

HIGHLIGHTS

Stephanie Wesolowski, PhD, Pediatric Perinatal Research (SOM)



I grew in Michigan and went to Michigan State University for undergraduate (Go Green, not blue). My initial interest was in veterinary medicine, which stemmed from my active involvement in 4-H and raising and showing sheep from our small family flock. However, I quickly found the “light” while working in the research lab studying developmental gene expression in fetal pigs. I completed

a few summer research internships before going to the University of Nebraska (MS) and Cornell (PhD). In 2007, I moved to Colorado to start my postdoctoral fellowship. Over the last 14 years, I have received NIH F32, K01, R03, and R01 awards, along with pilot awards from the NORC and CWHR, that have built my research program here. In my lab, we study feto-metabolic physiology and, more specifically, how different intrauterine exposures impact the developing fetal liver and contribute to increased risk T2DM and NAFLD in the offspring. We use large animal models and integrative approaches combining *in vivo* metabolic studies with mechanistic studies in tissue samples and isolated primary cells. We have found that these fetuses in late gestation have increased hepatic glucose production rates, which are not suppressed by insulin, supporting the development of hepatic insulin resistance, both hallmarks of T2DM. Outside of the lab, I am a busy “boy-mom” with my two boys and can be found at baseball, karate, the pool, camping, or fixing electric scooters and remote-control cars.

Congratulations SIRC Awardees!! We are pleased to report that the Strategic Infrastructure for Research Committee approved to proposals to support the infrastructure of the NORC research base through the Dean’s Academic Enrichment Fund (AEF).

EchoMRI-900 - Drs. Matthew Jackman and Paul MacLean will purchase this mobile, quantitative magnetic resonance (QMR) system, which provides body and tissue composition analyses for small animals and excised organs. The new instrument will replace an aging analyzer that has been supporting metabolic phenotyping research in the NORC’s Energy Balance Assessment core since 2009.

Highly Sensitive LC/MS/MS—Drs Zemsy Berry and Bryan Bergman received generous institutional support for an NIH S10 small instrumentation grant that was submitted in June. A favorable review of this proposal would help the NORC expand its lipidomic capabilities in the Molecular and Cellular Analytical core, establishing a steroid panel, as well as measurements of acyl-CoA species in plasma, cells, and tissues.

Obesity Medicine Fellowship Applications are being accepted for the Obesity Medicine Fellowship. Details can be found here: <http://cunorc.org/application-process/>

FROM THE DIRECTOR

2021 NORC Pilot Awards Congratulations goes to the 2021 Colorado NORC Pilot Awardees! We had 18 outstanding applications this year. With generous support from the national NORC program and Dean John Reilly, we were able to provide new pilot awards to the following individuals this cycle.

Catherine Cioffi Cohen, PhD (Pediatrics/Nutrition): Evaluating the carbon isotope ratio as a biomarker of dietary sugar intake in youth.

Silvania da Silva Teixeira, PhD (Pediatrics/Nutrition): The role of Type III Deiodinase (DIO3) on β -cell function.

Andrew Libby, PhD (Medicine/Endocrinology): The impact of bone marrow-derived adipocytes on the development of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease after loss of ovarian function.

Jane Stremming, MD (Pediatrics/Neonatology): Combined effects of IGF-1 and insulin to support fetal protein accretion and skeletal muscle growth.

Karin Zemski Berry, PhD (Medicine/Endocrinology): The role of oxidized lipids in skeletal muscle insulin resistance.

In addition to these new awardees, the following 2019 NORC Pilot Awardees were approved for a second year of funding: **Shrividhya Iyer, PhD; Seth Creasy, PhD; Rebecca Scalzo, PhD; Anastacia Garcia, PhD**. Be sure to congratulate all of these talented investigators the next time your paths cross!

NORC Progress Report Thank you to all of the members of our research base, core directors, and program leaders, for your outstanding contributions to our 2020-2021 noncompetitive renewal. Your efforts have ensured the continued funding for the NORC’s cores and programs. If any member of our research base would like more information on the NORC’s activities and progress over the past year, please contact Dr. Paul MacLean paul.maclea@cuanchutz.edu

Gessa Suboc, MD, Obesity Medicine Fellow

Please welcome our new Obesity Medicine Fellow, Dr. Gessa Suboc. Dr. Suboc will be with us beginning 7/1/2021 through 6/30/2022. Our program is thrilled to welcome our second fellow! Dr. Suboc will be working with Drs. Millard, Catenacci, Nicklas and Sullivan in the AHWC clinic and with Dr. Adam Gilden at the Kaiser clinic. You will see her around campus as she completes her rotations at the VA with Drs. Thomas and Saxon, attends the Lifestyle Medicine Clinic at CHCO and bariatrics at UHealth. Dr. Suboc will be transitioning to Denver/Aurora from the windy city of Chicago, IL as she completes her family medicine residency. Please say hello and introduce yourself to Dr. Suboc when you see her at the center.



Obesity Week 2021 Save the date! Obesity Week will be held November 1-5, 2021 (virtually). Early bird rates are available until September 6th <https://obesityweek.org/register/pricing/>