



Department of Medicine

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO  
ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

## Department of Medicine Announces 2021 Rising Stars

AURORA, CO (May 4, 2021) —The University of Colorado Department of Medicine is pleased to announce the 2021 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 the department's senior leadership. Congratulations to all of this year's recipients!



**Matthew A. Burchill, PhD**, is an assistant professor of medicine in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. Dr. Burchill's research program aims to understand the immunologic mechanisms that underlie chronic inflammation and drive chronic liver diseases. Dr. Burchill's studies have identified that during chronic disease, changes in the liver lymphatic vasculature contribute to improper trafficking of proteins and immune cells from the liver. Dr. Burchill received a National Institutes of Health R01 to further this research by understanding the mechanisms that contribute to lymphatic dysfunction in the liver during chronic disease. Prior to receipt of his R01, Dr. Burchill utilized several pilot awards including the RNA biosciences Initiative Single Cell Sequencing Award, the Linda Crnic Institute Grand Challenge Award and GI and Liver Innate Immune Program award to gather preliminary data for the larger R01 award. His work is an important

bridge in our understanding of how immune cells both indirectly and directly



**Lauren Fishbein MD, PhD**, is an associate professor of medicine in the Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Diabetes at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus and the Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center. Dr. Fishbein joined the faculty as an assistant professor in 2015. She sees herself as a true translational researcher. Her research program investigates the interplay between the somatic and hereditary genetics of neuroendocrine tumors, with a focus on pheochromocytomas/paragangliomas. Using integrative genomics, she identified several novel markers for aggressive disease, which her laboratory continues to investigate. Her current NCI-funded R01 leverages an international consortium to identify genetic modifiers for developing pheochromocytoma/paraganglioma in those with hereditary predisposition. Dr. Fishbein has become a recognized expert in pheochromocytoma/paraganglioma, invited to chair clinical guidelines for the management of metastatic disease, provides talks at meetings and other universities, and chairs several committees

for national and international organizations, including the Endocrine Society, the North American Neuroendocrine Tumor Society, and the American-Australian-Asian-Adrenal Alliance (A5) research consortium's Pheo/Para Working Group. She has a passion for empowering patients with neuroendocrine tumors or predisposition for these tumors through education and volunteers on the medical advisory board for the PheoPara Alliance, a patient education, support and advocacy organization.



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**Elena Lebduska, MD**, is an assistant professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine at the Rocky Mountain VA Medical Center. She joined the faculty at the University of Colorado after completing a GIM fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh where she received a master's in medical education. Since arriving at the university, she has mentored numerous medical students, residents and nurse practitioner fellows. In 2017, she was the recipient of the Elaine Cleary Faculty Award for Excellence in General Internal Medicine Education. She is currently involved in various educational endeavors at the School of Medicine and serves as the internal medicine clinical content director for the new longitudinal integrated clerkships (LIC). Since joining the Department of Medicine, she has also been able to expand her interest in quality improvement and currently serves as the director of ambulatory quality education and serves on the DOM M&M steering committee.



**Kara Mould, MD, MPH**, is an assistant professor in the Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine at National Jewish Health. She is a physician-scientist with expertise in innate immunity and acute lung injury. Dr. Mould focuses her research efforts on identifying the specific functions of airspace macrophages during health and inflammatory diseases. Since 2019, she has led a translational study leveraging an endobronchial endotoxin challenge model of human lung inflammation in healthy research subjects. This work is supported by a National Institutes of Health K08 Award and a Boettcher Foundation Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Award. Her work has led to multiple publications and spurred several new collaborations with other academic institutions. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she has also adapted her work to investigate innate immune cells from patients with severe COVID-19. Ultimately, she hopes these projects will result in the discovery of novel therapeutic targets for patients with acute lung injury.

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