

HIGHLIGHTS

Darleen Sandoval, PhD I grew up in Albuquerque, NM and I received my Ph.D. in Exercise Science at Arizona State University. After graduation, I was a postdoctoral fellow at Vanderbilt University in the Division of Endocrinology. I then migrated north and started my faculty career at University of Cincinnati. After 10 years of science, and skyline chile (just kidding, I didn't eat that stuff), I moved further north to University of Michigan. Although



the science was great, the gray winters were too much for us so we came back to the west. Now, I am enjoying great science AND sunshine! My research focuses on the role of the gut-brain axis in regulation of glucose and lipid metabolism and follows along two general themes. The first focuses on the role of a gastrointestinal peptide, GLP-1, in regulation of energy and glucose homeostasis. GLP-1 is made in the gut, the pancreas, and the brain and my work seeks to understand the role of the various sources of this peptide in normal glucose regulation, how dysregulation of GLP-1 is involved with the onset of type 2 diabetes mellitus, and how increases in GLP-1 seen with bariatric surgery contribute to diabetes resolution. The second focuses on the adaptations of the gut-brain axis with bariatric surgery and how this contributes to the profound weight-loss and improvements in glucose and lipid homeostasis seen with these surgeries. I have served on numerous committees including the ADA scientific sessions organizing committee, NIH Study Section (IPOD and currently NIDDK-C), and the Endocrine Society Annual Meeting Steering Committee. I am also proud to have co-founded the Women's Interprofessional Network of the American Diabetes Association with Dr. Jane Reusch, for which I am also currently co-chair. Myself, my husband (Damon Maes, Peds Hospitalist at CU-Children's), and my border collie, Jazz, are enjoying the sun and mountains and can hardly wait until we can all interact in person again!

University of Kansas Collaborative Pilot. Our NORC collaborated with the Kansas City Center for Children's Healthy Lifestyles & Nutrition, to support a pilot and feasibility project with relevance to pediatric/adolescent nutrition and/or obesity. The goal of the program is to spawn inter-institutional collaboration, while helping junior investigators build their independent research programs. We received a number of outstanding applications that were all worthy of funding. The review panel selected the following application for funding: **Dr. Lauren Guley (CU) and Dr. Christopher Cushing (KU):** Development and Pilot Testing of My Plan, a Personalized mHealth Intervention for Adolescent Obesity.

Please remember to congratulate the recipients of this award the next time you cross paths!

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Happy New Year!! I hope all of you had a good holiday break and are ready for a brighter, more productive 2021. This past year has been challenging for all of us in a number of ways. Please take care of yourself and your family through this difficult time and do not hesitate to use the available campus resources for personal and professional support [CU Anschutz COVID-19 Resources](#). For those of you who cannot access this link, please reach out to your Department/Division leadership if you have trouble locating the resources and support available to your faculty, staff, and trainees. It is important for us all to be cognizant of our own struggles and those around us who are struggling with the many challenges of the pandemic. Some of you might find helpful a recent Town Hall in the Department of Medicine led by Dr. David Schwartz "[How to Manage Pandemic Depletion](#)." The speakers convey some practical approaches to helping and supporting one another during this challenging time.

2020 Colorado NORC Award Winners. Thank you to our previous awardees who formed the awards committee and reviewed all of our nominations! This year, we had 70 nominations, and the awards committee lodged a total of 72 votes that determined the awardees in the 6 categories. These selections reflect the outstanding contributions that our research base makes to the NORC's success. Be sure to congratulate this year's awardees.

- Outstanding Research/Education Support—**Tyson Marden** (CHC/Peds)
- Outstanding Graduate Student—**Jared Dahle** (Med/Endo)
- Outstanding M.D. Instructor/Fellow —**Kalie Tommerdahl** (Peds/Endo)
- Outstanding Ph.D. Instructor/Fellow —**Mary Whipple** (Med/Geriatrics)
- Outstanding Faculty Member —**Megan Kelsey** (Peds/Endo)
- Outstanding Mentor —**Vicki Catenacci** (Med/Endo)

Metabolism and Cancer Pilot Awardees. Our NORC collaborated with the University of Colorado Cancer Center to foster interdisciplinary research in the area of Metabolism and Cancer: from Bench to Table. We received 11 proposals and were able to award 4 grants that we hope will establish new team science ventures and expand our research base. Be sure to congratulate the awardees the next time you cross paths.

- **Rebecca Scalzo & Heather Leach.** Exploring the effects of cardiorespiratory fitness, physical activity and sedentary behavior on insulin resistance among breast cancer survivors being treated with aromatase inhibition.
- **Mercedes Rincon & Eric Kohler.** Regulating mitochondrial metabolism in CD8 cells to improve CAR-T immunotherapy.
- **Rebecca Schweppe, Bryan Haugen, & Paul MacLean.** Modeling the Effects of Obesity and Metabolic Dysfunction on Thyroid Cancer Progression.
- **Mayumi Fujita & Bryan Bergman.** The Role of Alcohol and Acetaldehyde in Melanoma

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 Ideas for the next NORCNews?
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