

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Colorado 2020 NORC Awards—Nominate

Now! Nominations are open for this year's Colorado NORC Awards. Participating is easy, via a simple SurveyMonkey submission, and nominations are accepted from any faculty, trainee, or staff member who is affiliated with the Colorado NORC in some way. This is your chance to acknowledge the fantastic people we have in the NORC research base. Please see that attachment included with this newsletter email for more details and links to the nomination websites. **Deadline is 10/31/2020.**

NORC Initiative to Advance the Careers of Researchers from Groups Underrepresented in Academia (URiA)

The national NORC program, led by the University of Alabama Birmingham NORC, launched an initiative in the Fall of 2020 to identify the barriers and challenges to success of scientists from URiA groups and to identify actionable strategies to overcome these challenges. The goal is to provide specific recommendations to improve equity and inclusion for the NORCs, leadership, and professional societies. The initiative will be delivered virtually with the agenda consisting of presentations by leading experts, followed by small group discussions.

Dr. Martine Saint-Cyr will be representing our NORC in the young investigator discussion group. All faculty, trainees, and staff are invited to join the symposia or view the recorded sessions. More information on the agenda and registration can be found at the following link: [URiA Symposia Series](#): (past event recordings available)



9/11 — Advancing Funding Success
 9/25 — Improving Promotion and Tenure Success
 10/9 — Increasing Representation in Leadership
 10/23 — Enhancing Overall Experience in Academia
 10/30 — Additional Challenges for URiA Women

Colorado Obesity Medicine Fellowship Training Program The fellow will participate in both didactic and direct patient contact experiences that will expand their knowledge and skills in this specific area. Experiences will take place at the Anschutz Health & Wellness Center, University of Colorado Hospital (UC Health), Colorado Kaiser Permanente and the Denver Veteran's Administration Medical Center. Applications for this fellowship program are now being accepted. More information about the program can be found here: <http://cunorc.org/obesity-medicine-fellowship/>

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HIGHLIGHTS

Miguel Lanasp-Garcia, DVM, PhD is an Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Renal Diseases and Hypertension. His research interests span from hibernation to evolution, although his main area of investigation focuses in characterizing the role of sugar and particularly fructose in the development and progression of obesity and metabolic syndrome and kidney disease. Recently, he has



pioneered the research that demonstrate that two mechanisms whose actions were initially thought to be just limited to renal physiology, the accumulation of intracellular osmolytes and the action of the antidiuretic hormone vasopressin; actually play a crucial deleterious role in the pathogenesis of obesity and metabolic syndrome by promoting fat accumulation via the production and metabolism of endogenous fructose and the activation of the fructose-related enzyme, fructokinase. He has had continuous funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for the last 10 years and currently holds two R01 awards on the effects of vasopressin in sugar-induced metabolic syndrome and the role of fructokinase in hereditary fructose intolerance. Other studies, funded also by NIH and the Veteran Affairs (VA) administration try to ascertain the role that obesity plays in the progression of chronic kidney disease as well as the relationship between sugar and alcohol in alcoholism and alcoholic liver disease and the muscle/kidney crosstalk in the pathogenesis of sarcopenia/muscle waste in subjects with renal disease.

Pilot Collaboration with KU Medical Center

Our NORC and the Center for Children's Healthy Lifestyles & Nutrition in Kansas City (KC CHLN) are requesting applications for an inter-institutional, collaborative 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. This fall, our institutions have instituted a mutual invitation for participation in our seminars, journal clubs, and other enrichment activities, to foster engagement between our faculty. For more details, please email:

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CU NORC Website: cunorc.org
 Ideas for the next NORCNews?
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