

19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

# RESPIRATORY DISEASE Young Investigators' Forum

## 2023 PROGRAM NEWSLETTER



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

- Meet the 2023 award winners
- Meet the 2023 Faculty
- Learn how the Forum impacts the future of physician-scientists
- Share with colleagues who are eligible to submit abstracts in 2024

"The 2023 Young Investigators' Forum was a huge success, providing early-career researchers an opportunity to present their work in a friendly, engaging, thoughtful and constructive environment. Presentations spanned the research spectrum, from the most basic to purely clinical, with interesting and exciting research on topics ranging from the molecular to the cellular to the organoid, animal, human and even the sun! I am grateful for the opportunity to have served as the Chair of this incredible event."

– Jeff Swigris, DO, MS (Program Chair)

**Join us in 2024!**

**Abstract Deadline is  
June 10, 2024**

**[NJHealth.org/YIF2024](https://www.njhealth.org/YIF2024)**

Please share with fellows and early career faculty at your institution



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## Dear Colleague:

I am thrilled to announce the successful conclusion of the Nineteenth Annual Respiratory Disease Young Investigators' Forum, which was held in Denver, CO, from October 26 to 29, 2023. This forum served as a pivotal gathering for researchers in the early stages of their careers, specifically focusing on respiratory disease.

Our distinguished faculty meticulously curated 30 of the most compelling abstracts from Young Investigators, including fellows and early career faculty in pediatric, pulmonary, allergy, and immunology, hailing from across the nation. These talented individuals were not only invited to showcase their research but were also provided with multiple opportunities for constructive feedback and the chance to vie for top honors.

The primary objective of the Forum was to foster connections between young investigators and seasoned faculty and peers in the respiratory disease domain. The aim was to refine research methodologies, elevate presentation and communication skills, and instill and reinforce a passion for a career in respiratory and related disease research.

Undoubtedly, this forum stands out as a unique opportunity for young investigators to engage directly with senior faculty. Beyond facilitating successful research presentations, the overarching goal of the forum is to impart early career development skills, paving the way for the emergence of future leaders in respiratory research. As we mark its 19th year, the forum continues to prove its immense value as a pivotal and impactful annual event for fellows and junior faculty embarking on their research journeys.

On behalf of the Expert Faculty, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to the 2023 Young Investigators on their outstanding achievements. We wish them continued success in all their future endeavors! We also extend an invitation to you to share this newsletter with young investigators at your institution, encouraging their participation in future editions of this transformative event.

**Jeff Swigris, DO, MS**  
National Jewish Health  
Program Chair

### 2023 Expert Faculty

**Cori Daines, MD**  
University of Arizona  
Tucson, AZ

**Ravi Kalhan, MD, MS**  
Northwestern University  
Chicago, IL

**Rohit Katial, MD**  
National Jewish Health  
Denver, CO

**Janet Lee, MD**  
Washington University School  
of Medicine  
St. Louis, MO

**Victor E. Ortega, MD, PhD**  
Mayo Clinic  
Scottsdale, AZ

**Charles A. Powell, MD, MBA**  
Icahn School of Medicine  
at Mount Sinai  
New York, NY

**Mihaela Teodorescu, MD, MS**  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison, WI

### 2023 Research Advisors

**Deepika Polineni, MD, MPH**  
Washington University School of Medicine  
St Louis, MO

**Mary Beth Scholand, MD**  
University of Utah  
Salt Lake City, UT

**Michael E. Wechsler, MD, MMSc**  
National Jewish Health  
Denver, CO

*"Once again, the young investigators showed bright intellect, curiosity, and hunger to learn from colleagues and faculty. The Forum is unique in that it combines robust discussion of scientific research with conversations about setting careers up for success."*

— Charles A. Powell, MD, MBA  
(2023 Expert Faculty)

# 2023 AWARD RECIPIENTS

## First Place Basic Science



### Eno-Obong Essien, MD

University of Pennsylvania | Philadelphia, PA

“The most unique part of this conference was its intimate format which not only facilitated interesting discussions but also established a collegial atmosphere for receiving constructive feedback. It was also a great experience for networking with outstanding junior investigators whose research I found very inspiring. I am glad I had the opportunity to attend this Forum and would recommend it to other fellows and junior faculty.”

### Research Title: Nanoparticles for Lung Disease: Risks, Challenges, and Solutions

“It was truly an honor to be selected for this award amongst an exceptional group of researchers. I am grateful to my mentor, lab colleagues and collaborators, all of whom made the work I presented possible.”

## First Place Clinical Research



### Agnes S. Montgomery, MD

Children’s National Hospital | Washington, DC

“The Young Investigators’ Forum has truly been a highlight of my time in fellowship. Each aspect of the three-day program was thoughtfully designed to facilitate the exchange of valuable feedback and the cultivation of meaningful collaborations between both the distinguished faculty and enthusiastic participants. It was evident that the faculty are all very passionate about their involvement and dedicated ample time to provide insightful and constructive feedback on each participant’s research. The intimate size of the conference created an ideal environment to foster productive conversations with individuals I look forward to connecting with in the future. This invaluable experience has solidified my desire to pursue a career as a physician-scientist and I am so grateful for the privilege to have been a part of the YIF!”

### Research Title: Prematurity and Obstructive Sleep Apnea Risk in Early Childhood: The Role of Early-Life Lower Respiratory Tract Infections

“I am deeply humbled and profoundly honored to have been recognized alongside the outstanding work presented by the other participants. My participation in the YIF is a poignant reminder that our work is interconnected and does not exist in isolation, but is part of a collective effort to improve healthcare — I am proud to be part of this mission. I am very grateful for the support of my mentors, whose expertise and guidance have been instrumental in making this achievement possible.”

**100%**  
of evaluation  
respondents reported  
confidence after the  
Forum in:

Presenting scientific  
research to expert faculty

Articulating strengths/  
weaknesses of my research

Incorporating peer/expert feedback  
to enhance research presentations

# 2023 AWARD RECIPIENTS

## Second Place Basic Science



### Daniel Colon Hidalgo, MD

University of Colorado | Boulder, CO

“I had the privilege of attending the RDYIF, and it exceeded all my expectations. I enjoyed the environment of intellectual curiosity and a shared passion for advancing scientific knowledge. The diverse range of presentations showcased groundbreaking research across various areas of pulmonary medicine. The organizers’ meticulous planning ensured a seamless experience, from registration to the engaging panel sessions. As a young investigator, I felt truly inspired by the supportive community that surrounded me. This conference is a must-attend for any aspiring researcher looking to connect, learn, and contribute.”

### **Research Title: Genetic Variant of EC-SOD Leads to Worsened Pulmonary Hypertension Severity Due to Alterations in Mitochondrial Function**

“Every aspect of the conference was thoughtfully curated to facilitate networking and idea exchange. The opportunity to engage with fellow young investigators and established professionals alike was invaluable, providing a platform for mentorship and collaboration. I left the conference feeling motivated, enlightened, and with a newfound sense of belonging to a community dedicated to pushing the boundaries of knowledge.”

## Second Place Clinical Research



### Jonathan Rose, MD

Brigham and Women’s Hospital | Boston, MA

“I left each session inspired and filled with new insights. The guidance and support provided by world-renowned faculty went far beyond anything I had expected. Unlike at larger national conferences, we had their undivided attention for the entire weekend, and their willingness to share their wisdom, give candid advice, and provide constructive feedback on our work was truly incredible. I also greatly appreciated the ability to meet like-minded peers—the supportive, collaborative atmosphere was encouraged right from the beginning. Dr. Swigris said, “let’s lift each other up,” and that’s just what happened as we networked, exchanged ideas, and supported each other’s work. This conference is a must for any young investigator who is working towards a career in research.”

### **Research Title: Protein Biomarkers of Interstitial Lung Abnormalities in First-Degree Relatives of Patients with Pulmonary Fibrosis**

“I am deeply honored to receive this award among such talented young researchers. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the organizers for this amazing opportunity, to my mentors for their exceptional support and guidance, and to the incredible team whose expertise and dedication have made this research possible. This award motivates me to continue our shared pursuit of knowledge and innovation in order to improve the care of our patients.”

# 2023 AWARD RECIPIENTS

## Third Place Basic Science



### Matthew McCarra, MD

Stanford University | Stanford, CA

“The Young Investigators’ Forum was such an amazing and inspiring experience that I whole heartedly, without reservation recommend to all budding physician-scientists. Seeing the breadth, depth, and quality of research from all participants was humbling and motivating. The opportunity to interact with other young investigators and senior faculty outside my own division on such a deep, personal level was an incredibly unique and valuable experience. I’m truly grateful for the opportunity to participate in such an amazing event.”

### Research Title: TERT Expressing Alveolar Type II Cells As Unipotent Progenitors of the Distal Lung

“Being selected for this research award amongst such high-caliber and impressive work from all the participants was an unexpected and deep honor. The path to becoming a physician-scientist requires considerable delayed gratification so being recognized for my hard work and dedication to science is incredibly validating.”

## Third Place Clinical Research



### Kristin Berger, MD

Weill Cornell Medical Center | New York, NY

“The Young Investigators’ Forum provided an incredible opportunity to receive thoughtful input on my ongoing research, as well as impactful mentorship from experts in the field of pulmonary and critical care medicine. It was also wonderful to connect with physician-scientist peers from across the country; it was inspiring to hear about the work that they are doing. The YIF was an amazing experience overall, and I feel very grateful to have been able to participate.”

### Research Title: Airway Tree Caliber and Subclinical Interstitial Lung Disease in Community-Dwelling Adults: The Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA)

“I was very impressed by the research that was presented at the YIF, and as such feel quite honored to have my project be recognized. It would not have been possible without the tremendous support from my research mentors. It was a privilege to present my work in this setting.”

## FORUM FEEDBACK



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



**93%** of evaluation respondents rated the time for networking as excellent.

## Young Investigators report their satisfaction with the Forum:



**100%** of evaluation respondents reported that they would recommend this program to their colleagues.



**100%** of evaluation respondents rated the expert faculty feedback and networking with expert faculty as helpful or very helpful.



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# Respiratory Disease YOUNG INVESTIGATORS' FORUM

October 17-20, 2024

We are thrilled to announce the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Respiratory Disease Young Investigators' Forum! For the past two decades, this landmark event has been at the forefront of advancing respiratory medicine, showcasing the exceptional talent and groundbreaking research of physician-scientists in their early careers.

Don't miss the chance to add to the legacy of this historic event! Join us in celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Respiratory Disease Young Investigators' Forum by submitting a research abstract and be a driving force in shaping the future of respiratory medicine.



**2024 CALL FOR RESEARCH ABSTRACTS**

Deadline:  
June 3, 2024

