



**SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL
ENGINEERING
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**

2021 SBME Industry Advisory Board Members

LARRY BLANKENSHIP, Blankenship Research

Over his 40-year career in the medical device industry, Mr. Blankenship has served as a Director, CEO, President, COO and CTO of multiple start-up companies, as well as a product development executive for divisions of Eli Lilly, Pfizer and the Battelle Memorial Institute.

Mr. Blankenship has led business planning, staffing, funding, design, development, approval, manufacturing, launch and exits via acquisition. He is a medical device development specialist, including conception, design, qualification, production, and FDA and EU product approvals. He has served as a founding member of the Colorado Blackstone Entrepreneurs Network (www.BENColorado.com), a Director of the Colorado Bioscience Association (CBSA, www.cobioscience.com) and founding chair of the constituency committee for the Bioengineering program at the University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus. Mr. Blankenship is constantly seeking opportunities to bring meaningful healthcare and wellness services and products to the patients and caregivers who need them.

Mr. Blankenship is a graduate of the College of Engineering at Arizona State University, holds numerous US and foreign patents, and is a decorated veteran of the United States Submarine Service.

DENNIS BRUNER, Retired Medical Device Consultant

Dennis Bruner works as a principal consultant who serves as an expert witness in issues involving a wide variety of medical devices including cardiothoracic surgery, dialysis, respiratory care, and labels/labeling. His work focuses on investigation, report writing, counseling, and expert testimony in a wide variety of medical device malfunctions and related cases.

Prior to starting his own consulting firm, Bruner worked at Gambro Renal Products, Inc. as the director of quality and regulatory compliance from 1999 to 2001. In 1990, Bruner began working for COBE Cardiovascular, Inc. as the director of quality and regulatory affairs. A long history with COBE Laboratories, he worked in numerous roles from 1977 to 1990.

Bruner holds a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from Colorado State University and a Master of Science and a Doctor of Philosophy in mechanical engineering from the University of Houston. He also holds several U.S. patents in the field of oil well drilling and medical devices.

JULIE DUNN, Medical Director, Medical Center of the Rockies

Julie Dunn works for University of Colorado Health as the medical director of trauma research and education at Medical Center of the Rockies in Loveland, Colorado. In addition, she is a trauma and general surgeon for Colorado Health Medical Group.

Dr. Dunn serves on the National Committee on Trauma for the American College of Surgeons. She is also Out-of-State Site Reviewer for the Tennessee Trauma Center Inspection Team. In addition, Dr. Dunn is the chair for the State of Colorado Committee on Trauma of the American College of Surgeons.

Prior to joining MCR in 2011, Dr. Dunn spent 13 years teaching at the James H. Quillen College of Medicine at East Tennessee State University. In 1998, she began as the assistant professor of surgery and four years later was promoted to assistant professor of surgery. In 2010, she became a professor of surgery.

Since 2012, Dr. Dunn has served as an affiliate faculty member for the School of Biomedical Engineering at Colorado State, actively engaging in collaborative efforts with SBME faculty.

GREGORY FLORANT, Emeritus Faculty, Department of Biology, CSU

Dr. Florant's research interests are centered on the mechanisms that animals use to adapt to different situations. At a young age, he became interested in falconry and began raising and taking care of birds. Additionally, Florant attempted to learn as much as possible about these animals and strove to increase his knowledge through reading. As a young man, Florant worked at a local animal hospital and then at the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo. The latter job had an especially strong influence on him and helped to nurture his scientific interests. His childhood fascination with the natural world led him to wonder how animals respond, survive, reproduce, and evolve in changing environments—Florant would eventually dedicate his life's work to answering these formative questions as a biology professor at Colorado State.

Florant has remained in the environmental field for many years. He cites his work on the effects of fatty acids on animal hibernation and his research on animal thermoregulation at very low temperatures as career achievements. Elected as a fellow to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, he has received two Fulbright scholarships and published articles for five decades. Though funding continues to be an obstacle for many people interested in pursuing careers in environmental science, Florant provides opportunities through various mentoring programs. He is a Ford Fellows liaison for all minorities in three Midwestern states and is also a mentor in association with the National Institutes of Health. He continues to use his knowledge and experience as a model to encourage minorities to pursue their dreams in science.

RAY GOODRICH, Executive Director, Infectious Disease Research Center, CSU

Ray Goodrich is the executive director of the Infectious Disease Research Center (IDRC) at Colorado State University. Prior to joining CSU in 2016, Goodrich served as president of Innovata BioConsulting and provided consultation related to medical products. From 2011 to 2016, Goodrich worked for Terumo BCT as the vice president of Scientific and Clinical Affairs as

well as chief science officer for Blood Bank Technologies. He has over 23 years' experience working in the medical industry.

GARY JOHNSON, President, Surgical Group, Applied Medical

Gary Johnson is the Surgical Group President for Applied Medical, a global medical device developer, manufacturer, and distributor headquartered in Rancho Santa Margarita, California. Johnson joined the company in June of 1992 as a process development engineer. Three years later, he transitioned into the clinical development role and then served as vice president of clinical development, division president and general manager. In September 1999, Johnson was promoted to Vice President and general manager.

Johnson holds over a dozen patents for a variety of medical devices and technologies. He is a graduate of Colorado State University and holds a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering.

KIRK KINDSFATER, M.D., Orthopaedic Center of the Rockies

Kirk Kindfater is an internationally recognized, board-certified orthopaedic surgeon at the Orthopaedic Center of the Rockies who specializes in hip and knee replacement surgery. Dr. Kindfater is actively involved in medical research in new technologies and implant design which can lead to improvements in the field of joint replacement surgery. In addition, he consults with major orthopaedic companies for both product development and to educate other orthopaedic surgeons in new technologies and surgical techniques.

Over the past 15 years, Dr. Kindfater has been an invited faculty member at didactic orthopaedic courses on more than 60 occasions. He also routinely hosts other orthopaedic surgeons into his operating room so that they can see the latest in surgical techniques and operating room efficiencies.

Dr. Kindfater continues to be very active with clinical research as well. Over the years he has been involved in 17 clinical research projects/clinical studies. He has presented research findings at international orthopaedic meetings held in Brugge, Belgium; Hawaii; Dubai, United Arab Emirates; Sydney, Australia; and Kyoto, Japan. Dr. Kindfater has also lectured internationally, including educational presentations in recent years to fellow surgeons in Rome, Mexico City, and Surfers Paradise, Australia.

Dr. Kindfater holds a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from Colorado State University and a Doctor of Medicine from the University of Colorado School of Medicine. In addition, he performed an adult reconstructive fellowship at Harvard Medical School.

KENDRA MEGGETT-CARR, Director, Department of Navy Technology Transfer Program Office

Ms. Kendra Meggett-Carr is the Director of the Department of Navy's (DON) Technology Transfer (T2) Program at the Office of Naval Research and on behalf of the Secretary of the Navy and the Chief of Naval Research, coordinates, directs, and manages the promotion and transfer of naval technology to other government organizations, commercial enterprise, and

academia. The DON T2 Program Office establishes the operational policies and procedures required for program execution by the 48 laboratory representatives responsible for technology transfer across the Navy and Marine Corps; and liaises across the numerous Federal, DOD, DON and non-governmental activities involved with the T2 program.

Prior to her current position, at the Army's Combat Capabilities Development Command (CCDC) Headquarters, Ms. Meggett-Carr managed the technology transfer program across the seven subordinate commands and coordinated program activities with Department of Army's Technology Transfer Program Manager. In headquarters, she advised Commanding General CCDC and the command staff on the development, implementation, and management of collaborative partnership policy and initiatives to enhance the command's strategic mission. She was instrumental in the planning and marketing of the Army's technology transfer program and prototype technology at the AUSA's first Innovator's Corner; and in cooperation with the State of Maryland, local government, and laboratories, successfully launched the DefTech business incubator in Havre De Grace, Maryland.

Prior to joining the T2 community, Ms. Meggett-Carr was a Survivability and Lethality Evaluator at the Army's Evaluation Center, Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) for ACAT Programs of Record. As part of the Ballistics, Air Systems Division, her portfolio included Air-to-Ground Missiles, Ground Attack Munitions, Personnel Protection Equipment, and Ground Vehicles. Before becoming a government civilian, Ms. Meggett-Carr held several industry positions. These included Senior Systems Engineer for Missile Control and Communications of the Non-Line of Sight - Launch System at Lockheed Martin; Senior Analyst for SAIC, Inc. providing modeling, simulation and test infrastructure support to ATEC's developmental test centers; and Flight Control Systems Design Engineer on both the RAH-66 Comanche and V-22 Osprey at the Boeing Company.

Ms. Meggett-Carr holds a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering from Widener University and a Master of Science in technical management from Johns Hopkins University. She is a graduate of the USDA's Executive Leadership Program and has received the Army's Achievement Medal for Civilian Service.

LEIGH NEUMAYER, Chair of Surgery, University of Florida College of Medicine

Leigh Neumayer, MD, MS, FACS, has been named the new chair of surgery at the University of Florida College of Medicine – Jacksonville. She is board-certified in surgery and surgical critical care. She has published more than 150 peer-reviewed articles and co-authored a patient education book, "Meet Virginia, Biography of a Breast." She was the principal investigator for the world's largest randomized trial comparing open and laparoscopic inguinal hernia repair, the results of which were published in the New England Journal of Medicine. She has designed, conducted, and published several clinical trials for the treatment of breast cancer. She remains involved in investigations to identify new markers and targets for breast cancer treatment. She is on the editorial board of the Annals of Surgery and the Journal of the American College of Surgeons. She has served in many leadership positions for the American College of Surgeons, including chair of the Board of Regents, and has been president of four national organizations (Association of Women Surgeons, Association of VA Surgeons, Association for Surgical Education and Society of Clinical Surgery). She is a senior director of the American Board of

Surgery and serves as the secretary of the Western Surgical Association and treasurer of the Arizona Medical Association.

Leigh earned her Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering at CSU. Her medical degree is from Baylor College of Medicine (Houston), and she completed a general surgery residency at the University of Arizona. She holds a Master of Science in clinical research design and statistical analysis from the University of Michigan.

SIMON PRAKASH, Executive Vice President of Product, EXO

Simon Prakash is the Executive Vice President of Product at EXO, a medical device company focused on bringing a high-quality handheld ultrasound device into the hands of the many and unconstrained from the walls of the clinic or hospital. Simon leads a team of engineers developing the proprietary pMUT technology as well as the final product. The goal is to put immediate medical imaging in the hands of providers anywhere and everywhere.

Simon recently left AliveCor, a startup in Mountain View, where his purpose as CTO was to make a difference in peoples' health. There he led the development of multiple consumer-friendly, FDA-approved EKG devices with AI algorithms. By getting actionable health data into the hands of the consumer, AliveCor has improved and saved many of their consumers' lives. Simon previously served as the Senior Director of Product Hardware Development at Google where he led the design and development of the current and future versions of Google Glass as well as defining other future products. During his tenure at Google, he was responsible for product development, technology pathfinding, and started the reliability, battery, safety, and quality teams within Google X.

Simon earned his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Colorado State University and his Master of Business Administration from the University of Colorado. He has presented at several IEEE and ASME conferences including Wearables, IoT, component packaging, silicon architecture, thermal design, and reliability.

TARA RUTTLEY, Associate Program Scientist for ISS, NASA

Tara Ruttley is an Associate Program Scientist for the International Space Station (ISS) for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) at Johnson Space Center in Houston. Dr. Ruttley's role in the ISS Program Science Office consists of representing and communicating all research on the space station and supporting the ISS Chief Scientist's research recommendations to the ISS Program Manager and to NASA Headquarters.

Combining her love for Biology and human spaceflight, she pursued her BS degree in Biology and an MS in Mechanical Engineering from Colorado State University. Upon completion of her MS degree, she came to work for NASA in 2001 where she began her career as a biomedical engineer for the medical equipment and human research hardware used on the ISS. While working as an engineer, she concurrently pursued her PhD in Neuroscience and joined the ISS Program Science Office upon completion, where she's since enjoyed playing an active role in the science activities taking place on the ISS. Dr. Ruttley has authored publications ranging from hardware design to neurological science and holds a U.S. utility patent.

STEPHANIE SALAZAR, Senior Sterile Device Engineer, Medtronic, Inc.

Stephanie Salazar is a Senior Sterile Device Engineer at Medtronic, Inc. She currently works in Research and Development for the Restorative Therapies Group, Brain Division. Salazar joined Medtronic in 2011 as a technical specialist in the Services Organization. Her technical expertise includes mechanical design, biocompatibility, device reprocessing, sterilization and packaging of single use, reusable, and capital equipment medical devices.

Salazar is the founder of the Medtronic Women's Network Chapter at the Louisville, Colorado site. She is currently the co-chair of the Develop Committee and has orchestrated business, diversity, and mentoring initiatives across the business.

An alumna of Colorado State University, Salazar holds a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering.

JEFF SAMSON, M.I.D., Boulder iQ (formerly of Samson Design Associates, Inc.)

Jeff Samson, formerly the president of Samson Design Associates, Inc., recently merged his company with Boulder BioMed to form Boulder iQ, an expert contract consulting firm offering product development design and complete medical device quality and regulatory services. His professional interest is centered on biomedical engineering, not only commercializing emerging technology, but developing the intuitive human interface for medical devices.

In addition to his corporate and consulting research and development experience, Samson served on the faculty at Rochester Institute of Technology, University of Colorado, and University of North Carolina. He serves on several design and corporate advisory boards, has hosted a radio program on advanced materials and technology, and facilitated special product innovation sessions nationally.

Prior to leading a consulting product development firm for over 30 years, early in his career, Samson designed product lines for Fisher Price Toys and created mass transit vehicles under a federal grant.

He received his Master of Fine Arts in industrial design from Cranbrook Academy of Art and completed post-graduate work in design management at Harvard University.

DENNIS SCHLAHT, Senior Vice President, R&D and Technology

Dennis Schlaht is the Senior Vice President of Research & Development and Technology at ImpediMed, a world leader in the development and distribution of medical devices employing Bioimpedance Spectroscopy (BIS) technologies for use in the non-invasive clinical assessment and monitoring of fluid status. Schlaht joined the company in October of 2007 as part of the company's acquisition of XiTRON Technologies, Inc.

While at XiTRON, Schlaht served as Vice President for Marketing and Product Development, then as President. Prior XiTRON, he worked for Insight Electronics leading the company's Wireless Solutions Group.

The first part of Schlaht's career began at Lockheed Martin, where he held numerous positions in radio frequency and laser communications design, field service, proof-of-concept development, and program management.

Schlaht is a graduate of Colorado State University and holds a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering. He later completed post graduate coursework at UCLA and UCSD.

STEVE SIMSKE, Professor, CSU Systems Engineering

Steve Simske was, until the end of 2017, an HP Fellow and a Research Director in HP Labs. At Hewlett-Packard, he set the standards for technical excellence and drove the direction of technology in the field of security printing and imaging.

Earlier at HP Labs, Simske worked on medical signal processing for portable medicine, including novel means of reducing biological noise in electrocardiograms (ECGs). Prior to his work in HP Labs, he worked on image processing, image analysis, and document-understanding technologies. Developing these technologies helped hone the toolset for architecting massive intelligent systems—now known as meta-algorithmics—and led Simske to write the book, “Meta-Algorithmics” (Wiley & Sons) in 2013.

With roughly 80 U.S. Patents and more than 300 peer-reviewed publications, Simske has designed and developed animal life support hardware, performed experiments on a dozen US Space Shuttle missions, written the first optimal reconstruction system for impedance tomography, and co-invented “lifetime” orthopedic implants.

Prior to joining HP, Simske served as a faculty member at several Colorado universities. He holds a Bachelor of Science in biomedical engineering from Marquette University, a Master of Science in biomedical engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic University, and a PhD in electrical engineering from the University of Colorado where he was also a postdoctoral fellow in aerospace engineering.

JAY SRINIVASAN, Chief Digital Officer, Truvian

Prior to joining Truvian in 2020, Srinivasan worked as the divisional vice president of R&D for Abbott's diagnostic business for over six years. Earlier, he founded Loxian Consulting Group, a healthcare consulting firm focused on developing optimized technology to reduce costs incurred during hospital stays and outpatient care. Prior to heading his own healthcare consulting group, Srinivasan worked at GenMark Diagnostics as vice president of Next Generation Platforms from 2011 to 2013. From 2008 to 2011, he worked in multiple positions at Beckman Coulter. Srinivasan also worked as the associate director of Software Development and Validation at Qiagen from 2006 to 2008. Prior to his time at Qiagen, he worked for Abbott Laboratories for nearly nine years as a principal software engineer.

Srinivasan received his Master of Science in biomedical engineering from Drexel University and his Master of Business Administration from Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management.