

Activity Summary

Grant ID 90902711		21 st Annual Respiratory Disease Young Investigators' Forum	
Educational Objectives: Discuss new and emerging areas of respiratory research that offer new inroads to effective therapies and treatment; establish mentoring and collegial relationships to support scientific endeavors and career advancement; evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of peer research presentations; incorporate peer/expert faculty feedback effectively to enhance research presentations; discuss key strategies for career development as a physician-scientist; and describe the comprehensive process for securing grant support for research.			
Intended Audience: Pulmonary, allergy and immunology fellows and junior faculty who are beginning their research careers.		Actual Reach: 30 young investigators; 9 expert faculty; 3 research advisors	Format: Three-day live, in-person forum consisting of junior faculty/fellow presentations, expert faculty panel, structured feedback, and mentoring and networking opportunities.
Program Location: Hotel Clio, 150 Clayton Lane, Denver, CO			Dates: October 9-12, 2025
Outcomes Levels: Moore's Level 1, 2 and 4		Outcomes Strategy: Pre-program survey; program evaluation	
Summary: The 21 st Annual Respiratory Disease Young Investigators' 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. The meeting was successfully implemented from October 9-12, 2025, with 100% of evaluation respondents reporting that they would recommend this program to their colleagues.			

Program Overview

The 21st Annual Respiratory Disease Young Investigators' Forum, a live independent medical education activity accredited by National Jewish Health (NJH), was held in Denver on October 9-12, 2025. The Forum is designed to enable **pulmonary, allergy and immunology fellows and junior faculty** to present their research and interact with expert faculty to improve research methodologies and presentation skills; enhance communication in the field of respiratory disease and allergy; develop relationships with faculty mentors; assist in translating laboratory research into useful bedside application; and stimulate an academic career in respiratory disease and allergy research. The Forum continues to prove to be a valuable and impactful annual event for fellows and junior faculty who are beginning their research careers.

"This was an excellent opportunity to meet like-minded peers as well as established senior faculty. The advice and perspectives shared were truly invaluable and will shape how I approach my research career."

- 2025 Young Investigator



Young investigators have multiple opportunities to network with other young investigators at the Respiratory Disease **Young Investigators' Forum**.

Program Design

The content of the program was based on basic science and clinical research in the field of respiratory disease submitted by young investigators, who competed for acceptance into the program and then served as the program presenting faculty. The program enabled a diverse group of 30 fellows enrolled in fellowship programs such as allergy, respiratory tract disease, or pulmonary medicine, as well as early career faculty in these fields, to present the results of their basic science or clinical research to their peers and an experienced expert faculty panel.

"I really liked the diversity of topics and the organization of basic science on day 1 and clinical on day 2."

- 2025 Young Investigator

The program consisted of:

- ✓ Personalized feedback and coaching from research advisors during rehearsals
- ✓ Clinical and scientific young investigator presentations
- ✓ Small group discussions and mentoring
- ✓ Networking with peer leaders and expert faculty
- ✓ An expert faculty panel providing real time feedback and scoring
- ✓ Expert faculty presentations on career development topics relevant to fellows and junior faculty
- ✓ Q&A after each scientific and career development presentation

Learning Objectives

1. Discuss new and emerging areas of respiratory research that offer new inroads to effective therapies and treatment
2. Establish mentoring and collegial relationships to support scientific endeavors and career advancement
3. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of peer research presentations
4. Incorporate peer/expert faculty feedback effectively to enhance research presentations
5. Discuss key strategies for career development as a physician-scientist
6. Describe the comprehensive process for securing grant support for research



Young Investigator Awards

All young investigator presentations were scored by the expert faculty panel. The top three presenting young investigators with the highest scores in both Basic Science and Clinical Research were presented with a plaque and given a monetary award to be used toward future research or to attend a national respiratory meeting such as AAAAI, ATS, or CHEST. The award is provided to the recipient's institution for distribution to the recipient according to policies. The young investigator with the highest evaluation scores from their peers was also recognized with a peer award. To recognize the achievement of the attending fellows, young investigators were provided with a CME certificate indicating participation at the Forum.

First Place Award Winners

Basic Science Research

Stephanie Adaikalam, MD

(Indiana University School of
Medicine)

*“Increased S-nitrosothiol Flux and
GSNOR Expression in
Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia with
Tracheobronchomalacia”*



Clinical Research

Sirus Jesudasan, MD

(University of Wisconsin)

*“Tiling 16S rRNA Gene Amplicon
Sequencing Identifies Bacterial
Species Soon after Lung Transplant
that Predict Later Acute Cellular
Rejection”*



Young Investigator Awards

Basic Science Research

Jimmy Zhang, MD

(Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai)

“Real-Time Imaging Shows Neutrophil Responses to Bacteria are Preserved in Live Alveoli of Influenza-Infected Lungs”

Basic Science Research

Sarah Holton, MD, PhD

(University of Washington)

“Characterization of Myeloid Subpopulations in Cryobiopsies from Patients with Early Stage Interstitial Lung Disease Using Spatial Transcriptomics”

Second Place Award Winners



Clinical Research

Georgene Hergenroeder, MD

(University of Pennsylvania/ Children's Hospital of Philadelphia)

“Clinical Effectiveness of Elexacaftor/Tezacaftor/Ivacaftor (ETI) in People with Cystic Fibrosis in the United States”

Clinical Research

Alessandra Tomasello MD

(Vanderbilt University Medical Center)

“A Role for Body Roundness Index in Characterizing Inflammation in Obesity-associated Asthma”

Third Place Award Winners



Dashboard: Activity Impact

**31 Abstracts Received /
30 Accepted**

**9 Expert Faculty
3 Research Advisors**

100%

would recommend
program to
colleagues

97%

reported activity
positively
influenced interest

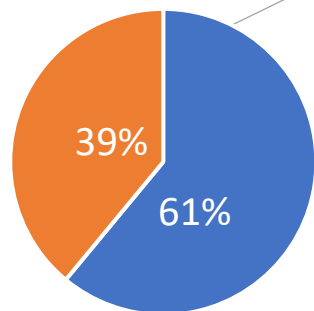
in pursuing a
career as a
physician-
scientist

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Research Disease States

- Acute Hypoxemic Respiratory Failure
- Acute Lung Injury
- Airway Obstruction
- Asthma
- Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia
- COPD
- COVID-19
- Interstitial Lung Disease
- Lung Cancer
- Lung Transplantation
- Pneumonia
- Pulmonary Fibrosis
- Sickle Cell Disease/PH
- Sleep Disorders

Accepted Abstracts



- Clinical Research
- Basic Science

Faculty Position
1st Year: 3
2nd Year: 4

Fellowship Year
1st year: 1
2nd year: 10
3rd year: 9
4th year: 2
5th year: 1

What is the biggest benefit of participating in the forum?

"The thoughtful advice I received, the networking opportunity, and the chance to hear about the amazing work my peers are doing in their respective fields."

-Young Investigator, 2025

Program Chairs



Ravi Kalhan, MD, MS

Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs
Professor of Medicine and Preventive Medicine
Deputy Division Chief of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine
Co-director, Center for Education and Career Development in
the Northwestern University Clinical and Translational Sciences
(NUCATS) Institute
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
Chicago, IL



Monica Kraft, MD

System Chair, Samuel Bronfman Department of Medicine
Murray M. Rosenberg Professor of Medicine
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
Mount Sinai Health System
New York, NY

Program Faculty



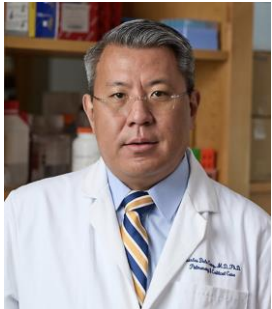
Zea Borok, MD

Helen M. Ranney Professor
Chair, Department of Medicine
University of California, San Diego
San Diego, CA



William J. Janssen, MD

Reilley Chair of Lung Injury, Repair and Interstitial
Disease
Professor of Medicine
Section Head for Critical Care
National Jewish Health
Denver, CO



Charles Dela Cruz, MD, PhD

Professor of Medicine
Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical
Care Medicine
Director, Acute Lung Injury and Infection
Center
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA



Rohit Katial, MD, FAAAAI, FACAAI, FACP

Professor of Medicine
Associate Vice President of Education
Director, Center for Clinical Immunology
Irene J. & Dr. Abraham E. Goldminz,
Chair in Immunology and Respiratory Medicine
National Jewish Health
Denver, CO

Program Faculty



Deepika Polineni, MD, MPH
Professor of Pediatrics
Allergy & Pulmonary Medicine
Director, Cystic Fibrosis Center
Washington University in St. Louis
St. Louis, MO



Jesse Roman, MD, ATSF
Ludwig A. Kind Professor of Medicine
CEO, Jane & Leonard Korman Respiratory Institute
Enterprise Division Chief, Pulmonary, Allergy &
Critical Care Medicine
Thomas Jefferson University
Philadelphia, PA



Mary Rice, MD, PhD
Director, Institute for Lung Health
Director of Research
Associate Professor of Medicine
Harvard University
Cambridge, MA

Research Advisors



Anthony Gerber, MD, PhD*
Professor of Medicine
Division of Pulmonary, Allergy and
Critical Care & Sleep Medicine
National Jewish Health
Denver, CO

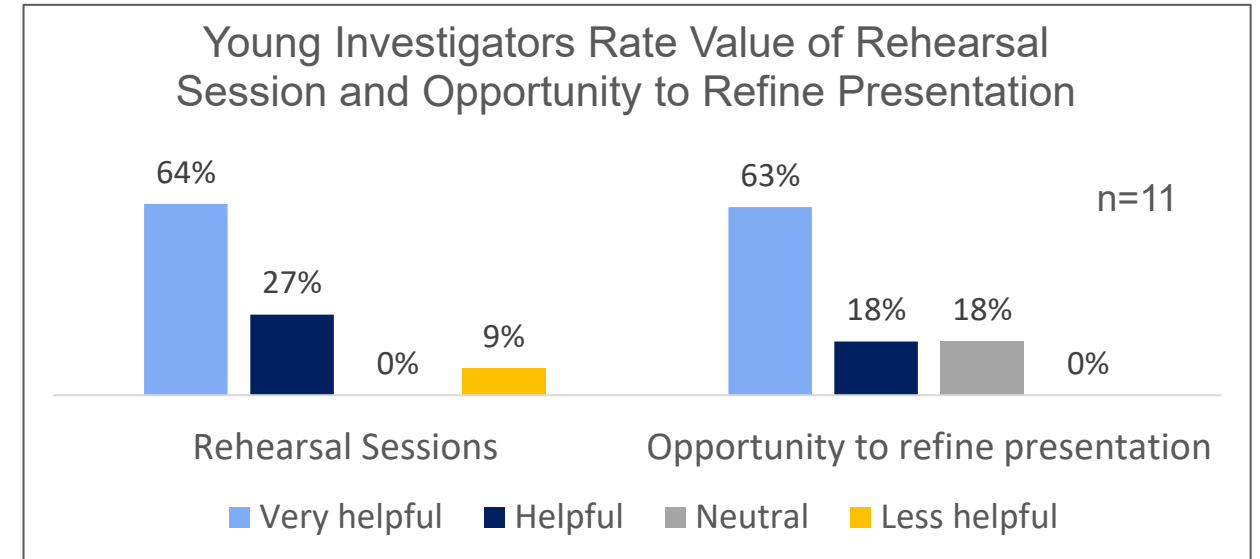
**Filled in for Loretta Que, MD (Duke University) who could not make it due to a family emergency*



Joshua Solomon, MD
Professor of Medicine
Director, Interstitial Lung Disease
Program
Division of Pulmonary, Critical
Care & Sleep Medicine
National Jewish Health
Denver, CO



Judith Woodfolk, MBChB, PhD
Professor of Medicine and Microbiology
Co-Director, UVA Medical Scientist Training
Program
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA



Young Investigators

Stephanie A. Adaikalam, MD

Indiana University School of Medicine
Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia

Kyle Admire, DO

Eastern Virginia Medical School at Old
Dominion University
Lung Cancer, Abnormal Chest Imaging

Marco Colamonici, MD

University of Colorado
Acute Lung Injury/ARDS

Thaddeus Cybulski, MD, PhD

Northwestern University Feinberg School
of Medicine
Cystic Fibrosis

Axel Duval, MD

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
Airway Obstruction

Mark Evan Fraser, MD, PhD

Indiana University School of Medicine
COVID-19

Georgene E. Hergenroeder, MD

University of Pennsylvania
Cystic Fibrosis

Sarah Holton, MD, PhD

University of Washington
Interstitial Lung Disease

Kyle Inman, MD

University of Pittsburgh
Pneumonia

Lauren Ivey, MD

Wake Forest University School of
Medicine
COPD

Aiham Jbeli, MD

University of Minnesota
Pulmonary Fibrosis

Sirus Jesudasan, MD

Massachusetts General Hospital
Lung Transplantation

Sarah Kamal, MD

Johns Hopkins University
Apoptosis

Dipan Karmali, MD

University of Miami
Sleep Disorders

Sam B. Konkol, MD

University of Virginia
Interstitial Lung Disease

Young Investigators

Aristotle Leonhard, MD, MS

University of Washington
Sleep Disorders

Allyson Lieberman, MD, PhD

University of Pittsburgh
Lung Perfusion

Michael Y. Lu, MD

University of Pittsburgh – UPMC
COPD

Mark Mallozzi, MD, MPH

National Jewish Health
Sarcoidosis

Monica Mehta, MD

Emory University School of Medicine
Lung Transplantation

Mary Elizabeth (Mimi) Richert, MD

National Institutes of Health
COPD

Jamie H. Rowell, MD

Northwestern University
Lung Cancer

Andres Felipe Villabona Rueda, MD

University of Miami
Interstitial Lung Disease

Kavitha Selvan, MD

Northwestern University
Interstitial Lung Disease

Rupali Sood, MD, MPH

Johns Hopkins University
Interstitial Lung Disease

Alessandra Tomasello, MD

Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Asthma

Robert C. Wharton, MD

Johns Hopkins University
Exposure-related Lung Disease

Samuel Windham, MD, MSCI

University of Kansas Medical Center
Acute Hypoxemic Respiratory Failure

Robert W. Wysocki, MD, PhD

Indiana University School of Medicine
Sickle Cell Disease, Pulmonary
Hypertension

Jimmy Zhang, MD, PhD

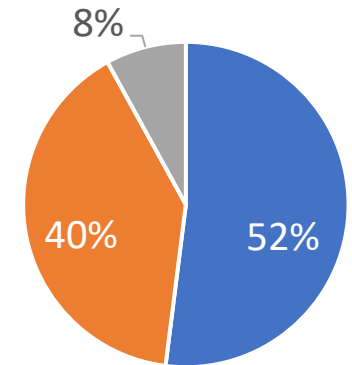
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
Acute Lung Injury

Pre-Survey Results

What is the most important thing you hope to gain through participation in this Forum?

- Expert feedback for my developing research program.
- I hope to gain peer connections with researchers across the country and learn how people communicate research effectively in an intimate setting.
- I would like to learn how to position myself to transition to new faculty as an academic researcher.
- Improvement in the quality of my research and how to use this and the derivative research to successfully apply for and obtain a K-award in the short term and continued R-level funding as a faculty.
- Insight into a career in academic medicine, especially in this current funding environment. Networking.
- Meeting other physician scientists at the same stage of training, learning more about the nationwide pulmonary basic science research environment, and getting career advice salient to this stage of my career.
- Skills in presenting my research to expert researchers. Articulating findings appropriately.
- Stronger ability to critically appraise the medical research and confidence in presentation skills to an expert audience.

I plan to pursue research/scientific investigation as a career goal

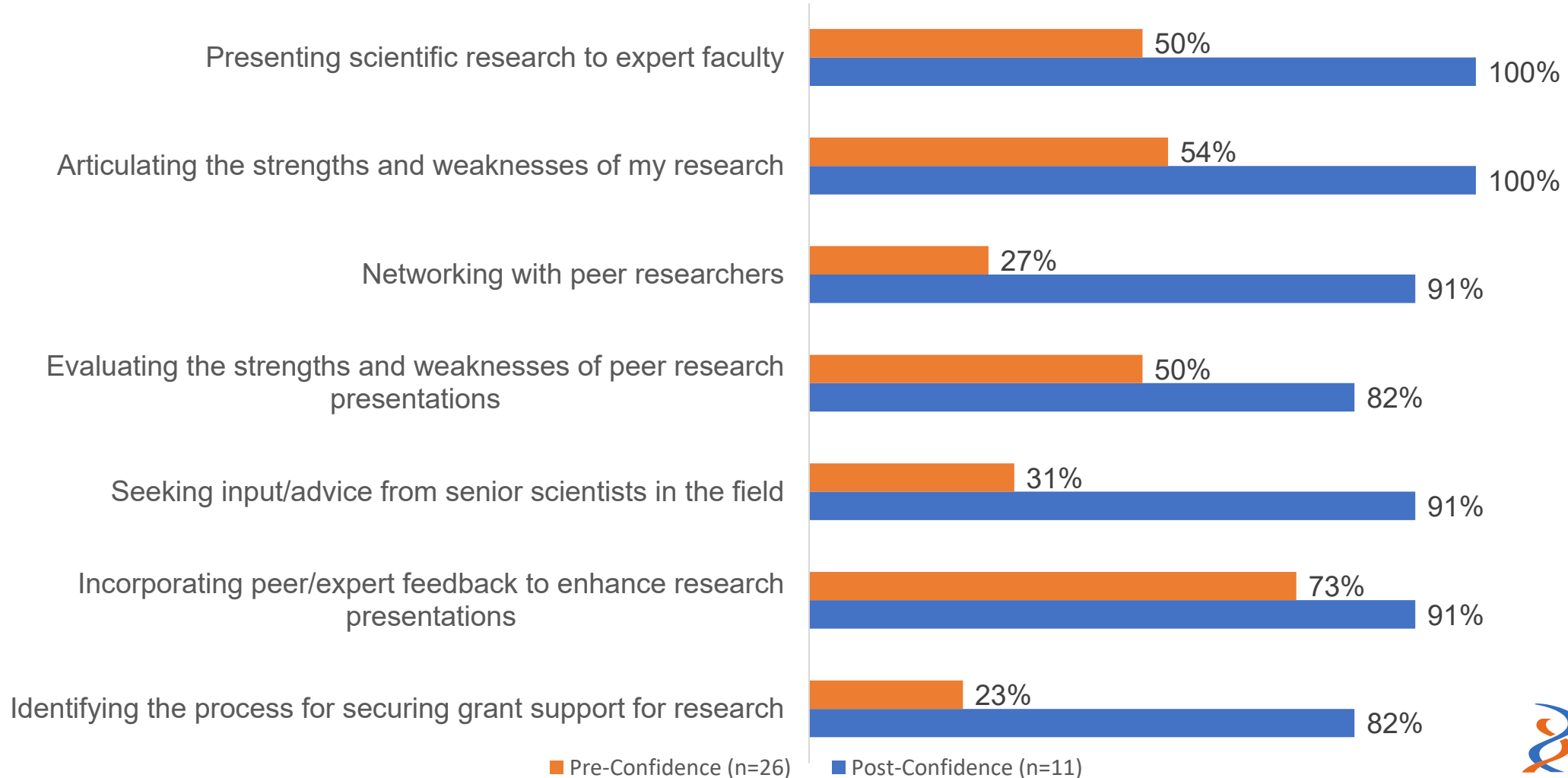


■ Strongly Agree ■ Agree ■ Neutral

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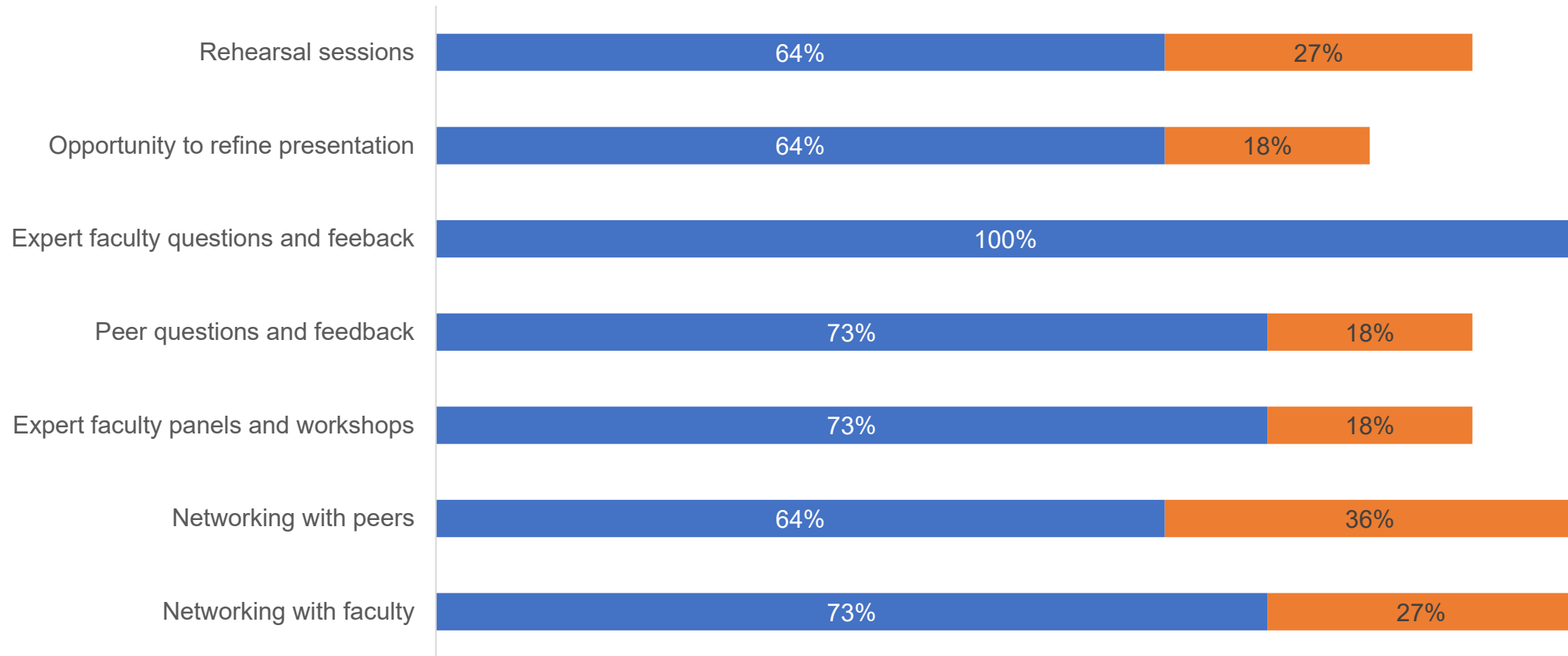
Pre- and Post-Activity Confidence

Young Investigators report being “Very Confident” or “Somewhat Confident” with:



Evaluation Results

Young Investigators report the following being “Very Helpful” or “Helpful”:



N=11

■ Very Helpful ■ Helpful

Evaluation Results

“The Young Investigators’ Forum was a uniquely energizing and valuable experience. It helped me 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.”

- Jimmy Zhang, MD
(2025 Award Winner)



Expert Faculty Lectures

Young Investigators ranked expert faculty topics as “Very Helpful” or “Helpful”:

n=11

100%



Diversifying your Research
Funding Portfolio

- Charles Dela Cruz, MD, PhD, ATSF
- Rohit K. Katial, MD
- Monica Kraft, MD

100%



Finding Your Career Purpose

- Ravi Kalhan, MD, MS
- Mary B. Rice, MD, MPH

91%



Career Development: Finding a
Mentor/Sponsorship

- Charles Dela Cruz, MD, PhD, ATSF
- William Janssen, MD
- Deepika Polineni, MD
- Jesse Roman, MD, ATSF

100%

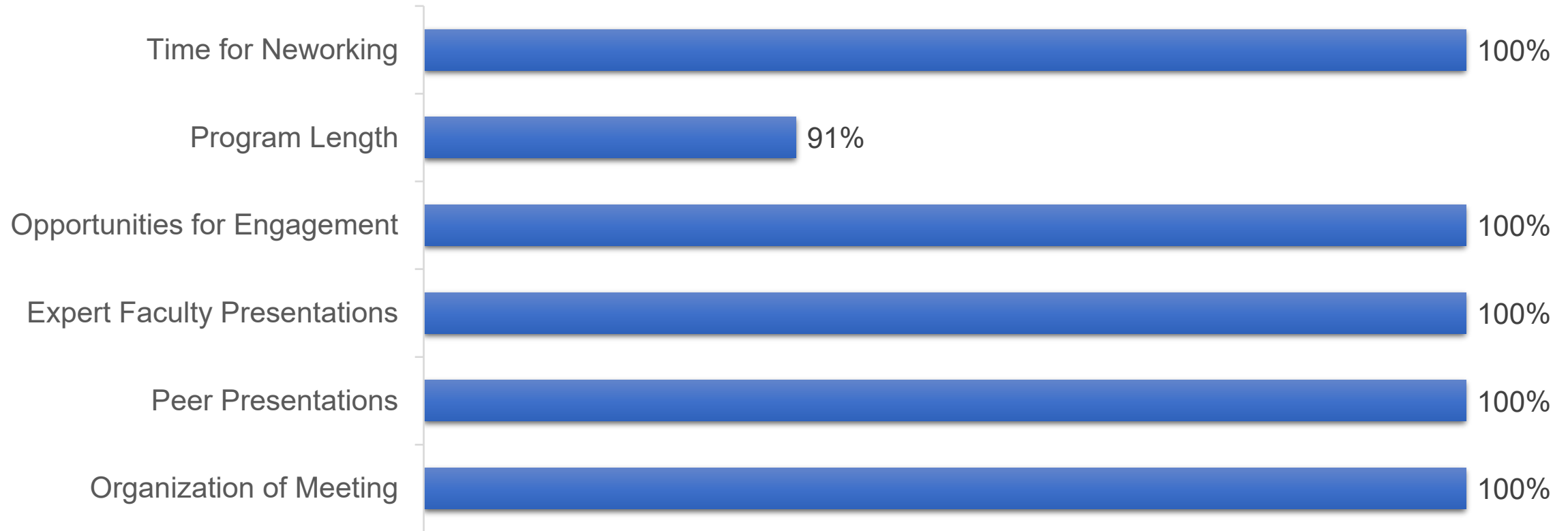


Navigating your Career Path: Job
Transitions and Salary
Negotiations

- Zea Borok, MD
- Monica Kraft, MD
- Deepika Polineni, MD

Overall Program Evaluation

Young Investigators ranked the following program components as “Excellent” or “Good:”



The conference was very organized and well planned. The food was amazing. Overall, the conference exceeded my expectations.

- 2025 Young Investigator

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Participant Take-Aways

What are your key takeaways that you will take back to your research?

- Blocking time for boulders vs pebbles. Collaborate with “friends” – OK to see industry funding – we will survive “this”
- Emphasis on big ideas and purpose; having a “no” committee
- Failing forward is a part of research. Dissect the no's. I don't have to say yes to everything but I should learn to say “yes, but” and limit the scope of my commitment.
- I enjoyed the Career Purpose exercise, and its utility as a screening tool for identifying the things that I should/shouldn't do.
- Find colleagues who you enjoy working with. Everyone experiences setbacks and rejections.
- Potential collaborations, refreshed motivation in research and career planning.
- Reflections on career path/purpose, how to develop my career.

What are some changes you may make in your career trajectory after participating in this activity?

- Appreciated advice re: “do research with your friends”. This was helpful when thinking about potential collaborators.
- Opened my mind to think about industry funding opportunities.
- I feel more interested in collaborating across disciplines and with colleagues from other institutions.
- Pursuing further career opportunities in ATS
- I will explore some additional funding opportunities that I had not previously considered in detail.

What was the greatest benefit of participating in this program?

- I appreciated the thoughtful advice I received, the networking opportunity, and meeting with peers and expert faculty.
- Opportunity to talk to faculty that are successful in their field.
- The chance to hear about the amazing work my peers are doing in their respective fields.
- The mentorship and peer networking.

Overall Program Evaluation

- ✓ **100% of YIF participants reported:**
 - ✓ they would **recommend this program to their colleagues**
 - ✓ that the **learning objectives** of this activity were met
 - ✓ that their **expectations for this forum were met or exceeded**
 - ✓ the material was **presented in an objective manner and free of commercial bias**
- ✓ **91% of YIF participants reported:**
 - ✓ that the **activity positively influenced their interest in pursuing a career as a physician scientist**
 - ✓ that, in comparison to other professional development activities attended, **this activity was as helpful or more helpful toward meeting professional goals**
- ✓ **80% reported they would modify other abstract submissions based on feedback received during this activity**



Jesse Roman, MD, ATSF
(Expert Faculty) moderates the
first session at the Respiratory
Disease Young Investigators'
Forum.

Accreditation

National Jewish Health is accredited with Commendation by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians. The NJH Office of Professional Education produced and accredited this program and adhered to the updated ACCME guidelines.

National Jewish Health designates this live activity for a maximum of 14.0 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*[™]. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

