

Faculty Updates



Shahbaz Katebzadeh, DDS
Assistant Professor, Pediatric Dentistry

Dr. Shahbaz Katebzadeh (Dr. Boz) joined Pediatric Dentistry March 1, 2024. Dr. Boz graduated dental school in 2015 from Western University of Health Sciences, College of Dental Medicine, in Pomona, CA. He completed his pediatric dentistry training at St. Barnabas Hospital, NY. Before that, Dr. Boz completed his GPR and practiced as a general dentist in Los Angeles, CA. Dr. Boz has been practicing as a pediatric

dentist in Colorado and New York for the past 5 years and is thrilled to join CHCO and the University of Colorado.



John (JP) Gorham, MD
Assistant Professor, Ophthalmology

Dr. Gorham joined Pediatric Ophthalmology on June 1, 2024. Dr. Gorham received his MD from Emory University, where he stayed for his residency. He then completed his fellowship in Pediatric Ophthalmology and Adult Strabismus at the University of Michigan. Dr. Gorham served as an attending at Tufts University School of Medicine where he was the Director of the Retinopathy of Prematurity Service.

His research interests include retinopathy of prematurity and the social determinants of health.



Emma Stahr, OD
Instructor, Ophthalmology

Dr. Stahr joined Pediatric Ophthalmology on March 1, 2024. Dr. Stahr attended the University of Texas, Austin for her undergraduate studies and the University of Houston for Optometry School. Dr. Stahr served as the Pediatric Optometry and Strabismus Fellow here at AMC/CHCO, graduating in 2023. Welcome Dr. Stahr!

Faculty Updates

The Division of Pediatric Surgery is bidding a fond farewell to a long-time faculty member, leader and mentor, **Dr. Fritz Karrer**, who is retiring this month after 36 years as a faculty member at the University of Colorado. Dr. Karrer notably served as the Division Chief for Pediatric Surgery for 20 years, practicing as a general pediatric surgeon and transplant surgeon. Throughout his tenure, Dr. Karrer received numerous awards and accolades for his teaching and advocacy. Dr. Karrer has also served in the U.S. Army reserves, retiring after 20 years of service as a Colonel. Please join us in thanking Dr. Karrer for his incredible contributions, and in wishing him the very best in his future adventures.



Pediatric Otolaryngology has the bittersweet task of saying adieu to **Dr. Kenny Chan**, who is retiring this month after 31 years as a faculty member at the University of Colorado. Dr. Chan also served as the Chief of Pediatric Otolaryngology for many years. Under his leadership, the unit grew to one of the largest in the country, participating in over 15 multi-specialty clinics with a nationally recognized fellowship program. Dr. Chan's impact on his patients cannot be understated. He has had patients come back to visit and honor him over the years. Back in 2015, he was reunited with a patient for whom Dr. Chan performed a 28-hour tumor removal surgery, 20 years prior, which at the time was the longest in CHCO history. The impact of Dr. Chan's work will be long felt and he will be sorely missed by patients and colleagues alike.

Staff Updates



The Division of Pediatric Surgery was very happy to welcome their new Operations Supervisor, **Panny Brentlinger** on March 4, 2024. Panny is overseeing the daily administrative operations for Pediatric Surgery, the Colorectal Center and the Bariatric Surgery Center. Panny has served as an ASC in the Vascular Anomalies Center for the past 3 years and previously worked as an ASC in Pediatric Surgery. Welcome back Panny!

New and Noteworthy



Plastic Surgery Residents Experience Global Surgery During Trip to Vietnam

Phuong Nguyen, MD, recently led a two-week trip to perform craniofacial surgeries and other procedures at multiple hospitals in Vietnam. In January Dr. Nguyen was named the Department of Surgery's first associate vice chair of global surgery. The team, including residents and students, worked with Nuoy Reconstructive International, a non-governmental organization Dr. Nguyen co-founded that makes regular trips to Vietnam. It provides access to complex reconstructive care including craniofacial, microsurgery, and hand surgery in Vietnam. Read more [here](#)



New Spanish-speaking Pediatric Surgery Clinic is Breaking Down Barriers

The work of **Pepe Diaz Miron, MD** has been featured in several news stories about CHCO's first Spanish speaking surgery clinic- the first of its kind in Colorado and the Rocky Mountain Region. The story has been featured on [CBS Colorado](#), [Telemundo Denver](#) and [Denver 7](#).



Teen is Youngest in CO to try neural implant to stop seizures

On March 4, 2024, the Denver post published a front-page story about **Allyson Alexander, MD's** first Deep Brain Stimulation surgery. Read about this special patient and Dr. Alexander's important work [here](#)



Mazor X Robot Improves Pediatric Spine Surgery

In early 2024, the spinal surgery team at CHCO achieved a significant milestone: 500 robot-assisted spine surgeries. Led by **Mark Erickson, MD**, Medical Director of the Children's Colorado Spine Program, the team, which counts the Mazor X robot among its members, has paved a new path for greater adoption of robot-assisted surgery in the pediatric arena. Read more [here](#)

Congratulatory Corner



Ash Gosain, MD, has been named as the President elect of the Society of Asian Academic surgeons. He was also a co-author on an article published in JAMA in March 2024 [Effect of Early vs Late Inguinal Hernia Repair on Serious Adverse Event Rates in Preterm Infants: A Randomized Clinical Trial](#).

Several members of **Pediatric Surgery** were co-authors on a recent article published in the Journal Of Pediatrics. [Association of Sociodemographic Factors with Surgical Management of Hepatoblastoma and Hepatocellular Carcinoma in Children](#)

Katherine Chin, DDS, was named as a trustee for the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.

Paloma Nguyen, DDS, was appointed as the Director of Predoctoral Dentistry.



Shannon Acker, MD and Chris Derderian, MD have both received Grosfeld scholar awards from the American Pediatric Surgical Association. Dr. Acker received the award for her project, "One-4-All Initiative: Innovation in Process and Technology to Address Health Disparities While Reducing Clinical Burden" and Dr. Derderian for his project, "Placental

Organoid miRNAs Inhibit Trophoblast Invasion in Fetal Growth Restriction." In addition, **Dr. Derderian** has also received a SEED grant from the Amnion Foundation



The CCS hosted the 7th annual **Research Symposium** in February 2024. Many thanks to all of the presenters, reviewers and to the ROCS team for coordinating another terrific event. The winners were:
Outstanding Poster Awards- Flor Jasmine Torres, Jordyn Adams (Ortho), Rebeca Gonzalez Jauregui
Outstanding Basic/Translational Science Podium Award: Ali Teimouri (Urology)

Outstanding Clinical Outcomes Research Podium Award: Nicole Becher (Pediatric Surgery)
Outstanding QI/Multidisciplinary Science & Best Podium Talk Award: Austin Zhu (ENT)