

Faculty Updates



Cristina León-Piñeda DMD, MPH, MSDS **Assistant Professor, Dental**

Dr. León-Piñeda joined Pediatric Dentistry on December 1st. She completed her dental training at the University of Puerto Rico School of Dental Medicine in 2011 and an Advanced Education in General Dentistry residency from Lutheran Medical center in Washington in 2012. Dr. León-Piñeda also received her MPH with an emphasis in Dentistry from AT Still University. She comes to us from UT San

Antonio where she completed her residency and received her master's in dental sciences. The Dental Center is elated to welcome Dr. León-Piñeda to the practice!

Staff Updates



Claire Champlain, Practice and Operations Manager, SIC

We are excited to welcome Claire as a new manager in the SIC effective Jan 24th. Claire has been with CHCO since 2019 and has served as the Operations Supervisor for North Campus, Wheat Ridge and uptown. In this role she oversaw multiple operational areas such as outpatient specialty clinics, emergency and urgent care, and an inpatient unit. Claire will be supporting Urology and PAG and we are thrilled she has joined us.



Hannah Richman, Practice and Operations Manager, Orthopedics

Orthopedics is happy introduce Hannah as a new manager in their unit. Hannah has been with CHCO for over two years. In her new role she will direct and supervise the practice administration, operations, and administrative functions within the department. She will partner closely with executive and clinical leadership to accomplish specific goals related to quality, growth and patient satisfaction in an ambulatory setting. She will

also help in strategy and planning as it relates to program development, outreach, business and clinical operations, including practice expansion. Congrats Hannah!

Announcements & Reminders



The Center for Children's Surgery's 5th Annual Research Symposium will be held **Friday, February 18, 2022 from 8-2:45 PM**. 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. The guest speakers for this year will be Dr. Catherine Hunter from The University of Oklahoma and Dr. Kerry-Ann Mitchell from The Ohio State University. **Our podium presenters will be presenting in-person in Mt. Oxford and the poster session will be held in Mt. Yale/Mt. Princeton.**

Register for the symposium [here](#). The Zoom link to attend the symposium will be sent out 3 days prior to the event. Please contact **Claudia Mata** with questions.

The International Center for Colorectal and Urogenital Care will be hosting the annual **Pena Course** virtually on **March 31-April 1** as well as the very first **Transition of Care Conference June 16-17**. Find more information [here](#)



Research Funding update- CHCO/CHRE is currently not accepting applications for pilot awards. In addition, **September 1** will be the single receipt date for the **Research Scholar Award (RSA)**. Please visit their [website](#) for the latest information

The **Research Outcomes in Children's Surgery (ROCS)** team has recently welcomed several new team members, offering support in Biostatistical planning and analysis as well as study operations and coordination.



Please make sure to visit the ROCS [website](#) to learn more about the expanded services offered and to submit an [intake](#) request form.

Staff updates, continued



Sarah Riggs, Executive Director, Service Lines

We are excited to share that Sarah Riggs has accepted the role of Executive Director, Service Lines for the CCS, OI and CFCC. Sarah has been with Children's since 2013 and has been instrumental in the growth of our CFCC and neonatal programs as well as our maternal fetal and neonatal partnerships. Previously she served as the Business Manager for the Heart Institute and most recently as the Practice Director for the Colorado Institute for Maternal & Fetal Health. Prior to

Children's, Sarah worked at HCA, HealthOne.

In this new/expanded role Sarah will be responsible for strategy, business development, partnerships, and philanthropy. She will work closely with the operational teams of each service line to partner on implementation of strategic initiatives. Please join us in congratulating and celebrating Sarah



Victor Rodriguez, Quality Improvement and Data Specialist Pediatric Surgery

Victor is joining the Colorectal research team on 2/15. He graduated from UT- Pan American with a degree in Information systems and has been working as a data analyst in healthcare settings for over 7 years.

In the community



Dr. Kohn, Dermatology, attended the Denver Native American Heritage Pow Wow in November 2021 along with Claudia Mata and third year medical students Kseniya Anishchenko and Micah Pascual (not pictured). The team administered surveys for Dr. Kohn's research study focused on the relationship between American Indian and Native Alaskan access to dermatology care, quality of

life and skin health.

Congratulatory Corner



Dr. Garg, Orthopedics, was recently awarded a \$250,000 grant from the Tai Foundation for his project, "Optimizing Acquisition of Patient Reported Outcome Measures"

The **Craniofacial Orthodontics Clinic** was recently featured in the most recent edition of the Rocky Mountain Society of Orthodontists' newsletter. This center is the **only center of its kind in the Rocky Mountain Region** and provides access to complex orthodontic care to children with Cleft Lip and Palate and other craniofacial conditions requiring a multidisciplinary surgical approach. Located in the Health Pavilion, the clinic has recently expanded to accommodate treatment of all pediatric orthodontic patients. [Link to full article](#)



Dr. Puranik, Pediatric Dental Center has received a prestigious **Grubstake grant** for 2022. This 3 year, \$350,000 grant will support research on caries-inhibiting and regenerative dental materials. The Gates Center for Regenerative Medicine and CU Innovations offers the Gates Grubstake Award focused on accelerating basic, clinical, and translational research related to the field of regenerative medicine for improvement in diagnostics and therapeutics including cellular-tissue engineering and devices.

In addition, **Dr. Puranik's** project, "Preventing Dental Caries with Novel Coatings", was selected as winner out of 386 funded projects at the Proof of Concept Network (POCN) Innovator Showcase at the National Institutes of Health Small Business Education and Entrepreneurial Development (NIH-SEED) Annual Meeting 2021. The team also included: Devatha Nair (School of Dental Medicine), and Michael Schurr (School of Medicine, Department of Immunology and Microbiology). The team has been invited to participate, in-person, at the next annual POCN conference and NIH-SEED will be sponsoring the registration.

Todd Hankinson, Neurosurgery has received several small awards totaling \$55,000 from the Morgan Adam's Foundation for his projects including: Development of a public web-based tool to refine interpretable AI tools in pediatric neuro-oncology, Preclinical testing of the small molecule inhibitors Navitoclax, and Binimetinib using ex vivo Adamantinomatous Craniopharyngioma Tissue, Demonstrate the Impact of MMP-9 Knockdown in 3 Novel ACP Models and Multiplex Immunofluorescence spatial distribution in ACP