

Pathology Newsletter

MAY 2024

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WORDS FROM THE PD/APD



Welcome to the Spring 2024 issue of the CU Pathology Newsletter! "If ever there were a spring day so perfect, so uplifted by a warm intermittent breeze that it made you want to throw open all the windows in the house and unlatch the door to the canary's cage, indeed, rip the little door from its jamb, a day when the cool brick paths and the garden bursting with peonies seemed so etched in sunlight that you felt like taking..." extract from Billy Collins. We invite you all to finish this beautiful poem with your words. It is indeed the time of the year when many feel like taking the next steps of their journey with a little more enthusiasm. In our training program, we are encouraged not just by the season change but by the new faces and names that are joining our pathology family. So, we feel like taking a deep breath of gratitude and optimism.

Recently, Dr. Lindsey Westbrook, Associate Program Director, and her family welcome their baby Bruce Beckley. Dr. Nakul Shankar, pathology resident, and his wife welcome their first newborn, Om Shankar. Dr. My-Linh Ho, gastrointestinal liver fellow, and her husband also welcome their first newborn, Norah Nguyen. Lastly, Dr. Lauren McLemore, pathology faculty member, and her family are expecting to welcome another baby. We celebrate with all of them and welcome these new members to our pathology family.

We are also delighted to present the residents that will arrive on our campus this summer. Please take the time to read their profile. We truly believe each one of them will be an asset to the program. As mentioned in a prior issue, we were able to attract these talented individuals because of the collective contribution to the recruitment process of the Chair, faculty reviewers, interviewers, residents, and program coordinators. We are now busy preparing for their arrival. Dr. Samuel Guzman, Assistant Professor of Pathology, is the featured faculty in this issue. He is a brilliant neuropathologist who joined our faculty in 2022. He is enamored with the riddle of the human brain. His research works are being recognized across the academic community. Dr. Guzman's works focus on characterizing the neural networks of both benign and pathologic conditions of the brain, and how to potentially exploit that information for successful treatments. He is also keenly interested in opening the microscopic world of the brain to our learners and igniting their curiosity.

Speaking of curiosity, have you finished the poem yet? What do you feel like taking? A quiet time in nature? A moment to appreciate your loved ones? A minute to mentor someone? A deep breath and be silent? Whatever it might be, make sure it reconnects you to yourself.

-Drs. Von Samedi, Mary Berg, Lindsey Westbrook, John Fowler



University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus Residency and Fellowship Programs 2023-2024

not pictured: Melanie Bourgeau, Joseph Hibbert, Ellie Hong, Maggi Horn, Ami Jackson, Stephany Ngombu, Chike Nwabuo

As the 2023-2024 academic year comes to a close, we want to thank the residents, fellows, faculty, and staff for all of their hard work!

Congrats to our graduating PGY4's

- Alyssa Byrd
- Jessie Xiong
- Grant Collins
- Brian Nguyen
- Erik Polsdofer
- Visesh Ravikumar
- Wayne Thompson

Congrats to our graduating fellows

- My-Linh Ho
- Lynelle Smith
- Ryan Thomas
- Nabil Tabish
- Ellie Hong
- Melanie Bourgeau
- Ami Jackson
- Joseph Hibbert

Don't forget to join us for our graduation celebration on June 3rd!

Congrats to our PGY3's for 2025-2026 fellowship matches!

Askia Dunnon - Surgical pathology fellowship - Vanderbilt University

David Coates - Surgical pathology fellowship - University of Colorado

Chike Nwabuo - Molecular pathology fellowship - UCSF

Vic Rea-Wilson - Forensic pathology fellowship - Cook County Medical Examiners Office, Chicago

Allison Martin - Forensic pathology fellowship - Cook County Medical Examiners Office, Chicago



Match 2024 - Pathology Interns



James Baron

Hi everybody! My name is James Baron. I completed medical school at LMU-DCOM in Knoxville, TN, in 2023 and am originally from Virginia. I actually started my training in Anesthesiology, but quickly realized that my true passion lie under the microscope. I went from out of the OR and was elated to match into my top choice Pathology program at University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus! Outside of the hospital, you can find me exploring the great outdoors via hiking and camping, skiing, perusing breweries (or making my own craft beer), and enjoying the remaining time with my family / friends or my 5 year old cat, Fish.



Xin Zhou

I originated from China and received my MD from Xiangya School of Medicine. I am living in Denver with my husband and 4-year-old son. We lived in San Antonio (TX) and Rochester (MN) before we moved here. In my spare time I love to spend time with my family and explore the colorful Colorado. I am an animal person and plan to adopt one or two cats in the near future.



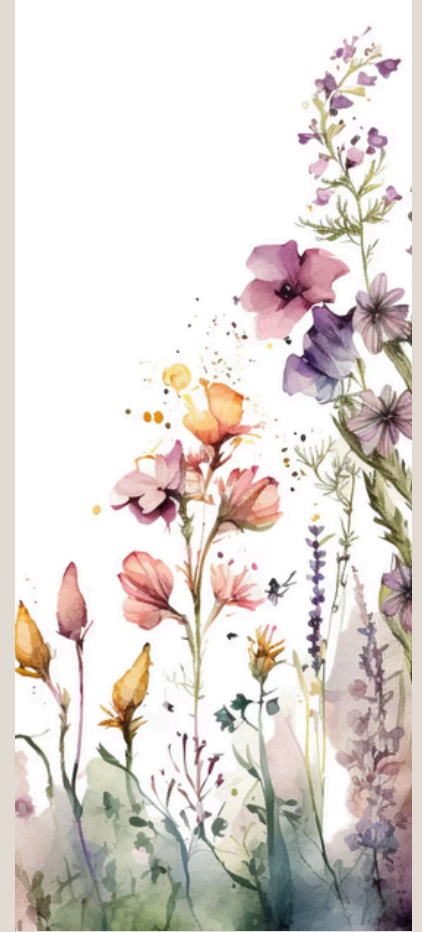
Mashal Unar

Hello everyone! My name is Mashal. I was born and raised in Massachusetts. In my free time you can find me crocheting, baking, or binge watching movies, particularly from the horror genre. I have 2 cats, Rumi and Bulbul who are the loves of my life. I cherish a supportive, welcoming and friendly environment, which was one of the many reasons the University of Colorado stood out to me. As someone who takes every opportunity to be outdoors, I am excited to see what Colorado has to offer and I look forward to being a part of this vibrant community for the next few years of my journey!



Richard Revia

I'm originally from Houston, TX, but I've lived in Montana, Washington, and Florida. I am eager to return to the Rocky Mountains so I can get back to hiking, skiing, and the beauty of a snowy winter. My wife and I are avid birders. In my spare time, I enjoy playing piano and reading. I switched from engineering to medicine because I want to be closer to the people I try to help. Pathology lets me pursue my problem-solving interests while also helping me to achieve my ultimate goal of lessening human suffering.



Meet Our 2024 Interns and Fellows!

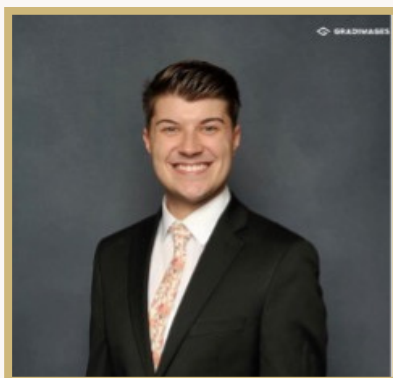
We are so excited to welcome you all to our program and community!

Match 2024 - Pathology Interns



Anastasia Lemekhova

I'm Anastasia, I am Belgian with quite a bit of travel experience. I lived in Norway, Russia, Japan, and Germany, and visited many more countries. I went to medical school in Heidelberg, Germany. After graduation, I entered the general surgery residency program at Heidelberg University Hospital and was active in hepatobiliary research, developing and managing clinical and translational research projects. A year ago, I decided to pursue the interest that initially motivated me to apply to medical school - pathology, so I moved with my family and my two cats - Rhea and Sola from Heidelberg to Colorado. I am excited to dive into the wide field of pathology this June.



Jon Austin James Brannon

I'm originally from a tiny town in West TN called McKenzie. I'm an avid reader, and also very extroverted so I love anything that involves going and having fun with friends. I have a 12 year old cat named Mia who has been with me since she was just 4 weeks old, and I can't wait to get her moved to Colorado with me. I can't wait to get moved out to Denver and experience so many aspects of the city and the state as a whole. Where I'm from, there aren't many opportunities for some "outdoorsy" activities like hiking and skiing, so I'm excited to do those things in the near future!



Zachary Corey

I was born and raised in Harveys Lake, PA...right outside of Scranton, PA where The Office is based! What I'm looking forward to at CU: the enthusiastic teachers, the ability to get experience in different practice models, research opportunities, and the friendly co-residents I met during my interview day. What I'm looking forward to in Colorado: Going camping this summer/fall and renewing my Ikon Pass for skiing in the winter! Hobbies: Running, hiking, playing board games, paddle boarding, and going to sporting events. Fun facts: I'm an identical twin, and I rowed for Penn State in undergrad.

2024 Fellows



Alyssa Byrd

Forensic Pathology.

What are you most looking forward to in coming to Colorado and/or starting your new program?

I am looking forward to doing all the outdoorsy things in Colorado. I am also excited to teach medical students and residents about forensic pathology!

Tell us about your life outside of medicine:

Hanging with my 3 cats, snowboarding, watching anime, playing video games, karaoke, and playing around with make up and special effects.



Grant Collins

Surgical Pathology.

What are you most looking forward to in coming to Colorado and/or starting your new program?

I look forward to continuing to explore Colorado and honing my pathology skills.

Tell us about your life outside of medicine:

I enjoy spending time with my wife and three young kids, running (including the beautiful trails of Colorado), cycling, hiking, and video games.



Erik Polsdofer

GI/Liver Pathology.

What are you most looking forward to in coming to Colorado and/or starting your new program?

The chance to continue working with great friends and mentors I've made during residency while furthering my education in a diverse and complex subspecialty.

Tell us about your life outside of medicine:

Anime/manga, board/tabletop games, exercising, fan conventions, karaoke, movies/streaming shows, reading, video games

2024 Fellows



Mirliam N. Saldoriga Merced

Pediatric Pathology

What are you most looking forward to in coming to Colorado and/or starting your new program?

I look forward to living in the beautiful state of Colorado and exploring and visiting many of its majestic places. I am also very excited about the opportunity to do my pediatric pathology fellowship at one of the best pediatric hospitals in the nation. Children's Hospital Colorado!

Tell us about your life outside of medicine:

My hobbies include watching documentaries and movies about important people in history. Listening to audiobooks. Collecting coffee mugs from the different cities I have visited. Tasting pastries and visiting new bakeries. We (my husband and I) are moving from Puerto Rico to Colorado.



Susie Potterveld

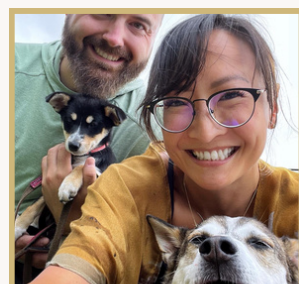
Soft Tissue Pathology

What are you most looking fwd to in coming to Colorado and/or starting your new program?

I am most looking forward to learning from exceptional academic pathologists with special expertise in soft tissue pathology and to reuniting with my home state's beautiful mountains.

Tell us about your life outside of medicine:

Outside of medicine, I love spending time with my husband, 2-year-old son, and our two adorable dogs. We love hiking, biking, baking, and finding fun new playgrounds to explore.



Ashlyn Fong

Breast/GYN Pathology

What are you most looking fwd to in coming to Colorado and/or starting your new program?

I'm looking forward to moving back to the mountains. I'm from Calgary, AB CAN and I miss skiing and snowboarding all winter and hiking the rest of the year round! (Though I can't really complain about living on the East Coast with all the beaches and sail boats you can imagine...)

Tell us about your life outside of medicine:

I have two dogs named Kaito and Kaiya that my husband (Matt) and I like to adventure with. They both love the beach in the summer and snow in the winter so they keep us on our toes. When we're not chasing dogs (or bribing them with cheese), Matt and I like to play board games, card games, and computer games. If we're watching a movie or tv show, I'm all about a classic who-dunit! I am also about to run my first half marathon this spring, and I love to bake sweet treats or fold wontons and dumplings. If you're ever looking for a batch of cookies to go along with your sign-out, I'd be happy to oblige!



Joshua Klonoski

Molecular Genetic Pathology

What are you most looking forward to in coming to Colorado and/or starting your new program?

Beyond being in a candy shop for molecular pathology, it's been 15 years since I completed a BS/MS at Colorado State University and I will enjoy seeing the mountains and my family in the area.

Tell us about your life outside of medicine:

I recently took some hip hop and salsa dance classes but have a steady diet of bicycling and hockey. My dancing daughter Charlotte is 7 and I have been married to Sonia (a CRNA) for 14 years.



Nabil Tabish

Hematopathology

What are you most looking forward to in coming to Colorado and/or starting your new program?

I am thrilled to enter my second year in Colorado. This place has catalyzed my personal growth. The state's natural beauty, from the mountains to the diverse wildlife, never ceases to amaze me. The vibrant culture and welcoming community provide endless opportunities for intellectual stimulation and connections with like-minded individuals. Continuing my training at CU for another year is about acquiring new skills and knowledge, broadening my perspectives, and experiencing significant personal growth. This next chapter promises to be even more enriching as I immerse myself in academic pursuits and form meaningful connections with the Colorado community.

Tell us about your life outside of medicine:

I enjoy exploring new halal cuisines in my free time, a passion that broadens my cultural understanding. Outdoor walks amidst nature provide a sense of peace and rejuvenation. Most importantly, cherishing quality time with my family, especially my son, brings immense joy and creates lasting memories.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

SAMUEL GUZMAN, M.D.

Assistant Professor - Head of Neuropathology Education Program - Head of Neuroautopsy

University of degree

University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine

Where did you grow up?

Downey California, which is in Los Angeles County

What are you most proud of?

My wife and two little kids

Favorite thing to do in Colorado.

Go to the park with my family to enjoy the wildlife

Best place you've ever traveled.

Paris, France was really fun. I enjoyed the museums and would like to go back and spend more time in the museums.

Something you're passionate about.

The human brain is a very interesting riddle to solve. It involves the mind and a lot of other functions, which are all controlled at the cellular level. As technologies advance, we are able to better characterize the neural networks, which can lead to identifying deviations that lead to diseases. Brain tumors (glioblastoma), neurodegeneration, and epilepsy have a biology that appear unstoppable at times but with an in depth understanding of these entities, successful treatments are possible.

Who had the greatest influence on your education and/or career path?

Dr. Naritoku (USC Pathologist) and Dr. Gilles (USC Neuropathologist) were the two pathologists that helped the most. As a medical student I was most interested in Neurology and Psychiatry but had the opportunity to rotate through the USC pathology department and became very interested in understanding the cellular level of disease.

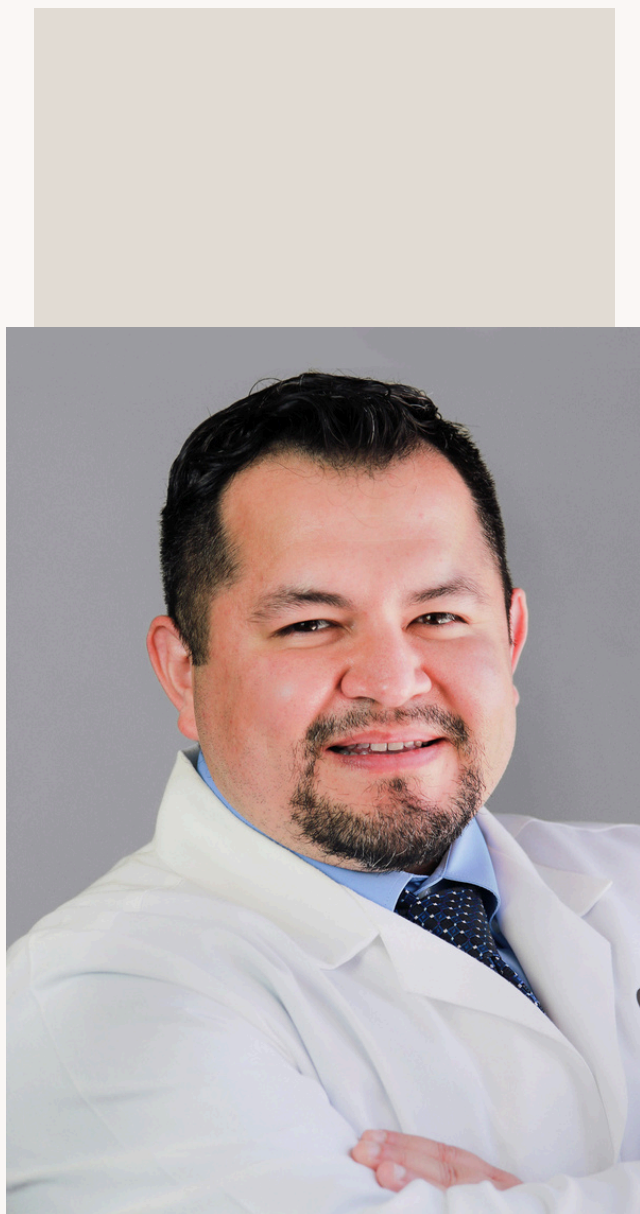
Dr. Naritoku opened the microscopic world up for me, which encouraged my questions. Dr. Gilles was the Director of Neuropathology at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, and he loved having trainees around him. He had an inquisitive mind that encouraged imagination from solid science starting points. My curiosity for the brain was further ignited there.

Most impactful part of your job.

When I diagnose cases, I use the science up until that point to characterize the disease in an accepted manner that will be beneficial to the clinical teams. When I do research on topics like Alzheimer's disease, I am hoping to build a useful answer to understand the biological framework of the disease that will lead to better treatments in the future. Diagnostics and research work together to develop a momentum that can fuel the science and are most impactful for me.

What advice would you give to your younger self or someone still pursuing their education?

They should read a lot and ask lots of questions. Once the topic is understood, then begin pulling at the threads of assumptions made "once upon a time" to see if they still stand. If there are no treatments for the disease that you are looking into then you have a starting point of where to let your imagination loose and build from. Neuro is full of these areas to look into.



↓ Read Dr. Guzman's newest article on page 7 ↓

[Acta Neuropathol.](#) 2024; 147(1): 92.

PMCID: PMC11130011

Published online 2024 May 27. doi: [10.1007/s00401-024-02743-9](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00401-024-02743-9)PMID: [38801558](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38801558/)

Neuropathological findings in Down syndrome, Alzheimer's disease and control patients with and without SARS-CoV-2: preliminary findings

[Ann-Charlotte E. Granholm](#),¹ [Elisabet Englund](#),² [Anah Gilmore](#),¹ [Elizabeth Head](#),^{3,4} [William H. Yong](#),³ [Sylvia E. Perez](#),⁵ [Samuel J. Guzman](#),⁶ [Eric D. Hamlett](#),⁷ and [Elliott J. Mufson](#)⁵

Highlights

- This is the first systematic study comparing the neuropathological effects of SARS-CoV-2 infections in postmortem brain tissue obtained from patients with DS, AD, and non-demented healthy controls compared to non-COVID counterparts.
- The current findings provide neuropathological data related to the long-term effects of the SARS-CoV-2 virus on brain inflammatory responses and AD-related pathology, which may play a role in cases with long-COVID and its neurologic symptoms.

[Read Full Text Here](#)

Other articles by Dr. Guzman

- [Urothelial carcinoma metastases impacting the CNS: A 20-year retrospective series](#)
- [Locus coeruleus integrity is related to tau burden and memory loss in autosomal-dominant Alzheimer's disease](#)



Resident Feature

PGY3 Resident
Chike Nwabuo

Accepted to the CAP/ACMG biochemical and molecular genetics committee

ARCHIVES
of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine

Recent Publication

Hong E, Nwabuo CC, King A, Bocsi GT, Ashwood ER, Harry BL. Longitudinal Qualitative and Quantitative Evaluation of SARS-CoV-2 Antibodies in Immunized Health Care Workers. Arch Pathol Lab Med. 2023 Aug 19.

[Read Full Text Here](#)

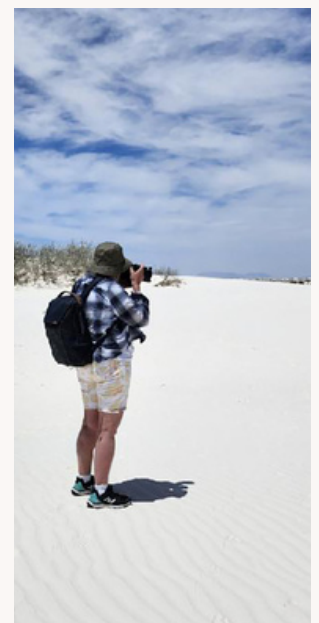
Retirement

Lisa Litzenberger is retiring from her role as an arts professional after 32 years at CU. She has made amazing contributions to our program, and we will miss her dearly!

From Lisa...

I met all my best friends and influencers here at the University and their interests became mine. Mountaineering, cycling, swimming, art, music- and all this coming from such a diverse group of people. I feel very lucky that my background in photography tied in so well with Pathology and through the years allowed me to make my living doing what I love!

Wish her well if you see her around!



Welcome

PATH BABIES



BRUCE

Dr. Lindsey Westbrook and family welcomed baby Bruce!



OM

Dr. Nakul Shankar and family welcomed baby Om!



NORAH

Dr. My-Linh Ho and family welcomed baby Norah!

MABEL

Dr. Grant Collins and family welcomed baby Mabel!



UPCOMING

events



Monday @ 6pm

Graduation

Graduation and celebration event

Anschutz campus, health sciences building

June

3

2024



Wednesday @ 8am

Welcome Breakfast

Please join us in welcoming our new interns to the program!

Anschutz campus, bldg AO1

June

19

2024



Saturday, 10:00 am

Denver Botanic Gardens

Welcome new residents, fellows, and grad students from 10am-1pm - families welcome! RSVP to francina.jeelani@cuanschutz.edu by 8/2.

August

17

2024

June marks Pride Month, a time dedicated to celebrating the diverse LGBTQIA+ community, honoring their history, and championing equity and equality. By fostering understanding and embracing the opportunity to listen and learn, we become stronger advocates for our patients, loved ones, and community.

- Here are some impactful actions you can take:
- Support LGBTQIA+ businesses
 - Advocate and donate
 - Commit to inclusive/gender neutral language
 - Amplify voices
 - Educate yourself and others
- Education**
Local businesses

DENVER PRIDE SAT, JUN 22, 2024 - SUN, JUN 23, 2024