

ID DIGEST



A QUARTERLY DIVISION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NEWSLETTER

April 2026



A Message from Wendy Armstrong, MD
Infectious Diseases Division Head

As I complete my first year as Division Head and as the end of the academic year looms, I look back to the past year with awe at what our faculty have accomplished. I'm so proud of who we are, what we do, and how we serve our patients and community. Keep an eye out for the Department of Medicine Annual Report where several of our faculty and accomplishments will be highlighted.

We continue to grow our faculty. In April we welcomed a new faculty member, Dr. Laura Platt, who completed her fellowship and was on faculty at MGH, has focused on inpatient general ID and outpatient HIV care and public health, and most recently completed the Epidemic Intelligence Service at the Fort Collins CDC. This week Dr. Sum Foong will join the faculty based at Denver Health as Medical Director of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program and will work clinically in Orthopedic ID and General ID. Sum completed his fellowship at Washington University and comes to us from Tufts Medical Center.

Take time in the newsletter to note the many awards that have been won by members of our Division and the many scholarly accomplishments. This past week I tallied 227 publications from ID across all our sites with 63% of all faculty having published at least one paper. This is remarkable, especially for a division as clinically busy as we are.

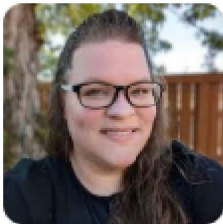
In sum, we continue to reach new heights while remaining true to our core values. This is a special Division, and I feel lucky to be part of it.

Awards



Dr. Shanta Zimmer, Joseph Addison Sewall Award

Dr. Shanta Zimmer received the Joseph Addison Sewall Award in recognition of her exceptional leadership and visionary contributions to CU Anschutz.



Dr. Meghan Jeffres, Chancellor's Teaching Recognition Award

Dr. Meghan Jeffres received the Chancellor's Teaching Recognition Award, an honor selected by graduating students from the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.



Dr. Thomas Campbell, Distinguished Clinician Award

Dr. Thomas Campbell was honored with the Distinguished Clinician Award from the CU Anschutz School of Medicine for his exceptional clinical expertise and dedication to patient care.



Dr. Chia-Yu Chiu, Young Investigator Award

Dr. Chia-Yu Chiu was honored with the 2026 Young Investigator Award for the American Transplant Congress which recognizes his outstanding early-career contributions to transplant research.



Dr. Mary Ann DeGroot, Teaching Excellence Award

Dr. Mary Ann DeGroot received a Winter 2026 Recognition of Teaching Excellence Award from the CU Anschutz School of Medicine at CSU for going above and beyond to support learning.



Dr. Alyssa Castillo, Rising Star Award

Dr. Alyssa Castillo received the Department of Medicine Rising Star Award for her exceptional early-career achievements and her commitment to excellence in patient care, research, education, and community service.



Darian Crosby, Staff Mentorship Award

Darian Crosby received the Department of Medicine Award for Staff Mentorship for his exceptional commitment to developing staff.



Alyssa Haberle, Staff Excellence Award

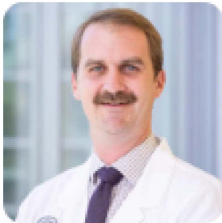
Alyssa Haberle received the Department of Medicine Award for Staff Excellence, honoring her outstanding service in her role.



Dr. Artemis Gogos & Dr. Paul Mitchell, Susan Mason Award

Dr. Artemis Gogos and Paul Mitchell, pediatric ID fellows, were honored with the Spring 2026 Susan Mason Award. Pictured are Artemis and Paul with Rick Wedgle, the late Dr. Mason's husband who established the award.

Division Happenings



Dr. Brian Grundy, Director of ID Inpatient Services

Dr. Brian Grundy has been named Director of Inpatient Services for Infectious Diseases at the University of Colorado Hospital.



Whitney Miller, Appointments & Recognitions

Whitney Miller, NP, has been appointed Lead APP for the Department of Medicine, Co-Chair of the APP Council, and was nominated for the APP Clinical Excellence Award (Department of Medicine) and APP of the Year (Denver Health).

Grant Funding:

- **Dr. Steph Dillon**, who scored in the 3rd percentile on her R03 grant, has now received the official Notice of Award. Her project, supported by division co-investigators Dr. Kristine Erlandson, Dr. Cara Wilson, Dr. Dan Frank, and Melissa Wilson, will examine how gut microbiome features influence physical function in older adults with and without HIV.
 - **Dr. Joshua Barocas:**
 - Received a Notice of Award (Barocas contact PI) for a R25 entitled "Education for Addressing Challenges of Homelessness (REACH) Program." This is the nation's first NIH-funded research education program for homelessness—focusing on the intersection of homelessness, SUD, and HIV. They will begin recruiting our first cohort of scholars in Fall 2026.
 - Received a Notice of Award for a NIDA-funded R01 (Barocas Co-I) entitled "Project STRIVES: Comprehensive Tele-Harm Reduction for Integrated HIV and substance use disorder treatment amount unhoused people who use drugs" with University of Miami as the MPI team.
 - Received CDC funding (Barocas Co-I) as part of the Injury and Violence Prevention Center (PI: Brooks-Russell) to examine the effect of workforce development and job training programs on long-term health among people who inject drugs.
 - **The Erlandson Research Group's** CDC grant on HIV/aging was defunded and then refunded.
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Invited Lectures & Traveling Physicians:

- **Dr. Grace Kulik** from the Erlandson Research Group had an oral presentation at the *Intrinsic Capacity, Frailty, and Sarcopenia Research Conference for Healthy Longevity*.
- **Dr. Julia Chernis** from the Erlandson Research Group received the FIT Scholarship for the *American College of Rheumatology Research Workshop*.
- **Dr. Shelley Kon** gave a talk at CDC about Project Firstline at RMR VA.
- **Dr. Edward Janoff** spent 5 days in Uganda teaching aspiring young doctors about mentorship, research, manuscript, and grant writing.
- **Dr. Alyssa Castillo** gave a presentation at the *March Mile High APIC* meeting titled "Influencing without Authority"
- **Dr. Alyssa Castillo** gave two presentations at *SHEA*:
 - "Fighting Fair: How to Disagree Better"
 - "From Review to Relationship: Implementation of Handshake Stewardship"
- **Dr. Sarah Totten** and **Dr. Karrine Brade** presented "Challenging Cases: CRE in the NICU" at *SHEA*.

- **Dr. Guillermo Rodriguez Nava** presented a poster titled "Implementation of PCR for group A Streptococcus increased case detection and treatment metrics: counterfactual analysis, Colorado, 2017–2025" at *ESCMID* and served as the United States *ESCMID* Local Champion.
 - **Dr. Alyssa Castillo** was invited to serve as the Incoming Chair for *IDWeek's* Best Practices in Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs Workshop.
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Other Updates:

- Kudos to the UCH Antimicrobial Stewardship Team led by **Drs. Alyssa Castillo** and **Karrine Brade**, who officially launched in-person handshake stewardship rounds with hospitalist teams on March 17. It has been a smashing success!
 - Several faculty were named 2026 Fellows of IDSA (FIDSA): **Drs. Joshua Barocas, Jared Eddy, Katherine Frasca, Timothy Jenkins, Nancy Madinger, Dan Pastula, and Sarah Rowan.**
 - **Drs. Kellie Hawkins** and **Brian Grundy** were selected for the IDSA Rising Leaders Program.
 - **Dr. Brian Grundy** was chosen for the IHQSE Foundations for Healthcare Leadership training program.
 - **Drs. Hayato Mitaka, Karrine Brade, and Alyssa Castillo** were selected for the Certificate Training Program in Health Quality Transformation (CTP).
 - **Dr. Nipun Atri** was selected for the Leaders in Informatics, Quality, and Systems Fellowship Program (LInQS).
 - **Dr. Chia-Yu Chiu** was selected for the American Journal of Transplantation (AJT) Editorial Fellowship.
 - **Drs. Kirk Fetters, Jennifer Chou, and Hillary Dunlevy** participated in the HIV and Harm Reduction Advocacy Day at the Colorado State Capitol alongside almost 100 community members living with HIV, harm reductionists, and other advocates.
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Some Recent Publications



Congratulations to our fellows, **Dr. Rebecca Unterborn** and **Dr. Laura Victoria Poveda**, for their first author publications:

Unterborn R, Creel LM, Erlandson KM, Abidi MZ. Frailty Status Predicts Urinary Tract Infection Risk Following Kidney Transplant. *Transpl Infect Dis.* 2026 Mar

15:e70204. doi: 10.1111/tid.70204. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41834160. [Read more.](#)

Victoria Poveda L, Chastain DB, Maloney J, **Henao-Martínez AF**. Questioned role of adjunctive corticosteroids in non-HIV Pneumocystis jirovecii pneumonia: to give or not to give. Thorax. 2026 May 14;81(6):509-510. doi: 10.1136/thorax-2025-224646. PMID: 41720631. [Read more.](#)



Additional publications by division faculty:

Agudelo Higueta NI, **Henao-Martínez AF**, Vieira Batista M, Herrera Bernal CP, Rezende Filho J, Rassi A Jr. State-of-the-Art Review: Chagas Disease-an Enduring Challenge. Clin Infect Dis. 2026 Feb 25;82(2):187-205. doi: 10.1093/cid/ciaf654. PMID: 41740587. [Read more.](#)

Barbosa C, Chen Q, Sahinkoc M, Zarkin GA, Dowd W, Villani J, **Barocas JA**, Cerdá M, Chatterjee A, Fareed N, Hyder A, Keyes KM, Laroche MR, Linas BP, Roberts SM, Schackman BR, Seiber E, Wakeman SE, Knudsen AB, Chhatwal J. Impact of enhanced practices on opioid overdose deaths: A community-based modeling approach. Addiction. 2026 Mar 5. doi: 10.1111/add.70367. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41786317. [Read more.](#)

Barocas JA. From Efficacy to Access in Long-Acting HIV Therapy. N Engl J Med. 2026 Feb 26;394(9):920-922. doi: 10.1056/NEJMe2518334. Epub 2026 Feb 18. PMID: 41707169. [Read more.](#)

Cabello Ubeda A, **Erlandson KM**, Freeman ML, Letendre SL, Wanjalla CN, Koethe JR, Corley MJ, Hunt PW, Gianella S. Cytomegalovirus in HIV: A Modifiable Driver of Inflammation, Frailty, and Aging. Curr HIV/AIDS Rep. 2026 Mar 20;23(1):8. doi: 10.1007/s11904-026-00775-2. PMID: 41860720; PMCID: PMC13004749. [Read more.](#)

Castillo AY, Jenkins TC, Axelrath S, **Barocas JA**. Street Stewardship: The next frontier to address antibiotic resistance and health inequities. Clin Infect Dis. 2026 Mar 21:ciag177. doi: 10.1093/cid/ciag177. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41861843. [Read more.](#)

Chastain DB, Anderson DT, Eudy J, **Henao-Martínez AF**, Cluck DB. Precision dosing of systemic antifungals in adults: therapeutic drug monitoring, empiric dose optimization and barriers to implementation. *J Antimicrob Chemother.* 2026 Feb 2;81(3):dkag055. doi: 10.1093/jac/dkag055. PMID: 41700714. [Read more.](#)

Chauhan L, Ghosh D, Ances B, Tassiopoulos K, Wu K, Weinberg A, **Erlandson KM**. CMV Immune Responses and Cognitive Impairment in People with HIV. *J Infect Dis.* 2026 Apr 28:jiag239. doi: 10.1093/infdis/jiag239. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42049391. [Read more.](#)

Chiu C-Y, Hicklen RS, Ostrosky-Zeichner L, Sheth SA, Tan C, Weinberg JS, Chiller T, Walsh TJ, Kontoyiannis DP. An unintended consequence: a review of iatrogenic central nervous system mold infections and outbreaks. *Clin Microbiol Rev.* 2026 Mar 12;39(1):e0028225. doi: 10.1128/cmr.00282-25. Epub 2026 Feb 10. PMID: 41665346; PMCID: PMC12981134. [Read more.](#)

Chiu CY, **Mudroch S**, **Kaplan S**, **Dunlevy H**, **Frasca K**. PrEP Use in Solid Organ Transplant Recipients: A Single-Center Experience. *Clin Transplant.* 2026 Mar;40(3):e70515. doi: 10.1111/ctr.70515. PMID: 41860161. [Read more.](#)

Chiu CY, Hicklen RS, Kontoyiannis DP. Fungal central nervous system infection caused by non-Candida yeasts and dimorphic fungi following neurosurgical procedures: iatrogenic or not? *Med Mycol.* 2026 May 1;64(5):myag034. doi: 10.1093/mmy/myag034. PMID: 41983572. [Read more.](#)

Freeman ML, Fitzgerald W, Clagett BM, O'Hare KA, Jonnalagadda V, Wilson BM, Margolis L, Wu K, Tassiopoulos K, Shive CL, **Erlandson KM**. Frailty in People with HIV is Linked to Inflammation, Bone Health, and T cell Exhaustion. *J Infect Dis.* 2026 Feb 6:jiag046. doi: 10.1093/infdis/jiag046. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41643740; PMCID: PMC13154846. [Read more.](#)

Judson SD, Stephan N, Machuca S, **Henao-Martínez AF**, Parra-Henao G, Vivas R, Alarcón-Robayo JF, Vera Soto MJ, Vargas H. Yellow fever re-emergence in Tolima, Colombia 2024-25: an eco-epidemiological study. *medRxiv [Preprint].* 2026 Jan 19:2026.01.16.26344301. doi: 10.64898/2026.01.16.26344301. PMID: 41646772; PMCID: PMC12870657. [Read more.](#)

Koethe JR, Lake JE, Kantor A, Smeaton L, **Erlandson K**, Moran L, Belaunzaran-Zamudio P, Landay A, Campo RE, Debroy P, Bennet JA, O'Halloran J, Han WM, Alli O, Leonard M, Gulick RM. A 48-week, Randomized Controlled Trial of Doravirine for

Individuals with HIV and Obesity on Integrase Inhibitors and Tenofovir Alafenamide: The Do IT Study (ACTG A5391). *Clin Infect Dis*. 2026 Mar 18:ciag196. doi: 10.1093/cid/ciag196. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41847923. [Read more.](#)

Long J, **Henao-Martínez AF**, Rau N, Vorkas CK, Marcos LA. Babesiosis-Related Sepsis: Clinical Characteristics and Outcomes from a Multicenter Retrospective Global Research Network Analysis. *Am J Trop Med Hyg*. 2026 Feb 10;114(4):711-715. doi: 10.4269/ajtmh.25-0507. PMID: 41666444; PMCID: PMC13045623. [Read more.](#)

Mayer T, Krienke ME, Chastain DB, Budke CM, Agudelo Higuera NI, VandeWoude S, **Henao-Martínez AF**. A Multicenter Retrospective Study of Cystic and Alveolar Echinococcosis Patients in the United States (1997-2024). *Am J Trop Med Hyg*. 2026 Feb 3;114(4):662-671. doi: 10.4269/ajtmh.25-0453. PMID: 41662746; PMCID: PMC13045541. [Read more.](#)

Mickens KL, Dillon SM, Guo K, Wilson CC, Santiago ML. Cytotoxic CD4 T Cells: Dual Agents in HIV-1 Pathogenesis and Persistence. *Curr HIV/AIDS Rep*. 2026 Feb 16;23(1):5. doi: 10.1007/s11904-026-00773-4. PMID: 41697467; PMCID: PMC12909476. [Read more.](#)

Miller MA, **Nicholson LK**, Barber GR, Knepper BC, Mastromauro C, **Janoff EN**. Adult adherence to multi-dose vaccine schedules: A population-based assessment of guideline concordance. *Public Health Pract (Oxf)*. 2026 Mar 5;11:100763. doi: 10.1016/j.puhip.2026.100763. PMID: 41952879; PMCID: PMC13053807. [Read more.](#)

Mitaka H, Barron MA. Peritoneal Coccidioidomycosis. *N Engl J Med*. 2026 Feb 19;394(8):793. doi: 10.1056/NEJMicm2514629. PMID: 41707141. [Read more.](#)

Mohareb AM, Hunnewell J, Draugelis S, Yendewa GA, Bishop S, Goswami R, Schmitzberger F, **Henao-Martínez AF**, Olivo-Freites C, Padovese V, Medeiros M, Jiménez-Juárez RN, Franco-Paredes C. Dermatologic Infections After Migration Through Latin America. *JAMA Dermatol*. 2026 Apr 1;162(4):416-418. doi: 10.1001/jamadermatol.2025.6161. PMID: 41739457; PMCID: PMC12936960. [Read more.](#)

Padmanabhan P, Tin Y, Nall SK, Al-Tayyib A, Yoder T, Yamkovoy K, Fotso K, Christine PJ, Jurecka C, Raville L, Kline DM, **Barocas JA**. Health, Costs, and Injection-Related Infections at a Hypothetical Overdose Prevention Center. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2026 Jan 2;9(1):e2555965. doi: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2025.55965. PMID:

41604150; PMID: PMC12853211. [Read more.](#)

Popovic K, **Henao-Martínez AF**, Ngo LQ, Botero AH, Agudelo Higueta NI. Chagas Disease: An Opportunistic Infection in AIDS. *Curr Infect Dis Rep.* 2026;28:1. doi: 10.1007/s11908-025-00872-0. Epub 2026 Jan 10. PMID: 41768095; PMID: PMC12948294. [Read more.](#)

Schapiro S, Pulciano N, Galindo-Ramirez J, Rau N, Tuells J, Agudelo Higueta NI, Thompson GR 3rd, Chastain DB, **Henao-Martínez AF**. Epidemiology and Outcomes of Sporotrichosis: A Descriptive Real-World Analysis From a Global Cohort. *Mycoses.* 2026 Feb;69(2):e70152. doi: 10.1111/myc.70152. PMID: 41732997; PMID: PMC12930329. [Read more.](#)

Scott SE, Barocas JA. Cutting Federal Funds for HIV Testing Means Not Ending the HIV Epidemic. *Clin Infect Dis.* 2026 Apr 30;82(4):e755-e756. doi: 10.1093/cid/ciag039. PMID: 41639990. [Read more.](#)

News Features

CU Anschutz Today

Health Authorities Work to Contain Cruise Ship Hantavirus Outbreak
Daniel Pastula, MD, MHS, explains what you need to know about the virus and how the current cruise ship outbreak is playing out

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The School of Medicine

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"**Dr. [Thomas] Campbell** is the clinician to whom colleagues turn, the physician whom patients trust for decades, and the leader who strengthens systems without ever losing sight of the individual in front of him."

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The Department of Medicine

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'Inspiration to Us All': 14 Clinicians Inducted into CU Anschutz

Department of Medicine's Clinical Excellence Society

CU Anschutz infectious diseases physicians **Dr. Kellie Hawkins** and **Dr. Lindsay**

Nicholson were among the inductees.

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