



Division of Infectious Diseases

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS



June & July 2023



Lakshmi Chauhan, MD

Infectious Diseases Associate Head for
Clinical Affairs

We are excited to announce that, as of July 1, 2023, Lakshmi Chauhan has stepped into the position of Associate Head for Clinical Affairs for the Division of Infectious Diseases. In this capacity, she is responsible for directing and overseeing the Division's clinical activities at the University of Colorado Hospital. After a national search, Lakshmi has been chosen to succeed Steven Johnson in this important position. We are immensely grateful for Steve's past significant contributions in this role.

Lakshmi brings a wealth of experience and expertise to this leadership role. For six years, she has been the Director of Inpatient Services, demonstrating exceptional leadership skills and possessing extensive knowledge of our clinical operations and scheduling requirements. Please join us in warmly welcoming Lakshmi to this critical leadership role, and we look forward to her continued contributions to our division's success.



Brian Montague, DO

Infectious Diseases Director of Quality & Patient Safety

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Brian Montague as the Director of Quality & Patient Safety for the Division of Infectious Diseases. Brian will be responsible for leading and supporting the Division's quality initiatives, collaborating closely with the Division Head and medical directors to achieve key quality goals. Additionally, Brian will serve as a vital member of the DOM Quality Council (DOM-QC). We look forward to the positive impact he will make in enhancing the quality enterprise within the Division and Department.

Some Recent Publications



Lindsay Nicholson

Lindsay Nicholson published a recent paper in *AIDS and Behavior* titled "A Retrospective Comparison of HIV Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Outcomes Between a Pharmacist-led Telehealth Clinic and In-person Clinic in a Veteran Population."

This retrospective cohort study evaluated differences in adherence to PrEP medication and monitoring between the physician- and nurse practitioner-led in-person setting and the pharmacist-led telehealth setting among patients followed by the infectious diseases clinic at the VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System from July 2012 to February 2021. Adherence to PrEP medications and monitoring was similar between in-person and telehealth clinics. Additionally, patients were less likely to be lost to follow-up when followed via telehealth. These findings indicate that pharmacist-driven delivery of PrEP via telehealth can be used to increase access to PrEP without sacrificing quality of care. [Read more.](#)



Kristine Erlandson, Cory Hussain, Brian Montague, & Sarah Rowan

Kristine Erlandson, Cory Hussain, Brian Montague, Sarah Rowan, and urban planners from UC Denver and the University of Utah recently published a paper titled "The neighborhood built environment and COVID-19 hospitalizations" in *PLOS One*.

The study investigated the link between the built environment and COVID-19 hospitalization rates among 18,042 individuals who tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 in the Denver metropolitan area between May and December 2020. The research revealed that living in multi-family housing and areas with higher particulate matter (PM2.5) increased the risk of hospitalization, while neighborhoods with higher walkability and bikeability and reduced public transit access were associated with a lower risk. [Read more.](#)

Sarah Rowan was featured in a [Westword article](#) describing the research. She expressed hope that the findings will serve as a valuable reference in shaping public health policy to mitigate respiratory illness risks posed by pathogens such as COVID-19.

Grants Received

Cara Wilson, MSTP Program

Congratulations to Cara Wilson, the director of the Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) and principal investigator of the training grant, along with the entire MSTP leadership and administrative team on securing well-deserved news. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has renewed funding for our dual MD/PhD program, continuously funded since 1993, and responsible for training 283 dual-degree students. Additionally, the NIH has expanded the number of training slots as part of the remarkable \$5.7 million, five-year renewal. The program's excellence and competitiveness offer exceptional training opportunities at the Anschutz Medical Campus, University of Colorado Boulder, and National Jewish Health. This achievement reflects the dedication and success of our MSTP team, promising a bright future for the program and its students.

Lakshmi Chauhan, AB Nexus Award

Congratulations to Lakshmi Chauhan for being selected as one of the 2023 award recipients in the sixth round of grant awards by the AB Nexus program. This unique program fosters interdisciplinary research collaborations between the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus and the University of Colorado Boulder. Lakshmi's project, "Developing a High-throughput and Accelerated Antibiotic Susceptibility Testing Method," is a collaboration with Anushree Chatterjee, Associate Professor of chemical and biological engineering at CU Boulder.

Susan Mason Endowed Fund In Infectious Diseases - Applications Due August 1

Susan R. Mason, MD was a prominent and well-loved infectious diseases physician in the Denver area until her untimely death at the age of 63 in 2016. She completed an ID fellowship at the University of Colorado in 1985, and co-founded Western Infectious Diseases PC. Dr. Mason was one of the first women to have an exclusive infectious disease practice in the Denver metropolitan area. Susan taught a generation of ID fellows, many of whom are prominent ID practitioners in the Denver area now. She inspired medical students every year with her sensitive, practical and intelligent approach to diagnosing and treating infectious diseases. The Susan Mason Education Award advances her goals and practice to enhance the ethical and inclusive care of all patients based on the most robust information available. Upon her passing, her husband, Richard J. Wedgle, established a fund to honor her legacy and support trainees interested in careers in infectious diseases.

Purpose and Donor Intent: Distributions from the Susan Mason Fund will be 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.

Application Materials:

Long-term career goals (1/2 page limit)

Description of proposed use of funds (1/2 page limit)

CV, resume, or biosketch

Statement from mentor or program director attesting to the appropriate use of the funds as requested

Application Due Date and Award Announcements:

Award applications will be due yearly on March 1 and August 1 by 5pm MT (email application materials to kristine.erlandson@cuanschutz.edu). No late applications will be considered. Funding decisions will be announced and funds will become available by April 1 and September 1, respectively.

Expectations of Award:

Awardees must submit a brief progress report (< 1 page) within 12 months of award receipt, providing explanation of the use of the funds and how funds have contributed to the awardees' experience in infectious diseases. These reports should be written in layperson language and will be distributed to Mr. Mason.

Selection Process: Recipients will be chosen based on merit of the request upon review by the selection committee including:

Kristine Erlandson (Chair and Anschutz representative)

Ed Janoff (VAMC representative)

Kellie Hawkins (Denver Health representative)

Christiana Smith-Anderson (Children's Hospital Colorado representative)

Questions Regarding the Application Process:

Please reach out to any of the selection committee members above.

Contribute to the Fund:

Interested in contributing to the fund? Continued contributions to this fund will allow for larger awards in the future. There are various ways to do this including setting up a regular deduction from your paycheck. [Click here](#) for more information.

Other Division News

Reunion at 'Fitz'

Steven Johnson reunited with over 100 physicians who once served at the Fitzsimons Army Medical Center for the first time since its closure in 1995. The gathering offered reflections on the center's storied history since its establishment in 1917. The Fitzsimons General Hospital was rebuilt and reopened in 1941, just four days before the attack on Pearl Harbor. The hospital played an important role during WWII, treating an average of 5,000 patients daily. Today, the Fitzsimons Building houses numerous administrative offices on our campus. Pictured below near the top railing, Steve and his wife Kathy stand alongside other reunion attendees. Read more about the reunion [here](#).



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](#)

