



Division of Infectious Diseases

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS



March 2024

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

What a month it has been! We have a host of incredible accomplishments to share. Steve Johnson finished his tenure with the NIH COVID treatment guideline panel, Lorna Allen wins a big DOM Quality Award, and Andrés Henao-Martinez is tapped as Interim Lead of Global Health for the DOM! It is going to be tough to beat our March highlights. In addition, March brought the start of our recruitment for the next ID Division Head. This process will go through the summer, and we hope to have exceptional candidates on campus to interview this summer. We'll keep everyone updated. Lastly, I've been able to meet with a number of Denver Health ID Faculty members over the past month. I've been absolutely blown away by the work you all are doing to serve our Denver community. You all are doing amazing things, keep up the good work.

Featured News

Closing Chapter: Steven Johnson's Contributions to the NIH COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines Panel



Steven Johnson played a major role in shaping national COVID-19 treatment guidelines as a member of the National Institutes of Health COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines Panel, which concluded its nearly four-year tenure with its final guidelines release on February 29, 2024. Leveraging his expertise from HIV guideline development as a member of the DHHS HIV Antiretroviral Guidelines Panel, Steve contributed to the panel as part of a sub-group that focused on clinical aspects, ensuring comprehensive insights into diagnosing and managing the virus. Their collaborative efforts led to the creation of 70 guideline updates accessed over 50 million times worldwide, marking a significant impact on global healthcare practices. Steve is grateful for what he considers a "once-in-a-career experience," reflecting on the panel's monumental contribution to public health. Read the DOM Newsroom article [here](#).

Lorna Allen Receives the Department of Medicine's 2024 Award for Excellence in Quality



Lorna Allen was honored with the Department of Medicine's 2024 Award for Excellence in Quality. This esteemed recognition celebrates her outstanding contributions to the development and maintenance of our OPAT program. Her dedication and expertise have significantly enhanced our department's quality of care. The nominators stated:

Her constant attention to detail, patient follow up, and rapid assessment of problems has helped to make this one of the most important QI programs at UCH... Lorna identified a lack of order standardization for patients discharging on Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy (OPAT), which presented a major safety risk. Lorna initiated a major cultural change...which brought order and discharge medication list accuracy from 48% to 98%. Lorna has presented this work at a

national ID conference and is working with Epic Headquarters to adopt this new OPAT order set for all Epic users across the US.

Lorna will be recognized at an awards ceremony in May. Congratulations, Lorna!

In addition, congratulations to Kristine Erlandson (DOM Mentorship Award), Katherine Frasca (DOM Education Award), and Elen Feuerriegel (DOM Staff Research Award) on their nominations for DOM Awards!

Andrés Henao-Martinez Appointed Interim Lead of Global Health in the Department of Medicine



Andrés Henao-Martinez, MD
Interim Lead of Global Health
Department of Medicine

We're thrilled to announce that Andrés Henao-Martinez has stepped up as Interim Lead of Global Health in the Department of Medicine. As interim lead, Andrés will help develop the structure and mission of global health initiatives for the DOM to ensure alignment with the Center for Global Health and the School of Medicine. With his extensive global clinical, research, and education experience and deep connections in South America, particularly in Colombia, Peru, Guatemala, and Ecuador, Andrés brings invaluable insights to this position. His role as director of our Travel Clinic at UCH underscores his expertise in clinical aspects related to world travel. We look forward to the positive impact he will make within the Department. Thank you to Andrés for taking on this important role!

March Patient Experience Quotes

"Maheen Abidi is a wonderful doctor! She always listens to me and understands whatever issue I'm addressing. She is the best!"

Whitney Schraufnagel: "Very professional and answered my questions and concerns. Educated me about changing my medications."

"**Craig Nielsen** is fantastic. He is actively involved in my care and listens to my questions. He explains the reason for tests being ordered and isn't pushy about it and gives me information to make informed decisions about my care and allows me to be an active participant in my healthcare as well."

Neena Thomas-Gosain: "I was extremely happy about everything. The doctor took her time asking my history and all applicable questions to understand my situation and advised me accordingly. I'm thankful!!!"

"**Jose Castillo-Mancilla** is always so helpful and thorough. Listens to all my questions and collaborates with me on choices for care. I truly appreciate him."

Dana Karp: "Anything and everything I needed was offered and provided. My recovery is going well and appears to be the right care at the right time. Thank You."

Nina Millman: "I felt so relieved and confident in the treatment plan my provider provided."

"**Katherine Frasca** is amazing and she should keep up the great work."

Kristine Erlandson: "She is the best doctor, the brightest and the most caring doctor I've ever had in my entire life and kudos to her and the clinic and UC Health Hospital. Thank you."

Other Division Happenings and Recognitions

Faculty Gathering at Stanley Beer Hall

Thanks to everyone who attended our faculty get-together at Stanley Beer Hall on March 7! It was a fantastic turnout and success. We appreciate each one of you for taking the time to connect and strengthen our team spirit.





IDGP Receives Supplemental Ryan White Part B Funding for Innovative Healthcare Projects Addressing Inequities and Dementia Care

The Infectious Disease Group Practice was recently awarded supplemental Ryan White Part B funding in two areas of emphasis: reducing inequities and innovation. Both quality improvement projects will support the clinic's current retention in care activities.

The first project, an inpatient retention in care initiative, involves the IDGP social work team providing intensive outreach and services to PLWH in the inpatient unit at University of Colorado Hospital to facilitate reengagement in HIV care. EPIC will be leveraged to generate a daily report to identify PLWH in the hospital in real-time. IDGP social workers will then determine whether a patient currently receives HIV care. If not, a social worker will meet with the patient in the inpatient unit to determine needs, insurance status, schedule an HIV care appointment, and provide referrals for wraparound services. Trace-Ann Gooden, DNP student in the CON and mentored by Lisa Lawrence, will take part in this project as part of her capstone project, assisting with PDSA cycles and evaluation of the project.

A second project will expand dementia assessment and management capacity within the IDGP through the training of embedded "Dementia Champions," an emerging strategy to meet the needs of older adults with cognitive impairment throughout their contact with the healthcare system. Jacob Walker, who leads the "Positive Aging Clinic" in the IDGP, will lend his experience to the project. The training program will build on efforts to integrate geriatric care principles into HIV care by familiarizing additional staff with dementia care principles and existing local resources.

The IDGP's success in securing this supplemental Ryan White Part B funding is credited to the leadership of Lisa Lawrence whose strategic vision and efforts in submitting the funding request paved the way for these new projects. Thank you, Lisa!

Misha Huang and Josh Barocas Advocate for ID Workforce and Antimicrobial Resistance Initiatives on Capitol Hill

Misha and Josh traveled to Washington, D.C. to do important advocacy work on Capitol Hill with IDSA on March 14. They spoke with congressional offices about ID workforce challenges and advocated for funding the Bio-Preparedness Workforce Pilot program, which would provide loan repayment to ID providers. They also advocated for federal investments into combating antimicrobial resistance, including increased funding for CDC, NIAID, and BARDA programs, as well as encouraging lawmakers to sign on to the PASTEUR Act, to support the development of new antimicrobials and provide funding for hospital antimicrobial stewardship programs.



Eric Poeschla 'Virus at the Wheel' Session Co-Chair at CROI 2024

Eric Poeschla co-chaired the "*Virus at the Wheel: Regulation of Replication and Immunity*" session at CROI 2024 on March 6.



Grace Ditzenberger Receives CROI 2024 New Investigator Scholarship Award

Grace Ditzenberger, DPT, PhD candidate on the HIV T32 had an oral presentation in a themed discussion at CROI 2024 and received the CROI New Investigator Scholarship Award. Congratulations, Grace!



Nipun Atri Achieves Personal Record at Napa Valley Marathon 2024

Nipun ran the Napa Valley Marathon on March 4, 2024 in 3 hours and 15 minutes, setting a new personal best.



Some Recent Publications



Charles Dinarello, Suzhao Li, & Carlo Marchetti

Charles Dinarello (a supervising author), Suzhao Li, Carlo Marchetti, and researchers from the Dinarello Lab published a correspondence on March 18 in *Nature Immunology* that provides nomenclature guidelines for the IL-1 family of cytokines and receptors.

[Read More](#)



Edward Janoff

Edward Janoff published two papers:

"Incidence and clinical outcomes of pneumonia in persons with down syndrome in the United States" in *Vaccine*.

[Read More](#)

"Divergent Neuroimmune Signatures in the Cerebrospinal Fluid Predict Differential Gender-Specific Survival Among Patients With HIV-Associated Cryptococcal Meningitis" in *Frontiers in Immunology*.

[Read More](#)



Misha Huang

Misha Huang published a paper titled "Perioperative management of penicillin allergy – the essential partnership between physicians and patients in advancing antibiotic stewardship" in the *Journal of Clinical Anesthesia*.

[Read More](#)



Margaret Fitzpatrick

Margaret Fitzpatrick published a paper titled "Knowledge, perceptions, and beliefs about urinary tract infections in persons with neurogenic bladder and impacts on interventions to promote person-centered care" in *Spinal Cord*.

[Read More](#)



Andrés Henao-Martinez, Martin Krsak, & Leland Shapiro

Andrés Henao-Martinez, 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

Andrés Henao-Martinez and former ID fellows Lilian Vargas Barahona and José Henao Cordero published a paper titled "Risk of Invasive Fungal Infections in Patients with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia treated with Bruton Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors – A Case-Control Propensity Score Matched Analysis" in *Open Forum Infectious Diseases*.

[Read More](#)



Joshua Barocas

Joshua Barocas published a paper titled "Identifying structural risk factors for overdose following incarceration: a concept mapping study" in *Health & Justice*.

[Read More](#)



Michelle Barron & Eddie Stenehjem

Michelle Barron and Eddie Stenehjem are both authors on an article titled "Risk of COVID-19 Hospitalization and Protection Associated With mRNA Vaccination Among US Adults With Psychiatric Disorders" in *Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses*.

[Read More](#)



Eddie Stenehjem

Eddie Stenehjem published a paper titled "Diagnosis and Treatment of Pneumonia in Urgent Care Clinics: Opportunities for Improving Care" in *Open Forum Infectious Diseases*.

[Read More](#)

Upcoming Opportunities

Nontuberculous Mycobacterial (NTM) Lecture Series

National Jewish Health is holding the 2024 NTM Lecture Series for Providers, scheduled for April 25-26, 2024, offered both in-person and on Zoom. Chuck Daley and Shannon Kasperbauer will lead as Conference Co-Chairs. A NTM Lecture Series for Patients and Families will be offered on April 27, 2024. For more information and registration, please visit this [website](#). Don't miss this great opportunity to learn more about NTM!

Antiretroviral Discovery, Evaluation and Application Research (ADEAR) T32 Training Program

The ADEAR T32 Training Program is now accepting applications for post-doctoral training in HIV/AIDS-related research. This integrative program provides multidisciplinary training in basic, translational and clinical science in human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV)/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) research. Applications are due April 15. For additional information, view the [flyer](#) or contact chelsee.mcfarland@cuanschutz.edu.

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](#)

