

# Research for Real World Impact

**ACCORDS  
Annual Report  
2024-2025**



Anschutz



Children's Hospital Colorado

ADULT AND CHILD CENTER FOR OUTCOMES  
RESEARCH AND DELIVERY SCIENCE (ACCORDS)

**Building a Community of We**

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# About ACCORDS

The Adult and Child Center for Outcomes Research and Delivery Science (ACCORDS) is a nationally recognized research powerhouse conducting health services, implementation, outcomes, and translational research. Research at ACCORDS encompasses the National Institutes of Health (NIH) categories of T3 through T4 research, which focus on carrying out research and translating findings into real world settings across the entire life spectrum. We provide consultations, education, and mentoring to faculty to create highly competitive and pace-setting health services research studies/grant applications. Ten methodological Cores plus additional resources support researchers across the research lifecycle from idea inception to grant submission/re-submission, grants management, study implementation, and dissemination of findings. We are also an incubator for research leadership in the health services research space by training new investigators through several career development and fellowship training programs.



**Jerica Berge, PhD**  
**MPH, LMFT, CFLE**  
ACCORDS Director



**Mark Gritz, PhD**  
Director of Operations



**Rob Stiner**  
Director of Finance  
& Administration



**Lynn Brewer**  
Communications  
Program Manager



**Tyler Hobson**  
Finance Program  
Manager



**Rebecca Howard**  
Assistant to  
Director



**Jordan Thomas**  
Human Resources  
Program Manager

## DID YOU KNOW?

ACCORDS became a Center in 2022 and is jointly supported by the University of Colorado Anschutz School of Medicine (SOM) and Children's Hospital Colorado through the Colorado Child Health Research Institute (CCHRI).

JOIN US



# From the ACCORDS Director

ACCORDS Community,

I'm excited to share our second annual ACCORDS report. This year we are highlighting the amazing work of our methodological Cores and other resources in addition to the many successes of our ACCORDS community. As I reflect on the past fiscal year at ACCORDS, I'm reminded of the incredible adaptability, persistence, and focus I've witnessed among our faculty, collaborators, and staff. Despite unprecedented challenges, we've come together and shown up for one another at the most critical time--and in doing so, we've created a **"community of we"** where people feel supported despite uncertainty and concerns for the future.

Along with this beloved ACCORDS community, we saw great progress in the I4 vision I brought with me as a new director: Inclusion, Innovation, Integration, and Identity. I'm thrilled to share with you some of the ways we saw this take shape over the past year.

We saw many examples of **Inclusion** this year including adding new timely resources for principal investigators and staff in response to the uncertain times. You can read about some of these resources in the Dissemination and Implementation Core and Data Informatics and Statistics Core sections. We also grew in collaborators including 12 new ACCORDS investigators and 10 affiliates. Additionally, we welcomed 30 new staff into ACCORDS.

We furthered **Integration** this year through growing and deepening partnerships on campus, across campuses, and externally. You can read about these new integrative collaborations in the Digital Health Technology Core, Economic Analysis Core, and Prevention Research Center sections.

**Innovation** was led by our principal investigators, Cores, and staff through our trailblazing research this year. You can read about some of these innovative studies in the Learning Health Systems Core, Colorado Program for Patient-Centered Decisions Core, and Qualitative and Mixed Methods Core sections. In addition, we saw the sunseting and start-up of our innovative Cores. You can read about these happenings in the Community Engagement Core and Pragmatic Research and Trials Core sections. We also submitted a record-breaking 110 grants this year promoting our state-of-the-art health services research.

Our **Identity** continued to flourish this year as we've created new platforms to showcase our important work such as Grand Rounds and ACCORDS Highlights. You can read more about these new offerings in the TEaM Core section. Additionally, we have redesigned our newsletter to have a Core, Investigator, Community, and Staff focus each quarter to acknowledge the amazing ACCORDS team. We also had our first ever philanthropic gift of \$100,000 from a CU Anschutz residency alumnus to invest in the next generation of up-and-coming health services researchers.

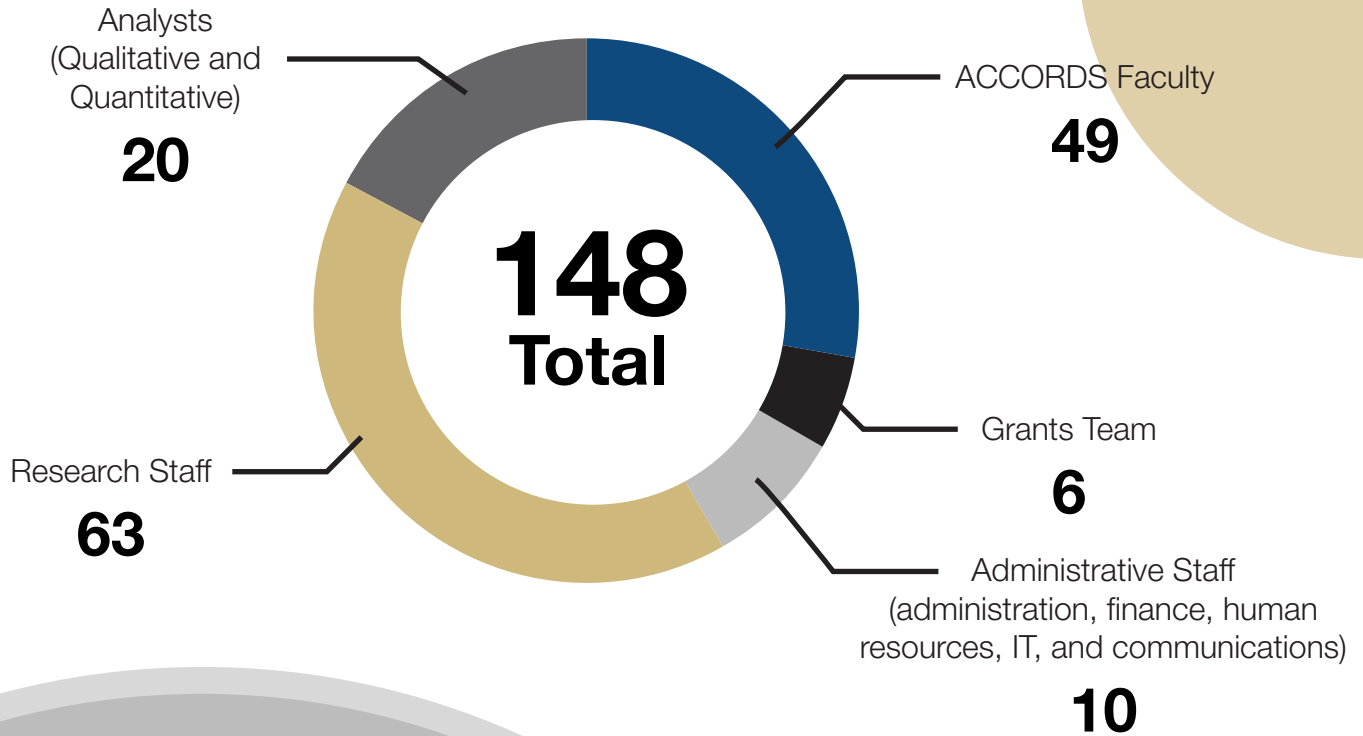
We achieved so much together, and that's how we will navigate the next chapter at ACCORDS – together with our "community of we."

Thinking of you all,  
Jerica Berge, PhD, MPH, LMFT, CFLE  
ACCORDS Director

## ACCORDS MISSION

Our mission is to improve health, both locally and nationally, by supporting state-of-the-art outcomes and community translational research to guide clinical practice and policy.

# ACCORDS Faculty, Investigators, and Staff



## Wellness Spotlight

The ACCORDS Wellness Committee fosters a workplace culture rooted in the community of we by supporting personal and professional health across physical, mental, and social well-being. Committee members volunteer their time throughout the year to host activities that strengthen connection, encourage balance, and build a sense of belonging across the ACCORDS community.

During the 2024–2025 fiscal year, the Wellness Committee hosted a wide range of activities, including happy hours, lunch lounge gatherings, break o’ clock, March Madness, stretching and meditation sessions, a chili cook-off, Mindful May activities, Bike to Work, volunteering opportunities, ACCORDS races, office Olympics, Halloween decorating, the autumn gathering, and a holiday cookie exchange.

Thank you to Dennis Gurfinkel, Steve Lockhart, Lucy Rodriguez, Jasmine Nava-Ortega, Madonna Shafer, and Becky Howard for your time, energy, and dedication to supporting wellness and fostering our community of we at ACCORDS.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Our ACCORDS staff retention rate was

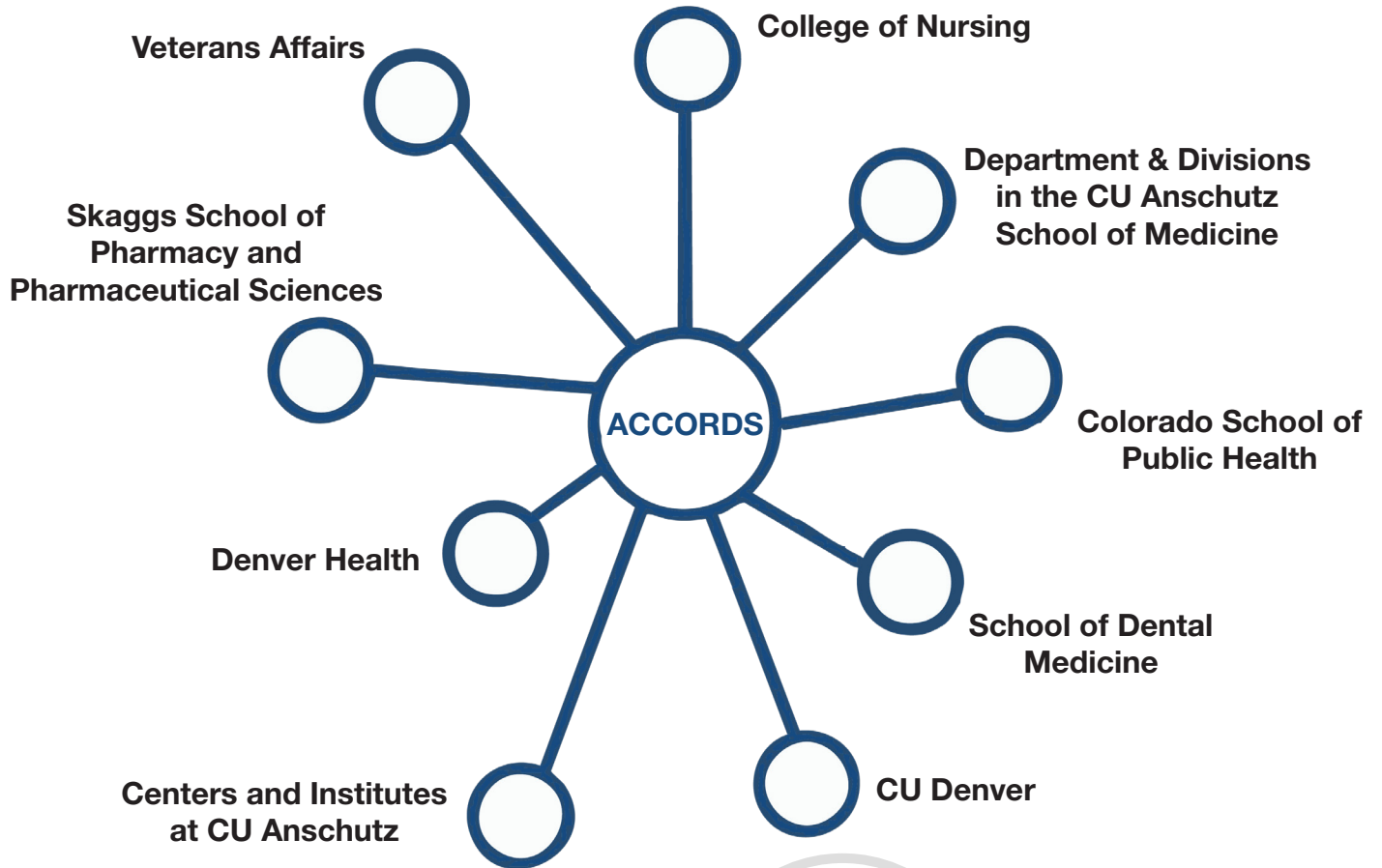
**94%**

### CHECK OUT OUR FULL FACULTY LIST



# Consultations & Collaborations

ACCORDS Cores provide consultations to researchers looking to carry out health services research. These consultations lead to cutting-edge studies and competitive grant proposals that advance the field of health services research. Multidisciplinary collaborations are key to ACCORDS strong research and supporting researchers across the CU Anschutz campus. One example of a new multidisciplinary partnership this year was with the Nutrition Outcome Research Center (NORC). Led by Mónica Jolles, PhD, associate professor of pediatrics, we were funded as part of the NORC competitive renewal to add a dissemination and implementation aim to the NORC which allowed for building a consultation service and pilot award for more NORC investigators to grow in their dissemination and implementation science.



649 research consultations and collaborations across 227 different campus departments / divisions, plus 23 external partners



181 internal CU grant collaborations and 64 external collaborations

SET UP A CONSULT WITH US



# Grant Submissions and Awards



## Research Funding

\$35 million in Research Total Award Funding, making ACCORDS the 6th most funded Department / Center / Institute in the CU Anschutz School of Medicine.



## Grant Proposals

Supported 69 PIs to submit more than 110 proposals across 41 different departments / divisions in 2024 – 2025.



## Grant Mechanisms

Submitted 38 grants to NIH, 13 to other federal agencies, and 59 to foundations and other non-federal agencies.



## ACCORDS

Submitted grants will contribute \$33 million in total NIH award dollars to SOM's overall Blue Ridge Rankings from FY24-FY28.



**\$1 = \$2**

Working with ACCORDS resulted in 113% ROI for investigators and their departments.



## Early Career Faculty

18 career development proposals submitted across 11 divisions and sections.

# Dissemination & Implementation Science Core: Adapting to Changing Contexts

The Dissemination and Implementation (D&I) Science Core adapted activities and resources to meet the increasing demands for D&I methods among health services researchers nationally and locally, represented in four specific changes:

#1 Established two new work-in-progress meetings specifically for early-stage investigators (ESIs) to provide networking and support for mentees, K Awardees, ESIs, and independent investigators pivoting their research programs into the D&I space.

#2 Enhanced online resources and guidance on our website, including new tools on our co-creation approach to engagement, functions and forms approach to complex health care interventions, Frequently Asked Questions section, and recent publications and presentations.

#3 Added more sections to our Introduction to D&I Research course for the Graduate Certificate program to expand the capacity of our graduate training options.

#4 Developed new resources to address emerging issues in the field, including a guidebook and templates to assess the costs of engagement activities and an interactive tool to assess and guide adaptations to programs using our PRISM implementation framework.



**Russell Glasgow, PhD**  
Dissemination and  
Implementation Science  
Core Director



**Jodi Holtrop, PhD**  
Dissemination and  
Implementation Science  
Core Co-Director

**TOP CORE  
METRIC**  
95 Mentorships

## DID YOU KNOW?

We had 52 cumulative graduates from the D&I Certificate Program.

# Colorado Program for Patient-Centered Decisions Core: Transition, Persistence, Resilience ●●●●

The Colorado Program for Patient-Centered Decisions (CPPCD) Core worked together through a demanding time while staying focused, focusing on forward movement, and inviting in the opportunity to consider where the Core should go next.

In collaboration with the Dissemination and Implementation Core, we have launched six projects from our Rapid and Rigorous Patient-centered Program (RP2P), an Anschutz Accelerator Initiative (AAI) award. Through these projects, we are developing an approach to help teams more rapidly progress through phases to take an idea through engaged user-centered design, pragmatic testing to optimize usability in real world settings, and then to scale up and disseminate across clinical and community settings.

Looking ahead, one of our major areas of focus is how artificial intelligence is changing the information landscape for patients and clinicians. Patients are arriving to visits with far more information than before, often shaped by AI-enabled tools. CPPCD is beginning to explore what this means for conversations, trust, and shared decision making in practice.



**Dan D. Matlock, MD, MPH**  
Patient-Centered Decisions  
Core Director



**Laura Scherer, PhD**  
Patient-Centered  
Decisions Core  
Associate Director

# Pragmatic Research & Trials Core: Launching and Navigating ●●●●

The Pragmatic Research and Trials (PaRTi) Core launched a Secondary Data Resource (SDR) in collaboration with the University of Colorado Anschutz School of Medicine's Department of Medicine (DOM). With funding from DOM, ACCORDS, and the Division of Health Care Policy and Research, the SDR provides access to the Merative MarketScan database. Currently, eleven Anschutz investigators are using the MarketScan data to address a wide array of research questions. Information on the SDR and the MarketScan database are available on the ACCORDS website. The success of this SDR led to the creation of the Secondary Data Resource Core with Tom Valley, MD, leading the Core as a new hire in Pulmonary Sciences and Critical Care in the Department of Medicine in January 2026.



**Mark Gritz, PhD**  
Pragmatic Research  
and Trials Core Director

## DID YOU KNOW?

ACCORDS now has a Secondary Data Resource you can use – request a consult with us to start the process!

## Learning Health Systems Core: Rigor, Embedded, Impact

The Learning Health Systems (LHS) Core supported rigorous evaluations piloting the Abridge ambient AI dictation software at UHealth and Children’s Hospital Colorado. These pilots required highly pragmatic methods to balance the complexity, operational needs, and timelines of the health systems with rigorous research approaches. As one of few pragmatic randomized controlled trials of its kind nationally, our evaluation produced high-quality evidence demonstrating the potential for ambient AI dictation to reduce documentation burden and improve clinician well-being. These findings informed system-level decisions to implement the technology systemwide across both UHealth and Children’s Hospital Colorado, representing a major organizational shift toward the use of technology to meaningfully enhance clinician experiences and wellbeing. These findings informed system-level decisions to implement the technology system wide at both UHealth and Children’s Hospital Colorado, representing a major organizational shift toward the use of technology to meaningfully enhance clinician experiences and well-being.



**Katy Trinkley, PharmD, PhD**  
Learning Health Systems  
Core Director



**Tyler Anstett, DO**  
Learning Health  
Systems Core  
Associate Director

## Economic Analysis Core: Fast-paced, Productive, Collaborative

For the Economic Analysis Core, this was most certainly a year of growth -- in partnerships, in grant submissions, and in awards. The Core engaged with new research teams as well as those we’ve previously worked with across the School of Medicine and Anschutz campus. Building long-lasting partnerships has been a major Core goal and seeing these increase and strengthen over time generates pride for the Economic Analysis Core team.



**Liza Creel, PhD**  
Economic Analysis Core  
Director

**TOP CORE  
METRIC**  
95 Mentorships

**TOP CORE  
METRIC**  
4 Educational Offerings,  
including Pragmatic  
Research Workshop,  
Colorado Cardiovascular  
Outcome Research WIP, D&I  
Grant Writing Course, and  
Learning Health Systems  
Seminar Series

## Data Informatics and Statistics Core: ● ● ● ●

### Strengthened by Community

The Data Informatics and Statistics Core (DISC) strengthened and scaled analytic support to increase impact and sustainability. During a year of high demand and evolving priorities, we not only supported a large volume of complex projects but also improved how that work was delivered, making our processes more consistent, transparent, and resilient.

A key contributor to this progress was a dedicated team retreat, where we stepped back from day-to-day demands to reflect on how we work together. During the retreat, we openly discussed group procedures, clarified roles and expectations, and identified opportunities to streamline workflows and improve communication. These conversations led directly to more standardized analytic practices, clearer documentation, and improved handoffs, reducing turnaround time and strengthening reproducibility. The retreat also reinforced a shared sense of ownership and collaboration across the team.

DISC contributes across the full research lifecycle: from study design, database development, and quality monitoring to analysis and dissemination. Earlier engagement with investigators helped improve analytic rigor and strengthened downstream outcomes, including manuscripts, abstracts, and presentations.



**Kathryn Colborn, PhD, MSPH**  
Data Informatics & Statistics Core Director



**Anna Furniss, MS**  
Data Informatics & Statistics Core Associate Director

**TOP CORE METRIC**  
44 Grant Application Collaborations

## Digital Health Technology Core: ● ● ● ●

### Innovation, Education, Adaptability

The Digital Health Technology (DHT) Core proudly launched the first in a series of national workshops focused on teaching clinicians engaged in psychosocial oncology on how to better integrate digital health technologies into their clinical practice. The Technology for Cancer Supportive Care training program is fully funded by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) of the National Institutes of Health to support training and development opportunities without any associated fees for participants. Each three-day workshop includes directed education from experts in the field and hands-on interactive practice sessions for trainees to get practical experience with a range of current and emerging technologies.



**Susan L. Moore, PhD, MSPH**  
Digital Health Technology Core Director

**TOP CORE METRIC**  
45 Collaborations across the CU Anschutz School of Nursing and School of Public Health, CU Boulder, and Colorado State University

# Training, Education, and Mentorship Core: Purposeful, Persistent Support

The Training, Education, and Mentorship (TEaM) Core provided highly responsive, intentional, and ongoing support to faculty and trainees across the fiscal year.

**Fellowships:** The ACCORDS Primary Care Research Fellowship (APCRF), directed by Amy Huebschmann, celebrated the June 2025 graduation of three fellows, J. Kyle Haws, David Higgins, and Michael Mattiucci, and their transitions into clinician-researcher positions. The Scholars in Clinical Outcomes Research (SCORE) fellowship at ACCORDS, directed by Jacinda Nicklas, graduated six exceptional scholars in the 10th cohort in June 2025: Jordan Cole, Kristine Corkum, Jonathan Hills-Dunlap, Aakriti Pandita, Ray Quintana Quezada, and Laura Ann Wang. The fellowships continue to help early career researchers advance in their careers.

**Education:** Two seminar series on Digital Health & Clinical Informatics and Learning Health Systems brought innovative methods to our health services colleagues. We also launched our Grand Rounds and Highlights series to share all the great work our faculty and staff are doing. Additionally, we hosted the 6th annual Colorado Pragmatic Research in Health conference focused on team science in pragmatic research, where we welcomed over 250 health services researchers, trainees, and staff.

**Mentorship and Research Communities of Practice:** We strengthened and supported mentorship through peer-based and team science collaborations built in our works-in-progress sessions. In 2025, ACCORDS hosted eight research communities of practice to facilitate collaboration in a wide range of health services research areas.

Finally, a cross-cutting achievement and first for ACCORDS was a \$100,000 gift from a CU Anschutz residency alumnus and researcher to train early-stage investigators and junior faculty through our TEaM Core. This generous gift marks a meaningful investment in fostering the next generation of research leaders at a critical point in their careers.



**Hillary Lum, MD, PhD**  
Training, Education, and  
Mentorship Core  
Director



**Sarah Brewer, PhD, MPA**  
Training, Education, and  
Mentorship Core  
Associate Director



**Amy Huebschmann, MD**  
**MSCS FACP, FSBM**  
Director of APCRF



**Jacinda Nicklas, MD**  
**MPH, MA**  
Director of SCORE  
Fellowship

## DID YOU KNOW?

We have 56 cumulative graduates from the APCRF fellowship.

## TOP CORE METRIC

22 educational offerings attended by 1,021 people.

## DID YOU KNOW?

We have 45 cumulative graduates from the SCORE fellowship.

## Qualitative and Mixed Methods: ● ● ● ● Meaningful, Collaborative, Productive

The Qualitative and Mixed Methods (QM2) Research Core successfully expanded and integrated comprehensive qualitative and mixed methods support across the health services research enterprise at the University of Colorado Anschutz. The Core strengthened its role as a central methodological resource by providing high-impact consultation on study design, staffing models (including professional research assistant support), and resource planning for complex qualitative and mixed methods studies. Core faculty served as co-investigators and expert consultants on multiple externally and internally funded projects, ensuring methodological rigor and alignment with best practices throughout the research lifecycle. In parallel, the Core advanced campuswide capacity building by developing and disseminating best-practice guidance for implementing qualitative and mixed methods research, supporting career development and training grant applications, and delivering targeted educational offerings to faculty and trainees. Notably, the Core also fostered innovation in methods development, helping investigators adapt qualitative and mixed methods approaches to evolving health services research questions. Collectively, these efforts enhanced the quality, competitiveness, and sustainability of qualitative and mixed methods research at the institution, while strengthening interdisciplinary collaboration and supporting the professional development of investigators at all career stages.



**Brooke Dorsey, PhD**  
Qualitative & Mixed Methods  
Research Core Director

**TOP CORE  
METRIC**  
113 Consultations

## Community Engagement and Outreach Core: ● ● ● ● Farewell Message from Donald E. Nease, MD

It's been my pleasure to lead the ACCORDS Community Engagement Core since 2013. ACCORDS was my home when I transitioned to Colorado, including housing my office space, so I feel a close affinity for ACCORDS and its mission. The Core was closely linked to the Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CCTSI) Community Engagement and Research program where we built strong partnerships and support. When I transitioned to a Professor Emeritus role, it made sense to sunset the Core and point those who are seeking support for their community engagement efforts towards CCTSI. ACCORDS will continue to jointly sponsor the quarterly Community Engagement Forum, and I'm sure there will be other opportunities in the future for collaboration. I wish, and am sure, that ACCORDS will enjoy every success going forward!



**Don Nease Jr., MD**  
Community Engagement and  
Outreach Core Director

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The Community Engagement Core was one of the first Cores established at ACCORDS.

## Practice-Based Research Network: Evolving, Coordinated, Primary Care

The Colorado Children's Outcomes Network (COCONet) is a statewide pediatric practice-based research network focused on generating real world evidence to improve the health and well-being of Colorado children and families. COCONet has worked with more than 60 pediatric practices and 200 clinicians in Colorado to conduct collaborative research on priorities such as increasing vaccination uptake, mental health integration, suicide prevention, antimicrobial stewardship, referral systems, and communication with families. COCONet's work is aligned with broader statewide primary care research infrastructure, and it is now incorporated into the Colorado Ambulatory Partnership for Health Innovation and Research Excellence (CAMPHIRE), a new umbrella entity housed in the Department of Family Medicine and designed to synergize and strengthen practice-based research networks across Colorado. Through this integration, the work of COCONet's pediatric-focused research continues as part of a larger, coordinated effort to support community-engaged research and primary care innovation statewide.



**Sean O'Leary, MD, MPH**  
Practice-Based Research  
Network, Director of  
COCONet

## Prevention Research Center for Family & Child Health: Community, Evidence, Impact

The Prevention Research Center (PRC) for Family & Child Health continued its commitment to community-engaged research by intentionally incorporating the needs and goals of community members, ensuring that the voices of families and partners guide our priorities and shape the impact of our work. We invested in early career scholars, fostered academic partnerships across CU, the U.S., and beyond, and worked to build a sustainable foundation for equitable, evidence-based interventions that improve outcomes for families during the earliest stages of life.

Along with this, our team strengthened the evidence base and increased national visibility of early-life interventions, particularly in nurse home-visiting programs, by diversifying our funding sources, publishing our work in high-impact peer-reviewed journals, and presenting at a variety of national conferences. In 2025 alone, we submitted 28 grants, securing nearly \$700,000 in new funding.

Our team has published 13 peer-reviewed articles in leading journals such as JAMA Pediatrics, Child Abuse & Neglect, and Health Services Research. These studies advanced knowledge on cross-sector collaboration, child welfare outcomes, socioemotional development during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the long-term impacts of early home-visiting.

We also shared our findings widely through national conferences, including the American Public Health Association, Pediatric Academic Societies, and AcademyHealth. These presentations highlighted innovations in equitable access, organizational climate, and policy practices that affect nurse attrition, ensuring our work informs both research and practice.



**Mandy Allison**  
Prevention Research  
Center for Family  
& Child Health  
Director



# ACCORDS: the one-stop shop for health services research

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