

2024 AWARD RECIPIENTS

First Place Basic Science



Daniel J. Wallman, MD

Center for Regenerative Medicine / Boston Medical Center | Boston, MA

“This forum fosters relevant research discussion amongst peers, broadens our horizons for collaboration and provided me with inspiration to keep pushing the envelope. Though large conferences provide a great opportunity for networking, this smaller and concentrated setting sparks meaningful, collaborative relationships that I intend to continue throughout my career.”

Research Title: Mapping the Genotype to Phenotype in Lung Epithelia

“I am particularly proud of this achievement as the level of research, rigor and content delivery by the attendees is higher than any conference I’ve been a part of.”

First Place Clinical Research



Courtney Gaberino, MD

University of Wisconsin | Madison, WI

“The unique design of the conference helps to foster confidence and excitement for pursuing a career as a physician-scientist. I especially appreciate having one-on-one constructive feedback from a dedicated mentor regarding presentation material and execution prior to presenting to the group. The intimate size of the conference also encourages open discussion and collaboration. It is clear that the faculty are passionate about mentoring future physician-scientists and helping to provide impactful feedback regarding specifics of individual research projects as well as career advice. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to attend this forum and would highly recommend it to other fellows and junior faculty.”

Research Title: Airway and Systemic Dysregulation of Interferon Responses Promote Asthma Exacerbations in Urban Children

“I feel very honored and appreciative of having been recognized alongside the impressive work presented by such talented colleagues. I appreciate all of the time, work and dedication from the organizers and research mentors that went into providing such an invaluable experience at the forum.”

Second Place Basic Science



Kale Bongers, MD, PhD

University of Iowa | Iowa City, IA

“The Respiratory Disease Young Investigators’ Forum was an outstanding experience! It was invigorating to be a part of such a dynamic conference, with a great cohort of fellow young investigators and a dedicated team of expert faculty covering the full breadth of pulmonary medicine. The conference itself was seamlessly run. All told, I would strongly recommend this conference to other young researchers in pulmonary medicine”

Research Title: The Gut Microbiome Mediates Skeletal Muscle Atrophy After Pneumonia and Sepsis

“In this supportive environment, I gained new mentors and some colleagues I hope to collaborate with in the future.”

Second Place Clinical Research



Ye Sun, MD, MPH

Boston Children’s Hospital | Boston, MA

“It was an honor to attend the Respiratory Disease Young Investigators’ Forum! Hearing about the exciting, innovative research from my peers was truly inspiring. The expert guidance and collaborative discussions helped refine my own research, fueling new ideas for future projects. This experience not only broadened my perspectives but also left me feeling motivated and energized to contribute to and grow within this broader scientific community.”

Research Title: Impact of Indoor Air Quality on Airborne Viral Detection in Inner-City Elementary Schools

“I am incredibly grateful and humbled to have received this award amongst such an amazing group of young investigators. I am thankful to my mentors, collaborators, and program leadership for their invaluable guidance. I also want to express my gratitude to the expert faculty panel for their insightful input. This recognition is a true honor and has further motivated me to work even harder to contribute to advancing pulmonary research.”

Third Place Basic Science



Sarah Holton, MD, PhD

University of Washington | Seattle, WA

“Attending the forum was so inspiring and also really fun. It was amazing to meet the people in my peer group of senior fellows and junior faculty and to learn more about the amazing work they are doing. I’ve never attended a meeting quite like this one — it was very engaging and I learned so much. I will be recommending this to my colleagues and to fellows in my program.”

Research Title: Identification of Pro-Fibrotic Mononuclear Phagocyte Subpopulations in Cryobiopsies From Patients With Early Interstitial Lung Disease Using Spatial Transcriptomics

“I feel so honored to have been able to present my research at the 20th annual Respiratory Disease Young Investigators’ Forum. The questions I got from my peers were so insightful — I know it will take my research in new directions. Winning this award gives me a confidence boost and makes me even more excited to share my research broadly.”

Third Place Clinical Research



Andrew Moore, MD

Stanford University | Palo Alto, CA

“Being immersed with young investigators who are in the same career stage was unique and invaluable. Seeing their incredible science made me even more excited about my own work and fostered collaborations that I wouldn’t have made without my time here. The career and mentorship advice provided by the expert faculty was excellent and exactly what I needed to hear in my current stage. I will definitely be recommending to all early-career pulmonary researchers moving forward.”

Research Title: Large-Scale Multi-Cohort Bulk Peripheral Blood Gene Expression Network Analysis and Integrated Single Cell Analysis Identifies Consensus Molecular Clusters in Sepsis

“Winning this award meant the world to me. It validated the importance of the science I am working on and gave me much needed confidence in presenting my work. Despite the short time spent at the forum, the focused feedback I got on my research and (equally importantly) how to present that work at my current career stage was highly impactful and encouraging.”

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:



100% of evaluation respondents reported the Forum exceeded their expectations.



93% reported the program positively influenced their interest in pursuing a career as a physician-scientist



96% 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 delighted to share the successful conclusion of the 20th Annual Respiratory Disease Young Investigators' Forum, which took place in Denver, CO, from October 17-20, 2024. This year's forum gathered early-career researchers from across the country, all committed to advancing knowledge in respiratory disease.

Our esteemed faculty selected 31 exceptional abstracts presented by talented fellows and early-career faculty specializing in pediatric, pulmonary, allergy, and immunology fields. These Young Investigators not only showcased their innovative research but also benefited from invaluable feedback and the opportunity to compete for top honors.

The Forum's primary goal was to connect young investigators with seasoned faculty and peers, enriching their research, enhancing presentation and communication skills, and strengthening their dedication to careers in respiratory and related disease research. This unique forum continues to distinguish itself as a space for early career development, fostering future leaders in respiratory research.

As we celebrate its 20th year, the Forum remains an influential event, offering fellows and junior faculty a rare opportunity to engage closely with senior mentors. We're immensely proud of the 2024 Young Investigators and commend them on their remarkable accomplishments. On behalf of the Expert Faculty, we extend our best wishes for their continued success in the years ahead!

Please feel free to share this letter with young investigators at your institution, inviting them to join us for the 21st Annual Respiratory Disease Young Investigators' Forum, scheduled for October 9-12, 2025. We look forward to welcoming new talent and building another transformative experience next year and in the decades ahead as participants continue to shape the future of respiratory medicine.

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

Mihaela Teodorescu, MD, MS
University of Wisconsin
Program Co-Chair

2024 Expert Faculty

Praveen Akuthota, MD
University of California
San Diego Health
San Diego, CA

Jessica Bon, MD, MS, ATSF
Wake Forest University
School of Medicine
Winston-Salem, NC

Sonali Bose, MD, MPH, ATSF
Mount Sinai-National Jewish
Respiratory Institute
New York, NY

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

Daniel Jackson, MD
University of Wisconsin
Madison, WI

Victor E. Ortega, M.D., PhD
Mayo Clinic
Phoenix, AZ

Jennifer L. Taylor-Cousar, MD, MSCS
National Jewish Health
Denver, CO

2024 Research Advisors

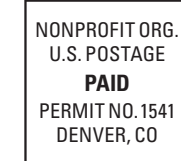
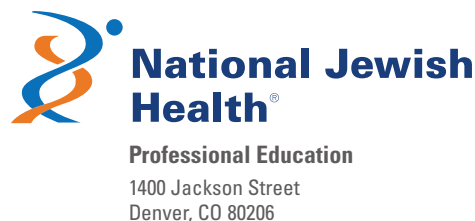
Laura Crotty Alexander, MD
University of California San Diego
San Diego, CA

Jane Gross, MD
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC

Nathan Sandbo, MD
University of Wisconsin
Madison, WI

"It was an honor to participate as faculty and help build the next generation of leaders in our field. Having witnessed the talks and meeting the young investigators, our future is bright, and this program is a part of making that happen."

- 2024 Expert Faculty



20TH ANNUAL **RESPIRATORY DISEASE Young Investigators' Forum**

2024 PROGRAM NEWSLETTER



- Meet the 2024 award winners
- Meet the 2024 Faculty
- Learn how the Forum impacts the future of physician-scientists
- Share with colleagues who are eligible to submit abstracts in 2025

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.

"It was an overall outstanding program that was the perfect combination of science, career development, and networking."
- 2024 Respiratory Disease Young Investigator

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

Denver, CO | October 9-12, 2025

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

2025 CALL FOR RESEARCH ABSTRACTS

Deadline: June 16, 2025



Join us in 2025!

Abstract Deadline is June 16, 2025

[NJHealth.org/RDYIF2025](https://www.njhealth.org/RDYIF2025)

Please share with fellows and early career faculty at your institution