

Oral Presenter Bios

Presenters from 1:30 - 2:30 pm

Holly Bauser-Heaton



“A Patient-Specific 3D Printed Model for In Vitro Analysis and Treatment Planning of Pulmonary Vascular Disease”

Dr. Bauser-Heaton is an interventional pediatric cardiologist and physician scientist for Sibley Heart Center at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta. As a clinician, she completed her training at Stanford University and joined the faculty of Sibley Heart Center in 2016. Pulmonary artery disease and its management is the focus for Dr. Heaton both in the clinical arena and the lab. She is interested in developing new procedures via transcatheter (in the cardiac catheterization laboratory) technique for individuals with pulmonary artery disease. Additionally, she has interest in utilizing 3D bioprinting to create pulmonary artery constructs that have the ability to keep up with a patient’s somatic growth.

Satheesh Chonat



“Modeling Complement-Mediated Acute Lung Injury in Sickle Cell Mice”

Dr. Satheesh Chonat has been an Assistant Professor in the division of Pediatric Hematology for the past three years. He went to medical school in India and completed his pediatric training in England before moving to America. Before coming to Emory, he was a clinical and research fellow at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center. During his fellowship, he worked on the production of reactive oxygen species in sickle cell mice, and also investigated the genotype-phenotype correlation of various red blood cell disorders. Since starting his faculty position here, he has focused on the cellular mechanics and effects of complement in sickle cell disease.

Archana Kamalakar



“Harnessing the Osteo-inductive Property of JAGGED1 as a Maxillary Bone Regenerative Intervention”

Archana Kamalakar, PhD is a Post-doctorate Fellow in the Department of Otolaryngology whose research focuses on requirement of Jagged1 on bone formation. Dr. Kamalakar hails from India where she completed her Masters in Microbiology and a P.G. Diploma in Clinical Research. She completed her doctoral thesis at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Dr. Kamalakar aspires to continue academic research and teaching in order to inculcate the love for sciences in generations to come.

Candela Manfredi



“Evaluation of W1282X CFTR in the FRT Model as a Means to Test Small Molecule Interventions”

Candela Manfredi, PhD was appointed Assistant Scientist in the Department of Pediatrics, Division of Cystic Fibrosis in early 2018 and currently works in the Sorscher laboratory. She has been with Emory since 2013, but is originally from Argentina; and earned her Doctorate from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain. Dr. Manfredi’s research focuses on mechanisms that underlie rare mutations of CFTR that cause cystic fibrosis, relevance of these molecular defects to regulatory approval and patient access to CFTR modulators, and high-throughput screening platforms for discovery and validation of potential new therapies for the disease.

Oral Presenter Bios

Presenters from 3:45 - 4:45 pm

Sunil Raikar



“Gamma Delta T-cell Immunotherapy for T-cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (T- ALL)”

Dr. Sunil Raikar completed his fellowship at Emory University in 2016 in the field of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology and received his appointment as Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics, Division of Hematology/Oncology/BMT in 2017. His research focus is in the development of novel cellular immunotherapeutics for pediatric blood cancers, especially T-cell leukemia.

Jessica Raper



“Postnatal Zika Virus Infection Causes Persistent Abnormalities in Brain Structure, Function, and Behavior in Infant Macaques”

Dr. Jessica Raper is a translational neuroscientist who has been conducting research at the Yerkes National Primate Research Center beginning as a Research Associate in 2014, then as a Research Assistant Professor in 2018. Dr. Raper’s career is dedicated to understanding the neurobiological mechanisms that underlie human neurodevelopmental disorders. She has developed a broad yet robust line of research focused on the long-term impact of early brain perturbations on socioemotional behavior and neuroendocrine function. Dr. Raper uses nonhuman primate models to understand the neurobiological basis of behavior and investigating how early brain perturbations lead to specific alterations in behavior and neuroendocrine functioning.

Loretta Reyes



“Dysregulated Arginine Metabolism Correlates with Structural and Functional Myocardial Changes in Chronic Kidney Disease”

Loretta Reyes, MD completed her Pediatric Nephrology fellowship at Emory in 2018, and then joined the Emory faculty as Assistant Professor in the Department of Nephrology. She graduated from St. George’s University School of Medicine and completed her residency in Pediatrics at Driscoll Children’s Hospital in Corpus Christi, TX. After residency, she worked as a Pediatric Hospitalist at the University of New Mexico, where she developed a passion for Pediatric Nephrology. Dr. Reyes conducts clinical/translational research that addresses cardiovascular complications, which result in significant morbidity and mortality, in children and young adults with end stage kidney disease.

Patricia Zerra



“The Role of Type I Interferons in Factor VIII Inhibitor Formation”

Dr. Patricia Zerra is an Associate (fellow) in the Department of Pathology, Division of Transfusion Medicine. She completed her pediatric hematology/oncology fellowship at Emory University in 2017, and completed an additional fellowship in Transfusion Medicine focusing on coagulation in 2018. As an independent physician-scientist in the field of non-malignant hematology, Dr. Zerra focuses on the immune response to FVIII in an effort to identify initiating immune events that can serve as targets to prevent FVIII inhibitor formation.