

# Colorado NORC News



## **From the Director: Paul MacLean, PhD**

[Congratulations](#) to NORC Members!! This past quarter, the Colorado NORC was recognized for fostering collaborative research and a number of our NORC members received prestigious individual achievement awards from CU Anschutz and external organizations!! Be sure to read further down for details and congratulate your colleagues when you see them. In other news, the deadline for submitting applications for the 2026 Colorado NORC Pilot Awards is approaching (Monday April 6<sup>th</sup>). If you would like to apply, request an application from Caro Henauw (details below). Finally, on July 20th we will host a summer symposium highlighting the work of a number of our NORC Members on the Molecular Transducers of Physical Activity Consortium (MoTrPAC). Registration information can be found further down.

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## Colorado NORC Team Collaboration Award



The annual CU Anschutz Research Awards celebrate faculty, staff and trainees who have made significant contributions in their field and to the research community. Researchers are recognized in eight award categories. Award nominations are invited from the campus community each autumn, and the award recipients are announced in the spring. This year's awards were presented at the annual CU Anschutz Research Awards Ceremony on February 24th, 2026. The Colorado NORC is honored to have received the **Research Collaboration Team Award!**

This award recognizes a team of 4 or more for effective research collaborations within and across disciplines utilizing a team approach to scientific discovery. This award recognizes a team for their outstanding contribution in research collaboration. It highlights effective research collaborations within and across disciplines utilizing a team approach to scientific discovery that brings together different perspectives for greater success and impact.

Additionally, a huge congratulations to the following NORC members who very deservedly received a CU Anschutz Research Award: **Kristine Erlandson, MD, MSC** - Research Mentor Award; **Wendy Kohrt, PhD** - Chancellor's Distinguished Research Lectureship Award (clinical); **Ana J. Pinto, PhD** - Trainee Research Excellence Award (Clinical/Translational).



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## Faculty Highlight: Kerrie Moreau, PhD

Dr. Moreau is a Professor in the Department of Medicine, Division of Geriatrics at the University of Colorado Denver Anschutz Medical Campus and a Research Health Scientist in the Geriatric Research Education Clinical Center (GRECC), Denver Veterans Administration Medical Center, Denver, CO. She is the Director of the Cardiovascular Biomedicine Core at the medical campus and serves as the Co-Director of the Colorado SCORE (Specialized Center of Research Excellence on Sex Differences). Dr. Moreau's NIH and VA funded research has centered on investigating the biological mechanisms by which women and men age differently, particularly their heart and arteries and their risk for developing cardiovascular disease.



She specifically has focused on how shifts in gonadal function and sex hormones during the menopause transition in women and andropause in men shape cardiovascular health over time. As her research evolved, so did her awareness of the broader consequences of cardiovascular aging. The increased risk for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias—conditions that disproportionately affect women—prompted her to expand her investigations into the intersection of cardiovascular and brain aging. Her position at the VA, combined with her own life experiences, also guided her towards an emerging area of inquiry: the influence of early life stress, trauma, and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) on sex-specific patterns of cardiovascular and brain aging. This work has deepened her commitment to understanding how lived experiences shape long-term health trajectories. As an exercise physiologist, she has investigated the effects of regular exercise on mitigating the effects of cardiovascular aging. Her current NIH R01 aims to understand why some postmenopausal women appear resistant to the typical health benefits of exercise, even when engaging in the same amount of exercise as their male peers.



Finally, Dr. Moreau is passionate about training the next generation of scientists in sex differences research, aging, and women's health. Through her career, she has built a strong record of conducting impactful clinical research and guiding emerging scientists who have gone on to establish successful careers of their own.

Outside of work, Dr. Moreau enjoys spending time in the mountains and participating in activities such as road and mountain biking, hiking, snowboarding and spending time with her two dogs Oliver and Dryden.

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## ADA 2026 National Scientific and Health Care Achievement Awards



The American Diabetes Association® (ADA) has announced this year's National Scientific and Health Care Achievement Award recipients. These awards honor academics, clinicians, and educators who have contributed to substantial advances in diabetes care and research.

Two of our Colorado NORC members received awards this year! Congratulations to **Lori Sussel, PhD** (left) and **Jane E.B. Reusch, MD** (right). Dr. Sussel received the Lois Jovanovic Transformative Woman in Diabetes Award which recognizes a female professional in the diabetes field who has made outstanding contributions to diabetes research, clinical practice, diabetes education, public health, and/or other related disciplines. Dr. Reusch received the Edwin Bierman Award which honors outstanding scientific achievement in the prevention and treatment of macrovascular complications.

All awardees will be recognized at an awards ceremony at the [ADA's 2026 Scientific Sessions](#) in June. Learn more about all the ADA's 2026 awardees on the [ADA website](#).

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**Inaugural IMPACT Award Recipient: Emily Hill, PhD, RDN**



The NORC Clinical Intervention and Translation (CIT) Core [IMPACT: Implementation Award for Clinical Translation](#) aims to enhance ongoing interventional clinical research by adding expertise and outcomes in Dissemination & Implementation (D&I) science. The inaugural 2026 recipient of the IMPACT Award is **Dr. Emily Hill** (*Pediatric Nutrition*).

NORC clinical discoveries increasingly require collaboration between researchers with interventional expertise and patient partners to tailor interventions to the target audience and, thereby, maximize the uptake, effects, and sustainability of any intervention. The IMPACT Award supports collaboration between NORC members with ongoing or new intervention studies and experts in D&I science and the services offered by the Adult & Child Center for Outcomes Research & Delivery Science ([ACCORDS](#)) and [CU Denver Evaluation Center](#). IMPACT awards include a consultation with Monica Pérez Jolles PhD, who is the D&I Lead for the CIT Core, to guide researchers on patient and community engagement, user-centered design, and designing for implementation and dissemination using qualitative and mixed methods to evaluate clinical and implementation outcomes.

Dr. Hill will use IMPACT funds to adapt the adult cancer survivor BfedBwell nutrition program to pediatric cancer survivors and their families. It has been shown that adherence to lifestyle recommendations promotes longevity after cancer diagnosis but childhood cancer survivor adherence to dietary and physical activity recommendations is low, perhaps because there are no lifestyle programs tailored specifically for them.



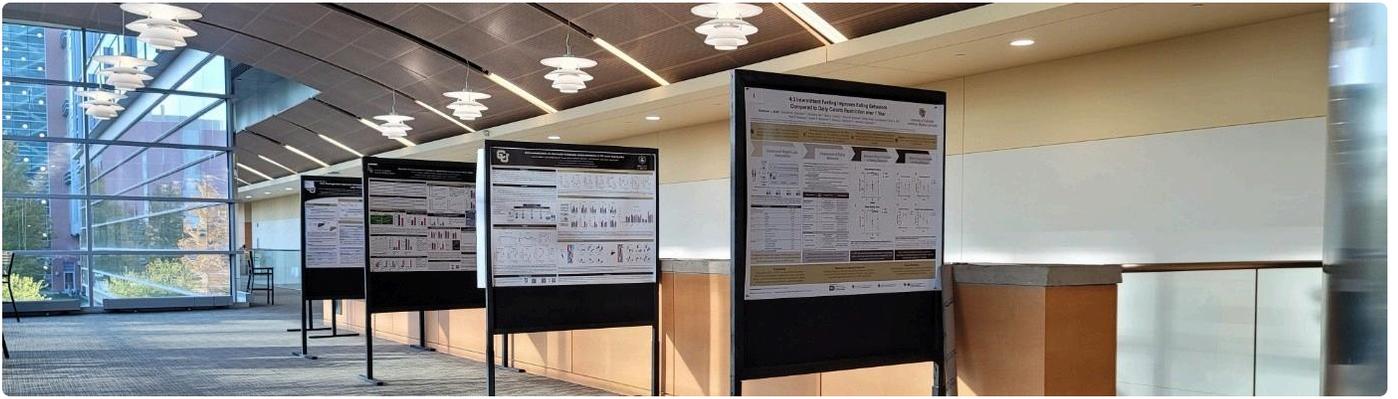
Children's Hospital Colorado (CHCO) childhood cancer survivor clinics already support long-term follow-up through annual visits with a multidisciplinary team for evaluation, risk assessment, and health education and psychosocial wellbeing by connecting families with social workers, psychologists, and child life specialists.

During the IMPACT Award period, Dr. Hill will examine the barriers and facilitators to incorporating lifestyle programming at CHCO childhood cancer survivor clinics, conduct interviews with childhood cancer survivors and their families to identify key desired components of a lifestyle program for this population, and refine and adapt the adult BfedBwell program to childhood cancer survivors via user-centered design. [Congratulations Dr. Hill!](#)

We wish to thank our external reviewers Drs. Jerica Berg (ACCORDS) and Bethany Kwan (Emergency Medicine) for their time and expertise during the application review process.

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## Colorado NORC Pilot Program RFA



Submission Deadline: **Monday, April 6 2026, COB**

Award Start Date: **July 1, 2026**

**Funding:** Proposals can request up to \$40,000 (direct costs) paid over a 2-year award period (\$20,000/yr.).

The Colorado Nutrition Obesity Research Center (NORC) is requesting applications for pilot and 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 junior investigators perform studies that will help them build their independent research program and support their efforts to acquire a career development award (F32, K01, K08, K23, VA CDA2 or similar award) or their first independent R01 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 affecting 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 the science of behavior change, personalized nutrition/medicine, and disease-specific treatments are also encouraged.

[More Info](#) and application process.

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## KERN Lipid Conference 2026 Travel Awards

The Colorado NORC is pleased to announce **two travel awards** for **early-career NORC members** to attend the 2026 Kern Lipid Conference in Breckenridge, Colorado, taking place August 10–12, 2026. This year's conference theme is **“Lipids and Lipoproteins in Cardiometabolic and Neurodegenerative Disease.”**

The Kern Lipid Conference (KLC) is an intimate, high-impact meeting of ~130 participants, drawing leading experts in lipid metabolism, industry scientists, and outstanding early-career investigators. Its small size provides an exceptional environment for scientific exchange, networking, and career development.



### [Travel Award Benefits](#)

Awardees will be expected to present a poster, give a lightning talk, and will be considered for a short oral communication at the KLC. The award will cover the cost of **registration, conference meals, accommodation and mileage**. Awardees are also expected to present their posters at the 2026 NORC Retreat scheduled for Monday, October 26th, 2026.

### [How to Apply](#)

Submit your abstract to: [olivia.schmidt@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:olivia.schmidt@cuanschutz.edu)

Abstracts Due: **April 17th, 2026**

Awardees Announced: **May 1st, 2026**

Abstracts will be reviewed by members of the KLC Board and 2 applicants will be selected for the award.

### [More Info:](#)

KERN Lipid Conference 2026: <https://www.kernconference.org/index.html>

Colorado NORC: <https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/cunorc>

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## MoTrPAC Symposium: Monday July 20th, 2026 *Registration is Open!*



**MoTrPAC is an NIH Common Fund initiative** that aims to map the molecular response to acute and chronic exercise. An important objective of MoTrPAC was to create data resources now available to the research community in a freely accessible data hub that can be used for exploratory and hypothesis-drive research.

**Who Should Attend?** Researchers, data scientists, trainees, and anyone interested in exercise biology, multi-omics, computational biology, or large-scale consortium science. The symposium will include presentations by MoTrPAC investigators including an overview of MoTrPAC, Human and Animal Study Protocols and the MoTrPAC Hub resource.

[More Info and Registration](#)

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# Seminar: A System Dynamics model to understand energy balance

The Pennington-Louisiana NORC is organizing a Seminar entitled “A System Dynamics model to understand energy balance” which will occur immediately following the Pennington Symposium on “Ultra Process Foods” chaired by Boyd Swinburn and Eric Ravussin.

Tuesday, April 28th, 2026 | 3PM CST

[More info and Zoom link.](#)



## NORC Partners

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

- Adult & Child Center for Outcomes Research & Delivery Science (ACCORDS)
- Anschutz Health & Wellness Center (AHWC)
- Anschutz Medical Campus
  - Dept of Orthopedics
  - Division 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



## Ongoing Journal Clubs

Typically held monthly from Sept-May.  
More info on our [website](#).

- FAT Chat
- BAT Chat
- Physical Activity MADness
- Molecular Metabolism
- Muscular Skeletal Working Group
- Bone Think Tank
- SuperMito Group

## Membership

Not yet a member of the Colorado NORC?  
Request Membership on our website.

## Cite the Grant

If you use Colorado NORC resources to support your published research, please site our grant: **DK048520**

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Have a question or an idea for the next NORC News?

Email our Program Administrator: [olivia.schmidt@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:olivia.schmidt@cuanschutz.edu)

E: [norc@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:norc@cuanschutz.edu)

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