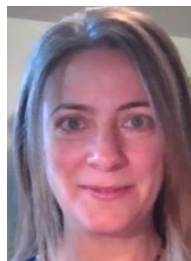


HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Amy Keller



Dr. Keller is a Research Scientist at the Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center, as well as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Diabetes at the University of Colorado Denver's School of Medicine. She obtained her PhD in Plant Sciences, with an emphasis on medicinal plants used for diabetes, at the City University of New York, in New

York City, New York. Dr. Keller's postdoctoral focus at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, under the mentorship of Dr. Jane Reusch, was the integration of botanical therapies into research on diabetes-induced cardiovascular disease (CVD). Within this research, she also investigates the role of sex differences in CVD pathology. Dr. Keller's group and others have shown that perivascular adipose tissue (PVAT), brown adipose tissue (BAT) that surrounds blood vessels, regulates vascular function differently between sexes. By housing animals at thermoneutrality, PVAT can change from BAT to white adipose tissue (WAT), causing impaired vascular and cellular function that progresses and manifests differently in females and males. PVAT transformation and the resultant impact on vascular function is a novel pathogenic mechanism that may inform the biological underpinnings of sex difference in CVD. Dr. Keller's upcoming VA Merit project will investigate the regulatory role of PVAT on vascular reactivity in both sexes. This work may contribute to the development of new treatments for CVD in all people. When not in the laboratory, Dr. Keller attempts to be at as many heavy metal shows and horror films as possible, while making time for cello playing and wildflower (or otherwise scenic) hikes in the Rockies.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Happy New Year!

I want to welcome all of our faculty, staff, and trainees to 2023 with best wishes for the upcoming year. We have a lot to be proud of with the accomplishments we have had, despite the challenges of the global pandemic. I look forward to the exciting research and enrichment activities we have planned for the upcoming year.

Olivia Schmidt - New Program Administrator



The Colorado NORC welcomes Olivia Schmidt to the role of Program Administrator. Olivia comes to the University of Colorado after spending 7 plus years in the sales and business development realm. Olivia has only been with the team for a few weeks, but she has already had a huge impact on our cores and programs with the administrative

experience she brings to the position. Be sure to express a warm welcome to Olivia when she reaches out on the NORC's behalf!

NORC 2022 Holiday Party

The Colorado NORC and the Anschutz Health and Wellness Center held their first joint holiday party since 2019, on December 12th. The sounds of Dogs in the Yard filled the air as we gathered to feast, build holiday wreaths, and enjoy getting back to our in-person traditions.



2022 Colorado NORC Award Winners

Thank you to our previous awardees who formed the awards committee and reviewed over 60 nominations we received for this year's awards. Their selections highlight 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—**Kristen Bing**
- Outstanding Graduate Student—**Michael Nash**
- Outstanding M.D. Instructor/Fellow —**Stephanie Gilley**
- Outstanding Ph.D. Instructor/Fellow —**Emily Hill**
- Outstanding Faculty Member —**Matthew Jackman**
- Outstanding Mentor —**Philip Zeitler**

NORC Pilot/Feasibility Applications

The call for applications for the 2023 NORC pilot program will be distributed in early March to all NORC members and affiliates. The program provides over \$120,000 annually in seed grant to early career investigators with interests in nutrition and/or obesity. The deadline for applications will be in early May. Contact Caro Henauw for more information: caro.henauw@cuanschutz.edu

French Embassy Visit

In December, Dr. Audrey Bergouignan hosted a visit by a delegation from the French Embassy to the United States, which included the French Ambassador, Philippe Etienne. The delegation toured the AHCW and met with NORC, AHCW, and campus leaders to discuss the ACTIMOVE project. This multi-million dollar international collaboration, funded by the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), aims to advance studies of the impact of physical inactivity on metabolic health between the University of Colorado and partnering institutes in France and Senegal. Congratulations goes to Dr. Bergouignan for the renewal of this effort through 2027.



Colorado NORC Website: cunorc.org
 Ideas for the next NORCNews?
 Contact: olivia.schmidt@cuanschutz.edu