

Colorado Pain Society 6th Annual Chronic Pain Conference 2023

Does not include Faculty added after August 7, 2023, which will appear on next update

MEET THE SPEAKERS



Kenneth Finn, MD has been practicing Pain Medicine in Colorado Springs since 1994. He is Board Certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (1995), Pain Medicine (1998), and Pain Management (2000). He is President (2022) of the American Board of Pain Medicine and has served on their Exam Council for 20 years. He served on the Colorado Governor’s Task Force on Amendment 64, which legalized marijuana for recreational use, Consumer Safety and Social Issues Work Group (2012) and serve 4 years on Colorado’s Medical Marijuana Scientific Advisory Council (2014-18). He was an invited speaker to the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna, March 2023. He has testified to the Canadian Senate on their marijuana bill (2018) as well as New York General Assembly, and speaks internationally on the health impacts of marijuana, including being an invited speaker to the Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, UCLA VA Medical Center, and the Texas Medical Society, among many others. He is editor of [Cannabis in Medicine: An Evidence-Based Approach](#) (2020) and currently the Co-Vice President (2021) of the International Academy on the Science and Impacts of Cannabis (<https://iasic1.org>).



Robert J. Valuck, PhD, RPh, FNAP is a Professor in the Departments of Clinical Pharmacy, Epidemiology, and Family Medicine at the University of Colorado (CU) Schools of Pharmacy, Public Health, and Medicine at the Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora. Dr. Valuck is also the Director of the Center for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention at CU, which houses the state’s opioid task force (the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention). The Consortium has evolved over the past 10 years to include a dozen work groups, with over 750 members across the state, focusing on key areas relating to education, prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery. The Consortium has gained recognition as a model for the development of collaborative, coordinated responses to the opioid overdose epidemic in the United States.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Yoni Ashar, PhD

Assistant Professor, Medicine-Internal Medicine – School of Medicine CU Anschutz

Bio and Head Shot TBA

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Larry Driver, MD

Distinguished Teaching Professor – University of Texas; Distinguished Educator – MD Anderson; Professor - Department of Pain Medicine and Section of Integrated Ethics

Bio and Head Shot TBA



Joshua Blum, MD is a board-certified internist and addiction medicine physician at Denver Health and Hospital Authority in Denver, CO, where he serves as the director of outpatient substance use disorder treatment. As an institutional quality officer, he leads initiatives on pain and opioid management and chairs Denver Health's pharmacy and therapeutics committee. He is the immediate past president of the Colorado chapter the American Society of Addiction Medicine, and co-chair of the Provider Education Workgroup at the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention. He also serves on the boards of the Colorado Pain Society and the Harm Reduction Action Center. Dr. Blum attended Dartmouth College and the University of Southern California School of Medicine before completing his medicine residency at the University of Colorado.

Jonathan Clapp, MD

Triple Board Certified: PM&R, Pain Medicine and Addiction Medicine – Physician Pain Consultants

Bio and Head Shot TBA

Rachael Rzasa-Lynn, MD is an Associate Professor in the University of Colorado Department of Anesthesiology, where she practices pain medicine at University of Colorado Hospital. A rare Colorado native, she acquired her medical education and training through the University of Colorado School of Medicine, including fellowship training in Pain Medicine. Her research interests include opioid pharmacology and the use of cannabis products for the treatment of chronic pain, and she has been awarded grant funding from the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment to conduct a randomized controlled trial evaluating the impact of long-term cannabis use on pain and opioid use in patients taking opioids for chronic pain. In her free time, she can be found with her husband and three children enjoying the wonderful outdoor opportunities that Colorado has to offer.

Eric Shoemaker, DO

Sports Medicine, Pain Medicine, PM&R - Ascent Medical Consultants

Bio and Head Shot TBA



Brent Van Dorsten, PhD is a licensed clinical psychologist who specializes in health and pain psychology and behavioral medicine assessment and treatment at the Colorado Center for Behavioral Medicine. At the CCBM, Dr. Van Dorsten provides cognitive-behavioral assessments and treatments to a diverse patient population referred by physician specialists in Anesthesiology Pain Medicine, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Orthopedic Spine, Primary Care, Surgery, Occupational Medicine, and Neurology, among others. This clinical service includes assessment, psychological and neuropsychological testing, and CBT treatment for pain and functional limitations, physical injury and delayed recovery in worker's compensation, assisting physicians in the management of patients on long-term opioids, mild traumatic brain injury and concussion, and pre-surgical behavioral assessments for patients considered for spine surgeries and implantable spinal cord stimulation.

Prior to opening the Colorado Center for Behavioral Medicine in 2012, Dr. Van Dorsten was an Associate Professor at the University of Colorado School of Medicine in the Departments of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Orthopedics Spine Center, and Anesthesiology Pain Medicine for over 23 years. He is certified with a variety of national credentialing services including the National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology and is a

Life Fellow of both the Society of Behavioral Medicine and the American College of Forensic Examiners. He currently holds or has recently held Executive Board/committee positions with the American Psychological Association, the Society of Behavioral Medicine, Association of Psychologists in Academic Health Centers, and the American Board of Psychology Specialties. Dr. Van Dorsten is the immediate past president of the Colorado Pain Society. Dr. Van Dorsten was the founder and Director of the Behavioral Medicine Fellowship Program in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Anesthesiology Pain and is a former Co-Director of the Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy/Complex Regional Pain Syndrome Program. He is broadly experienced in forensic psychology as it relates to personal injury litigation and delayed recovery and has been admitted in both state and federal courts as an expert witness in pain and rehabilitation psychology, and psychosocial and behavioral factors affecting recovery from personal injury. Dr. Van Dorsten has published numbers of articles and book chapters on pain, diabetes, and traumatic medical injury, and his book Forensic Psychology: From Classroom to Courtroom is popular in the forensic psychology and forensic medicine arenas.

Dr. Van Dorsten is an experienced research investigator on several clinical pain investigations and is currently a behavioral investigator on a multi-year, multi-center PQORI grant with Stanford University to investigate the efficacy of cognitive-behavioral treatment in improving function of patients with pain who voluntarily wish to decrease or discontinue intake of opioid pain medications. Previously, Dr. Van Dorsten served as the Chair of the Behavioral Investigator core for a National Institutes of Health multi-year, multi-center investigation involving intensive lifestyle interventions in adults with overweight/obesity, Type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Dr. Van Dorsten has presented dozens of national/international presentations regarding the application of behavioral sciences in medicine and rehabilitation, behavioral pain management, patient selection for invasive medical procedures, psychometric testing of medical patients, managing patients on long-term opioid medications, implementing behavioral care in medical services, factors affecting delayed recovery and return to work, traumatic medical injury, chronic illness, and forensic psychology.

Ajay R. Vellore, MD, MS

Anesthesiologist and Interventional Pain Management Physician – Denver Back Pain Specialists

Bio and Head Shot TBA

David Wong, MD, MSc, FRCS

Board-Certified, Fellowship-Trained Spine Surgeon – Colorado Spine Partners

Bio and Head Shot TBA