

Faculty Updates



Nathan Howell, MD
Assistant Professor, Orthopedics

Dr. Howell joined Orthopedics on October 1, 2024. Dr. Howell received his MD from the Medical College of Georgia and completed his residency and fellowship training here at AMC. His professional interests include medical education and musculoskeletal ultrasound. In addition to seeing patients at several of our CHCO campuses, Dr. Howell will also care for young athletes on the sidelines at schools throughout the Denver Metro area.



Guy Jensen, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor, Pediatric Surgery

Dr. Jensen joined Pediatric Surgery on Oct. 1, 2024. Dr. Jensen received his MD from the University of Washington and completed his surgical residency at UC Davis. He spent 3 years as a general surgeon in the US Navy after which time he completed his fellowship in pediatric surgery at Seattle Children's. He has research interests in global and public health and equitable access to surgical care.



Erika Valentine, MD
Assistant Professor, Orthopedics

Dr. Valentine joined Orthopedics on October 1, 2024. Dr. Valentine completed her residency at UC Davis, followed by a fellowship at Children's Hospital of Los Angeles. Her clinical and research interests lie in pediatric trauma and disorders of the hip.



The CCS welcomed our second cohort of **surgical advanced practice fellows, Maggie Spitzer and Megan Reyes** on Oct 1, 2024. Learn more about our program [here](#)

Staff Updates



Sam Wilson, MS recently received a promotion to ROCS Team Lead. Sam has been with ROCS for 3 years and has done an amazing job helping to accelerate and enhance ROCS offerings and services- congrats Sam!

ROCS is also excited to welcome **Jazmyn Mosqueda-Banuelos** to the team. Jazmyn is joining ROCS as a research coordinator January 1. Jazmyn received her BA from the University of Northern Colorado and has worked as a clinical research assistant for the University of Arizona and Banner Health. Welcome Jazmyn!



Congrats to **Caryl Griffith-Abratique** for receiving the CU Ortho Staff Innovation award in October. Caryl serves as the Pediatric Education Coordinator and was recognized for her outstanding work and contributions.

Save the Dates

69th Pena Course for the Surgical treatment of Anorectal Malformations and Hirschsprung disease **April 29 – May 1st, 2025**– Early bird registration will end **12/31**. Guest Speaker: Eduardo Strauch, one of the survivors of the famous plane crash in the Andes, sharing lessons that allowed them to survive and that can be applied into our daily work – the importance of team work, trust, love, and hope. Learn more and register [here](#)



The **Center for Children's Surgery's 8th Annual Research Symposium** will take place at CHCO, **Friday February 21, 2025 from 9-4**. 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. **RSVPs will be required**. Register to attend [here](#)

Media roundup



Q magazine: Craniofacial Biobank Provides Clues to Causation

Read the story [here](#)



Durango boy's vision salvaged through years of treatment

Children's Hospital Colorado ophthalmology doctor treated patient all his life

By Christian Bunney, Herald Staff Writer

Read the story [here](#)

[U.S. News & World Report: Colorado works to change the game on concussion recovery](#)

[FOX21: American Ninja Warrior champion's Olympic dreams are back on track](#)

[CBS Colorado: Children's Colorado highlighted for new ear tube surgery, Newborn Screening Awareness Month](#)

[Fort Lupton Press: Born premature with congenital issues, little Emilia faces surgeries with a smile](#)

[KKTU: How a Colorado Springs boy is conquering 'the worst disease you've never heard of'](#)

[American Hospital Assoc: Spanish Speaking Pediatric Clinic Boosts Healthcare Access](#)

[Animated Movie Characters with Strabismus are More Likely to be Villains, Study Finds](#)

Did you know?

You can access some of the amazing animated content produced by the **CCS Medical Media Team** through Altitude. From the CHCO homepage click on *Altitude* in the *Top Links* section, then click on **Medical Media**. From here you can select the unit/area to see the various videos available. You can also find even more content on their YouTube Channel [here](#)

Please contact Kristina.derycke@childrenscolorado.org with any questions

Congratulatory Corner



Mohammed Alshareef, MD, Neurosurgery received an Innovator grant from the Hydrocephalus Association for his project, *"Complement Alternative Pathway Initiation Contributes to PHH in a Neonatal Germinal Matrix Hemorrhage Model."*

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

Patrick Carry, PhD, Orthopedics received a grant from the Scoliosis Research Society for the project, *"Scoliosis as a Contributing Factor to Lung Dysfunction and Cardiovascular Disease in Aging Adults."*



The Department of **Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology** recently learned that their project *"Engaging Diverse Youth in Research: The role of Youth Advisory Boards,"* will be funded through PCORI's Advancing the Science of Engagement Program. This effort was co-led by **Kendra Hutchens, PhD** and **Stephen Scott, MD, MPH**, with co-investigators **Sarah Brewer, PhD, MPA** and **Jill Kaar, PhD**. Dr. Scott remarked, "Understanding children and adolescents' perspectives, and shaping our research to include aspects that are important to them, will make new discoveries more impactful to those we serve." **Learn more about this exciting project**

[here](#)

Congrats to ENT as their submission, "ENT Clinic Efficiencies" was selected as the Top Poster at CHCO's 10th annual Quality Improvement Symposium. This work was submitted by: Soham Roy, Laura Mannino, Merritt Sumner, Bryana Metzger, Sarah Gitomer, Cynthia Aguirre, Bryn Johnson, Puja Padhair, Chris Martin, and Maddison Fritz.

Sumeet Garg, MD, Orthopedics is a co-editor on a newly published book, ["Navigation, Robotics and 3D Printing in Spine Surgery."](#)

The Colombian Government and the Florece la Esperanza Foundation recently honored **Luis de la Torre, MD, Pediatric Surgery** for his significant contributions to the field of colorectal surgery.