

16<sup>th</sup> Annual

# RESPIRATORY DISEASE Young Investigators' Forum

Developing the next generation of physician-scientists: a research mentorship and career advancement opportunity for fellows and early career faculty.

FORUM HELD ONLINE  
OCTOBER 8-10, 2020

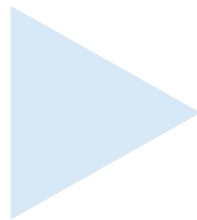
- Meet the 2020 Forum winners
- Learn how the Forum impacts the future of physician-scientists
- Share with colleagues who are eligible to submit abstracts in 2021



*This activity is supported by an educational grant from AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP.*

“This had an intimacy and collegial feel that is very hard to achieve at larger conferences. Access to expert faculty is superior. I felt the faculty really cared about the participants and their success.”

-Young Investigator, 2020



## Get ready for 2021

17<sup>th</sup> Annual Respiratory Disease  
Young Investigators' Forum  
in Denver, CO

**October 14-17, 2021**  
[njhealth.org/YIF2021](http://njhealth.org/YIF2021)



**National Jewish  
Health**

**Breathing Science is Life.**

PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

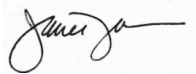
## Dear Colleague:

Abiding by our belief that Science Never Stops, the Sixteenth Annual Respiratory Disease Young Investigators' Forum scheduled to take place in Denver, CO, October 8-10, 2020, was held online instead, following recommendations by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention related to COVID-19.

A world-class faculty selected 25 abstracts and invited the submitting young investigators (fellows in pediatric, pulmonary, allergy and immunology) to present their research in a collegial setting. Throughout the online forum, young investigators connected with expert faculty and peers in the respiratory disease field to improve research methodologies, enhance presentation and communication skills, and stimulate an academic career in respiratory disease and allergy research.

By far, this has been one of the most unique opportunities for young investigators to engage with senior faculty. The online format of this year's forum may have been a first in its sixteen-year history, yet, based on feedback, the forum's goals were achieved to encourage and support young investigators to pursue a career as a physician-scientist, to develop communication skills related to presenting their research, and to build networks of peers and mentors. The forum continues to prove to be a valuable and impactful annual event for fellows and junior faculty who are beginning their research careers.

Sincerely,



Janet Lee, MD  
Program Co-Chair



Barry Make, MD  
Program Chair

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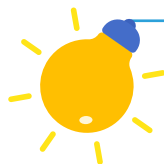
"It was so thrilling to be invited back to the YIF as a Research Advisor. I remember fondly flying to Scottsdale, AZ, to participate in the YIF as a fellow in 2009, and thus was determined to participate, to give this year's fellows the best experience possible during these trying times."

– Laura Crotty Alexander, MD, University of California at San Diego (2020 Research Advisor)

"This meeting was very well organized by the staff at National Jewish and provided an excellent forum to view cutting edge research by fellows-in-training and junior faculty. The contacts made will be very valuable for future collaborations."

– Stokes Peebles, MD, Vanderbilt University Medical Center (first year as Expert Faculty)

## DID YOU KNOW?



The number of  
physician-scientists  
is declining.

In 1984 there were 23,268 (4.7%) physician-scientists and in 2011 there were 13,447 (1.6%). Shortages of physician-scientists are predicted with an expected negative impact on biomedical research in the U.S.

# 2020 Award Recipients

## First Place – Basic Science



### **Dinah Foer**

Brigham and Women's Hospital  
Boston, MA

“The forum gave me an unparalleled opportunity to learn from talented colleagues nationwide at a similar career stage and to benefit from senior faculty expertise. I came away from the three days feeling inspired by my peers, recommitted to my research goals, and supported by a larger network of physician-scientists who are deeply devoted to science and to promoting each other's career development.”

**Research Title:** The glucagon-like peptide 1 axis in platelet-mediated airway inflammation

“Receiving an award on behalf of our group's work from the phenomenal faculty panel provided a level of external validation that comes at a critical point in my career path of physician-scientist. It was a true honor and motivates me personally and professionally to advance our research goals.”

## First Place – Clinical Research



### **Bhavika Kaul, MD**

University of California, San Francisco  
San Francisco, CA

“The forum was an excellent opportunity to build community with peers from across the country. Despite transitioning to a virtual conference this year, the faculty did a remarkable job of fostering engagement and were very generous with their feedback and career advice. The quality and breadth of science was inspiring, and I would highly recommend this forum to future young investigators.”

**Research Title:** Epidemiology and risk factors associated with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis among U.S. veterans

“Receiving an award was truly an honor especially given the quality of science presented by colleagues. In research, we learn to accept delayed gratification. Opportunities like this, especially for those of us who are so early in our career, help validate our work. The grant I received will be used for additional projects I am planning—several of which came directly from discussions during this conference!”

## **ATS Scholar Publishes Study About the Impact of Forum**

A study was conducted to evaluate the impact of the Respiratory Disease Young Investigators' Forum on the career development and productivity of fellows and early-career physician faculty who participated between 2005 and 2018. Access this article at [njhealth.org/YIF2021](https://www.njhealth.org/YIF2021).

- Findings showed that 93.4% of survey respondents remain involved with research.
- The median number of peer-reviewed publications authored by respondents is 13.

# 2020 Award Recipients

## Second Place – Basic Science



### **Aartik Sarma, MD**

University of California, San Francisco  
San Francisco, CA

“The Respiratory Disease Young Investigators’ Forum was an excellent opportunity to meet other early career physician-scientists and learn about their cutting edge research. I appreciated the opportunity to present my research in a small forum and received invaluable feedback from expert faculty and other young investigators.”

**Research Title:** Next generation sequencing in tracheal aspirates identifies distinct immune responses in molecular phenotypes of the acute respiratory distress syndrome

“It was an honor to be selected for an award after a weekend of hearing so many impressive presentations.”

## Second Place – Clinical Research



### **Stefanie Mason, MD**

Brigham and Women’s Hospital  
Boston, MA

“The Respiratory Disease Young Investigators’ Forum is a truly unique opportunity to network with your talented early-investigator peers and hear about the incredible work they are doing. On top of that, you gain valuable career development insight from leaders in the field. It was enjoyable and empowering, and I left with new ideas, new contacts, and a renewed optimism for a career as a physician-scientist.”

**Research Title:** Associations between muscle mass, exacerbations, and mortality in ever-smokers

“It was an honor to win an award for my abstract, especially given the tremendous work being done by all the presenters. It gives me hope that I can produce accessible, impactful science that will ultimately improve the lives of people with lung disease.”

## Post Program Confidence Levels

**96%**

Presenting scientific research to expert faculty

**96%**

Articulating the strengths and weaknesses of my research

**100%**

Incorporating peer/expert feedback to enhance research presentationst

# 2020 Award Recipients

## Third Place – Basic Science



### Jennifer Krall, MD

Wake Forest University  
Winston-Salem, NC

“This was an amazing opportunity to present my research to a panel of expert faculty and receive insightful feedback from both the expert faculty and peers. It was also very exciting to hear about the research my peers are conducting. I am honored to be in the company of such accomplished investigators, and I appreciate the connections I have made through this forum.”

**Research Title:** Immune cell kinetics in acute lung injury-associated skeletal muscle wasting and recovery

“This award has invigorated and renewed my love for research and scientific discovery. It has also strengthened my desire to become a physician-scientist. I am excited to see my current research continue to develop and grow.”

## Third Place – Clinical Research



### Rebecca A. Israel, MD

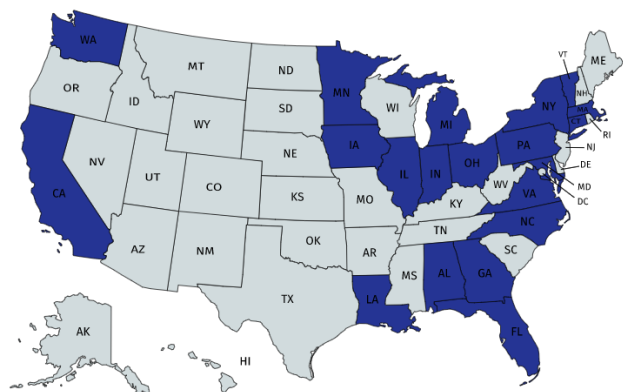
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Boston, MA

“The Young Investigators’ Forum is a unique opportunity to develop as a researcher and learn about the exciting work being done by other investigators from around the country. I was so impressed by the quality of the work presented and felt truly honored to be part of such an accomplished and enthusiastic cohort. The faculty were very encouraging and provided a lot practical research and career advice.”

**Research Title:** Endobronchial optical coherence tomography accurately diagnoses microscopic usual interstitial pneumonitis and clinical idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis

“Receiving an award was a humbling experience. It was honor just to attend the conference and be included in such an enthusiastic, curious, and accomplished group of physician-scientists.”

Young investigators represented all the states shown in dark blue for the last four years.



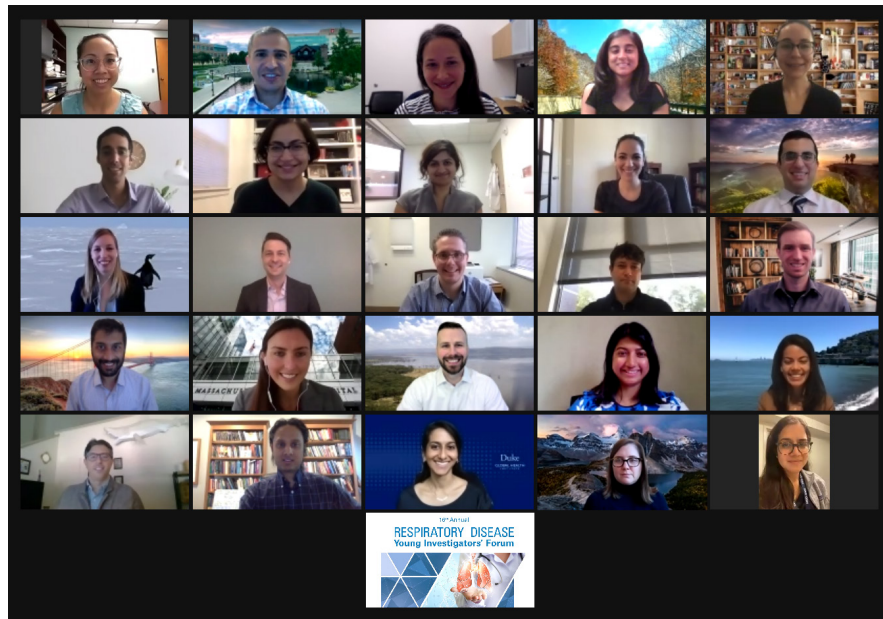
# Forum Feedback

**“This is easily the most useful and impactful conference I have attended.”** – 2020 Young Investigator

## BLINDED PROGRAM EVALUATIONS CAPTURED THESE OUTCOMES

Young Investigators report changes they may make in their career trajectory after participating in this activity:

- In my clinical practice I will pay more attention to air quality in my asthmatic patients and evaluate muscle health in my chronically ill patients.
- The young investigator presentations represented a wide breadth of research topics and techniques. Listening to the presentation made me more aware of the gaps in my knowledge and the areas I should look into in order to enhance patient care.
- I felt more motivated/supported to pursue my goals in research. It also reinforced for me the importance of networking with others in the field throughout this process.
- I will start seeking a physician-scientist mentor and start to apply for national grant.



Fellows and early career faculty gathered online for the 16th Annual Respiratory Disease Young Investigators' Forum on October 8-10, 2020.

“I learned a lot from the presentations and questions of other peers and faculty. It was also very helpful to present my research to this type of audience with a strict time limit and learning how to prepare and address Q/A. Good practice for the future. Also hopeful that the faculty and maybe peer connections will serve to be fruitful in the future.” – 2020 Young Investigator

“The program did a great job of moving to remote platform, which I am sure was not easy! I really appreciated that everyone went the extra mile to make sure that we benefitted from the virtual platform.” – 2020 Young Investigator