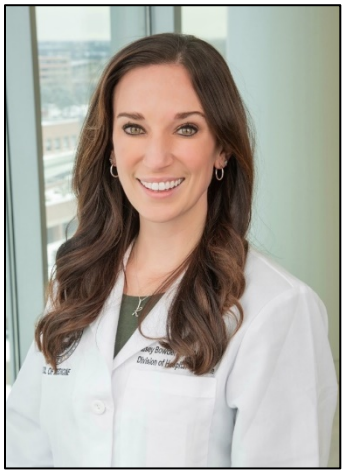
Department of Medicine
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

Department of Medicine Announces 2020 Rising Stars

AURORA, CO (June 12, 2020) —The University of Colorado Department of Medicine is pleased to announce the 2020 Rising Star Award recipients. The Rising Star Award recognizes outstanding early-career faculty members who exemplify the department's core values of excellence in patient care, research, education and community service. Each year, Rising Stars are nominated by their Division Heads and selected by a committee consisting of the department's senior leadership. Congratulations to all of this year's recipients!



Kasey Bowden, FNP, NP, MSN, RN, has been an Assistant Professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine since 2012. She has focused her career on the development and implementation of innovative, multi-disciplinary care delivery models, with a focus on APP-physician best practices and models of care. In her role as the Associate Clinical Director in the Division of Hospital Medicine, Kasey has helped lead operational strategy and growth for the Division, which comprises over 100 physician/APP faculty and provides care for over 13,000 patients each year. In addition, she has been integral in developing operational strategy and plans for COVID care, developing the conceptual framework which continues to guide the Division's pandemic response. Kasey is also the Medical Director in the CARE (Clinical Assessment and Rapid Evaluation) Clinic in the Division of Medical Oncology, which provides patient-centered intensive symptom-management and urgent care services for oncology patients, and the Senior Clinical Lead in the UCHealth Office of Advanced Practice, where she focuses on APP faculty advancement, provider wellness, and mentors numerous APPs throughout the institution. Kasey has been a part of numerous abstracts, grants, and publications related to clinical operations and innovative models of care, and has spoken regionally and nationally on topics of APP integration and professional advancement and APP-physician best practices.

Kristen Nowak, PhD, MPH, is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Renal Diseases and Hypertension**.** Dr. Nowak trained as a physiologist with an interest in lifestyle interventions to reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease and kidney disease progression in patients with kidney diseases, including autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease (ADPKD) and chronic kidney disease (CKD). As an investigator, Dr. Nowak conducts research on the mechanisms of vascular dysfunction in kidney diseases, as well as on novel therapeutics to alleviate such dysfunction. She has a unique expertise in identifying integrative physiological mechanisms mediating vascular dysfunction, and in epidemiology. In her current role, she is the Director of Clinical Vascular Physiology Laboratory for the Division of Renal Diseases and Hypertension. Dr. Nowak's NIH K01 Career Development Award is testing the efficacy of curcumin, a naturally occurring polyphenol, to improve vascular function and slow kidney growth in children and young adults with ADPKD, and she recently became interested in the role of diet and metabolic dysfunction in ADPKD progression. Dr. Nowak also has an active NIH R03 grant evaluating the feasibility of two weight loss interventions, daily caloric restriction and intermittent fasting, and most recently, a PKD Foundation Research grant evaluating the feasibility of time restricted feeding, both in a population of adults with overweight/obesity and ADPKD.

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Elena Shagisultanova, MD, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Medical Oncology. Dr. Shagisultanova received her MD and PhD degrees in Russia and relocated to the US in 2002 for post-doctoral studies in cancer genetics at Sanford-Burnham Institute, San Diego. Recognizing that her passion is to become an academic oncologist leading translational research, she finished the University of California San Diego Clinical Research Program before embarking on her postgraduate clinical training. She completed internal medicine residency at St. Mary's Hospital, a University of California San Francisco affiliate, and medical oncology training at Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia. Elena joined the University of Colorado Department of Medicine in 2015, concentrating her clinical and research efforts on the unique challenges of breast cancer in young women. In 2016, she received a Pfizer ASPIRE Award to fund a multi-site clinical trial investigating triple blockade of HER2, CDK4/6 and hormonal receptor signaling for treatment of metastatic breast cancer. Simultaneously, she launched pre-clinical studies of triple targeted therapy (funded by NIH KL2 award), and correlative studies in patient samples to identify biomarker of response (funded by NIH K08 award). She believes that effective translational approach is a key to develop novel therapies improving patient outcomes.

Eszter K. Vladar, PhD, joined the Division of Pulmonary Sciences and Critical Care Medicine as Assistant Professor in 2018. Her research focuses on the respiratory airway epithelium, which serves as the first line of defense against inhaled threats. Dr. Vladar's studies the differentiation of multiciliated cells and the directional motility of cilia provided major critical insights into mucociliary clearance mechanisms of the lung. She also pioneered multiple novel methodologies now widely used in the field. Dr. Vladar has a major interest in how multiciliated cell dysfunction due to inflammatory epithelial remodeling contributes to chronic lung diseases, including cystic fibrosis, asthma and chronic rhinosinusitis. Since starting her independent lab, Dr. Vladar has received multiple awards for her research including being named a Boettcher Investigator in 2018, published extensively and developed an innovative line of investigation.

For more information about the Department of Medicine's Rising Stars and past awardees, visit our website.