



# Research Round-Up

## CF-AIR and CF@LANTA



EMORY  
UNIVERSITY



Children's  
Healthcare of Atlanta

OCTOBER 2024

### Note from Co-Directors, Dr. Nael McCarty & Dr. Benjamin Kopp



Dear Colleagues,

We want to congratulate everyone for a tremendous showing at NACFC 2024. From recognition of great work during the plenaries (Tanicia Daley, Jessica Alvarez), to podium presentations, session chairs, and first-time poster presenters, it was a great conference for all CF-AIR and CF@LANTA participants. We look forward to a fantastic year of continued research successes!



*Nael and Ben*

### Researcher Spotlight: Dr. Stephen P. Diggle



**Stephen Diggle, PhD ranked #6 in the world for Quorum sensing research**

Stephen P. Diggle, PhD, Professor & Director of the Center for Microbial Dynamics & Infection at Georgia Tech

Georgia Tech professor and CF-AIR investigator Dr. Stephen Diggle is currently ranked #6 in the world for Quorum sensing research, according to Highly Ranked Scholars™. This ranking is based on profound impact (citations) and of utmost quality (h-index).

His long-standing research interests include understanding how the opportunistic pathogen *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* causes disease, particularly how it evolves during chronic infections including cystic fibrosis lungs and chronic wounds.

He was also named a Top 1% Scientist in Stanford University "World's Top 2% Scientist List" in 2023 and elected to the American Academy of Microbiology.

Congratulations to Dr. Diggle on this achievement, and for the global impact of his work!

The list of top world researchers can be found online [here](#).

### CF-AIR Research Workshop Seminar Series, November 2024

Date	Time	Type	Presenter
Thurs. 11/7/24	1-2 PM	Research Highlight	Katie Wetzel, PhD (Georgia State)
Thurs. 11/14/24	1-2 PM	Journal Club	Rachel Linnemann, MD & Randy Hunt, MD
Thurs. 11/21/24	1-2 PM	Trainee Focused	VERTEX

Thank you to our October Research Workshop Seminar Series speakers, Gerry Teague, MD (University of Virginia), Ronit Freeman, PhD (UNC Chapel Hill), and Sheyda Azimi, PhD (Georgia State) for your insightful presentations. Many thanks to all who attended in-person or virtually, and we look forward to seeing you in November.

### News Around the Lab



#### KUDOS TO...

- **Analia Vazquez Cegla, PhD** on her thesis defense & two accepted publications
- **Jonica Brown** passing her PhD qualifications
- **Miquéias Lopes-Pacheco, PhD** on his manuscript acceptance
- **Bum Yong-Kang, PhD** on his manuscript acceptance
- **CF-AIR investigators awarded 2024 Pilot Center Grants**
  - **JaNise Jackson, PhD**, with Drs. Kathryn Oliver & Yuhong Du, on "Developing novel, effective, and well-tolerated small molecule inhibitors of RPL12 that rescue disease-causing genetic variants"
  - **Ben Kopp, MD, MPH**, with Drs. Paul Dawson, Rabin Tirouvanziam & Joshua Chandler on "Immunophenotyping aerodigestive responses to new therapies in children with cystic fibrosis (CF)"
  - **Sujit Sharma, MD**, with Drs. Nael McCarty & Guiying Cui, on "Measuring real-time electrophysiological changes in an ex vivo model of human airway epithelia to identify patterns of early trans-cytosolic inflammatory injury upon respiratory viral infection"

### NACFC 2024

Congratulations to our team for a successful week in Boston, with 29 platform presenters and over 60 posters representing Emory, Children's & affiliates



### Submit your Research Wows!



Scan the QR code to submit your Research Wows or contact Megan Stewart at [megan.stewart@emory.edu](mailto:megan.stewart@emory.edu)



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