

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

**Happy New Year!!** My warmest welcome to the new year goes to all of our members, affiliates and collaborators. This last year has been challenging for all of us as we have had to learn to manage our personal and professional lives through the pandemic. I know that many of us have faced serious hardships, losses, and setbacks, along the way, which have challenged our resolve and diminished our optimism. I have often been reminded of the resilient words of Winston Churchill, “If you are going through hell, keep going.” My hope is that 2022 will bring a brighter look on our future and new opportunities for collaboration and success. I wish you all well in the coming year!!

**2021 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 60 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—**Holly Heilman**

Outstanding Graduate Student—**Darcy Kahn**

Outstanding M.D. Instructor/Fellow —**Jaime Moore, MD**

Outstanding Ph.D. Instructor/Fellow —**Matthew Babcock, PhD**

Outstanding Faculty Member —**Laura Pyle, PhD**

Outstanding Mentor —**Audrey Bergouignan, PhD**

### Who’s Who in the NIH Webinar—recording available.

On December 2nd, 2021, the Colorado NORC and KUMC Center for Children’s Healthy Lifestyles and Nutrition Center hosted a webinar on “**Who’s Who in the NIH: POs, SROs**”. Dr. David Saslowsky, Program Director for Career Development Awards (K awards) for NIDDK and Dr. Greg Shelness, NIH Scientific Review Officer will be served as panelists. This webinar covered insights into the differences between a PO and SRO, when to contact a PO and SRO, and programs available for early career investigators (K Awardees’ Workshop & Early Career Reviewer Program). Thanks to Sarah Borengasser, PhD for initiating and organizing this webinar (and the one below!). If you are interested in viewing this presentation, please email [kristy.truesdale@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:kristy.truesdale@cuanschutz.edu). Info posted here: <http://cunorc.org/whos-who-in-the-nih-pos-sros/>

### Coming up: Tips and Tricks for Writing NIH Proposals.

The Colorado NORC and KUMC Center for Children’s Healthy Lifestyles and Nutrition Center will be co-hosting a webinar on “**Tips and Tricks for Writing NIH Proposals**” on **February 18, 2022 at 11 am MST**. A panel of NIH K and R study section reviewers will be serving as panelists: Drs. Julie Christianson, Paul MacLean, Lauren Ptomey, and Darleen Sandoval. This webinar will provide insights into the study section review process and writing proposals with the reviewer in mind. **Registration is now open.** Please see the attached flyer for details and registration link.

## HIGHLIGHTS **Peter Kabos, MD** is a medical

oncologist at University of Colorado. His translational work focuses on steroid receptor biology, tumor microenvironment and treatment resistance. With collaborators at CU he has developed novel models of endocrine resistance, patient derived xenografts and models to study effects of obesity in breast cancer. He serves as director of the Academic Breast Cancer Consortium (ABRCC), a clinical consortium of 15 academic centers across the US and Canada, and as clinical lead for the BfitBwell program at CU. This month, Dr. Kabos began a new collaborative project with Drs. Vicki Catenacci and Paul MacLean (NIH R01 CA258766), which brings \$3.2M over the next five years to the University of Colorado to examine the effects of intermittent fasting and time restricted eating on breast cancer prevention and recurrence. This study will leverage expertise from our NORC, the University of Colorado Cancer Center, the Colorado Clinical Translation Science Institute, and the Anschutz Health and Wellness Center, to advance our understanding of obesity’s detrimental impact on cancer risk and survival.



**Sustaining Behavior Change Conference.** The Anschutz Health and Wellness Center, UAB NORC and Colorado NORC co-hosted this conference in October 2021. This event grows from the belief that limitations in our ability to help people make lasting changes in their health-related behaviors is one of the greatest challenges to the well-being of our population. Whether it is adopting healthy eating and physical activity habits, or curtailing the use of unhealthy substances or behaviors, people seem able to initiate behavior change, but a range of forces typically lead to a return of previous behaviors. These insightful talks have been recorded and area available here: <https://anschutzwellness.com/sbc>

**NORC Pilot/Feasibility Applications.** The call for applications for the 2022 NORC pilot program will be distributed in March to all NORC members and affiliates. This program has a strong emphasis in supporting early career investigators (fellows and junior faculty) with interests in nutrition and/or obesity.