



Faculty Updates



Nina Mikkilineni, MD
Assistant Professor, Urology

Dr. Mikkilineni joined Pediatric Urology on Nov 1. Prior to being a Pediatric Urology fellow at CHCO in 2020-22, she completed her Urology residency at New York Presbyterian - Columbia University Medical Center and received her MD from Rutgers University. Dr. Mikkilineni currently has practice locations in COS, Highlands Ranch, and Parker. Her clinical interests include stone disease and minimally invasive robotic surgery. Her academic interests include graduate medical education and research studying DEI within Urology.



John Wiersch, MD
Assistant Professor, Pediatric Surgery

Dr. Wiersch joined Pediatric Surgery on Oct 1. Dr. Wiersch completed his residency at UT Health Sciences Center in San Antonio. During his residency, he participated in a research fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh and CHOP. He also completed fellowships in surgical critical care at Children's Hospital of Michigan, pediatric colorectal surgery at CHCO, and pediatric surgery at Children's Hospital of Michigan. Dr. Wiersch has a special interest in the comprehensive inpatient and outpatient care of burn injured children. He is committed

to the education of providers of all types and has been involved in instruction in Advanced Burn Life Support, Advanced Trauma Life Support, and Pediatric Advanced Life Support.



A. Hakan Tuncer, DDS, DMD, MPH, FSCD
Associate Professor, Dentistry

Dr. Tuncer joined Pediatric Dentistry on December 1 and comes to CHCO from Boston University where he served as the Clinical Director of Pediatric Dentistry at Franciscan Children's. Dr. Tuncer received his DMD from the Hacettepe University and DDS degree from University of Detroit Mercy. Dr. Tuncer completed advanced education in general dentistry, general practice, and pediatric residencies as well as his MPH at the University of Rochester. He is a fellow of LEND program, Special Care Dentistry, and

International College of Dentists. Dr. Tuncer has over 15 years of experience providing clinical instruction and supervision of dental trainees and specializes in the care and treatment of dental patients with special health care needs.



The Center for Children's Surgery's **6th Annual Research**

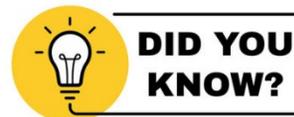
Symposium will be held **Friday, February 17, 2023** from 8:30-3:30 PM **in-person** in Mt. Yale/Mt. Princeton. The symposium will highlight and celebrate the excellent work conducted by faculty, trainees, and research staff within the CCS. This event will include research presentations, a poster session, and panel sessions related to pediatric surgical care in the areas of Basic Science, Translational

Science, Outcomes/Health Services, Multidisciplinary Team Science, and Quality Improvement. The guest speaker for this year will be Dr. Rowland Illing from Amazon Web Services. **RSVPs are required.** **Register for the symposium** [here](#). Please contact **Claudia Mata** with questions.

The second annual **Pediatric Adolescent and Young Adult Urologic Oncology Conference** will be held **June 2-3rd**. This event is an opportunity for urology physicians and fellows to expand their understanding and education in the evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of this specialized area. Find more information [here](#)

The CU Anschutz Symposium on Biomedical Imaging will be held **April 28th**. Presentations in areas such as: radiology, image acquisition and interpretation, quality improvement, segmentation, registration, discovery and quantification of new image-based biomarkers of disease, biostatistical image analysis, image-based modeling and machine learning are encouraged. Contact [Dr. Porras](#) for more information. Submit an intent to submit [here](#)

Applications for the first cohort of our **Surgical APP Fellowship** are now being accepted through **Feb 17**. Learn more about the program [here](#) Contact Sandra Talley with questions.



The Division of **Pediatric Surgery** celebrated **National APP week** in September with an appreciation lunch, prize raffle, personalized cards and gift boxes. The Division hopes to recognize and plan such events annually moving forward.

Staff Update

Debbie McKinney, COS Business Services Coordinator



Debbie McKinney joined the CCS in Colorado Springs in January. In her role as a Business Services Coordinator, she will be responsible for assisting with revenue cycle management, financial reporting, and accounting functions. She will also provide general administrative and onboarding support for COS based surgical services. Debbie comes to us from CAES where she worked as an accounting assistant for several years. Welcome Debbie!

Faculty Updates (continued)



We were thrilled to welcome **Dr. Klane White, MD**, our new Chief and Vice Chair of **Pediatric Orthopedics**, effective Oct. 17, 2022. Dr. White joins us from Seattle Children's Hospital where he served as the Director of the Skeletal Health and Dysplasia program. He is a world-renowned expert and advocate in the care of mucopolysaccharidosis and skeletal dysplasia and serves on the Medical Advisory Board of Little People of America.

Dr. White is a graduate of the USC where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in biology and oceanography before receiving his medical degree from George Washington University. His clinical and research interests include diagnosing and managing early onset scoliosis, metabolic bone disease and complex spine deformity.

While we are thrilled to have Dr. White join the CHCO team, we would like to acknowledge how difficult the passing of our previous chair, Dr. Lori Karol, was for all who knew and worked with her. The resilience demonstrated by our orthopedics team has been tremendous. We also want to extend our deepest thanks to **Dr. Sayan De** who has served as interim chair during the difficult transition period and lengthy recruitment process.



Please join us in welcoming **Dr. Ankush "Ash" Gosain, MD, PhD**, our new Chief of **Pediatric Surgery** effective Jan. 16, 2023

Dr. Gosain comes to us from the University of TN Health Sciences Center where he served as Vice-Chair for Academic Affairs for the Department of Surgery, as Senior Surgical Advisor for Quality and Safety at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital and as Director of Surgical Research at the Children's Foundation Research Institute. He brings an NIH-funded basic & translational science

laboratory studying the enteric nervous system and gastrointestinal mucosal immune development and function as they relate to congenital colorectal disease (e.g., Hirschsprung disease) and aberrant intestinal homeostasis, with the overarching goal of developing novel therapies. His laboratory is working to develop cellular therapies to restore enteric nervous system development in Hirschsprung disease and neuro-immunomodulatory therapies to prevent or treat Hirschsprung-associated enterocolitis. Dr. Gosain's clinical expertise includes colorectal disease, congenital diaphragmatic hernia, oncology, and trauma.

We would also like to extend our sincere gratitude for the excellent leadership of **Dr. David Partrick** who has graciously served as the Interim Chief over the past 14 months.

Faculty Updates (continued)



Dr. Katherine Chin accepted the role of Interim Chief of **Pediatric Dentistry** in December. Dr. Chin joined CHCO in 2010 and has served as clinical medical director since 2011. Dr. Chin's committee work and research reflect her passion in underserved populations, sedation, cleft lip and palate and dental management of oncology patients. She served on the Colorado Dental Board's Anesthesia Committee for 7 years and is currently active on the hospital's sedation, cleft steering and COMIRB panel C committees. Dr. Chin is excited to lead the department during this transition. The CCS would also like to thank **Dr. Anne Wilson** for her many years of service leading the unit.

Congratulatory Corner



Dr. Jay Albright, Orthopedics has been named as the Director of Surgical Operations for the Network of Care. In this new role, Dr. Albright will be responsible for provide strategic medical leadership and direction for surgical activities across the Children's Hospital Colorado Network of Care



The Button Huggie, co-invented by **Dr. Steve Moulton, Pediatric Surgery** and Tyler Mironuck, an engineering graduate of the Design Center Colorado program at CU Boulder, recently won the Shark Tank Challenge at the 2022 North American Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition annual meeting. Read more about it [here](#)

David Howell, PhD, Orthopedics is a PI on a new Department of Defense grant award entitled, "Tele-Rehabilitation to Improve Mild Traumatic Brain Injury Recovery and Reduce Subsequent Injury Risk."

The first ever **Women in Surgery** gathering was held in December. The networking and mentoring session connected surgeons from 7 subspecialties. The group hopes to get together periodically to connect personally and professionally.

