



Division of Infectious Diseases

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS



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**June & July 2024**

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

Happy Summer All! I hope everyone is finding time to enjoy this beautiful state of ours. As usual, it has been a busy couple months in the ID Division. The search for our new Division Head is moving along well. We have had three exceptional candidates visit our campus over the past month and we have one more coming in 2 weeks. Thank you to everyone that has participated in town halls, interviewed the applicants, and have provided feedback on the applicants. This summer we are also welcoming new faculty and fellows to our campus. Dr. Chia-Yu Chiu recently joined us after he completed his Transplant ID Fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester. Dr. Steven Mudroch started last week. Steve trained in ID at Temple University Hospital and has been a practicing ID physician at Cooper University Hospital for the past year. Steve has ties to the area dating back to his time in the Air Force and his work at the Air Force Academy. Lastly, Dr. Hayato Mitaka will be joining us this fall. Hayato has recently completed his ID fellowship at the University of Washington. See below for our amazing new fellows that started on July 1st!

Please enjoy all the updates below. I absolutely love sharing the amazing work you all are doing!

Sincerely,  
Eddie

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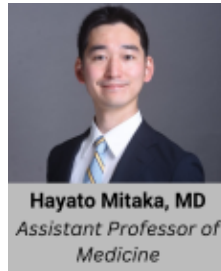
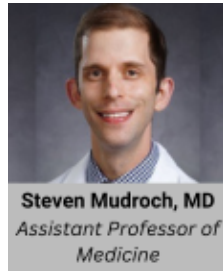
## Featured News

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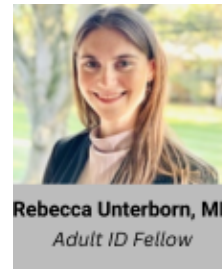
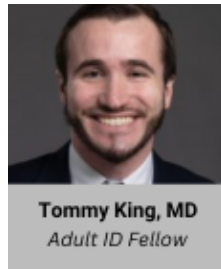
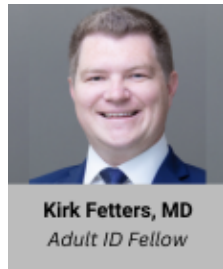
### Welcome to our New Faculty and Fellows

We are delighted to welcome new faculty and fellows to our team!

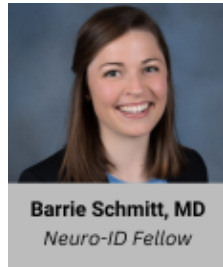
#### 2024 New Infectious Diseases Faculty



#### 2024 New Infectious Diseases Fellows



#### 2024 New Neuro-Infectious Diseases & Autoimmune Neurology Fellows



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### 2024 Faculty Promotions

We're thrilled to announce the promotion of many outstanding faculty members, effective July 1. Congratulations to all on this well-deserved recognition of your hard work and dedication!

## Assistant Professor of Medicine



**Rachel Hendryx, PA**  
*Assistant Professor of  
Medicine*



**Margaret McLees, MD**  
*Assistant Professor of  
Medicine*

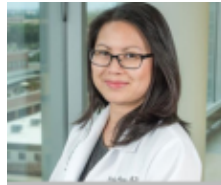
## Associate Professor of Medicine



**Hillary Dunlevy, MD**  
*Associate Professor of  
Medicine*



**Margaret Fitzpatrick, MD**  
*Associate Professor of  
Medicine*



**Misha Huang, MD**  
*Associate Professor of  
Medicine*



**Lindsay Nicholson, MD**  
*Associate Professor of  
Medicine*



**Sara Scherrer, MD**  
*Associate Professor of  
Medicine*

## Professor of Medicine



**Mario Santiago, PhD**  
*Professor of Medicine  
with Tenure*



**Robert Belknap, MD**  
*Professor of Medicine*



**Kristine Erlandson, MD**  
*Professor of Medicine*



**Brian Montague, DO**  
*Professor of Medicine*



**Daniel Pastula, MD**  
*Professor of Medicine*

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## 25 Years of Western Slope HIV Collaborations: Transitioning to Virtual Support

Steven Johnson, who traveled monthly for many years to clinics in Grand Junction and Durango, offers an insightful account of the collaborative Clinics over the past 25 years:

"Beginning in the late 1990s, planning began for HIV collaborative Clinics with the University of Colorado providing on site consultation at St. Mary's Family Practice Center in Grand Junction and Mercy Regional Medical Center in Durango. This led to a successful Ryan White Part C grant with the first collaborative HIV clinic in January of 2000. More recently, our involvement has also been supported by funds from the Telluride AIDS Benefit. Early on, multiple ID physicians went to Grand Junction including former faculty members Wheat Williams, Alex Kallen, and Monica Carten. However, for most of the time, it has been me traveling monthly to either Grand Junction or Durango. We made the decision to stop these on site collaborations this year with the last visits to Durango and Grand Junction in May and June respectively. Both sites had great celebrations regarding 25 years of collaboration which of course were also bittersweet. The pictures include

Dr. Amy Davis from Grand Junction and Drs. Chuck Salka and Jennifer Rupp from Durango. Our plans are for virtual support of these HIV programs going forward. Steve Johnson"



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## Brian Montague Named Medical Director of Transplant Infectious Diseases

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Brian Montague as the Medical Director of Transplant Infectious Diseases for the Division of Infectious Diseases. As the former Interim Medical Director, Brian brings much experience and expertise to this leadership role. Brian will be responsible for overseeing and coordinating TID activities, including inpatient TID consultation, outpatient TID care, the development of treatment protocols, and other transplant-related responsibilities in collaboration with the UCH Transplant Center. Please join us in warmly welcoming Brian to this critical leadership role, and we look forward to his continued contributions to our division's success.



**Brian Montague, DO**  
Medical Director,  
Transplant Infectious Diseases

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## Patient Experience Quotes

"The **Infectious Disease team** is incredible. They do a great job. They've certainly earned my trust and respect."

"**Hillary Dunlevy** is one in a million. I like her. She's nice, courteous, efficient, and very friendly. I wouldn't choose another provider unless I had to."

"**Michael Haden** was very knowledgeable, took my concerns very seriously and has followed up with me a few days later to explain future treatment. UCHHealth has the best doctors!!!"

"I have not been to a travel Clinic before. Both **Whitney Schraufnagel** and **Jesus Hernandez** were very knowledgeable. They gave me information to make decisions and I felt confident in the treatment plan. It was a great appointment."

"**Laura Damioli** has done a wonderful job. She has taken very good care of me. She is very, very concerned about the infection that I have in my body and I trust her wholly. So anyway, I don't have anything but good things to say."

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## Division Happenings and Recognitions

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### ID Division at Pikes Peak Pride Festival 2024

ID Division members volunteered at and joined in the celebration of Pikes Peak Pride Festival in Colorado Springs on June 8th and 9th, 2024. Kendra Dickson led the charge at the IDGP PrEP table on June 8th, and Donna McGregor and Craig Nielsen continued the outreach on June 9th. Check out photos from the event below!





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### **Docs-a-Cyclin' Riders Conquer the Courage Classic, Supporting Children's Hospital Colorado and ID Research!**

Congratulations and kudos to the Docs-a-Cyclin' riders who cycled over 80 miles across three mountain passes in the Courage Classic Bicycle Tour, raising approximately \$4 million for Children's Hospital Colorado and \$61,000 for ID research!



Docs-a- cyclin' left to right:

**Bruce McCollister**, AMC ID Faculty

**Christine Haynes**, Denver Health IM Faculty

**Rachel Kuker**, AMC ID Faculty

**Joana Dimo**, Peds ID Fellow

**Andrew Haynes**, Peds ID Faculty

**Brian Grundy**, AMC ID Faculty

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**Katherine Frasca Appointed Senior Fellow at CU Academy of Medical Educators**



Congratulations to Katherine Frasca who was appointed as a Senior Fellow in the Teaching Track at the Academy of Medical Educators at CU. This honor recognizes faculty who have achieved significant regional and national prominence as independent leaders in medical education with innovative contributions to teaching methods, curricula development, policies, or assessment tools.

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### **Margaret McLees & Larissa Pisney Elected to EPIC ID Steering Board**

Congratulations to Margaret McLees and Larissa Pisney who were elected to the EPIC ID Steering Board. This international board sets the gold standard for EHR use in Infectious Disease by evaluating and enhancing existing configurations. Their work will improve quality of care and productivity for providers, with their developed standards becoming integral to the Foundation System and serving as best practices across organizations.

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### **Margaret Fitzpatrick Awarded VA Rehabilitation Research & Development SPiRE Grant**

Congratulations to Margaret Fitzpatrick who received notice that her application for a pilot Merit review award from the VA Rehabilitation Research & Development (RR&D) has been approved for funding through the Small Projects in Rehabilitation Research (SPiRE) mechanism. The grant, titled "Determining the validity and reliability of the Recurrent Urinary Tract Infection Impact Questionnaire in Veterans with neurogenic bladder," will support a two-year project. The primary objective of the project is to modify and validate a patient-reported outcome survey to measure quality of life and patient satisfaction related to recurrent UTIs in individuals with neurogenic bladder.

The team aims to utilize the survey as an outcome measure in a larger VA Merit or DOD grant that is currently under review, which will evaluate an antibiotic stewardship program designed to improve UTI diagnosis and treatment in people with neurogenic bladder. Shelley Kon is a co-investigator on that grant.

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### **Kristine Erlandson & Jacob Walker Awarded 2024 COLLABORATE Pilot Award**

Congratulations to Kristine Erlandson and Jacob Walker (Geriatrics), who have received the 2024 Department of Medicine COLLABORATE Pilot Award. This award, part of the Collaborative Opportunities for Advancing Research and Translational Efforts (COLLABORATE) program, fosters interdisciplinary research by bridging basic, translational, and clinical science. Kristine and Jacob's project will implement gait speed assessments in the IDGP HIV clinic, integrating expertise from geriatrics, oncology, and physical therapy.

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### **Rachel Hendryx Awarded Inaugural "Stop the Madness" Antibiotic Stewardship Award**



Congratulations to Rachel Hendryx who was awarded the "Stop The Madness" Antimicrobial Stewardship trophy! This is an award created by Karrine Brade and given to Rachel for her work in antibiotic discontinuation!

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### **Michelle Haas NJH Presentation: Tuberculosis Treatment and Medication Regimens**

Michelle Haas gave a talk on June 12, 2024, at National Jewish Health titled **Tuberculosis Treatment and Medication Regimens**. A recording of the talk is available [here](#).

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### **Jared Eddy NJH Presentation: A Challenging Case of NTM**

Jared Eddy gave a talk on July 5, 2024, at National Jewish Health titled **A Challenging Case of NTM**. A recording of the talk is available [here](#).

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### **Joshua Barocas Presentations: "You Can't Incarcerate Yourself Out of the Drug Problem in America" and More**

Josh Barocas gave three recent talks:

**"You Can't Incarcerate Yourself Out of the Drug Problem in America:" The Burden of Additional Criminalization of Fentanyl** at the 2024 Annual College on Problems of Drug



Dependence Conference from June 16 – 19, 2024

**Spatiotemporal Analysis Exploring the Association Between Homeless Encampment Sweeps and Area Crime in Denver, Colorado, 2019-2023** at the Society for Epidemiologic Research, June 18 – 21, 2024.

**From Pre-contemplation to Action: Assisting Policymakers in Making Evidence-Based Substance Use Decisions** on June 26, 2024 at the University of Southern California as part of their Distinguished Speaker Series. A recording of the talk is available [here](#).

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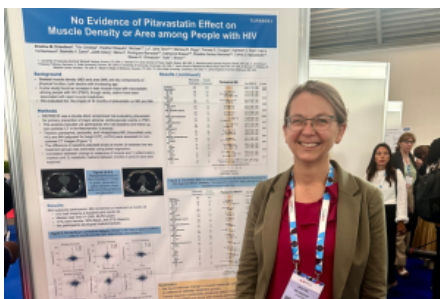
### **Martin Krsak at the 2024 MusculoSkeletal Infection Society Annual Meeting**



Martin Krsak presented at the annual MusculoSkeletal Infection Society (MSIS) conference in Durham, North Carolina. The title of his presentation was "Oritavancin Treatment or Suppression of Bone and Joint Infections Caused by Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci". Laura Damioli also attended the conference and was first author on the research.

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### **Kristine Erlandson at the 2024 International AIDS Conference**



Kristine Erlandson presented a poster titled "No Evidence of Pitavastatin Effect on Muscle Density or Area among People with HIV" at the International AIDS Conference in Munich, Germany, showcasing a pivotal substudy of the game-changing REPRIEVE trial.

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## **ID Division in the News**

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UCHealth Today

**Taking an international trip? How to find a travel clinic and get vaccines before you go.**

[Read More](#)

To answer common questions about travel clinics and vaccines for illnesses ranging from traveler's diarrhea to Ebola, Zika, and mpox, we consulted with **Dr. Andrés Henao**, director of the travel clinic at UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital.

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**Department of Medicine Newsroom**

**A Call for More Research Into a 'Highly Overlooked' Infection That May Pose a Growing U.S. Threat**

[Read More](#)

CU Department of Medicine faculty member **Andrés Henao-Martínez, MD**, says 'urgent action' is needed to better understand Chagas disease.

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**KOA Radio**

**CU Medicine Dr. Daniel Pastula talks about the first West Nile case in Colorado**

[Read More](#)

**Daniel Pastula, MD**, was interviewed about the West Nile virus this year, symptoms and prevention measures.

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**Some Recent Publications**

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**Joshua Barocas**

Josh Barocas and team published a paper in the *New England Journal of Medicine* titled "Community-Based Cluster-Randomized Trial to Reduce Opioid Overdose Deaths". This significant contribution is the culmination of a rigorous 5-year trial measuring the effectiveness of an evidence-based community-engaged intervention to reduce opioid-related overdose deaths.

[Read More](#)

Josh published two additional papers:

"Involuntary displacement and self-reported health in a cross-sectional

survey of people experiencing homelessness in Denver, Colorado, 2018-2019" in *BMC Public Health*.

[Read More](#)

"Using decision tree models and comprehensive statewide data to predict opioid overdoses following prison release" in *Annals of Epidemiology*.

[Read More](#)

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**Kristine Erlandson, Melissa Wilson, Kellie Hawkins, Andrés Henao-Martinez, & Ed Gardner**

Kristine Erlandson, Melissa Wilson, Kellie Hawkins, Andrés Henao-Martínez, Ed Gardner, Arianna Kousari (former ID fellow), and Mohamed Mehdi Bandali (former medical student) published a paper titled "Weight change with antiretroviral switch from integrase inhibitor or tenofovir alafenamide-based to Doravirine-Based regimens in people with HIV" in *HIV Research & Clinical Practice*.

[Read More](#)

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**Alyssa Castillo & Samantha (Sam) Kaplan**

Alyssa Castillo and Sam Kaplan published a paper titled "A 52-Year-Old Man with a Chronic Nasal Wound" in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

[Read More](#)

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### **Chia-Yu Chiu**

Chia-Yu Chiu published a paper titled "The Cascade of Care in Management of Solid Organ Transplant Candidates With Latent Tuberculosis Infection" in *Transplantation Direct*.

[Read More](#)

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### **Michael Haden**

Michael Haden published two papers:

"Candida auris inpatient screening in collaboration with the public health department" in the *American Journal of Infection Control*.

[Read More](#)

"Outbreak of postpartum group A Streptococcus infections on a labor and delivery unit" in *Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology*.

[Read More](#)

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### **Andrés Henao-Martinez, Martin Krsak, & Leland Shapiro**

Andrés Henao-Martínez, Martin Krsak, and Leland Shapiro published a paper titled "Glucocorticoids as a risk factor for infection and adverse outcomes in non-HIV and non-transplant patients with cryptococcal meningitis" in *Mycoses*.

[Read More](#)

### **Andrés Henao-Martinez & Martin Krsak**

Andrés Henao-Martínez and Martin Krsak published a paper titled "Sex-based differences in treatment approaches and outcomes among patients with mpox: Limitations of real-world data" in the *International Journal of STD & AIDS*.

Read More

### **Andrés Henao-Martinez**

Andrés Henao-Martínez published multiple additional papers:

"Epidemiological trends and clinical outcomes of cryptococcosis in a medically insured population in the United States: a claims-based analysis from 2017 to 2019" in *Therapeutic Advances in Infectious Disease*.

Read More

"Managing Modern Antiretroviral Therapy in the Intensive Care Unit: Overcoming Challenges for Critically Ill People With Human Immunodeficiency Virus" in *Open Forum Infectious Diseases*.

Read More

"Chagas disease in the United States: a call for increased investment and collaborative research" in *Lancet Regional Health*.

Read More

"Clinical Characteristics and Outcomes of Disseminated Strongyloidiasis in the United States-A Multicenter Network Analysis" in the *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*.

Read More

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## **Upcoming Opportunities**

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### **CDPHE 2024 Summer of Syphilis Webinar Series**

The CDPHE Summer of Syphilis Webinar Series will take place this August and September, featuring talks by division members **Katherine Frasca** and **Steve Johnson**. Tune-in for a great opportunity to learn more about syphilis! More details can be found [here](#).

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## Register Now for Webinar on 2024 Update of the HIVMA/IDSA Primary Care Guidance

The HIV Medicine Association of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (HIVMA/IDSA) periodically updates its primary care guidance for individuals with HIV to help clinicians enhance care engagement, medication adherence, and viral suppression. This webinar, moderated by **Steve Johnson**, will offer a concise overview of the upcoming 2024 update, set for release in late fall. The webinar will take place on **Wednesday, December 4 from 11:00am – 12:15pm**. More details can be found [here](#).

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## Call for Submissions

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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](#)

