



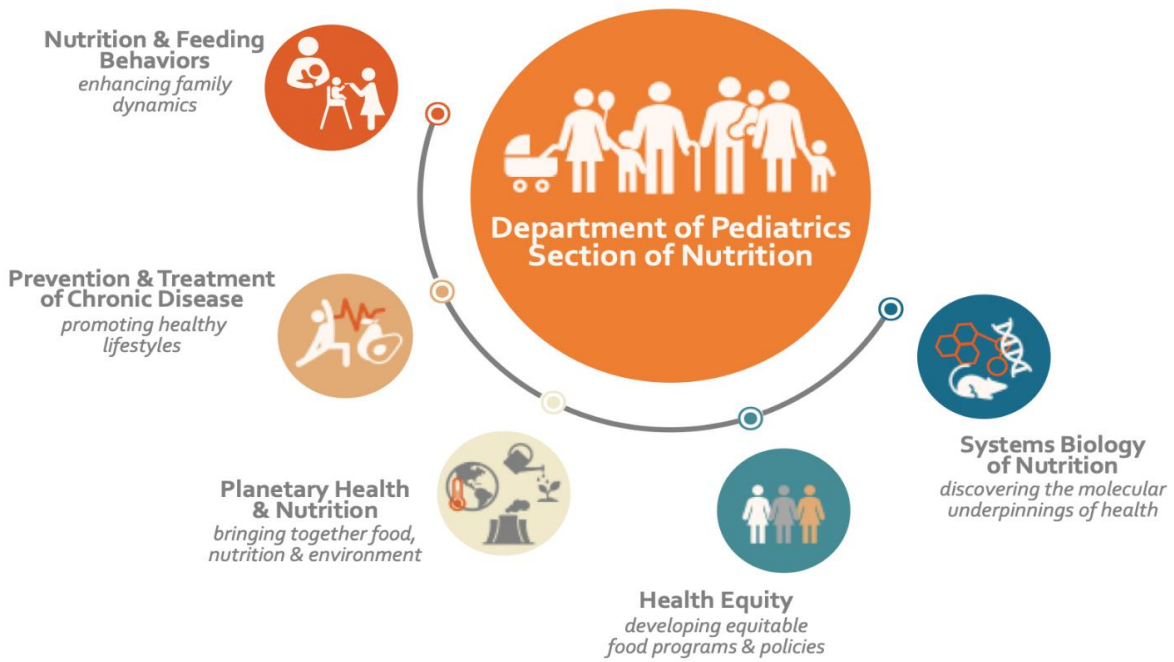
# **CU Pediatrics Section of Nutrition 2025 Research Accomplishments**

**February 2026**

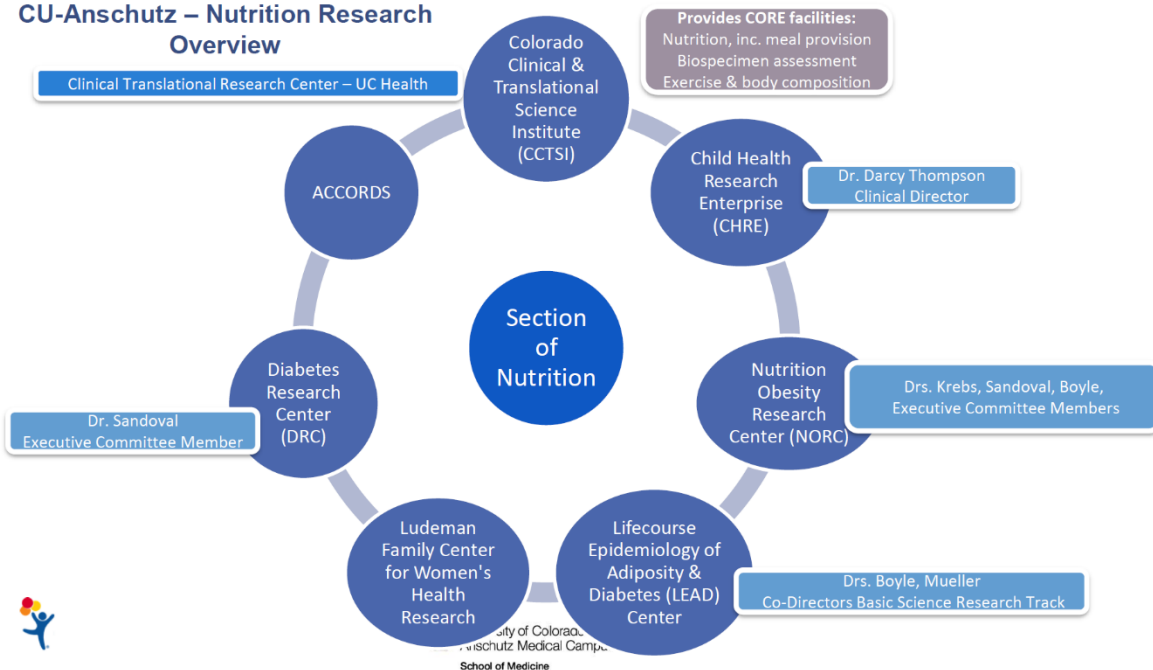
# Research Accomplishment Summary

In 2025, our faculties accomplished missions in research, education, training, and community outreach:

- 50 Active Awards
- \$21,442,207.00 Total Active Award Amount
- 89 Publications



## CU-Anschutz – Nutrition Research Overview



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## Faculty Highlight: Interview with Noel Mueller, PhD

January 23, 2026, by Kristen Boyle, PhD

### **Grant Title: Impact of Pregnancy Microbiomes on Maternal and Child Cardiovascular Health in a Racially and Ethnically Diverse Cohort**

**Dr. Boyle:** Today we're interviewing Noel Mueller, a researcher and Associate Professor in the Section of Nutrition and The Lifecourse Epidemiology of Adiposity and Diabetes (LEAD) center at the University of Colorado Anschutz. This is the first in our series of 'Five Questions'. Where we ask Section of Nutrition researchers about their new grants, publications, and ideas. Today we're interviewing Noel about his newly funded research grant from the NIH National Heart, Lung & Blood Institute.

**Dr. Boyle:** What key question does your project address, and how might the findings impact clinical care or public health?

**Dr. Mueller:** The key question our new project addresses is: how do the different microbiomes in pregnancy—namely the oral, gut, and vaginal microbiomes—relate to hypertensive disorders of pregnancy and future CVD risk for mothers and their offspring. Findings from our new project have great potential to: (a) identify early predictors of hypertensive disorders in pregnancy that can be targeted for prevention, (b) reveal novel mechanisms of these hypertensive disorders, (c) offer new disease prevention strategies and therapeutic possibilities, and (d) inform use of the microbiome-metabolome nexus for precision nutrition/medicine.

**Dr. Boyle:** What novel aspect of the study design or methods are you most excited about?

**Dr. Mueller:** I am excited about being the first prospective study to concomitantly assess how the oral, gut, and vaginal microbiomes, along with the molecules that these microbiomes produce, are related to hypertensive disorders in pregnancy. Furthermore, our study will be conducted in a historically understudied, racially- and ethnically-diverse population at high risk for cardiovascular disease. We will have the opportunity to use multi-omic integration, and state of the art methodology in microbiome and metabolome science, to identify novel targets for prevention.

**Dr. Boyle:** How will this project help you build your broader research program?

**Dr. Mueller:** This project represents an exciting extension of my lab's prior work 1) demonstrating that microbial metabolites in pregnancy, including short chain fatty acids and trimethylamine N-oxide, are associated with risk of pre-eclampsia, and 2) demonstrating that mothers share microbes with their offspring, and this mother-to-newborn sharing of microbes may influence the future health of the offspring. Knowledge to be gained from this project will help to inform future microbiome-focused interventions, including dietary interventions, in mothers and children.

**Dr. Boyle:** What has been the most surprising challenge or insight from your research career?

**Dr. Mueller:** The project is still in the early stages, but I would say the biggest surprise is the enthusiasm from mothers in the Denver area to participate in our study. We have had a very positive response to the study, with participants very excited about the idea of harnessing the microbiome to improve health.

**Dr. Boyle:** Are there resources or expertise within the section or across campus that would help you succeed?

**Dr. Mueller:** I see multiple potential opportunities for collaboration within the Section and across campus. We are collecting multiple different samples from the mothers with the hope that we will be able to learn even more about the etiology of hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, like preeclampsia, which has been on the rise and has limited preventive therapeutics. I think our project could benefit from additional collaboration on how specific foods, and dietary patterns, and other lifestyle factors might impact the different microbiomes of pregnancy, and the infant microbiome. I also think there is a tremendous opportunity to examine how other environmental factors, such as microplastics, are associated with the different microbiomes and health outcomes. Furthermore, we are collecting data on many other health outcomes in pregnancy and after pregnancy that could be examined in collaboration with other investigators on campus. These include gestational diabetes, excess weight gain in pregnancy, pre-term birth, and immune-mediated outcomes, just to name a few. If anyone is interested in collaboration, please do not hesitate to reach out to us!

# Research Accomplishments from Our Faculty in 2025

Ihuoma Eneli, MD, MS

## Awards & Honors

- APA Guideline Update Panel (GUP) for the Treatment of Obesity and Overweight in Children and Adolescents
- 2025 Section on Obesity Lifetime Obesity Lifetime Achievement Award from AAP
- Quoted in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation 2025 Childhood Obesity – the Final Report



## Publications

- [Childhood Obesity as a Pediatric Vital Sign: A Population Health Initiative](#)
- [Next Steps in Efforts to Address the Obesity Epidemic](#)
- [Black Children's Perceptions of Parental Support and Parenting Practices: 6-Month Weight Loss and Retention in a Pediatric Weight Management Program](#)
- [Learning from the roundtable on obesity solutions experiences: A 10-year anniversary point of view](#)
- [Association Between Obesity-Related Health Factors and Patient-Reported Outcomes: Linking Patient-Reported Outcomes to PEDSnet Electronic Health Record Data](#)
- [A Callout for Obesity Prevention Trials in Early Childhood](#)

## Presentations

- [Outstanding representation at the AAP NCE and DOP Research Day](#)

**Publications**



- [Role of preconception nutrition supplements in maternal anemia and intrauterine growth: a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials](#)
- [The effect of prenatal balanced energy and protein supplementation on gestational weight gain: An individual participant data meta-analysis in low- and middle-income countries](#)
- [Predictors of Anaemia Among Young Children Receiving Daily Micronutrient Powders \(MNPs\) for 24 Weeks in Bangladesh: A Secondary Analysis of the Zinc in Powders Trial](#)
- [Complementary Feeding and Infant Gut Microbiota: A Narrative Review](#)
- [Characterization of astaxanthin isomers in different types of salmon filets and human plasma after salmon consumption](#)
- [Effectiveness of intrapartum azithromycin to prevent infections in planned vaginal births in low-income and middle-income countries: a post-hoc analysis of data from a multicentre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial](#)
- [Cost-effectiveness of intrapartum azithromycin to prevent maternal infection, sepsis, or death in low-income and middle-income countries: a modelling analysis of data from a randomised, multicentre, placebo-controlled trial](#)
- [The Effect of Quintuply-Fortified Salt on the Gut Microbiome of Nonpregnant Women of Reproductive Age in Punjab, India: A Substudy of a Randomized, Community-Based Trial](#)
- [Comparison of Methods to Assess Discretionary Salt Intake among Nonpregnant Women of Reproductive Age in Punjab, India](#)
- [Hemoglobin During Pregnancy Does Not Mediate the Relationship between Nutrition Supplements and Intrauterine Growth: A Secondary Data Analysis of Women First Preconception Nutrition Trial](#)
- [Maternal Undernutrition Exacerbates Effects of Ambient Heat during Pregnancy in Mice](#)
- [Effects of quintuply-fortified salt on the micronutrient status of females of reproductive age in Punjab, India: a randomized, community-based trial](#)
- [Paving the way for improved action: how nuclear techniques can advance the assessment of malnutrition](#)
- [Rethinking balanced food supplementation for pregnant women: time to move beyond energy and protein](#)
- [Reevaluating vitamin A for measles management in high-income settings](#)
- [Neglected micronutrients-considering a broader set of vitamins and minerals in public health nutrition programs worldwide: a narrative review](#)
- [Blueberry Consumption in Early Life and Its Effects on Allergy, Immune Biomarkers, and Their Association with the Gut Microbiome](#)
- [Zika in Infants and Pregnancy \(ZIP\) study: results from a prospective international cohort study of prenatal Zika virus infection and adverse fetal and infant outcomes](#)
- [Introducing blueberry powder as one of the first complementary foods changes the gut microbiota composition and diversity in U.S. human milk-fed infants: a double-blind, randomized controlled trial](#)
- [Network-based representation learning reveals the impact of age and diet on the gut microbial and metabolomic environment of U.S. infants in a randomized controlled feeding trial](#)

## Douglas Taren, PhD

### Awards & honors

- Careers Path into Health Care (Co-PI)

### Podcasts

- [Featured on 30 Best Food Science Podcasts \(#13\)](#)

### Symposiums

- Invite Speaker: International Conference of Nutrition. "What journals can do to support open science."
- Accepted Organizer: International Conference of Nutrition. "Addressing Current Issues for Publishing Nutrition Science in Academic Journals"



### Publications

- [Undernutrition and feeding difficulties among children with disabilities in Zambia: insights for inclusive nutrition strategies](#)
- [Assessing the influence of lived-experience experts on healthcare providers in a virtual community of practice: a qualitative study](#)
- [Impact of Solar Market Gardens on the Nutritional Status of Children](#)
- [Characterization of Post-Viral Infection Behaviors among Long COVID Patients: Prospective, Observational, Longitudinal Cohort Analyses of Fitbit Data and Patient Reported Outcomes](#)
- [Undernutrition and Feeding Difficulties Among Children with Disabilities in Uganda: A Cross-Sectional Study](#)
- [Pediatric Considerations for Nutrition and Malnutrition in Disasters](#)
- [A Web-Based Cancer Prevention Intervention for Rural Emerging Adults: Mixed Methods Development and Pilot-Testing Study](#)
- Varyvoda Y, Long J, Burniske G, Taren D. (2025). Scalable Post-Framgate Innovations in Food Systems: A Scoping Review for Low- and Middle-Income Countries. In press.

## Susan Johnson, PhD

### Awards & Honors

- Helen Ulrich Denning Award for Lifetime Excellence in Nutrition Education by the Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior. The honor recognizes outstanding achievement in the field of nutrition education and behavior for leaders who have 20 or more years in the profession



### Publications

- [A multisite community-based, case-control study to examine the nutrient intake adequacy of young children with and without developmental delays and other disorders: findings from the Study to Explore Early Development \(SEED\)](#)
- [Development of a Digital Parent Intervention to Promote Healthy Eating and Activity in Preschoolers: The eHEROs Study](#)
- [Understanding parents' digital use and preferences for an mHealth intervention in low-income, rural settings](#)
- [Mobile apps designed for preschoolers produce comparable physical activity outcomes to traditional physical education activities](#)
- [Child, Caregiver, and Household Factors Associated With Children's Dietary Diversity During the Complementary Feeding Period](#)

### Presentations

- Was Invited to deliver Maternal Child Nutrition Seminar at Cornell, April 21, 2025

## Darleen Sandoval, PhD

### Awards & Honors

- Named Fellow of The Obesity Society

### Publications

- [Weight Loss Reverses Obesity-Associated Impairments in Acute Gastrointestinal Stretch-Induced Suppression of Food Intake and Glucose Homeostasis](#)
- [Cook TM, Fuller KNZ, Sandoval DA. Insights into the neurobiology of weight loss after bariatric surgery and GLP-1R agonists](#)
- [Glucagon-like peptide-1](#)
- [Sleeve gastrectomy reveals the plasticity of the human gastric epithelium](#)
- [SEL1L-HRD1 ER-Associated Degradation Facilitates Prohormone Convertase 2 Maturation and Glucagon Production in Islet a Cells](#)
- [The role of the gut-brain axis in bariatric surgery](#)



### Presentations

- October 8, 2025: Gut instincts: intestinal adaptations to bariatric surgery, International Symposium on Inter-Organ Communication in the Pathogenesis and Treatment of Diabetes and Obesity, The Joslin Diabetes Center, in collaboration with the Steno Diabetes Center in Denmark and the Banting & Best Diabetes Centre in Toronto, Canada, Harvard Medical School, Boston MA
- Gut instincts: Gut-brain axis in response to bariatric surgery. Obesity Week, Scientific Sessions for The Obesity Society. Atlanta, GA, Nov 2025
- Impact of bariatric surgery on glucose homeostasis. Colloquim-GLP-1 and the Brain: Cognitive and Sensory Implications. Monell Chemical Senses Center, Virtual, Mar 2025,
- Gut instincts: intestinal adaptations to bariatric surgery. David Wasserman Memorial Symposium. Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, June 2025

## Richard Boles, PhD

### Awards & Honors

- Faculty Care Innovation Award from CU DOP Operations Excellence & Transformation Team. The award will provide protected clinic time to improve disordered eating screening, assessment, and treatment of patients in Lifestyle Medicine
- one of the facilitators at the DOP Faculty Networking Session for midpoint reviews



### Publications

- [Psychosocial outcomes after adolescent metabolic and bariatric surgery: a narrative review of the literature](#)
- [Weight loss and health status 10 years after laparoscopic adjustable gastric band insertion in adolescents: a follow-up report from Teen-LABS](#)
- [A Callout for Obesity Prevention Trials in Early Childhood](#)
- [Real-World Use of Phentermine and Topiramate for Adolescent Obesity: Retrospective Effectiveness and Safety Analysis](#)
- [Facing your fears in schools: using the ADIS/ASA to characterize anxiety and intervention outcomes in students with autism or suspected autism](#)

## Matthew Haemer, MD, MPH

### Awards & Honors

- Co-chairs of a new Pediatric Pulmonary Center grant from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau. The grant supports an interdisciplinary training program aimed at supporting children with respiratory/sleep disorders. The five-year awards are limited to six centers nationally with a total award of \$1.7M per center



### Publications

- [Association Between Obesity-Related Health Factors and Patient-Reported Outcomes: Linking Patient-Reported Outcomes to PEDSnet Electronic Health Record Data](#)
- [Mechanisms and Intermediate Outcomes of a Community Translation to Adapt a Whole Family-Inclusive Lifestyle Intervention: A Pilot Evaluation](#)
- [Regional Implications of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Childhood Obesity Prevalence, Denver, Colorado, 2019-2022](#)

## Darcy Thompson, MD, MPH/MSP

### Publications

- [Frequency of depression and anxiety symptoms among adults with childhood- versus adult-onset disability](#)
- [Measuring attraction to screen devices in early childhood: development of the Affinity-TV and Affinity-Mobile scales](#)
- [Screen-Related Parenting Practices in Mexican American Families with Toddlers: Development of Culturally- and Contextually-Relevant Scales](#)



## Kristen Boyle, PhD

### Awards & Honors

- Ludeman Center Interdisciplinary Research Award in Pediatric Sex Differences from the University of Colorado School of Medicine



### Publications

- [Precision Prevention, Diagnostics and Treatment of Obesity: Pipedream or Reality?](#)
- [Normalization of trophoblast mTOR signaling rescues impaired function in primary human trophoblast cells isolated from pregnancies complicated by fetal growth restriction](#)
- [3D Biomechanics and Epigenomics Reveal Atypical Fibroblast Responses in Cardiometabolic Disease](#)
- [Impact of prenatal exposure to delta 9-tetrahydrocannabinol and cannabidiol on birth size and postnatal growth trajectories](#)
- [New Frontiers: Umbilical Cord Mesenchymal Stem Cells Uncover Developmental Roots and Biological Underpinnings of Obesity Susceptibility](#)
- [Maternal allostatic load in pregnancy is prospectively associated with child adiposity and metabolic function across infancy and early childhood](#)

### Presentations

- Bridging Epidemiology & Mechanism: Cross-disciplinary collaborations to understand how prenatal exposures shape child health, at the 2025 Research Exchange for the Colorado School of Public Health in Aurora, CO in October
- From Stem Cells to Muscles: Mapping the Earliest Origins of Metabolic Disease. Muscle Health Research Centre Seminar, York University, Toronto. Ont. CA
- Lipid metabolism in umbilical cord mesenchymal stem cells reveals the developmental roots of susceptibility for obesity. Fetal Physiology Satellite Meeting at the 72nd Society for Reproductive Investigation Annual Meeting, Charlotte, NC
- Mesenchymal Stem Cells and the Early Footprints of Metabolic Disease. University of Colorado Endocrine Research Conference, Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora, CO
- Stem Cells to Muscles: Uncovering the Early Roots of Metabolic Disease. East Carolina Diabetes and Obesity Institute. Greenville, NC
- How Stem Cell Metabolism Influences Child Health Outcomes, From Epigenetics to Adiposity. University of Colorado Pediatric Nutrition Seminar Series, Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora, CO.
- Embracing the Unknown. University of Colorado Integrated Physiology Graduate Program Annual Retreat, Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora, CO
- LEAD Center Basic Science Research Track: Understanding Mechanisms Underpinning Epidemiological Associations. LEAD Center 10-year Anniversary Summit. Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora, CO

## Noel Mueller, PhD

### Awards & Honors

- Impact of Pregnancy Microbiomes on Maternal and Child Cardiovascular Health in a Racially and Ethnically Diverse Cohort. NIH R01HL176997



### Publications

- [Dietary Patterns, Sodium Reduction, and Blood Pressure in Type 2 Diabetes: The DASH4D Randomized Clinical Trial](#)
- [Drinking water source and the gut microbiome of 5-year-old children: findings from Gen3G birth cohort. Am J Epidemiol](#)
- [Improving immune-related health outcomes post-cesarean birth with a gut microbiome-based program: A randomized controlled trial](#)
- [Impact of prenatal exposure to delta 9-tetrahydrocannabinol and cannabidiol on birth size and postnatal growth trajectories](#)
- [Short-Chain Fatty Acids and Preeclampsia: A Scoping Review](#)
- [Infant Gut Microbiota and Childhood Blood Pressure: Prospective Associations and the Modifying Role of Breastfeeding](#)
- [Gut microbiota and microbial metabolites are associated with body composition in 5-year-old children: A cross-sectional study in the Gen3G cohort](#)
- [Maternal vaginal and fecal microbiota in later pregnancy contribute to child fecal microbiota development in the ECHO cohort](#)
- [Can Vaginal Seeding Improve Health Outcomes of Infants Born by Cesarean Delivery](#)
- [The pioneering gut microbiome acquired via different delivery modes in neonates shapes distinct immune and metabolic environments](#)

### Presentations

- presented at the Nestle Nutrition Institute conference in Barcelona, Spain, on November 8, 2025, that was focused on early childhood nutrition and the microbiome

## Stephanie Gilley, MD, PhD

### Awards & Honors

- received a second year of funding from the Colorado Child Health Research Institute for her Research and Innovation Scholar Award (RISA).
- Interactions between the Gut Microbiome, Intestinal Development and Metabolic Health after Fetal Growth Restriction. NIH K08DK139411
- Children's Hospital Colorado Provider of the Month



### Publications

- [Breastfeeding for the Re-Hospitalized Infant](#)
- [Ensuring Competent Care Provision for Children and Adolescents with Obesity in the Primary Care Setting](#)
- [Maternal Undernutrition Exacerbates Effects of Ambient Heat During Pregnancy in Mice. Journal of Nutrition](#)

### Book Chapters

- Diab L, Gilley SP, Krebs NF. "Malnutrition" in Nelson Textbook of Pediatrics, 22e. Eds: Kliegman RM, St Geme JW III, Blum NJ, Tasker RC, Wilson KM, Schuh AM, Mack CL. Elsevier, 2025
- Barrett KJ, Gilley SP, Haemer MA, Krebs NF, Johnson SL. "Feeding Healthy Infants, Children, and Adolescents" in Nelson Textbook of Pediatrics, 22e. Eds: Kliegman RM, St Geme JW III, Blum NJ, Tasker RC, Wilson KM, Schuh AM, Mack CL. Elsevier, 2025

## Jaime Moore, MD, MPH

### Awards & Honors

- Year 3 of NIH NHLBI K23HL163480
- Faculty Care Innovation Award from CU DOP Operations Excellence & Transformation Team. The award provides salary support to improve disordered eating screening, assessment, and treatment of patients in Lifestyle Medicine
- Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute CTSC Microgrant Award
- Accepted into the APS SPR Journeys in Pediatric Research Program. The program launched February 12, 2025
- Invited Co-Chair, National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research Workshop: Identifying research gaps and priority questions regarding the treatment of pediatric obesity with anti-obesity medications



### Publications

- [Psychosocial outcomes after adolescent metabolic and bariatric surgery: a narrative review of the literature](#)
- [Assessment and medical management of weight regain after adolescent metabolic and bariatric surgery: a narrative review](#)
- [Real-World Use of Phentermine and Topiramate for Adolescent Obesity: Retrospective Effectiveness and Safety Analysis](#)

### Presentations

- [Invited Presentation for CHCO Pediatric Download Series on Pediatric Obesity Pharmacotherapy](#)
- [Invited Speaker for CHCO's Charting Pediatrics Podcast - Prescribing GLP-1 Medications in Pediatric Practice](#)
- [Outstanding representation at the AAP National Conference and Exhibition and Dpt of Pediatrics Research Day](#)
- presented on anti-obesity pharmacology in pediatric primary care at the CO American Academy of Pediatrics conference here at Children's CO on Friday, April 11, 2025

### Advocacy/Policy Products

- [SB25-048. Diabetes Prevention & Obesity Treatment Act. Role: Pediatric nutrition/obesity expert contributor, oral and written testimony](#)
- [Revision to the Colorado Medicaid Rule concerning Bariatric Surgery, Section 8.300.C. Colorado Health Care Policy and Finance. Rule Number: MSB 25-02-27-B. Role: Physician nutrition/obesity expert contributor](#)

## Silvania Da Silva Teixeira PhD

### Awards & Honors

- Selected as the next Colorado NORC Inter-NORC SPeaking ScholaR Initiative (INSPIRE) Program Scholar

### Publications

- [Weight Loss Reverses Obesity-Associated Impairments in Acute Gastrointestinal Stretch-Induced Suppression of Food Intake and Glucose Homeostasis](#)
- [Activity of Cardiomyocyte Type 3 Deiodinase After Myocardial Infarction Influences Cardiac Recovery in Females](#)



## Suzanne Paul, FNP, MSN

### Publications

- [Implementation of Clinical Decision Support to Improve Recognition and Management of Hypertension and Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatotic Liver Disease in Children with Obesity](#)
- [Double Trouble: Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Fatty Liver Disease in Fraternal Twins](#)

### Presentations

- Spoke to the pre-anesthesia team at Children's Health in Dallas, TX, about GLP1s on September 9, 2025.
- Was invited to speak at the National Nurse Practitioner Symposium this summer in Keystone
- American Association of Nurse Practitioners Podium presentation titled Balancing the Scales: Pediatric Obesity Care



## Minghua Tang, PhD

### Awards & Honors

- Fox News reported their blueberry study, and mentioned the Section of Nutrition, in a feature aired on September 30, 2025

### Presentations

- Pediatric Grand Rounds: Complementary Feeding: A Window of Opportunity to Promote Better Infant Development



## Rochelle Cason-Wilkerson, MD

### Awards & Honors

- Selected as the inaugural group of facilitators for the new Provider Communication Course at Children's Hospital Colorado.

### Presentations

- Was invited to speak in Session Four of the Colorado Public Health Association Anti-Racist and Health Equity Series on August 14, 2025.



## Stacie Schreiner, PhD

### Awards & Honors

- "We Can!" tackle youth obesity in Mesa County
- Excellent patient care in Grand Junction

### Presentations

- Was invited to speak at the National Nurse Practitioner Symposium this summer in Keystone



## Liliane Diab, MD

### Awards & Honors

- Was recognized in the Children's Hospital SEED Peer-to-Peer program by Nicole Kirk for her Generous Service with the inpatient families by providing ample time to communicate with them and educate parents for long-term success, as well as involving the patient's unit primary care team so that everyone was moving toward the same plan and goals for the patient's best care outcome



## Kimberly Gracey, PA-C

### Awards & Honors

- Received the Colorado Springs Leadership Traveling Trophy Team Award for dysphagia management clinic earlier this month
- 5-star Patient Family Service Award: Lifestyle Medicine Team Colorado Springs



## Amy Bartoshesky, MSN, FNP-BC

### Presentations

- Spoke to the pre-anesthesia team at Children's Health in Dallas, TX, about GLP1s on September 9, 2025



## Claudia Wies, FNP, MSN, RN

### Presentations

- Presented on anti-obesity pharmacology in pediatric primary care at the CO American Academy of Pediatrics conference here at Children's CO on Friday, April 11, 2025

