



Division of Infectious Diseases

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS



April 2023



### Welcoming New Faculty

We are excited to announce that it's official: two more new faculty members will be joining the division this summer, Drs. Samantha Kaplan (from University of California, San Diego) and Stephen Morris (from University of Miami). With their addition, that makes a total of 7 new faculty members we will be welcoming (photos below). They bring much talent and skill, and diverse interests and backgrounds. Many thanks to everyone who took part in making this recruitment drive such a success.



**Nipun Atri**  
Rush Medical School



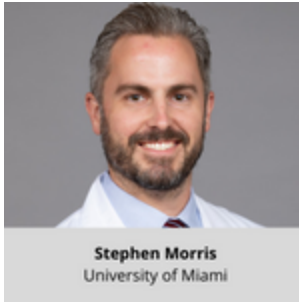
**Brian Grundy**  
University of Virginia



**Samantha (Sam) Kaplan**  
University of California, San Diego



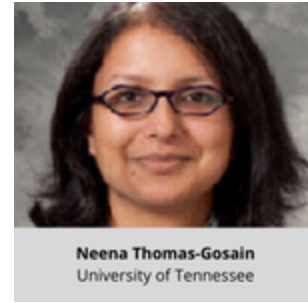
**Nina Millman**  
Vanderbilt



Stephen Morris  
University of Miami



Edward (Eddie) Stenejem  
Intermountain Health



Neena Thomas-Gosain  
University of Tennessee

## Recognizing the Dedication of Infectious Disease Physicians in DOCS Preceptorship Program

We are proud to share that the DOCS (Developing Our Clinical Skills) Preceptorship Program has recently recognized ID physicians in our division who have generously donated their time and expertise over the past two-years to mentor and coach first-year medical students in their first clinical experience:

**Laura Damioli**

**Brian Montague**

**Andrés Henao-Martinez**

**Sias Scherger**

**Sara Scherrer**

**Martin Krsak**

Furthermore, we extend congratulations to **Sara Scherrer**, **Andrés Henao-Martinez**, and **Laura Damioli** who were nominated by medical students for 2021-2022 Golden Stethoscope Awards.

Moreover, we are thrilled to announce that **Andrés Henao-Martinez** is the recipient of the 2021-2022 overall Outstanding Preceptor Award. Congratulations, Andrés!

Thank you to all the physicians involved in the DOCS program for your support and contributions to medical education. Your hard work and commitment to teaching the next generation of healthcare professionals is truly appreciated.

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## Susan Mason Educational Endowment Award in Infectious Diseases

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Joana Dimo, a first year Pediatric ID fellow, was awarded the Susan Mason Educational Endowment Award for her project focused on developing an application to improve prescribing for pediatric populations. She will use the funds towards a course in health analytics and data science

to inform her study development and interpretation. Pictured below is Joana with Rick Wedgle, the late Dr. Mason's husband who established the award, and Kristine Erlandson, Chair of the Award Selection Committee.



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## Some Recent Publications

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### **Joshua Barocas**

Joshua Barocas published a recent paper in *JAMA* titled "Population-Level Health Effects of Involuntary Displacement of People Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness Who Inject Drugs in US Cities." [Read more.](#)

The paper received extensive coverage in various outlets, with Barocas being interviewed by prominent news sources such as [United Press International \(UPI\)](#) and [Denverite](#). Per Barocas, the "research shows that these widespread practices that forcibly displace people are clearly impacting the health of this population, particularly when it comes to increasing their overdose risk, so much so that it actually decreases the life expectancy of the entire population" (UPI).



### **Lilian Vargas Barahona**

Lilian Vargas Barahona published a recent paper in *Therapeutic Advances in Infectious Disease* titled "Previous corticosteroid exposure associates with an increased *Pneumocystis jirovecii* pneumonia mortality among HIV-negative patients: a global research network with a follow-up multicenter case-control study." The study characterizes prior steroids as a risk factor for HIV-negative PJP pneumonia-related mortality. [Read more.](#)



### **Margaret Fitzpatrick**

Margaret Fitzpatrick published a recent paper in the *American Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation* titled "A retrospective cohort study of patient-reported urinary tract infection signs and symptoms among individuals with neurogenic bladder." The article was selected as a Continuing Medical Education Article in the journal. [Read more.](#)

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## **Other Division News**

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### **Tyler Degener**

Congratulations to Tyler Degener who was accepted to present an abstract at the *Adherence 2023* conference in June. The abstract is titled "Trends and Reasons for HIV-Viremia in a Safety-Net HIV Clinic Over 11-Years." The study looked at 11 years' worth of data at the Denver Health ID clinic to determine reasons for non-adherence to ART and non-suppressed HIV-1 viremia. Over 2,000 patient encounters were chart-checked. Overall, total viral suppression in the clinic improved over time to >90% virologically suppressed today. They trended reasons for viremia over the entire study period and found that the proportion of certain reasons for viremia significantly changed over time. Not meeting treatment guidelines, virologic failure, and patient declining treatment decreased over time. Substance use and financial/insurance issues increased over the course of the study period.

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## **Call for Submissions**

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We want to hear your news! Please email submissions for our next newsletter to [eleanor.shields@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:eleanor.shields@cuanschutz.edu).

Visit the [ID Division Website](#)

