

NORC News January 2025

Announcements

- 2025 Pilot & Feasibility Program Call for applications will be released in early March.

Upcoming NORC Sponsored Speakers

- 3/5: Lisa Chow, MD
Endo Research Conference
Endo Grand Rounds
- 4/30: Marcus Goncalves, MD, PHD
Endo Research Conference
Endo Grand Rounds

[Click Here](#) to request support from the Colorado NORC for a speaker you'd like to have on campus.

Save the Date!

- NORC Summer Workshop
July 14th-15th 2025
- NORC Fall Retreat
October 6th 2025

Cite the Grant

Did you use any of the Colorado NORC resources to support your published research? Please site the NIDDK Grant Number: **DK048520**

Membership

Not yet a member of the Colorado NORC?
Email your CV/BioSketch to:
norc@cuanschutz.edu

From the Director - 2024 NORC Competitive Renewal



Happy New Year!! Thank you to the members of our Executive Committee who worked hard to submit the NORC Competitive Renewal in October. Given the high level of productivity of our cores, programs, and research base, we were able to submit a strong application and we are hopeful for a favorable review. As many of you know, Dr. Kartik Shankar in the NORC's MCA core recently accepted the position of Research Leader at the Responsive Agricultural Food Systems Research Unit with the USDA. Dr. Dan Frank has agreed to serve as the MCA Core interim Associate Director in his stead, while the NORC leadership team makes strategic plans for a more permanent adaptation to Dr. Shankar's departure.

Faculty Highlight: Laura Brown



Dr. Laura Brown is a Professor of Pediatrics in the Section of Neonatology. She holds the Giacomo Meschia, MD Endowed Distinguished Professorship in Neonatal-Perinatal Research and is a senior faculty member for the Ludeman Family Center for Women's Health Research.

Dr. Brown's research focus is to understand the basic biology of fetal skeletal muscle development, with the goal of optimizing growth and body composition in infants born after exposure to pathological conditions in pregnancy, including fetal growth restriction. She made the novel discovery that lower muscle mass in the growth restricted fetus is due to a marked reduction in muscle protein synthesis rates, as opposed to increased protein breakdown rates. Her R01 funded work supports the use of large animal models and stable isotope tracer methodology to further delve into the mechanisms that regulate amino acid utilization and muscle protein synthesis in the growth restricted fetus. She has been awarded two NIH S10 Shared Instrument Grants to purchase an HPLC to quantitatively measure amino acid concentrations and an isotope ratio mass spectrometer (IRMS), both supported by the NORC. As a practicing neonatologist, Dr. Brown blends her translational research in fetal growth and metabolism with clinical nutritional management of the pre-term and growth restricted neonate.



In her free time, Dr. Brown enjoys exercising, walking her dog Harley, and watching her two teenage boys play sports.

2024 NORC Award Recipients

Thank you to our 2023 awardees who formed the awards committee and reviewed the 60+ nominations we received for this year's awards. Their selections highlight the outstanding contributions that our research base makes to the NORC's success. Be sure to congratulate this year's awardees in the categories of Outstanding:

Research Support
Graduate Student
PhD Fellow
MD Fellow
Faculty Member
Outstanding Mentor

Olivia Schmidt
Francesca Cendali
Tyler Cook
Rebecca Rosenberg
Annie Caldwell
Noel Mueller



Journal Clubs

Held Monthly from Sept–May
More info on journal clubs [HERE](#).

- **FAT Chat**
4th Thursday at 3pm
Organizer: Andrew Libby
- **BAT Chat**
2nd Monday at 10am
Organizer: Ed Melanson
- **Physical Activity MADness**
3rd Tuesday at 10am
Organizer: Ana Pinto
- **Molecular Metabolism**
4th Thursday at 4pm
Organizers: Amy Keller & Kimberly Bruce
- **Muscular Skeletal Working Group**
Last Tuesday at 11am
Organizer: Andrea Bonetto
- **Bone Think Tank**
2nd Monday at 4pm
Organizers: Christine Swanson & Sarah Wherry
- **SuperMito Group**
4th Tuesday at 10:30am
Organizer: Cecilia Caino

Colorado NORC Partners

Thank you to all of our partners for your collaboration and support.

- [Anschutz Health & Wellness Center \(AHWC\)](#)
- [Anschutz Medical Campus](#)
 - [Dept of Orthopedics](#)
 - [Division of Endocrinology](#)
 - [Dept of Pediatrics, Section of Nutrition](#)
- [Barbara Davis Center \(BDC\)](#)
- [Centers on Aging \(CoA\)](#)
- [Centers for American Indian & Alaska Native Health \(CAIANH\)](#)
- [Colorado Clinical Translation Science Institute \(CCTSI\)](#)
- [LEAD Center](#)
- [Ludeman Center for Women's Health Research](#)
- [Office of Laboratory Animal Research \(OLAR\)](#)
- [Perinatal Research Center](#)
- [UC Cancer Center \(UCCC\)](#)

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Plan for Enhancing Diverse Perspectives (PEDP)

CIMER Trainings

The Colorado NORC is firmly dedicated to the belief that diversity fuels creativity and innovation, enhancing both productivity and the quality of research. Moreover, increasing access to healthcare and research participation for underrepresented populations, who are disproportionately affected by malnutrition and obesity, requires a diverse workforce. The success of trainees from minoritized communities is also strengthened when they have underrepresented faculty to serve as role models and mentors. As a component of the NORC's PEDP ([found here](#)), two NORC members have become CIMER certified trainers.



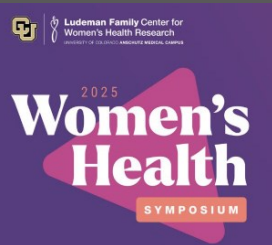
Drs. Sandoval and Bethea (*Darleen Sandoval left, Maigen Bethea, right*) attended the CIMER facilitator training for mentoring in December 2024. They plan to hold multiple half-day mentoring training opportunities per year for CU Anschutz faculty. Trainings will be in small groups to enhance discussion, focusing on providing strategies to improve mentoring. These include effective communication tools, aligning expectations and fostering independence with the integration of helpful tools focusing on mentoring for cultural awareness. The first two sessions for 2025 (below) will be focused on T32 and pilot and feasibility mentors with the goal of expanding to trainees, junior faculty and others. More information will be coming soon on these sessions.

Session 1 March 26th: Effective Communication. Topics include maintaining effective communication, aligning expectations, assessing understanding.

Session 2 April 8th: Guiding Mentee Career Transition. Topics include, fostering independence, promoting professional development, articulating mentoring philosophy and plan.

Women's Health Symposium

Saturday, February 22nd 2025



The Ludeman Family Center for Women's Health Research is pleased to host the 23rd Annual Women's Health Symposium in the Anschutz Health Sciences Building on the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. This free event, in person with an online option, is designed to meet the educational needs of healthcare professionals. Registration will be from 8am-8:30am and programming is from 8:30am-1:30pm. Breakfast and lunch will be provided to in-person attendees. Sessions will be led by the University of Colorado's School of Medicine faculty and special guests on topics including:

Managing menopause in 2025, Child-onset type 2 diabetes, Irritable bowel syndrome, SGLT2 inhibitors, Addressing health equity and trauma-informed care while improving access to perinatal psychiatric consultation and Osteoporosis treatment.

More info and registration can be found here: <https://cvent.me/3YrQq7>

Publication Highlight:

Annie Caldwell, PhD



It is widely recommended for women with an obese body mass index (BMI \geq 30) to lose weight prior to conception because a higher BMI is associated with increased health risks to moms and their babies throughout pregnancy, labor, delivery and potentially for a lifetime in offspring. In many healthcare systems, women can be denied fertility treatment until she achieves a lower BMI. The body of evidence supporting these recommendations is mixed. In a cross-NORC collaboration, Annie Caldwell (CU NORC's Outstanding Faculty of the Year) and KUMC's assistant professor, Anna Gorczyca, joined forces with a team of other researchers to publish the article, "[Effectiveness of preconception weight loss interventions on fertility in women: a systematic review and meta-analysis](#)" in *Fertility and Sterility* in 2024. The article provides a narrative summary and statistically pools results in women with an obese BMI desiring pregnancy. This publication was selected by the journal to be discussed by a panel of experts, including Caldwell, at the American Society of Reproduction's Journal Club Live! event at the annual meeting in Denver, October 19-23, 2024.



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Have questions or an idea for the next NORC News?

Email our Program Administrator:

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