

2025 AWARD RECIPIENTS

First Place Basic Science



Stephanie A. Adaikalam, MD

Indiana University School of Medicine | Indianapolis, IN

“The Forum’s well-structured curriculum of lectures and small-group discussions—led by eminent faculty and leaders from across the country—was incredibly helpful. It addressed key topics such as the transition from fellowship to early faculty, securing funding in an evolving landscape, and identifying a career path aligned with one’s purpose.”

Research Title: Increased S-nitrosothiol Flux and GSNOR Expression in Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia with Tracheobronchomalacia

“I am deeply humbled and grateful to have been considered for this award, and truly honored to receive it. The encouragement and constructive feedback offered by the expert panelists and peers have been a source of meaningful inspiration for the advancement of my research.”

First Place Clinical Research



Sirus Jesudasen, MD

University of Wisconsin | Madison, WI

“The Young Investigators’ Forum was an exceptional and empowering experience. It provided a smaller, collegial setting to receive candid advice and guidance on navigating an academic career. The Forum’s well-structured curriculum of lectures and small-group discussions—led by eminent faculty and leaders from across the country—was incredibly helpful. It addressed key topics such as the transition from fellowship to early faculty, securing funding in an evolving landscape, and identifying a career path aligned with one’s purpose.”

Research Title: Tiling 16S rRNA Gene Amplicon Sequencing identifies bacterial species soon after lung transplant that predict later Acute Cellular Rejection

“I am deeply honored and humbled to have received an award at the Young Investigators’ Forum. It was a privilege to learn from and share this experience with so many inspirational colleagues. This recognition reflects invaluable mentorship and collaboration from many individuals, without which none of our findings would have been possible.”

Second Place Basic Science



Jimmy Zhang, MD

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai | New York, NY

“The Young Investigators’ Forum was a uniquely energizing and valuable experience. It helped broaden my perspective and think more strategically about the next steps in my career. The faculty were welcoming and engaging, and the sessions felt perfectly timed for where I am in my journey. One of the most meaningful aspects was connecting with peers who share similar goals—it was reassuring to know we’re all navigating similar challenges. I left with greater confidence, a clear sense of direction, and genuine excitement for what lies ahead.”

Research Title: Real-Time Imaging Shows Neutrophil Responses to Bacteria are Preserved in Live Alveoli of Influenza-Infected Lungs

“It was an honor to have our work selected and to present alongside so many talented peers from across the country. The breadth and quality of research were truly inspiring. My presentation represents the collective effort of my colleagues and mentors, and I am grateful for the opportunity to share our findings.”

Second Place Clinical Research



Georgene Hergenroeder, MD

University of Pennsylvania/Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia | Philadelphia, PA

“I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to attend the Young Investigators’ Forum, and I know that the skills and mentorship that I received during the Forum will continue to serve me long term in my career. From the dress rehearsal session prior to my talk to the small group lunchtime discussions, I found it so valuable to hear from experts in the field about how to build a career in academic medicine. I also really enjoyed the opportunity to meet other junior investigators and learned so much from my peers. I was particularly impressed by the breadth of research in respiratory medicine that spanned the entire lifespan (from infancy to old age) and across many different disciplines.”

Research Title: Clinical effectiveness of elexacaftor/tezacaftor/ivacaftor (ETI) in people with cystic fibrosis in the United States

“I am truly honored and humbled to have received second place in the Clinical Research category, particularly when considering the incredible work that my fellow junior investigators presented. It is a tribute to the mentorship and support that I have received during my early career.”

Third Place Basic Science



Sarah Holton, MD, PhD

University of Washington | Seattle, WA

“Participating in the Young Investigators’ Forum was one of the highlights of my year. I learned so much from my co-presenters and it was a wonderful opportunity to be able to meet colleagues at the same career stage. The format encourages thoughtful discussion, and I know my research will be strengthened as a result. The opportunity to gain targeted feedback on my presentation from expert panelists was really useful, as well.”

Research Title: Characterization of myeloid subpopulations in cryobiopsies from patients with early stage Interstitial Lung Disease using spatial transcriptomics

“I was really blown away by the presentations at the Forum. To be selected among this group of peers is an incredible honor. I am so thankful for the opportunity to present my research in this setting.”

Third Place Clinical Research



Alessandra Tomasello, MD

Vanderbilt University Medical Center | Nashville, TN

“The Young Investigators’ Forum provided a truly unique opportunity to receive thoughtful and dedicated feedback from experienced mentors and peers alike. It was inspiring to meet colleagues from across the country who are at a similar stage in their research journey—the enthusiasm and generosity were readily apparent throughout the event. I especially appreciated the close and meaningful interactions with senior faculty, whose advice, grounded in years of experience, offered invaluable perspective. I was genuinely impressed by the quality and diversity of work presented by my fellow young investigators, and I look forward to future collaborations.”

Research Title: A role for Body Roundness Index in characterizing inflammation in obesity-associated asthma

“I was truly inspired by the caliber of research presented at YIF and feel deeply honored to be recognized among such an outstanding group of physician-scientists. I’m especially grateful for the insightful feedback and thoughtful questions from the YIF research advisor, expert faculty, and fellow presenters, which have helped strengthen both my presentation and my research as a whole.”

100%
of evaluation
respondents
reported:

They would recommend this
program to colleagues

Networking opportunities
with peers were helpful

FORUM FEEDBACK

Young Investigators report their satisfaction with the Forum:



96% of evaluation respondents reported the Forum met or exceeded their expectations.



96% reported the program positively influenced their interest in pursuing a career as a physician-scientist



85% of evaluation respondents reported confidence in incorporating peer/expert feedback to enhance scientific presentations



100% of evaluation respondents reported the program was as helpful or more helpful in comparison to other professional development programs attended recently

Dear Colleague:

We are pleased to report the successful completion of the 21st Annual Respiratory Disease Young Investigators' Forum, held in Denver, CO, from October 9–12, 2025. This year's program brought together an impressive group of early-career scientists and clinicians from institutions nationwide, all focused on advancing research in respiratory health.

A total of 30 abstracts were selected by our faculty for presentation, representing outstanding work from fellows and junior faculty in pulmonary, pediatric, allergy, and immunology specialties. Throughout the meeting, participants shared their research findings, engaged in thoughtful scientific exchange, and had the chance to compete for recognition in a highly supportive environment.

The Forum continues to serve as a cornerstone for career development in respiratory science. By connecting emerging investigators with experienced mentors, the program aims to strengthen research skills, refine scientific communication, and inspire long-term commitment to respiratory and related disease research. The collaborative atmosphere remains a defining feature of this event and contributes to its lasting influence.

As we reflect on the Forum's 21-year history, we are incredibly proud of the 2025 cohort and the quality of scholarship they brought to the meeting. Their enthusiasm and accomplishments highlight the promise of the next generation of leaders in respiratory medicine.

We encourage you to share this letter with colleagues and trainees who might benefit from this unique opportunity. Planning is already underway for the 22nd Annual Respiratory Disease Young Investigators' Forum, taking place October 8–11, 2026. We look forward to welcoming another exceptional group of rising investigators and continuing to support their growth in the years ahead.

Ravi Kalhan, MD, MS
Northwestern University
Program Co-Chair

Monica Kraft, MD
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
Program Co-Chair

2025 Expert Faculty

Zea Borok, MD
University of California,
San Diego
San Diego, CA

Charles Dela Cruz, MD, PhD, ATSF
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA

William Janssen, MD
National Jewish Health
Denver, CO

Rohit Katial, MD
National Jewish Health
Denver, CO

Deepika Polineni, MD, MPH
Washington University
in St. Louis
St. Louis, MO

Mary B. Rice, MD, MPH
Harvard University
Cambridge, MA

Jesse Roman, MD, ATSF
Thomas Jefferson University
Philadelphia, PA

2025 Research Advisors

Anthony Gerber, MD, PhD
National Jewish Health
Denver, CO

Joshua J. Solomon, MD
National Jewish Health
Denver, CO

Judith A. Woodfolk, MD, MBChB, PhD
University of Virginia School of Medicine
Charlottesville, Virginia

"The caliber of research and discussion affirms that the next generation is poised to drive meaningful innovation. I would strongly encourage eligible investigators to apply for next year's program."
— 2025 Expert Faculty



21ST ANNUAL **RESPIRATORY DISEASE Young Investigators' Forum**

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



- Meet the 2025 award winners
- Meet the 2025 Faculty
- Learn how the Forum impacts the future of physician-scientists
- Share with colleagues who are eligible to submit abstracts in 2026

This educational activity is sponsored and certified for CME credit by National Jewish Health. This activity is supported by an educational grant from AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals.

"Incredible opportunity with peers and faculty. This event is very refreshing for career motivation and fulfillment."
- 2025 Respiratory Disease Young Investigator

SHARE WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES!

22ND ANNUAL **RESPIRATORY DISEASE Young Investigators' Forum**
Denver, CO | October 8-11, 2026

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

WHY APPLY TO ATTEND?

- Network with peers and renowned faculty
- One-on-one feedback from personal mentor
- Present and refine your research
- Career development presentations from expert faculty
- Learn about new and emerging research in respiratory medicine
- Monetary awards for top 3 presenters in each category

2026 CALL FOR RESEARCH ABSTRACTS

Deadline: June 15, 2026



Join us in 2026!
Abstract Deadline is June 15, 2026
[NJHealth.org/RDYIF2026](https://www.njhealth.org/RDYIF2026)
Please share with fellows and early career faculty at your institution