medicine. My primary involvement has been in providing and reviewing financial data.



Jonathan Pell, MD

Associate Professor

Senior Medical Director of Inpatient Informatics

Department of Medicine – Hospital Medicine

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Dr. Pell is an Associate Professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine at University of Colorado School of Medicine, Denver. Dr. Pell is a board certified physician informaticist and serves as the Senior Medical Director of Inpatient Informatics for the ten hospital UHealth system. In this capacity, Dr. Pell leads and consults on a multitude of quality improvement and patient safety projects within the system on how information technology tools and data analytics can support these efforts. He has a particular interests include the study of IT interventions contribute to systems improvement, patient centered care, and how the electronic health record affects provider satisfaction.



Lindsay Thurman, MD

Assistant Professor

Clinical Co-Director

Department of Medicine – Hospital Medicine

University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

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I am an Assistant Professor (soon to be Associate Professor) in the Division of Hospital Medicine. I serve as the Division Clinical Co-Director as well as the Assistant Director of the Oncology Service for patients with solid cancers at University of Colorado Hospital. I oversee approximately 20 different services and develops Division wide strategic plans for our clinical operations. I believe that my clinical expertise paired with my clinical operations skills uniquely position me to develop and implement best practices for our clinical enterprise. Given our hospitalist team cares for ~50% of the patient population in the hospital, I believe this work can greatly impact large numbers of patients, care teams, and the health system as a whole. My interests are in operational excellence and real-time pragmatic evaluations of how to best care for the medically complex hospitalized patient.



Kathryn Chatfield, MD, PhD

Assistant Professor

Department of Pediatrics – Cardiology and Genetics

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I am currently an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in the Section of Cardiology at the University of Colorado. I completed my clinical pediatric cardiology fellowship after training in clinical genetics and metabolism and have a background in basic science research in the field of apoptosis and signal transduction. I continue to work on a project begun during my cardiology fellowship under the primary mentorship of Dr. Brian Stauffer. In collaboration with Dr. Genevieve Sparagna (University of Colorado Denver) who studies cardiolipin (CL) and other lipid molecular species using electrospray ionization mass spectrometry, we study how CL lipid changes in mitochondria affect myocardial energy production in dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) and other forms of heart failure in children. A genetic defect in the CL biosynthesis pathway results in X-linked Barth Syndrome, a known cause of cardiomyopathy in boys. We have previously demonstrated changes in cardiolipin composition due to dysregulated biosynthesis and remodeling in pediatric DCM. We are also completing a project funded by the Barth Syndrome Foundation that demonstrates severe abnormalities in electron transport chain and fatty acid metabolism in Barth-related DCM. This work has validated that CL changes occur in heritable and sporadic forms of DCM in children, and are strongly correlated with dysfunctional mitochondrial bioenergetics. This project builds upon my experience in basic science, protein biochemistry, and my clinical training in cardiology, clinical genetics and metabolic disease, while working towards my ultimate goal of a career in translational medicine. My scientific interest in cardiac metabolism and cardiac genetics are perfectly suited to accomplish a better understanding of energetic changes in pediatric heart failure while identifying new targets for therapy. Our focus on mitochondria and metabolism are a perfect complement to the work performed by our larger research group, the Pediatric Cardiovascular Research Laboratory (PCRL). Ultimately, we believe that our team collaboration will help to elucidate links between energy utilization and sarcomeric physiology, which could realistically lead to a dietary and medical intervention aimed at reversal of the metabolic abnormalities we have identified in pediatric DCM.



Anastacia Garcia, PhD

Post-Doctoral Fellow

Department of Pediatrics – Cardiology

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I have been a postdoctoral fellow in the Pediatric Cardiovascular Research Laboratory for 3.5 years. While the field of cardiology is relatively new to me, in my time in the lab I have been able to utilize my previously established background in molecular biology to design and perform a wide range of experiments. Additionally, I have had the opportunity to mentor students and technicians, which has solidified my passion for training the next generation of scientists. My ongoing projects have focused on training in the culturing, treatment and transfection of primary cardiomyocytes, mRNA and protein quantification, enzymatic activity assays, transcriptomic bioinformatics analysis, and mouse/rat studies. My ultimate career goal is to become an independently funded professor with expertise in pediatric cardiovascular disease, who runs a lab that contributes to the treatment and prevention of heart failure, and who participates in the training and mentoring of a diverse set of budding researchers. My long-term research program will focus on understanding the mechanistic differences governing pediatric heart failure to identify efficacious therapies through basic science investigations of myocardial remodeling and ventricular function. Together, my background illustrates my ability to learn new techniques, propose relevant translational research questions, and embark on new collaborations.



Shelley Miyamoto, MD

Associate Professor

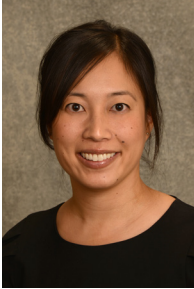
Director, Cardiomyopathy Program

Department of Pediatrics – Cardiology

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I am the Director of the Cardiomyopathy Program, a transplant cardiologist at Children's Hospital Colorado and the Jack Cooper Millisor Endowed Chair in Pediatric Heart Disease. My clinical expertise includes the care of infants and children suffering from various forms of cardiomyopathy and complex congenital heart disease as well as the care of children who have had a heart transplant. My research interests intersect nicely with my clinical work and involves study of molecular adaptation of the failing pediatric heart, identification of novel therapeutic targets, animal model development and biomarker assessment. I am the PI for the Pediatric Cardiac Tissue Bank, which includes meticulously preserved heart tissue on nearly 400 children with heart disease and blood on over 500 children. Through this extensive pediatric tissue and blood bank, our research team is uniquely positioned to contribute to investigations into the molecular mechanisms of cardiovascular function and adaptation specific to heart failure and congenital heart disease in infants and children. The overall purpose of our research group is to address the disparities in heart failure research specific to the pediatric population.



Stephanie Nakano, MD

Assistant Professor

Department of Pediatrics – Cardiology

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In 2014, I completed my pediatric cardiology fellowship and transitioned to a junior faculty position as an emerging physician scientist under the mentorship of the Pediatric Cardiovascular Research Laboratory. I have spent the last several years developing additional clinical expertise focused on pediatric heart failure and heart transplantation, motivated by improving outcomes in this complex and vulnerable population. Nevertheless, my primary pursuit has been a fundamental investigation of pediatric heart failure from a molecular perspective in order to discover novel therapeutics tailored to this population. Specifically, infants with single ventricle congenital heart disease are at high risk of developing heart failure. No proven medical therapies for this group of children exists, partially due to a poor understanding of the etiology of single ventricle heart failure. My current research focuses on evaluating the phosphodiesterase system in the myocardium of pediatric patients with single ventricle disease and determining circulating factors that may predict outcomes. I supervise, teach, and mentor pediatric cardiology fellows, undergraduate students, and professional research assistants as well as collaborate with other junior faculty.



Genevieve Sparagna, PhD

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My research area is mitochondrial function in the heart, with a specific focus on the mitochondrial lipid, cardiolipin, as it is altered in disease and diet. I did research at CU Boulder for 11 years on rats that were genetically programmed to get heart failure but five years ago moved to a position at the Pediatric Cardiovascular Laboratory at CU Anschutz to apply my knowledge of mitochondria to humans. I developed one of the only programs in the world that takes fresh human explanted heart tissue and isolates mitochondria from it and also looks at mitochondrial function these hearts (mitochondrial function can only be studied in fresh tissue, which is why it is almost impossible to study it in human heart). Since joining the laboratory at Anschutz, mitochondrial and lipid studies, including the investigation of mitochondrial targeting drugs, have become central to the studies in our large yet closely integrated laboratory.



Brian Stauffer, MD

Professor

Chair, Division of Cardiology, Denver Health

Department of Medicine – Cardiology

University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

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Dr. Brian Stauffer, MD is an Associate Professor in the Division of Cardiology, Department of Medicine and the Department of Integrated Physiology at the UC Denver and the Chief of Cardiology at Denver Health Medical Center. He also holds an Adjunct appointment in Integrative Physiology at the CU Boulder and is the Medical Director and manages the clinical staff at the CCTSI CU Boulder Clinical Translational Research Center. Dr. Stauffer has been involved in basic cardiovascular research for almost 30 years having trained with Russell Moore, PhD and Leslie Leinwand, PhD at CU Boulder. He has been engaged in clinical translational vascular research as the Medical Director of the extramurally funded Integrative Vascular Biology Laboratory since 2000. In addition, as faculty since he completed his Cardiovascular Fellowship at the University of Colorado in 2005, he has been engaged in clinical translational research on myocardial remodeling with heart failure. He co-founded and co-directs the extramurally funded Pediatric Cardiovascular Research Laboratory with Dr. Kika Sucharov and Dr. Shelley Miyamoto. Over the past 10 years, this research group has grown from the 3 junior investigators to 20 faculty, staff and trainees investigating heart failure in children. As the Chief of Cardiology, Dr. Stauffer leads a group of 17 providers as well as the nursing and technical staff to support the Division at Denver Health Medical Center.



Carmen (Kika) Sucharov, PhD

Associate Professor

Director - PCRL, PAGE Implementation Co-Chair

Department of Medicine – Cardiology

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My research program focuses on understanding the mechanisms that regulate changes in gene expression in heart failure, an area of research I have been involved since my post-doctoral training. In 2008, Drs. Stauffer, Miyamoto and I started the Pediatric Cardiovascular Research Laboratory (PCRL) with the goal of understanding changes in molecular pathways involved in pediatric heart failure. I am currently Director of this research program, and with Drs. Stauffer and Miyamoto, I supervise and mentor students, post-docs, professional research assistants (PRAs) and junior faculty. Our group is currently composed of 7 PRAs, 4 post-doctoral fellows, 3 junior faculty, and 1 research assistant professor. All junior faculty members of our group are recipients of K awards. Our research program utilizes human biological specimens to understand causes and molecular alterations in the pediatric heart failure population with the ultimate goal of identifying novel therapies for children with heart failure.



Kathleen Woulfe, PhD

Assistant Professor

Department of Medicine – Cardiology

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I am a junior faculty member of the Pediatric Cardiovascular Research Laboratory. I am establishing my own laboratory within this group and work closely with the team to define age specific difference in heart failure. My research interests include studying mechanisms that contribute to age and sex differences in myofibril mechanics in normal and diseased hearts. Determining how age and sex impacts myofibril interactions will improve our understanding of the most basic units of cardiac function and how regulation of sarcomeric function is altered with age. In addition to defining differences in myofibril function between different explanted hearts, we are able to determine how different therapies target sarcomeric function and can improve cardiac function.



Alia Al-Tayyib, PhD, MSPH

Associate Professor

Associate Research Scientist

Colorado School of Public Health

Denver Health

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Alia Al-Tayyib is an Associate Research Scientist at Denver Health and an Associate Professor of Epidemiology at the Colorado School of Public Health. Her primary research interests are in behavioral risks for acquiring and transmitting infections, such as HIV and hepatitis C, with a focus on the social and structural determinants of risk. Since 2007, she has served as the site PI for the National HIV Behavioral Surveillance system in the Denver metro area. More recently, Alia has focused on a social networks study of factors that accelerate or inhibit transition from oral ingestion of prescription opioids to injection drug use among at-risk youth. The overarching goal of her work is to reduce the spread of infections and improve public health. Dr. Al-Tayyib serves on the Board of Directors for the Harm Reduction Action Center, Denver's largest syringe access program, and as the Co-Chair of the Data workgroup for the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention. She received her PhD and MSPH degrees in Epidemiology, with an infectious diseases focus, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and was a Clinical Faculty Scholar at the Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute.



Sarah Borengasser, PhD

Assistant Professor

Department of Pediatrics

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My career has included translational research components at every step of my training. I received a Master of Science degree in Exercise Science at Iowa State University where I studied the prevention of an age-associated decline in immune function using an exercise intervention in an elderly population and aged mouse model. I completed my PhD in Nutrition where I worked with various animal models and a clinical study of how statins impact skeletal muscle adaptation to exercise training. I was also awarded two NIH predoctoral training fellowships: i) T32 Exercise and Health: Integration from Molecule to Patient and ii) T90: Clinical Biodetection. Both fellowships had an emphasis on translational research that included didactic coursework and seminars. For my postdoctoral training, my research focused on the early origins of obesity using rodent models and an ongoing clinical study in mothers and infants. Currently, my research efforts are focused on clinical trials and studies, and more recently, includes new collaborations to use rodent models to provide insight into some clinical findings. I hope my previous and current research experiences will leverage my ability to have a successful career in conducting translational research.



Amanda Dempsey, MD, PhD, MPH/MSPH

Professor with Tenure

Director, Surgical/Subspecialist Clinical Outcomes (SCORE) Fellowship

Department of Pediatrics – General Pediatrics

University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

Research Director, Pediatric Hospital Medicine

Children’s Hospital Colorado

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Since arriving at the University of Colorado in 2012, I have taken on an increasing number of leadership positions. Most notable of these are becoming director of the SCORE (surgical/subspecialist outcomes research) fellowship in 2017, and more recently becoming the Research Director for Pediatric Hospital Medicine in 2018. For SCORE I oversee the fellowship, developing and contributing to the 2-year didactic curriculum, liaising with other divisions and departments across the campus to promote awareness of the program, selecting fellows and mentors for the program, and managing the program’s budget, staff, and assistant directors. I also mentor between 2-4 fellows for the program, and teach a number of didactic sessions. As Research Director for Pediatric Hospital Medicine I am responsible for supporting and further developing research activities in the Division. To do this, I have bi-monthly “works in progress” and research didactic sessions for the program, meet regularly with all faculty doing research to provide any needed mentorship or guidance on their research endeavors, oversee research funds and program support for the Division, and work closely with other members of the Division’s leadership team (clinical, education, quality improvement) to find synergies with the research program.



Jodie Malhotra, PharmD

Assistant Professor

Director of Practitioner and International Development

Department of Clinical Pharmacy

Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

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Jodie Malhotra is the Director of Practitioner and International Development and an Assistant Professor at the University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. In her current position she focuses on global health and practitioner development including serving as the director of the continuing education program at the University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Dr. Malhotra helped to develop and implement a new Internationally-Trained PharmD Program, assisted with curriculum development and serving as a visiting professor at the Istanbul Kemerburgaz University School of Pharmacy, established an interprofessional APPE rotation at a new medical facility operated by the University of Colorado Denver in Guatemala. She has created training programs for pharmacists around the world, including a PharmD program in Cairo, preceptor development program in Cairo, and ambulatory care training program in Qatar.



Chris Manuel, DVM, PhD

Associate Professor

Associate Director, Office of Laboratory Animal Resources

Department of Pathology

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I am a veterinarian and the Associate Director of the Office of Laboratory Animal Resources (OLAR) at the University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus, and the Attending Veterinarian at the Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center. I contribute to a team of veterinarians and veterinary technicians that manage the clinical and surgical cases for a variety of experimental animal models and any spontaneous illness that may develop in 15 different species. We perform routine health examinations and I manage an intensive health surveillance program to insure that the animals in our care are free of pathogens and pests that can impact research outcomes. In support of my biosecurity role, my research program is focused on methods to rapidly detect, treat, and eliminate endemic bacterial infectious from immunodeficient mouse colonies. I am the research mentor for our internship program and contribute to courses for veterinary students and bioengineering students on the appropriate use of animals in research. In addition to my management, clinical, research and teaching responsibilities, I also serve a regulatory compliance role by sitting on the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee for this campus and the Subcommittee on Animal Studies at the VA Medical Center.



Sasha Rai, MD

Assistant Professor

Director, Correctional Behavioral Health

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I direct mental health and substance use services at the Denver city and county jails. Denver Health is the contracted provider for all health care related services to the jails and as a Denver Health employee, my work site are the two jails. One of my roles is to provide psychiatric treatment to mentally ill individuals incarcerated at the jails; in addition to that, I also train medical students, psychiatry residents, forensic psychiatry fellows, psychiatric physician assistant fellows and psychiatric nurse practitioner students. I also oversee the behavioral health team, which consists of psychiatrists, psychologists, advanced practice providers, nurses, behavioral health technicians, social workers and case managers. I provide consultation to the Denver Sheriff Department on behavioral health training and to other medical providers in the jail. The jail has a lot of data on mental health and substance use services and one of my goals is to analyze this data so that we may learn to more effectively serve our patient population.



Suchitra Rao, MD, MSCS

Assistant Professor

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Suchitra Rao is Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in the sections of Hospital Medicine and Infectious Diseases at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and Associate Medical Director of Epidemiology at Children's Hospital Colorado. She studies the epidemiology of influenza in children, including several prospective observational studies exploring the burden of disease of influenza in children. Her work includes multicenter collaborations studying novel therapeutics for the treatment of influenza and leveraging data from large national databases. Her current work includes studying the diagnostic and treatment practices related to influenza, and the impact of rapid molecular testing on the diagnosis and management of influenza. Dr. Rao directs the Influenza Program at Children's Hospital Colorado, and oversees influenza vaccination for staff, patients and families. She leads multidisciplinary teams dedicated to improving influenza vaccination rates in inpatient and ambulatory settings. She serves on regional executive boards and national committees of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society of America.



Mary D. Sammel, Sc.D.

Professor

Department of Biostatistics & Informatics

Colorado School of Public Health

Associate Director, Center for Integrative Design and Analysis

I will be joining the faculty of Biostatistics & Informatics at The Colorado School of Public Health in the fall of 2019 after more than 20 years as at The University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine. In addition to my role as Biostatistics Faculty, I am joining the leadership team in The Center for Integrative Design and Analysis (CIDA) and will be responsible for developing education and training programs for junior faculty, staff and students which focus on skills necessary for strengthening team science throughout the University. I will also be continuing my long-term relationship with faculty in the School of Medicine Departments of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Psychiatry, providing statistical scientific leadership in both clinical and translational research endeavors. My statistical interests are in the area of multivariate statistical models that assume an underlying latent variable, such as factor analysis, latent class analysis and Item response models. My other interests include observational study design, longitudinal data methods.



Kelly Santangelo, DVM, PhD

Associate Professor

Department of Microbiology, Immunology, and Pathology

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The central goal of my research career is to orchestrate an interdisciplinary research program that provides comprehensive and clinically relevant investigations of primary and post-traumatic musculoskeletal conditions in translational animal models. As a board-certified veterinary pathologist with specialized training in applied molecular biology and comparative medicine, I am well equipped to execute and lead these integrated analyses of age and injury-related skeletal tissue degeneration among multiple investigators. Our approach, which focuses on elucidating mechanisms at the molecular/cellular level in combination with advanced imaging and gait analysis, will optimize the information gained from each aim and provide data applicable to human health. Thus, the potential impact of this work, in regards to pinpointing undiscovered pathways underlying the pathogenesis of joint, muscle, bone, and tendon disorders – as well as developing innovative therapeutic protocols – is well poised to lead to continued external funding. We are confident that our designated projects will result in high impact publications and provide the foundation for an innovative and productive program.



Stephanie Santorico, PhD

Professor

Director of Statistical Programs

Department of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences

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I am a Professor in the Department of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences with secondary appointments in the Human Medical Genetics and Genomics Program, Division of Biomedical Informatics and Personalized Medicine, and Dep't of Biostatistics and Informatics. I serve as Codirector for graduate programs in the Department of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences and Director of our Statistical Programs. My faculty position consists of 40% effort towards each of research and teaching with 20% effort towards service. As a researcher, my research is interdisciplinary, combining the areas of statistics and genetics. In my work, including grants and papers, I am involved in the development of the scientific question, the subsequent experimental design, selection of appropriate technology, and usage and development of statistical methods. A number of my grants have ended their data collection phase, and hence, we have been actively publishing our results over the past three years, building a successful set of publications to support proposals for a new round of grant submissions. I am in the process of reflecting and strategizing on the most impactful work to pursue in a next round of grant applications.



Rebecca Schweppe, PhD

Associate Professor

Associate Director, Cancer Biology Graduate Program

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I am an Associate Professor and Director of Research in the Division of Endocrinology. The overall focus of my research is to define the role of key signal transduction mechanisms that regulate thyroid cancer growth and metastasis. For these studies, my lab has developed many relevant in vitro models to study signaling mechanisms, as well as relevant in vivo preclinical models to help translate our findings to the clinic. I have received strong, clinically relevant training through the NCI Paul Calabresi Clinical Oncology Scholars Award. In 2013, I was recognized with a “Rising Star” outstanding junior faculty award from the Department of Medicine for excellence in research and teaching. I have successfully competed for K12, R01, and ARRA Challenge grant funding through the NIH, and a Research Scholars Grant from the American Cancer Society. I am very committed to training PhD and MD scientists, and in 2014, I received an Outstanding Faculty Sponsor award from the University of Colorado graduate school. I am currently the Associate Director for the Cancer Biology Graduate Program, and I am actively involved in teaching, directing courses, and mentoring graduate students.



Kartik Shankar, PhD

Professor

Assistant Director for Basic Research, LEAD Center

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Throughout my career, I have been engaged in research related to nutrition, pregnancy, obesity and metabolism. My work has focused on understanding developmental programming associated with maternal diet and obesity, especially related to metabolism, epigenetics and non-genetic transmissible factors such as the microbiome. My own research program has always been collaborative by design. I am grounded firmly in the belief that the most effective and far-reaching research is team-based. I deeply believe in the synergy we can derive by leveraging diverse strengths of multi-disciplinary groups, which is increasingly essential to both scale-up and actualize basic research findings. In the context of our research, my approach has been to combine mechanistic and clinical studies while leveraging sophisticated molecular genomic and data analytical techniques. The larger vision here is to seamlessly integrate the spectrum from cell to community research by developing and nurturing team-based research. In this context, I recognize that improving my interpersonal and team skills for leading, interacting, and working with others across the spectrum is of paramount importance.



Kim Strupp, MD

Assistant Professor

Director of Performance Improvement

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I am the Director of Performance Improvement in the section of Pediatric Anesthesiology. I am responsible for promoting all aspects of Quality Improvement within our section, including patient safety and process improvement. I am one of the primary reviewers for our near miss event reporting system. I am responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of Quality Improvement projects within our section. I developed a Quality Improvement Curriculum for our Fellows in order to provide education in the basic dimensions of Quality Improvement. I assist the fellows in identifying and completing a Quality Improvement project during their fellowship. I am currently involved in research to study whether it is necessary to monitor renal function in patients receiving ketorolac, an intravenous nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medication, who otherwise have no risk factors for acute kidney injury. I was instrumental in developing the Pedi Crisis 2.0 mobile application, a free tool downloadable for Android or IOS to be used in emergencies in pediatric patients undergoing anesthesia.



Shikha S. Sundaram, MD MSCI, FAASLD

Associate Professor

Medical Director, Pediatric Liver Transplant Program

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I am a Pediatric Hepatologist and Medical Director of the Pediatric Liver Transplant Program at Children's Hospital Colorado. In this regard, I oversee a large and collaborative multi-disciplinary team that includes physicians, nurses, pharmacists, social workers, nutritionists, psychologists, and administrators in the clinical care of children before, during and after liver transplant. In conjunction with this clinical care, I am involved in hepatology and liver transplant research pertaining to outcomes, including collaborative research across multiple centers in the United States. Furthermore, as a physician scientist, my translational research focus is the impact of chronic intermittent hypoxia on the progression of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. I also have the privilege of actively mentoring both pediatric residents and pediatric gastroenterology fellows in clinical research, paving the way for the next generation of physician scientists.

Notes



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