The third annual MSTP Retreat was held this year on February 24, 2021. It was a great day full of oral presentations by our current students, two poster sessions, and breakout sessions to provide students opportunities to network with alumni of the program. The ladies of the our GS1 year stole the show with Jacqueline Turner winning best student talk, Kelsey Kines winning best 1 minute lightning talk, and Emily King winning best poster. The Excellence in Service award was given to Hans Anderson, who has distinguished himself as a student leader during his time in the University of Colorado MSTP. We hosted two fantastic breakout sessions focused on communicating science to the public, led by Dr. Yoo Jung Kim and Eli Cahan and how to choose a career path post-MSTP led by alumni and current students of the program Dr. Brian Harry, Dr. Kristi Kuhn, Dr. Taylor Soderborg, and Dr. Thomas Vogler. We began the day with an inspiring state of the program address by our director, Dr. Cara Wilson. She spoke on the hardships of the last year and the resiliency of our students, giving specific examples of the ways that students have been reaching outside of themselves to engage in community and service oriented outreach during the pandemic. We were honored to have Dr. Cheryl Keech as our keynote speaker for this year. Dr. Keech is an alumna of the program who graduated from the program in 1992 and spoke to the students about her career in biotechnology, and how to make decisions that will best suit the path that you aim for your life to take. Our 3rd annual, first virtual, retreat was another fantastic day filled with science and community. We look forward to seeing you next year at our next MSTP retreat! If you are interested in serving on next year's committee please contact Meagan Chriswell and Liz Bowen.
Last year’s Copper Conference was unlike many others. It was the first of its kind to be held completely virtually! But the conference planners (class of 2017) did a great job, surpassing many firsts. Among their achievements, they managed to raise the most sponsorship money in recent memory, secured five outstanding speakers (including a Nobel Laureate and an astronaut), tied for having the largest PSTP directors involved, had the most number of registrants, and had a blast doing it!

Over the four day virtual event, the planning team seamlessly navigated the many challenges of hosting a virtual conference, when many other national conferences struggled. This success is attributed to many late night rehearsals, our Socio platform support team, and the amazing work done day-of by our fearless streaming leader Joseph Hsieh and technical support by Roy Khair, Humphrey Peterson Jones, and Grant Lo.

A big shout out to Amelia Burch and Soraya Shehata for securing our amazing speakers. We heard from Dr. Yvonne Maldonado about her amazing contributions to both the HIV and COVID pandemics, along with differences in each response. Dr. Robert Satcher spoke about his experiences as a physician scientist working with NASA in space. Dr. Akiko Iwasaki captivated the crowd about her important contributions to COVID research. Dr. Brian Kobilka discussed his stunning work in understanding receptors to combat non-opioid pain relief. And Dianna Milewicz finished off as our keynote speaker to share with us her inspiring career studying and treating vascular diseases.

Our PSTP, Career, and Diversity panels were among the most liked and well-attended events. Organized by Laurel Darragh, the PSTP panel allowed students to ask about navigating the PSTP track. This was followed up with two separate opportunities to meet directly with PSTP directors from all over the country. The Career panel, secured by Soraya Shehata, gave students the opportunity to explore what to do with our two degrees. In response to the tragedy in May with the murder of George Floyd and in support of the Black Lives Matters movement, the conference planning team led by Lily Nguyen, organized the diversity panel and breakout sessions. During these events, students discussed how to address systemic racism within their own institutions by sharing what was being done differently between institutions. The breakout sessions were very lively and many great ideas have been brought to our administration.
Every year, we have breakout sessions for students to learn skills integral for any physician scientist. This year, the breakout sessions were organized by Humphrey Peterson Jones, who brought in three outstanding speakers. Students learned how to balance work and play with mindfulness meditation, how to interface with the biomedical science field, and discussed the ethical considerations of COVID-19 vaccination in the US.

Finally, there are some people we need to thank from behind the scenes, such as Grant Lo and Frances Li for securing sponsorship money and vendors for prizes and a free Doordash coupon of $40! Additionally, the registration of so many students from across institutions would not have been possible without the outstanding organizational work of Brian Lloyd. Finally, this conference planning experience was made infinitely more enjoyable thanks to the unrelenting and patient support from our amazing administration, Liz Bowen and Ruhiyah Issah and our faculty advisor, Paul Jedlicka.

Overall, last year’s virtual conference was a great success and we are very proud of our conference planning team. Make sure you make it to next year’s conference, led by the class of 2018! Stay tuned for details.
Ready for a little more Zoom?

The University of Colorado Medical Scientist Training Program invites you to the 36th Annual National MD-PhD Student Conference

July 9 – 11, 2021

featuring:
- keynotes by Drs. Robert Langer, Kandice Tanner, Rafael Yuste, Maike Sander, and Lynda Stuart
  - student speakers and poster sessions
- breakout sessions, diversity and wellness panels

registration details to follow
The Summer Research Training Programs (SRTP) are paid, 8-week (June 7 - July 30) research internships on the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus aimed at creating opportunities for undergraduate students residing in Colorado who have been historically underrepresented in science. The overarching goal for the SRTP is to fulfill the needs of students historically underrepresented in biomedical sciences throughout their progression along the undergraduate-to-graduate school pipeline. This includes providing high-quality research experiences in the labs at CU Anschutz, professional development opportunities, and longitudinal mentorship. Undergraduate students accepted into the SRTP will work on a research project related to ongoing studies in their host labs. Students will also attend weekly virtual seminars intended to complement their in-lab training with necessary skills and knowledge to succeed in a scientific career. The 8-week internship will culminate in both oral and poster presentations as part of a campus-wide summer research symposium. Participation in the program provides students with hands-on experience in a laboratory environment, training to succeed in scientific careers, and a network of faculty and graduate students to provide longitudinal mentorship.

If you are a faculty member interested in mentoring a student, please fill out this form: https://forms.gle/4bHS6JLxXyJrhCTN6.
Tom Vogler was born and raised in western Pennsylvania (Grove City) but went to high school in Upstate New York (Oneonta) before attending Bucknell University for undergrad. He completed his PhD in Dr. Brad Olwin’s lab in MCDB (CU Boulder), where he studied skeletal muscle regeneration. He matched into General Surgery at the University of Colorado. Tom is excited about continuing his education in Colorado where he can get world-class clinical training combined with a flexible and dedicated research component to his surgical training!

Sean Jones is originally from North Carolina and went to UNC Chapel Hill for undergrad. He completed his PhD in Immunology in Dr. Mario Santiago’s lab. Sean matched into MUSC (IM PSTP and expecting to do GI for a fellowship). He is excited for the GI fellowship and research portions of the PSTP training!

Jon Kibbie is from Rowland Heights, CA and went to Loyola Marymount University for undergrad. He completed his PhD in Immunology in Dr Cara Wilson’s lab. He matched into Dermatology at the University of Colorado, with a transitional Year at Skyridge Medical Center/Health One. Jon is most excited about embarking on his career as a dermatologist and continue learning at the University of Colorado!

Taylor Soderborg is from San Francisco, CA and went to Oberlin College for undergrad. She completed her PhD in Integrative Physiology in Dr. Jed Friedman’s lab. She matched into Pediatrics, Boston Combined Residency Program (Boston Children’s Hospital/Boston Medical Center). Taylor is so excited to become a Neonatologist and Physician Scientist! She is mostly excited to see all the opportunities she will discover at such an incredible program. In addition, she is excited to explore the East Coast, a place she thinks many people, (including myself) are a bit surprised to see on this Cali girl's path!

Hans Anderson is from Colorado and to Massachusetts Institute of Technology for undergrad. He completed his PhD in Bioengineering in Dr. Richard Weir’s lab. Hans matched into Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Medical College of Wisconsin Affiliated Hospitals, with a Transitional Year - Sky Ridge HealthONE He is excited for the opportunity to get to do both research and clinical practice at the same time!
**Residency Match**

**Congratulations Graduates!!**

**Ali Hixon** is from Montana and went to University of Montana for undergrad. She completed her PhD in Neuroscience in Dr. Ken Tyler’s lab. Ali matched into Neurology at Washington University - Barnes-Jewish Hospital. She is excited about exploring a new home with her partner, David!

**Ariel Hernandez** is from New Orleans, LA and attended University of New Orleans for his undergraduate years. Ari has decided to post-pone his graduation to December 2021.

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**Recent Student Publications**


**LaRiviere WB**, Han X, Oshima K, McMurtry SA, Linhardt RJ, Schmidt EP. *Detection of G MCSaminoglycans by Polyacrylamide Gel Electrophoresis and Silver Staining*. J Vis Exp. 2021(168):e62319


**Evans Lester**, Felicia K. Ooi, Nadine Bakkar, Jacob Ayers, Amanda L. Woerman, Joshua Wheeler, Robert Bowser, George A. Carlson, Stanley B. Prusiner, Roy Parker. *Tau aggregates are RNA-protein assemblies that mis-localize multiple nuclear speckle components*. doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.01.27.428450
Alison Hixon wrote and received a $20,000 Seed Grant from the American Epilepsy Society (AES) with her mentors Dr. Lia Drees and Dr. Christina Vaughan (both in the Neurology department) to study neuropalliative care in drug-resistant epilepsy. We are extremely grateful that the AES funded our project and are looking forward to advancing the quality of care for people with refractory seizures.

Brenda Seymour was awarded the Rheumatology Future Physician Scientist Award

Congrats on receiving your PhDs:

Dan Youmans          Jason Silver          Matthew Svalina
Evan Lester          Marlie Fisher          Ruth Wang          Bob Jones

Congrats on passing Comps:

Joe Hsieh            Juan Santiago Moreno

Amelia Burch received a fundable F31 score from NINDS

Laurel Darragh received a Fundable F31

Connor Hughes received F30 award from the NCI (3 years)

Sean Jones and wife Carol are expecting a baby boy, due April 17!

Jackie Turner’s article on Finding Ways to Make Science Matter to Everyone Amid our response to the pandemic, Jackie Turner says, we must maintain concern and compassion for the disenfranchised. Full article: https://news.cuanschutz.edu/news-stories/finding-ways-to-makes-science-matter-to-everyone
Fun & Exciting Announcements!

Matt Becker is a dad! Meet Oslo Elliot Becker born 2/9/2021

Ruhiyah Issah is a mother again! Meet Maryam Muhiedeen born 12/26/2020

Ariel Hernandez is a dad! Meet Catalina Jay Hernandez born 3/13/2021
Michael Nash was awarded Poster award at the 35th annual graduate research forum, Scholarship for Keystone symposia on obesity and Scholarship for Keystone symposia on metabolic decision making.

Michael recently got approval to obtain and produce the critically endangered Minor's chameleon as well as Jeweled chameleons, which have never been successfully produced in captivity before. They are both native to Madagascar. Fingers crossed! The goal is to get them both into the species survival program at various zoos around the country to ensure the survival of the species. He has donated a pair of rare fuzzy tarantulas he produced to the Butterfly Pavilion, they will soon be on display there!
Tamara Garcia (class of 2019) and husband (Jesse) welcomed a baby girl, MacKenzie Desiree Garcia on 12/14/2020

Sarah Nelson-Taylor (class of 2019) and husband welcomed a baby girl, Molly Ann Nelson Taylor, on 11/5/2020

Aaron Spalding (class of 1997) and his group presented the following three abstracts at the Society of Neuro-impact of Reirradiation Utilizing Stereotactic Radiosurgery on Recurrent Glioblastoma

P.B. O'Dell1,2, H. Nickols1, R.V. LaRocca1,2, K.D. Sinicrope1,2,3, A.C. Spalding1,2, D.A. Sun1,3

Brain Tumor Center1, Norton Cancer Institute2, and Norton Neuroscience Institute3. Louisville, KY

Treating Hydrocephalus in Midline Gliomas with an H3 K27M Mutation

L.E. Coombs1,2, A.R. Vaynerman1,2, H. Nickols1, J.L. Hata4, R.V. LaRocca1,2, K.D. Sinicrope1,2,3, M. Barbour4, M.A. Huang4, A.C. Spalding1,2, W.C. Gump1,3, T.M. Moriarity1,3, I.S. Mutchnick1,3, D.A. Sun1,3

Brain Tumor Center1, Norton Cancer Institute2, Norton Children's Hospital, Affiliate of the University of Louisville School of Medicine4, and Norton Neuroscience Institute3. Louisville, KY

Management of Hydrocephalus in Adult Patients with Brain Metastases.

A.R. Vaynerman1,2, L.E. Coombs1,2, H. Nickols1, R.V. LaRocca1,2, K.D. Sinicrope1,2,3, D. Ishihara1,2, A.C. Spalding1,2, D.A. Sun1,3

Brain Tumor Center1, Norton Cancer Institute2, and Norton Neuroscience Institute3. Louisville, KY
Please Join us for a virtual celebration

Monday, May 17 at 5pm

Zoom Link: https://ucdenver.zoom.us/j/94070558043?pwd=SWg2L1RqWk5BQnl0enF2WlVwbEx2UT09
Attention Alumni

Please fill out this google form that will help us with the 2022 training grant renewal!

Link to Google form:

https://forms.gle/FfzUU5H1CHDfnLa4A

You may need to copy/paste link into a browser - thank you!