



Division of Infectious Diseases

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS



August & September 2024

A Message from Eddie Stenehjem, MD – Interim ID Division Head

I hope this newsletter finds you enjoying the last bit of warmth that summer has to offer. Not that I'm dreading winter, but I do love the long days and the ability for the kids to play in the street with their neighborhood friends and cousins.

I'm finding these newsletters getting longer and longer with more to celebrate each time. Please, enjoy the read and recognize all the hard work that everyone is doing to give back to their patients and our communities we serve. It's so humbling leading this accomplished group of clinicians, educators, researchers, innovators, and community activists. The ID Division is doing incredible things, and I can't wait to see what the next newsletter brings!

Also, **SAVE THE DATE!** Even though the Colorado Chapter of the IDSA didn't make it through the pandemic, we are going to bring back the annual CO ID Conference starting in 2025. April 19th, 2025 will be the date of the conference and it will be held on the Anschutz Medical Campus. We are looking forward to a day filled with ID updates and getting to know our colleagues throughout the state. More details about location and registration to follow.

Featured News

Marking the Retirement of Donna McGregor: A Career Dedicated to Advancing HIV Care and Global Health

After years of remarkable service and dedication, we join in celebrating Donna McGregor, NP, MSN as she embarks on her well-earned retirement. Donna's contributions have greatly impacted both our team and the many patients she has served.

Donna McGregor is a licensed board-certified adult nurse practitioner with a graduate degree in Nursing, specializing in primary care and HIV/AIDS with post-graduate training in Women's Health and Tropical Medicine. After working in the fields of OB/GYN, Intensive Care, and Physical Medicine and Rheumatology for 18 years after college graduation, Donna completed her graduate training and started her career in Infectious Disease at Northwestern University in Chicago in 2001. During her time at Northwestern, she provided HIV primary and specialty care for hundreds of patients, worked with the ACTG clinical trials program, and established the HIV PrEP program. She was awarded several HIV research grants and co-authored multiple articles and abstracts. She is particularly proud of grant programs which brought progestin IUD's to HIV+ women at University of Ibadan Hospital in Nigeria, a postpartum loss to follow up program for HIV+ women, and a community-academic partnership program for improving HIV Outcomes in female torture survivors.

She also served as an HIV/AIDS consultant/lecturer for various U.S. and international groups, including the CDC Global Aids Program and the U.S. PEPFAR program, and contributed to HIV education and health resource capacity building in Nigeria, Tanzania, and Cambodia. In 2010, she volunteered with the International Medical Corps assisting in the emergency response for the Cholera epidemic in Haiti.

In 2016, Donna completed postgraduate training in Tropical Medicine and Travel with the CDC and University of Minnesota and earned certification with the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

She joined the University of Colorado Division of Infectious Diseases in June 2017 to assist with HIV PrEP programming as well as HIV clinical care. During her time at CU, she has helped to develop the CU Telemedicine PrEP program and was awarded an investigator-initiated grant with Gilead Sciences, Inc. to use telemedicine to reduce disparities in rural HIV prevention throughout Colorado. In 2023, the PrEP team presented their findings at ID Week in Boston, "Elevated HIV Risk/Low Risk Perception in Rural Colorado".

Going forward, Donna hopes to participate in international volunteer work, finally become a good cross country skier and learn to play mahjong. She is looking forward to world travel and spending more time with her daughters in New Jersey and Minnesota.



Amy Beeson Appointed Medical Director of Tuberculosis Clinic at Denver Health



Amy Beeson, MD
Medical Director,
TB Clinic at Denver Health

We are excited to share that Amy Beeson, MD will become the Medical Director for the Tuberculosis Clinic at Denver Health starting in November. Amy's history with the TB program began in medical school when she volunteered to help with the TB Trot, an annual 5k run to raise awareness and money for our patient assistance fund. The TB Trot has long since been retired but Amy continued to grow her knowledge and passion for helping people impacted by TB. She did an internship in the World Health Organization's Stop TB Department, Green Light Committee. She then worked as a Public Service Fellow for Partners in Health in Lima, Peru monitoring field work for a study on "Epidemiology and

Transmission Dynamics of Multidrug-Resistant and Extensively Drug-Resistant TB in Peru,” and interviewing people with HIV for a study on “Community-Based Accompaniment with Supervised Antiretrovirals”. As a Doris Duke International Clinical Research Fellow, she worked in Tugela Ferry, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa providing training and support for community health workers and participating in supervised clinical care at a referral center for multidrug-resistant TB.

Amy did her residency in Internal Medicine/Pediatrics through the University of Colorado and then joined the CDC as an Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Officer. She began working at Denver Health and with the TB Clinic last fall. She is appreciated for her compassion, excellence in patient care since, and thoughtful approach to challenges. Her knowledge and experiences working internationally and with CDC will benefit both the TB Clinic and our department. Please join us in welcoming her to this new role!

Nina Millman Named Associate Medical Director at the IDGP



Nina Millman, MD
Associate Medical Director,
Infectious Diseases Group Practice

We are thrilled to announce that Nina Millman, MD has been appointed as the Associate Medical Director at the Infectious Diseases Group Practice (IDGP). Nina brings a strong passion for outpatient infectious diseases, particularly in caring for people living with HIV. In her new role, she will continue providing valuable insights through eConsults, assisting with referral reviews to the ID clinic, and contributing to the optimization of clinic workflows and quality improvement initiatives. Please join us in welcoming Nina to this important role!

Dana Karp Appointed Associate Director of the PrEP Clinical Program at the IDGP



Dana Karp, NP
Associate Director,
IDGP PrEP Clinical Program

Welcome Dana Karp, NP as the new Associate Director of the PrEP Clinical Program at the Infectious Diseases Group Practice (IDGP)! Dana has been part of the dedicated PrEP Working Group for many years and is one of our outstanding advanced practice providers in HIV and STI prevention. Patients report that she is incredibly responsive, personally engaged in all aspects of their health and they have referred other patients to our program because of her care. She is not only an excellent clinician but also an advocate for sexual health and the LGBTQ community. Her new roles will include supporting the Medical Director in the PrEP clinical program, TelePrEP program, provider and patient education initiatives, PrEP newsletters and advancing EPIC tools for PrEP and STI care. Congratulations, Dana!

Patient Experience Quotes

"**Dana Karp** is absolutely outstanding. She recalled my history off the top of her head. She listened to my current issues and offered excellent advice and I feel she was personally engaged in all aspects of my health. She is wonderful!!!"

"**Whitney [Schraufnagel]** has been my provider since approximately 2015. It has been a joy to have her as my primary care provider as she listens attentively, follows up promptly, and shows genuine care/concern. The entire Infectious Disease Department is a great asset to have in your corner!"

"**Nina Millman** was very good at making me feel like I was heard and like I had expressed everything I needed to express and then I was able to get even more information than I needed. She listened and she gave me many options. And every input I gave her, she listened to it like she actually shared, she stopped typing on the computer and she looked at me, made eye contact, and I wasn't just a number to her. I was an actual person and a patient that she genuinely wanted to help and wanted me to walk away with the most information and the most feeling of security."

"**Alyssa Castillo** is one of the most thorough, professional, caring and understanding physicians I have ever had. She goes above & beyond in her care for her patients. Wish there were more like her."

"**Hillary Dunlevy** is an adamant professional. She is easy to work with and takes my concerns seriously

at every interaction.”

Laura Damioli: “Everyone, from the CNA's, and Nurses, to PA's and Physicians who I've encountered at UCHealth treat me with respect, and professionalism. All of the personnel are extremely attentive, and they are genuinely empathetic and understanding of my situation and my needs. I just couldn't think of a better experience under really difficult circumstances. Everyone at UCHealth is absolutely fabulous. I could not ask for any better care.”

Awards Received

5280 Magazine Top Doctors

Thirteen 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, Katherine Frasca, Andrés Henao-Martinez, Misha Huang, Steven Johnson, Martin Krsak, Nancy Madinger, Brian Montague, Larissa Pisney, and Cara Wilson!

Katherine Frasca Recipient of 2024 STAR Faculty Award



Katherine Frasca was awarded the 2024 STAR Faculty Award for her contributions to the education of the MD class of 2027.

The student granting her the award detailed in their speech: "She is extremely intentional with respect to her approach to teaching, ensuring that she reaches students in a way that is understandable and well-aligned to help us achieve our goals. She is one of the best course directors who puts in a ton of effort and makes everything fun, memorable, and the content is very rich."

Congratulations, Katherine!

Joshua Barocas Awarded Multiple Grants for Research on HIV, Opioid Use, and Homelessness



Josh Barocas recently received an R01 award from National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) for his project entitled "The Improving Health and Housing Outcomes through a Simulation and Economic (iHOUSE) Model". This grant will fund the development of an agent-based model to simulate the dynamic processes influencing HIV incidence, overdose, and life expectancy among individuals along the housing and homelessness continuum of care in Denver, CO, and San Francisco, CA.

Additionally, Josh is a co-investigator on another R01 project, "TRANSFORM – Transforming the Evidence Base on Estimating Prevalence of Opioid Use Disorder and Expanded Access to Interventions to Prevent Drug-Related Deaths: An International Data Linkage Study" involving researchers from Australia, the UK, and the US.

Josh also received a grant from Caring for Denver to study the impact of peer support specialists on individuals experiencing homelessness with substance use disorders. Congratulations to Josh!

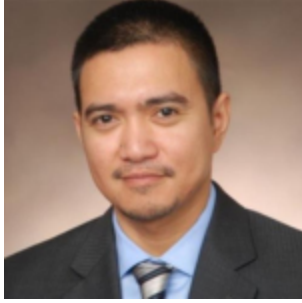
Kristine Erlandson Awarded NIH R01 Grant and Community Engagement Pilot Award



Kristine Erlandson will serve as the Co-Principal Investigator, alongside Lindsay Fourman at Mass General, on a new NIH-funded R01 grant (2024-2029) titled "Tesamorelin as an Adjunct to Exercise for Improving Physical Function in HIV (TRIUMPH)".

In addition, Kristine and her mentee, Evelyn Iriarte Parra, were awarded a community engagement pilot grant through the CCTSI. Their project, in collaboration with community partner Lupe Joyner, is titled "Building a Partnership to Improve HIV Prevention and Care among Latino Communities in Colorado". Congratulations, Kristine!

Santiago and Wilson Labs Awarded an R21 NIH Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant



Congratulations to Mario Santiago and Cara Wilson for receiving an exploratory/developmental NIH R21 Grant titled, "[The Public Mucosal Antibody Repertoire in HIV-1 Infection](#)". The 2-year study will aim to reconstruct and characterize the functional properties of a unique and mysterious group of antibodies in the gut that were commonly found in persons with or without HIV-1 infection, particularly in relation to inflammation and the microbiome. The work will be performed with Co-investigators and collaborators in the Department of Medicine which include Dan Frank, Steph Dillon, Kejun Guo, Edward Janoff and Kristi Kuhn.



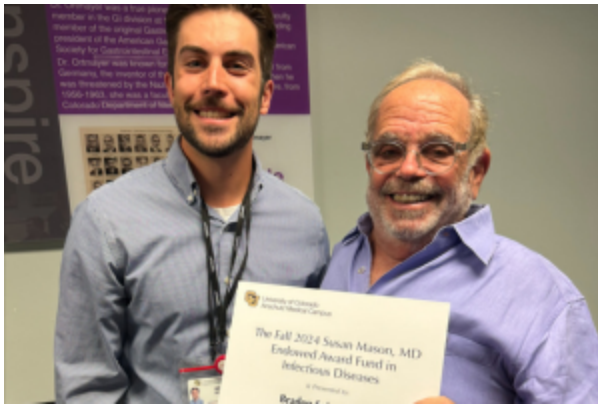
Andrés Henao-Martinez, ABC-EE Award



Andrés Henao-Martinez received a provisional funding notification on a project in which he will serve as a co-PI on Data-Driven Diagnosis and Prediction of Heart Disease Outcomes in Chagas Disease with Ethical and Explainable AI/ML Models, within the Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning Consortium to Advance Health Equity and Researcher Diversity Program (AIM-AHEAD). Congratulations, Andrés!

Susan Mason Endowed Award in Infectious Diseases

Congratulations to the Fall Susan Mason awardees, Braden Sciarra (ID Fellow) and Kacie Rytlewski (Pediatric-ID Fellow)! The fund supports research, discovery, teaching, or clinical care in infectious diseases. Pictured below is Braden (left) and Kacie (right) receiving their awards from Mr. Richard Wedgle, husband of the late Dr. Susan Mason.



Division Happenings

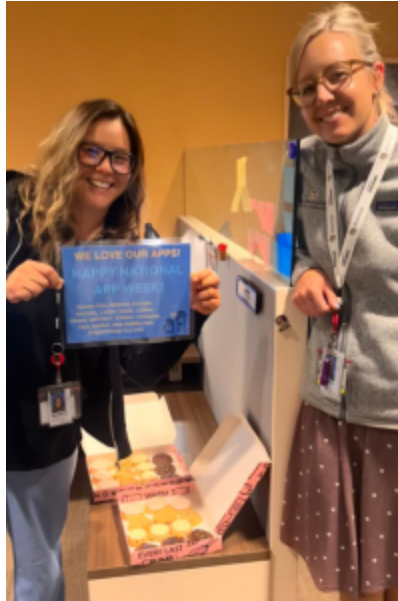
ID Division Fall Welcome Picnic

Thank you to everyone who attended our Fall Welcome Picnic for new faculty and fellows on September 28. The event was a great success, and it was wonderful seeing many of you and your families!



Celebrating Our APPs for National APP Week

It was National APP Week in September, and we are so grateful for our incredible APPs in the ID Division who go above and beyond every day! Your expertise and commitment to patient care make an enormous impact. We're so proud to have each of you on our team!



Aurora Pride Festival

ID Division members Lisa Lawrence, Sara Smith, and Chia-Yu Chiu volunteered at the Aurora Pride event on August 3. We thank them for their valuable contributions in this important community outreach!



Infection Prevention FY24 Summary

The University of Colorado Hospital Infection Prevention team shared a summary of accomplishments achieved during fiscal year 2024 that were recently included in their annual report. Please [click here](#) for a slide highlighting some of these achievements. Congratulations and thanks to the Infection Prevention Team for the great work!

Kristine Erlandson Named CTSG Chair

Kristine Erlandson was selected to serve as Comorbidities Transformative Science Group (CTSG) Vice Chair for the ACTG Science Committee Leadership. Congratulations to Kristine!

Andrés Henao-Martinez, Febrile Episodes Podcast

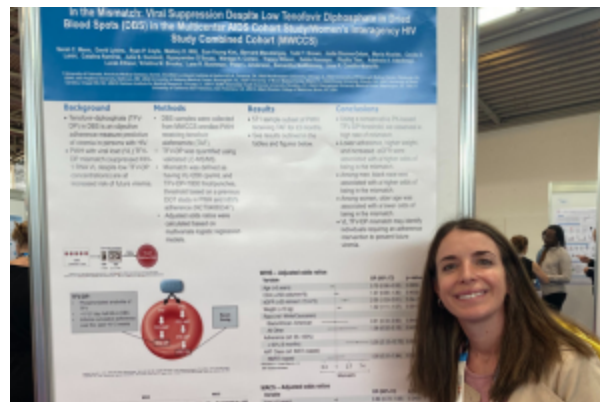
Andrés Henao-Martinez was featured on a [StAR episode \(#109\)](#) of the Febrile Podcast, showcasing the *Clinical Infectious Diseases* State-of-the-Art Reviews. Tune into the episode to hear him discuss his state-of-the-art [review article](#), "Unintended Consequences: Risk of Opportunistic Infections Associated With Long-term Glucocorticoid Therapies in Adults"!

Shannon Kasperbauer NJH Presentation: Bronchiectasis Case Discussions: Diagnostic Tools and Differentiation

Shannon Kasperbauer gave a talk on July 5, 2024, at National Jewish Health titled **Bronchiectasis Case Discussions: Diagnostic Tools and Differentiation**. A recording of the talk is available [here](#).

Sarah Mann AIDS 2024 Conference

Sarah Mann presented findings from a study of discordance between HIV viral suppression and tenofovir blood levels at the AIDS 2024 conference. Great work, Sarah!



Eddie Stenhjem Clinical Consortium of the Urgent Care Association Presentations

Eddie Stenehjem gave two talks at the Clinical Consortium of the Urgent Care Association. The clinical consortium is a gathering of the CMOs of the United States largest urgent care networks where they discuss priorities for the coming year. The talks were titled: **Advancing Clinical Knowledge: A Successful Antibiotic Stewardship Program** and **Advancing Urgent Care Quality: A Successful STI Testing Implementation Program**. Great work, Eddie!

Brian Grundy Featured in Top Performing DOM Instagram Post

Brian Grundy was featured on the Department of Medicine Instagram page to discuss "3 Quick Facts About Immunizations" in honor of August being National Immunization Awareness Month. The post was the top performing post featuring faculty in August. Check it out [here!](#)

ID Division in the News

CU Anschutz Today

Largest Study of its Kind Finds Common Lab Tests Aren't Reliable for Diagnosing Long COVID

"This suggests doctors should not focus on the results of blood panels to diagnose Long COVID but should focus more on symptoms and ways to help patients get relief by treating their symptoms," said the study's first author, **Kristine Erlandson, MD**.

[Read More](#)

Barbecues, Sunshine and COVID-19: Updated Vaccines Get Nod Amid Summer Surge

"We are seeing the highest level of positive tests since January of 2022," said **Kellie Hawkins, MD, MPH**, an assistant professor of infectious disease at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

[Read More](#)

It's West Nile Virus Season Again. How Worried Should We Be?

Infectious disease expert **Lakshmi Chauhan, MD**, explains the mosquito-borne infection and how we can protect ourselves.

[Read More](#)

World Health Organization Declares an Mpox Public Health Emergency: Here's What to Know

Daniel Pastula, MD, chief of neuroinfectious diseases and global neurology at the CU School of Medicine, gives an update on the outbreak.

[Read More](#)

UCHealth Today

Researchers are testing treatments for long COVID symptoms, ranging from brain fog to shortness of breath

The Colorado RECOVER site exceeded its Phase 1 enrollment goals, said **Dr. Kristine Erlandson**, Professor of Medicine – Infectious Diseases at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

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Department of Medicine Newsroom

'An Unsung Hero' Brings Expert HIV Care to Rural Colorado

Steven Johnson, MD, marks 25 years of treating patients at HIV collaborative clinics in Grand Junction and Durango.

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Lakshmi Chauhan, MD, Draws on Global Experience and a Passion for Clinical Medicine

The infectious disease specialist is one of 21 inaugural inductees in the CU Department of Medicine's Clinical Excellence Society.

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Key Takeaways from Largest-Ever Addiction Prevention and Treatment Implementation Study

CU faculty member **Josh Barocas, MD**, participated in a nearly \$350 million national study that aimed to reduce opioid overdose deaths in 67 communities.

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The Denver Post

Colorado's flu season likely to be normal, but COVID is a "wild card"

Dr. Michelle Barron, senior medical director of infection prevention and control at UCHealth, agreed that the flu season is likely to be relatively normal, but cautioned that significant numbers of people still get sick even in an ordinary year. About 20,000 to 25,000 Americans, mostly older adults and young children, die during a typical flu season, she said.

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9News

Colorado city expanding cold weather shelter plan

Dr. Joshua Barocas with the University of Colorado School of Medicine said the move could save lives. According to the city, the plan could expand cold weather shelter access from around 40 nights a year to more than 80 days and nights per year.

[Read More](#)

USA Today

On front lines of bird flu: dead chickens, biohazard suits and shrugs

"Bird flus in particular tend to make everybody a little more nervous," said **Dr. Michelle Barron**, UCHHealth's senior medical director of infection prevention and control, and a professor at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

[Read More](#)

Yahoo! News

COVID vaccines, tests now available: How well matched are they to current strains?

Dr. Thomas Campbell, an infectious disease doctor and professor at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, says the at-home tests have not changed as the variants have changed, but are still effective.

[Read More](#)

The Today Show

New York resident dies of mosquito virus EEE: What other states are reporting cases?

"You'll see a couple of cases each year, then some years have explosive outbreaks," **Dr. Daniel Pastula**, chief of neuro-infectious diseases and global neurology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, tells TODAY.com.

[Read More](#)

West Nile symptoms: What to know about the virus that hospitalized Dr. Anthony Fauci

West Nile virus can infect mosquitoes, birds, humans, horses and other mammals. "It was first identified in 1937 in a region of Uganda West of the Nile River, hence

[Read More](#)

the term West Nile," **Dr. Daniel Pastula**, chief of neuro-infectious diseases and global neurology at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, tells TODAY.com.

SELF

What Does Competing With COVID Do to an Athlete's Body?

There's not a whole lot of research done on exercising with COVID, well, because most folks don't feel like exercising when they have COVID, **Kristine Erlandson, MD**, a professor of medicine-infectious disease at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, tells SELF.

[Read More](#)

ABC News

What you need to know about Valley fever after 19 infected at California music festival

"It's a fungus that lives in soil in certain areas around the world," **Dr. Daniel Pastula**, chief of neuro-infectious diseases and global neurology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and Colorado School of Public Health, told ABC News.

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Some Recent Publications



Kristine Erlandson

Kristine Erlandson published an article in *Annals of Internal Medicine* titled "Differentiation of Prior SARS-CoV-2 Infection and Postacute Sequelae by Standard Clinical Laboratory Measurements in the RECOVER Cohort".

[Read More](#)

Grace Ditzenberger & Kristine Erlandson

Grace Ditzenberger (Post-Doc) led a publication with Kristine Erlandson in *Clinical Infectious Diseases* titled "Effects of Semaglutide on Muscle Structure and Function in the SLIM LIVER Study".

[Read More](#)



Timothy Jenkins & Nnamdi Nwafo

Timothy Jenkins and Nnamdi Nwafo (former ID Fellow) published a paper in *Clinical Infectious Diseases* titled "Oral versus intravenous antibiotic therapy for *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteremia or endocarditis: a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials"

[Read More](#)



Katherine Frasca & Vanesa Garcia Rivera

Katherine Frasca and Vanesa Garcia Rivera (former ID Fellow) published an article in a collaboration with Internal Medicine in *BMJ Case Reports* titled "Challenging chest pain: salmonella myopericarditis".

[Read More](#)



Andrés Henao-Martinez

Andrés Henao-Martinez published multiple recent papers:

"The epidemiology of Chagas disease in the Americas" in *The Lancet*.

[Read More](#)

"Alert and surveillance on H5N1 influenza virus: risks to agriculture and public health" in *Therapeutic Advances in Infectious Disease*.

[Read More](#)

"Control strategies for emerging infectious diseases: Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever management" in *Health Science Reports*.

Read More

"Cytomegalovirus chronic retinal necrosis with ganciclovir resistance: a case report" in *The Journal of Ophthalmic Inflammation and Infection*.

Read More

Andrés Henao-Martinez & Martin Krsak

Andrés Henao-Martinez and Martin Krsak published a paper in *BMC Infectious Diseases* titled "Multi-organ clinical manifestations of Mpox: an umbrella review of systematic reviews".

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Nipun Atri

Nipun Atri published a paper in the *Journal of Orthopaedics* titled "Local vancomycin administration in Orthopaedic Surgery - A systematic review of comparative studies".

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Joshua Barocas

Joshua Barocas published a paper in *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* titled "U.S. trends in methamphetamine-involved psychiatric hospitalizations in the United States, 2015-2019".

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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](#)

