

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

CIT Associate Director Appointed.

Dr. Janine Higgins has been appointed the Associate Director of the NORC's Clinical, Intervention, & Translation (CIT) Core. In this new role, Dr. Higgins will oversee the NORC CIT metabolic kitchen and NORC services related to the measurement of food intake. Over the next three years, the Colorado Clinical Science Institute's (CCTSI) Nutrition Core will consolidate a number of nutrition cores across campus and move their metabolic kitchen operations to the Anschutz Health and Wellness Center (AHWC). Dr. Higgins is ideally positioned to oversee this entire effort and strengthen the NORC's CIT Core in the process. She has been the CCTSI Nutrition Research Director for the past 15 years and CCTSI Director of Operations for the last four years. In 2018 alone, the CCTSI Nutrition Core dispensed 7,787 weighed research meals and provided additional services related to the food eating behaviors (diet diary analysis, photographic food record analysis, dietary counseling, administration of FFQs). Dr. Higgins is a Professor of Pediatrics in the Section of Endocrinology, with over 18 years of experience in Nutrition research in rodent models, children, and adults. Her primary research interests center around diet and metabolism: investigating optimal treatment of type 2 diabetes in children and adolescents (NIH multi-center TODAY study), development of novel methods for measurement of dietary intake, obesity treatment in adults, and ways to ameliorate weight regain following weight loss. Dr. Higgins also brings an extensive amount of mentoring experience to the NORC's leadership team. We are very excited that she will be spearheading this new collaboration between the NORC, the CCTSI, and nutrition researchers.



NORC Program Support.

We are pleased to announce Kristy Truesdale as the new Program Assistant for the NORC. In this role, Kristy will be providing administrative support for the NORC and AHWC leadership teams, the NORC enrichment activities, and the NORC's research base. She has already proven to be an essential team player in coordinating collaborative efforts between the NORC and the AHWC. Kristy joined the University of Colorado in 2018, after spending 2.5 years with UHealth as an administrative professional in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. She brings over 17 years of administrative experience to the NORC and the AHWC, and she is looking forward to getting to know our research base and supporting the NORC's research and educational enterprise.



HIGHLIGHTS

NORC Pilot & Feasibility—Request for Applications

On Friday, March 22nd, we began accepting applications for pilot and feasibility proposals from early career investigators who are building a research program with general relevance to nutrition, obesity, and related comorbid pathologies (inflammation, insulin resistance, diabetes, vascular disease, cancer, etc). Post-doctoral fellows and junior faculty who have yet to acquire R-level funding are eligible. The objective of the NORC P/F Program is to support early career investigators develop their independent research program and take steps to K-level and R-level funding. **Applications are due by the end of day on May 13th.** For more information about the program and how to apply, please contact:

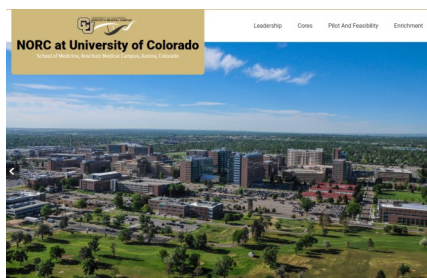
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Launch of the NEW NORC Website. It has been a long time

coming, but our new website is finally taking shape. Thanks to Rachael Toburen and Helen Gardner with the AHWC marketing team, we recently launched the website: cunorc.org, and we are



now in the process of incorporating information about the NORC's research cores, enrichment activities, and funding programs. Our goal is to make this new website a valuable resource for our research base and prospective Colorado NORC members. We welcome your input. Please send your comments to kristy.truesdale@ucdenver.edu.

PBRC NORC Methods Workshop. In September of this year, the NORC at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center (PBRC) is hosting a 3-day workshop on common methods used to study nutrition and obesity at the basic, preclinical, clinical, and population levels. With support from the PBRC NORC and the national NIH NORC program, we are sending six trainees from our research base to take advantage of this valuable training opportunity (*Danielle Ostendorf, Paula Price, Natalie Hohos, Dori Miller, Jessica Hill, and Nate De Jong*).



SAVE the DATE—2019 NORC RESEARCH RETREAT!

This year's Colorado NORC Research Retreat will be held on October 8th. Corey Rynders and Seth Creasy will be chairing the organizing committee for this year's event. Mark your calendars so you don't miss it!

Ideas for the next *NORCNews*?

Contact kristy.truesdale@ucdenver.edu