



Nutrition Obesity Research Center

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

## NORC News: October 2025

---



### From the Director: Paul MacLean, PhD

Great News!! We received the notice of award for the Colorado Nutrition Obesity Research Center (P30 DK048520) last month, which indicates that our center was renewed and will be funded through 2030. This center grant will bring in \$5.85 million over the next 5 years to support nutrition and obesity research in the Rocky Mountain region. A big thanks goes to all of our core and program leaders, our administrative staff, and, most importantly, all of the faculty and trainees in our research base, for their contributions to the competitive renewal of this award this past year.

In this quarter's issue of NORCNews, please pay particular attention to the new IMPACT pilot program sponsored by the Clinical Intervention & Translation core, which is connecting our research base to the expertise and resources of Adult & Child Center for Outcomes Research & Delivery Science (ACCORDS). Also, read about how you can nominate your friends and colleagues for this year's NORC Awards!! Nominations are open through the end of the month.

### Quick Announcements

- **Save the Date!** AHC/NORC Employee Appreciation Event w/ NORC Awards Announcement - Thursday, December 4th 2025, 5pm, at T-Street Kitchen in the AHSB
- **ObesityWeek®** - November 4th-7th 2025
- **National NORC Director's Meeting** - November 14th 2025
  - New National NORC Coordinating Center at University of Kansas Medical Center

## Faculty Highlight: Monica Perez Joles, PhD

Dr. Pérez Jolles is an Associate Professor in the CU Department of Pediatrics and faculty in the Dissemination and Implementation (D&I) Science Core at the Adult and Child Center for Health Outcomes Research and Delivery Science (ACCORDS). Since joining UCD in 2022, she has provided ongoing consultations and training to scientist across campus. Dr. Perez Jolles is also a Research Affiliate at the Gehr Family Center for Health Systems Science, University of Southern California, and a Research Fellow at the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, UNC-Chapel Hill.



Monica obtained her PhD in Health Policy and Management, School of Public Health at UNC-Chapel Hill, and received a pre and postdoctoral HRSA T32 training fellowship on Health Services Research. She is also a former fellow from the leading D&I training fellowship at the Implementation Research Institute (IRI), Center for Mental Health Services Research, Washington University in St. Louis, MO. Dr. Pérez Jolles currently serves in national leadership roles in the field of D&I, including serving as the Chair of the Implementation of Complex/Multilevel Interventions action group hosted by the Consortium for Cancer Implementation Science (CCIS), and the Chair of the Society for Implementation Science Collaboration (SIRC) 2026 Conference. Her D&I consultations and cross-cutting research agenda includes the areas of obesity, mental health, cancer and pediatric research.

Monica draws from complex systems and implementation science methods and frameworks, such as EPIS and PRISM/RE-AIM, to align interventions to local contexts, and from collaborative engagement approaches such as implementation and process service mapping (including Failure Mode and Effect Analysis), prioritization exercises, and Co-creation workshops. She has applied the concepts of Core Functions and Forms to implementing multi-level interventions with fidelity to function and contextually tailored strategies. Her contributions are based on over a decade of experience as a health services and implementation scientist, working in partnership with Federally Qualified Health Center systems, community partners, healthcare professionals and researchers to close the health gap through team-based science. Monica also teaches in the D&I Certificate at ACCORDS and mentors clinician and PhD scientists seeking to integrate D&I and partner engagement in their research efforts to increase the uptake, impact and sustainability of interventions.

In her most recent role, Dr. Perez Jolles will lead the D&I mentoring and support program at NORC and will serve as a liaison between the center and ACCORDS with the goal of supporting members efforts to design and evaluate nutrition/obesity interventions for successful implementation and increased uptake, impact, and sustainability in real-life settings.

Outside of work, Monica enjoys training to run two half-marathons per year, traveling, hiking and spending time with her husband and two dogs.

# NORC Retreat 2025



Our 2025 NORC Retreat was held in the Donald E. Elliman Conference Center on Monday, October 6th. We had an attendance this year of over 90 attendees, with the majority coming from CU Anschutz, CU Boulder and Colorado State University. Over 25 of our attendees were not already members of the Colorado NORC. We are excited to include these individuals as new NORC members!

We received 15 incredible poster submissions this year! Thank you to all of our poster presenters for showcasing the fantastic research you're involved with. Congratulations to the following 3 individuals taking 1st, 2nd and 3rd place:

**First:** Marta Hita Hernandez, PhD - CU Anschutz  
**Second:** Zhiwei Sun, MD - CU Anschutz  
**Third:** Thomas Cardaci, PhD - Colorado State

Judging was conducted by the NORC Executive Committee and based on Appearance, Content, Impact, Technical Knowledge and Oral Presentation.



Thank you, also, to our speakers this year: Monica Jolle Perez PhD, Kate Lyden PhD, Kathleen Gavin, PhD, Jill Chang, MD, Matthew Olm, PhD, Stephanie Gilley, MD, PhD, Emily Hill, PhD, RDN, Bryan Bergman, PhD.

We appreciate you bringing your research and work to the Colorado NORC which helps us with our mission to advance the science of nutrition and obesity by facilitating interdisciplinary, collaborative, translational research.

We're looking forward to seeing everyone again next year!

If you attended the retreat and have not already done so, please provide your feedback so we continue to improve our events. Thank you!

[Feedback Survey](#)





# 2025 NORC Awards: Call for Nominations

The 2025 Annual NORC Award Nominations are now open! Nominations are accepted via the SurveyMonkey links for each category from any faculty, trainee, or staff member who is affiliated with the Colorado NORC.



**Award Categories include Outstanding:**

[Graduate Student](#)

[PhD Instructor/Fellow](#)

[MD Instructor/Fellow](#)

[Research and Education Support Staff](#)

[Faculty Member](#)

[Mentor](#)

Click on each category to complete a nomination or see the 2025 NORC Awards Program for more details and links. This is your chance to acknowledge the fantastic people we have in the NORC research base!

**Deadline for nominations is 10/31/2025.**

Awards will be announced/given at the annual AHC/NORC Employee Appreciation event, being held on December 4th, 2025. More details to come on this event soon.

2025 NORC Awards Program

## CIT IMPACT Pilot Awards



**Nutrition Obesity Research Center (NORC)  
Clinical Intervention and Translation (CIT)  
Core IMPACT: Implementation Pilot Awards  
for Clinical Translation**

The NORC Clinical Intervention and Translation (CIT) Core Dissemination & Implementation (D&I) Pilot Award aims to enhance NORC interventional research by adding expertise and outcomes in D&I science. Scientific discovery and its translation to the clinic and the public increasingly require interdisciplinary collaboration between researchers with interventional and D&I expertise, as well as patient partners, to tailor interventions to the target audience and, thereby, maximize the uptake, effects, and sustainability of any intervention.

This RFA seeks to support collaborations between NORC members with ongoing or new intervention studies related to nutrition or obesity 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.

**Applications Due:** December 11th, 2025

**Notification of Award:** February 20th, 2026

**12-month funding period begins:** March 1st, 2026

IMPACT RFA



Is there someone working  
in the area of obesity or  
nutrition that you'd like to  
see speak on campus?  
You can nominate them for  
NORC sponsorship.

Nominate a  
Speaker

## NORC Partners

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

- Anschutz Health & Wellness Center  
(AHWC)
- Anschutz Medical Campus
  - Dept of Orthopedics
  - Division of Endocrinology
  - Dept of Pediatrics, Section of Nutrition
- Barbara Davis Center (BDC)
- Centers on Aging (CoA)
- Centers for American Indian & Alaska  
Native Health (CAIANH)
- Colorado Clinical Translation Science  
Institute (CCTSI)
- LEAD Center
- Ludeman Center for Women's Health  
Research
- Office of Laboratory Animal Research  
(OLAR)
- Perinatal Research Center
- UC Cancer Center (UCCC)

## Journal Clubs

*Held Monthly from Sept–May  
More info on journal clubs [HERE](#).*

- **FAT Chat**  
4th Thursday at 3pm  
Organizer: Andrew Libby
- **BAT Chat**  
2nd Monday at 10am  
Organizer: Ed Melanson
- **Physical Activity MADness**  
3rd Tuesday at 10am (Virtual Only)  
Organizer: Ana Pinto
- **Molecular Metabolism**  
4th Thursday at 11am  
Organizers: Amy Keller & Kimberly Bruce
- **Skeletal Muscle Working Group**  
4th Tuesday at 11am  
Organizer: Andrea Bonetto
- **Bone Think Tank**  
3rd Monday at 3:30pm  
Organizers: Christine Swanson & Sarah  
Wherry
- **SuperMito Group**  
3rd Tuesday at 10:30am  
Organizer: Cecilia Caino

# Cite the Grant

Did you use any of the Colorado NORC resources to support your published research? Please cite the NIDDK Grant Number: [DK048520](#)

# Membership

Not yet a member of the Colorado NORC?  
Email your CV/BioSketch to:  
[norc@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:norc@cuanschutz.edu)

**Have questions or an idea for the next NORC News?**

Email our Program Administrator: [Olivia.Schmidt@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:Olivia.Schmidt@cuanschutz.edu)



Nutrition Obesity  
Research Center

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO  
ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

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

[www.cunorc.org](http://www.cunorc.org)

CU Anschutz



*Copyright (C) 2025 Colorado NORC. All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#).

[View in browser](#)