

On The Move!

The official newsletter for the University of Colorado Movement Disorders Center

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University of Colorado Designated as LBDA Research Center of Excellence

By: Samantha Holden, MD, MS

The Movement Disorders and Memory Disorders Centers at the University of Colorado have received designation as a national **Research Center of Excellence** by the Lewy Body Dementia Association (LBDA). Under the leadership of **Dr. Victoria Pelak** and **Dr. Samantha Holden**, the University of Colorado will join 23 other prominent academic institutions, including the Mayo Clinic, Columbia University, University of Pennsylvania, and Stanford University, to build a network of neurological centers dedicated to providing outstanding clinical care to patients with Lewy body dementias. Dr. Pelak and Dr. Holden traveled to New Orleans in December 2017 to meet with the entire group of center directors and plan for the launch of this network.

Lewy body dementia (LBD) is an umbrella term that includes both **Parkinson's disease dementia** and **dementia with Lewy bodies**, which are two related conditions that can affect both movement and memory. It is the second most common cause of dementia after Alzheimer's disease, affecting 1.4 million people in the United States. In **Parkinson's disease dementia**, people are affected by the motor symptoms of

tremor, slowness, stiffness, and imbalance first, and then later have trouble with their thinking and memory. In **dementia with Lewy bodies**, people have trouble with their thinking and memory early on, developing motor symptoms either at the same time or later in their disease course.

The LBDA Research Centers of Excellence will collaborate on clinical trials for Lewy body dementias, to hopefully develop new treatments for



these conditions. Another goal is to better understand how and why these diseases occur, as well as who is at risk for these conditions before they develop symptoms. They will also promote the delivery of exceptional clinical care to the LBD community across the United States and partner with the community to increase public awareness of this condition. While most people have heard of Parkinson's disease, far fewer are aware of Lewy body dementias. This can lead to misdiagnosis and inappropriate treatments, which can cause poor outcomes for people living with LBD and their loved ones. To learn more about Lewy body dementia, please visit the Lewy Body Dementia Association website at www.lbda.org.

Meet the MDC Team



Michelle Fullard, MD, MSCE
Assistant Professor

Dr. Fullard joined the Movement disorders section of Neurology in September 2018 after a year as an Instructor at the University of Pennsylvania. She was born and raised in Birmingham, AL and earned her B.S. in Neuroscience at Vanderbilt University. She stayed at Vanderbilt for medical school where she earned her M.D. Dr. Fullard completed Neurology residency at the University of Virginia, and served as Chief Resident during her final year. She then completed a Movement disorders fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania, where she also pursued a Masters of Science in Clinical Epidemiology.

During her fellowship, Dr. Fullard received a research grant co-sponsored by the American Academy of Neurology, the American Brain Foundation, and the Parkinson's Foundation to investigate the use of wearable devices and smartphone applications for tracking Parkinson's disease symptoms. She will continue this study in her faculty position at the University of Colorado.

Dr. Fullard will be providing medical care for patients with movement disorders and the Anschutz Medical Campus. She is excited to join the Neurology Department at CU and to explore Denver and the surrounding mountains.



Trevor Hawkins, MD
Assistant Professor

Dr. Hawkins joined the movement disorders section at University of Colorado in July 2018. His long standing interest in neurology and movement disorders stems from his personal experience with family members. This led him to obtain his undergraduate degree from Ohio State University in biochemistry and neuroscience and ultimately to medical school at University of Toledo College of Medicine. From there, he traveled to sunny Colorado where he completed his medical internship, neurology residency where he served as chief resident, and ultimately his movement disorders fellowship at the University of Colorado.

He enjoyed his experience so much in and outside the hospital that he applied to stick around and—luckily—the faculty and administration accepted! Dr. Hawkins has several research interests in movement disorders including several studies on genetic causes of ataxia, use of cannabis in hyperkinetic movement disorders such as Huntington's disease, and the use of medical technology in all movement disorders.

He currently is providing medical care for patients with movement disorders, including botulinum toxin injections and deep brain stimulation. In addition, he is co-running the University of Colorado ataxia clinic along with Dr. Lauren Seeberger.

Interested in Participating in Research?

We're always looking for patients interested in research. For more information or to get involved with our research, please contact our Research Recruitment Specialist, 303-724-4644.

To view a list of our studies, please visit www.ucdenvermovement.org. Click on the "Research" tab and then follow the link to view a list of our current research studies.

Please Welcome Our 2018-2020 Fellows!

Please help us to welcome Dr. Lisa Deuel and Dr. Jeanne Feuerstein to our Movement Disorders Fellowship Program. Dr. Deuel and Dr. Feuerstein will join us for two years of training before they begin practicing as Movement Disorders Specialists.

Fellows are licensed doctors who have completed their medical education and neurological training. They have elected to complete an additional year or more of sub-specialized training. Our fellowship provides neurologists with an additional one to two years of training in movement disorders.



Dr. Lisa Deuel was born and raised in the suburbs of Rochester, NY. She spent four years in Ithaca, NY at Cornell University, where she earned bachelor degrees in Biology and Psychology. After graduating, she returned home to the University of Rochester to work as a clinical research assistant, her first exposure to the field of Movement Disorders. This experience

solidified her desire to become a neurologist, and from there, she moved down to Long Island to earn her medical degree at Stony Brook University School of Medicine.

Four years later, she moved back upstate to Albany, NY, where she completed her residency training in Neurology, serving as chief resident her fourth year.

After effectively circling New York state her entire life, she decided it was time to head west to see what all the fuss was about, and is excited to be completing her fellowship in Movement Disorders at the University of Colorado! In her free time, you can find her exploring the Rockies with her new rescue pup, Moose.



Dr. Jeanne Feuerstein was born and raised in San Francisco. She went to Oberlin College in Ohio where she received a BA in creative writing. She turned her focus towards medicine and did her pre-medical training at Bennington College and then went to University of Arizona in Tucson for medical school.

She moved north to Colorado for residency at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. She has since gotten married and added an incredible dog (Jack!) to her family. Jeanne loves hiking, spinning (still learning to ride a bike), free food, and relaxing outside with a good book.

State of the Art

We are excited to host our first ever silent auction during our 5th Annual Parkinson Disease Symposium. Many people in the Parkinson's community have generously donated gorgeous, unique pieces of art that they have made themselves to help raise money for our Movement Disorders Center. These pieces will be available through a silent auction at our 5th Annual Symposium. If you are interested in owning one of these pieces of art, please be sure to bring cash or check with you to the symposium. These funds will support the mission of the Movement Disorders Center through:

- educating new generations of movement disorders specialists.
- supporting research of young scientists and clinician-scientists to help them establish careers in movement disorders research.
- providing educational symposia to help educate the Movement Disorders community and other healthcare providers.

We have had an overwhelming response to our symposium this year and we are sold out. If you are interested in attending still, please join our waitlist at <https://5thpdsymposium.eventbrite.com> and you'll be notified when additional spots open up.



Capturing Grace

The Experience of Dance & Parkinson's Disease
Thursday, November 1, 2018

4:00-7:00 PM

Film Screening, Panel Discussion and Dance Experience with filmmaker Dave Iverson, dancer/teacher David Leventhal, and local dancers with PD

Education II South Auditorium—Rm. 1102
13121 E 17th Avenue, Aurora, CO 80045

Free & Open to the Public ~ Refreshments Provided.

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/graceevent>

Generously supported by the University of Colorado President's Fund for the Humanities.

Get Involved!

Our world-class team of physicians and researchers are dedicated to providing the highest quality of care for patients today while developing cures and novel treatments for tomorrow.

Private support is essential to pushing the boundaries of science and bringing life-changing research and care to the patients who need it most. With your support, we will continue providing the region's most comprehensive patient care and conducting innovative research that will transform healthcare around the country.

Learn how you can help:

Carrie Radant Flynn
Carrie.Radant@ucdenver.edu
303-724-9146
giving.cu.edu/parkinsons

Do you have an event you would like to share with the community?

We are happy to include relevant events on our website!

Please e-mail Nicole Leith (nicole.leith@ucdenver.edu) the details, including flyers and registration sites.

Stay Informed

- Join our mailing list and receive updates on events, research, and more. Visit ucdenvermovement.org, click on "Resources" and then "Subscribe."
- For upcoming events, classes, and other resources, visit ucdenvermovement.org and click on the "Calendar" tab.
- Do you have a topic that you would like to see covered in our newsletter? E-mail your idea to us and we'll try to cover it in an upcoming issue: ucdenvermovement@ucdenver.edu.

Our **Newly Diagnosed Parkinson Disease** and our **Advanced Treatment Options for Parkinson Disease** Small Group Educational Sessions are offered on an alternating monthly basis. These classes include

- a brief presentation from a PD specialist
- an open discussion in a small group setting
- handouts for support and resources.
- light snacks and coffee

Newly diagnosed classes take place on the second Monday of every other month from 1:30-3:30 PM. Advanced treatment classes are held on the second Tuesday of alternate months from 1:30-3:30. Both classes are held in the UCH Anschutz Outpatient Pavilion.

To register, please call 720-848-8761 or visit <https://neurologyevent.ucdenver/mdc>.