



Division of Family Planning

Highlights

December 2017

The Denver Post featured an [article](#) highlighting the steep drop of teen pregnancies and abortions in Colorado due to the state's free IUD program. Our department, including Family Planning, Pediatric & Adolescent Gynecology, residents, and everyone who works on labor & delivery have been so integral to this success!

November 2017

Lots of exciting changes are happening in the Family Planning Division!

In the research realm, we have a number of studies that are currently enrolling, each focusing on a different aspect of women's contraceptive options. In terms of clinical trials, this includes a NICHD Contraceptive Clinical Trials Network study comparing two different copper IUDs, and an industry-sponsored study on the extension of use of the Mirena IUD to 8 years. We will soon start enrollment on two additional CCTN trials: a Phase II study on the use of ulipristal acetate (the active ingredient in Ella) as a daily, non-hormonal oral contraceptive pill, and a study of an estradiol (not EE)/nesterone contraceptive vaginal ring.

We are also enrolling in two other funded, investigator-initiated pharmacokinetic studies to investigate potential drug interactions of the etonogestrel contraceptive implant with medications commonly used by reproductive-aged women: isotretinoin (Accutane) and topiramate (Topamax).

We are soon initiating studies on the use of marijuana with medical abortions, and a randomized clinical trial of tamoxifen to decrease heavy bleeding with the contraceptive implant. Finally, our senior fellow Dr. Lazowitz has already enrolled 150 of the 350 participants needed for his study of the pharmacogenomics of etonogestrel metabolism, and our junior fellow Dr. Marchin is soon submitting for funding her study on resolution of conscience conflicts for OB-GYNs.

Not surprisingly, we have a few new Professional Research Assistants to introduce! Rebecca Seale and Lisa Powers have been joined by PRA team members Ines Crato, Eva Dindinger, and Lisbel Torres! We are so happy to have them join us, and we look forward to the wonderful work they will continue to do within our division!

The Family Planning faculty continue to accrue new responsibilities as well. Dr. Teal started her term as President of the Society of Family Planning at the North American Forum on Family Planning in Atlanta last month. Dr. Sheeder was recently named Associate Vice Chair for Clinical Research and co-Program Director, Women's Reproductive Health Research Scholars' Program. Dr. Tocce now spends most of her time as the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs and the Clinical Core for the School of Medicine, but is still in the Comprehensive Women's Health Center at Lowry 1 day per week. Dr. Guiahi has expanded her position as Medical Director of CWHC, her collaborative Ryan training program with St. Joseph's Hospital was just approved for a second year of grant funding, and she was appointed as a Board member of the Colorado Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice. Dr. Cohen is Assistant Medical Student Clerkship Director and Clerkship Site Director for UCH.

I want to end this update with a huge shout-out to our enablers: the FP Administrative staff of Melissa Lorenzo and Kristy Elias, who keep the trains running on time; and the amazing members of the research infrastructure core under the able leadership of Chanel Mansfield.

December 2016

In November of 2016, the Society of Family Planning (SPF) hosted their annual meeting in conjunction with the sixth annual North American Forum on Family Planning in Denver. The University of Colorado's Division of Family Planning was happy to be a part of the events!

- Stephanie Teal, MD, our Division Chief, and the SFP President-Elect, presented a number of researchers with awards.
- Jeanelle Sheeder, PhD, MSPH, led a seminar proposing early career development mentoring grants.
- Rebecca Cohen, MD, received the 2015-2016 Daniel R. Mishell, Jr, MD Outstanding Article Award. This award honors the Principal Investigators who have published the most outstanding articles in Contraception over the preceding academic year (July to June).

- Additionally, we had CU Ob-Gyn residents and Family Planning Fellows also present abstracts and posters during this national meeting.

Visit the [SPF website](#) to learn more about the event!

November 2016

No updates! Have a happy Thanksgiving!

October 2016

The Division of Family Planning includes 5 faculty members, 2 Fellows, and 4 Professional research assistants, to support our missions of outstanding clinical care, health education, and clinical research. At the Comprehensive Women's Health Center on the Lowry campus, we provide family planning clinical services including abortion, miscarriage management, and contraceptive management, in a supportive and respectful environment. We provide extensive training of both fellows and residents to enhance the health of our community. Although most of the Department of OB-GYN is aware of our research on adolescents and long-acting contraception, and post-partum contraception, many people do not realize we run an extensive clinical research program at CWHC as well.

Current projects being conducted at the CWHC include national multi-site studies on a novel copper-bearing IUD which may have a better side effect profile than the one currently available, a new combined hormonal contraceptive patch, and a new contraceptive vaginal ring. We are also recruiting for a study on a new cryotherapy technique to help treat heavy menstrual bleeding. Several investigator-initiated projects being conducted at CWHC include assessing the burden experienced by women traveling greater distances to obtain an abortion, and comparing nitrous oxide versus IV sedation for 12-16 week abortion procedures. We will soon start enrolling for a study on potential interactions of Isotretinoin with the contraceptive implant. We are a member site of the NICHD Contraceptive Clinical Trials Network, and will soon start a multi-center nonhormonal IUD trial through that contract. We also are in the midst of a 10-year study on a new hysteroscopic sterilization technique, and are considering participation in a trial of a non-surgical sterilization device. If you would like more information on any of these projects, just email one of us!

August 2016

The Division of Family Planning would like to welcome Rebecca Cohen, MD, assistant professor to the Division of Family Planning and General Obstetrics & Gynecology.

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