



Division of Infectious Diseases

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS



August 2023



Dr. Robert (Bob) Belknap, MD

Executive Director, Public Health Institute at
Denver Health

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Bob Belknap as the new Executive Director of the Public Health Institute at Denver Health (PHIDH). Bob has demonstrated exceptional leadership during his tenure as interim director since 2021, and we extend our gratitude to him for his dedication to PHIDH. Over the years, Bob has made significant contributions to public health, particularly in tuberculosis (TB) research and care. Notably, Bob leads the TB Clinic, recognized for its involvement in national and international clinical and epidemiologic research. On a national scale, Bob has chaired the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Advisory Council for the Elimination of Tuberculosis (ACET) since 2021 and holds positions with the CDC's Board of Scientific Counselors. His dedication to public health extends to serving as the Chief Medical Officer for the Broomfield County and Boulder

County public health departments. Bob's appointment as Executive Director is a testament to his exceptional qualifications and his commitment to the field of public health. Please join us in warmly welcoming Bob to this critical leadership role as we look forward to the continued growth and success of PHIDH.

Some Recent Publications



Laura Damioli & Zach Shepard

Laura Damioli & Zach Shepard published a recent paper in *Therapeutic Advances in Infectious Disease* titled "Retrospective analysis of the management of pelvic decubitus ulcers and their outcomes." [Read more.](#)



Lilian Vargas Barahona & Andrés Henao-Martinez

Lilian Vargas Barahona and Andrés Henao-Martinez published a recent paper in *Therapeutic Advances in Infectious Disease* titled "The global prevalence of human fascioliasis: a systematic review and meta-analysis." [Read more.](#)



Andrés Henao-Martinez

Andrés Henao-Martinez published additional papers:

"Invasive pulmonary aspergillus real-world outcomes: Clinical features and risk factors associated with increased mortality" in *Medical Mycology*. [Read more.](#)

"The global challenges of the long COVID-19 in adults and children" in *Travel Medicine and Infectious Disease*. [Read more.](#)



Dinarello Lab

The Dinarello laboratory will soon publish a major paper in *PNAS* on the homeostatic importance of interleukin-38 (IL-38). IL-38 is a member of the interleukin-1 Family and IL-38 functions as a suppressor of inflammation. As we age, IL-38 in our cells is lower compared when we are younger. The data from the Dinarello as well as other laboratories suggest that increased inflammatory diseases are in part due to decreased IL-38.

Grants Received

Dan Frank

Dan Frank is a MPI on two newly funded R01s:

1. Defining the role of enteric nervous system dysfunction in gastrointestinal motor and sensory abnormalities in Down syndrome. This project is in collaboration with Jaime Belkind-Gerson from Pediatric Gastroenterology and Kelly Sullivan from the Crnic Institute.
2. Schwann Cell-derived neuro-gliogenesis, in collaboration with Jaime Belkind-Gerson.

Marisa Brightman

Marisa Brightman's QI team was awarded a Clinical Effectiveness & Patient Safety (CEPS) grant for their project "Improving the Discharge Process and Care Coordination for Patients With A Drain."

Other Division News

5280 Magazine Top Doctors

[Eight division members](#) made the annual 5280 Magazine list of the Denver-area top doctors. The doctors are selected by Denver-area physicians in an online vote based on a ballot posted on the magazine's website. Please join us in congratulating:

Maheen Abidi
Bob Belknap
Tom Campbell
Lakshmi Chauhan
Gwen Huitt
Steve Johnson
Nancy Madinger
Cara Wilson

RECOVER Study

The RECOVER Study, led by co-principal site investigator Kristine Erlandson, was recognized in UCHHealth Today for their continued research on long COVID symptoms. RECOVER is an observational trial that aims to study people with long COVID symptoms, those without long-term effects, and those who never had COVID. The larger RECOVER Initiative has now launched clinical trials testing treatments for long COVID. [Read more.](#)

Andrés Henao-Martinez

Andrés Henao-Martinez, Editor-in-Chief for *Therapeutic Advances in Infectious Diseases*,

reports that the journal reached an Impact Factor of 5.7 in Clarivate's Web of Science. They now rank 131/304 (Q1) in Infectious Diseases in [Scopus](#). They have focused on publishing good-quality science, and editorial decisions are not based on novelty or perceived importance.

Larissa Pisney

Larissa Pisney was interviewed by 9News about COVID, RSV, and influenza circulation this fall and winter, and urged the public to obtain their flu shot and COVID booster as early as possible. View the video and article [here](#).

HIV PrEP Group to Present at IDSA

Our HIV PrEP Group, including Amanda Ahumada, Alexa Van Epern, Suzanne Fiorillo, Lisa Lawrence, Shynia Litzau, Lorna Allen, Katherine Frasca, Jose Castillo-Mancilla, and Donna McGregor, submitted an abstract which was selected for poster presentation at the upcoming IDSA Conference in Boston in October. The presentation is titled "Elevated HIV Risk/Low Risk Perception in Rural Colorado." Congratulations, all!

PrEP Newsletter: Volume 4, Issue 1, September 2023

The newest issue of the PrEP Newsletter was recently released. All PrEP Newsletter issues can be accessed on the [division website](#).

Call for Submissions

We want to hear your news! Please email submissions for our next newsletter to eleanor.shields@cuanschutz.edu.

Visit the [ID Division Website](#)

