



Colorado Clinical and Translational  
Sciences Institute (CCTSI)

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER | ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

***Chronic Disease Frontiers: Colorado Approach to Causes and Treatment***

CSU Spur – Hydro Building  
4777 National Western Drive,  
Denver, CO 80216

AUGUST 13, 2025

**8:00 - 8:30 AM**

***Breakfast and Networking***

**8:30 - 8:50 AM**

**Introductions and Goals**

Ronald Sokol, MD, FAASLD  
Director, Colorado Clinical and Translational  
Sciences Institute (CCTSI)  
Chief Scientific Officer, Child Health  
CU Distinguished Professor in Pediatric GI,  
Hepatology and Nutrition  
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical  
Campus

**8:50 - 8:55 AM**

***Welcome to the Summit and the CSU Spur***

Matthew Hickey, PhD  
Associate Dean for Research and Graduate  
Programs  
College of Health and Human Sciences  
Professor of Health and Exercise Science  
University Distinguished Teaching Scholar  
Colorado State University

***I: Presentations: Etiology and Pathogenesis***

**Moderator: Ron Sokol, MD**

**8:55 - 9:15 AM**

**Unravelling the Links Between Plastic  
Exposure and Disease Risk**

Tanya Alderete, PhD  
Associate Professor, Environmental Health and  
Engineering  
Bloomberg School of Public Health  
Johns Hopkins University

**9:15 - 9:25 AM**

**Q&A**



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**9:25 - 9:45 AM**

***In Defense of Carbs: Challenging the Low Carbohydrate Diet for Gestational Diabetes --Implications for Long-Term Metabolic Health***

Teri Hernandez, PhD, RN, FAAN  
Professor and Associate Dean for Research and Scholarship, College of Nursing  
Professor of Medicine, School of Medicine  
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

**9:45 - 9:55 AM**

Q&A

**9:55 - 10:15 AM**

***Disrupted Sleep: Bad to the Bone?***

Christine Swanson, MD, MCR  
Associate Professor  
Endocrinology, Metabolism, Diabetes  
School of Medicine  
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

**10:15 - 10:25 AM**

Q&A

**10:25 - 11:00 AM**

***Coffee Break, Networking and Poster Viewing***

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***II: Etiology and Pathogenesis Presentations***

**Moderator: Christopher DeSouza, PhD**

**11:00 - 11:20 AM**

***New Tricks for Old Dogs: Using Natural Animal Models and Comparative EMR Data to Fetch Solutions for Chronic Disease***

Tracy Webb, DVM, PhD, FNAP  
Associate Professor  
College of Veterinary Medicine and Biological Sciences  
Colorado State University

**11:20 - 11:30 AM**

Q&A



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## ***Chronic Disease Frontiers: Colorado Approach to Causes and Treatment***

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**11:30 - 11:50 AM**

***Shining Light on Organoids: A  
Phototunable Biomaterial Platform to Study  
Tissue Homeostasis and Disease***

Kaustav Bera, PhD  
Helen Hay Whitney Postdoctoral Fellow,  
Anseth Research Group  
BioFrontiers Institute  
Chemical & Biological Engineering  
University of Colorado Boulder

**11:50 - 12:00 PM**

Q&A

**12:00 - 1:30 PM**

***Lunch, Poster Viewing, Networking***

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### ***III: Lightning Talks by Past CCTSI Pilot Awardees***

**Moderator: Natalie Serkova, PhD, MSc**

**1:30 - 1:35 PM**

***CCTSI Pilot Program Overview***

Matthew Hickey, PhD  
Associate Dean for Research and Graduate  
Programs  
College of Health and Human Sciences  
Professor of Health and Exercise Science  
University Distinguished Teaching Scholar  
Colorado State University

**1:35 - 1:40 PM**

Julie Moreno, PhD  
Assistant Professor, Toxicology  
College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical  
Sciences  
Colorado State University  
***Unraveling Age-Related Neuroinflammatory  
Mechanisms Using a Guinea Pig Model of  
Spontaneous Neurodegeneration***



***Chronic Disease Frontiers: Colorado Approach to Causes and Treatment***

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**1:40 - 1:45 PM**

Alison Xie, PhD

Assistant Professor, Surgery

School of Medicine

University of Colorado Anschutz Medical  
Campus

***A Pelvic Ganglia-Bladder Ex Vivo Model for  
Studying Neural Control of Micturition***

**1:45 - 1:50 PM**

Meghan Pauley, DO

Assistant Professor, Pediatrics

Barbara Davis Center

University of Colorado Anschutz Medical  
Campus

***Diabetic Retinopathy is Associated with  
Biomarkers of Neural Damage in Type 1  
Diabetes***

**1:50 - 1:55 PM**

Alicia White, MD

Assistant Professor, Pediatrics -- Neonatology

School of Medicine

University of Colorado Anschutz Medical  
Campus

***Investigating Fetal Pancreatic  $\beta$ -cell NFkB  
Signaling as a Novel Pathway Linking Early  
Metabolic Dysfunction to Type 2 Diabetes  
Later in Life***

**1:55 - 2:00 PM**

Sam Winston, PhD Candidate

College of Engineering

Colorado State University

***Incorporation of Pattern Recognition  
Receptor Agonists into Immune Instructive  
Hydrogels to Stimulate Healing in Rotator  
Cuff Tendon***

**2:00 - 2:05 PM**

Tim Stahley

Director of Northeast Regional Engagement  
Center

Colorado State University

***Building Community Capacity for Healthy  
Aging Programming and Research in  
Northeast Colorado***



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***IV: Novel Therapeutics***

**Moderator: Thomas Campbell, MD**

**2:05 - 2:25 PM**

***Canine to Human: Translating Novel  
Immunotherapy Treatments for  
Osteosarcoma***

Dan Regan, DVM, PhD

Associate Professor

Microbiology, Immunology and Pathology

College of Veterinary Medicine and Biological  
Sciences

Colorado State University

**2:25 - 2:35 PM**

Q&A

**2:35 - 2:55 PM**

***Novel Therapeutic Biomaterials to Promote  
Regeneration***

Stephanie Bryant, PhD

Professor, Director, Materials Science &  
Engineering Program

Austin Endowed Faculty Fellow

Department of Chemical and Biological  
Engineering, BioFrontiers Institute, Material  
Science & Engineering Program

University of Colorado Boulder

**2:55 - 3:05 PM**

Q&A

**3:05 - 3:25 PM**

***Cartilage Regeneration – from Pediatric  
Growth Plate Injuries to Osteoarthritis***

Karin Payne, PhD

Associate Professor of Orthopedics

Director of Education, Colorado Program for  
Musculoskeletal Research

Department of Orthopedics

School of Medicine

University of Colorado Anschutz Medical  
Campus

**3:25 - 3:35 PM**

Q&A

**3:35 - 3:40 PM**

***Closing Remarks – Ronald Sokol, MD***