

Lauren C. Mehner, MD MPH

Associate Professor
Department of Ophthalmology
University of Colorado School of Medicine
UCHealth Sue Anschutz-Rodgers Eye Center
Children's Hospital Colorado
13123 E. 16th Avenue, B430
Aurora, CO 80045
Appointments: 720-777-2020

PREDOCTORAL EDUCATION:

2005-2009 Undergraduate: Bachelor of Arts: History
Minor: Spanish
Washington University in St. Louis
St. Louis, MO

2011-2015 Medical: Doctor of Medicine
University of Colorado School of Medicine
Aurora, CO

2011-2015 Medical: Master in Public Health
Colorado School of Public Health
Aurora, CO

POSTDOCTORAL EDUCATION:

2015-2016 Preliminary Year: Internal Medicine
Department of Internal Medicine
Saint Louis University School of Medicine
St. Louis, MO

2016-2019 Residency: Ophthalmology
Department of Ophthalmology
University of Colorado School of Medicine
Chief Resident
Aurora, CO

2019-2020 Fellowship: Pediatric Ophthalmology and Adult Strabismus
Department of Ophthalmology
Indiana University School of Medicine
Indianapolis, IN

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS:

2019 – 2020 Visiting Clinical Lecturer, Indiana University Department of Ophthalmology
2020 - Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, University of Colorado School of Medicine

HOSPITAL STAFF MEMBERSHIPS:

2020 - University of Colorado Hospital
2020 - Children's Hospital Colorado
2020 - Denver Health Medical Center
2022 – 2024 Intermountain Health St. Mary's Regional Hospital, Colorado
2024 - CommonSpirit St. Anthony's North Hospital, Colorado

HONORS/AWARDS

2023 Patient Family Experience Excellence in Patient Care Award

2021 Ponzio Research Accelerator Award, Center for Children's Surgery, Children's Hospital Colorado

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

2016 - American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO)

2017 - American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (AAPOS)

2016 - Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO)

2016 - Colorado Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons (CSEPS)

COMMITTEE/SERVICE RESPONSIBILITIES:

Department:

2020 - Pediatric Ophthalmology Fellowship Selection Committee, University of Colorado

2020 - Resident Selection Committee, University of Colorado

2021 - Women in Ophthalmology Journal Club Director, University of Colorado

2023 - Pediatric Ophthalmology and Adult Strabismus Assistant Fellowship Director

2023 - Strabismus Wet Lab Course Director, University of Colorado

Hospital:

2020 - Perioperative Quality and Safety Committee member, Children's Hospital Colorado

2021 - Center for Children's Surgery Symposium Faculty Judge, Children's Hospital Colorado

2021 – 2023 Clinical Medical Director for North Campus and director of diagnostics, Children's Hospital Colorado

2023 - Clinical Medical Director, Ophthalmology, Children's Hospital Colorado

National:

2020 – 2021 University of Colorado Mock Oral Board Course Examiner

2021 - University of Colorado Mock Oral Board Course Co-director

2021 – 2025 AAPOS Professional Education Committee

2021 – 2025 AAPOS Young Ophthalmologist Committee

2023 – 2024 6th Biennial ROP Update Meeting Planning Committee

2025- Pediatric Ophthalmology Mentoring Program

Service:

2020 - Dawn Clinic Volunteer Faculty

2023 - Anchor Center for Blind Children Eye Clinic Consulting Ophthalmologist

LICENSE/SPECIALTY BOARD CERTIFICATIONS:

2019 – 2021 Indiana Medical License

2020 - Colorado Medical License

2020 - Certification, American Board of Ophthalmology

REVIEW/REFeree WORK:

2022 - Journal of AAPOS ad hoc reviewer

TEACHING:

Medical student, Resident, Fellow lectures:

1. Introduction to Strabismus Wet Lab. University of Colorado, Aurora, CO, August 16, 2024.
2. Introduction to Strabismus Wet Lab. University of Colorado, Aurora, CO, August 4, 2023.
3. Pediatric Ophthalmology: Amblyopia, Strabismus, Sensorimotor. OKAP Review Lecture Series. University of Colorado, Aurora, CO, August 4, 2023.
4. Ophthalmology in Primary Care. Medical Student Education Series. University of Colorado, Aurora, CO, May 20, 2022.
5. Ophthalmology in Primary Care. Medical Student Education Series. University of Colorado, Aurora, CO, November 2, 2021.

6. Pediatric Ophthalmology: Strabismus. OKAP Review Lecture Series. University of Colorado, Aurora, CO, January 19, 2021
7. Horizontal Strabismus. Basic and Clinical Science Lecture Series, University of Colorado, Aurora, CO, March 5, 2021

Community lectures:

1. CVI for the TVI Webinar - Bridging the Divide: Supporting Students with CVI in the Clinical and Educational Settings 3/8/2024.
2. Ophthalmology for Occupational Therapists. Children's Hospital Colorado, October 23, 2023.
3. Ophthalmology for the Neurologist. Neurology Education Series, Children's Hospital Colorado, September 6, 2022.
4. Ophthalmology for Pediatricians. Community Lecture Series, Children's Hospital Colorado, June 3, 2021.
5. Ophthalmic Surgery and Post-operative Care. Hospitalist Education Series, Children's Hospital Colorado, March 23, 2021.
6. Ophthalmology for Pediatricians. Community Lecture Series, Children's Hospital Colorado, March 16, 2021.

Clinical Fellows:

2021 - 2022 Casey Smith, MD
 2023 - 2024 Ryan Frisbie, MD MPH
 2024 - 2025 Melissa Suggs, MD
 2025 - 2026 Samantha Butterfield, MD
 2026 - Gwen Martin, MD

RESEARCH/GRANTS

2023 – PI - screening protocol for ophthalmic complications in neuro-oncology patients, CHCO
 2021 – 2024 PI - Ponzio Research Accelerator Award, Center for Children's Surgery, CHCO \$25,000
 2021 – 2024 Site PI - Pediatric Eye Disease Investigator Group, ROP3 study, Site #31
 2021 – 2025 PI - NAVEG Test Administration for Cerebral Vision Impairment in Premature Infants, CHCO
 2020 – 2024 Co-investigator - Ocular Therapeutix Dextenza for Pediatric Cataract Surgery

PUBLICATIONS

1. Caldwell AS, Patnaik J, **Mehner L**, et al. Comparative outcomes for treatment of type 1 retinopathy of prematurity in a contemporary cohort. *J AAPOS*. 2026;30(3):104847. doi:10.1016/j.jaapos.2026.104847
2. Milner D, Patnaik JL, Auer E, Strong Caldwell A, Marin AI, Lopez J, **Mehner L**, Jung J, McCourt E, Lynch A, Cole E, de Carlo Forest TE, Mathias M, Oliver S, Gill Z. The Clinical Association of Maternal Asthma and the Development of Retinopathy of Prematurity in Preterm Infants. *J Vitreoretin Dis*. Published online February 22, 2026. doi:10.1177/24741264261421789.
3. Lind KT, DeSmith K, Marks B, Deb A, Dexiang G, **Mehner L**, Eissa, H. Seeing the Bigger Picture: Cytomegalovirus Retinitis Screening in Pediatric Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant Patients. *Pediatr Blood Cancer*. 2025;72(10):e31910. doi:10.1002/pbc.31910.
4. Barrientos LC, Frisbie R, Jung JL, **Mehner LC**, Smith C, Edwards Mayhew RG, Wise R, McCourt EA, Puente MA. Outcomes of Corneal Collagen Crosslinking Under General Anesthesia in Down Syndrome. *Cornea*. 2025 Apr 15. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40233220.
5. Liu J, Puente MA, Edwards Mayhew RG, Smith CG, **Mehner LC**, Jung JL, McCourt EA. Corneal tomography under general anesthesia in the lateral decubitus position. *J AAPOS*. 2025 Apr 12:104205 Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40228578.
6. **Mehner L**, Ng SM, Singh J. Interventions for infantile esotropia. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2023 Jan 16;1(1):CD004917. PMID: 36645238
7. Patnaik JL, Stutzman J, **Mehner L**, McCourt E, Lynch AM. Characteristics of babies with unstable clinical course screened for retinopathy of prematurity. *J AAPOS*. 2022 Dec 1:S1091-8531(22)00782-0. PMID: 36462723.
8. **Mehner LC**, Singh JK. Ocular Disorders in the Newborn. *Neoreviews*. 2021 Jul;22(7):e461-e469. PMID: 34210810.
9. Cunningham M, Bonnell LN, **Mehner L**, Berman S, Camp B. A cumulative risk index for use in the medical home. *Child Care Health Dev*. 2021 Jul;47(4):471-476. PMID: 33631836.
10. **Mehner LC**, Wagner BD, Bol KA, Singh JK, Oliver SC, Patnaik JL, Palestine AG, McCourt EA, Mandava N, Wymore EM, Lynch AM. Trends in Retinopathy of Prematurity over 12 Years in a Colorado Cohort. *Ophthalmic Epidemiol*. 2021 Jun;28(3):220-226. PMID: 32893714.
11. **Mehner LC**, Jung JL, Maloney JA, McCourt EA. Ocular Findings in Pontine Tegmental Cap Dysplasia. *Cornea*. 2020 Dec;39(12):1516-1519. PMID: 32398424.
12. **Mehner LC**, Domek GJ, Abdel-Maksoud M, Jimenez-Zambrano A, Asturias EJ, Lamb MM, Berman S. The Association of Cumulative Risk Scoring with ASQ-3 Outcomes in a Rural Impoverished Region of Guatemala. *Pediatr Dimensions* 2019; 4: 2-6.
13. Berman S, Shriver A, **Mehner L**, Wallace B, Furniss A, Treitz M. Anticipatory Ear Pain Counseling at a 12-15 Month Preventive Care Visit for Low Income Children. *J Pediatr Perinatol Child Health* 2019; 3(3): 140-151.

14. Bou Ghannam A, **Mehner LC**, Pelak VS. Sialidosis Type 1 Without Cherry Red Spot. *J Neuroophthalmol* 2019; 39(3):388-390. PMID: 31107347
15. Davern Salazar M, Sandsmark EK, Schwan J, Ayres L, **Mehner L**, Gilmer R, Odom J, Guiton G, Taylor MRG. Mobile learning: Students' novel approach to practice problems. *Medical Education* 2014; 48(11):1106-7. PMID: 25307642.
16. Bunik M, Cavanaugh K, Herrick D, **Mehner L**, Venugopalakrishnan J, Crane L, Puma, J. The ONE Step second hand smoke (SHS) initiative to reduce caregiver smoking in a pediatric teaching clinic. *Pediatrics* 2013; 132(2):e502-11. PMID: 23858424.

Online Non-Peer Reviewed publications

1. Invited Pediatric Ophthalmology Expert, theMednet.org (2025-present)

Book Chapters/Other

1. **Mehner L**, Jung J. Eye. In: Bunik M, Levin MJ, Abzug MJ, Schreiner TL. eds. *Current Diagnosis & Treatment: Pediatrics*, 27e.. McGraw Hill; 2025.
2. **Mehner L**, Jung J. Eye. In: Bunik M, Hay WW, Levin MJ, Abzug MJ. eds. *Current Diagnosis & Treatment: Pediatrics*, 26e. McGraw-Hill Education; 2022
3. Stunkel M, **Mehner L**, Boente C, Neely D. Plication as a Muscle-strengthening Procedure. *Review of Ophthalmology* 2020 May; 27(5): 18-20.

Scientific Abstracts: Presentations

1. YO Need to Know. American Association of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT, March 2025
2. What's New and Important in Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus. American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, October 2024
3. Aflibercept (Eylea) Approval for ROP: Will it Change My Practice? 6th Biennial ROP Update Meeting, Aurora, CO, May 2024.
4. Supporting Young Children with Brain-Based Visual Impairment in Clinical and Educational Settings. Vision 2023: Low Vision Rehabilitation Across the Life Span, the 14th International Conference on Low Vision Rehabilitation, Denver, CO, July 2023.
5. What's New and Important in Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus. American Association of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Annual Meeting, New York, NY, March 2023.
6. YAAPOS Rapid Fire Cases. American Association of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Annual Meeting, New York, NY, March 2023.
7. What's New and Important in Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus. American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting, Virtual. October 2021.
8. Ocular Findings in Pontine Tegmental Cap Dysplasia. University of Colorado 23rd Annual Ophthalmology Resident, Fellow, Faculty & Alumni Research Day, Aurora, CO, June 22, 2019.
9. Trends in Retinopathy of Prematurity Over 10 Years in a Colorado Cohort: How One Academic Medical Center Compares to Statewide Data. Grand Rounds, University of Colorado, Aurora, CO, April 19, 2019.
10. Findings in Pontine Tegmental Cap Dysplasia. Podium presentation, Center for Children's Surgery Symposium at Children's Hospital Colorado, Aurora, CO, March 1, 2019.
11. Trends in Retinopathy of Prematurity Over 12 Years in a Colorado Cohort. University of Colorado 22nd Annual Ophthalmology Resident, Fellow, Faculty & Alumni Research Day, Aurora, CO, June 23, 2018.
12. Global Health Outreach. Grand Rounds, University of Colorado, Aurora, CO, September 7, 2018.
13. Brawny Scleritis. Grand Rounds, University of Colorado, Aurora, CO, February 17, 2017.
14. Child and Maternity Health, CU Guatemala Project. Panel Discussion, Colorado Global Health and Water Symposium, Denver, CO, September 28, 2013.
15. Effect of Anemia, Parasites, and Parenting Behaviors on Early Childhood Development in Southwest Guatemala. Podium Presentation, World Community Service CU Health Scholarship Presentation, Rotary Club 5450, Denver, CO, March 7, 2013.
16. Promoting Early Language Development in Young Children with Illiterate Mothers Living in Poor Communities in the Southwest of Guatemala. Podium Presentation, Global Health Symposium, University of Colorado, Aurora, CO, November 16, 2012.

Scientific Abstracts: Posters

1. **Mehner LC**, Lynch AM, Wagner BD, Grove N, Auer, EA. An Updated Analysis of Trends in Retinopathy of Prematurity Over 17 Years in a Cohort. Poster Presentation, American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT, March 2025.
2. Azargui S, Frisbie R, Patnaik J, **Mehner L**, McCourt E. Long-Term Change in Astigmatic Axis and Power after Cataract Surgery in the Pediatric Population: The Case for and Selection of Toric IOLs. Poster Presentation, American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT, March 2025.
3. Gill Z, Patnaik J, Strong Caldwell A, Marin I, Lisker A, Lynch A, Auer E, **Mehner L**, Jung J, McCourt E, Forest T, Mathias M, Oliver S. Effect of Maternal Asthma on Retinopathy of Prematurity. Poster Presentation, Vit-Buckle Society Annual Meeting, Miami Beach, FL, April 2024.
4. **Mehner LC**, Smyth C. Referral Patterns for Patients with CVI Diagnosis to Intervention Program for Visually Impaired Children. Poster Presentation, American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Annual Meeting, Austin, TX, March 2024.
5. Chen H, Wilson SN, Pickett KL, Smith CG, **Mehner LC**. Design and Implementation of a Screening Protocol to Improve Diagnosis of Visual Sequelae in Pediatric Primary Brain Tumors. Poster Presentation, American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, November 2023.
6. **Mehner LC**, Wilson SN. Design and implementation of a screening protocol to improve diagnosis of visual sequelae in children with primary brain tumors. Poster Presentation, American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Annual Meeting New York, NY, April 2023.
7. **Mehner LC**, Wagner BD, Lynch AM. Effects of High Altitude on Development of Retinopathy of Prematurity. Poster Presentation, Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, May 4, 2022.
8. Smith CG, **Mehner LC**. Referral Patterns and Visual Sequelae in Children with Newly Diagnosed Primary Brain Tumors. Poster Presentation, Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, May 4, 2022.
9. **Mehner LC**, Allam GH, Mitchell C, Sprunger DT. Strabismus in Pediatric Cataract Surgery. Poster Presentation, American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Annual Meeting, Virtual Platform, April 11, 2021.
10. **Mehner LC**, Wagner B, Singh JK, Oliver SC, Bol, KA, Patnaik JL, Palestine AG, McCourt EA, Lynch AM. Trends in Retinopathy of Prematurity Over 10 Years in a Colorado Cohort: How One Academic Medical Center Compares to Statewide Data. Poster Presentation, Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology Annual Meeting, Vancouver, BC, May 2, 2019.
11. **Mehner LC**, McCourt EA, Jung JL. Ocular Findings in Pontine Tegmental Cap Dysplasia. Poster presentation, American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, March 30, 2019.
12. **Mehner LC**, Wagner B, Singh JK, Oliver SC, Chasan JE, Cathcart JN, Patnaik JL, Palestine AG, McCourt EA, Lynch AM. Trends in Retinopathy of Prematurity over 10 years in a Colorado Cohort. Poster Presentation, Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology Annual Meeting, Honolulu, HI, May 1, 2018.
13. **Mehner L**, Reidy M, Peters L, Chan D, Frank MG. Spine MRI as work up for sore throat: A case of missed pharyngitis leading to the diagnosis of acute rheumatic carditis. Poster Presentation, Society of General Internal Medicine Mountain West Regional Meeting, Denver, CO, October 10, 2014.
14. Reidy M, **Mehner L**, Frank MG. Did she pee on the needle? A case of concurrent E.coli urinary tract infection and shoulder abscess. Poster Presentation, Society of General Internal Medicine Mountain West Regional Meeting, Denver, CO, October 10, 2014.
15. Treitz M, Shriver A, **Mehner L**, Wallace B, Furniss A, Berman S. Reduction of medical visits for ear pain following anticipatory guidance about ear pain. Poster Presentation, Pediatric Academic Societies, Vancouver, BC, May 4, 2014.
16. **Mehner L**, Reidy M, Peters L, Chan D, Frank MG. Spine MRI as work up for sore throat: A case of missed pharyngitis leading to the diagnosis of acute rheumatic carditis. Poster Presentation, Society of General Internal Medicine, San Diego, CA, April 24, 2014.
17. Reidy M, **Mehner L**, Peters L, Chan D, Frank MG. Spine MRI as work up for sore throat: A case of missed pharyngitis leading to the diagnosis of acute rheumatic carditis. Oral Presentation, American College of Physicians Colorado Chapter Scientific Meeting, Colorado Springs, CO, Jan 31, 2014.
18. Domek G, **Mehner L**, Berman S, Abdel-Maksoud M. Developmental screening to inform an early childhood development program in Southwest Guatemala. Poster Presentation, 28th Annual Student Research Forum, University of Colorado, Aurora, CO, December 17, 2013.
19. Camp B, **Mehner L**, Cunningham M, Berman S. Can an office based intervention have positive effects on school performance? Poster Presentation, American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference and Exhibition, Orlando, FL, October 25, 2013.
20. Cunningham M, **Mehner L**, Berman S, Camp B. Early childhood home-environment risk score for use in the medical home. Poster Presentation, American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference and Exhibition, Orlando, FL, October 25, 2013.
21. Domek G, **Mehner L**, Berman S, Abdel-Maksoud M. Developmental screening to inform an early childhood development program in Southwest Guatemala. Poster Presentation, American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference and Exhibition, Orlando, FL, October 25, 2013.

22. Camp B, **Mehner L**, Cunningham M, Berman S. Can an office based intervention have positive effects on school performance? Poster Presentation, Pediatric Academic Societies, Washington, DC, May 4, 2013.
23. Cunningham M, **Mehner L**, Berman S, Camp B. Early childhood home-environment risk score for use in the medical home. Poster Presentation, Pediatric Academic Societies, Washington, DC, May 4, 2013.
24. Salazar M, Sandsmark E, Schwan J, Ayres L, **Mehner L**, Gilmer R, Odom J, Guiton G, Taylor M. snAPP: Students' novel approach to practice problems. Poster Presentation, Colorado Research and Creative Activities Symposium, Denver, CO on April 19, 2013.
25. Salazar M, Sandsmark E, Schwan J, Ayres L, **Mehner L**, Gilmer R, Odom J, Guiton G, Taylor M. snAPP: Students' novel approach to practice problems. Poster Presentation, 27th Annual Student Research Forum, University of Colorado, Aurora, CO on December 11, 2012.
26. Brittan M, Talmi A, **Mehner L**, Bunik M, Kempe A. Impact of primary care clinic co-located mental health counseling on mothers with symptoms of postpartum depression. Poster Presentation, Pediatric Academic Societies, Boston, MA, May 4, 2012.