

NORC News October 2023

From the Director - Call for 2023 NORC Award Nominations

Announcements

- The new NORC website is live! The cunorc.org domain will redirect to our new Sitefinity platform.
- 2023 NORC Awards call for nominations is open.

Upcoming NORC Sponsored Speakers

- 10/12: Dr. Daniel Lin Nutrition Seminar
- 10/20: Paige Geiger, PhD DRC Seminar
- 10/26: Andrew Odegaard, PhD Nutrition Seminar
- 12/14: Kyle Burger, PhD Nutrition Seminar
- 1/24: David Conroy, PhD Endo Grand Rounds

[Click Here](#) to request support from the Colorado NORC for a speaker you'd like to have on campus.

Save the Date!

- **Obesity Week 2023**
October 14th-17th in Dallas, TX
- **NORC Retreat**
November 6th from 12pm-7pm
- **LEAD Center and NORC Town Hall**
November 28th at 12pm
- **AHWC & NORC Employee Appreciation Event**
Dec 8th, 5-8pm

Cite the Grant

Did you use any of the Colorado NORC resources to support your published research? Please site the NIDDK Grant Number: **DK048520**

Membership

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



Nominations are open for this year's **Colorado NORC Awards**. Nominations are accepted via **SurveyMonkey** for each category from any faculty, trainee, or staff member who is affiliated with the Colorado NORC. Nomination categories include Outstanding: [Graduate Student](#), [PhD Instructor/Fellow](#), [MD Instructor/Fellow](#), [Research and Education Support Staff](#), [Faculty Member](#), and [Mentor](#). Click on each category to complete a nomination, or see the attached document sent out with the newsletter. This is your chance to acknowledge the fantastic people we have in the NORC research base. Deadline for nominations is **10/31/2023** and Awards will be given at the annual AHWC/NORC December Employee Appreciation event.

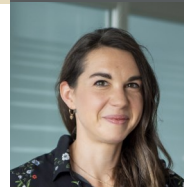
Faculty Highlight: Lauren Shomaker, PhD



Dr. Lauren Shomaker is a licensed psychologist whose clinical and research expertise centers on adolescent mental and behavioral health, and its role in prevention and treatment of cardiometabolic health concerns. Dr. Shomaker leads an interdisciplinary program of research focused on the development and implementation of behavioral interventions for adolescent mental, behavioral, and cardiometabolic health. Community and stakeholder-engaged partnerships are increasingly a cornerstone of Dr. Shomaker's program. Current projects are supported by extramural funding from the National Institute of Diabetes, Digestive and Kidney Diseases, the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture/U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Defense Health Agency, along with supplemental intramural support from Colorado State University and the University of Colorado School of Medicine. Dr. Shomaker has a pending K24 midcareer development award from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. This mechanism supports the mentoring of patient-oriented researchers in integrated mental/cardiometabolic health.

In her free time, Dr. Shomaker enjoys practicing yoga to support her own health and well-being. Last year, she took advantage of an academic sabbatical to complete a 200-hour Yoga Teacher Training. Yoga is a personal pastime but soon may be an added component of this team's adolescent health research program!

Sarah Purcell, PhD: Tier II Canada Research Chair Awardee



Dr. Sarah Purcell received her B.Sc. (Dietetics) and M.Sc. (Clinical Nutrition) degrees from Florida State University and her Ph.D. in Nutrition and Metabolism from the University of Alberta; this was followed by an NIH-funded postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Colorado – Anschutz. She is now an Assistant Professor at the University of British Columbia (Okanagan campus) and was recently named **Tier II Canada Research Chair in Nutrition and Energy Metabolism in Chronic Disease** – Canada's highest award for early career investigators! Dr. Purcell's research focuses on human energy balance and tests the hypotheses that certain chronic diseases have unique physiological, psychological, and behavioral characteristics that impact energy intake requirements and responses to energy balance perturbations (e.g., exercise, weight loss, malnutrition). The ultimate goal of this research is to optimize strategies to manage obesity and chronic disease-specific outcomes through evidence-based nutrition interventions. To date, she has authored or co-authored over 30 manuscripts and secured approximately \$1.3 million CAD in competitive salary and research support from the US and Canada. Her aim is to work collaboratively with researchers, graduate students, and health professionals to improve human health through nutrition assessment and intervention. In her free time, Sarah enjoys training for triathlons and marathons, hiking, explore coffee shops and bakeries (PSLs for the win!), doing yoga, and spending time with her husband, Chase, and their tiny dog, Bitsy.



Journal Clubs

Held Monthly from Sept–May

- **BAT Chat**
2nd Monday at 10am
Organizer: Ed Melanson
- **Physical Activity Methods**
2nd Monday at 10am
Organizer: Ana Pinto
- **Molecular Metabolism**
4th Thursday at 4pm
Organizers: Amy Keller & Kimberly Bruce
- **Muscular Skeletal Working Group**
Last Tuesday at 11am
Organizer: Andrea Bonetto
- **Bone Think Tank**
2nd Monday at 4pm
Organizers: Christine Swanson & Sarah Wherry

CU NORC Partners

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

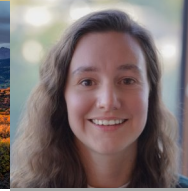
- [Anschutz Health & Wellness Center \(AHCWC\)](#)
- [Anschutz Medical Campus](#)
 - [Dept of Orthopedics](#)
 - [Division of Endocrinology](#)
 - [Dept of Pediatrics](#)
- [Barbara Davis Center \(BDC\)](#)
- [Centers on Aging \(CoA\)](#)
- [Centers for American Indian & Alaska Native Health \(CAIANH\)](#)
- [Colorado Clinical Translation Science Institute \(CCTSI\)](#)
- [Colorado State University \(CSU\)](#)
- [CU Boulder](#)
- [LEAD Center](#)
- [Ludeman Family Center for Women's Health Research](#)
- [UC Cancer Center \(UCCC\)](#)
- [VA Medical Center - Diabetes Team](#)

2023 Colorado NORC Retreat: Monday, November 6th 2023



The **Colorado NORC Retreat** provides its' members an opportunity to learn about what is happening within the Colorado NORC and beyond, as well as network with other members. This year's retreat will be held at the Donald E. Elliman Conference Center in the AHSB. Our Keynote speakers include Angela Pfammatter, PhD from the University of Tennessee and James D. Johnson, PhD from the University of British Columbia. Register to attend [HERE](#).

New NORC Pilot Awardee: Margaret Tanner, PhD



The Colorado NORC has secured funds to offer an additional 2023 Pilot & Feasibility Award. Margaret Tanner, PhD is the recipient. Dr. Tanner is a postdoctoral fellow with the Dept of Psychology at the University of Colorado, Denver. Her research focuses on the neural mechanisms controlling voluntary physical activity and the beneficial effects of physical activity on mental health, as well as sex differences in these phenomena. The title of her NORC-funded project is "**Validating voluntary wheel running as a habitual behavior**". Congratulations Dr. Tanner!

U54 SCORE Renewed!

Dr. Wendy Kohrt recently renewed the Colorado Specialized Center of Research Excellence (SCORE) on Sex Differences and Women's Health (NIH U54 AG062319). This translational, team science grant, entitled "Bioenergetic and Cardiometabolic Consequences of the Loss of Gonadal Function," will pursue novel mechanisms by which the loss of gonadal function increases abdominal adiposity and the associated cardiometabolic dysfunction. The grant will bring \$7.5 million to the University of Colorado to support research and training in this area over the next five years. Funding will support three research projects (clinical, preclinical, and basic), a career development program, and a pilot and feasibility program for early career investigators. The Colorado NORC's cores and campus partnerships will be heavily engaged in this collaborative team science endeavor.

Featured Journal Club: Bone Think Tank

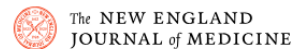


The NORC-sponsored Bone Think Tank is resuming with hybrid meetings on the **2nd Monday of the month from 4-5 pm**. The first meeting of 2023 is Nov 13th to discuss knowledge gleaned from the 2023 ASBMR annual meeting and the HR-pQCT shared user meeting. Bone Think Tank brings together musculoskeletal researchers to talk about works-in-progress, ideas for collaboration, relevant scientific meeting highlights, preliminary data, and/or presentations from high-resolution quantitative computed tomography (HR-pQCT) seed grant awardees. Participants include basic, preclinical, and clinical students, postdocs, fellows, research staff, and PIs. Please reach out to the Journal Club's organizers [Christine Swanson](#) and [Sarah Wherry](#), for more information!

Colorado NORC Member Highlight: Jane Reusch, MD



Jane E.B. Reusch, MD, professor of medicine, bioengineering, and physiology at CU Anschutz, is featured in a four-part video series about type 2 diabetes that debuted in *The New England Journal of Medicine* on September 7. The [first video](#), "Type 2 Diabetes – Controlling the Epidemic, Episode 1: Understanding and Preventing Type 2 Diabetes," is an outstanding introduction. The video explains factors that are contributing to the alarming rise in cases of type 2 diabetes in our country and makes a call for improved screening and treatment. The presentation, based on research by Jane and colleagues in the field, is a terrific public service to raise attention to a growing health crisis.



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Have questions or an idea for the next NORC News?

Email our Program Administrator:

Olivia.Schmidt@cuanschutz.edu

