CF-AIR & CF@LANTA NEWSLETTER

Cystic Fibrosis Center of Excellence

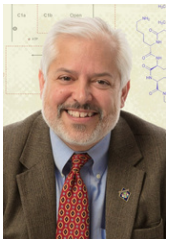
Emory University - Children's Healthcare of Atlanta - Georgia Tech - Augusta Univ. - Georgia State - UGA

JUNE 2025

In This Issue

Director's Update

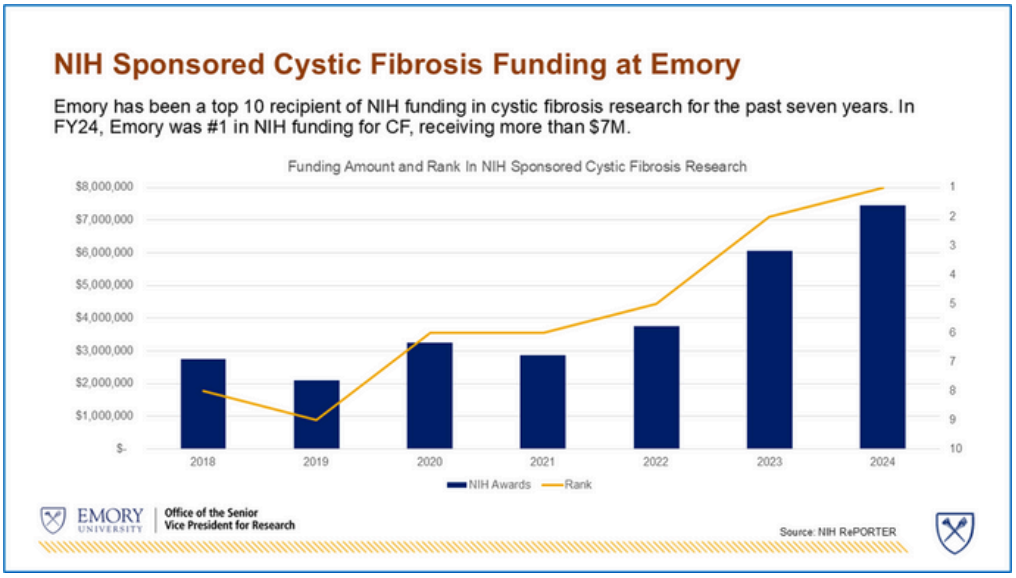
Dr. Nael McCarty



Dear Friends, Patients, and Families,

We hope this e-Newsletter finds you well, and already enjoying the start of a great summer.

We are happy to provide you with this update on activities at CF@LANTA and CF-AIR. There's a lot of great news for you! One piece of news that makes me especially proud is the following. We received notice from the Office of the Vice President for Research at Emory, reporting that Emory University ranked #1 in the country for CF-related research from the National Institutes of Health (see figure) in fiscal year 2024. What a great milestone for us!



It's important to note a few things here. First, CF@LANTA includes Emory/Children's, of course, but we also have lots of funded research with partners at Georgia Tech, Georgia State, UGA, and Augusta University that would add to a much larger total for NIH funding. We also know that there is a lot of funding to our research teams from the CF Foundation. A snapshot of that funding for last month showed that Emory received over $3.4M from the CFF for research and training over the prior year, and that does not include our robust work in CF clinical trials through the Therapeutic Development Network. Indeed, Georgia is THE place to be for CF research! Thank you for your support in making this possible.

Best wishes,
Nael

A Story of Partnership and Success

Allow me to introduce you to Mr. Blake Jones. See that first black-and-white photo, with the gray border? That's Blake at age 2.5 years, just before I met him. Blake is looking at you and me, wanting to know **what we are going to do to save his life.**

I met Blake's mom, Jennifer, about 12 years ago at a CFF-GA event where she was being honored as Volunteer-of-the-Year. I happened to sit down at her table and got to know her. She told me that her son was diagnosed with CF at a few weeks of age, and she immediately got involved in the CF patient and family community. I was invited to come to the family home in Milledgeville, GA, for Blake's 4th birthday party, where I finally got to meet him. Blake was deep into sunglasses then (purple photos).

Over the years, I was invited to attend Blake's clinic visits with him (green photos), and we almost always got to go to lunch before or after, usually at Steak n' Shake (yellow photo). I got to see his struggles as he dealt with this dreadful disease. I got to hear his parents' worries, as they hoped and prayed that research would bring the right tools that would enable his CHOA clinicians to keep him healthy. Mom sent me his clinic report after every visit, so we all could keep track. The family taught me a lot about what our patients go through, and what our patient families crave for their children.

Blake became the poster child that I used in CF lectures for years. He represented CF patients and his family represented CF patient families in presentations to probably 2,000 or more people over time. I'm very grateful for this partnership. The family nearly always made the long drive from Milledgeville to the CFF's annual Great Strides walk-a-thon, where we'd get to catch up. He has a very strong support team, and that has made a huge difference in his life.

A Story of Partnership and Success

In sixth grade, Blake got into cross country (light blue photo), which was an effort to use exercise to keep his lung function up – a very important concept. It worked, but that did make it hard to keep his weight up, too, which turned out to be a temporary problem.

At age 12, Blake got access to the miracle drug, Trikafta, that was identified by the strong collaboration between academic labs and Vertex Pharma (gold photo). Compared to that first photo, now he's smiling! That also allowed him to take up tennis, which he loves (black photo).

Blake attended Georgia Military College Prep School in Milledgeville, and turned into a great student. More importantly, he's a great young man – very family-oriented, thoughtful, and caring. He has a ton of friends. This past May, Blake graduated from GMC Prep and also turned 18. He's now set to attend Georgia Southern University, to study Manufacturing Engineering. I was able to attend his graduation party; he's still into sunglasses (red photo). I guess I am, too.

When Blake was diagnosed, his parents had little reason to hope that he would have a long and happy life. Now, because of the improvements in healthcare for most CF patients made possible by these miracle therapies, Blake and his parents can look forward to all the things a bright and sweet young gentleman can aspire to – there's nothing holding him back. And that success is made possible by the clinical care team members that continue to keep him healthy, the new drugs that hold his symptoms at bay, and the ongoing research by investigators at CF@LANTA and elsewhere that search, non-stop, for a cure. He deserves one.

Blake is only one of ~750 CF patients that we care for at CF@LANTA. All of them are special (even if this one has a particular spot in my heart). We want all of our patients – both children and adults – to have a shot at a fantastic life, hitting milestone after milestone, just like Blake has done (dark blue photo). Every one of them deserves a cure. And with your help, we will make that happen.

Nael A. McCarty, PhD
Director, CF@LANTA

Hope on the Horizon

Children's researchers study promising new treatment option for Cystic Fibrosis

Eight-year-old James Cargal is no fan of the "shake shakes." That's what he and his friends call the activity that interrupts their daily baseball games.

Born with an extremely rare form of cystic fibrosis (CF)—a genetic disorder that primarily affects the lungs and pancreas—part of James' treatment includes wearing a high-frequency chest wall oscillation vest for 30 minutes each day. The inflatable device vibrates to loosen the mucus that collects in the lungs of CF patients. James, who would much rather be playing baseball, used to undergo "shake shakes" twice daily. But not anymore.

James Cargal (center), with Dr. Ajay Kasi (left) and Dr. Rachel Linnemann (right)

Thanks to a new CF drug treatment that was trialed in two simultaneous studies by Children's researchers, James can now replace one of his daily treatments with 30 minutes of exercise. That means he and his friends have more time for baseball.

His mom, Alexia, is thrilled, too, that the results of the trials led to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approving the drug, Alyftrek (vanzacaftor/tezacaftor/deutivacaftor). It's a triple-combination cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) modulator for people with CF ages 6 and older, including those who, like James, have rare mutations of the disease.

In people with CF, mutations in the CFTR gene lead to a dysfunctional CFTR protein. Alyftrek modifies the CFTR protein, which helps maintain the proper balance of fluids and salts in the body and is crucial for keeping airways, digestive tracts and other tissues healthy. Alyftrek was approved for patients who have a responsive CFTR mutation, including 31 rare CFTR mutations that were not eligible for any modulator therapy previously.

"This treatment has been a game-changer for our family," Alexia said. "For us, it was a no-brainer to participate in this research and, hopefully, help other kids like James."

Breakthrough Research

Investigators Rachel Linnemann, MD, and Ajay Kasi, MD, served as national principal investigators for phase three clinical trials of Alyftrek that took place at the Children's CF Care Center.

Hope on the Horizon

Children's researchers study promising new treatment option for Cystic Fibrosis (continued)

In the first study, co-authored by Dr. Linnemann, Alyftrek was shown to be effective at improving lung function in eligible CF patients ages 12 and older, when compared to Trikafta, a related drug. Dr. Kasi co-authored a second study, in which Alyftrek was shown to be safe and effective in eligible CF patients ages 6 to 11.

The results of each trial led to FDA approval of the drug and were published in back-to-back articles in the March 2025 edition of *The Lancet Respiratory Medicine* journal.

"The approval of Alyftrek is a significant CF milestone," said Dr. Kasi, who is a pediatric pulmonologist and medical director of the Technology-Dependent Pulmonary Program at Children's, as well as an associate professor of pediatrics at Emory University School of Medicine. "The study showed it was safe and well-tolerated, improved lung function, and reduced sweat chloride levels—highlighting its efficacy. Improvement in CFTR function could prevent progression of the disease."

"It's exciting that Alyftrek will be an alternative treatment option for people with CF, especially those who weren't previously eligible for any modulator," added Dr. Linnemann, a pediatric pulmonologist and director of the Cystic Fibrosis Care Center at Children's and an associate professor of pediatrics at Emory University School of Medicine.

In addition to reducing how often he must do "shake shakes," Alyftrek has improved the function of James' pancreas. He no longer needs to take digestive enzyme pills whenever he eats, reducing his need for oral medication from more than 40 to just three pills per day.

James Cargal (pictured above) dreams of being the first person with CF to play major-league baseball. Advancements in CF research and treatments are helping to keep that dream alive.

Alexia, a native of Puerto Rico, is thrilled at her son's progression and the hope this new treatment gives their family for the future.

"It has been amazing to be part of this trial, especially as a Spanish-speaking family," she said. "I tell people we can't ever leave Atlanta because I'm not leaving our Children's care team and the research."

Thankfully, even more hope is on the horizon for James and other kids with CF. In 2025, researchers are beginning to test more potentially life-changing treatments, including a bionic pancreas for those with CF-related diabetes and an inhaled mRNA CFTR genetic therapy.

Research Highlight

Recent study conducted by international research team, including members of CF-AIR, reveals potential biomarkers for monitoring and evaluating risk of lung disease in early life CF

A recent study of cystic fibrosis (CF) infants and toddlers, conducted by a multinational team of researchers including several from the Center for Cystic Fibrosis and Airways Disease Research (CF-AIR), revealed potential metabolite biomarkers for monitoring and evaluating risk of lung disease in early life CF.

"Early life elevations of methionine oxidation and ornithine track and predict cystic fibrosis structural lung disease" was published in European Respiratory Journal Open Research on March 25, 2025, with Joshua Chandler, PhD, an Emory University Assistant Professor and Scientific Director of the Pediatric Metabolomics and Biomarkers Core (PMBC), as the corresponding author. The study identified metabolites in CF bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) fluid associated with lung inflammation and lung structural damage. Ultimately, the researchers discovered that methionine sulfoxide, N-acetylmethionine, and ornithine could predict future bronchiectasis in CF toddlers, and could do so more sensitively than established biomarkers such as neutrophil elastase and interleukin-8.

An associate editor wrote of the article: "I anticipate and hope that your paper will serve as a guiding light in the evolving landscape of cystic fibrosis illuminating paths that will help rewrite the history around disease progression."

Dr. Chandler cited crucial involvement of colleagues Rabindra Tirouvanziam, PhD and Lokesh Guglani, MD, whose IMPEDE-CF cohort forms a critical pillar of the publication, and Limin Peng, PhD, of the Rollins School of Public Health, for providing essential biostatistical guidance. Dr. Chandler also cited international and U.S.-based colleagues without whom the study would have been impossible, including researchers at the Erasmus MC-Sophia Children's Hospital (Rotterdam, The Netherlands), the University of Melbourne and Royal Children's Hospital (Melbourne, Australia), and the Telethon Kids Institute (Perth, Australia), and the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. Emory graduate student Sarah Mansour, PhD was the study's first author. Other Emory Department of Pediatrics contributors included Lisa Slimmen, MD (affiliated with the Erasmus MC when conducting this study), Lucas Silva, BS, Genoah Collins, MS, James Lyles, PhD, Vincent Giacalone, PhD, Camilla Margaroli, PhD, and Diego Moncada-Giraldo, PhD.

This study was funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the Hertz Family Foundation, the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council, and the American Society of Hematology.

ERJ Open Research is an open access, original research journal published by the European Respiratory Society (ERS). The journal article can be found here.

We hope measurement of these metabolites in early life could help pediatricians better gauge lung disease risk in their patients. They may also be useful for evaluating interventions targeting lung disease. To facilitate that, we are working on validating their utility in less invasive sampling methods, such as breath.
-Dr. Joshua Chandler

Recent News and Updates

Introducing Dr. Kelly Ko and Emily Seibert

These two new CF Care team members bring critical skillsets to supporting our patients with CF.

Kelly Ko
PharmD, BCACP
Clinical Pharmacy Specialist for Pulmonology

"I look forward to all the interdisciplinary relationship-building opportunities at Emory and Children's through Bipartite and research collaborations. The landscape of Cystic Fibrosis treatment is continuously changing, so I am very excited to be a part of this team to better our patients' outcomes."

Kelly Ko, PharmD, BCACP, completed pharmacy school in St. Louis, Missouri. She continued her clinical training by pursing a 2-year residency at Christiana Care Health System in Delaware and completed her PGY1 in Pharmacy Practice and PGY2 in Ambulatory Care. After graduating residency, Dr. Ko started her career as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at the Hospital of University of Pennsylvania – Harron Lung Center. During her time at Penn, she managed patients with Cystic Fibrosis, interstitial Lung Disease, Sarcoidosis, Asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Bronchiectasis, and Mycobacterial Lung Disease. She loved her time caring for her patients at the Penn Medicine adult Cystic Fibrosis Program, but she was ready to move home closer to family.

Dr. Ko joined the CF Care team in April 2025 as the Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at the Emory Adult Cystic Fibrosis Clinic. She is excited to be a part of this dynamic team environment.

Emily Seibert
LPC, RPT, NCC
Behavioral and Mental Health Therapist

"I'm so excited and honored to join such a great team dedicated to providing care to the CF community. Everyone I have met has been so welcoming and has demonstrated strong commitment to going above and beyond to helping patients and families."

Emily Seibert, LPC, RPT, NCC, joined Children's Healthcare of Atlanta in October 2024. She is a Behavioral and Mental Health Therapist and a Mental Health Coordinator at the CF Care clinic.

Emily is a Licensed Professional Counselor and Registered Play Therapist, having worked with children, teens, young adults, and families in different settings, including in non-profits and in private practice. As a therapist, she provides a space to express inner thoughts and feelings and help patients gain skills and confidence to cope with life challenges. She brings fun and creative elements into her work with patients too!

Emily attended UGA for both undergraduate and graduate programs, so she is a big fan of UGA football. She enjoys hiking, reading, spending time with friends and family, and taking long walks with her dog. Working with children and families living with chronic illness has always been important to her, so she is very happy to be part of the Children's Cystic Fibrosis Clinic team.

Recent News and Updates

Celebrating the 2023-2025 CF Scholars

We're excited to recognize and congratulate the 2023–2025 CF Scholars cohort for completing the CF Scholars Program! Over the past two years, these outstanding trainees have deepened their knowledge of cystic fibrosis (CF), built strong connections across disciplines, and strengthened their ability to collaborate, communicate, and advocate, both for science and for patients.

Led by Drs. Rachel Linnemann, Kathryn Oliver, and Benjamin Kopp, the CF Scholars Program is built around team science and intentional collaboration between CF clinicians and researchers. Scholars gain firsthand experience in how both fields work together to improve care, develop treatments, and support individuals and families affected by CF. Through regular sessions, lab visits, and conversations with experts, scholars leave the program with a broader understanding of CF and a strong foundation for future leadership in the field.

Meet the 2023–2025 CF Scholars

- Crystal Cobb, DO – Endocrinology Fellow, Emory University
- Brian Dobosh, PhD – Postdoctoral Fellow, Emory University
- Isaac Estrada, PhD Candidate – Georgia Institute of Technology
- Mary Ellen Fain, MD – Pediatric Pulmonology Fellow, Emory University
- Xiangming Ji, PhD – Assistant Professor of Nutrition, Georgia State University
- Morgana Letizia, PhD – Postdoctoral Fellow, Georgia Institute of Technology
- Deepali Luthra, PhD – Postdoctoral Fellow, Emory University
- Hazel Ozuna, PhD – Postdoctoral Fellow, Emory University
- Katherine Lynne Ross, MD – Pediatric Pulmonology Fellow, Emory University
- Parker Smith, PhD – Postdoctoral Fellow, Georgia Institute of Technology
- Jiafeng (Stuart) Song, PhD Candidate – Duke University

We're proud of everything they've accomplished and look forward to seeing where their work takes them next.

Applications Now Open for the 2025–2027 CF Scholars Cohort

We're now accepting applications for the next cycle of the CF Scholars Program. If you're a predoctoral or postdoctoral researcher, clinician, or early-career scientist interested in CF, this could be a great fit for you.

To learn more about the program, check eligibility, and complete the application, visit our website at https://bit.ly/CF-Scholars.

For more information about CF Scholars, please reach out to Dr. Clovis Sarmiento at csarmi3@emory.edu.

Recent News and Updates

Spotlight on Biostatistics Support

The Pediatric Biostatistics Core plays a vital role in CF-AIR's mission by providing continuous, sustained, and specialized statistical support across a wide range of cystic fibrosis (CF) research initiatives. Two key members of the Core, Dr. Shasha Bai and Mr. Scott Gillespie, have helped CF-AIR investigators secure competitive grants, navigate complex data, and translate findings into scientific advances that benefit people with CF. Both Dr. Bai and Mr. Gillespie have been long-term biostatisticians for CF and related diseases, with a combined experience of over 20 years. Their collaborative projects span health equity and exposome research, clinical trials, and translational science, covering a wide range of topics such as discrete choice experiments, mechanistic studies of CFTR-related inflammation and vitamin D status, symptom clusters, glycemic response to modulators, and innovative education delivery for families.

A recent highlight is the 2024 CFF Health Equity Team Science Award, granted for the proposal *"Ascertaining Influence of Geographic Ancestry and Environmental Exposome on Health Inequities in Human Disease."* This multidisciplinary collaboration brought together projects in CF genomics, endocrinology, nutrition, and immunology. Dr. Bai and Mr. Gillespie served as lead biostatisticians for the funded endocrinology (PI: Dr. Tanicia Daley) and nutrition (PI: Dr. Jessica Alvarez) projects, providing critical input on study design and analytic planning.

Beyond new funding, Dr. Bai and Mr. Gillespie provide ongoing support to NIH or CFF funded projects and investigator-initiated projects. These include investigations of environmental exposures and immunosenescence (PI: Dr. Ben Kopp), CF symptom science (PI: Dr. Dio Kavalieratos), glucose monitoring and metabolism (PIs: Drs. Daley, Ross, and Stecenko), and longitudinal pediatric outcomes after modulator therapy (PIs: Drs. Stecenko and Kamaleswaran). They also serve in advisory roles such as scholarly oversight committees, data monitoring for early-phase studies, and analytic leadership for manuscripts and presentations at national meetings. Both are actively involved in mentoring pulmonary fellows, residents, and post-docs.

Dr. Shasha Bai (pictured, right) with Scott Gillespie (left)

Dr. Bai was the recipient of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Statistical Expertise and Network Award from 2020–2023, a three-year funding mechanism to integrate and cultivate specialized statistical expertise in collaborative CF research. She also serves as a standing committee member of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Clinical Research Committee.

Together, Dr. Bai and Mr. Gillespie exemplify the collaborative spirit and technical rigor that the Pediatric Biostatistics Core brings to CF-AIR. Their work enables CF investigators to pursue bold ideas, uncover new patterns in data, and ultimately improve care and outcomes for people living with cystic fibrosis.

Recent News and Updates

CF-AIR celebrated the end of the academic year with a social and potluck lunch on May 29, 2025.

Congratulations to our winners for “best dishes”: Jonica Brown, Irina Miralda, Alexander Terwindt, and Laura Rotolo.

CF Care Team members recently supported the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation’s ShamRockin’ for a Cure with a charity donation, with the team member with the most votes dressing as a leprechaun. Winner Dr. Ben Kopp (pictured, center) dressed the part!

Spring Bipartite

Children’s + Emory Care Center’s Spring Bipartite, held on May 14, 2025, provided an opportunity for clinical and research staff serving both children and adult patients with cystic fibrosis to share updates and connect with each other on their current and future work.

Drs. Mary Ellen Fain, Randy Hunt and Rachel Linnemann presented on the “Fetal experience with CFTR Modulation,” followed by announcements on recent research accomplishments by Drs. Kimmy Dickinson, Lokesh Guglani and Ben Kopp. Dr. Kopp then presented on “Smoke Exposure in People with Cystic Fibrosis.” The team wrapped up the afternoon with the “2025 CF Jeopardy Salty Cup Championship.”

This event provided an opportunity for the team to connect with each other and to also learn about the exciting happenings in both clinic and in research.

Recent Publications

Kudos to...

- First author Dr. Bum-Yong Kang and contributing authors Drs. Jiwoong Choi, Wilbur Lam, Viranuj Sueblinvong, Ben Kopp on their paper, “USP11 Promotes Endothelial Apoptosis-Resistance in Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension by Deubiquitinating HINT3,” *J Respir Biol Transl Med*, March 2025.
- Senior author Dr. Joanna Goldberg and first author Joshua Robertson, for their article, “The impact of cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) modulators on the pulmonary microbiota,” *Microbiology (Reading),* April 2025.
- Senior author Dr. Vin Tangpricha and first author Dr. Crystal Cobb on their paper, “Cystic fibrosis-related bone disease: an update on screening, diagnosis, and treatment,” *Ther Adv Endocrinol Metab*, April 2025.
- Senior author Dr. Joseph Kindler and contributing authors Drs. Tanicia Daley, XianYan Chen, Bradley Phillips, as well as Wang Shin Lei and Lingyu Zhao, for their article, ““Effect of GIP and GLP-1 infusion on bone resorption in glucose intolerant, pancreatic insufficient cystic fibrosis,” *J Clin Transl Endocrinol,* 7 April 2025.
- Contributing authors Drs. Joanna Goldberg and Dina Moustafa on their recent publication, “Monoclonal antibodies derived from B cells in subjects with cystic fibrosis reduce Pseudomonas aeruginosa burden in mice,” *Elife*, 24 April 2025.
- Co-senior authors Drs. Shuichi Takayama and Rabindra Tirouvanziam, along with contributing authors Drs. Jocelyn Grunwell, Anne Fitzpatrick, Nga L Ng, Wilbur Lam, Xianggui Qu, Evelyn Williams, as well as Ahmad Mohammad, Kirsten Cottrill, Dr. Susan Stephenson, Dr. Vincent Giacalone, Daniel Feng, Andrea Li, Cauviya Selva, Kendra Washington, Seongbin Jo, Liang-Hsin Chen, and Dr. Hannah Viola, on their recent paper, “High-throughput quantitation of human neutrophil recruitment and functional responses in an air-blood barrier array,” *APL Bioeng*, 25 April 2025.
- Contributing author Dr. Crystal Cobb on her recent publication, “Menopause in Cystic Fibrosis: Special Considerations for Bone Health, Menopausal Symptoms, and Treatment,” *Endocr Pract.* 28 April 2025.
- Senior author Dr. Kathryn Oliver, first author Dr. Miquieas Lopes-Pacheco, and contributing authors Ashlyn Winters and Dr. JaNise Jackson on their paper, ““Recent developments in cystic fibrosis drug discovery: where are we today?” *Expert Opin Drug Discov*., May 2025.
- Contributing authors Drs. Ben Kopp, Vivien Sheehan, and Stefanie Ebelt on their publication, “Altered nasal and oral microbiomes define pediatric sickle cell disease,” *mSphere*, 14 May 2025.
- Senior author Dr. Joanna Goldberg, first author Rachel Robinson and contributing authors Joshua Robertson and Samantha Prezioso, PhD on their article, “Temperature controls LasR regulation of *piv* expression in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*,” *mBio*, 20 May 2025.
- *S*enior author Dr. Joanna Goldberg, first author Rachel Robinson and contributing authors Joshua Robertson and Dr. Dina Moustafa on their recent publication, *“piv* does not impact *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* virulence in *Galleria mellonella,” Microbiol Spectr*, 21 May 2025.
- Dr. Vin Tangpricha, contributing author on “Fertility and family-building experiences and perspectives of males with cystic fibrosis,” *Reprod Biol Endocrinol*, 29 May 2025.
- Senior author Dr. Marvin Whiteley, first author Dr. Morgana Letizia, and contributing author Dr. Steve Diggle on “*Pseudomonas aeruginosa:* ecology, evolution, pathogenesis and antimicrobial susceptibility,” in *Nat Rev Microbiol,* 29 May 2025.
- Senior author Dr. Ben Kopp and first author John Moran on their paper, “ENaC contributes to macrophage dysfunction in cystic fibrosis,” *Am J Physiol Lung Cell Mol Physiol,* 2 June 2025.

Recent Accomplishments

Kudos to...

Our Recent Graduates

Crystal Cobb, DO
Completed her CFF fellowship; incoming faculty, UMass

Emily Freestone
B.S. with Highest Honors in Biology (Pre-Med)

Shriya Iyer
Bachelor, Highest Honors, Anthropology Program

Sarah Mansour
PhD, Emory BCDB program

Lenore Monterroza
PhD, Cancer Biology Program

Ashley Murphy
Emory undergraduate

Morgan Pettis
Emory undergraduate

Katie Ross, MD
Pediatric pulmonary fellowship graduate; incoming faculty, Children's Hospital LA

Matthea Schor
B.S., Highest Honors, Biology (minor in Nutrition Science)

Dr. Kathryn Oliver (r) and Emily Freestone

Dr. Jessica Alvarez (l) and Matthea Schor

Community Events

Atlanta Great Strides

Great Strides Towards a Cure for Cystic Fibrosis

On Saturday, May 17th, CF-AIR, CF@LANTA, and the CF Care Team supported the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and its Great Strides walk through Suwanee Town Center. This CFF community event brought together all those working towards a cure for CF, raising awareness, support, and over $2.7 million in funds. Our team was honored to lead the walk and enjoyed being part of this special event!

CF-AIR Seminar Series, 2025-2026 Academic Year

SUMMER/FALL 2025 SCHEDULE			
Date	**Time**	**Type**	**Presenter**
31-July	1-2 PM	Journal Club	Sam Durfey, PhD
7-Aug	1-2 PM	Journal Club	Collin Leese-Thompson
21-Aug	1-2 PM	Research Highlight	Miquéias Lopes Pacheco, PhD
28-Aug	1-2 PM	Social/Trainee Focused	Birthdays & Rapid Fire Training (Megan Vallowe, PhD & Julie Hawk, PhD)
4-Sept	1-2 PM	Guest Lecturer	Lindsay Caverly, MD (Michigan)
11-Sept	1-2 PM	Research Highlight	Julie Champion, PhD (Georgia Tech)
18-Sept	1-2 PM	Trainee Focused	Kathryn Oliver, PhD-NACFC Jr. Investigator Success Strategies
19-Sept	9 AM-3 PM	Special Event	CF-AIR Research Retreat at Children's Support Building
25-Sept	1-2 PM	Journal Club	NACFC Practice Talk Session
1-Oct	1-2 PM	Guest Lecturer	Isabelle Sermet, MD, PhD (Necker Hospital, Paris, France)
2-Oct	1-2 PM	Research Highlight	Shu Takayama, PhD, MS (Georgia Tech)
9-Oct	1-2 PM	Journal Club	NACFC Practice Talk Session
16-Oct	1-2 PM	Trainee Focused	Molly Epstein, PhD (Emory University, Goizeta Business School)
30-Oct	1-2 PM	Social	Halloween
6-Nov	1-2 PM	Journal Club	What We Learned at NACFC
13-Nov	1-2 PM	Special Event	Joint Seminar with HeRO
20-Nov	1-2 PM	Trainee Focused	Ryan Lowhorn (Ga Tech)
4-Dec	1-2 PM	TBD	TBD
11-Dec	1-2 PM	Social	Holiday party/White Elephant
SPRING 2026 SCHEDULE			
Date	**Time**	**Type**	**Presenter**
8-Jan	1-2 PM	Journal Club	Jonica Brown
15-Jan	1-2 PM	Guest Lecturer	Stephanie Lovinsky-Desir, MD (Columbia University)
22-Jan	1-2 PM	Trainee Focused	Lauren Boitet, PhD (UAB)
29-Jan	1-2 PM	Research Highlight	Nael McCarty, PhD
5-Feb	1-2 PM	Guest Lecturer	Paul Kubes, PhD (U. of Calgary)
12-Feb	1-2 PM	Journal Club	Irina Miralda, PhD
19-Feb	1-2 PM	Trainee Focused	Liz McCarty and Amelia Randall
26-Feb	1-2 PM	Research Highlight	Drs. Tanicia Daley, Jessica Alvarez & Darko Stefanovski (UPenn)
5-Mar	1-2 PM	Guest Lecturer	Dr. Anupama Khare (NIH)
12-Mar	1-2 PM	Journal Club	Su Yeon Oh, MS
19-Mar	1-2 PM	Trainee Focused	TBD
26-Mar	1-2 PM	Research Highlight	Andrew Gewirtz, PhD (Georgia State)
2-Apr	1-2 PM	Guest Lecturer	Andrea Kelly, MD, MSCE (CHOP)
9-Apr	1-2 PM	Journal Club	Erica Browne
16-Apr	1-2 PM	Trainee Focused	TBD
23-Apr	1-2 PM	Research Highlight	Drs. Lisa Staimez, David Reiter & Priya Vellanki
30-Apr	1-2 PM	Social	Birthdays/Spring Potluck
7-May	1-2 PM	Guest Lecturer	Michelle Hastings, PhD (Michigan)
14-May	1-2 PM	Journal Club	JaNise Jackson, PhD
21-May	1-2 PM	Trainee Focused	TBD
28-May	1-2 PM	Research Highlight	Colin Swenson, MD

Around the Research Organization

2025 Pediatric Early Career Researcher Conference

September 9, 2025 | Health Sciences Research Building Auditorium & Café | 8:00am – 5:00pm

Join us for this conference geared towards early career researchers focused on child health related research. It will be a fun-filled day with great science and valuable networking!

Please click here to register to attend the conference

Visit our webpage for up-to-date information, or email Debra Hamilton (drhamil@emory.edu) with questions.

Pediatric Core Services

Offer the equipment, tools, and skilled professionals to make research faster and more impactful. From imaging and data analysis to clinical trial support, our pediatric cores provide key resources and expert support to help researchers at every step.

Researchers, check out details about our pediatric research core services here or via the QR code. For any questions or details, please reach out to Cores Administrator, Julie Flores.

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