



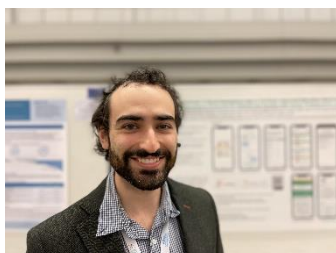
## Georgia CTSA Staff Recognized for Contributions to Translational Science During Emory SOM Staff Appreciation Week

Out of the five staff members featured during Emory School of Medicine's Staff Appreciation Week, two of them are Georgia CTSA staff. Big congratulations to Santiago Arconada Alvarez of the Georgia CTSA [Innovation Catalyst](#) program and Kristen Narlow, MS, RDN, of the [Georgia CTSA Clinical Research Centers](#)! And shout out to Morgan Greenleaf and Rani Singh, PhD, for their nominations! "We are so proud of the great work being done by all of our faculty and staff throughout Georgia to get more treatments for **all** people more quickly," says Andrew C. West, MBA, MHA, Georgia CTSA Executive Center Administrator, Emory University.



May 11, 2023

## #TeamEmoryMedicine Staff Shoutout



Santiago Arconada Alvarez  
Research Informatics Analyst, Georgia  
CTSA

- **What do you enjoy most about working at Emory?** The multidisciplinary aspect of the work is one of my favorite things about working at Emory. It is rare to be in a space that has such a concentration of innovative talent and people pursuing their own ideas and research directions. I'm someone who draws a lot of energy from people's excitement, so having passionate people around really fuels me.
- **What is the most interesting project you've worked on in your role?** Two stand out. First is an active project in collaboration with Children's Healthcare of Atlanta to improve communication with clinicians and low-English proficiency patients at the bedside. The project is very involved and requires spending time at the hospital talking with clinicians and patients to build empathy and design a useful system. As a native Spanish speaker and non-citizen, I relate to patient's unfamiliarity and insecurities dwelling in a new culture, making the project particularly suited for me. Second, is working with students and the opportunity to mentor them. I feel very fortunate to have the chance to influence younger generations and get them excited about academic research and how they can have a role in using it to impact society. It's both an opportunity and a responsibility to do a good job at encouraging their passion and channeling it toward growing their individual careers.
- **What is one thing you wish others knew about your job/field?** Working in innovation within a health institution and the academic setting provides a unique opportunity to closely interact with end users and understand the purpose behind the work being done. While it is uncommon for people involved in the development and innovation of technology to pursue work in academia, the experience can be incredibly fulfilling and meaningful for your career, even if it may not seem as glamorous as working for a well-known tech company.
- **How do you think your role helps shape the SOM mission?** I think my role aligns the most with SOM's mission to conduct collaborative research, drive innovation, and amplify the reach of clinicians' and investigators' work. In translational science, we work to bring the latest advancements in research out of the labs to improve people's lives. It's an honor and responsibility to be part of an institution where this central tenet is prioritized. To me, this mission is one of the most important purposes of research, particularly in the healthcare sector where these innovations could end up helping your family, community, or even yourself.

[From Morgan Greenleaf, Director of Apps and Digital Platforms, Georgia CTSA](#)

“Santiago’s unwavering dedication to the public good is evident through his leadership in developing mobile applications for patients and providers. He could easily work in Silicon Valley, but he chooses to apply his skills at Emory to support patients, their families and their communities.”



May 9, 2023

## #TeamEmoryMedicine Staff Shoutout



Kristen Narlow  
Supervisor, Senior Research Dietitian  
and Chef Genetic Metabolic Nutrition  
Research Program Department of  
Human Genetics

- **What do you love most about your job?** I enjoy mentoring our staff and cultivating relationships to support providers, patients and interns.
- **When have you felt the proudest in your job and why?** A recent highlight was seeing one of our metabolic patients, a young man, I had worked with when I was a metabolic dietitian, seeing him healthy and thriving. I take pride in knowing the metabolic nutrition program that I support in a different role continues to demonstrate the importance of early nutrition intervention and support.
- **How do you think your role helps shape the SOM mission?** Through my different roles in management and as a research dietitian chef, I am able to support a variety of projects and foster different relationships benefiting staff and patients.
- **Do you have any strategies for dealing with stress at work?** I strive for work-life balance by prioritizing vacations, exercise, crocheting and spending time with loved ones.

[From Rani Singh, Professor, Department of Human Genetics](#)

“Ms. Narlow’s dual credentialing as a senior research dietitian and a certified chef has been a tremendous asset in her leadership at the Emory University Georgia Clinical and Translational Science Alliance (CTSA). Ms. Narlow works tirelessly and meticulously with the Bionutrition Core Director to develop a research-based feeding study infrastructure that allows Emory investigators to implement human dietary intervention studies. This has resulted in two

successful R01 NIH-funded feeding studies as well as to the overall advancement of nutrition research and training at Emory University.”