

# ID DIVISION NEWSLETTER



UPDATES FROM THE DIVISION OF  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES AT CU ANSCHUTZ

**December 2024 & January 2025**

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

Happy New Year! I hope this message finds you well after a holiday season filled with joy and merriment. Let's start with the good news. Dr. Steve Johnson has been many things to most of us...a colleague, a friend, a mentor, a collaborator, and an educator. After 30 years of service to the University of CO, Steve will be honored with a lifetime achievement award by the University of Colorado Hospital! I can't think of anyone more deserving of this prestigious award. Thank you, Steve!

On April 19th we will be hosting the first annual CO ID Symposium. This event will bring together ID clinicians from around the state for a day of learning and connection. The agenda is loaded with incredible speakers, including a talk from our new Division Head, Dr. Wendy Armstrong. Registration is free but space is limited! Please sign up TODAY (see below) if you'd like to attend.

Lastly, the last 2 weeks have been very hard. We have seen grants being frozen, CDC guidelines and websites removed, our public health infrastructure eroded, our VA colleagues have received hurtful emails, and important initiatives we've pushed forward minimized or cancelled. I'm concerned for what is to come and I doubt we've seen the worst of it. If you all are feeling a deep and unsettling anxiety, know that you are not alone. I'm feeling the same. Many of us are working via our national organizations to advocate for our patients and our scientific platforms. I encourage you to do the same

if you feel similarly. Please reach out if you have questions or would like to get involved in advocacy efforts.

Sincerely,  
Eddie

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#### Featured News



#### **Steven C. Johnson, MD**

2025 Lifetime Achievement Award  
University of Colorado Hospital

#### **Steven Johnson, MD, to Receive Lifetime Achievement Award from UCHealth**

Steven Johnson will be honored with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award from the University of Colorado Hospital on February 6. This esteemed recognition celebrates Steve's dedication and decades of service as a physician. Steve has been a pivotal figure in infectious diseases, particularly in HIV treatment in Colorado. He is a Professor of Medicine and is the Director of the University of Colorado HIV/AIDS Clinical Program, as well as the Medical Director of the Colorado AIDS Education and Training Center. For nearly 25 years, he provided specialized HIV care across Colorado, ensuring access to communities on the Western Slope. Beyond his work with HIV, Steve played a crucial role in shaping national COVID-19 treatment guidelines as a member of the NIH COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines Panel.

The UCHealth Lifetime Achievement Award is a significant honor, recognizing Steve's profound impact on public health and his remarkable achievements. This award is a well-deserved testament to his contributions to the field of medicine. Congratulations, Steve!

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### **Tim Gill Honored with Presidential Medal of Freedom**

Tim Gill was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Biden for his advocacy for LGBTQ rights and HIV awareness on January 4, 2025. A Colorado native, entrepreneur, and activist for positive social change, Tim Gill is one of the nation's leading funders to secure full equality for LGBTQ people. The Gill Foundation has invested more than \$442 million in programs and nonprofit organizations since its founding.

At CU and in our division, Tim Gill was a recipient of the University of Colorado Distinguished Service award in 1996. Gill endowed the Tim Gill Professorship in Infectious Diseases in 1998. The Professorship was established to support HIV research at the University of Colorado and to promote HIV education at the University and within the Colorado Community. Each year, a Tim Gill Distinguished Lecturer is selected based on expertise in HIV research and care, for their skill in teaching, and for their humanism that informs and enhances their communities and the world. Our division is proud to be supported by Tim Gill and joins in celebration of this honor.

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### **Sarah Rowan, MD**

Director of Sexual Health Division  
Denver Health

## **Sarah Rowan, MD, Appointed Director of Sexual Health Division at Denver Health**

Sarah Rowan was named the Director of the Sexual Health Division at the Public Health Institute at Denver Health, effective January 12. Sarah has taken on the responsibility of overseeing programs at the forefront of clinical care, training, prevention, and outreach in public health. She is a nationally recognized leader in the prevention and care of HIV, hepatitis C, and sexually transmitted infections. For more than a decade, she has been dedicated to advancing equity-based care and reaching underserved populations, including individuals experiencing homelessness, justice-involved populations, and people who use drugs. We look forward to Sarah's leadership and the continued success of the Sexual Health Division.

Sarah succeeded Karen Wendel, who served as the Division Director since 2015. Karen led the division's growth in scope and funding and advanced it as an innovative center within PHIDH. Karen will continue as the Medical Director of the Denver Sexual Health Clinic.



**Timothy Jenkins, MD**  
Medical Director of the Microbiology  
Laboratory at Denver Health

## **Timothy Jenkins, MD, Named Medical Director of the Microbiology Laboratory at Denver Health**

Timothy Jenkins has been appointed as the new Medical Director of the Microbiology Laboratory at Denver Health. Tim brings a vast amount of expertise and experience to this role, and we look forward to his continued leadership!

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### **Kristine Erlandson, MD: Panelist at the White House World AIDS Day Event**

Kristine Erlandson represented CU Infectious Diseases at the White House on December 5, 2025. Kristine was invited as a panelist for the *Enhancing the Lives of People with HIV: A Quality of Life Symposium*. The event was part of the White House World AIDS Day observance, in which community leaders and federal partners convened to explore ways to enhance quality of life for people with HIV. Congratulations, Kristine!

*Pictured: Kristine and Jeff Taylor, a community activist and AIDS survivor.*

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We are delighted to bring together the Colorado Infectious Diseases Community, including physicians, researchers, public health officials, pharmacists, advanced practice practitioners, and other healthcare professionals for an engaging and informative conference. The Colorado Infectious Diseases Symposium is dedicated to fostering collaboration, disseminating cutting-edge research, and discussing the latest advancements in the field of infectious diseases. Our collective aim is to advance learning, enhance collegiality, and improve health outcomes for patients in Colorado.

**This is your last chance to register!** Spots have filled up quickly, and registration will close on

February 15. To view our program and to register free of charge, please click the button below. Questions can be directed to the conference organizers at [coidsymposium@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:coidsymposium@cuanschutz.edu).

CLICK HERE TO  
REGISTER

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### Patient Experience Quotes

"During my recent visit, **Dr. Kristine Erlandson** demonstrated exceptional care and attention. Her knowledge and dedication continually make me feel confident and well-supported in my health journey. I have been receiving care from Dr. Erlandson for many years, and the consistency in quality care is remarkable. Her commitment to my well-being, along with the clinic's supportive environment has been pivotal to maintaining my health. The communication skills of Dr. Erlandson and her team are outstanding. They listen attentively and address all my concerns with compassion and professionalism, which greatly enhances my overall experience. I appreciate the continuous efforts of the team to maintain such high standards and create a positive patient experience."

"I am blessed to have **Dr. Jose Castillo** as my provider. He is professional, respectful, listens to my concerns, and addresses them with full knowledge. He is not only knowledgeable but also has a warm heart."

"**Dr. Chia-Yu Chiu** was courteous and attentive to my concerns and allowed me to speak and have a say in treatments and future appointments. I've been out of state for the last 7 years and if I had the same care in Florida, I wouldn't be so sick now. The Drs and NPs and PAs in UCH are wonderful. Thank you."

**Dr. Michael Haden:** "I must say living with "invisible autoimmune conditions" this hospital saw me, truly heard what was happening to me... and literally saved my life. The outpouring of next level care was amazing. A very special thank you to the infectious disease team, thank you for your relentless care. Everyone was absolutely amazing."

"**Dr. Nina Millman** is an extraordinary provider. Going above and beyond her duty. I'm extremely happy to be her patient."

"I trust **Dr. Craig Nielsen** with the utmost confidence to help me manage not only my health care but to maintain the best quality of my life. He is truly a caring, knowledgeable, and compassionate provider/individual. Dr. Craig is 'The BEST.'"

"Dr. Neena Thomas-Gosain did a fabulous job throughout the appointment, and I am still impressed with how kind and capable she was – especially with how willing she was to answer ALL my questions and to educate me on the applicable topics. I have never left a doctors' appointment feeling more heard, educated, or confident in the treatment plan set up than I felt leaving my appointment with Dr. Thomas-Gosain. I would recommend seeking out Dr. Neena Thomas-Gosain to friends and strangers alike, and I would especially recommend her for anyone who wants to ask lots of questions that will be heard and thoroughly answered."

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#### Awards



#### **Aakriti Pandita, MD: digiSPARK 2025**

Congratulations to Aakriti Pandita, who was awarded the digiSPARK 2025 grant to develop an AI documentation tool to reduce documentation related to work burden among providers. The award of \$57,500 is funded through the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade.

#### **Molly Haag Awards: DOM Elevation Award and CU Anschutz Employee of the Month**

Congratulations to Molly Haag who was awarded the Department of Medicine Elevation Award and the CU Anschutz Employee of the Month Award!

*"Molly is our Linkage to Care Coordinator on the Patient Support Team in the IDGP Clinic. She does an incredible job reaching out to patients who are newly diagnosed with HIV, she has a way of connecting with them and making them feel comfortable after being given a traumatic diagnosis. She has an impeccable ability to start where the patient is at while also helping them connect to care, and she remains a contact short term to ensure the appointment went well and that they are engaged in care...Molly is an incredible asset to our team, always willing to step in and help the rest of us when needed. She picks up our Project Angel Heart meals at least once a month so that we can provide them to patients as needed. She is also a good social support and checks in with the team in a gentle and respectful manner."*





## Best Preceptor Awards

Four division faculty members were recently awarded Best Preceptor awards based on nominations from medical students in the Advanced Sciences Advanced Immunology & Immunotherapy Course. Congratulations to Drs. Alyssa Castillo, Kellie Hawkins, Martin Krsak, and Nina Millman! Thank you all for your dedication to our students.

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### Division Happenings



#### **Connie Savor Price, MD, MBA: Transition from Denver Health**

Connie Price [recently announced](#) that she is leaving Denver Health as of January 20 and stepping down from her role as Chief Medical Officer. Connie was with Denver Health for over 22 years, serving as CMO for the past 9 years. Our division has greatly benefited from her leadership, and we deeply appreciate her years of dedicated service. Connie will remain a Professor of Medicine in the division.



#### **Whitney Miller, DNP, Appointed to CU Faculty**

Welcome and congratulations to Whitney Miller! We are delighted to announce that Whitney is the first APP from Denver Health to receive a faculty appointment with the ID Division. We are thrilled to have Whitney as an official member of our faculty.





## **Madison Salam, PharmD, BCIDP, Achieves Board Certification in ID Pharmacy**

Congratulations to Madison Salam for successfully passing the Board of Pharmacy Specialties ID Special Exam! With this achievement, Madison joins Karrine Brade and Michael Casias from our UCH ID Pharmacy team in holding board certification. Well done, Madison!

### **Invited Lectures & Traveling Physicians:**

- Eric Poeschla, MD, gave an invited talk at the Keystone "RNA Mediated Regulation of Immunity: Mechanism, Disease, and Therapeutics" meeting on January 28, 2025, in which he discussed his research laboratory's work on viral nucleic acid sensing.
- Josh Barocas, MD, gave a Grand Rounds presentation at Columbia University entitled: "Stigma, Policies, and Misperceptions: Unpacking the Social and Political Determinants that are Worsening the Homelessness Crisis in the US".
- Lorna Allen, FNP-C, MSN, RN, will give a talk titled "Confronting the OPAT Ordeal: Standardizing the OPAT discharge process at University of Colorado Hospital" at [XGM 2025](#).
- Brian Montague, DO, MS, MPH, will give a talk titled "Optimizing Secure Chat Messaging Through Identifying Best Practices for Use: A Data Driven Approach" at [XGM 2025](#).

### **Other Updates:**

- Donna McGregor, NP, MSN, was appointed to the Cervical Cancer Prevention Technical Expert Panel for Project C.U.R.E Clinics and College. She will be developing a Policy for Cervical Cancer Prevention for HIV-infected women in developing countries and will travel to Ghana with Project C.U.R.E. in 2025.
- Andrés Henao-Martinez, MD, PhD, participated in the MD Roundtable podcast in an episode titled "Chagas Disease and Oropouche Virus Disease discussion". [Click here](#).
- Ashley Armstrong (Denver Health Clinic Administrator) and family welcomed a daughter, Remy, on January 2, 2025.
- Jorge Medina (Case Manager at the ID Clinic and for the HIV DACE program at Denver Health) and family welcomed a daughter, Stella Thai on January 5, 2025.
- Sarah Mann, MD, and family welcomed a daughter, Faye Emma Appel, on February 1, 2025.



## ID Hitting the Slopes

Check out this photo of Sam Kaplan and Rachel Hendryx skiing powder at A-basin!

*Call for photos: Submit your photos enjoying Colorado winter recreation for a special segment in our next newsletter!*

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### 2024 Division Holiday Party

Thank you to everyone who attended our holiday party on December 19! It was a fantastic turnout, and it was wonderful to see so many colleagues come together.



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### Some Recent Publications



### **Andrés Henao-Martinez, MD, PhD, & Chia-Yu Chiu, MD**

Andrés Henao-Martinez and Chia-Yu Chiu published a paper titled "Timeline and outcomes of viral and fungal infections after chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy: a large database analysis" in *Clinical Microbiology and Infection*.

The paper was portrayed in the *New England Journal of Medicine's* [Journal Watch](#).

[Read More](#)

Andrés Henao-Martinez and Chia-Yu Chiu published a paper titled "Incidence of anaphylaxis in patients with alpha-gal syndrome receiving gelatin-containing vaccines: A large database analysis" in the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*.

[Read More](#)

### **Andrés Henao-Martinez, MD, PhD, & Samantha (Sam) Kaplan, MD**

Andrés Henao-Martinez and Sam Kaplan published a paper titled "Impact of antiparasitic therapy on cardiovascular outcomes in chronic Chagas disease. A systematic review and meta-analysis" in The Lancet's journal *eClinical Medicine*.

[Read More](#)

### **Andrés Henao-Martinez, MD, PhD, & Eddie Stenehjem, MD, MSc**

Andrés Henao-Martinez and Eddie Stenehjem published a paper titled "Mortality patterns in candidemia: Insights from a multispecies analysis using a global research network" in *Medical Mycology*.

[Read More](#)



### **Kejun Guo, PhD, & Mario Santiago, PhD**

Kejun Guo and Mario Santiago recently contributed to an article titled "Regulation of Human Interferon Signaling by Transposon Exonization" published in *Cell*. Kejun performed the experiments in our Biosafety Level-3 facility to demonstrate that a novel form of the Interferon Receptor acts as a decoy to inhibit and regulate innate immunity against SARS-CoV-2 infection.

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### **Josh Barocas, MD**

Josh Barocas published multiple papers:

"Prevalence of adults with stimulant misuse and/or stimulant use disorder in Massachusetts, USA, 2014-2021" in *Addiction*.

[Read More](#)

"Criminal lethal penalties, substance use, and overdose: a concept mapping study examining Colorado's criminal legal penalties"

[Read More](#)

"Youth Homelessness in Denver, Colorado: 2017-2021"

See the [News Features](#) section of this article for a link to the CU Anschutz press release.

[Read More](#)

### **Sarah Mann, MD, & Josh Barocas, MD**

Sarah Mann and Josh Barocas published a paper titled "Bolstering the HIV Surveillance System Through Innovative Methods, Technologic Advances, and Community-Driven Solutions to Inform Intervention Efforts and End the Epidemic" in *Current HIV/AIDS Reports*.

[Read More](#)



**Dan Pastula, MD, MHS, Ken Tyler, MD, & David Beckham, MD**

Dan Pastula, Ken Tyler, and David Beckham published an article titled "Oropouche Virus: An Emerging Neuroinvasive Arbovirus" in *Annals of Neurology*.

[Read More](#)



**Kellie Hawkins, MD, & Bill Burman, MD**

Kellie Hawkins and Bill Burman published a paper titled "Toward Evidence-based Recommendations for Laboratory Monitoring for Adolescents and Adults on Antiretroviral Therapy" in *Clinical Infectious Diseases*.

[Read More](#)



**Hayato Mitaka, MD**

Hayato Mitaka has multiple recent publications:

"Recognizing asymptomatic bacteriuria in the surveillance of catheter-associated urinary tract infections-beyond fever and positive urine culture" in *Antimicrobial Stewardship & Healthcare Epidemiology*.

[Read More](#)

"Wunderlich Syndrome Secondary to Klebsiella pneumoniae Bacteremia" in *The American Journal of Medicine*.

[Read More](#)

"Implementation and Assessment of a Curriculum for Renal Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) Training" in *POCUS Journal*.

[Read More](#)

"Challenges in interpreting the role of gentamicin in treatment of invasive listeriosis: immortal time bias and confounding" in *Infection*.

[Read More](#)



### **Chia-Yu Chiu, MD**

Chia-Yu Chiu published a paper titled "Clinical utility of two-step hepatitis E virus IgM antibody testing in a low-prevalence setting: A 10-year retrospective multicenter study" in *Hepatology Communications*.

[Read More](#)



### **Kristine Erlandson, MD**

Kristine Erlandson published an article titled "2024 Update of the RECOVER-Adult Long COVID Research Index" in *JAMA*.

[Read More](#)

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## **News Features**

### ***CU Anschutz Today***

Researchers across Colorado, led by **Josh Barocas, MD**, and resident Matthew Westfall, MD, of the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, combined multiple data sources for youth aged 14 to 17 in the city of Denver to estimate the total number of youth experiencing homelessness, accounting for those not reached by services. This estimation found the prevalence of youth homelessness to be significantly greater than previously estimated.

[Read More](#)

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## ***Annals of Internal Medicine, Spotlight on 2024***

[Read More](#)

In August 2024, **Kristine Erlandson, MD**, published the [article](#) "Differentiation of Prior SARS-CoV-2 Infection and Postacute Sequelae by Standard Clinical Laboratory Measurements in the RECOVER Cohort" that was recently named one of the most influential articles published in *Annals of Internal Medicine* last year.

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### **Upcoming Opportunities**

#### **Call for Applications: Colorado-Zimbabwe International Exchange Program**

The Colorado-Zimbabwe International Exchange Program (CoZIE) is a bilateral exchange program between the Department of Medicine and the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Zimbabwe College of Health Sciences (UZCHS). Up to three DOM faculty will be selected to spend two weeks as a visiting professor at UZCHS. Applications are due March 31. [Click here](#) to download the application form.

#### **Call for Applications: Spring Susan Mason Award Fund**

Applications are being accepted now through April 1 for the spring 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. [Click here](#) for a PDF with application instructions. Please forward to your mentees and contact Kristine Erlandson ([kristine.erlandson@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:kristine.erlandson@cuanschutz.edu)) with any questions.

#### **CDPHE World Tuberculosis Day Symposium**

The Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment is offering a free, in-person World TB Day Symposium on March 24. The event will be held at National Jewish Health in the Molly Blank Conference Center. [Click here](#) to download the flyer. Registration closes on February 24 or once the event reaches full capacity. [Register now](#).

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**Job Board**

## **CU Anschutz Open Rank TID Physician**

We are recruiting for an open rank Transplant Infectious Diseases (TID) physician. [Learn more and share!](#)

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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](mailto:eleanor.shields@cuanschutz.edu).

**Visit the [ID Division Website](#)**

