



NORC News April 2023

Announcements

- Notice something different? **We have a new logo!** We are excited to align the Colorado NORC’s visual presence with that of CU’s and our partners on campus. Next will be our redesigned website. Details to come!
- The **CORE Evaluation Survey** has been sent out. Please ensure responses are returned by April 14th. The feedback collected from this survey is invaluable. Thank you!

Upcoming NORC Sponsored Speakers

- 4/12: Dr. Kong Chen—Endo RC
- 4/26: Dr. Hadine Joffe—Endo GR
- 4/26: Dr. Shadab Rahman—Endo RC

Would you like to invite someone to speak on a nutrition or obesity related topic? [Click Here](#) to request support from the Colorado NORC.

Save the Date!

- **Cancer Metabolism Workshop**—August 7th-8th 2023
- **2023 NORC Member Social**—May 12th 3pm-5pm
AHCW 3rd Floor Green Roof
- **May 17, 2023**—Endocrine Research Conference focusing on the Organoid Core Structure

Cite the Grant

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



From the Director



I hope that you have noticed that the Colorado NORC has a new look! We have updated the format for the NORC News and you can now follow us on Twitter [@ColoradoNORC](#)! We hope these changes will help all members of our research base stay informed of the programs and activities the NORC sponsors, as well as the exciting nutrition and obesity research being performed in the Rocky Mountain region. If you have something that you would like to highlight on our Twitter feed, please contact [Olivia Schmidt](#). Additionally, please take time to complete the Core Evaluation Survey that was sent out at the end of March. Your feedback on these surveys will help us improve the services and facilities that are offered through our cores and programs.

Faculty Highlight: Alison Shapiro



Dr. Allison Shapiro (Allie) is an Assistant Professor and Director of Clinical Research in the Section of Endocrinology in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus (CU Anschutz) and Children’s Hospital Colorado. She is also a core faculty member in the Lifecourse Epidemiology of Adiposity and Diabetes Center at CU Anschutz. Her research focuses on the neural, behavioral, and cognitive consequences of pediatric diabetes and obesity across the life span. Allie’s current research portfolio includes investigating the neural underpinnings of disinhibited eating behavior in adolescents, neurocognitive function in youth-onset diabetes, and hypothalamic insulin sensitivity. Her work has recently expanded to investigating pathological aging as an emerging complication of youth-onset diabetes, as well as risk of cognitive impairment syndromes in adults with pre-diabetes and type 2 diabetes.

Fun fact: As a highschooler, college was not originally in Allie’s plans for her future, as she was attending rodeo school with the intent of having a career in rodeo sports. However, these days, Allie fondly identifies as a rodeo-school dropout and gets her kicks as an avid mountain biker, trail runner, and skier and spends her free time adventuring with her husband in the mountains.



2023 Pilot Project Applications Now Open!

We are requesting applications for pilot & feasibility projects to support new investigators with projects relevant to nutrition or obesity who have no independent NIH (or comparable) funding. The goal of the program is to help early career investigators (**post doctoral fellows and junior faculty**) perform studies that will help them build their independent research program and support their efforts to acquire a career development award (K01, K08, K23, VA CDA2 or similar award) or their first independent RO1 award. The program supports a **broad range of research on nutrition and obesity**, which includes, but is not limited to, the following areas:



- Early life influences affection long term health
- Women’s health and sex differences research
- Exercise, physical (in)activity, or energy expenditure
- Metabolic regulation, dysfunction, and related co morbidities (diabetes, cancer, CVD)
- Interventions for better health

Proposals related to health disparities, the science of behavior change, personalized nutrition/medicine, and disease specific treatments are also encouraged to apply.

For an application packet or more information, contact Caro.Henauw@cuanschutz.edu

Application Deadline: COB May 22nd, 2023
Award Start Date: August 1st, 2023

More information can be found on our website here: <http://cunorc.org/pilot-and-feasibility/>

Journal Clubs



Held Monthly from Sept—May

- **BAT Chat**
2nd Monday of the month—10am
Organizer: Ed Melanson
 - **Physical Activity Methods**
2nd Monday of the month—10am
Organizer: Ana Pinto
 - **Molecular Metabolism**
4th Thursday of the month—4pm
Organizers: Amy Keller & Kimberly Bruce
- **NEW****
- **Muscular Skeletal Working Group**
Last Tuesday of the month—11am

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](#)
 - [Dept of Endocrinology](#)
 - [Dept of Pediatrics](#)
- [Barbara Davis Center \(BDC\)](#)
- [Centers on Aging \(CoA\)](#)
- [Centers for American Indian & Alaska Native Health \(CAIANH\)](#)
- [Colorado Clinical Translation Science Institute \(CCTSI\)](#)
- [Colorado State University \(CSU\)](#)
- [CU Boulder](#)
- [LEAD Center](#)
- [Ludeman Family Center for Women's Health Research](#)
- [UC Cancer Center \(UCCC\)](#)
- [VA Medical Center - Diabetes Team](#)



Membership

Not yet a member of the Colorado NORC?

Provide your name, email and CV to:
Olivia.schmidt@cuanschutz.edu



Nutrition Obesity
Research Center
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

Recent Publication Highlight



The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition
Volume 117, Issue 3, March 2023, Pages 455-466

Colorado University's Drs. Miguel Lanaspá, Maria Nagel and Richard Johnson's paper titled "Could Alzheimer's disease be a maladaptation of an evolutionary survival pathway mediated by intracerebral fructose and uric acid metabolism?" has attracted a great deal of attention. On the first afternoon of its' publication in March, the paper received over 350,000 views, and for good reason. The authors propose a major dietary pathway for Alzheimer's disease, stating that fructose metabolism "...has a major role in the development of Alzheimer's disease and may account for many of the early features, including cerebral glucose hypometabolism, mitochondrial dysfunction, and neuroinflammation. We propose that the pathway can be engaged in multiple ways, including diets high in sugar, high glycemic carbohydrates, and salt... Alzheimer's disease may be the consequence of a maladaptation to an evolutionary-based survival pathway and what had served to enhance survival acutely becomes injurious when engaged for extensive periods."

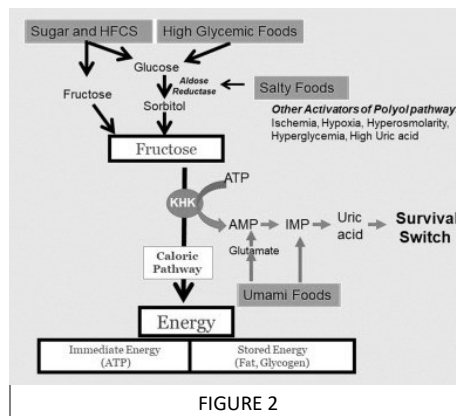


FIGURE 2

You can access the paper here:
<https://authors.elsevier.com/a/1gh7wgSEKK3I>

Organoid Core Service Presentation

The Endocrine Research Conference on May 17th will highlight CU's Organoid Core Services. Dr. Peter Dempsey will describe how different organoid systems were developed, explain some applications and cover how the shared organoid resource was developed on campus and its' services. Stay tuned for the invitation.

Current Research Highlight: Youth-Onset Type 2 Diabetes



Dr. Kristen Nadeau



Dr. Megan Kelsey

Kristen Nadeau, MD, MS and Megan Kelsey, MD, MS will be MPIs on a new NIH-funded multicenter study centered around better understanding the pathophysiology of youth-onset type 2 diabetes. Both investigators were involved in the Treatment Options for Type 2 Diabetes in Youth (TODAY) study, which is the largest treatment trial of youth-onset type 2 diabetes to-date, and has demonstrated that youth onset type 2 diabetes is associated with rapid beta-cell failure and early onset of type 2 diabetes-related complications. Dr. Nadeau was also the Pediatric Chair for the Restoring Insulin Secretion (RISE) study, which demonstrated that even early treatment with metformin or insulin in youth with prediabetes or newly diagnosed diabetes does not help to maintain beta-cell function. The new U01 study is designed to follow youth at-risk for diabetes beginning in early puberty BEFORE they develop diabetes to understand the



unique pathophysiology of youth-onset type 2 diabetes in those that do progress. The ultimate goal is to better target prevention of this rapidly progressive disease in youth.

Upcoming Progress Report Recent Publications Request



The NORC's non-competitive grant renewal will be submitted in June 2023 and Olivia Schmidt will be reaching out to everyone in the NORC research base regarding recent publications. Collection of this data is a crucial component to our report and we appreciate you taking the time to help with this process.

Have questions or an idea for the next NORC News?

Email our Program Administrator:

Olivia.Schmidt@cuanschutz.edu



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