



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



Chronic Disease Frontiers: Colorado Approach to Causes and Treatment

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

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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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

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***



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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 β -cell NF κ B
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***



Chronic Disease Frontiers: Colorado Approach to Causes and Treatment

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