



## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

**Competitive Renewal Update** Good News!! Our proposal received a favorable score, and we have a reasonable expectation that our NORC will be renewed, bringing ~\$5.8 million to Colorado to facilitate nutrition and obesity research over the next 5 years. We will hear the final word from NIH after council meets in May. I would like to thank our Executive Committee for their hard work on the proposal and our entire research base for their ongoing engagement, productivity, and response to our document requests over the past year. Please visit the [Colorado NORC website](#) to learn how the biomedical research cores and programs can help you. We look forward to working with you in the coming years to advance the science of nutrition and obesity!

**NORC Pilot Program: May 18th Deadline** The NORC's Pilot and Feasibility Program (P/F) program awards research grants (\$40,000 over 2 years) to fellows and junior faculty to help them develop independent programs that advance the science of nutrition and/or obesity. Please contact the NORC Pilot Program Director, Dr. Daniel Bessesen at [daniel.bessesen@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:daniel.bessesen@cuanschutz.edu) (cc: [caro.henauw@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:caro.henauw@cuanschutz.edu)) if you have questions about your eligibility or details about the application process. More information about the program can be found on the [here](#).

**Adapting to COVID-19** Our thoughts and prayers go out to all who are suffering as our country deals with the pandemic. NORC research cores have responded as you might expect. Much of the preclinical and clinical operations have been minimized, but some aspects of the bioinformatics pipeline remain operational. Core Directors remain available for virtual meetings while campus activities are reduced to critical operations. Caro Henauw has gathered a number of campus and NIH announcements, FAQs, and information sources, which that can help faculty and trainees navigate this difficult time. This information can be found on the [NORC website](#).

**Enrichment Via Zoom** Most NORC-sponsored seminars and journal clubs are operating with virtual meetings. All meeting invites are updated with the Zoom meeting information needed to join in. If you need an invitation resent, or you would like to join a journal club, please let [Kristy.truesdale@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:Kristy.truesdale@cuanschutz.edu) know.

A full list of seminar programs and journal clubs can be found [here](#).

**NORC Metabolic Imaging Workshop, Postponed** Due to the uncertainties surrounding travel and group gatherings related to COVID-19, this workshop has been postponed to the summer of 2021. We will post new information on this workshop when we solidify plans for next summer. No speedtypes were charged for those of you who did submit registration information.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Faculty Member Spotlight: Melanie Cree-Green

Dr. Cree-Green is interested in disorders of insulin resistance (IR) that have an impact on the reproductive axis and liver health. As an MD, PhD with clinical training in pediatric endocrinology and research training in human physiology, she is uniquely positioned to perform translational



work in youth with endocrine disorders. Her current clinical/translational research uses stable isotope tracers and magnetic resonance technologies to explore the cross-talk between sex hormones and IR in children, as these techniques can yield valuable physiologic data in a minimally invasive manner. She has a particular interest in studying polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS) in girls at Children's Hospital Colorado. Building upon 3 cross-sectional trials to query potential mechanism underlying hyperglycemia and excess hepatic fat in PCOS, she is now conducting two clinical trials with interventions that may improve these outcomes.

**Collaborations in Cancer Research** Do you have an interest in how nutrition or obesity affects cancer, or the interplay between metabolism and cancer? The NORC is actively building collaborative partnerships with the CU Cancer Center, and we would like to know about your ongoing research and relevant interests. Please send your name and 1-2 sentences about your particular interest to [Kristy.Truesdale@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:Kristy.Truesdale@cuanschutz.edu), so we can keep you informed and engaged in these collaborations.

**Proteinsimple Jess: No core charges!!** The MCA core will cover core charges through the end of the year, so it is a great time to try out this new tool in the [NORC's Molecular and Cellular Analytical core](#). The Jess is a fully automated capillary-based immunoassay method, requiring less sample, antibody, and time, compared to traditional western blots. Up to 25 samples may be run in approximately 3hrs. Multiplexing is also possible, as the Jess allows for 4 different ways to analyze proteins, Fluorescent (IR and NIR), chemiluminescent, and protein. Contact [matthew.jackman@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:matthew.jackman@cuanschutz.edu) for more details.



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