

## Faculty Updates



**Kelly Harris**  
Assistant Professor, Urology

Dr. Kelly Harris joined Urology July 1, 2024. Dr. Harris received her MD from and completed her residency at Johns Hopkins University. She also served as a Urology fellow here at AMC. Dr. Harris will continue her research efforts focusing on transitional urology and congenitalism. Dr. Harris has also been named as the new medical director for our Surgical APP fellowship program starting in Oct.



**Thomas Rauth, MD, MPH**  
Associate Professor, Pediatric Surgery

Dr. Rauth is joining Pediatric Surgery on Sept 1, 2024. Dr. Rauth comes to us from Nashville where he worked for a private practice group and served as the Medical Director for Pediatric Surgical Services at the Children's Hospital Tristar. Dr. Rauth received his MD and MPH from Vanderbilt University, where he stayed for his residency. Dr. Rauth will be based both at AMC and NOC.



**Cindy Buchanan, PhD, Associate Professor, Psychiatry**, has been named as the **Surgical Psychology and Behavioral Health Program Lead for the CCS**. In this role Dr. Buchanan will provide operational and administrative leadership and direction for all surgical psychology and behavioral health activities in the CCS.



**Chris Derderian, MD, Pediatric Surgery** has been named as the endowed chair holder for the Sandy Wolf Chair in Maternal Fetal Surgery.

**John Wiersch, MD, Pediatric Surgery** has been named the Director of the Burn Program and is the Endowed Chair holder for Burn.

## Congratulatory Corner



The CCS awarded our **FY25 Ponzio Research, Innovation and Quality and Patient Safety grants** in July. Congrats to the awardees and a big THANK YOU to our reviewers. As a reminder, these annual awards are due on or around June 1 each year. Please reach out to [sandra.talley@childrenscolorado.org](mailto:sandra.talley@childrenscolorado.org) with questions.

### Innovation

- **Dr. Moulton, PI, Pediatric Surgery - *Twistomy – A Novel Continent Ostomy Device***
- **Dr. French, PI, Plastic Surgery, - *AI-driven Tool for the Pre-operative Assessment, Treatment Selection and Surgical Outcome Evaluation of Patients with Craniosynostosis***

### Quality and Patient Safety

- **Becky Hill, Ph.D., PI, Pediatric Surgery- *Implementation and utilization of caregiver- and patient-reported outcomes across the Center for Children's Surgery as standard of care***
- **Dr. Dawson Gore, (Research Resident), PI, Pediatric Surgery - *Furthering high-value care in pediatric surgery through the implementation of a general and adaptable pediatric ERAS toolkit***

### Ponzio Research

- **Dr. Hwang (Fellow), PI, Urology- *Safety of short-term NSAID use in the postoperative setting in pediatric patients with chronic kidney disease.***
- **Dr. Myers (research resident), PI, Pediatric Surgery- *Using geospatial analysis to identify hotspots of and neighborhood specific risk factors for auto-pedestrian injury in neighborhoods with high disparity to develop targeted injury prevention programs for pediatric trauma patients.***



**Mohammed Alshareef, MD, Neurosurgery**, received a research innovation award from the Department of Neurosurgery for his project- *Complement alternative pathway activation contributes to aberrant neuroinflammation in a neonatal germinal matrix hemorrhage model.*

**Nancy Miller, MD, Orthopedics** received a grant from the Scoliosis Research Society for her project, *Utilizing Spatial and temporal transcriptomic Technology to Understand mechanistic pathways related to idiopathic scoliosis.*

## New and Noteworthy



During National Cleft and Craniofacial Awareness and Prevention Month, CU experts talk about treatment for the congenital facial difference.

Read the story [here](#)

[Cranial bone thickness and density anomalies quantified from CT images can identify chronic increased intracranial pressure. Neuroradiology \(2024\).](#)

The ENT endoscopic prototype and accompanying research publication: [A Novel/Articulating Chip-on-Tip Endoscope for Dynamic Middle Ear Surgical Visualization](#) with Dr. **Brian Herrmann, ENT** as PI Lead was selected to be on the cover of the [April 2024 IEEE Transactions on Biomedical Engineering \(TBME\)](#).

## Program Spotlight- Surgical Psychology and Behavioral Health



In CCS, we aim to prioritize the well-being of our patients and families by beginning to implement supportive screening and interventions to maximize positive psychosocial outcomes following surgery. This project is led by **Cindy Buchanan, PhD and Jenny Lindwall, PhD** and includes collaboration with colleagues across CCS and CHCO. A newly

formed **CCS Steering Committee for Promoting Quality of Life and Positive Psychosocial Outcomes and a CCS-Affiliated Psychologist Workgroup** continue to provide valuable input and expertise to inform this work. [Please contact Jenny Lindwall if you are interested in joining the steering committee or have questions about this work.](#)

## ROCS update

**ROCS** is excited to announce the revival of the **CCS Research Works In Progress** sessions, co-led by Drs. Jill L Kaar and Jonathan Hills-Dunlap. This hybrid platform aims to facilitate collaborative engagement among CCS research faculty, offering an opportunity to present and discuss research ideas, projects, proposals, manuscripts, & more. The sessions will take place **every Friday at 9:00am, both in-person and online**. All CCS research faculty are invited to join. The sessions kickoff on **Friday, September 6 at 9:00am in Mt. Snowmass & on Zoom**. Email Sam Wilson ([samantha.wilson@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:samantha.wilson@cuanschutz.edu)) to be added to the calendar invite or contact Dr. Kaar with questions ([jill.kaar@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:jill.kaar@cuanschutz.edu))



## Congratulatory Corner



**Nicholas Cost, MD, Urology**, has been named chair of the Renal Tumor Committee of the Children's Oncology Group (COG). He is the first surgeon to hold the role. COG is a National Cancer Institute-supported clinical trials group and is the world's largest organization devoted exclusively to childhood and adolescent cancer research.

**Sarah Sibbel, MD, Orthopedics** was selected as the 2024 Mentor of the Year by the SOMs Mentored Scholarly Activity program.

**Brian Shaw, MD, Orthopedics** is being awarded the American Association of Pediatrics 2024 Distinguished Service Award in September.



The CCS had **21** faculty members listed in the 5280 magazine's Top Doctors issue 2024- the most ever. See the full list [here](#)

**Connor Elkhill**, PhD student, received a NIDCR F31 award. He is mentored by Antonio Porras, Ph.D., Plastics and Dr. Brooke French, Plastics

**Shahbaz Katebzadeh, DDS, Dentistry** was awarded a grant from the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry for this project, *"Assessment of Use and Efficacy of Artificial Intelligence while Preparing for American Board of Pediatric Dentistry Certification: A Mixed Methods study."*

**Gabriella Ciancimino**, dental resident, received the Brian D. Stone Memorial award from the Dental Lifeline Network for outstanding contributions in volunteer service.

**Kristine Corkum, MD and Jon Roach, MD, Pediatric Surgery** are PIs on an upcoming Pediatric Surgical Oncology Research Collaborative (PSORC) study *"Current Oncofertility Practices for Children Diagnosed with Extracranial Solid Tumors at High-Risk for Treatment-Related Fertility Loss."* Their application was chosen through a competitive process. PSORC is a 50-member, multi-institutional consortium of North American institutions with pediatric surgeons dedicated to the surgical care of children with cancer.



The **CCS Surgical APP Fellowship program** will celebrate its first two graduates at the end of September. Both fellows have accepted full time faculty positions based at CHCO. Congrats to **Amber Matzoll and Rachel Torry**. The program is excited to welcome two new fellows Oct 1.