

Faculty Updates



The CCS is thrilled to welcome **Dr. Robert Cina, MD, MBA** as the new Chair of Pediatric Surgery. Dr. Cina comes to us from Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), where he served on the faculty since 2008. He held numerous leadership roles at MUSC including: Associate Chief Quality Officer, NSQIP Surgical Champion and President of the Medical staff, where he represented over 1,200 physicians. Dr. Cina completed his medical degree at Creighton University, general surgery training at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center/Harvard Medical School, his pediatric surgery residency at the University of Alabama at

Birmingham, as well as a research fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital. In 2024, he completed an MBA at Brandeis University further strengthening his expertise in healthcare leadership and systems management. Dr. Cina is a respected physician and educator recognized for his commitment to high-quality patient care, clinical excellence, and collaborative practice. He brings a thoughtful, evidence-based approach to medicine, emphasizing patient safety, clear communication, and continuous improvement in clinical outcomes. Welcome Dr. Cina! [Read more here](#)



Congratulations to **Caroline Credille, MSN**, Senior Instructor, on her appointment as the new APP Lead for **Pediatric Surgery**. Caroline takes over for **Richele Koehler, PA-C, Assistant Professor** who served as the inaugural Lead APP for many years, leading the cohort through extensive growth and development.

Staff Updates



Pediatric Surgery welcomed **Amanda Rivers, MBA** as the new Business Services Program Manager in December. Amanda is a dedicated administrative leader with a strong background in higher education and healthcare operations. She has served in various roles at CU Anschutz, including in human resources, faculty affairs, and business operations within the Department of OB-GYN, where she focused on building supportive teams and streamlining processes.

Amanda approaches her work with a collaborative mindset and a genuine desire to make systems more efficient and people's work lives easier. Welcome Amanda!

The Center for Children's Surgery's **9th Annual Research Symposium** will be held **Friday, February 27, from 8:00-4:30 PM in-person** in Mt. Oxford/Mt. Yale.



This event will feature research presentations and a poster session showcasing the outstanding work being done within the CCS, along with a panel discussion exploring what it takes to build a research dream team. We are honored to welcome **Dr. Tedy Chiang, MD**, Associate Professor and Director of Research in Ohio State University's Department of Otolaryngology as our guest speaker.

His experience in building collaborative, multi-level research teams and translating discoveries into clinical practice aligns perfectly with this year's theme. **RSVPs are required. Register for the symposium [here](#).** Please contact [Ally Calderon](#) with questions.



Look out for the annual **CCS research award RFPs** coming out in **early March**. Proposals for funding streams including: Ponzio Research, Quality and Patient Safety, Innovation and SILC awards are due **June 1st** annually. Contact [Sandra Talley](#) with questions.



Applications for the third cohort of the **CCS Surgical Advanced Practice Fellowship** are now being accepted through **March 20th**. We are excited to share that both of our Yr 2 fellows have accepted positions with our very own Pediatric Neurosurgery team! Learn more about the program [here](#). Contact [Sandra Talley](#) with questions.



The **CCS Medical Media team** has created nearly 200 medical animations in English and Spanish for units across the CCS. This content can be used for patient family education, with trainees, etc. Their content can be accessed on their [Youtube channel](#) or via [Altitude](#) on the CHCO homepage. Contact [Sandra Talley](#) with questions.

Congratulatory Corner

The Cleft Palate and Craniofacial Program has been approved as a Cross-Specialty team for 5 years by the American Cleft Palate Craniofacial Association.



Mohammed Alshareef, MD, Neurosurgery, was featured on an NBC Nightly news story regarding VBT for scoliosis (min 1:14). [Mother fights to get coverage for daughter's scoliosis surgery](#)

Julia Pazniokas, MD, resident and **Dr. Alshareef** won the Hydrocephalus Foundation award at the pediatric section meeting. This award is given to the best paper on hydrocephalus.

Matthew, Stone, MD, Emily Downs, MD and Megan Adams, MD were featured in multiple news stories covering the first ever heart-liver transplant performed at CHCO [Children's Colorado performs dual organ transplant- MSN](#)

The following members of **Orthopedics** have received grants from the J.T. Tai & Co Foundation

-Kellen Krajewski, PhD & Sayan De, MD, Bone Remodeling Relevant Physiological Response to Physical Activity in Adolescents With and Without Cerebral Palsy (BONE-PAC)

-Rachel Meyers, PT, DPT, OCS, Aubrey Armento, MD, CAQSM & David Howell, PhD, ATC, Integrating Movement Quality and Quantity Approaches to Inform Injury Risk, Menstrual Health, and Mental Health Outcomes Among Adolescent Athletes



Todd Hankinson, MD, Neurosurgery and Siddartha Mitra, PhD (Neuro-Onc) have received funding from the Morgan Adams Foundation for 2 projects: *Next-Generation Pediatric Brain Tumor Organoids: Reconstructing the Tumor Microenvironment for Functional Precision Oncology* and *Imaging Mass Cytometry to Identify Immune Cell-mediated Therapeutic Vulnerabilities in Adamantinomatous Craniopharyngioma*

Daniel Wood, MD, Urology, received a new PCORI subaward. This grant is an important collaboration with Lurie Children's Hospital. Working with colleagues in the rehab clinic they will be contributing to a study assisting Bowel Continence Across the Lifespan for patients with Spina Bifida.

Duncan Wilcox, MD, Urology, has received a \$100,000 SPARK grant. This is the 3rd SPARK grant awarded to a CCS member who piloted their idea first via a CCS SILC award.

New and Noteworthy

Deion Pena, from the Colorado Fetal Care Center at Children's Hospital Colorado and **Christopher Derderian, MD, Assistant Professor, Pediatric Surgery**, are co-authors of an article, "*Single nuclei and spatial profiling of sacrococcygeal teratomas reveals cellular composition and X inactivation heterogeneity*," published January 21 by npj Precision Oncology.

Kenny Chan, MD, Professor Emeritus, Otolaryngology had a monograph on "[History of Pediatric Otolaryngology in North America](#)" was recently published by the *International Journal of Pediatric Otolaryngology*. It was a culmination of a year's worth of research and writing. Beyond the stories of Pediatric Otolaryngology, it contains snippets of past Colorado Otolaryngology faculty members and residents

Margaret Siobhan Murphy-Zane, MD, Orthopedics, and her team from the CHCO Department of Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery published a paper entitled "*Hip Abduction Brace Is an Effective Treatment Alternative for Femur Fractures in Infants 12 Months and Younger*" in the Journal of Pediatric Orthopedics.

In the community



Team members from across Otolaryngology joined together at the Ronald McDonald House to prepare and serve dinner.



Members of the Musculoskeletal Research Center volunteered at Project C.U.R.E., an organization that provides international medical supplies and equipment to medical facilities around the world