

ID DIVISION NEWSLETTER



UPDATES FROM THE DIVISION OF
INFECTIOUS DISEASES AT CU ANSCHUTZ

April & May 2025



A Message from Wendy Armstrong, MD, FIDSA
Infectious Diseases Division Head

This newsletter represents my first as Division Head. I'm thrilled to be here at CU and have been having a wonderful time meeting the Division. I've learned about so many of your amazing accomplishments both in and outside of medicine. Thank you for the warm welcome. I was especially pleased to see much so many members of the Colorado ID community come together at the Colorado ID Symposium last month. We look forward to making this a regular event. In addition, this newsletter highlights those members of the Division that have been recognized in so many ways — with awards, with appointment to School leadership roles, by their patients, or through scholarship and presentations. The Division is growing (check out the new babies!) and thriving and I am so proud to be part of it.

Wendy

Featured News



Infectious Diseases Honorees at the Department of Medicine Awards Ceremony

The Division is proud to celebrate Jose Castillo-Mancilla, who received the Excellence in Volunteer Faculty Award; Kristine Erlandson, recognized for Excellence in Mentorship; and Sean McCandless, honored with the PEAK Award at the Department of Medicine awards ceremony. Their dedication and impact continue to strengthen our division, and we are tremendously grateful for their contributions.



Shanta Zimmer, MD
Executive Vice Dean, School of Medicine

Shanta Zimmer Appointed Executive Vice Dean for CU Anschutz School of Medicine

Congratulations to Shanta Zimmer for her appointment as Executive Vice Dean overseeing the school's educational enterprise! Her appointment leaves this pillar of the academic mission in continued good hands and reinforces an educational philosophy that is innovative, data-driven and centered on compassionate patient care. Shanta shared the following:

"I am very excited for our educational teams and our learners across the spectrum from early learners to fellows and graduate students. Dean Sampson's decision to elevate the educational mission speaks to his strong commitment to growing our educational programs to top tier prominence. I am looking forward to working with Dr. Chopra in his new role, too!"



Catch Up on the 2025 Colorado Infectious Diseases Symposium!

Missed a session or want to revisit discussions? Video recordings of our presentations and panels are now available on VuMedi! Free account registration is required to access [our channel](#).

Plus, photos from the event are now live on our [symposium website](#)!

Thank you to everyone who participated and attended. Your engagement made this year's symposium a success!

Patient Experience Quotes

“Dr. Steven Johnson has been my doctor for many years, he is the best at what he does. He is easy to talk to and answers questions quickly and easily when I am not there. I can't say enough good about him.”

“Dr. [Hillary] Dunlevy is seriously one of the best and most knowledgeable doctors I have ever gone to for care.”

Dr. [Nina] Millman was great, very knowledgeable about my past conditions which was very much appreciated. She genuinely cared about my current health journey.”

Dr. [Steven] Mudroch: “Excellent visit to the TRAVEL and immunization clinic. The doctor took the time to help us understand what was needed for our trip to Kenya and made sure that we were going to get the best immunizations and prophylaxis possible. He's very professional and very well informed.”

Dr. [Misha] Huang: “The doctor was very informative, friendly and eager to answer all of my questions. A real professional with a clear dedication to her profession.”

“I love **Dr. [Katherine] Frasca**. Actually the whole office is very nice. I love going there, been going there a couple of years and it's been great.”

“Dr. [Sara] Scherrer was very attentive to my health matters. She was very informative on the steps I should take. She was also caring in all the process. She's a good doctor.”

Awards



Brandon Brummeyer, VA Eastern Colorado Trainee of the Month

Brandon Brummeyer, ID Fellow, was nominated and selected as one of the VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System Health Professions Trainees of the Month for March 2025! Brandon was nominated for this award in response to his exceptional work and dedication to veteran care.



Team ID Triumphs at COSMOS Datathon with Insightful Analysis of Vaccination Rates

Team ID won the COSMOS Datathon presentation for their look at vaccination rates since 2015. The team was comprised of Lorna Allen, Kristine Erlandson, Michelle Barron, and Meghan Jeffres, with help from Brian Montague who was helping to run the event.

Division Happenings



Cara Wilson & Steph Dillon, R21 Score

Cara Wilson (PI) and Steph Dillon (Co-I) received a great score (9th percentile) on an R21 application "Gut microbiota dynamics, exercise and physical function among older people with HIV". The application also included Kristine Erlandson, Dan Frank and Melissa Wilson (all from ID) as co-investigators.



Kaylee Mickens, Successful PhD Dissertation Defense

Kaylee Mickens successfully defended her PhD Dissertation in Microbiology on May 14 entitled “Death and Survival of Gut CD4 T Cells Following HIV-1 Infection”. Kaylee performed her research in the laboratories of Mario Santiago and Cara Wilson, unraveling a role for CD4 T cell-intrinsic Granzyme B in how HIV-1 can efficiently kill gut CD4 T cells and highlighting a novel role for TNFR2 signaling in HIV-1 persistence in the context of microbial translocation. The team, which includes Steph Dillon, Kejun Guo, Brad Barrett and Ashley Thompson, celebrated the milestone in Colorado’s fabled Casa Bonita, recently revamped but still featuring its classic sopapillas and famous cliff divers. Congratulations, Dr. Mickens!



SHEA 2025

Meghan Jeffres and Alyssa Castillo recently gave talks at SHEA 2025. Special recognition goes to Meghan Jeffres, who served as Vice Chair for the Antimicrobial Stewardship Track at the SHEA 2025 conference. In conjunction with Marisa Holubar and Chris Evans, Meghan arranged an incredible curriculum that was widely attended and very well-received! She will be Chair next year for this track.



XGM 2025

Larissa Pisney, Lorna Allen, Brian Montague, and Andrea Rea recently presented at XGM 2025. XGM is Epic’s annual conference for clinicians, informaticists, managers, analysts and others and highlights projects that are innovative and impactful.



Infectious Diseases in the Immunocompromised Host Symposium

Chia-Yu Chiu and Rebecca Unterborn recently presented posters at the Infectious Diseases in the

Immunocompromised Host Symposium in Seattle.



Extracurricular Activities

Martin Krsak and Eric Poeschla dutifully yielded to Moose at Breckenridge in April. So no animals were harmed during the creation of this film. Short feature by Martin: [Click here](#).

Invited Lectures & Traveling Physicians:

- Kristine Erlandson, Ed Gardner, Josh Barocas and Kellie Hawkins had an abstract accepted at the Long Acting Anti-Infective Workshop that will be presented in New Orleans on May 21: Impact of Introduction of Long-Acting Injectable Antiretroviral on Viral Suppression Among People with HIV and Adherence Challenges in a Low-Barrier, Support-Intensive Program.
- Hillary Dunlevy:
 - Hillary Dunlevy is teaching in the International Anal Neoplasia Society HRA Workshop at a conference in London in June.
 - Hillary Dunlevy will give an oral poster presentation on the Characteristics of the Digital Anorectal Exam at a conference this fall.
- Joshua Barocas was invited to participate in a NAM sponsored GAO Expert Meeting on Surveillance of Emerging Infectious Disease Threats in the United States.

Other Updates:

- Ed Gardner was promoted to Professor of Medicine.
- Neena Thomas-Gosain was promoted to Associate Professor of Medicine.
- Samantha Kaplan and Steven Mudroch were accepted into the Teaching Scholars Program beginning in September 2025.
- Brian Grundy was accepted into the Leaders in Informatics, Quality and Systems (LIQS) Fellowship Program. Brian is part of Cohort 7 (2025-27).
- Kirk Feters, ID Fellow, was selected for the Spring 2025 Susan Mason Award. Richard Wedgle will present the award to him later this month.
- Michael Casias and his wife, Puja, welcomed a baby girl in May named Diya Kapoor-Casias.
- Brian Grundy and his wife, Marlena, welcomed a baby girl in May named Maggie Grundy.

Some Recent Publications



Barrie Schmitt, Lakshmi Chauhan, Amanda Piquet, Ken Tyler, & Dan Pastula

Barrie Schmitt (Neuro-ID fellow), Lakshmi Chauhan, Amanda Piquet, Ken Tyler, and Dan Pastula authored a review article in *The Neurohospitalist* titled "An Overview of the Dengue Viruses".

[Read More](#)



Kirk Feters

Kirk Feters (ID Fellow) recently published an article titled "Disseminated coccidioidomycosis presenting as eosinophilic ascites" in *BMJ Case Reports*.

[Read More](#)



Grace Kulik & Kristine Erlandson

Grace Kulik (PhD Candidate) led two recent publications with Kristine Erlandson.

With additional ID students, residents and faculty: "Application of Pragmatic Criteria to Assessments of Frailty and Physical Function among People with HIV" in *Clinical Infectious Diseases*.

[Read More](#)

"Examining the Heterogeneity of Exercise Response Among Sedentary Older Adults: A Descriptive Analysis" in the *Journal of Aging Research*.

[Read More](#)



Kristine Erlandson, Ed Gardner, & Kellie Hawkins

Kristine Erlandson, Ed Gardner, and Kellie Hawkins had an article published in *Clinical Infectious Diseases* titled "HIV Infection and Long COVID: A RECOVER Program, Electronic Health Record Based Cohort Study".

[Read More](#)



Chia-Yu Chiu

Chia-Yu Chiu published a paper titled "Fungal-Induced Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis: A Literature Review in Non-HIV Populations" in the *Journal of Fungi*.

[Read More](#)



Josh Barocas

Josh Barocas published multiple recent papers:

"You can't incarcerate yourself out of the drug problem in America:" A qualitative examination of Colorado's 2022 Fentanyl criminalization law" in *Health & Justice*.

[Read More](#)

"Access to hospitals with extracorporeal membrane oxygenation capabilities as a potential of driver of disparities" in the *Journal of Critical Care*.

[Read More](#)

"Rethinking Vulnerability: Using Factor Analysis to Assess Census Tract–Level Vulnerability" in *Public Health Reports*.

[Read More](#)

"Cuts to scientific funding will be detrimental to the US, achieving the opposite to Trump's stated aims" in the *BMJ*.

[Read More](#)

"Risk Factors for Infective Endocarditis and Serious Injection Related Infections Among People Who Inject Drugs in Los Angeles, CA and Denver, CO" in *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*.

[Read More](#)

News Features

PBS News

Do adults need a measles booster? An epidemiologist explains who is immune

Dr. Daniel Pastula, a neurologist and medical epidemiologist from the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus and Colorado School of Public Health, explains how and when you should take action.

[Read More](#)

UCHealth Today

Vitamin A and cod liver oil don't prevent measles. So, what treatments work? And how sick are kids with measles?

Dr. Edward Janoff studied complications associated with measles back when he was an infectious disease fellow in the late 1980s. As part of his research, he helped care for hundreds of patients in the Philippines and Thailand who suffered from measles.

[Read More](#)

Department of Medicine

Immune Amnesia: When Measles Makes Your Body Forget How to Fight Infections

Infectious diseases expert **Michelle Barron, MD**, explains immune amnesia, a potential years-long consequence of measles.

[Read More](#)

[Call for Submissions](#)

We want to hear your news! Please email submissions for the next ID Division Newsletter to eleanor.shields@cuanschultz.edu.

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