



Research Round-Up

CF-AIR and CF@LANTA



EMORY
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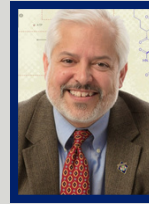
Children's
Healthcare of Atlanta

APRIL 2026

Note from the Director, Dr. Nael McCarty

Happy April, everyone! It's been another great and impactful month for CF-AIR/CF@LANTA. Congrats to the highlighted faculty shown here.

Please take a moment to register for the Atlanta Great Strides walk-a-thon, supporting the CF Foundation's Georgia Chapter. Donating money is not necessary, but we hope you'll register at the link provided [here](#). We will be handing out new team shirts at the CF-AIR fifth-Thursday social on April 30, when we will host Ashley Brookins and Shea Pitre from the GA Chapter. **-Nael**



Researcher Spotlight:

Dr. Balázs Rada



Balázs Rada, PhD,
Professor,
Department of
Infectious Diseases,
University of
Georgia

Dr. Balázs Rada's research examines reactive oxidant-based interactions between respiratory pathogens and the innate immune system, spanning foundational mechanisms to antimicrobial and anti-

inflammatory applications. As a member of CF-AIR, Dr. Rada also investigates neutrophilic inflammation, neutrophil-pathogen dynamics, and the intersection of inflammation and autoimmunity in cystic fibrosis. Alongside UGA collaborators Drs. Frederick D. Quinn and Tuhina Gupta, he was recently awarded an R21 NIH grant to optimize a novel animal model titled "Establishing a cystic fibrosis ferret model of chronic Mycobacterium abscessus lung infection."

CF-AIR Research Workshop Seminar Series, May/June 2026

Date	Time	Type	Presenter
Thurs. 5/14/26	1-2 PM	Journal Club	JaNise Jackson, PhD
Thurs. 5/21/26	1-2 PM	Trainee-Focused	Malinda Wu, MD, MSCR (Johns Hopkins)
Thurs. 5/28/26	1-2 PM	Research Highlight	Colin Swenson, MD
Mon. 6/1/26	1-2 PM	Special Event	Joint Seminar with CCIW

[Click here for the complete Seminar Series schedule](#)

Thank you to our recent Seminar Series speakers

Dr. Anupama Khare (NIH), Dr. Laura Rotolo, Dr. Carleen Sabusap (MIT Museum), Dr. Andrew Gewirtz (Georgia State), Dr. Andrea Kelly (CHOP), Dr. Diego Moncada, Dr. Nathan Boyd (NIH), and Drs. Lisa Staimez, David Reiter & Priya Vellanki.

Thank you to all who participated in person and virtually, and we look forward to seeing you again soon!



Atlanta Great Strides

Saturday, May 16th

Suwanee Town Center

Join us for a 3-mile walk to support our mission to cure cystic fibrosis. This Cystic Fibrosis Foundation community event brings together those working towards a cure for CF and raises awareness, support, and funds.

Click [here](#) for more details and [here](#) to register as part of the CF@LANTA Team! (Donations not required, but please register as part of the team).

News Around the Lab

KUDOS TO...



- Dr. Kathryn Oliver for her recognition with a [Volunteer Spotlight by the U.S. National Cystic Fibrosis Foundation \(CFF\)](#).
- CF-AIR members Dr. Tania Daley, Dr. Yaron Fireizen, and Dr. Ajay Kasi for recognition as [2026 National Doctors' Day Honorees](#).

Submit your Research Wows!

We want to hear about your research successes! Scan the QR code to submit your Research Wows or contact Megan Stewart (megan.stewart@emory.edu).



CF-AIR is now on BlueSky! Follow us and tag us [@emory-choa-cfair.bsky.social](#)

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