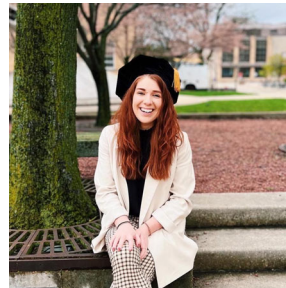


## Kelly Vazquez, PhD selected as 2022 ACORN Post-Doctoral Fellow

*Dr. Vazquez will be joining the Benninger Lab this summer*



This award is funded through the Childhood Diabetes Foundation and is a \$75K award; it will be used to cover stipend and benefits at the NIH level consistent with fellow's year post graduation. Remaining funds will be used to support professional development, computer and/or lab supplies and reagents.

In her own words, here is a summary about Dr. Vazquez

"I received my PhD in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison where my research focused on cell mechanics. During my PhD, I received an NIH TL1 training grant which allowed me to complete a certificate in Clinical Investigation alongside my engineering degree and led to my passion for interdisciplinary research. Additionally, it is my greatest aspiration to see more first generation, minority, and women scientists, such as myself, pursue a career in STEM. Thus, my enthusiasm for teaching and mentorship, coupled with my passion for science, has motivated me to pursue a career in research.

My future research interests are to improve treatments for autoimmune diseases. After my sister was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes (T1D), I became intrinsically motivated to dedicate my research career to the study of T1D, as T1D will be a part of my family for the next generations. Ultimately, I want to utilize my engineering expertise in studying the physics and mechanics of cells and apply it to insulin-producing (beta) cells. As a passionate scientist and engineer, I believe we can find innovative treatments to help fight this disease and ultimately generate a cure for diabetes.

My career goals are to develop an independent research program focusing on treatments for T1D. Conducting research in the Benninger lab at the Barbara Davis Center (BDC) will enable me to develop skills and knowledge to understand biophysical mechanisms related to islet biology and diabetes. This postdoctoral award will further provide me with the necessary training and resources towards my overall goals. I am confident that the knowledge I will gain in T1D research working at the BDC, will equip me to conduct cutting edge diabetes research and aid in my transition to an independent investigator."

## INTRODUCING WIELD

Founded by DRC Member, Dr. Darleen Sandoval



WOMEN  
INSPIRING AND  
ELEVATING  
LEADERSHIP IN  
DIABETES

Dr. Sandoval is currently Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine at University of Colorado-Anschutz Medical Campus with a primary appointment in the Section of Nutrition, and a secondary appointment in Endocrinology. Dr. Sandoval's research surrounds two general themes both focused on the role of the gut-brain axis in regulation of energy and glucose homeostasis. She is co-founder, inaugural co-chair, and is currently on the advisory board of the Women's Interprofessional Network of the American Diabetes Association (ADA). She also serves on the Membership Advisory Committee of the ADA and is a member of NIDDKC-NIH Study Section. She serves as co-chair for the American Heart Association Pre- and Post-doc Fellowship Award Study Section. Her passion for advocating for women is being fostered by being founder and executive team leader for WIELD (Women inspiring and elevating leadership in Diabetes).

### Can you share with us why you created WIELD?

Women continue to be vastly underrepresented in academic medicine leadership. I have had an amazing opportunity to work with women leaders in our field and their work and efforts should not be taken for granted. We have assembled a group of leaders in our field who want to change this underrepresentation

### What are the primary goals, mission and vision of WIELD?

We are an advocacy group of professionals with interest in diabetes causes, complications, and comorbidities, who have a goal to increase the visibility of, and leadership representation by, women in our field. Our goal is to have independently-organized activities but also focused partnership with existing professional societies who wish to support these efforts and/or develop their own membership engagement groups for women.

### Strategic areas of impact:

- Advocate: to use our voice to highlight current issues facing women and the many contributions women make in diabetes care and research through writing, presentations, and the internet
- Elevate: to increase the number of women in positions of leadership within in the diabetes research and care community, as well as to improve the recognition of the accomplishments of women in this field.
- Educate: to use our expertise to develop the careers of women at all stages, junior, mid-, and senior-level career positions
- Collaborate: to work with existing academic societies to support professional women in diabetes

### Who can join WIELD?

Any diabetes professional (MD or PhD) that is interested in advocating for women in our profession!

### What's the most important thing you all are working on right now, and how are you making it happen?

We are just starting this organization so the main goal will be to build membership and working groups so we can carry out the missions above. We hoping to use our website to build networking and career development resources for members.

### Where do you see WIELD in 5, 10, 15 years?

In the next 5 years, our goal is to build membership and resources for our members. We would like to collaborate with our current professional organizations to increase membership engagement and leadership of women members. For example, we have a budding relationship with The Obesity Society to do just that.

In 10-15 years, I hope that we continue to provide resources for members (meetings, networking opportunities, career development) but that we'll actually be able to see some shift in the leadership in our professional organizations. If this pans out, then I would love to see us have greater influence on the universities that employ us so that

they can do better by their women leaders and that we can start to see a shift in the professional culture for women in science.

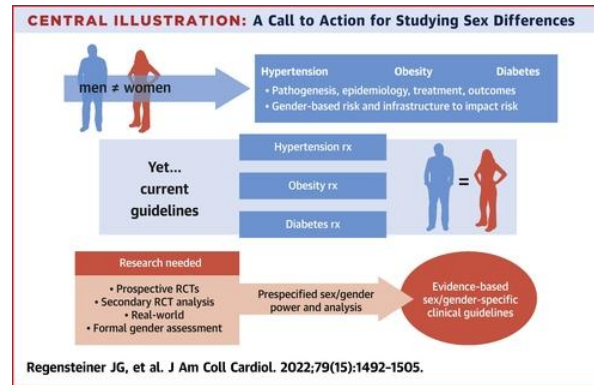
**Is this organization a collaboration? If so, who else is involved?**

We have a budding relationship with The Obesity Society. They are going to provide a platform for us to do fundraising and we hope to help advise them on better membership engagement of women. Also, many of our advisory board members (Jane Reusch and I are co-founders) are members of the Women's Interprofessional Network of the ADA (WIN-ADA). Our goal is to collaborate with them in engagement of ADA members.

Please visit the WIELD website to learn more by clicking [here](#)

**RECENTLY PUBLISHED  
JACC Journal of the American College of Cardiology**

*"Sex Differences in Cardiovascular Consequences of Hypertension, Obesity, and Diabetes" - Drs. Jane Reusch & Judith Regensteiner*

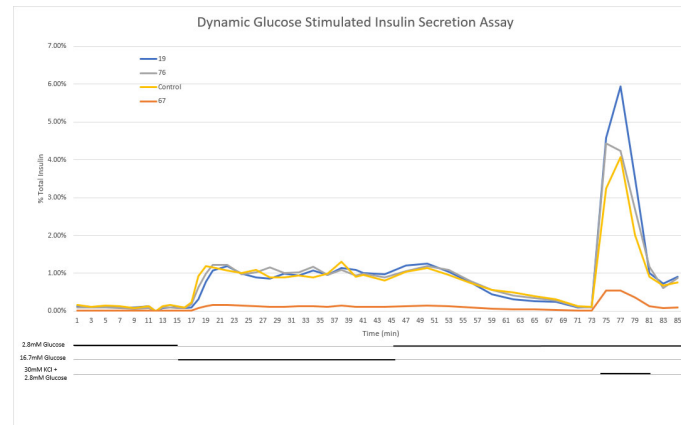


[Click Here to access the paper](#)

**Disease Modeling Core now offering DGSIS**

The Disease Modeling Core (aka the Molecular Core) is proud to offer a Dynamic Glucose Stimulated Insulin Secretion assay via perfusion. This service is the only of its kind in the area and anyone researching diabetes will find it useful. In this assay, the Biorep Perfusion System is used to design a dynamic experiment wherein islets from humans, mice, or rats (either harvested or differentiated from stem cells) are exposed to low glucose, high glucose, and KCl solutions in order to illicit an insulin response. After these solutions are exposed to the islets, the outflow is collected and measured at representative time points to paint a picture of insulin secretion over time and in response to several conditions.

The instrument is capable of running up to six different samples in parallel. Below you will see an example of data generated recently using human islets.



The pricing for this assay will be \$1250.00 for the first sample ran, and an additional \$200 for each sample after that. (i.e. if there are four samples, the price will be \$1850.00. \$1250.00 for one sample, and \$200.00 per sample for the other three).

This assay is time intensive so only one can be run per day. Therefore, unlike our other services, they will need to be scheduled ahead of time. If this is an assay that you believe your research could benefit from, please contact Mark Farrell with any questions or about scheduling an experiment.

Contact Info: 303-724-6825 [Mark.Farrell@CUAnschutz.edu](mailto:Mark.Farrell@CUAnschutz.edu)  
Click [here](#) to review the Biorep Perfusion System brochure

## RSVP NOW FOR SUMMER POSTER SESSION

You're Invited  
**Diabetes Research Center  
Summer Poster Session**  
Friday July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
11:00am - 2:00pm (Lunch Provided)  
CU Anschutz Medical Campus  
Education 2 South - Student Community Bridge - 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

[Click Here to RSVP as Guest or Presenter by 7/8](#)

## Colorado NORC & CCTSI Presents: 2022 Metabolic Imaging Workshop July 11-12, 2022

We are pleased to announce the first "Metabolic Imaging Workshop" to be hosted by the Colorado Nutrition and Obesity Research Center (NORC) and the Colorado Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CCTSI). This workshop will provide a broad overview on state-of-the-art metabolic imaging modalities and protocols including PET/CT, PET/MRI, MRI/MRS, QCT, DXA, and ultrasound. This 1.5-day workshop will be held July 11-12, 2022. The target audience is undergraduate, graduate, postdoctoral students in biomedical sciences (medicine, bioengineering, physiology, nutrition, biology, etc.) and non-imaging scientists who are interested in implementing imaging technologies into their biomedical research.

Click [here](#) to see registration, travel details & a call for abstracts

Click [here](#) to see the full agenda



## OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUNDING

### ADA Relaunches Pathway Program



*From the ADA:*

"We wanted to share the exciting news that we are really launching our transformative Pathway to Stop Diabetes initiative this week this is been one of the most successful research initiatives in ADA history.

These grants represent investments in the best and brightest of the next generation of research leaders. They are highly competitive (each institution can only nominate one individual) and provide the intellectual freedom for these research visionaries to engage in high risk high reward research.

We are enriching the current program by pivoting the funding to focus on more translational research that can impact the lives of those affected by diabetes.

We wanted to highlight few accomplishments of the Pathway program that we all can be so very proud of:

- 34 funded researchers awarded
- >700 nominations received and reviewed since program inception
- 100% of Initiator awardees secured 1st independent faculty position within first 2 years of award
- >300 original publications in high impact scientific journals
- 16+ start-up companies founded by Pathway scientists
- Over 480 invited presentations and lectures
- 46+ patent applications filed

These numbers are a telling story of the strong collaborative we have created- a robust Pathway community - and we can see the extraordinary benefits of mentorship of the brightest and best researchers. "

Click [here](#) to learn more about the award

**CU Internal Deadline is (tomorrow) Tuesday, June 7, 2022**  
Click [here](#) to submit letter of intent

### DartCF 2022 CFRD Pilot & Feasibility Project RFA



The Dartmouth Cystic Fibrosis Research Center (DartCF) seeks innovative Pilot and Feasibility (P&F) projects that are (1) led by faculty members affiliated with NIDDK supported Diabetes Research Centers or Centers for Diabetes Translation Research and (2) designed to address important issues in the pathogenesis and/or treatment of Cystic Fibrosis-related diabetes (CFRD).

The goal of these awards is to increase the pool of researchers with expertise in

diabetes contributing to the field of CFRD, by enabling them to initiate or expand research activities directly relevant to CFRD and to obtain preliminary data and publications that will foster on-going CFRD research projects.

We expect to fund two P&F awards under this mechanism, with total costs up to \$88,200/year. Awards will be granted for two years; funding in the second year will be contingent upon adequate progress in year one and upon the availability of funding from the NIH. Funds will be provided as subawards under the DartCF P&F program.

Projects may propose laboratory, translational, and/or computational approaches. Human subjects research including clinical studies are allowed, but clinical trials cannot be supported by this mechanism. Projects may be preliminary in nature, working towards development of continued funding following successful completion. Successful applicants will be expected to participate remotely in DartCF seminars, to present their work at least annually, and to provide a written progress report at the end of each year of funding.

**Application due date – July 15, 2022**

Anticipated award date – Fall 2022

[Click Here to View Full RFA](#)

If you have any questions, please reach out to [dean.r.madden@dartmouth.edu](mailto:dean.r.madden@dartmouth.edu) or [Madison.Leonard@dartmouth.edu](mailto:Madison.Leonard@dartmouth.edu)



[Click Here to see current NIH NIDDK RFAs](#)

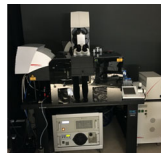


University of Colorado  
Anschutz Medical Campus

[Click here to see current CU INTERNAL Limited Submission Funding Opportunities](#)

## Have you considered using a DRC core service?

The DRC contains four biomedical cores that provide services and resources to DRC investigators. These cores are designed to facilitate and broaden CU Denver DRC research by expanding access to shared equipment, enhancing availability and training for emerging technologies, and allowing scientists to have greater access to clinical tissue and data.



### Cell and Tissue Analysis

Access to state-of-the-art multi-color confocal microscopy, flow cytometry analysis and cell sorting services, and expert assistance for mass cytometry and ion-beam imaging technologies.

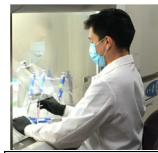
[Learn More about Cell &](#)



### Clinical Resources

Access to an integrated, campus-wide, research registry enabling informatics-based clinical studies.

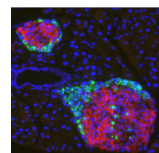
[Learn More about our Clinical Resources](#)



### Disease Modeling

Access and training in stem cell technologies for in vitro human disease modeling of diabetes & molecular core services.

[Learn More about Disease Modeling](#)



### Tissue Procurement & Processing

Access to islet isolation and transplantation services along with access to commonly used cell lines and diabetes-related histology techniques.

[Learn More about Tissue Procurement & Processing](#)

Tissue Analysis

Want us to feature you or a colleague on an upcoming DRC newsletter? Have an important research update?



Click Here to Submit a Story to the DRC Monthly Newsletter

Click Here to Follow us on Twitter

**Please remember to acknowledge support from the University of Colorado Diabetes Research Center and our associated cores by referencing NIDDK grant #P30-DK116073 in your presentations and publications.**

Click here to visit the DRC Website

Click Here to Subscribe to this Newsletter

*Please contact [Lisbel.Woods@CUAnschutz.edu](mailto:Lisbel.Woods@CUAnschutz.edu) with any questions or feedback about this newsletter*

This email was sent to: [lisbel.woods@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:lisbel.woods@cuanschutz.edu)

This email was sent by the University of Colorado

[Manage your email preferences](#) | [Update your contact information](#)

Your CU ID: