



Division of Infectious Diseases

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS



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**April & May 2024**

### **A Message from Eddie Stenehjelm, MD – Interim ID Division Head**

I hope this newsletter finds you all well. It has been a busy couple months for the ID Division and we have much to share and celebrate.

Our lead story is that of appreciation and recognition with Dr. Nancy Madinger being honored with the Distinguished Physician Award for Excellence in Patient Care and Clinical Education. This School of Medicine award recognizes her incredible contributions to patient care and education. Congratulations, Nancy!

I'd also like to recognize our graduating fellows: Chad McCormick, Vanesa Garcia Rivera, and Nnamdi Nwafo. We've so appreciated their enthusiasm, intellectual curiosity, and commitment to Infectious Diseases over these past two years. We couldn't be prouder of them and will watch their careers flourish over the coming years.

The DOM has stepped up their communication efforts this spring. Check out the new DOM Newsroom Features below. These articles are featured on the ID Division website, the DOM website, and on our social media platforms. It has been a great way to share our stories with a larger audience. If you have stories that you'd like to share via this format, please let me know. In the meantime, check out the stories on Jose's landmark clinical trial, Lorna and

Larissa improving patient care through safe OPAT discharges, Andrés' teaching in Peru, and Alyssa's experience with the new Launch mentorship program.

Lastly, the ID Division Head search is moving along very well. We couldn't be more thrilled with the caliber of applicants we received for the position. Onsite interviews and town halls are scheduled to be in late June.

Please, enjoy reading about the incredible contributions and accomplishments our faculty have made over the past two months.

Sincerely,  
Eddie

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## Featured News

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### **Nancy Madinger Receives Distinguished Physician Award for Excellence in Patient Care and Clinical Education**



Nancy Madinger has been awarded the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual University of Colorado School of Medicine Distinguished Physician Award, a prestigious honor recognizing her outstanding contributions to patient care and clinical education. The award celebrates physicians who demonstrate clinical expertise, compassionate care, sustained exceptional service, and a high standard of professionalism.

Nancy has dedicated 32 years to providing exemplary patient care as an Attending Physician on the Infectious Disease Consult Service at UCH and DVAMC and the Infectious Disease Group Practice Outpatient Clinic at UCH. Renowned for her expertise in HIV and transplant-related infectious diseases, Nancy has made significant strides in improving global health through initiatives like the Mentored Clinical Scholars Program at the University of Zimbabwe. As Director of the UCH Clinical Microbiology Laboratory since 2001, she has ensured the delivery of high-quality microbiology services integrated with clinical care. Her prior leadership roles, including Interim ID Division Head (2005-2006), Associate Division Head (2009-2014), and Program Director of the Adult Infectious Diseases Fellowship at UCD (1993-2012) have been pivotal in the division's success. Nancy has a national reputation as an expert clinician in infectious diseases, which is further highlighted by the naming of a recently discovered bacterium, *Cupriavidus madingerae*, in her honor. She has been listed in "Best Doctors in America" for 15 consecutive years and has received

numerous accolades for her contributions to education, including the "Outstanding Educator Award" in the ID Division four times, and the "Savin Award for Excellence in Teaching" from the Department of Pathology.

Nancy's unwavering commitment to improving patient care and advancing medical education continues to inspire and impact the healthcare community profoundly. Congratulations, Nancy.

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## Kristine Erlandson Leads Study Highlighting Semaglutide's Potential in Treating Fatty Liver Disease in HIV Patients



Living with HIV comes with an increased risk of fatty liver disease, which can lead to severe health complications. Kristine Erlandson discovered that semaglutide, a medication initially used for diabetes and obesity, shows promise in treating this condition in HIV patients. Her impressive [research](#), published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, highlights significant reductions in liver fat and improvements in metabolic markers among study participants. This finding could be a game-changer for HIV patients, who face a higher prevalence of fatty liver disease compared to the general population. Kristine hopes that insurance companies will recognize fatty liver as a qualifying condition for semaglutide, making this treatment more accessible. Read the [DOM Newsroom article](#).

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## ID Fellows Complete Research Presentations and Graduate

Congratulations to our second-year Adult Infectious Diseases fellows, Chad McCormick, Chief Fellow Vanesa Garcia Rivera, and Nnamdi Nwafo, on successfully completing their research presentations and graduating. We are thrilled for each of you and look forward to your promising careers ahead!



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## April & May Patient Experience Quotes

"**Hillary Dunlevy** was fantastic. She spent time with us and listened carefully to get all the details. She did a stellar treatment plan. We're so grateful the office made it a priority to get our daughter in because of her sickness while traveling."

"My experience with **Michael Haden** and staff has been nothing but positive! On time, kind, courteous, and helpful! He listens carefully about my concerns and questions. He seems very knowledgeable and honest. I really felt I could trust him and he cared about me as a person! I believe he cares and would be there if I continue to need help! Thanks so much!"

"**Steven Johnson's** care and expertise is why I'm still here! Thank you! The entire patient experience is almost always seamless and easy. People are professional and warm. They seem to enjoy what they do and that reflects on the way the patients feel."

"Just LOVE **Kristine Erlandson**. She is kind, caring, compassionate and always listens to my needs."

"**Neena Thomas-Gosain** was extremely well prepared and reassuring to me and my wife. Her preparation was obvious. We can't say enough in appreciation of the consultant. Thank you."

"**Alyssa Castillo** is one of the best doctors I have ever seen. She is smart, attentive, empathetic, and knowledgeable. She is thorough and took her time to listen to me. She answered all my questions to my satisfaction. Wishing all of my doctors were like her. Everyone was great, including **Evelyn [Cruz-Fernandez]** who checked me in. She was professional, patient and helped me navigate some paperwork with ease. **Angel [Carreon]** (MA) who walked me to my exam room, is a kind, gentle and knowledgeable human. He took

my vitals and asked some preliminary questions before the doctor came in to see me. He made me feel at ease regarding my appointment. BIG THANKS to both Evelyn and Angel!!"

"**Craig Nielsen**, in my biased opinion, is the BEST! He is thorough, patient, and listens to your concerns and questions."

"**Andrés Henao-Martinez** was very professional, answering all of my questions and even raised a few questions that I hadn't thought of. Very thorough and I'm happy that I had the opportunity to speak with him before my travels to Indonesia."

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## Division Happenings and Recognitions

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### Connie Price, Top Women Leaders We Admire in 2024

Connie Price was selected as one of the Top Women Leaders We Admire in 2024. Women We Admire is a membership organization comprised of the most accomplished women executives and leaders across the U.S. and Canada and is one of the fastest growing professional women's networks.



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### Mario Santiago, CU ASPIRE Award

Mario Santiago led a team with ID division members to receive a 2024 Program to Advance Physician Scientists and Translational Research (CU ASPIRE) award. The team included Cara Wilson, MD, Peter Anderson, PharmD, Kristine Erlandson, MD, Katerina Kechris, PhD, Stephanie Dillon, PhD, and Kejun Guo, PhD. Their research focused on HIV-1 persistence in the gastrointestinal tract. [Read more.](#)



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### Lindsay Nicholson, S.T.A.R Outstanding Faculty Award

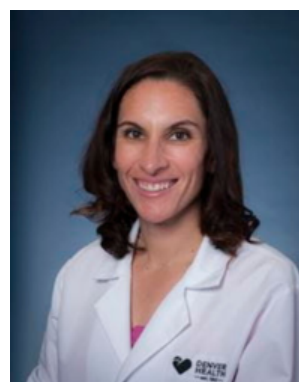
Lindsay Nicholson was selected by the MD Class of 2027 to receive the S.T.A.R Outstanding Faculty Award (Students Thanking And Recognizing Outstanding Faculty) based on the GI Course 2023. The recognition process is fully student initiated, driven, and conducted. Each student in the class was given the opportunity to nominate faculty members from the course who made a tremendous impact on them.



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### **Whitney Miller, Colorado Nursing Nightingale Award Finalist**

Whitney Miller was selected as a finalist for the Colorado Nursing Nightingale Award. Whitney is one of 3 finalists among 19 Denver Health nurses nominated for the award. Since 1985, the Nightingale Awards have recognized the outstanding work of Colorado nurses.



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### **Eleanor Shields, Department of Medicine Staff Elevation Award**

Eleanor Shields was awarded the Department of Medicine's Staff Elevation Award for April.

The Committee wrote: *"Eleanor has been instrumental in the success of the Launch Teams Pilot for the Infectious Diseases Division. She has clearly gone above and beyond expectations of her role all while being a leader in her profession."*



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### **Mamuka Kvaratskhelia Receives Perfect Score on NIH Grant Submission**

A new R01 grant application "Role of HIV-1 integrase in virion morphogenesis and its targeting by allosteric integrase inhibitors" has received a perfect score of percentile 1. The



collaborative team led by Mamuka Kvaratskhelia, PhD, Contact PI, Division of Infectious Diseases, UC-AMC also includes MPIs James Fuchs, PhD, The Ohio State University; Dmitry Lyumkis, PhD, Salk Research Institute for Biological Studies; and Sebla Kutluay, PhD, Washington University at St. Louis. The research aims to build on recent discoveries by the Kvaratskhelia lab, which uncovered a previously unknown essential function of the viral integrase protein to bind and package viral RNA genome inside mature HIV-1 cores during virion morphogenesis. The reviewers noted that these discoveries “changed the textbook description of the HIV replication cycle.” In addition, the proposed research will investigate a novel class of investigational antiretroviral agents termed allosteric integrase inhibitors (ALLINIS), which target the HIV-1 integrase role in virion morphogenesis. ALLINIs potentially inhibit wild type and all drug-resistant HIV-1 phenotypes that have emerged so far. Accordingly, ALLINIs, which are currently in Phase 2 clinical trials, expected to provide much needed new therapeutic options for treatment-experienced people infected with multidrug-resistant HIV-1 phenotypes.

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### **Kellie Hawkins, Denver Health Pilot Grant**

Kellie Hawkins was awarded a Denver Health pilot grant to study long-acting injectable HIV medications for people with complex social needs and barriers to care.

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### **Kevin Messacar Appointed Associate Director of CCTSI Resources and Services**

Kevin Messacar, a Pediatric ID faculty member has been named the new [Associate Director of CCTSI Resources and Services](#). In this role, he will work closely with Wendy Kohrt, director of resources and services, to oversee and integrate many crucial CCTSI resources, including Research Studios, Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Research Design (BERD), the Clinical Translational Research Center (CTRC) Network, Dissemination and Implementation Core, and CCTSI Marketing and Communications.

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### **Evelyn Iriarte Parra, STAHR Program**

Evelyn Iriarte Parra, a Post-Doc in the College of Nursing, was selected as a scholar for the Sustained Training in HIV and Aging Research (STAHR) program at University of California San Diego. Kristine Erlandson will serve as her home mentor for the 3 year program.

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## **Shanta Zimmer, Black Men in White Coats Youth Summit**

Shanta Zimmer was quoted in an [article by Colorado Public Radio](#) about the Black Men in White Coats Youth Summit, which took place on campus on May 4. The summit aims to provide role models in medical professions for children who might not otherwise see themselves represented. She explained that one reason Black students often lack interest in the medical field is the absence of Black role models. “We have a long way to go to increase the number of Black physicians,” Shanta said. “We know that having a diverse physician workforce actually improves the quality of care that we provide for patients in the communities. Communities of color in particular do better when there are physicians of color as well.”

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## **PrEP Newsletter: Volume 4, Issue 2, April 2024**

The newest issue of the PrEP Newsletter from the UHealth Infectious Diseases Group Practice (IDGP) PrEP Clinic was released in April. This edition highlights key updates in STI Prevention locally and nationally for CDC's STI Awareness Week April 14-20. [View the newsletter.](#)

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## **Hillary Dunlevy, Eurogin Conference & Key Updates from the ANCHOR Study on Anal Cancer Diagnosis**

Hillary Dunlevy presented as an invited speaker at the Eurogin Conference in Stockholm, Sweden on “The Role of the Digital Anorectal Exam in Diagnosing Anal Cancer.” Additionally, the ANCHOR (Anal Cancer HSIL Outcomes Research) study has had the final visits for participants. Stay tuned for updated guidelines, but one main recommendation is that all people living with HIV should have anal cytology and a digital anorectal exam and referral for high resolution anoscopy if there is abnormal cytology or exam (ASCUS, LSIL, HSIL).

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## **Carlo Marchetti Presenting at DOM REACH Forum**

Don't miss Carlo Marchetti's upcoming presentation at the Department of Medicine REACH (Research Achievement Highlights) Forum. The [event](#) is from 3:30 – 4:30pm in Krugman Hall in Research Complex 2 on June 18, and highlights early-stage investigators in the DOM. Carlo's talk is titled "Targeting Inflammation in Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma (PDAC)".



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## Maheen Abidi Presenting at TTS 2024

Maheen Abidi is presenting at the 30th International Congress of the Transplantation Society (TTS 2024) Conference in Istanbul, Turkey from September 22-25. Maheen's [presentation](#) can be viewed in-person and via live stream on September 22 from 1:30 – 2:30pm.

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## ID DOM Newsroom Features!

### **Injectable HIV Medication is Superior to Oral Medication for Patients Who Frequently Miss Doses, Study Finds**

Jose Castillo-Mancilla co-chaired a national trial that shows long-acting injectable form of anti-HIV medicine provides the best viral suppression for patients who struggle with taking daily oral medication.

[Read More](#)

### **Diving Into Hospital Discharge Details Enhances Safety for Infectious Disease Patients**

Lorna Allen and Larissa Pisney lead changes in how orders are handled for outpatient infection therapy.

[Read More](#)

### **Infectious Diseases Doctor Travels to Peru to Teach Tropical Medicine**

Andrés Henao-Martínez embarked on a journey to teach – and learn – about tropical infectious diseases alongside impressive colleagues from across the globe.

[Read More](#)

### **'It's So Valuable': CU Faculty Highlight New Mentorship Program**

Launch Teams provides early career faculty with an opportunity to connect with experienced faculty in a variety of specialties and leadership levels, boosting their confidence and helping identify their career goals.

*Featuring Alyssa Castillo, Eddie Stenehjem, Timothy Jenkins, Sunita Sharma, and Holly Frost*

[Read More](#)

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## Martin Krsak, Eric Poeschla, & Tom Cambell: Skiing in Breckenridge

Martin Krsak, Eric Poeschla, and Tom Campbell went skiing in Breckenridge on April 21  
([Youtube link](#))!



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## Some Recent Publications

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### **Madison Salam, Meghan Jeffres, & Misha Huang**

Madison Salam, Meghan Jeffres, Misha Huang, and former CU ID Pharmacists Matthew Miller and Kyle Molina published a paper titled "Evaluation of Oral Amoxicillin/Clavulanate for Urinary Tract Infections Caused by Ceftriaxone Non-Susceptible Enterobacterales" in *Pharmacy*.

[Read More](#)

The group also presented their research titled "Three-arm comparison of fidaxomicin monotherapy, fidaxomicin plus bezlotoxumab, and vancomycin plus bezlotoxumab on 90-day *C. difficile* clinical success" at the 34th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ECCMID) Conference in Barcelona, Spain on April 28.



### **Lindsay Nicholson, Ed Janoff, & Dan Frank**

Lindsay Nicholson, Ed Janoff, Dan Frank, and other division members published a paper titled "Clinical and Microbial Determinants of Upper Respiratory Colonization with *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and Native Microbiota in People with HIV-1 and Control Adults" in *The Journal of Infectious Diseases*.

Despite widespread conjugate vaccine and antiretroviral use,

frequencies of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* colonization among PWH and controls are currently consistent with those reported in the pre conjugate era. The persistently increased risk of pneumococcal disease despite ART may relate to behavioral and immunologic variables other than colonization.

[Read More](#)



### **Larissa Pisney & Vineet Chopra**

Larissa Pisney and Vineet Chopra published a paper titled "Practices to prevent central line-associated bloodstream infection: A 2021 survey of infection preventionists in US hospitals" in *Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology*.

[Read More](#)

A related article on the topic was published in *Healio* titled "Behavioral tactics for CLABSI prevention should be emphasized, survey shows".

[Read More](#)



### **Margaret Fitzpatrick & Nnamdi Nwafo**

Margaret Fitzpatrick and Nnamdi Nwafo published a paper titled "Urinary Tract Infection Diagnostic and Management Considerations in People with Spinal Cord Injury and Neurogenic Bladder" in *Infectious Disease Clinics of North America*. Meg is gaining national recognition as an expert in complicated UTIs in patients with neurogenic bladder.

[Read More](#)

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### **Hillary Dunlevy & Steven Johnson**

Hillary Dunlevy and Steven Johnson authored an invited review titled "Routine and Special Vaccinations in People with HIV" in *Topics in Antiviral Medicine*.

[Read More](#)

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### **Andrés Henao-Martinez**

Andrés Henao-Martinez published a paper titled "Positive Toxoplasma IgG Serology Is Associated with Increased Overall Mortality - A Propensity Score-Matched Analysis" in the *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*.

[Read More](#)

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### **Kristine Erlandson & Grace Ditzenberger**

Kristine Erlandson and Grace Ditzenberger (on HIV T32) published a paper titled "Chronotropic Incompetence among People with HIV Improves with Exercise Training in the Exercise for Healthy Aging Study" in *The Journal of Infectious Diseases*.

[Read More](#)

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### **Kristine Erlandson**

Kristine Erlandson published a paper titled "Exercise to Prevent Accelerated Vascular Aging in People Living With HIV" in *Circulation Research*.

[Read More](#)

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**Upcoming Opportunities**

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## Join the National Institute on Aging for a Pre-Conference Workshop at AIDS 2024!

Join the National Institute on Aging (NIA) at AIDS 2024 on Sunday, July 21 from 3:00 – 6:30 p.m., CET, for the pre-conference workshop: **“Exploring the Intersection of HIV and Aging — A Geroscience Perspective”**. This workshop will explore the translational potential of recent biological findings, including those related to the hallmarks of aging, in developing interventions for individuals living with HIV or at-risk for HIV. Confirmed speakers include: Caroline Sabin, PhD, University College London; Brian Kennedy, PhD, National University of Singapore, and Luigi Ferrucci, MD, PhD, NIA. Kristine Erlandson is co-hosting the workshop. [Learn more.](#)

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## Susan Mason Endowed Award Fund in Infectious Diseases

Applications are open now through August 1 for the fall Susan Mason Award. Distributions from the Susan Mason Fund are used to provide two annual awards (one in the Spring and one in the Fall) to internal medicine or pediatric residents and/or adult or pediatric infectious disease fellows. The fund supports research, discovery, teaching, or clinical care in infectious diseases. Each award of approximately \$1500 can provide support for costs associated with professional development opportunities (trainings, conference attendance, etc.), research (participant remuneration, clinical programs, reagent costs, etc.), clinical programs, or development of educational materials. Please view the attached [document](#) and contact Kristine Erlandson ([kristine.erlandson@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:kristine.erlandson@cuanschutz.edu)) with any questions.

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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](#)

