FOURTEENTH ANNUAL
Respiratory Disease Young Investigators’ Forum
A Research Mentorship and Advancement Opportunity for Pediatric, Pulmonary, Allergy and Immunology Fellows and Early Career Physician Scientists

FORUM HELD
OCTOBER 11-14, 2018
THE DARCY HOTEL, WASHINGTON, DC

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

COMMENTS FROM ATTENDEES

“Appreciated the reinforcement of the benefits of a career as a physician-scientist. Appreciated the validation of our work. Enjoyed seeing many leaders in the field and hearing about their career trajectories!”

“Great seeing everyone else’s project, as well as hearing from role models who have achieved our eventual goals of being successful independent researchers.”

SAVE THE DATE
OCTOBER 10-13, 2019
CHICAGO, IL

National Jewish Health
Breathing Science is Life
Dear Colleague:

It was a perfect weekend in Washington, DC on October 11-14, 2018, for the Fourteenth Annual Respiratory Disease Young Investigators’ Forum. A world-class faculty selected 30 abstracts and invited the submitting young investigators (fellows in pediatric, pulmonary, allergy and immunology) to attend and present their research in a competitive setting.

The forum aimed to connect young investigators 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 is one of the most unique opportunities for young investigators to engage with senior faculty. The goals are to inform, to educate, and to implement pathways for career development so that participants can become leaders in respiratory research. In its 14th year, 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,

Irina Petrache, MD
Program Chair

Jay Kolls, MD
Program Co-Chair

Expert Panel (left to right) Mihaela Teodorescu, MD, University of Wisconsin; Gregory Downey, MD, National Jewish Health; James Chmiel, MD, Case Western Reserve University; Jay Kolls, MD, Tulane School of Medicine; Reynold A. Panettieri, Jr, MD, Rutgers University

Meet the Professor Luncheon (left to right) Robert Schleimer, PhD, Northwestern University; Ruth Siew, MD, University of California San Diego; Gregory Downey, MD, National Jewish Health
2018 Grant Award Recipients

First Place Basic Science

**CD141⁺ DENDRITIC CELLS DISTINGUISH ALLERGIC ASTHMATICS FROM ALLERGIC CONTROLS**

**Jehan Alladina, MD**  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Boston, MA

“I appreciated the opportunity to meet young investigators from around the country and to witness the breadth of fascinating research conducted by my peers. It is truly inspiring to be surrounded by a group of passionate and dedicated physician-scientists who represent the future of the field. I left the forum feeling reinvigorated about the science and with some new ideas as well!”

“I felt very honored to be selected for this award, and I was especially humbled by the recognition of my peers with the peer choice award. Science is circuitous and full of challenges, and the recognition provided by this forum is welcome affirmation of the work that my colleagues and myself are beginning to undertake. This forum celebrated our research, and each presentation was a true testament to the essential role of physician-scientists in asking important questions and advancing our field.”

First Place Clinical Research

**PF BACTERIOPHAGE IN PATIENTS WITH CYSTIC FIBROSIS IS ASSOCIATED WITH CHRONIC PSEUDOMONAS AERUGINOSA INFECTION AND INCREASED ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE**

**Elizabeth Burgener, MD**  
Stanford University  
Palo Alto, CA

“It is a very unique opportunity to get to spend so much time with a group of people in the same stage of their careers. It is reassuring to see others even in different types of research going through the same issues and at the same time helpful to gain insight from colleagues at different institutions. Additionally, providing a venue to get to know the faculty mentors was invaluable. Being able to have a casual conversation and receive feedback about my research was invaluable. Overall a slightly intimidating but very motivating experience!”

“Receiving this award is a huge honor. There were so many impressive presentations from my colleagues within very different fields of research, it seems difficult to compare them all. I will use the support provided by the award to further my research on bacteriophage and take me one step closer to becoming an independent investigator.”
2018 Grant Award Recipients

Second Place Basic Science
SINGLE-CELL CHROMATIN LANDSCAPES AND REGULATION OF CELL PHENOTYPE ALTERATIONS IN DEVELOPING MOUSE AND HUMAN LUNG

Thu Elizabeth Duong, MD
University of California San Diego
San Diego, CA

“The Young Investigators’ Forum provides a special opportunity to network with peers and established leaders in respiratory disease in a small and welcoming group environment. The experience challenged me to learn how to succinctly and effectively present my work and field questions from a panel of experts and fellow participants. Being able to complete this task, allowed me to walk away with a newfound confidence that will certainly benefit and better prepare me for future presentations. I would highly recommend this conference to any early stage investigator as an invaluable experience to hone presentation skills and receive very relevant career development advice.”

“As a junior investigator, it was a great win and calmed my nerves about making the decision to pursue a career in academics as a physician scientist. It gave me a renewed sense of motivation, determination, and excitement to forge ahead!”

Second Place Clinical Research
THE IMPACT OF RURAL RESIDENCE AND POVERTY ON CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE (COPD) PREVALENCE: A NATIONWIDE ANALYSIS

Sarath Raju, MD, MPH
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, MD

“The young investigators forum was one of the best conferences I have attended as a fellow and I would highly recommend it to anyone who has the opportunity to attend. It was an excellent opportunity to get feedback from leaders in respiratory medicine in a fun and collegial environment. The forum itself offered unique mentorship and career guidance important for building a career in academic medicine. The conference also provided the invaluable opportunity to meet and build relationships with fellows from across the country. This was definitely an amazing experience and opportunity.”

“I was truly humbled by winning an award at the young investigators forum. I was impressed by the amazing research that was on display at the forum, and was honored by being given this award. I am thankful to the faculty who not only helped put the conference together, but also provided me invaluable feedback that will inevitably strengthen my future research efforts.”
2018 Grant Award Recipients

Third Place Basic Science

UNDERSTANDING HETEROGENEITY IN SEVERE ASTHMATICS USING MACHINE LEARNING ANALYSIS OF CELLULAR PHENOTYPES

Matthew Camiolo, MD, PhD
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA

“I had a great time meeting my peers from across the country and learning about the exciting research they were doing. The value of faculty interaction cannot be overstated - I would encourage anyone interested in an academic career to try and attend the conference!”

“Being an early career researcher is filled with a lot of ups and downs and it was really nice to enjoy recognition from such an impressive panel of judges. To be chosen for an award from a field of accomplished and talented young investigators is humbling and inspiring. The work I presented represents the efforts of many collaborators and could not be possible without them.”

Third Place Clinical Research

PRE-DIABETES AND DIABETES INCREASE RISK OF ASTHMA EXACERBATION IN OBESE ADULTS: A RETROSPECTIVE COHORT STUDY

Tianshi David Wu, MD
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, MD

“It was an invaluable opportunity to present my work to an external audience. I had a wonderful time meeting other junior investigators, and I appreciated the candid guidance from the panel on early career topics. To me, the conference was one of the most important events of my pulmonary fellowship.”

“It was an honor to have my research recognized, and I am thankful to the judges and my research mentor for supporting my work.”

83.33% strongly agree that in comparison to other professional development activities they have participated in this year, this activity was as helpful or more helpful toward meeting their professional goals.

73% stated that the feedback received during this activity will be used to modify other abstract submissions. (e.g. ATS, etc…)

100% would recommend this program to their colleagues!
Forum Feedback

BLINDED PROGRAM EVALUATIONS CAPTURED THESE OUTCOMES

Please provide an example of a change or changes you may make in the care of your patients after having participated in this activity.

- More intense screening for allergic allergens and consideration of home environment for allergen exposure.
- Recommend HEPA filters for asthmatics even if not dust mite sensitive. Consider aspirin exacerbated respiratory disease in refractory asthmatics.
- I plan on implementing some changes (adding a few tests, filtration of protein) to the bench/laboratory tests we are running in order to compare results as mentioned by expert faculty.

Please provide an example of a change or changes you may make in your career trajectory after having participated in this activity.

- I plan to add daily writing sessions to work on grants and manuscripts to improve writing skills.
- I am realizing I am going to need to decide to go down a basic science path or a clinical research path with collaborations with PhDs/lab scientists before I apply for a K.
- On contract review, paying attention to how much time I have protected for research as well as the guidance regarding grant writing and needing more exposure/experience.
- Reaffirmed my career path.
- Clinical trials are needed regardless of my type of job.
- Hoping to collaborate with someone I met here for research!
- I appreciated advice on when to change institutions and will wait until I’m mid funding on my k award.

“This has been one of the most organized conferences I have attended. Everything was timely and engaging, and the expert faculty discussions and assignments for career development were great.”

“Meeting colleagues and learning what other research is ongoing. Also was nice to start to feel welcome in the physician scientist community.”