2025 PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

7TH ANNUAL

EGFR RESISTERS RESEARCH SUMMIT

An academic research summit focused on research productivity, career development, and community-building for junior faculty, fellows, and postdoctoral researchers

cec HEALTHCARE EDUCATION | EGFR esisters

Presented by the EGFR Resisters and Creative Educational Concepts LLC
Supported through an independent educational grant from AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals.

2025 EGFR Resisters Research Summit Recap

2025 EGFR-RRS Young Investigators, Patient Advocates, and Expert Judge Mentors

This year, the 7th Annual EGFR Resisters Research Summit was convened November 6–8 in Chicago, Illinois. On Thursday evening, we kicked off the Summit with a welcome dinner. After dinner, the young investigators heard from Jill Feldman, co-founder of the EGFR Resisters, who introduced the participants to the mission of the EGFR Resisters patient group, the history of the Summit, and the critical need for continued advancements in research into EGFR-mutant non–small cell lung cancer. This presentation was followed by a panel discussion with the faculty mentors, which gave the faculty a chance to discuss their careers, offer advice and answer mentee questions, and set the stage for an exciting day of mentorship and learning ahead.

On Friday morning, the workshop began with a virtual presentation by Álvaro Guimarães Paula, who presented his work on novel approaches to overcome osimertinib resistance mediated by BRAF fusions. This project, inspired by Ivy Elkins, co-founder of the EGFR Resisters, underscored to Summit participants the power of working with patient advocates. From there, we dove into an exciting day of research presentations by the young investigators. Over the course of the day, our participants presented on a wide variety of research projects, ranging from lab-based basic science work focused on the biology of EGFR-mutant cancer to epidemiologic studies of risk factors associated wxith lung cancer, to ongoing clinical trials of new treatment approaches. The investigators fielded questions and received feedback from the panel of expert judges, patient advocates and their peers. This year, the young investigators participated in formal training in public speaking prior to the workshop, and the judges were uniformly impressed by their presentations and work.

Throughout the day, small group breakout sessions allowed for mentoring and networking between participants and mentors in a smaller, more intimate setting. Topics of discussion ranged from searching for jobs after fellowship, grant funding, work-life balance, and many others. As in the past, these small group sessions were a highlight of the program for both young investigators and faculty, who enjoyed the opportunity to forge connections that we hope will last long after the Summit.

The EGFR Resisters Research Summit concluded with an awards ceremony and reception on Friday evening, a capstone to a collegial and inspiring program. This year, we saw three young investigators recognized for their exemplary work, including the awarding of the Ivy Elkins Research Summit Award to the young investigator with the top-ranked presentation.

As part of the annual EGFR Resisters Research Summit tradition, Jill Feldman and Zosia Piotrowska participated in a recap video to provide members of the EGFR Resisters a highlight of the exciting work within EGFR-positive NSCLC. **Click here to view the video**.

> "A huge goal of the Summit is not only to have that formal mentorship, but to establish and build this network of investigators and researchers in the space together with faculty mentors, together with the patient advocacy community, so that we all work together with the same goal in mind."
>
> —Zofia Piotrowska, MD, MHS, Activity Chair

> "I'm seeing this culture shift in really thinking about people—so understanding that behind every data point is a person and a family that's profoundly impacted beyond statistics and beyond survival. We heard that in so many presentations as they talked about patients and what this means for them and their families. That really gave me just as much hope as the innovative research they were presenting."
>
> —Jill Feldman, Patient Advocate

Reflections

EGFR Resisters Co-Founder Jill Feldman

Reflecting on the 7th Annual EGFR Resisters Research Summit, I am reminded once again why this work matters so deeply. From the beginning, our goal was simple but ambitious: bring the next generation of EGFR researchers together with experienced mentors and advocates and create an environment that fosters collaborative efforts, connection, and, ultimately, progress. I am still amazed at how profoundly this Summit shapes my own experience as an advocate.

Every year, I have had the privilege of sitting in a room filled with brilliant, passionate early-career investigators who have dedicated their careers to improving outcomes for people like me—something I never imagined when I first got involved in advocacy in 2001. Their potential to shape the future of lung cancer is a source of hope and optimism. Watching them present their ideas, receive thoughtful feedback, and grow as scientists is one of the greatest privileges of my advocacy. They are the future of lung cancer, and knowing that this Summit plays even a small part in supporting their growth is meaningful in ways that are hard to put into words.

What continues to make this Summit special is that it isn't only about the science. It's about collaboration. The deep, honest conversations about work-life balance, grant writing, partnerships, successes, and setbacks are a reminder that research doesn't happen in silos. It occurs through mentorship, support, and genuine relationships. The Summit also reinforces the power of advocacy in its truest sense: not just raising awareness or funding research, but building an environment where early-career investigators feel supported, valued, and connected to the urgency and people behind every data point.

I am grateful for AstraZeneca's continued support and for the CEC team's steady behind the scenes work. To our mentor judges and every investigator who has participated, your commitment fuels HOPE. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

We are facing a moment of real uncertainty in cancer research. Federal funding cuts, including the complete elimination of the $25 million Department of Defense (DOD) Lung Cancer Research Program, put us at risk of losing an entire generation of researchers. Beyond any project or lab, the ripple effect has significant consequences from basic science to clinical trials to patient outcomes. That's why supporting early-career investigators is critical. If we don't invest in them today, we will limit what's possible in the future.

Yet, I've been here before. In my early advocacy days, lung cancer research was woefully underfunded. It took almost a decade before federal funding began to increase. During that time, advocacy organizations filled the gap—because we had to. And many of those early investments helped researchers secure major grants that have reshaped the field. We can do it again.

The difference today is our community. We have mobilized a committed, informed, and passionate group of patients, caregivers, advocates, researchers, clinicians, and partners. That collective effort is powerful and exactly what we need to protect the progress we fought so hard to achieve.

Jill Feldman

About the EGFR Resisters Patient Advocacy Group

Established in 2017 by 7 original members—who draw on their experience as patients, survivors, caregivers, and healthcare providers—the EGFR Resisters represent a grassroots, patient-driven community dedicated exclusively to changing EGFR-mutated lung cancer into a chronic, manageable disease. With more than 6,200 members from 99 countries across the globe, the EGFR Resisters have become a well-established and widely-known oncogene driver group that is galvanizing research efforts in meaningful and unique ways, including data gathering efforts such as Project Priority and the EGFR Resisters Research Summit, which is a Young Investigator Forum that brings together established experts with the next generation of lung cancer researchers.

Reflections

Caregiver and Patient Advocate Kristen Kimball

I was thrilled to attend my first EGFR Resisters Research Summit featuring "young investigators" whose categorization as such belies the lengthy educational and academic/research experience each one of you already carries on your resume. Both due to the caregiver role for my husband, Dave, who lived with EGFR+ lung cancer for 7 years (thanks to research!) and my background in physiology and teaching, I found a subset of the lung cancer community that resonates deeply.

Your presentations were expertly done and improved my awareness of new developments in different research sectors, including survivorship as well as biological mechanisms and future treatments, giving me knowledge to continue to communicate to other members of the lung cancer survivor/caregiver community. You gave me more concrete examples to communicate as reasons for hope. You gave me confidence to ask you questions, including the "dumb question." Your intent to teach us was sincere and clear. And perhaps most important, you gave me hope. Hope that we really will make progress in controlling, eventually perhaps even preventing, a devastating disease. Hope feeds advocacy!

As I continued through a month that is typically difficult—Dave and I loved the Thanksgiving mayhem we used to host, his birthday is coming up, and it's Awareness Month, so all cancer all the time—this meeting provided more of the "all the time" but in a thoroughly restorative manner. Thank you!

As former care partner to Dave, an engineer who strongly supported research and education in every way he could, I endeavor to speak for him as well. Lung cancer is a family diagnosis—however we define our family. Those in our immediate family live a cancer experience, too. The care partner walks a parallel path with the survivor. We observe their experience, try to alleviate the burden, and try to make sure our doctors know the truth when our loved one might hesitate—"she/he is really in pain." And, we have our own lived experience—our own fears, "scanxiety," anger, hope, and attempts to control what is uncontrollable.

We are so dependent on you—clinicians and scientists. We are so grateful for the work you do. Many times, we flat out love you—clinicians especially—but we have a big tent. We want to help. We can all be partners. Keep honing your skills to speak to us in language we both understand. Some of us know a lot of jargon, others are new to it (and some of them will become most expert of all! Like our Jill.)

I saw that the quality I've long observed in the knowledge providers and care providers for this community—humanity, investment in us as people as well as research projects, and plain kindness—will continue in this coming generation. I applaud every one of you. You inspire me with your work, words, and empathy.

Kristen Kimball

"This meeting has helped me get a better sense of how to ground my research in what can be translated to positively impact patients."

"[The most impactful things from the Summit were] learning how to partner with patient advocates and the power of these partnerships for enhancing research."

Reflections

Guest Speaker

Álvaro Guimarães Paula, MD

(Past member of Heymach Lab, Department of Thoracic/Head and Neck Medical Oncology, at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center)
Thoracic Medical Oncologist
Croma Oncologia
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

The Efficacy of NST-628, a Non-degrading Pan-RAF/MEK Molecular Glue, and MEK Inhibitor Trametinib for Overcoming Acquired Osimertinib Resistance Mediated by TRIM24-BRAF Fusion in EGFR Mutant NSCLC

Dr. Guimarães shared research that his team undertook using a synthetic cell line derived from EGFR Resister co-founder Ivy Elkins's raw next-generation sequencing data to study the mechanism that drove her cancer progression. His team found important information for treating future patients, like Ivy. Dr. Guimarães's research exemplifies the power of what can be achieved when patients and advocates collaborate with health professionals and researchers.

Celebrating the Legacy of Ivy Elkins

Ivy Elkins has touched the lives of thousands of people who have lung cancer, health professionals and researchers in the lung cancer space, and industry thought leaders all over the world, through her advocacy work and as a patient with lung cancer. After being diagnosed with stage IV EGFR-positive lung cancer in 2013, Ivy consumed information to become an informed advocate for herself, but that drive for knowledge transformed her experience into a mission and fueled her passion for advocacy. In 2017, Ivy was one of the founding members of the EGFR Resisters, a community dedicated to supporting those affected by EGFR lung cancer and accelerating research to make it a manageable chronic disease. Her tireless dedication, inspiring leadership, and collaborative spirit drove the growth of the EGFR Resisters group.

The EGFR Resisters Research Summit Ivy Elkins Award is presented to honor Ivy's legacy within the EGFR Resisters community. The award is presented to young investigators who demonstrate commitment to the pursuit of establishing innovative and foundational knowledge related to EGFR-mutated adenocarcinoma of the lungs. The EGFR-RRS continues to honor the legacy of Ivy Elkins in patient advocacy and lung cancer research, and to memorialize her efforts by providing a platform that supports promising early career investigators through mentorship, facilitation of collegial connections, and coaching to refine presentation and research defense skills—all of which help promising early career scientists to exponentially increase the productivity of their research and publications and, by extension, continue Ivy's mission to improve and prolong the lives of patients with lung cancer.

2025 EGFR Resisters Research Summit Ivy Elkins Award

Benjamin Morris, PhD
Postdoctoral Research Fellow
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Houston, Texas

Multi-Lineage Evolution of Drug Resistance via a Keratin 17+ Aberrant Basaloid Drug-Tolerant Persister Population in EGFR-Mutant NSCLC

Dr. Benjamin Morris is a CPRIT TRIUMPH Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. He completed undergraduate degrees in nanomedicine engineering and chemistry from the University of Virginia in 2017, and received a doctorate in experimental pathology from the University of Virginia School of Medicine in 2022. His research focuses on using next-generation sequencing approaches to better understand how aggressive lung cancers evolve to resist therapy.

> "Attending the EGFR-RRS will have a profound impact on my professional development. At this meeting, I had the invaluable opportunity to present my research to field leaders and patient advocates. Moreover, I was able to network with a group of my peers, including both clinicians and basic science researchers. I left the EGFR-RRS with new ideas of how to improve my research as well as many new potential collaborators. Moving forward, I'll leverage these connections to conduct impactful translational research as I continue my work and launch my own independent research program."
>
> "I am incredibly grateful to have been awarded the 2025 EGFR Resisters Research Summit Ivy Elkins Award. Funds from this award will support spatial transcriptomic profiling of minimal residual disease samples collected from EGFR-mutant patients whose tumors are responding to targeted therapy. This data will help us deeply characterize phenotypes of the novel drug tolerant persister cell (DTPC) population I reported at the EGFR-RRS meeting. Beyond investigating tumor cell phenotypes, we will be able explore potential cell-cell interactions between this novel DTPC population and tissue resident stromal and immune cells. This analysis will help us better understand if these DTPCs leverage specific mechanisms to escape immune killing. Furthermore, we will attempt to identify cell surface targets that mark our novel DTPC population. Our hope is that these analyses will nominate new ways to eliminate this plastic DTPC population and ultimately improve outcomes for EGFR-mutant patients following frontline targeted therapy."

1st Runner-up

Jacqueline Aredo, MD, MS
Medical Oncology Fellow
Stanford Cancer Institute
Stanford, California

NEOLA: Phase II Study of Induction Osimertinib Prior to Chemoradiotherapy and Maintenance Osimertinib in Unresectable Stage III EGFR-Mutant Non–Small Cell Lung Cancer

> "Returning to the EGFR Resisters Research Summit as an oncology fellow was incredibly impactful in that I was able to network with fellows and early-career faculty who are passionate about advancing care for patients with EGFR-mutated lung cancers. These connections form the basis for future collaborations. I am also grateful to have met with senior faculty mentors who shared guidance on building a career and research focus in thoracic oncology."
>
> "I will use the grant award to support correlative studies for my clinical research and for conference travel and presentation support."

2nd Runner-up

Barliz Waissengrin, MD
Project Scientist
Cedars Sinai Medical Center
Los Angeles, California

Reduced Survival in Black Patients with EGFR-Mutant NSCLC

"Participating in the EGFR young investigator Summit has been both inspiring and impactful for my professional development. The Summit provided a unique opportunity to engage in scientific discussions, gain insights from leaders in the field, and form meaningful connections. It sharpened my research focus, especially around EGFR-related disparities, and generated new ideas that I'm now incorporating into ongoing projects."

"This grant award will support the continuation of our investigation into EGFR disparities among different racial groups. As I mentioned during the presentation, there is still much work to be done, including the analysis of additional social parameters that may influence the results. This award will help fund statistical and data science services to support these analyses."

2025 EGFR-RRS Young Investigator Winners

2025 EGFR Resisters Research Summit Attendees

Muskan Agarwal, MD

Clinical Oncology Fellow

MedStar Georgetown University Hospital

Washington, DC

Concurrent EGFR Exon 19 Deletion and Germline BRCA2 Mutation: A Case Report

Vishwanath Anil, MD

PGY-IV, Hematology and Medical Oncology Fellow

Henry Ford Hospital

Detroit, Michigan

Case Series of De Novo and Rapidly Transformed EGFR-Mutated Small Cell Lung Cancer

Jacqueline Aredo, MD, MS

Medical Oncology Fellow

Stanford Cancer Institute

Stanford, California

NEOLA: Phase II Study of Induction Osimertinib Prior to Chemoradiotherapy and Maintenance Osimertinib in Unresectable Stage III EGFR-Mutant Non–Small Cell Lung Cancer

Robert Cameron, MD, PhD

Fellow

University of Chicago

Chicago, Illinois

Stable Isotope Labeling to Identify Metabolic Alterations Supporting Treatment Resistance in EGFR-Mutated NSCLC

Lanyi Chen, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine

Columbia University

New York, New York

Cachexia in Osimertinib-Treated Patients with EGFR-Mutant NSCLC

Francisco Exposito, PhD

Postdoctoral Associate

Yale University

New Haven, Connecticut

Synthetic Lethality in EGFR-Driven Lung Adenocarcinomas through STK11 or SETD2 Inactivation

Christopher Grant, MD

PGY-5 Fellow

University of California–San Diego

San Diego, California

Case Report of a Novel Osimertinib-Induced Dermatologic Manifestation and Proposed Lengthened Desensitization Protocol

Robert Hsu, MD

Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine

University of Southern California

Los Angeles, California

Survival Differences of G-Protein Coupled Estrogen Receptor (GPER) and Estrogen Receptor 1 (ESR1) and Estrogen Receptor 2 (ESR2) in EGFR-Mutated NSCLC

Chinmay Jani, MD

Chief Fellow

University of Miami

Coral Gables, Florida

Changing Epidemiology of Lung Cancer in the AYA Population: A Global and U.S. Perspective on Incidence, Mortality, and Risk Factors

Benjamin Morris, PhD

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Houston, Texas

Multi-Lineage Evolution of Drug Resistance via a Keratin 17+ Aberrant Basaloid Drug-Tolerant Persister Population in EGFR-Mutant NSCLC

2025 EGFR Resisters Research Summit Attendees

Bilal Odeh, MD

General Surgery Resident

University of Texas Southwestern

Dallas, Texas

Variation across CoC-Accredited Hospitals In Testing Patients with Stage IB or Higher Lung Adenocarcinoma for EGFR Mutations

Malcolm Su, MD

Resident Physician

University of Texas Southwestern

Dallas, Texas

Patterns of Central Nervous System Progression following Osimertinib Discontinuation in EGFR-Mutated Non–Small Cell Lung Cancer

Teja Voruganti, MD, PhD

Fellow, Hematology/Oncology

Abramson Cancer Center, University of Pennsylvania

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

SPARK-Lung: Study Proposal of Patterns and Outcomes in Young-Onset Lung Cancer

Barliz Waissengrin, MD

Project Scientist

Cedars Sinai Medical Center

Los Angeles, California

Reduced Survival in Black Patients with EGFR-Mutant NSCLC

2025 EGFR Resisters Research Summit At-a-Glance

MedStar Georgetown University Hospital
Washington, DC

Henry Ford Hospital
Detroit, Michigan

Stanford Cancer Institute
Stanford, California

University of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Columbia University
New York, New York

Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut

University of California –San Diego
San Diego, California

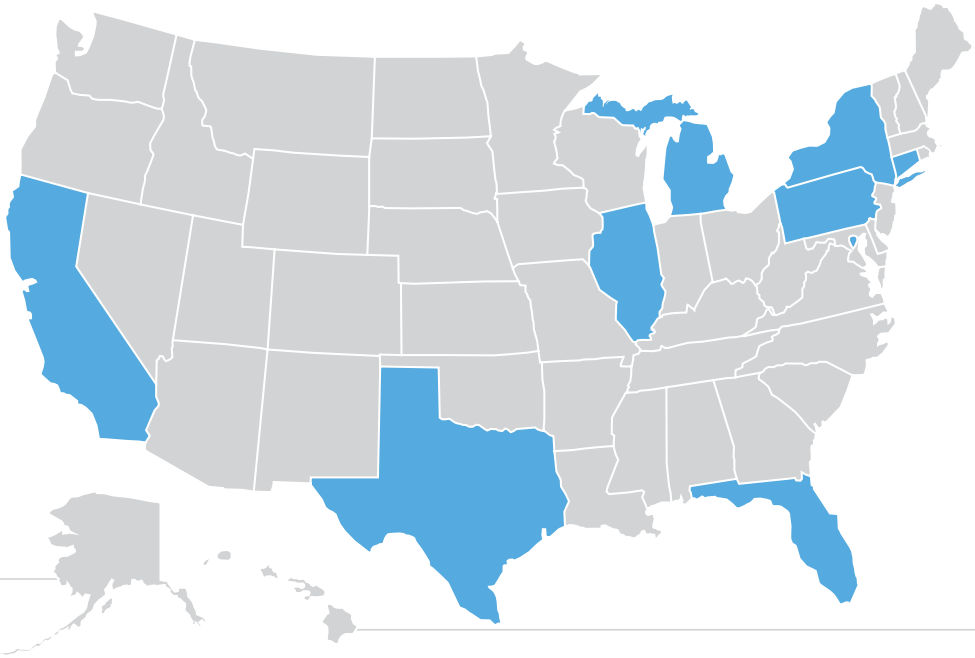
University of Southern California
Los Angeles, California

University of Miami
Miami, Florida

University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center
Houston, Texas

University of Texas Southwestern
Dallas, Texas

Abramson Cancer Center, University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



2025 EGFR Resisters Research Summit At-a-Glance

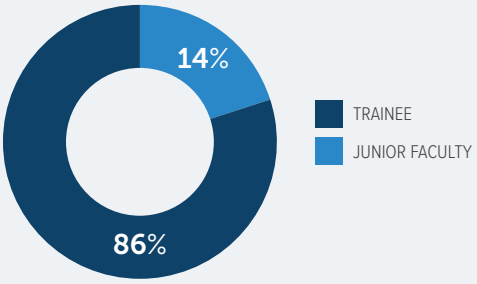
21 PARTICIPANTS

YOUNG INVESTIGATORS

EXPERT JUDGE MENTORS

PATIENT ADVOCATES

YIs PROFESSIONAL STATUS



"I anticipate that this experience will help me network with patient advocates, get to know more leaders in the field, and learning from other investigators."

"This conference gave me the confidence to present my research in a clear and concise manner. I gained valuable connections to other experts in my field of interested and developed a stronger sense of the research I want to conduct in my career."

35%

Improvement in confidence presenting scientific information to peers

(Pre: 50%, N = 16, Post: 85%, N = 13, p=0.05)

38%

Improvement in answering and defending their research

(Pre: 47%, N = 16, Post: 85%, N = 13, p=0.04)

100%

Agree the that the EGFR Resisters Research Summit will impact their current research and/or professional career

100%

Agree the information presented will improve research and/or publication/ presentation skills

100%

Agree that the EGFR Resisters Research Summit can improve the scientific rigor and publication quality of their interprofessional research team

EGFR Resisters Research Summit Faculty

(Left to right): Joshua Sabari, MD; John V. Heymach, MD, PhD; Kristen H. Kimball, MS, MEM; Jill Feldman, MA; Zofia Piotrowska, MD, MHS; Kristin Higgins, MD; Helena Yu, MD

Zofia Piotrowska, MD, MHS (chair)

Associate Professor, Medicine
Harvard Medical School
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts

John V. Heymach, MD, PhD

Professor and Chair, Department of Thoracic Medical Oncology
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Houston, Texas

Kristin Higgins, MD

Professor
Department of Radiation Oncology
City of Hope National Medical Center
Chief Clinical Officer, City of Hope Atlanta
Newnan, Georgia

Joshua Sabari, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine
Thoracic Medical Oncology
Phase I Experimental Therapeutics
NYU Langone Health
Perlmutter Cancer Center
New York, New York

Helena Yu, MD

Associate Attending
Research Director, Thoracic Oncology Service
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
New York, New York

> "Faculty were excellent! Incredibly welcoming and very happy to impart knowledge to trainees."

Patient Advocates

Jill Feldman, MA

Lung Cancer Patient and Advocate

Co-Founder and President, EGFR Resisters

Kristen H. Kimball, MS, MEM

Caregiver/Patient Advocate Educator

Featured Speaker

Álvaro Guimarães Paula, MD

(Past member of Heymach Lab, Department of Thoracic/Head and Neck Medical Oncology, at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center)

Thoracic Medical Oncologist

Croma Oncologia

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

EGFR-RRS Professional Presentation Coach

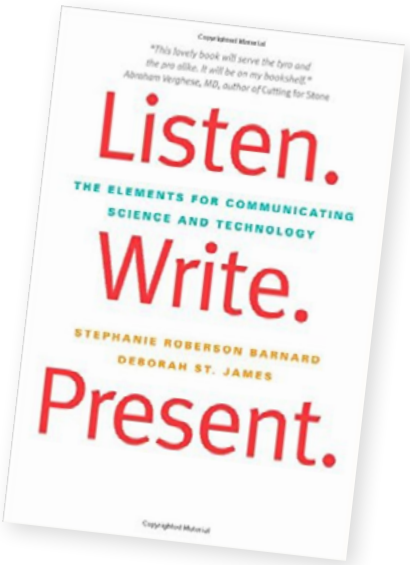
Stephanie Roberson Barnard

Listen Write Present, LLC

Greensboro, North Carolina

2025 EGFR Resisters Research Summit Educational Highlights

Presentation Skills Enhancement Workshop



To augment the professional development aspects of the 2025 EGFR-RRS, participants had the opportunity to receive individual coaching sessions by an expert from Listen Write Present. Young investigators who participated in the one-on-one pre-program coaching sessions received expert advice and critique of their presentation and public speaking skills and were given a copy of the book *Listen. Write. Present.*, which was co-written by the presentation coach, Ms. Barnard. In addition, the expert coach provided participants with tips for effective navigation of expert Q&A and research defense.

Following coaching and abstract presentations, average participant confidence in their ability to present scientific information to peers increased from 2.44 to 3.15 on a 4-point scale. Similarly, average participant confidence in ability to defend their research increased from 2.27 to 3.00 following the event.

"Participating in the EGFR Resisters Research Summit was an incredibly rewarding experience, and the personalized presentation coaching session was one of the most impactful components. The coaching helped me rethink how I structure and deliver scientific content—offering practical strategies to create presentations that are both scientifically rigorous and truly engaging. I received great tips on how to frame key messages in a way that resonates with the audience, and how to prepare better for the Q&A sessions. The coach also provided a concise summary after the session, which has become a valuable reference for future talks. Moving forward, I plan to apply many of the tools I learned, not only for conference presentations but in many other parts of my career."

—Barliz Waissengrin

Forum Highlights

"Small group discussions"

"I loved the intimate setting and getting to know everyone there well"

"Building connections with many well known members of the EGFR research community"

"The small group discussions and meeting people from other research institutions"

"Jill Feldman's personal anecdotes and experiences"

"I was deeply moved by the opening talk from the patient, which reminded me of the meaningful impact of the research I am doing"

"The small group sessions; the research presentations"

"The patient advocate stories"

What Participants Value Most

"This is a great opportunity to network with other young investigators and key faculty members in the field. It's a unique opportunity for continued training, as well as a forum to present your research. It has been invaluable to get a diverse set of recommendations for how to improve our research and also learn at the same time."

"It's a diverse group that is specifically built around young investigators. Being able to network with peers you've never met that might be your colleagues for life is super important, as well as hearing from leaders who are really shaping the direction of the field."

"[This meeting] really helps sharpen focus for current and future research. I walked away with some new colleagues that had some exciting ideas to push research forward, as well as new senior mentors that will be really helpful as we continue our careers."

"This [meeting] format is one of the best I've ever been to because it really gives you the opportunity to talk to people and meet people at different stages of their careers."

"Having patient advocates present to provide feedback on my proposed study was incredibly valuable."

Mentoring Moments and Small-group Networking Sessions

For this year's EGFR-RRS, small groups of participants, along with faculty mentors, had the opportunity to introduce themselves in a small group setting during the Mentoring Moment Small-group Discussions.

"I think this program will help a lot from getting more exposure to some of the expert faculty that was here, getting to meet them the patient advocates, and also meeting fellow investigators, actually a couple of whom I've previously met before."

GROUP TABLE TOPICS

- How to Approach a Career Track of Academic Leadership
- When to Say Yes? How to Say No? Seeking Mentorship
- Cooperative Groups Demystified
- Interacting with Pharma
- Social Media
- Juggling Early Career and Personal Life
- Clinical Trial Design
- Working with Patient Advocates
- Working with Professional Organizations
- Navigating the Grant Process and How to Obtain Funding

HOW ATTENDING THE SUMMIT WILL
Impact Young Investigators' Careers

Prior to the Summit, young investigators were asked what they hoped to gain from attending EGFR-RRS. One wrote that they looked forward to *"brainstorming ways to implement new strategies on EGFR mutant NSCLC research."* Another stated that they hoped *"gain insights into translational approaches that could accelerate the impact of my work on patient outcomes."* A third mentioned that they hoped to gain *"more experience in presenting my research to others within my field of interest and being able to network with peers and mentors."* At the conclusion of the forum, 100% of respondents stated that participating in the EGFR-RRS will impact their current research and/or professional career, with noted gains relating to research ideas, collaborations, and faculty advice.

> "The Research Summit provided invaluable facetime with experts in the field and an opportunity to receive feedback from patient advocates and leaders in cancer research."

> "[The Summit] helped me to significantly improve my presentation skills, as well as defend my research, and I have future plans for the research and what I learn about grant writing from great mentors."

> "The Summit provided valuable feedback on my scientific ideas and provided hands-on teaching to improve presentation skills."

"Learning to present in front of experts and networking with leaders in the field."

"Networking with others in the field, more experience in presenting research findings"

"Networking with fellow trainees and established faculty mentors. These relationships will help accelerate my training and drive research forward."

"Experience defending my research ideas."

"Presentation skills and answering questions that come up."

"Making sure all our projects are conveyed and reach as many clinicians and decision makers as possible."

"Networking and a better understanding of the state of the art in the field."

"I hope to be able to learn and network with other young investigators, faculty and patient advocates."

"I hope to build lasting relationships with the patient advocates, mentors, and peers and to stay connected with the broader EGFR community."

"I think the research summit will provide invaluable opportunities for me to grow as a researcher and clinician."

Professional Updates from the 2024 EGFR-RRS Young Investigators

Research Publications, National Meeting Presentations, and Honors and Awards

The EGFR-RRS is a highly competitive research and professional development forum that strives to encourage, promote, and empower young investigators to forge collegial connections and acquire the necessary skills and relationships to increase their research productivity and catalyze their career trajectory. The following section is a glimpse at their accomplishments and research since attending the meeting in 2024.

Publications

Filipiak L, Paydary K, Fidler MJ, Ross HJ. The utility of immune checkpoint inhibition in the management of resectable non-small cell lung cancer. *Cancers (Basel).* 2025;17(15):2462.

Gutta R, Teslow E, Jaeger E, et al. Racial diversity and co-mutational analysis of biologically relevant alterations in EGFR mutant lung cancers. *Clin Lung Cancer.* 2025;26(4):307–313.e7.

Shahid MA, **Gutta R,** Ghosh S, Palanisamy N. Co-mutations in FGFR3 and CDKN2A in bladder cancer: a descriptive analysis. *Cancer Res.* 2025;85(8_Suppl_1):3400.

Gutta R, Su WT, She R, et al. Real world treatment patterns and patient outcomes of neuroendocirine tumors: a single institution study. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev.* 2024;33(9_Suppl):A070.

Potugari B, Abu Rous F, **Gutta R,** et al. P3.06D.12 racial differences in ALK gene alterations detected by tissue and liquid biopsy across patients with lung cancer. *J Thorac Oncol.* 2024;19(10_Suppl):S327.

Bakouny Z, Ahmed N, Fong C, [...] **Jeng MY,** et al. Use of a large language model (LLM) for pan-cancer automated detection of anti-cancer therapy toxicities and translational toxicity research. *J Clin Oncol.* 2025;43(16 suppl):1558.

Chen MF, **Jeng MY,** Ma J, et al. Outcomes after radiation for oligoprogressive disease sites in patients with EGFR-mutant lung cancer treated with osimertinib. *JCO Precis Oncol.* 2025;9:e2500047.

Chen MF, Lee JJ, Choudhury NJ, [...] **Jeng MY,** et al. Phase 2 study of amivantamab plus lazertinib in previously treated patients with EGFR-mutant lung cancers with brain and leptomeningeal metastases. *J Thorac Oncol.* 2025:S1556-0864(25)02859-X.

Jeng MY, Dymun A, Richards AL, et al. Clinicogenomic analysis of *EGFR*-mutant lung cancers for identification of Rb inactivation as a hallmark of squamous transformation. *J Clin Oncol.* 2025;43(16_suppl):8606

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"I'm so appreciative of the feedback I received from esteemed faculty at EGFR RRS 2024, which has influenced certain directions of our project. I loved the opportunity to connect with peers/ colleagues in my field through this experience, many of whom I repeatedly see at other thoracic conferences/ workshops and have turned into close friends of mine. Lastly, I'm especially appreciative of Jill [Feldman], who's been such an inspiration through her strong presence at major conferences and her mentorship of fellows/junior faculty. She has helped instill a deeply patient-centered mindset early on in my fellowship training—one that continues to guide me as I transition to attendinghood, take care of my own patients, and develop clinical trial concepts with their needs at the forefront."

—Kelsey Pan, MD, MPH

"The EGFR Resisters Summitt had a significant impact on me. The meeting allowed me to expand my professional network and recieve helpful scientific feedback on my work. Moreover, through the meeting, I was able to connect with patient advocates that are now helping me design a phase 1 clinical trial based on my laboratory work I presented at the EGFR RRS 2024 meeting. I am grateful for the opportunity to attend and present at the 2024 meeting and meet such a wonderful community of scientists, clinicians, and advocates."

—Bobak Parang, MD, PhD

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Collaborative Publications among EGFR-RRS 2023 Young Investigators

Le X, **Pan K**, Zhang J, **Sun F**, et al. Highly CNS-penetrant tyrosine kinase inhibitors improve leptomeningeal overall survival in NSCLC patients with leptomeningeal disease. *Cancer Res.* 2025;85(8_Suppl_1):1155–1155.

Ross JS, Thummalapalli R, Febres-Aldana CA, [...] **Jeng MY,** et al. Clinical significance of MTAP deletions and their overlap with concurrent oncogenic driver alterations including EGFR in non-small cell lung cancer. *J Thorac Oncol.* 2025;S1556-0864(25)02904-1.

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Waliany S, Roy SG, Pecci F, [...] **Sun F,** et al. Efficacy and safety of continuing next-generation ALK TKIs with chemotherapy for advanced ALK-positive NSCLC: a multicenter retrospective study. *J Natl Compr Canc Netw.* 2025;23(12):522–530.

Zheng MM, Xia Y, **Pan K**, **Sun F**, et al. The evolving landscape of leptomeningeal metastases from NSCLC: an international, contemporary, multicenter cohort study. *Ann Oncol*. 2025;37(1):104–116.

Presentations

American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Annual Meeting 2025
April 25–30, 2025; Chicago, Illinois

Liu X, Stamboulian M, Borgeaud M, et al. EGFR PACC mutations occur more frequently as compound mutations with better responses to EGFR TKIs. Abstract 4594.

Shin D, Hong JH. Exploring differential gene expression in head and neck squamous cell carcinoma using TCGA data. Abstract 1065.

American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) IO: Discovery and Innovation in Cancer Immunology: Revolutionizing Treatment Through Immunotherapy
February 23–26, 2025; Los Angeles, California

Shin D, Park R, Lee S, et al. Neoadjuvant combined anti-PD-1 and anti-CTLA-4 inhibitor therapy for locally-advanced resectable head and neck squamous cell carcinoma: systematic review and meta-analysis. Abstract A039.

2025 American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting
May 30–June 3, 2025; Chicago, Illinois

Jeng MY, Dymun A, Richards AL, et al. Clinicogenomic analysis of EGFR-mutant lung cancers for identification of Rb inactivation as a hallmark of squamous transformation. Abstract 8606.

Lee JW, O'Connor CA, Harrold E, et al. Clinico-genomic characterization of PALB2-mutated pancreatic adenocarcinoma. Abstract 4169.

Lee JW, Rafizadeh M, Bogdan S, et al. The impact of preoperative imaging strategies in EGFR-mutant non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC): a multi-center retrospective review. Abstract e20655.

Pan K, Baig Y, Willis J, et al. Phase I/II trial of encorafenib, cetuximab, and nivolumab in microsatellite stable $BRAF^{V600E}$ metastatic colorectal cancer following progression on prior BRAF+EGFR targeted therapies. Abstract 182.

Ross J, Li BT, Schoech L, et al. A phase 2 basket trial of ado-trastuzumab emtansine for patients with HER2 amplified cancers. Abstract 3020.

"The EGFR Resisters conference was instrumental in my professional development. I received essential feedback on my research, which strengthened my work immensely. I also enjoyed the opportunity to spend time with fellow researchers in thoracic oncology. It was a fantastic experience!"

—Jessica Stuart Ross, MD

Ross J, Ortiz E, Barraza G, et al. Impact of MTAP deletion on immunotherapy outcomes in patients with mesothelioma. Abstract 8081.

Shin DM, Song J, Yang WJ, et al. Development and validation of prognostic risk score for hepatocellular carcinoma recurrence post-liver transplant: insights from the UNOS database. Abstract 4125.

Shin DM, Song J, Yang WJ, et al. Real-world validation of the risk estimation of tumor recurrence after transplant (RETREAT) score: insights from UNOS data on hepatocellular carcinoma recurrence after liver transplant. Abstract 4117.

Waliany S, Do A, Peterson J, et al. Shifting landscape of resistance to next-generation ALK inhibitors with evolving treatment paradigm in ALK+lung cancer. Abstract 8607.

European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) Congress 2025
October 17–21, 2025; Berlin, Germany

Shin D, Kim S, Lee T, et al. Survival outcomes after liver transplantation in patients with and without prior cancer: a UNOS-based study. Abstract 3146P.

2025 International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC) Targeted Therapy in Lung Cancer Meeting
February 19–22, 2025; Huntington Beach, California

Pan K, Sun F, Zhang Y, et al. Highly CNS-penetrant tyrosine kinase inhibitors improve leptomeningeal overall survival in non-small cell lung cancer patients with leptomeningeal disease—THRILLS-NSCLC. Abstract 1155.

Sun F, Singhal S, Neal JW, et al. Safety and tolerability of pulse-dose osimertinib as monotherapy and in combination for treatment of leptomeningeal disease or refractory brain metastases in EGFR-mutated non-small cell lung cancer. Abstract PP01-33.

2025 World Conference on Lung Cancer
September 6–9, 2025; Barcelona, Spain

Jeng MY, Dymun A, Elkrief A, et al. Rb inactivation as a hallmark of squamous transformation in EGFR-mutant lung cancers. Abstract P3.03.01.

Lee J, Jin X, Bogdan S, et al. Effect of PD-L1 expression level on clinical outcomes of stage IV EGFR mutant lung cancer patients treated with osimertinib. Abstract EP.12.27

Waliany S, Do A, Peterson J, et al. Contemporary landscape of acquired resistance to next-generation ALK inhibitors: paired pre-/post-treatment biopsy analysis. Abstract MA02.01.

Honors and Awards

Ximeng Liu, PhD

2025 Lung Cancer Research Foundation (LCRF) Research Grant, Overcoming Resistance in Lung Cancer

Christina Beatriz Mercado Jimenez

2025 National Science Foundation (NSF)-Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) Honorable Mention Award

Emily Paton, MD

2025 Early Career Investigator, named by Journal of the National Cancer Institute

Fangdi Sun, MD

2025 Methods in Clinical Cancer Research Workshop, American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)/American Association for Cancer Research (AACR)

2025 Targeted Therapies of Lung Cancer Education Award, International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC)

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—Prior EGFR Resisters Research Summit participant