

Patient Care Services Research Team at Children's Hospital Colorado

For information on nursing research and current programs at Children's Colorado, email NursingResearch@childrenscolorado.org

Nurse Scientists



Avery M. Anderson, MS, PhD, PMHNP-BC, APRN | Professor, University of Colorado College of Nursing | Nurse Scientist, Children's Hospital Colorado

Dr. Anderson's research focuses on mental health equity for marginalized youth populations, specifically transgender and gender diverse (TGD) adolescents and young adults. His most recent work involves investigating contextual minority stress and associations with suicide outcomes among TGD young adults. Dr. Anderson aims to expand his program of research with complementary, family- and community-level suicide prevention work. In addition to his role as a nurse scientist at Children's Colorado, Dr. Anderson is an Assistant Professor and Endowed Early Scholar in Psych-Mental Health with CU College of Nursing.



Elizabeth Schierholz PhD, APRN, NNP-BC | Neonatal Nurse Practitioner | NNP Education Team | Nurse Scientist, Children's Hospital Colorado

Dr. Elizabeth Schierholz's research focuses on the relationship of patient outcomes and the nurse work environment, the variation of cost of nursing care and continuity of nursing care. Her current work focuses on the delivery of evidenced-based and quality care, patient outcomes and value in nursing. She maintains her clinical practice as a nurse practitioner in the level IV neonatal intensive care unit on the Anschutz campus and is a lead for the Children's Hospital of Colorado Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Fellowship.



Figaro Loresto, PhD, RN, Nurse Scientist, Children's Hospital Colorado | Assistant Professor, University of Colorado College of Nursing

Dr. Loresto's research focuses on social network analysis and multilevel analysis on big data, such as administrative databases and electronic health records. He has consulted as a statistician on numerous nursing-led quality improvement and research projects. Dr. Loresto also serves as a chair on the Colorado Multiple Institutional Review Board.



Lindsey Marie Tarasenko, PhD, RN | Nurse Scientist, Children's Hospital Colorado | Assistant Professor, University of Colorado College of Nursing

Dr. Tarasenko's research focuses on the interactions between organizational change, policy, organizational culture, role functions, relationships, and outcomes across healthcare contexts from a systems perspective. Dr. Tarasenko has dedicated her research to improving the nursing practice environment for nursing clinicians and nurse leaders. Dr. Tarasenko has experience with mixed-methods research, psychometric testing, and aesthetics in research.



Mia Roberts, PhD, CPNP | Nurse Scientist, Children's Hospital Colorado | Assistant Professor, Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, APN Clinical Lead- Pediatrics, CU Family Health Clinic-Sheridan Campus, University of Colorado, College of Nursing

Dr. Roberts' research focuses on integrated primary and behavioral health care in adolescents. She is particularly interested in community-based research through the lens of health equity. Dr. Roberts maintains her clinical practice as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and Pediatric Clinical Lead at Sheridan Health Services, a nurse-led Federally Qualified Health Center.



Scott Harpin, PhD, MPH, RN, FNAP | MCH Division Chair | Professor, University of Colorado College of Nursing | Nurse Scientist, Children's Hospital Colorado

Dr. Harpin's research focuses on the health outcomes and mental health promotion of vulnerable adolescent and young adult populations. In addition to his role as a nurse scientist at Children's Colorado, Dr. Harpin is a professor for University of Colorado's College of Nursing, Specialty Director of Doctor of Nursing Practice and Master of Public Health Dual Degree Program; Faculty Lead of Public Health Certificate.



Teri L. Hernandez, PhD, RN | Professor of Nursing | Associate Dean for Research and Scholarship, University of Colorado College of Nursing | Nurse Scientist, Children's Hospital Colorado

Dr. Hernandez's research focuses on nutrition, glucose and lipid metabolism during pregnancy, and infant growth. The goal of her research is to understand early life exposures that enhance or attenuate evolving cardiovascular disease and diabetes risk to optimize child-maternal and family health. Dr. Hernandez has a secondary appointment in the CU Department of Medicine, Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism, & Diabetes. She is Director of the CCTSI Early Life Exposures Research Program, and further serves on the advisory leadership committee for the National Pediatric Nurse Scientist Collaborative.

Director



Catherine Kleiner, PhD, RN | Director of Research, Innovation & Professional Practice, Children's Hospital Colorado | Associate Professor, University of Colorado College of Nursing

Dr. Kleiner's research focuses on improving care for patients and making the environment safe for patients and healthcare staff, specifically looking at communication issues. Dr. Kleiner is responsible for the development and growth of research in nursing within Children's Hospital Colorado.

Professional Research Assisant



Cristian Sarabia, MPH | Professional Research Assistant, Children's Hospital Colorado | University of Colorado, College of Nursing

Mr. Sarabia is a research assistant at the College of Nursing and at Children's Hospital Colorado. He completed a BS in biology at the University of Colorado Denver then received his Master of Public Health at the Colorado School of Public Health at Anschutz with a concentration in epidemiology. He's been doing research since his undergraduate and has always enjoyed it! Mr. Sarabia's current focus is on quantitative data from collecting data, using coding software for cleaning and preparing data, to assisting in statistical procedures.

Operations



Elizabeth Khiev, BBA | Research Operations Coordinator - Research, Innovation & Professional Practice, Children's Hospital Colorado

Ms. Khiev oversees operations and project management work for Dr. Kleiner's team and two other committees. Her management of the Project Tracker and Project Review Panel is critical for projects to be submitted and efficiently move through the approval process. Her experience in business, healthcare administration and clinical management enables her to effectively coordinate and prioritize departmental initiatives.

Librarians



Catisha Benjamin, MLIS, AHIP | Manager of Library Services, Children's Hospital Colorado | Clinical and Research Library Adjoint Librarian, University of Colorado Strauss Health Sciences Library, Anschutz Medical Campus | Social Media Chair, Colorado Council of Medical Librarians

Catisha Benjamin has worked for Children's for the past 8 years. She has earned a certificate in Evidence-based practice. She has consistently attended training to become a member of the Academy of Health Information Professionals and is an adjoint librarian for the Strauss Health Sciences Library.



Marie St. Pierre, MLIS, AHIP | Medical Librarian/Informationist, Children's Hospital Colorado | Clinical and Research Library Adjoint Librarian, University of Colorado

Marie St. Pierre has worked at Children's for the past 27 years and was one of the first Spanish interpreters. She went to library school and came back to work in the Clinical and Research Library. She has since earned a graduate certificate in health informatics and data analysis. She has consistently been a member of the Academy of Health Information Professionals and is an adjoint librarian for the Strauss Health Sciences Library.