

Faculty Updates



Caitlin Haydek, MD, Assistant Professor, Dermatology

Dr. Caitlin Haydek joined Dermatology on August 1. She completed her fellowship in pediatric dermatology in 2021 at Children's Hospital Colorado after finishing her dermatology residency at Emory University in Atlanta in 2020. She will be practicing at CHCO Anschutz main campus, South Campus, and Wheatridge. Her clinical interests include general pediatric dermatology, vascular anomalies, and quality improvement within dermatology.



Chris Derderian, MD, Assistant Professor, Pediatric Surgery

Dr. Chris Derderian is joining Pediatric Surgery on Sept 1. He has completed both a Pediatric Surgery and Bariatric Surgery fellowship at CHCO. Chris has a particular interest in fetal diagnoses and therapy. His clinical research interests include prenatal surgical outcomes for myelomeningocele and twin to twin transfusion syndrome. He also is currently analyzing maternal serum and amniotic fluid microRNAs among fetuses with congenital diaphragmatic hernias and twin to twin transfusion syndrome to identify biomarkers of disease severity and ultimately targets for in utero therapy.



Megan Weber, DMD, PhD, Assistant Professor, Pediatric Dentistry

Dr. Megan Weber joined Pediatric Dentistry on August 9. Dr. Weber completed her pediatric dental residency at the University of Minnesota. Previously, she received her DMD from Temple University and PhD from the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Weber's research interests include craniofacial genetics, cariology, and tele-dentistry.

Announcements & Reminders



Under the leadership of Dr. Jill Kaar (Director of ROCS), the CCS will begin its first ever research work in progress (**WIP**) sessions with interested faculty. During each session, faculty will be able to bring their research ideas, projects, proposals, manuscripts and more to the group for feedback. We have a blend of experience from assistant, associate, to full professors. Dr. Kaar is very excited to connect faculty across various areas of expertise and build more excitement for conducting research within the CCS community. Dr. Kaar will host two monthly sessions, 9-10AM the 2nd and 3rd Friday of each month. Please contact Dr. Kaar with questions jill.kaar@cuanschutz.edu



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Congratulatory Corner



Dr. Shannon Acker, Pediatric Surgery recently completed the two-year Surgical/Subspecialists Clinical Outcomes Research (**SCORE**) Fellowship offered through the Adult and Child Consortium for Health Outcomes Research & Delivery Science (ACCORDS). The SCORE fellowship is a competitive early career mentorship program that assists junior investigators in health outcomes research by providing career guidance and resources for data analysis and grant development. Through this program she received intensive mentoring from NIH funded outcomes researchers and completed a series of didactic courses which offer a broad overview of research methods including an introduction to Dissemination and Implementation Science. Additionally, through the fellowship, she has begun the process of planning for and writing a career development award with plans for submission in 2022. **Congrats Shannon!**

Dr. Chaitanya Puranik, Pediatric Dentistry, received the N. Sue Seale Pediatric Dentistry Research Award, from the Foundation of the College of Diplomates of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry

Fond Farewell



It is with great regret that we announce the departure of Dr. Tom Inge from Children's Hospital Colorado and University of Colorado effective Friday, October 1, 2021. Tom has been a true asset to the Center for Children's Surgery and the Surgeon-In-Chief Administration.

Tom joined us in February 2017 as Chief of Pediatric Surgery and under his leadership the clinical and academic productivity of the group has grown significantly. He has added numerous highly skilled and dedicated surgeons, advanced practice providers, and administrative professionals on both main and Colorado Springs campuses, and was responsible for the addition of the bariatric surgery program here in July of 2017. In July of 2019, Tom also began in the role of Associate Surgeon-in-Chief to advance our research efforts. He has worked closely with Center for Children's Surgery staff and overseen the expansion and increased productivity of the Research in Outcomes in Children's Surgery (ROCS) program, greatly benefiting all member units in the CCS.

While this departure is a loss for CHCO, we are pleased that after a national search, he was selected to become the next Surgeon in Chief and Department of Surgery Chair at Lurie Children's Hospital Medical Center. In addition to Surgeon in Chief, he will be tenured Professor at Northwestern University Department of Surgery and will hold the Lydia J Fredrickson Board Designated Professorship in Pediatric Surgery.

Please join Dr. Wilcox and the CCS leadership team in wishing Tom well in his future position and sincerely thank him for his dedicated service to patients and families, his outstanding leadership, and his dedication to advancing academic and clinical excellence at CHCO.

Congratulatory Corner



We are very pleased to share the **2021 CCS internal grant awardees**

CCS Innovation Awards

Dr. Steve Moulton, Pediatric Surgery, Design and Development of a Continent Ostomy Device

CCS Ponzio Awards

Dr. Shannon Acker, Pediatric Surgery, Documenting variation in the cost of disposable operating room supplies at the surgeon level

Dr. Chris Derderian, Pediatric Surgery, microRNA as a Novel in Utero and Postnatal Biomarker to Predict Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Severity and Outcomes Scores

Dr. Lauren Mehner, Ophthalmology, Visual Sequelae in Children with Primary Brain Tumors: Review of Current Practices and the Development of a Screening Protocol

Dr. Nina Mikkilineni, Urology, Understanding Aspirations of Women in Urology and Barriers to Gender Diversity and Higher Leadership Role

CCS Quality and Safety

Dr. Shannon Acker and Dr. Jose Diaz- Miron, Pediatric Surgery, Increasing the utilization of fast MRI for appendicitis management

Dr. Gregory Allen, ENT, Optimization of Operating Room Safety and Communication by Implementation of Smart Glasses Technology

CCS SILC

Dr. Brian Herrmann, ENT, Novel in vivo camera system to assess obstructive sleep apnea

External awards

Dr. Aaron Mason, Plastic Surgery, received a multiuse grant from Smile Train to support a research project for 3D NAM appliances as well as the Cleft team

Dr. Allyson Alexander, Neurosurgery, received a grant from the American Epilepsy Society for a project entitled, *MTOR Pathway Dysfunction and Hub Cells in Focal Cortical Dysplasia*

Dr. Todd Hankinson, Neurosurgery, received an award from the Little Princess Trust Project to support his project entitled, *Biological Response to Novel Treatments in Adamantinomatous Craniopharyngioma and Exploratory Profiling of Cystic Fluid*

Dr. Regie Santos-Cortez, ENT, received an RO1 for the project entitled, *Genetic and epigenomic determinants of hearing loss in Hispanic populations*