



Division of Infectious Diseases

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS



May 2023



New Promotions

Congratulations to Maheen Abidi, Suzhao Li, and Larissa Pisney on their recent promotions. Maheen Abidi and Larissa Pisney have been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of Medicine. Suzhao Li has been promoted to the rank of Associate Research Professor. Well done to all!



Maheen Abidi
Associate Professor



Suzhao Li
Associate Research Professor



Larissa Pisney
Associate Professor

Awards Received



Nipun Atri

Nipun Atri, who joins our division this summer, has been awarded the Rush Medical College Department of Medicine "Teacher of the Year Award." Congratulations to Nipun on this honor and recognition! We are very excited to have his great teaching skills and energy here in Colorado.



Kristine Erlandson

Kristine Erlandson is a co-investigator on two recently awarded NIH grants:

ARDS, Pneumonia, and Sepsis Phenotyping (PI Marc Moss)
HEALTH-Cog (PI Pariya Wheeler, UAB)

Congratulations, Kristine!



Steven Johnson

We are thrilled to announce that our Ryan White Part A Grant Award for the fiscal year (March 1, 2023 - February 29, 2024) amounts to \$1,050,065, similar to last year's award. This funding supports vital services across our funded categories, including Outpatient/Ambulatory care, Mental Health care, Early Intervention Services, Substance Use Services, and Case Management. We are immensely proud to have achieved 30 consecutive years of funding and a cumulative grant total exceeding \$25 million. A special recognition goes to Steve for his exceptional efforts in securing this award. We would also like to extend our gratitude to Lisa and Barb for their administrative and financial leadership, as well as to the providers involved in overseeing the grant and clinic—Sara, Sarah, Brian, Hillary, and Martin.

Some Recent Publications



James Colbert

Although it is well-recognized that older adults are disproportionately impacted by sepsis, the mechanisms underlying this susceptibility are incompletely understood. Prior work has predominantly focused on aging-associated alterations in the host immune response as the explanation for these divergent outcomes. However, no therapies targeted towards the host immune response have improved sepsis outcomes in the aging

population. Dr. James Colbert and colleagues recently published a manuscript in mBio investigating longevity-associated changes in the other half of this host-pathogen interaction. The central concept of this work is that as we age, the microbial communities we live with (i.e. the gut microbiome) also age and adapt. When sepsis syndromes are caused by gut microbiota, these organisms play an important role in determining sepsis severity. This study utilizes complementary murine experimental sepsis models to determine the relative contribution of the gut microbiome to sepsis outcomes in aged animals followed by 16S and metagenomic analyses identifying unique genomic features of the aged microbiome. Mechanistic experiments demonstrate an overabundance of host immune evasion virulence factors in the aged metagenomes of mice and humans suggesting a plausible explanation by which these prokaryotic communities induce exaggerated sepsis severity. [Read more.](#)



Andrés Henao-Martinez

Andrés Henao-Martinez was an author on multiple recent papers:

"Migrants in transit across Central America and the potential spread of chloroquine resistant malaria—a call for action" in *Lancet Regional Health*. [Read more.](#)

"Parents' expectation of antibiotic prescriptions for respiratory infections in children: a systematic review and meta-analysis" in *Therapeutic Advances in Infectious Disease*. [Read more.](#)

"Dalbavancin versus standard of care for Staphylococcus aureus bacteremia in patients unable to receive outpatient parenteral antimicrobial therapy" in *International Journal of Antimicrobial Agents*. [Read more.](#)

Additionally, Andrés participated as an author contributor with a chapter in the new CDC Yellow Book. The CDC Yellow Book serves as a valuable resource for travel health guidance and recommendations. You can find more information about the Yellow Book [here.](#)



Chad McCormick & Alyssa Castillo

Chad McCormick and Alyssa Castillo published a clinical case from the University of Colorado Hospital in the NEJM Evidence journal. The case is presented in a novel "Morning Report" style format designed to guide trainee readers through the diagnostic thought process involved in the

evaluation of a young patient who emigrated from Asia and presented with fever. [Read more.](#)

Other Division News

Maheen Abidi

Maheen Abidi was selected to serve as a member at large on the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network - Disease Transmission advisory committee (OPTN- DTAC), July 2023-2026. The Ad Hoc Disease Transmission Advisory Committee (DTAC) considers issues related to the transmission of disease through organ transplantation. Congratulations, Maheen!

Joshua Barocas

Joshua Barocas was interviewed on the "Public Health on Call" Podcast by Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. In the episode titled "The Health Consequences of Displacing People Experiencing Homelessness," Dr. Barocas delved into his recent [JAMA study](#) titled "Population-Level Health Effects of Involuntary Displacement of People Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness Who Inject Drugs in US Cities" that simulated the true cost of "move along" orders and encampment clean-ups. The discussion explored the outcomes of infectious disease outbreaks, hospitalizations, and deaths resulting from these actions. Listeners gained insights into the short-term and long-term implications of these findings. Listen to the podcast episode [here](#).

Vincent Khuu

Vincent Khuu, a research assistant with the Erlandson lab, gave an oral presentation at the American College of Sports Medicine held May 20-June 2 (Denver, CO). Congrats, Vincent!

Eddie Stenehjem

Eddie Stenehjem, who joins our division this summer and will be the new Executive Vice Chair for the Department of Medicine, was interviewed for [Science Friday](#) about a topic front and center in our field, antibiotic resistance (Listen to the interview "[How to Combat the Antibiotic Resistance Crisis](#)" here). Speaking about inappropriate antibiotic prescribing, he noted: "I think we're realizing that this is a much more complex issue than what we made it out to be. For years, it was, oh, we just need to educate our physicians, and our nurse practitioners, and physician's assistants. They just need to do better. We'll just do more education. And we find that it's much more complicated than that."

Intermountain Transplant ID Society Conference

The inaugural Intermountain Transplant ID Society Conference took place on May 25, featuring CU Anschutz ID fellow Vanessa Kung and University of Nebraska fellow Bryan

Walker as presenters. Thank you to all who attended! For future Intermountain Transplant ID Society news, please follow the official Twitter page [@MountainTID](#).

RECOVER Study

Kristine Erlandson, the lead for Colorado's RECOVER site, and her dedicated RECOVER team have received well-deserved recognition for their exceptional work on long COVID. Their contributions were highlighted in [UCHealth Today](#), [CU Anschutz Today](#), [JAMA](#), and in other recent publications (PMID: [36939818](#), PMID: [36655809](#), PMID: [37172130](#), PMID: [36863719](#), PMID: [36713630](#)).

Call for Submissions

We want to hear your news! Please email submissions for our next newsletter to eleanor.shields@cuanschutz.edu.

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