

**Fall 2019**  
**NRSC 6602-800 Scientific Skills Development**  
**NRSC 2101-800 Topics in Neuroscience**

(1 credit; Mondays 3-4 pm, MCOL W100)

**NOTE:** *our same room is also reserved 4-5 pm for anyone who would like to hang out and chat further with the speaker! (NOT required – just providing the opportunity)*

I hope that you will consider staying with us for Spring 2020 as well, and to invite your friends to join us this semester as well as Spring. Walk-ins (undergraduate and graduate students, postdocs, research associates, and faculty) are all encouraged to join us in a drop in basis, as they'd like! All welcome!

Organizer: Linda R. Watkins, PhD

On-Campus Office: Muenzinger D457: Office hours by appointment

Contact: [Watkins.nrsc@colorado.edu](mailto:Watkins.nrsc@colorado.edu)

(please use this email address instead of my standard UC-Boulder email address so your email doesn't get buried in my inbox!)

Schedule (subject to change as all of our volunteer speakers have very fluid demands on their time):

August 26 Very, very brief overview of the course, followed by:

**Dr. Fintan Steele (Chief Corporate Communications and Culture Officer, SomaLogic, Boulder)** has a Masters in medical ethics and religions studies from Indiana University, focusing on ethical issues in genetics; PhD in Biological Sciences from the University of Notre Dame; Postdoc positions at the National Institutes of Health and Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. After leaving research, he has held several editorial positions with scientific publishers, as well as director of communications and scientific education at MIT and Harvard, Vice President and Global Head of Communications for Novartis BioMedical, and Executive Director of Communications (now Chief Corporate Communications and Culture Officer) at SomaLogic in Boulder.



September 2 – **Labor Day** Monday Holiday – no class

September 9 -**Lex Pelger, B.S. (Director of Education, CV Sciences, a hemp-derived cannabidiol company)**

received a Bachelor's degree in biochemistry and molecular biology from Boston University, spending summers in internships at Pfizer. After a stint studying stem cells at New York Medical College, he spent a year in India as a writer in the March to Tibet and then hitchhiking around the U.S. He writes and lectures extensively on cannabis and the war on drugs at wide ranging forums including colleges, marijuana and psychedelic science conferences, podcasts, videos, etc. He currently serves as the Director of Education at CV Sciences, a hemp-derived cannabidiol (CBD) company, and before that as the Science Director at Bluebird Botanicals CBD company in Louisville, CO.



September 16 - **Dr. Michael Mestek (Senior Program Manager of Medical Affairs, nationally and internationally at Medtronic)**- received his Bachelor's in Economics from Bradley University's College of Business, and his PhD in Applied/Exercise Physiology from Auburn University with a minor in statistics. After several research and clinical exercise physiology positions, he ended up at the University of Colorado - Boulder with a post-doctoral Research Associate position studying cardiovascular health. He moved from UC-Boulder to Medtronic working in Research & Development, including working with FDA regulatory issues and now serves as the Senior Program Manager of Medical Affairs at Medtronic with wide ranging responsibilities nationally and globally.



September 23 - **Dr. Mark Lupa (Managing Director of High Country Ventures)** received his Bachelor's from Northwestern University, and Masters from the University of Sussex (England) in Bio-medical Engineering and a PhD in Pharmacology from the University of Lund, Sweden. He conducted neuroscience research for fifteen years at institutions worldwide, including the University of Colorado - Boulder and University of California-San Francisco. His business experience came first in the brewing industry as founder, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer of Tabernash Brewing Company, which was formed in 1993 and merged with Left Hand Brewing in 1998. Following this, Mark moved to private investment company Tango to focus on Technology and Life Science investments, before founding High Country Venture. He is the Managing Director of High Country Venture, a venture firm in Boulder (they invest money in companies - he guides the company as to who/what they should invest in) that invests in early stage Life Science and Information Technology companies. He has served as founding member of the Board of Directors for Taligen Therapeutics, Sierra Neuropharma, Oberon, and Theratogs, and was Chief Financial Officer of Taligen from inception of the company in 2004 until early 2008.



September 30 - **Dr. Susie Charlifue (Director of Spinal Cord Injury Research, Craig Hospital, Englewood, CO)** received the highest award from the International Spinal Cord Society, only the 4th woman to receive this award and only the 2nd non-clinician to do so in the award's 30 year history. She received her PhD in Health and Behavioral Science from the University of Colorado - Denver and has been awarded the title of Fellow of the American College of Rehabilitation Medicine. She is the Principle Investigator of the spinal cord injury (SCI) Model System at Craig Hospital (specialty hospital for spinal cord and traumatic brain injuries in Englewood, CO), as well as co-ordinating many spinal cord injury research clinical trials, including Phase I, II and III investigations. She has over 30 years of experience in spinal cord injury research.



October 7 - **Dr. Teisha Rowland (Director of the Stem Cell Research and Technology Center, UC-Boulder)** received her Bachelor's from the University of Colorado - Boulder in Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology and her PhD in Molecular, Cellular &



Developmental Biology (with emphasis in stem cell research) from University of California-Santa Barbara. She tested, wrote and edited Kindergarten through Grade 12 educational science material for Science Buddies, and wrote for Scientific American and National Public Radio Science Fridays. She also was a medical writer/editor for University of Colorado – Denver, and now serves as the Director of the Stem Cell Research and Technology Resource Center, at UC-Boulder's MCDB Department, which is a campus-wide shared facility with the mission of promoting interdisciplinary research utilizing human induced pluripotent stem cells.

October 14 - **Dr. Jana Watson-Capps (founder of Jana Watson-Capps and Associates, LLC, a consulting firm for academia and biosciences)**, received her Bachelor's in Biological Sciences from Stanford University and her PhD in Biology from Georgetown University. After teaching in the Biology Department of Metro State College in Denver and working as a project/development consultant in Denver, she served for over 7 years as the Associate Director, Chief of Staff and Head of Strategy for Biofrontiers at the University of Colorado-Boulder to develop and implement the institute's interdisciplinary programs and industrial partnerships. After forming her consulting firm, she now helps companies, universities and non-profits with strategic planning and coalition building within the interdisciplinary life sciences. She has experience and strengths in interdisciplinary science and education, academic-industry partnerships, strategic planning, large-team management, multi-stakeholder project leadership, communicating science, grant writing, fundraising, and building research communities.



October 21 – **Society for Neuroscience Conference**, Chicago, IL– no class

October 28 - **Dr. Leila Jackson (Senior Medical Science Liaison)** received her PhD in Immunology & Microbiology, with an emphasis in cellular immunology from the University of Colorado – Denver. From there she was a Postdoctoral Scientist with Array BioPharma in Boulder and then became an Assistant Professor of Neurology and Director of Translational Research at the Rocky Mountain Multiple Sclerosis Center in Denver. Leaving her research career, she became a Senior Medical Science Liaison first with Teva Pharmaceuticals (which specializes in multiple sclerosis therapeutics) for the mountain west region, and currently with Genentech for the greater Denver area.



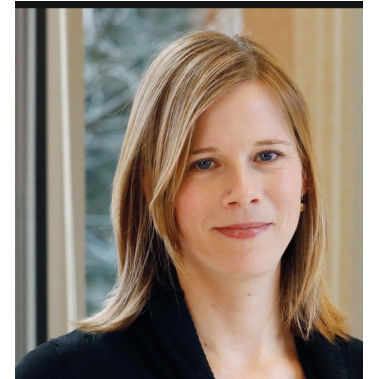
November 4 – **Susan Strong (Innosphere, Project Manager)** has a Masters in analytical chemistry from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill). She was hired by Hewlett Packard and began a long and successful career designing and marketing instruments, software and reagents to meet the needs of scientists around the world. In the later part of her career, she pivoted to life sciences including work at several CU spinout companies – Genomica and Dharmacon. She finished her industrial career being invited back to Agilent (which had spun out from Hewlett Packard and added a number of life sciences technologies





to their portfolio). Since her industrial career ended, she has been working with the Inno-  
sphere Science & Technology Incubator, the pro-bono SAGE (Social and Advisory Group for  
Entrepreneurs) mentoring program and as a CU Entrepreneur in Residence helping the  
newly named CU Venture Partners (formerly Technology Transfer Office) team.

November 11 – **Dr. Amy Tindell (Intellectual Property law, Holland Hart law firm)** received her  
Bachelor's degree in Cognitive Science from Dartmouth and her PhD in Biopsychology/Neu-  
roscience from the University of Michigan. Following that, she en-  
tered law school and received her J.D. in Intellectual Property from  
Boston College Law School. She was worked with MassChallenge,  
a not-for-profit group that supports entrepreneurship to help  
launch and grow new ventures. She was then a Senior Associate  
with Tapestry Networks in Boston, a professional services firm  
that brings together leaders to solve complex problems, such as  
healthcare issues, and a Bar Manager at Venture Café in Boston,  
which provides networking opportunities to entrepreneurs, inves-  
tors, developers, and other members of the startup community. Af-  
ter an Associate position with McCarter & English law firm in Bos-  
ton focused on intellectual property, she moved to Hollard and Hart law firm in Boulder spe-  
cializing in intellectual property legal practice.

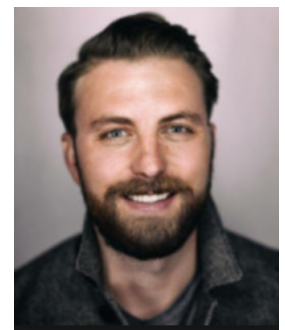


November 18 - **Dr. Frank Brennan, PhD (Senior Regional Medical Liaison for Neuroscience, Amgen)**  
received his Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Saint Joseph's University and Master's  
degree in Experimental Psychology from the State University of New York. Following his  
PhD in Psychology/Behavioral Neuroscience from the University  
of Colorado-Boulder, he started as an assistant professor at  
Wilkes University in the Department of Psychology. From there,  
he became a Scientist at East Orange Veteran's Administration  
Medical Center, followed by a Research Scientist position at the  
Philadelphia Veteran's Administration Medical Center/University  
of Pennsylvania. He then moved to Redpoint Bio as a Senior Sci-  
entist to manage their *in vivo* pharmacology lab. After a stint as a  
Medical Writer for ETHOS Health Communications, he joined  
Chromocell Corporation as a Principle Scientist doing project and  
scientific management. Moving into the Medical Science Liaison field, he's worked with Ge-  
nomind, TEVA, Xenoport (as Associate Director of Medical Science), and now as Senior Re-  
gional Medical Liaison in Neuroscience for Amgen to support their Migraine program in the  
Greater Philadelphia area.



November 26 – **Fall Break** – no class

December 4 – **Dr. Alex Benison (Global Medical Affairs Manager, Abbott)** re-  
ceived his Bachelor's, PhD, and postdoctoral experience from the  
Dept. of Psychology & Center for Neuroscience at the University of  
Colorado - Boulder. His research emphasis was on behavioral, elec-  
trophysiological, optogenetic and histological characterization of  
temporal lobe epilepsy, traumatic brain injury, and autism spectrum  
disorder models. His expertise in photography (<https://www.ambimages.com>) led him to  
photographing unique marketing material for the UC-Boulder athletic department as Head  
Sports Photographer. After leaving his basic science research career, he joined St. Jude



Medical, rising in the ranks from Neuromodulation Clinical Specialist and Territory Manager for the Denver area, to Dorsal Root Ganglia Therapy Development Specialist for the Rocky Mountain region, then moving to Abbott Pharm in Neuromodulation, rising in the ranks from Therapy Development Specialist, to Global Medical Science Advisor, and now serves as the Global Medical Affairs Manager, based in Austin, Texas.

December 9 - **Bob Radocy, M.S. (Chief Executive Officer of TRS Prosthetics)** received his Bachelor's in Biology from University of Miami. During this time, he lost his left arm from the elbow down in a car accident. After recovery, he pursued and received a Master's of Science in Physical Education & Recreation, with an emphasis in Therapeutic Recreation, from the University of Colorado - Boulder. He then became the Chief Executive Officer of TRS Prosthetics, Inc. in Boulder, a position he's held for 40 years. TRS designs and manufactures high performance prosthetic components and specializes in body powered, voluntary closing technology and sports and recreation accessories and components for persons who have lost a limb. He has designed prosthetics for diverse sports including martial arts, cycling, weightlifting, surfing, skiing, swimming, shooting, climbing, golfing, baseball, basketball and hockey.



**Grading: CLASS PARTICIPATION IS EXPECTED AND VERY STRONGLY ENCOURAGED!!** Please bring questions for the speakers - this is a unique opportunity to explore non-academic careers. Please take full advantage!! There are 13 class sessions. Assuming your active class participation, your grade is determined by course attendance: A = attending 12-13 sessions; B = attending 10-11 sessions; C = attending 9 sessions; D/F less than 9.

**\*\*\*\*\*Be SURE to sign in so your attendance is recorded!!!\*\*\*\*\***

**\*\*THIS IS ESSENTIAL: your signature \*\*is\*\* your record of attendance\*\***

**Looking ahead to Spring 2020:** The 2nd semester of this course will be a new set of speakers with other career paths and equally intriguing (but different) career choices. I hope that you will consider staying with us for Spring 2020 as well and to invite your friends to join us as well. This semester, as well as Spring, walk-ins (undergraduate and graduate students, postdocs, research associates, and faculty) are all encouraged to join us in a drop in basis, as they'd like! All welcome! Spread the word!)