



Research Round-Up

CF-AIR and CF@LANTA



MAY 2026

Note from the Director, Dr. Nael McCarty

Happy summer season to our CF-AIR/CF@LANTA team! Thanks so much to all who joined in the fun at the 2026 Great Strides Atlanta (see below). By my count, there were over 75 team members in attendance, including a few who arrived too late for the photo. As expected, I had multiple families tell me how great it was to see this turnout of the people who work hard to save the lives of their loved ones. Keep up the great work!



Our weekly programming will take a break for the summer; the "CF-AIR Research Huddle" will gather again on August 27. That being a fifth Thursday, we will start off the semester with a social, where we can share tales and photos of fun things we did during the summer break. Please note that in order to accommodate the new plan for our Thursday gatherings — emphasizing discussion — we will begin each session promptly at 1:00. I look forward to seeing you then!

Bests, Nael

Spring Potluck Social and Birthday Celebration

Thursday, April 30, 2026

The CF-AIR/CF@LANTA team enjoyed celebrating spring birthdays with a potluck social. Congratulations to best dish awardees **Kat Crotty, PhD, Dina Moustafa, PhD & Clovis Sarmiento, MD!**

News Around the Lab



KUDOS TO...

- **Steve Diggle, PhD**, who received a Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF) Research Grant to develop a new class of precision antimicrobials targeting *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, a major cause of chronic infection in cystic fibrosis. The project focuses on R-pyocins, phage tail-like protein nanomachines, that can selectively kill bacterial strains, including antibiotic-tolerant and biofilm-associated cells.
- **Samantha Durfey, PhD**, co-delivering a plenary at the Cystic Fibrosis Therapeutics Development Network spring meeting in Denver on April 21, 2026.
- **Eric Sundberg, PhD**, who won Deal of the Year for Rhapsogen – Exclusive License for Autoimmune Disease Treatments along with Diego Sastre, PhD, at Emory's Office of Technology Transfer 20th Annual Celebration of Technology & Innovation in April.

Thank you to our recent Seminar Series speakers

JaNise Jackson, PhD, Colin Swenson, MD, and Brittany Ross, PhD.
Thank you to all who participated in person and virtually, and we look forward to seeing you again soon!



Atlanta Great Strides

On Saturday, May 16th, CF-AIR, CF@LANTA, and the CF Care Team supported the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and its Great Strides walk through Suwanee Town Center. This CFF community event brought together all those working towards a cure for CF, raising awareness and support. Our team was truly honored to lead the walk and very much enjoyed being part of this special day!



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).



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