

Faculty Updates

Aaron Mason, Associate Professor, Pediatric Section Head, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery



We were thrilled to welcome **Dr. Aaron Mason** who joined the CCS in March, as the new Section Head for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. Dr. Mason comes to us from West Virginia University where he served as a faculty member for the past 5 years and most recently as the Interim Chief of Plastic Surgery. He received his medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh, where he also completed pediatric and surgical residencies, as well as 2 years of post-graduate research training. Dr. Mason also completed a craniofacial fellowship at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. Welcome Dr. Mason!



Cindy Barrett, Associate Professor, Cardiology, Pediatrics

The CCS delighted to announce that Dr. Cindy Barrett has accepted the position of Director of Surgical Quality. Dr. Barrett has numerous Quality roles within the hospital and will be working closely with Perioperative leadership on important new Quality and Safety initiatives.



Jose Diaz-Miron, Assistant Professor, Pediatric Surgery

Dr. Diaz-Miron was recently accepted into the SCORE fellowship program beginning in July. Some of his current research projects include: identifying the best postop pain control strategy following pectus excavatum surgery, studying the utility of lung ultrasound in establishing active COVID-19 infection, and studying the implementation of surgical telemedicine during the COVID-19 era. Congrats Pepe!

Announcements & Reminders



The **CCS Research Basics Bootcamp** will be moved to a virtual format, with three sessions offered in August- September. This event is designed to give faculty and trainees an overview of resources available to support research endeavors as well as information and tips on research design, methods, data analysis and evaluation. More information about dates and content will be coming soon. Contact **Claudia Mata** for more information.



A new print and online publication, **Q: Magazine** features the impressive initiatives happening at CHCO. From child health research and clinical advances to education and process improvement, it offers a glimpse inside the collaborative and progressive approaches we're using to accelerate discovery for the kids who need it most. Content will be published quarterly, with email, digital and social media updates sent frequently to pediatric subspecialists across the nation. Featured content will be reviewed and approved by a dedicated magazine Advisory Council. Story ideas can be submitted to Qmagazine@childrenscolorado.org for consideration. Please consider sharing your work for future publication.



In March, **Robert Hamblin, Orthopedics** joined a team of 20 volunteers who traveled to the Moore Pediatric Surgery Center in Guatemala City for one week. The team provided 55 orthopedic surgeries for 45 children and saw roughly 200 patients in clinic. Surgical procedures ranged from correction of extra digits to eleven major open reductions with pelvic and femoral osteotomies for hip developmental dislocations. This was the team's ninth annual surgical service trip to Guatemala.

Good news



The Division of Pediatric Surgery is excited to welcome **Kevin Koffenberger, MBA** as the new Division Administrative Director effective May 26th. Kevin comes to us from Illinois where he most recently served as a Practice Manager for 2 years. He also spent 8 years in the Departments of Pediatrics and Neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins University in Managerial and Finance roles. Kevin is fluent in Portuguese and excited to explore Colorado with his family. Welcome Kevin!



We had a great turn out for the **3rd annual CCS Research Symposium** with attendance up by 42% compared to last year. We had a total of 23 presentations from 6 Depts/Divisions and 41 posters representing 7 Depts/Divisions

Congratulations to this year's podium talk and poster winners:

Outstanding Podium Talk- Kaitlyn Tholen, BS: Persistent Obstructive Sleep Apnea in Obese Children: Does Body Position Matter?

Outstanding Poster-Niti Shahi, MD: Opioid Utilization in Pediatric Burn Patients.

A special thank you to the event's Co-Chairs, **Dr. Vemulakonda** and **Dr. McCourt** for organizing a truly impressive event.

Leslie Appiah and the Fertility Preservation Team (includes Pediatric Gynecology and Oncology) helped support signing the Colorado Building Families Act. The bill enacts the "Colorado Building Families Act", which requires health benefit plans issued or renewed in Colorado on or after January 1, 2022, to cover diagnosis of infertility, treatment for infertility, and fertility preservation services.

Congratulatory Corner



Sarah Gitomer, ENT, received a CCTSI mentored faculty grant for her project entitled, "Early identification and mitigation of hearing loss associated with bacterial meningitis in children." Dr. Herrmann will serve as her mentor.

Lucy Kohn, Dermatology, received a Weston Pediatric Dermatology Career Development Award, which is supported jointly by the Society for Pediatric Dermatology and Pediatric Dermatology Research Alliance. Dr. Kohn has also been accepted into the Clinical Faculty Scholars Program (CFSP) at the Colorado Clinical Translational Sciences Institute for the 2020 cohort.

Matthew Stone, CV Surgery, received a grant from the Thoracic Surgery Foundation for his project entitled, "Improving heart transplantation outcomes with sphingosine-targeted therapies."

Nicholas Cost, Urology has received a K23 grant for this project entitled "Impact of Systemic Cytotoxic Chemotherapy on Bladder Function in Children."

Andrea Bischoff, Pediatric Surgery has received funding from the School of Mines to support her project, "Enema Device for Children with Spina Bifida."



Travis Murray, Orthopedics received the 2019 Outstanding Clinical Teacher for Musculoskeletal Care Award from the Colorado Springs Branch at CUSOM.

Nancy Miller, Orthopedics has been named Chair of the NIH Genetics of Health and Disease Study Section.

Sumeet Garg and Mark Erickson, Orthopedics had their abstracts chosen to compete for the best clinical paper of the year by the Pediatric Orthopedic Society of North America (POSNA)

David Howell, Orthopedics received the 2020 American College of Sports Medicine New Investigator award

Publications- Jan- April

[PubMed Monthly Report Jan 2020-April 2020.docx](#)