

Faculty Updates



Dr. Todd Hankinson, Section Head, Neurosurgery

We are thrilled that **Todd Hankinson** has assumed the role of Chief of Pediatric Neurosurgery effective **Jan. 1, 2021**. Dr. Hankinson, a professor of Neurosurgery and Pediatrics, has been a Children's Colorado team member since Aug. 2010. He is a worldwide leader in the care of patients with craniopharyngiomas and has made many significant contributions to clinical outcomes research. Dr. Hankinson is eager to advance his leadership vision and expand our focus on research and unique approaches to multi-

disciplinary care.

Dr. Hankinson has taken over for **Michael Handler**, who held the role for the past 15 years. Pediatric Neurosurgery, thanks in large part to Dr. Handler's leadership, has earned national and international recognition as a center for excellence in neuro-oncology, fetal neurosurgery, epilepsy surgery and more. Dr. Handler will continue serving as Associate Surgeon-in-Chief. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Hankinson and thanking Dr. Handler for his continued commitment to Children's Colorado.



Dr. Emily McCourt, Section Head, Ophthalmology

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to **Emily McCourt**, who will take over as Chief of Pediatric Ophthalmology in January 2021. Dr. McCourt has been a part of the Department of Ophthalmology since her residency and fellowship, which she completed here at CHCO. Since joining our faculty, she's taken on a variety of leadership roles, including her current role as the Director of Research. Dr. McCourt has a clear vision for how we can enhance our Ophthalmology Department, including a focus on growth, research and destination programs.

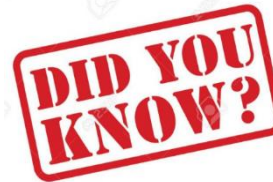
Dr. McCourt will be replacing **Robert (Bob) Enzenauer**, who has served in the role for 10 years. Through his leadership, the size of department has more than tripled, now including five more MDs and three optometrists. Additionally, the department has now expanded to four locations across the System of Care. Though he'll be stepping down as Chief, he will remain a leader in the department and will continue practicing full time. Please join us in congratulating Dr. McCourt and thanking Dr. Enzenauer for his continued commitment to Children's Colorado.

Announcements & Reminders



Registration is now open for the upcoming **CCS Research Symposium**, to be held virtually, **2/19/21**, from 8:00-2:45. The event will include a poster session, research presentations, and a faculty panel. In addition, our keynote speaker, Dr. Andre Dick, Associate Professor of Surgery, University of Washington Medical Center and Seattle Children's Hospital, will give a lecture entitled, **Disparities in Surgical Healthcare for Pediatric Patients**

Please RSVP by **2/16/21**. Full details can be found here
<https://sites.google.com/view/2021ccsresearchsymposium/home>



The CCS has a **newly launched website**. Check out the different services offered by our excellent ROCS and Medical Media teams, catch up on recent CCS news, learn about our member Departments and more!

<https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/ccs>



This year's **Peña Course** will be held virtually, **March 25-26, 2021**. This two-day intensive teaching course will examine the surgical treatment and management of pediatric anorectal and colorectal surgical problems and is designed for pediatric surgeons, urologists, gynecologists and gastroenterologists, as well as pediatric nurses managing patients with colorectal issues. Information regarding registration will be coming soon.

Contact Michael Benge with questions: Michael.Benge@childrenscolorado.org

Faculty Updates (continued)



This month we celebrate the amazing career of Dr. Alberto Peña as he looks to retire February 1, 2021.

Dr. Peña is undoubtedly one of the most recognized names in the global pediatric surgical community. He is credited with the original description in 1981 of the technique of posterior sagittal anorectoplasty; the operation that bears his name (the Peña procedure [posterior sagittal anorectoplasty]). His early career contributions have

forever changed the field after his seminal contribution of the outcome-changing operation that bears his name. Dr. Peña has focused his career on innovation in the technical aspects of surgical repair of patients with anorectal malformations. Dr. Peña is known both nationally and internationally and is considered to be a master surgeon, educator, researcher, and mentor. Dr. Peña has served as the Director of the International Center for Colorectal and Urogenital Care at CHCO since 2016. Under his expertise and leadership, this program has become a world renowned destination program. A virtual celebration is planned in the coming days, as well as a reception during a future Peña course. We wish Dr. Peña and his family the very best moving forward.

Service Spotlight

Lifestyle Medicine / Bariatrics



- Comprehensive weight management for patients with obesity, rapid weight gain, weight related comorbidities
- Tired approach to weight management
- **"One stop shop"**: refer to LM and the patient will be triaged to appropriate tier

- For referral to Lifestyle Medicine go to EPIC orders and type "lifestyle" and follow the prompts
- For specific referral to bariatric surgery go to EPIC orders and type "bariatric" and follow the prompts (when BMI is >35 with comorbidities or BMI >=40 even without comorbidities)
- Contacts: Suzanne Paul (Suzanne.paul@childrenscolorado.org), LM program coordinator, or Rachel Anthony (Rachel.Anthony@childrenscolorado.org) for bariatric program coordinator

Congratulatory Corner



Nicholas Cost, Urology has been named as the Surgical Discipline Lead for the Children's Oncology Group Renal Tumor Committee starting in the Spring of 2021

Research Awards

Todd Hankinson, Neurosurgery, was awarded three different one-year small grant awards from the Morgan Adams Brain Tumor Foundation.

- *Advancing Characterization of Epithelial-to-Mesenchymal Transition in ACP through Phospho-kinase Analysis*
- *Preclinical testing of the Immuno-therapeutics Nivolumab, Bevacizumab and Adecatumumab using ex vivo Adamantinomatous Craniopharyngioma Tissue*
- *Intelligent System Design for Interpretable Deep Learning Modeling of Rare Pediatric Brain Tumors from a Multi-disciplinary Perspective*

Staff updates



Amber Youngren, Executive Assistant, Pediatric Surgery

Amber first started at Children's Colorado in 2004 at the Foundation office. In October of 2020, she accepted the position to support Dr. Inge in Pediatric Surgery. In addition to providing high level administrative support, Amber will also manage clinic and surgery scheduling for the Bariatric program. She is excited for the opportunity to provide top notch support to both faculty and patient families alike.



Have an **announcement** you would like included in the next CCS newsletter? Contact Sandra Talley, sandra.talley@childrenscolorado.org