



# Research Round-Up

## CF-AIR and CF@LANTA

APRIL 2025



EMORY  
UNIVERSITY



Children's  
Healthcare of Atlanta

### Note from the Director, Dr. Nael McCarty

Hello to our CF-AIR/CF@LANTA team,

As we wind toward the end of another very active academic year, we are pleased to report that there are so many great things happening with our team. Please see below for a list of new grants and a long list of accolades for our trainees. Keep up the great work, team! -Nael

### CF-AIR Research Workshop Seminar Series, May 2025

Date	Time	Type	Presenter
Thurs. 5/1/25	1-2 PM	Research Highlight	Arlene Stecenko, MD
Thurs. 5/8/25	1-2 PM	Guest Lecturer	Charles Esther, MD, PhD (UNC Chapel Hill)
Thurs. 5/15/25	1-2 PM	Trainee Focused	Courtney Fernandez, PhD (Dalton State)
Thurs. 5/22/25	1-2 PM	Research Highlight	Lokesh Guglani, MD
Wed. 5/28/25	1-2 PM	Research Highlight	Ryan Harris, PhD (Augusta University)
Thurs. 5/29/25	1-2 PM	Social	Birthdays

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



### Thank you to our April Research Workshop Seminar Series speakers:

Drs. Jarrad Scarlett (Seattle Children's), Kathryn Oliver, and Brian Dobosh.

Many thanks to all who attended in-person or virtually.

We look forward to seeing you in May!

### Spotlight on Cystic Fibrosis Foundation partnerships propelling research

The partnership between the scientific community and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF) has been cited as best in the world for its impactful collaborations in advancing disease-specific therapeutics.

The CFF's development of the Therapeutic Development Program (TDP) created a cultural shift of collaboration between industry, academic centers, and federal agencies, fostering partnerships and progress with common goals and timelines. Its launch of the Cystic Fibrosis Therapeutics Development Network (CF-TDN), along with its *Path to a Cure* initiative, furthered the collaboration between industry and academic research, leading to 260+ clinical studies since 1998, and FDA approval of life-saving drugs including Kalydeco, Orkambi, Symdeko, Trikafta, and Alyftrek.

The game-changing model of venture philanthropy put forth by the CFF has transformed the course of the disease and made an indelible impact on the ability of researchers in furthering the common goal of a cure for CF.

### KUDOS TO...

### News Around the Lab



- **Joshua Chandler, PhD, Rabin Tirouvanziam PhD, Lokesh Guglani, MD, Sarah Mansour, Genoah Collins, Vincent Giacalone, PhD, Camilla Margaroli, PhD, Diego Moncada-Giraldo, PhD, James T. Lyles, PhD and Limin Peng, PhD, MS**, on their recent publication in *European Respiratory Journal Open Research*, titled "Early life elevations of methionine oxidation and ornithine track and predict cystic fibrosis structural lung disease."
- **Balazs Rada, PhD** at UGA on his R21 titled "The cystic fibrosis sputum compromises the ability of neutrophils to kill *Staphylococcus aureus*."
- **Joanna Goldberg, PhD**, on her recent grant, "Counteracting cloaking antibodies to treat intractable bacterial infection."
- **James Gurney, PhD** on his CFF pilot grant along with **Marvin Whiteley, PhD**.
- **Irina Miralda, PhD, Sam Durfey, PhD and Kat Crotty, PhD** for their CFF 2024 Fall Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Awards.
- **Cristian Crisan, PhD** for his CFF Postdoc-to-Faculty Transition Award.
- **Lisa Slimmen, MD** for her acceptance to the residency program at Emory University.
- **Jonica Brown** for winning the 3-minute thesis in MSP seminar.
- **Erica Browne** for her 3<sup>rd</sup> place poster award at the ASPET national conference.
- **Kristen Facey, MD** on her CFF Clinical Fellowship 1st/2nd Year Education & Training Award.
- **Crystal Cobb, DO and Katherine Ross, PhD, MPH** on their CFF Clinical Fellowship 3rd Year Training Awards.
- **Emily Freestone** for her CFF student traineeship and **Yolanda Yang** for her acceptance into the Emory Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) program.

### 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)



### Atlanta Great Strides

Saturday, May 17th

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 all those working towards a cure for CF, raising awareness, support, and funds. Great Strides is the CFF's largest national fundraising event.

Click [here](#) for more details and to register. When registering, please choose the "CF@LANTA" team.



CF-AIR is now on BlueSky! Follow us and tag us @emory-choa-cfair.bsky.social

Follow and tag us on X: @EmoryCHOA\_CFAIR and @CFAtlanta

