

# RAM Safety Source

*All things related to research safety culture at CSU*

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Rushika Perera, Associate Professor  
Director, Antiviral Testing Laboratory

## Extending Our Reach

CSU expanded research in 2021. Colorado State University shattered records for research expenditures last year, spending \$446.8 million to acquire knowledge to protect people from diseases from Alzheimer's, to West Nile, to COVID-19, help recover drought- and fire-ravaged communities, and respond to the climate emergency. We're pursuing diversity that expands and enriches our research enterprise. "We make knowledge that makes the world better and students that will become tomorrow's leaders," said Vice President for Research Alan Rudolph.

# Virtual DEIJ Forum

Friday, February 18, 2-3:30 p.m. MT

CSU professors explain how to fund and publish research that promotes science and diversity



Rebecca Atadero



Sara Bombaci



Emily Fischer



Kristen Rasmussen

**Join us at**

**[https://bit.ly/VPR\\_DEIJ](https://bit.ly/VPR_DEIJ)**



**VICE PRESIDENT  
FOR RESEARCH**

**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**

# Rams Take Care of Rams



## Safety Champion: Saliva Testing Team

***Nominated by OVPR***

Picture taken September 8, 2020 by John Eisele of Colorado State Photography. Phil Fox, a post doc at the time, and Mark Zabel, Associate Dean for Research and Professor, College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, developing the saliva testing protocol.

Mark Zabel, Associate Dean for Research and Professor in Colorado State University's College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, has been leading the teams behind saliva screening for CSU. They dubbed themselves MP4, which stands for Multiplexed Paired Pool PCR. Notably, his first team actually developed the test, which uses a unique pooling strategy and a PCR test that avoids supply chain issues. This first team was so exceptional they all received outside offers they could not refuse. So Mark built a second team to continue the work. At the peak during the first two weeks of this semester the team processed up to 3,000 samples per day. Now, they average 1,000 saliva samples per day. As a clear operational fulcrum to safely keep campus open, the Office of the Vice President for Research would like to recognize Mark and his Saliva Testing Team as a CSU Safety Champion.

"In the beginning it was a lot of *Will this even work?* We tried a lot of different ways to make sure the virus was inactivated while we were working with it to be safe," said Mark. "Coming up with an algorithm for determining what a positive was out of our pools...sort of brainstorming exercises...it was really fun!" The first team was composed of Kaitlyn Wagner (former PhD graduate student now at Zoetis), Phil Fox (post doc who is now a Senior Scientist at a new Colorado startup), and Liddy Gordon (Mark's magical lab manager who was headhunted by GT Molecular, a company founded by another one of Mark's former students).

"Now it's like being on an assembly line. Boom! We start getting samples at 11 am. You get the racks [full of saliva samples], and immediately you start deactivating them. Then you're scanning them in. Then we take them over to the hoods where the magic happens," said Mark. "[This second team] is cool under pressure. They work six days a week." Thank you Mark and MP4.



**February 15–17, 2022**

All sessions are free  
and open to the public

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REGISTRATION REQUIRED

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FEBRUARY 17TH 12:00 - 12:50 PM MT

# TRAVEL THE WORLD MORE SAFELY

THE CSU INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL  
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (ITOC) AND  
ADVISING FOR HIGHER RISK TRAVEL

**REGISTRATION LINK**



# BIORAFT



## Safety Culture: A JEDI Approach via Org-Culture Recording Available!



**Renetta Tull, PhD**

Vice-Chancellor, Diversity Equity and Inclusion,  
University of California



**Robert Nobles, DrPH, MPH**

Vice President for Research Administration,  
Emory University



**Anthony Appleton, PhD**

Research Safety Culture Program, Colorado State  
University, Office of the Vice President for Research



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CALIFORNIA



EMORY  
UNIVERSITY



COLORADO STATE  
UNIVERSITY

# Safety Magnet Challenge

**OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH**  
970-491-3102

**ERGONOMICS**

**BIOSAFETY OFFICE**  
970-491-0270

**Safety & Industrial Hygiene**

**Magnetic Resonance Safety Program**

**Safety & Industrial Hygiene**

**RESPIRATORY PROTECTION PROGRAM**

**Radiation Safety**

**Laser Safety Program**

**Chemical Management Unit**  
chemmgt@colostate.edu

**Responsible Conduct of Research**  
Mentoring & Collaboration  
Authorship & Peer Review  
Data Management  
Conflicts of Interest  
Fiscal & Lab Management

**RESEARCH SAFETY CULTURE**  
YOU MATTER

**The first 15  
research groups  
that earn 5 Safety  
Magnets will WIN  
a \$100 group meal!**

The Research Safety Culture Program in collaboration with research safety and support units is proud to bring research groups at CSU the Safety Magnet Challenge. As a research group, earn each of the magnets by completing ONE of the bulleted tasks for each research safety and support unit [here](#).

# Move-In/Move-Out Procedures

Have YOU considered how Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) is a part of on-boarding, off-boarding, and move-in/move-out procedures in Research???



Have YOU considered how our shared Principles of Community are a part of on-boarding, off-boarding, and move-in/move-out procedures in Research???



For any specific questions regarding move-in/move-out procedures, please contact EHS.

INNOVATION PLATFORM

# CSU DEMO DAY

APRIL 18-22, 2022

ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS  
DUE MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup>

**[csuinnovates.org](https://csuinnovates.org)**

In 2021, participants included representatives from all 8 colleges at CSU. Over 65 CSU students, faculty and staff presented their innovative work, competing for **more than \$20,000 in cash awards!**

## 2022 International Laboratory Freezer Challenge

Sign-up and join the Freezer Challenge today! Here are a few incentives:

- All CSU participating labs that complete a scorecard will receive a Certificate of Participation to proudly display in your lab
- Unplug an unnecessary ULT, send it to surplus – we'll **cover the cost**
- Buying a new ULT to add to your fleet or replacing an old one – we could **give you \$2,000** for choosing an energy efficient model
- You need to submit your Freezer Challenge scorecard by July 1st, 2022

Learn more at:



**GREEN LABS**

**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**

# Safety Story

# WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE

BuzzFeed News

INEQUALITY

## The Smithsonian's #MeToo Moment

Many researchers dream of one day working at the Smithsonian's facility in Panama. But 16 women scientists told BuzzFeed News that their experiences there were nightmares ruled by prominent men who exploited their powers.

By Nishita Jha

Posted on December 9, 2021, at 8:00 a.m. ET

Sixteen women detail a pattern of abuse at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in a recent BuzzFeed News article [here](#). Being safe where you work is a right. Feeling safe around colleagues is a right. A consequence of not being safe and/or not feeling safe that needs more attention is the loss of talented scientists and research, which was highlighted in the excerpt below:

*Seven of the scientists said they have stopped visiting the institute or collaborating with its staff on account of the unprofessional behavior they said they experienced or witnessed there, and two have left academia altogether — a #MeToo brain drain that has cost science an incalculable toll of lost research.*

It is obvious science must do better. For processes at CSU, please visit the [Office of Equal Opportunity](#).

Do you have an idea or would like to contribute to the RAM Safety Source?

Please contact

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**RAM SAFE**

VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

COVID-19 RECOVERY

