



University of Colorado **Anschutz Medical Campus**



December 2024

Welcome to the December issue of our newsletter. First of all, our program has a new name: “**Colorado Nicotine, E-Cigarettes, and Tobacco Research Alliance (CoNECTR)**”. The name was changed partially because the acronym C-VENT was already used by the CU communication department as a payments platform. Furthermore, we wanted to highlight our purpose as a research alliance to better reflect our structure and interaction with each other. We also think this reflects a core objective, to connect researchers, clinicians, public health officials and members of the community. We hope the new name ensures that our program visibility is unique and accurately reflects our identity.

We would like to announce the program’s vision and mission statements published in the section below. Our vision and mission statements take into account the voices of all members of our program. The ideas gathered at the 2024 Summer Retreat seeded the ground to help us understand the needs and interests of all our members and stakeholders. From there, former and incumbent Steering Committee members joined efforts to hone down the priorities and grand vision for who we are and what we want to achieve as a multidisciplinary community in our quest to reduce the harms of tobacco and nicotine. We will update these

periodically to ensure they continue to reflect the goals and the work of our community.

As 2025 rolls out, we know there are some Tobacco/Nicotine related speakers coming to campus. You will start seeing a few emails between newsletters from us about these talks when we get scheduling details. Let us know if you or anyone in your department has an upcoming talk that we can advertise.

Gina Kruse, MD, MS, MPH
Director of CoNECTR

Stay up to date on our program's initiatives and governance

[Visit our webpage](#)

CoNECTR: Vision and Mission

Vision: To facilitate innovative transdisciplinary research, in partnership with clinical care and public health, to reduce inequity, illness, and death caused by tobacco and nicotine products.

Mission Statement: To cultivate innovative and impactful tobacco and nicotine research in our community of scientists, spanning disciplines from basic science to clinical and population-based research. We seek to grow a pipeline of scientists and practitioners partnered with our community. Our work is driven by the needs of all Coloradoans, with the overarching goal of reducing health inequity and harms of commercial tobacco and nicotine products.

Guiding Principles:

- To conduct research guided by community needs and to build sustainable tobacco control solutions
 - To nurture tobacco research partnerships through collaboration with public health, advocates, educators, and community organizations, striving to support health and empower all individuals
 - To lead with empathy and combat the stigma of tobacco and nicotine use
-

INVESTIGATOR SPOTLIGHT



Katrina Claw, PhD

[Katrina Claw, PhD, is an Associate Professor with the Department of Biomedical Informatics](#) at the Colorado School of Medicine. Her research focuses broadly on personalizing medicine, using genetic information and biomarkers for tailored treatment, in relation to pharmacogenomics as well as understanding the ethical, cultural, and social implications of genomic research with populations historically underrepresented in health research. Her current research includes studying cytochrome P450 genetic variation in Indigenous communities (e.g., American Indian and Alaska Native peoples), with a focus on CYP2A6 variation in relation to nicotine metabolism and smoking cessation, as well as understanding the ways in which adaptations to diverse local environments may have impacted modern pharmacogenomic variation and evolutionary medicine.

Check out this recent article highlighting her impactful work: [“CU Professor Draws on Indigenous Roots in Approach to Research and Mentoring”](#)

NEWS AND POLICY

Denver flavored tobacco ban proposal is target of big industry lobbying — but it's having little effect

The Denver Post

Joe Rubino

December 9th, 2024

The tobacco and convenience store industries' attempts to stop the city of Denver from passing a ban on [flavored tobacco and nicotine products](#) are largely falling on deaf ears at city hall as the measure moves toward a final vote this month.

On Dec. 4, the council's [Safety, Housing, Education and Homelessness Committee](#) voted 6-1 to advance the ban for consideration to the full body. Council members expect to hold a courtesy public hearing about the ordinance on Dec. 16, followed by a final vote.

[Read More](#)

New Surgeon General's Report Offers Much-Needed Vision for Eliminating Tobacco-Related Health Disparities

Truth Initiative

Kathy Krosbie

November 19th, 2024

While the nation has made significant progress in driving down tobacco use over the past several decades, a new [Surgeon General's report](#) on tobacco-related health disparities offers a much-needed vision for eliminating these systemic inequities and ending the harmful and disproportionate impact of nicotine addiction across the U.S.

[Read More](#)



.....

Reflections on the 1964 Smoking and Health Report: Don Shopland

Circulating Now, National Library of Medicine

November 18, 2024 and November 22, 2024

This year, 2024, marks the 60th anniversary of U.S. Surgeon General Luther Terry's 1964 landmark Smoking and Health report, which authoritatively linked cigarette smoking with diseases such as lung cancer and emphysema. In this two-part interview, the authors speak with former National Library of Medicine (NLM) employee Donald R. Shopland, who was detailed to the Surgeon General's Advisory Committee and later went on to become Coordinator of the National Cancer Institute's Smoking and Tobacco Control Program.

Read more: [Interview Part 1](#), [Interview Part 2](#)



.....

Programs

Find the information, inspiration and support you need to achieve your best self. The CU Health Plan is here to help by offering a full spectrum of wellness programs. Explore the possibilities.

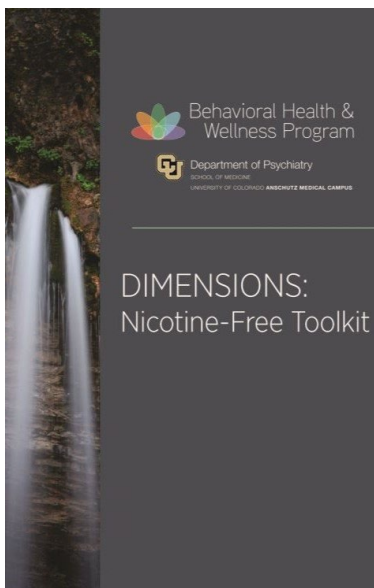
 University of Colorado

 Medicine

Ambulatory Nicotine Cessation Program (ANCP) Added to CU Health Plan Site

Ambulatory Nicotine Cessation Program (ANCP) offers individual nicotine cessation counseling and support to patients working to reduce, or quit, their nicotine use. Employees and dependents 18+ enrolled in any CU Health Plan administered by Anthem/CVS are eligible for counseling, prescription drugs, and nicotine replacement therapy products

[Visit BeColorado.org](https://www.becolorado.org)



New Nicotine-Free Toolkit from Behavioral Health and Wellness Program

The [Behavioral Health and Wellness Program](#) released the new [DIMENSIONS: Nicotine-Free Toolkit](#) designed for a broad range of healthcare providers, including direct providers, administrators, and healthcare organizations. This toolkit provides an education on nicotine use, skills for engaging in nicotine cessation discussions, efficient methods for assessing an individual's readiness to quit, and information and research on treatments.

[Read and Download](#)



Great American Smokeout Day at the Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center

On Thursday November 21, 2024, the [Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center](#) celebrated the [National Great American Smokeout Day](#), in honor of Lung Cancer Awareness month. The event was organized by Dr. Helen Chao and Dr. Eleni Romano from the Department of Behavioral Medicine.

Patients received information on health impacts of tobacco, quitting strategies and [resources and services available at the VA](#). Also, they had the opportunity to take fun photos with a giant inflatable lung. Representatives from Whole Health, Pharmacy, Tobacco Cessation Program, Lung Cancer Screening Program, Substance Use Disorder Program, Genetech, CU CoNECTR, Canteen, Paralyzed Veterans of America Mountain States Chapter, and Suicide Prevention were in attendance engaging with VA patient and providers.



Upcoming Conferences

[Nicotine & Cannabis Co-Use Mini-Conference](#) (March 15, 2025, New Orleans, LA)

[Society of Behavioral Medicine](#) (March 26-29, 2025, San Francisco, CA)

[American Society of Preventive Oncology](#) (April 6-8, 2025, Philadelphia, PA)

[Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco](#) (March 12-15, 2025, New Orleans, LA)

[American Society of Addiction Medicine](#) (April 24-27, 2025, Denver, CO)

[Society for Prevention Research](#) (May 27-30, 2025, Seattle, WA)

[Thomas L. Petty Aspen Lung Conference](#) (June 3-6, 2025, Aspen, CO)

[American Thoracic Society](#) (May 16-21, 2025, San Francisco, CA)

[Behavior Genetics Association](#) (June 25-28, 2025, Atlanta Georgia)

[Society for General Internal Medicine](#) (May 14-17, 2025, Hollywood, FL)

[Academy of Health Annual Research Meeting](#) (June 7-10, 2025, Minneapolis, MN)

[Public Health in the Rockies](#) (next dates not yet announced)

[American Public Health Association Annual Meeting](#) (next dates not yet announced)

[World Conference on Lung Health](#) (The Union) (next dates not yet announce)

[The European Conference on Tobacco or Health \(ECToH\)](#) (Spring 2026, Milan, Italy)

.....

Are you attending SRNT 2025 Annual Meeting?

Let us know so we can highlight your work and schedule dinners with your colleagues

[Click here to let us know!](#)

(or email gina.kruse@cuanschutz.edu)

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

To share the great work around campus we have created a search to identify the new tobacco and nicotine research published by University of Colorado researchers. Please send us additional papers to highlight, it will help us to refine our search.

Gupte HA*, **Kruse GR***, Chang Y, Jagiasi D, Pradhan S, Rigotti NA. "Post-discharge tobacco abstinence in a Mumbai hospital after implementation of tobacco cessation counseling: A pragmatic evaluation of the LifeFirst program." PLoS One. 2024 Nov 12;19(11):e0312319. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0312319. PMID: 39531416; PMCID: PMC11556754.

<https://dx.plos.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0312319>

Gai X, Feng Y, Flores TM, Kang H, Yu H, Leslie KK, Zhu Y, Doherty JA, Guo Y, Belinsky SA, **Cook LS**, Leng S. "Early menopause and hormone therapy as determinants for lung health outcomes: a secondary analysis using the PLCO trial. Thorax." 2024 Sep 18;79(10):961-969. doi: 10.1136/thorax-2023-220956. PMID: 38871464.

<https://thorax.bmj.com/content/79/10/961>

Kypriotakis G, Cinciripini PM, Green CE, Lawrence D, Anthenelli RM, Minnix JA, Beneventi D, **Morris C**, Karam-Hage M, Blalock JA. Effects of Varenicline, Bupropion, Nicotine Patch, and Placebo on Treating Smoking Among Persons With Current or Past Major Depressive Disorder: Secondary Analysis of a Double-Blind, Randomized, Placebo-Controlled Trial. Am J Psychiatry. 2024

Dec 11. doi: 10.1176/appi.ajp.20230855. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 39659160.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/39659160/>

Hirsch EA, Hoover K, **Studts JL**. "They Need to Feel Non-Judgmental": Results of Participatory Photovoice Research to Inform Lung Cancer Screening Imagery. *Cancer Control*. 2024 Jan-Dec;31:10732748241292567. doi: 10.1177/10732748241292567. PMID: 39400608; PMCID: PMC11483848.

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11483848/>

Nagawa CS, Selvamuthu P, Kumarasamy N, Balakrishnan FB, Rigotti NA, **Kruse GR**. Patterns and Correlates of Multiple tobacco Product use Among people With HIV in India. *Tob Use Insights*. 2024 Dec 9;17:1179173X241303587. doi: 10.1177/1179173X241303587. PMID: 39659298; PMCID: PMC11629409.

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11629409/>

Chidumwa G, Olivier S, Ngubane H, Zulu T, Sithole M, Gunda R; Vukuzazi Team; Sewpaul R, **Kruse G**, Rigotti NA, Hanekom WA, Siedner MJ, Reddy KP, Wong EB. Association between tobacco smoking and prevalence of HIV, tuberculosis, hypertension and diabetes in rural South Africa: a cross-sectional study. *BMC Public Health*. 2024 Nov 27;24(1):3306. doi: 10.1186/s12889-024-20791-4. PMID: 39605009; PMCID: PMC11603742.

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11603742/>

Zhou S, Brunetta P, Silvasstar J, Feldman G, Oromi N, **Bull S**. Initial Evaluation of Acceptability, Engagement, and Effectiveness of the MO App to Provide Tailored and Comprehensive Support for Smoking Cessation: Development and Usability Study. *JMIR Mhealth Uhealth*. 2024 Oct 29;12:e55239. doi: 10.2196/55239. PMID: 39471372; PMCID: PMC11558213.

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11558213/>

Evanoff NG, Dengel DR, **Stockelman KA, Fandl H, DeSouza NM, Greiner JJ**, Dufresne SR, Kotlyar M, **Garcia VP**. Circulating extracellular microvesicles

associated with electronic cigarette use increase endothelial cell inflammation and reduce nitric oxide production. *Exp Physiol*. 2024 Sep;109(9):1593-1603. doi: 10.1113/EP091715. Epub 2024 Aug 2. PMID: 39092897; PMCID: PMC11363099.

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11363099/>

Horwitz TB, Zorina-Lichtenwalter K, Gustavson DE, Grotzinger AD, Stallings MC. Partitioning the Genomic Components of Behavioral Disinhibition and Substance Use (Disorder) Using Genomic Structural Equation Modeling. *Behav Genet*. 2024 Sep;54(5):386-397. doi: 10.1007/s10519-024-10188-9. Epub 2024 Jul 9. PMID: 38981971.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10519-024-10188-9>

Lippert AM, Corsi DJ, Kim R, Wedow R, Kim J, Taddess B, Subramanian SV. Polygenic and Socioeconomic Contributions to Nicotine Use and Cardiometabolic Health in Early Mid-Life. *Nicotine Tob Res*. 2024 Nov 22;26(12):1616-1625. doi: 10.1093/ntr/ntae146. PMID: 38874009.

<https://academic.oup.com/ntr/article-abstract/26/12/1616/7693362>

Gorrilla AA, Kaye JT, **Pavlik J**, Bonniot C, Vijayaraghavan M, Conner KL, Morris CD. A Call for Health Equity in Tobacco Control and Treatment for the Justice-Involved Population. *Am J Prev Med*. 2024 Oct;67(4):631-636. doi: 10.1016/j.amepre.2024.05.020. Epub 2024 Jun 3. PMID: 38838793.

<https://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797%2824%2900177-6/fulltext>

Morean ME, **Rajeshkumar L**, Krishnan-Sarin S. Development and Psychometric Evaluation of a Novel Measure of Nicotine E-cigarette Withdrawal for Use With Adolescents and Young Adults. *Nicotine Tob Res*. 2024 Nov 22;26(12):1656-1665. doi: 10.1093/ntr/ntae095. PMID: 38695371; PMCID: PMC11581994.

<https://academic.oup.com/ntr/article-abstract/26/12/1656/7661127>

Other Publications Worth Noticing

Estimated impact of a tobacco-elimination strategy on lung-cancer mortality in 185 countries: a population-based birth-cohort simulation study

Rey Brandariz, Julia et al., The Lancet Public Health, Volume 9, Issue 10, e745 - e754

- The tobacco-free generation aims to prevent the sale of tobacco to people born after a specific year.
 - If tobacco-free generation was achieved, 1,186,500 lung-cancer deaths could be prevented worldwide in people born during 2006–2010
 - Low- and middle-income countries would have the greatest number of potentially prevented deaths.
-

The Potential Impact of Oral Nicotine Pouches on Public Health: A Scoping Review

Travis N, Warner KE, Goniewicz ML, Oh H, Ranganathan R, Meza R, Hartmann-Boyce J, Levy DT. Nicotine Tob Res. 2024 Jun 17:ntae131. doi: 10.1093/ntr/ntae131. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38880491.

- U.S. studies find current oral nicotine pouches (ONP) use at 1.5% and lifetime use below 2.5% through 2023.
 - 9-21% of tobacco-naïve youth were susceptible to trying ONP.
 - ONP's chemical composition suggests fewer potentially harmful compounds at lower levels than cigarettes and smokeless tobacco (SLT), except formaldehyde. Although key data are mainly available from industry-funded studies
 - Industry marketing strategies target females, people of color, and LGBTQ+
 - The “tobacco-free” descriptor may confuse understanding of the source of nicotine: 17% of U.S. young adults wrongfully believed that tobacco-free ONPs contained neither tobacco nor nicotine
-



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

High-Priority Research in Tobacco Regulatory Science (RFA-OD-25-001)

The purpose of this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is to invite R01 applications to support new high-priority biomedical and behavioral research that will provide scientific data to inform the regulation of tobacco products to protect public health. Research Projects must address the new high-priority research topics related to the regulatory authority of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Center for Tobacco Products (CTP). The awards under this NOFO will be administered by NIH using funds that have been made available through FDA CTP and the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act (FSPTCA), P.L. 111-31. Research results from this NOFO are expected to generate findings and data that are directly relevant in informing the FDA's regulation of the manufacture, distribution, and marketing of tobacco products to protect public health

.....

Tobacco, Alcohol, and Cannabis Policy Research for Health Equity (PAR-25-240)

The purpose of this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) is to support policy research projects that examine new or adapted policies pertaining to tobacco, alcohol, and/or cannabis in the U.S., with a particular focus on how the policy or policies influence tobacco, alcohol, and cannabis use or secondhand exposure among populations experiencing disparities. Funded projects will involve authentic engagement with one or more community organizations with the aim of promoting equity in cancer prevention by addressing tobacco, alcohol, and

cannabis use and exposure. The long-term goal is to support tobacco, alcohol, and cannabis policy research studies that will improve health equity and promote cancer prevention.

.....

NCI's National Cancer Advisory Board (NCBA) meeting held on September 2024, included a session on [NCI's Support of Early Career Cancer Investigators](#).

- National Cancer Institute Supports Applications for the Mentored Research Scientist Development Awards (K01) Within the Mission of the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences ([NOT-CA-24-022](#))
- National Cancer Institute Supports Applications for the Mentored Research Scientist Development Awards (K01) Within the Mission of the Division of Cancer Prevention ([NOT-CA-24-023](#))

Changes to NCI K99/R00 and NCI K22 Awards

The NCI K99/R00 award will be a separate Program Announcement (PAR) expanding the eligibility window from 4 years to 6 years of postdoctoral research training experience. ([NOT-CA-24-077](#)). All NCI K99/R00 applications must be submitted in response to [PAR-25-135](#) and PAR-25-313

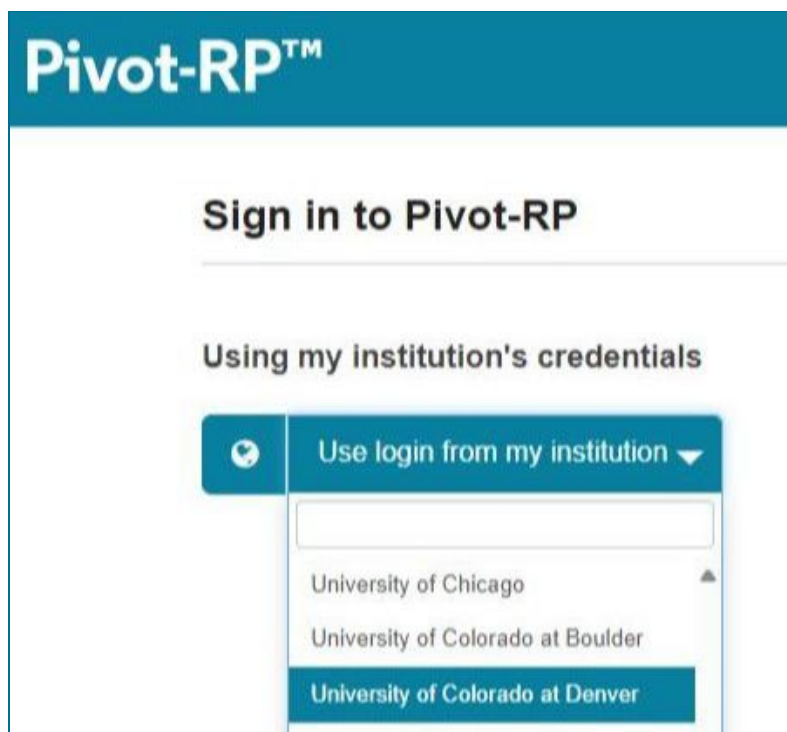
.....

Use Pivot to Find Funding Opportunities Relevant to You

[Pivot-RP | Pivot-RP \(proquest.com\)](#) is a comprehensive funding database representing funding opportunities from federal agencies, foundations, industry, etc. It is available to all CU Anschutz Faculty and staff. It allows users to develop automated searches base on criteria relevant to each researcher field.

To get started

- Go to <https://pivot.proquest.com/session/login> and select your institution.
- Find 'University of Colorado at Denver' in the drop down list.
- You will then be prompted to log in through SSO and then you will just select your affiliation (CU Anschutz).
- You will be able to conduct broad or advanced searches for funding opportunities customized to your interests.



Other ways to learn about funding opportunities

- [Funding Landscape | Research Development and Strategy \(cuanschutz.edu\)](#)
- [Funding Focus Newsletter | CU Anschutz](#)
- [Research Grant Process | American Cancer Society](#)
- [Tobacco Regulatory Science Program Funding Opportunities | ODP \(nih.gov\)](#)
- [Funding Opportunity Announcements | Smoking and Tobacco Use | CDC](#)
- [Tobacco education, prevention and cessation grant program | Department of Public Health & Environment \(colorado.gov\)](#)
- [Funding Opportunities, Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs \(health.mil\)](#)

We want to hear your feedback. Let us know where you present your tobacco/nicotine research, suggest content for future newsletter or activities using the link below.

[Click here to provide feedback](#)

If this email was forwarded to you, [click here to subscribe to future communications](#)

Contact us
gina.kruse@CUanschutz.edu

Copyright (C) 2024 CU Anschutz. All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [unsubscribe here](#)