2025 PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

5TH ANNUAL

NEUROFIBROMATOSIS

Young Investigators' Forum

An academic research forum focusing on research productivity, career development, and community building for junior faculty, fellows, and postdoctoral researchers conducting impactful work in neurofibromatosis

cec ONCOLOGY | CHILDREN'S TUMOR FOUNDATION ENDING NF THROUGH RESEARCH

Presented by Creative Educational Concepts LLC, in collaboration with the Children's Tumor Foundation.
Supported through independent educational grants from Alexion and SpringWorks Therapeutics.

Message from the Activity Chairs

Dear Colleagues,

The fifth Neurofibromatosis Young Investigator's Forum (NFYIF) was held in Baltimore, Maryland, on December 5, 2025. This year, 19 pre-and post-doctoral trainees and junior faculty, selected after a competitive process, presented brief talks on their research before a panel of Expert Judge Mentors. We had more applications than ever this year, and while we wish we could have included more participants, we encourage anyone who did not get to join this year to apply again in the future! Awards were issued to the highest scoring talks in categories based on level of training. In addition, the Mentors offered advice to the attendees, including career guidance and ways to help advance their research on neurofibromatosis (NF). There were lively question and answer sessions after each talk, with participation from both the judges and the audience. As has been true every year, it was exciting to see the expertise, commitment, and enthusiasm of NF young investigators, a source of continuing hope for the entire NF community.

We congratulate the awardees and all of the participants for their work and dedication to advancing our understanding and ability to improve the lives of people with NF!

Sincerely,

Bruce R. Korf, MD, PhD (co-chair)

Andrea M. Gross, MD (co-chair)

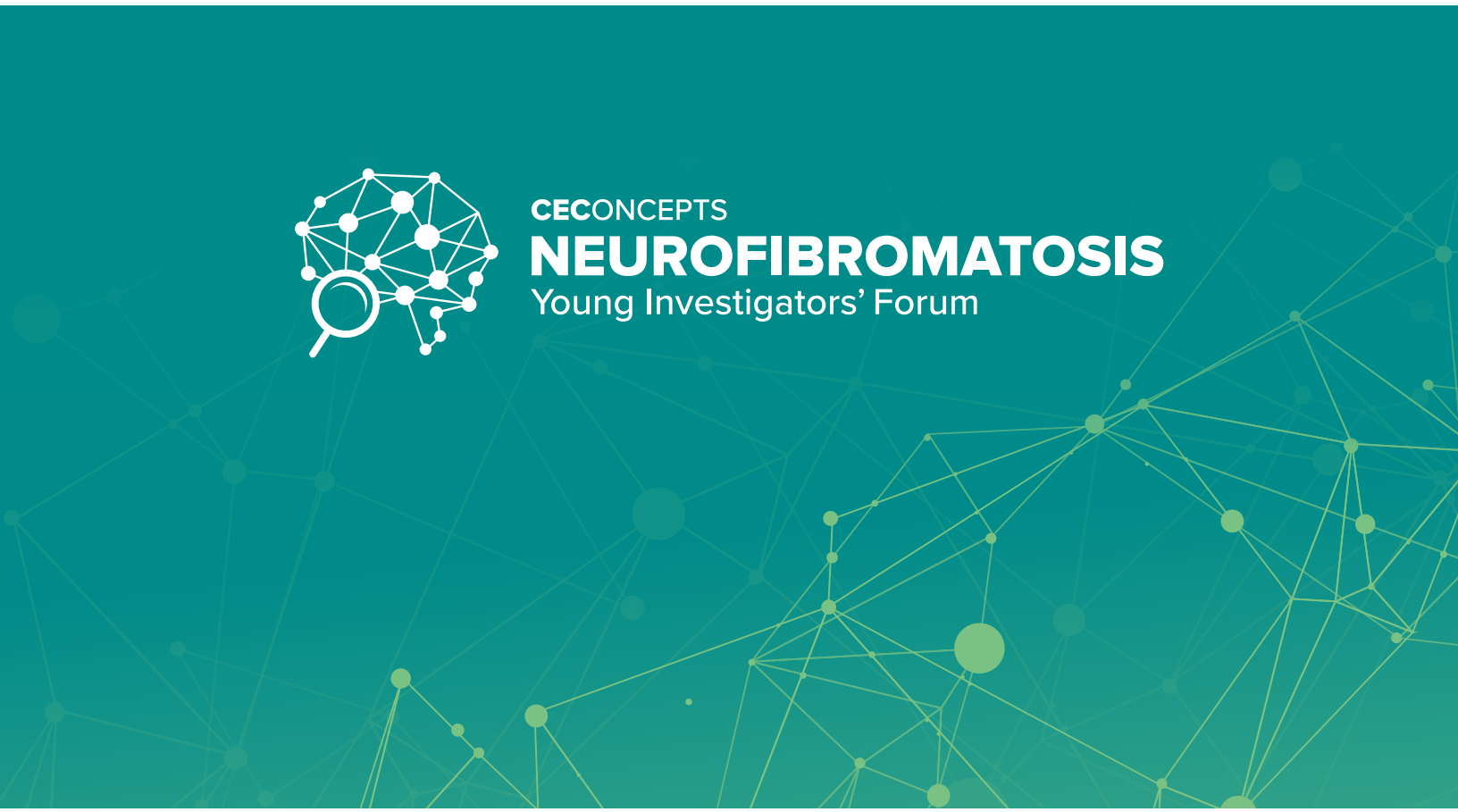
2025 NFYIF Young Investigators

> "Super excited to see all of the young investigators present their new research. It's always a highlight of the year to be able to see the young and up-and-coming scientists in the field."

About the NFYIF

The Neurofibromatosis Young Investigators' Forum (NFYIF) is a unique educational opportunity designed for young investigators (MD, DO, and/or PhD)—based in the United States and internationally—who are pursuing a career in academic research focused on neurofibromatosis across basic, translational, and clinical research settings. As a competitive academic research program, the NFYIF provides a professional venue at which oncology junior faculty, fellows, postdoctoral researchers, and PhD students are invited to submit an abstract of their unpublished, original research to a panel of expert faculty for assessment.

The NFYIF has been designed to ensure a high level of science, quality, and participation as a means of laying a substantive and healthy foundation for future years to build upon. CEC Oncology composed and conducted an international Call for Abstracts (CFA) among clinician scientists, research scientists, clinical fellows, PhD candidates and postdoctoral fellows involved in neurofibromatosis research across the full spectrum of disease (NF1, NF2, and schwannomatosis). After a rigorous, blinded selection process as determined by top scientific experts and thought leaders in the field, a highly select group of researchers were invited to present their data to peers and an esteemed panel of Expert Judge Mentors in a modified National Institutes of Health (NIH) scoring format. In an effort to augment the professional development aspects of this forum, a professional presentation skills coach—with a long history working with scientists to improve their ability to clearly present complex data, effectively and articulately address challenging questions, and manage tight time windows with professionalism and finesse—was made available to all young investigators. The overarching goal of this initiative was and is to help identify, cultivate, and prepare young investigators for successful careers that help advance the field of neurofibromatosis via a "connect the unconnected" approach focused on collaboration, collegiality, and community-building, which are all especially crucial in the research niche of a rare disease like NF. Our fifth annual NFYIF installment robustly achieved this goal, and in so doing, effectively laid the groundwork for future successes.



Distinguished Young Investigator

Each year, the top researcher and presenter in the Junior Faculty and Trainees categories are presented with the Neurofibromatosis Distinguished Young Investigator Research Award, which represents excellence, commitment, and promise in the field of neurofibromatosis research.

2025 Neurofibromatosis Distinguished Young Investigator Research Award
Junior Faculty/Post Docs

Semira Ortiz, PhD
Postdoctoral Research Associate
Pennington Biomedical Research Center
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

NF1 Loss of Heterozygosity Causes Impaired Mitochondrial Respiration in a Mouse Model of a Patient Mutation

Semira Ortiz is a postdoctoral scientist working with Dr. Robert Kesterson at Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Dr. Ortiz completed her doctorate at Cornell University in the Nutritional Sciences division where she studied how dietary factors affect the synthesis of a cardiometabolic disease biomarker. Transitioning to postdoctoral training, her overarching research goal is to identify metabolism-based strategies that can improve outcomes for individuals with NF1. She has applied her background in nutrition to assess the metabolic phenotype of animal models of NF1 and their response to diet and exercise. She is currently investigating how NF1-related reduced mitochondrial respiration can be manipulated to inhibit neurofibroma growth.

> "Participating in the NFYIF was a one-of-a-kind experience. The opportunity to receive advice from so many exceptional mentors while also networking with peers was invaluable, and I learned important future directions for NF research and received thoughtful feedback on my own work."

> "I will utilize the award to further my research investigating how mitochondrial electron transport affects symptoms of NF1, including tumor formation. The award will contribute to consumables and analysis of the mitochondrial proteome, and this will broaden the understanding of how NF1 deficiency affects mitochondrial function."

2025 NFYIF Young Investigator Winners

1st Runner Up

Miriam Magallón-Lorenz, PhD
Postdoctoral Researcher
Germans Trias i Pujol Research Institute/Can Ruti Biomedical Campus
Badalona, Spain

Identification of Different Malignant Peripheral Nerve Sheath Tumor Types in NF1 Patients

"Participating in the NFYIF was an excellent opportunity to present our work to the NF research community and to raise awareness of our ongoing efforts. Additionally, the forum was highly beneficial for establishing new professional connections, fostering collaborations, and exchanging ideas, all of which I believe will contribute to more rapid and impactful advances in NF1 research."

"I plan to use the award to support my continued professional development through participation in scientific conferences and specialized bioinformatics training courses. These activities will be extremely valuable in advancing my research and enhancing my contributions to the NF1 research field."

2nd Runner Up

Alex Dyson, PhD
Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts

Identification and Functional Analysis of Novel Neurofibromin-Interacting Proteins

"Comments and questions from NF experts and young investigators will help guide the direction of my research. The forum itself was an invaluable opportunity to learn more about the work currently ongoing in the NF field."

"This award will help fund my travel to research conferences—specifically, the 67th Annual Drosophila Research Conference organized by the Genetics Society of America in Chicago this March."

2025 Neurofibromatosis Distinguished Young Investigator Research Award
Trainees

Carson Gutierrez, BA

Lab Manager
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine
Baltimore, Maryland

The Role of Tumor Mutation Subtype on the Phenotype of Painful Schwannomatosis

Carson Gutierrez is pain researcher at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine who works to translate preclinical models into human trials under the mentorship of Dr. Kimberly Ostrow. Current research efforts center on developing GsMTx-4 into a novel therapeutic for patients with painful tumors that may not be candidates for surgical resection. Mr. Gutierrez, graduated with honors from The College of Wooster following the successful defense of his senior thesis on the role of ANXA3 as a biomarker of prostate cancer. He then conducted research abroad at AIC Kijabe Hospital in Kijabe Kenya, working in the anesthesiology department under Dr. Greg Sund. The professional relationship culminated with "Best Abstract 1st Prize in Global Health" at the 18th World Congress of Anaesthiologists in 2024. Currently a research tech, Mr. Gutierrez will be applying to MD/PhD programs with the goal of becoming a clinician scientist in the field of pediatric oncology.

> "Participating in the NF Young Investigators Forum provided me with the opportunity to interact with leading experts and patient representatives alike. I've found mentors in the panel judges, and camaraderie among fellow researchers, all of whom have challenged me to keep my mind open to new and innovative ways we can approach our research."

> "This award will fund my continued involvement in future scientific conferences (travel, and registration,) so that I may be able to attend events such as the NF Annual Summit and The World Congress of Pain Research."

1st Runner Up

Avery Volz, MS
PhD Student
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
Cincinnati, Ohio

Development of an Adeno-Associated Virus (AAV) Toolkit to Modulate Signaling Pathways Altered in Neurofibromatosis Type 1 (NF1)

"Participating in the NFYIF was an incredibly meaningful experience for me. It gave me the opportunity to present my research, receive thoughtful feedback from experts, and engage in discussions that helped shape the direction of my work. Connecting with mentors and peers in this supportive community was perhaps the most impactful aspect of the forum. This experience boosted my confidence, affirmed my commitment to neurofibromatosis research, and clarified the role I hope to play within the NF community."

"I plan to use the award money to support my current research project and fund my travel to future conferences."

2nd Runner Up

Harrison Parent, BS
PhD Candidate
Vanderbilt University
Nashville, Tennessee

Metabotropic Glutamate Receptor 7 as a Therapeutic Target to Correct Cognitive Phenotypes in Neurofibromatosis Type 1

"Participating in the NFYIF not only allowed me to meet peers in my field and gain experience presenting my work but also connected me with experienced faculty that provided me with valuable feedback and will continue to be great connections for my career development."

"The grant award will be used for purchasing reagents for my studies related to the molecular mechanism of NF1-related cognitive impairments."

2025 NFYIF Young Investigator Presenters

Srirupa Bhattacharyya, PhD

Research Fellow
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts

Understanding the Role of Apelin-Mediated Angiogenesis in NF2-Associated Tumors

Alex Dyson, PhD

Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts

Identification and Functional Analysis of Novel Neurofibromin-Interacting Proteins

Carson Gutierrez, BA

Lab Manager
John's Hopkins School of Medicine
Baltimore, Maryland

The Role of Tumor Mutation Subtype on the Phenotype of Painful Schwannomatosis

Summer Henderson, BSc

PhD Student, 3rd Year
University of Plymouth, Derriford Research Facility
Plymouth, United Kingdom

Targeting Multi-Drug Resistance Mechanisms in Meningioma and Schwannoma Tumours

Maria Ioannou, MD

Neurology Resident
Johns Hopkins Hospital
Baltimore, Maryland

MEK Inhibitor Induces an Exploitable DNA Damage Repair Deficiency in NF1 Deficient Gliomas

Paul Jones, PhD

Graduate Student
Washington University in St. Louis
St. Louis, Missouri

Integrated Multiclass Driver ctDNA Profiling Enables MPNST Detection and Monitoring in NF1 Patients

Elliot Kearney, MSc

Postdoctoral Research Assistant
University of Plymouth, Derriford Research Facility
Plymouth, United Kingdom

Testing the Effect of Macrophage Depletion on Schwannoma Tumor Proliferation and Vascularisation

Michael Lippincott, BS

PhD Candidate
University of Colorado/ Anschutz Medical Campus
Aurora, Colorado

Cell Painting and Image-Based Profiling of Neurofibromatosis Type 1 Patient-Derived 3D Organoids

Miriam Magallón-Lorenz, PhD

Postdoctoral Researcher
Germans Trias i Pujol Research Institute/Can Ruti Biomedical Campus
Barcelona, Spain

Identification of Different Malignant Peripheral Nerve Sheath Tumor Types in NF1 Patients

Béga Murray, PhD

Postdoctoral Associate
Rutgers Cancer Institute
New Brunswick, New Jersey

Core Regulatory Circuit of Transcription Factors Drive Malignant Transformation in MPNST

2025 NFYIF Young Investigator Presenters

Semira Ortiz, PhD

Postdoctoral Research Associate
Pennington Biomedical Research Center
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

NF1 Loss of Heterozygosity Causes Impaired Mitochondrial Respiration in a Mouse Model of a Patient Mutation

Gorkem Oztosun, MD

Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Washington University in St. Louis
St. Louis, Missouri

Exploring Chromosome 8 Gain in NF1-/- Schwann Cell Precursors Using a hiPSC-Based Model

Harrison Parent, BS

PhD Candidate
Vanderbilt University
Nashville, Tennessee

Metabotropic Glutamate Receptor 7 as a Therapeutic Target to Correct Cognitive Phenotypes in Neurofibromatosis Type 1

Abhijeet Parida, MSc

R&D Dev/Ops Engineer
Children's National Hospital
Washington, DC

CAVS-NF1: Web-Based Tool for Longitudinal Volumetric Analysis of Anterior Visual Pathway in NF1

Sasha Scott, PhD

Research Scientist
Sage Bionetworks
Seattle, Washington

Using Publicly Available Data and Machine Learning Models to Identify Druggable Targets in Non-NF2 Schwannomatosis and Other NF Tumors

Bavani Subramaniam, PhD

Research Postdoctoral Fellow
Children's National Hospital
Washington, DC

Targeting MTAP-Deleted NF1 High-Grade Gliomas through Combined PRMT5 and MEK Inhibition

Avery Volz, MS

PhD Student
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
Cincinnati, Ohio

Development of an Adeno-Associated Virus (AAV) Toolkit to Modulate Signaling Pathways Altered in Neurofibromatosis Type 1 (NF1)

Kangwen Xiao, MD

PhD Candidate
Washington University in St. Louis
St. Louis, Missouri

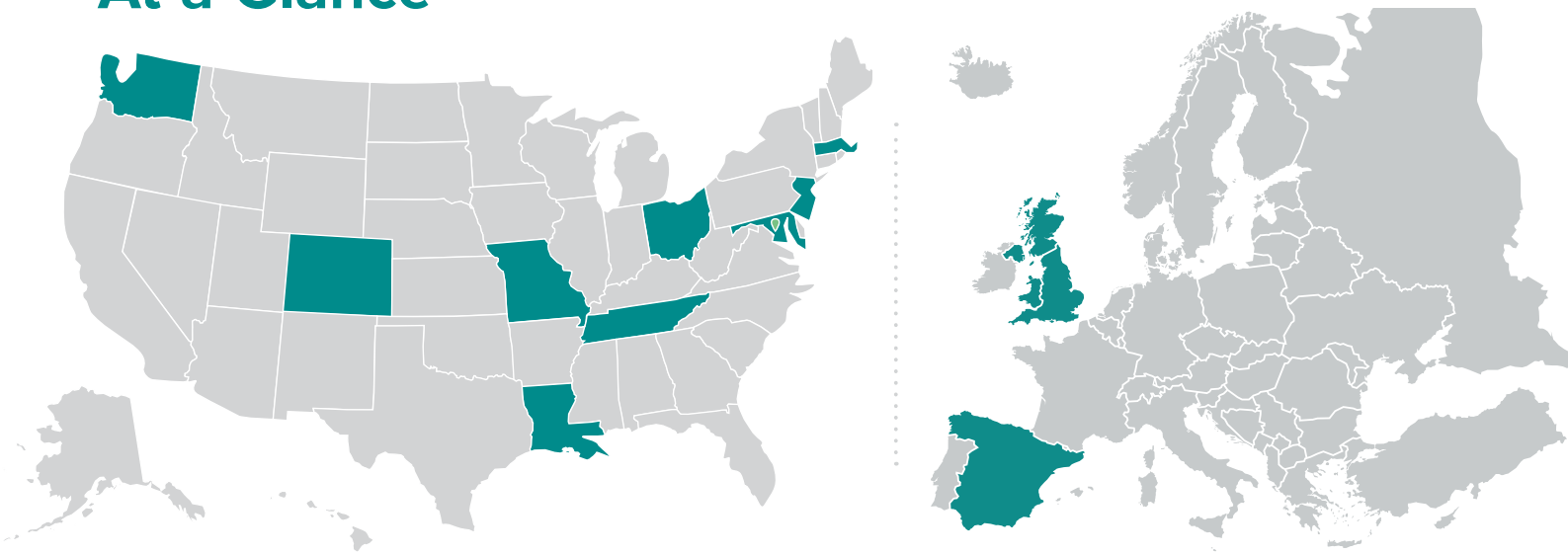
Chr8 Gene Expression Patterns Shape Prognosis and Therapy Response in MPNST

Kuangying Yang, BS, BEng, MS

PhD Candidate
Washington University in St. Louis
St. Louis, Missouri

Multiomic Analyses at Single-Cell and Spatial Resolution Reveal Distinct Evolution Patterns and Immune Composition in PRC2-Loss Versus PRC2-Retained MPNST

At-a-Glance



Children's National Hospital
Washington, DC

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
Cincinnati, Ohio

Germans Trias/ Pujol Research Institute/ Can Ruti Biomedical Campus
Barcelona, Spain

John Hopkins School of Medicine
Baltimore, Maryland

Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School
Boston, Massachusetts

Pennington Biomedical Research Center
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Rutgers Cancer Institute
New Brunswick, New Jersey

Sage Bionetworks
Seattle, Washington

University of Colorado/ Anschutz Medical Campus
Aurora, Colorado

University of Plymouth, Derriford Research Facility
Plymouth, United Kingdom

Vanderbilt University
Nashville, Tennessee

Washington University–St. Louis
St. Louis, Missouri

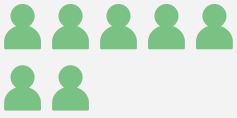
95%
NFYIF will impact current research and/or professional career

94%
Agreed the activity met the stated learning objectives

100%
Agreed the activity will help improve their research and/or publication/presentation skills

27 PARTICIPANTS

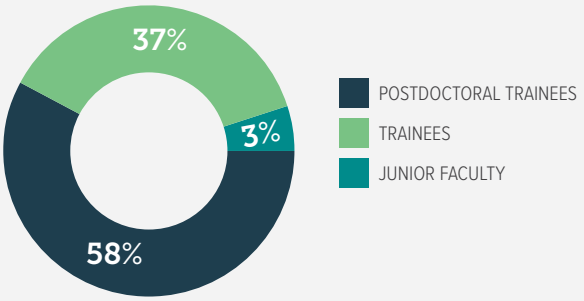
YOUNG INVESTIGATORS



EXPERT JUDGE MENTORS

PATIENT ADVOCATES

YOUNG INVESTGATORS



2025 NFYIF Expert Faculty Judges

2025 NFYIF Faculty

Bruce R. Korf, MD, PhD (co-chair)

Distinguished Professor, Emeritus
Department of Genetics
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, Alabama

Andrea M. Gross, MD (co-chair)

Associate Professor, Division of Oncology
Director, Comprehensive Neurofibromatosis Center
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
Cincinnati, Ohio

Thomas De Raedt, PhD

Assistant Professor
Department of Pediatrics
University of Pennsylvania
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Michael J. Fisher, MD

Chief, Neuro-Oncology Section
Director, Neurofibromatosis Program
Hubert J.P. and Anne Faulkner Schoemaker Endowed Chair in Pediatric Neuro-Oncology
Professor of Pediatrics
Center for Childhood Cancer Research and Division of Oncology
The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

2025 NFYIF Expert Faculty Judges

AeRang Kim, MD, PhD

Director of Clinical Research, Division of Oncology
The Lexi Speight Professor of Pediatric Oncology
Children's National Hospital
Washington, DC

Eric Legius, MD, PhD

Emeritus Professor
Department of Human Genetics
University of Leuven
Belgium

Nancy Ratner, PhD

Beatrice C. Lampkin Endowed Chair in Cancer Biology
Professor of Pediatrics
Cincinnati Children's Hospital
Cincinnati, Ohio

Patient Advocate

Whitney Scheibel, M.Ed

NF1 Patient and Advocate
Patient Engage Representative
Children's Tumor Foundation
Kentucky, USA

Presentation Coach

Stephanie Roberson Barnard

Listen Write Present LLC
Greensboro, North Carolina

2025 NFYIF Highlights

CTF MISSION MOMENT

Patient and Caregiver Perspectives

The NFYIF brought together some of the world's foremost NF thought leaders with a select group of high potential, high performing early-career NF researchers from across the United States; the result was the presentation of an immense amount of impactful NF science, formative professional and personal networking experiences, establishment of new peer-to-peer and peer-to-mentor relationships, and thus, an elemental shift in the trajectory of the NF field. And while those achievements are all crucially important, perhaps most important of all is actually the one thing undergirding everything else—the foundational "why" driving each and every person in attendance.

CTF Vidya Browder

That "why" is, of course, the ultimate vision of improving care and optimizing outcomes for patients with neurofibromatosis. It is the empiric mission of the NFYIF and all those who attend, to improve patient care and outcomes—which is why the CTF Mission Moment gave the stage to Whitney Scheibel, an NF advocate, writer, and speaker who was able to bring humor, clarity, and courage to the NFYIF discussion. Blending her knowledge of research and personal storytelling, having been diagnosed at age 4, Ms. Scheibel provided an impactful presentation for the NF researchers.

> I was extremely honored to have spoken at the NFYIF this year in Baltimore. Participating in this meeting has deeply influenced the future of my advocacy and given me a renewed sense of purpose and motivation to keep using my voice in bigger spaces. Listening to all of the young investigators present their research reminded me that people truly care and are passionate about NF and are dedicated to finding better treatments, gaining a better understanding, or even discovering a cure. It strengthened my commitment to making sure the NF1 community's needs and realities always stay at the center of the conversation, because as someone living with NF, it is important that our experiences are represented.
>
> I always want to make sure the voices of the NF community are heard and considered, which is why I tell my story and amplify the experiences of others. I hope the young investigators walked away with a clearer sense of the human impact behind their research and an understanding that their work truly matters to the people living with NF every day. My goal was for them to put a face to NF and recognize the human impact, so they could feel encouraged to keep pushing forward, because their efforts bring real hope to the NF community. More than anything, I just hope they left feeling even more connected to the NF community and knowing their work genuinely makes a difference.
>
> *—Whitney Scheibel*

Patient Advocate Whitney Scheibel

Watch Whitney's reaction to the 2025 Young Investigators Presentations here.

Educational Highlights

Mentoring Moments

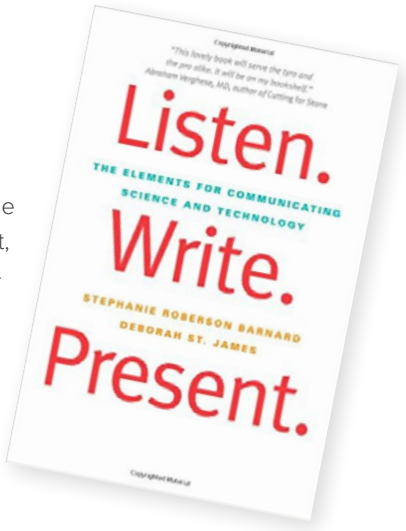
Guided by the overarching mission to cultivate, inform, and empower young neurofibromatosis researchers, the NFYIF provided an intimate setting in which our young investigators were privy to Mentoring Moments sessions with our Expert Judge Mentors, all of whom are experienced and pre-eminent thought leaders in the field. Within these mentoring sessions, young investigators were offered actionable, real-world, tried-and-true advice on circumventing the prominent obstacles faced during early-career inflection points. During our opening Mentoring Moments session, our Expert Judge Mentor panel discussed personal experiences illustrating the power of networking and community-building, and shared practical pearls for navigating the complex task of translating clinical concepts into funded protocols in the initiation and conductance of clinical trials. Perhaps most notably, our young investigators were granted unprecedented access to top NF Key Opinion Leaders and were provisioned one-on-one networking opportunities with peers, both of which possess the power to fundamentally alter their career trajectory and bolster future research productivity.

> “The faculty mentors and judges were exceptionally engaged, thoughtful, and generous with their feedback, offering both high-level perspective and very concrete suggestions I can immediately apply to my projects.”

Educational Highlights

Presentation Skills Enhancement Workshop

To augment the professional development aspects of the 2025 NFYIF, participants had the opportunity to receive individual coaching sessions with an expert from Listen, Write, Present, LLC, Stephanie Roberson Barbard. Young investigators who attended 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.* In addition, the expert coach provided participants with tips for effective navigation of expert Q&A and research defense.



PRE-EVENT

POST-EVENT

Following coaching and abstract presentations, average participant confidence in their ability to present scientific information to peers increased from

2.77 to 3.11*

** on a 4 point scale*

PRE-EVENT

POST-EVENT

Similarly, average participant confidence in ability to defend their research increased from

2.00 to 3.05*

** on a 4 point scale*

"Hearing [the coach's] feedback gave me confidence and reassurance in my slides visually, but also in the way I relayed the information. The coaching made me step back and think about the bigger picture of my project, allowing me to better decide how to convey my main messages to the audience, without unnecessary information being included."

HOW ATTENDING THE NFYIF WILL
Impact Young Investigators' Careers

Prior to the forum, young investigators were asked how they anticipate the NFYIF impacting their research and/or professional career. A majority of them mentioned the ability to network with their peers and the faculty to advance their research and also their careers. Connections to obtain "better awareness of MD/PhD opportunities" as well as for "future Post-Docs" were mentioned along with creating "an expanded network of peers progressing NF research." Others mentioned seeking "useful feedback on my research from experts in the field" and "I hope to use the NFYIF to sharpen both my science and my career trajectory in NF research." At the conclusion of the forum, 100% of the participants felt that the NFYIF would help them improve their research and/or publication/presentation skills . Again, the young investigators mentioned making connections with peers and faculty, one stating, "Connecting with other people motivates me to do more research!"

Anticipated Impact of NFYIF on Research/Career

"The presentation coaching session has also greatly helped me in how I think about presenting my work."

"I have expanded my professional network at both my peer and mentor level.

It has given me the confidence to dream bigger with my research."

"It inspires me to work harder in my project."

"I have a gained confidence in presenting to senior experts in the field."

I was able to speak extensively with the patient representative, which gave me important perspective on living with NF."

Most Impactful/Positive Aspect

"Being able to be in the room to hear both the research presented and how the faculty judges asked questions about it was very helpful and inspiring."

"The patient advocate statement was a potent reminder of why we are all working on this disease."

"Good critical commentary on research"

"The mission statement Hearing the patient speak really reminded me of the whole point."

"The presentation itself. This is my first in person presentation in the US."

"Informal conversations with the faculty mentors and with my peers."

Updates from the 2024 NFYIF Participants

Research Publications, National Meeting Presentations, and Honors and Awards

The NFYIF 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 last meeting in 2024.

Publications

Bouley SJ, Housden BE, Walker JA. Neurofibromatosis type 1 and the search for effective tumor therapies using high-throughput drug screening. *Curr Oncol.* 2025;32(11):649.

Khan E, Hylton H, Rajan N, **Bouley SJ**, et al. Proteomic profiling of medullary thyroid cancer identifies CAPN1 as a key regulator of NF1 and RET fueled growth. *Thyroid.* 2025;35(2):177–187.

Kinloch AJ, Rahman F, Karakas B, [...] **Bouley SJ**, et al. Development of a novel biomarker platform for profiling key protein–protein interactions to predict the efficacy of BH3-mimetic drugs. *Cancers.* 2025;14(11):1852.

Stevens M, Wang Y, **Bouley SJ**, et al. Inhibition of autophagy as a novel treatment for neurofibromatosis type 1 tumors. *Mol Oncol.* 2025;19(3):825–851.

Tomkinson J, Mattson C, Mattson-Hoss M, [...] **Bouley SJ**, et al. High-content microscopy and machine learning characterize a cell morphology signature of NF1 genotype in Schwann cells. *Glial Health Res.* 2025;2:100009.

Bouley S. First person—Stephanie Bouley. *J Cell Sci.* 2024;137(15):jcs263430.

Bouley SJ, Grassetti AV, Allaway RJ, et al. Chemical genetic screens reveal defective lysosomal trafficking as synthetic lethal with NF1 loss. *J Cell Sci.* 2024;137(15):jcs262343.

Fisher AA, Gonzalez LS, **Cappel ZR**, et al. Dopaminergic encoding of future defensive actions in the mouse nucleus accumbens. *PNAS Nexus.* 2025;4(5):pgaf128.

Crane JN, **Dagalakis U**, Gartrell RD, et al. Rare but not forgotten: therapeutic advancements for rare childhood cancers. *Mol Ther Oncol.* 2025;33(4):201084.

Mehrhoff C, **Dagalakis U**, Bauer AJ, et al. Navigating multidisciplinary care in pediatric thyroid carcinoma: insights from children's oncology group sites. *Pediatr Blood Cancer.* 2025;72(10):e31919.

Oliva-Ramirez J, Milewski D, Banks L, [...] **Dagalakis U**, et al. Future directions and priorities for cellular therapy in sarcoma: a report from the strategic advances in sarcoma science cell therapy breakout. *Cancers (Basel).* 2025;17(18):3068.

Chaturvedi SM, Saxena A, Hassan A, [...] **Kotch C**, et al. Location and extent of disease predicts outcome of neurofibromatosis type 1-related pediatric low-grade gliomas. *Neurooncol Adv.* 2025;7(1):vdaf050.

Kotch C, Gomes A, Schatz KS, et al. The spectrum of pathogenic NF1 variants in participants enrolling on clinical trials of MEK inhibitors for plexiform neurofibroma. *Hum Genet.* 2025;144(11–12):1199–1206.

Kotch C, Green K, Fisher MJ, Hargrave D. Pediatric-type diffuse low grade glioma. *Adv Cancer Res.* 2025;167:1–35.

Kotch C, de Blank P, Gutmann DH, Fisher MJ. Low-grade glioma in children with neurofibromatosis type 1: surveillance, treatment indications, management, and future directions. *Childs Nerv Syst.* 2024;40(10):3241–3250.

Kovaci F, Goachet C, Perrin S, et al. Pharmacological inhibition of RAS pathway alleviates spine deformity in a mouse model of neurofibromatosis type 1. *Bone Res.* 2025;13(1):103.

Hou Y, Yu L, Jamnik MR, **Liu D**, et al. Systematic review: biopsychosocial factors related to attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder in children/adolescents with neurofibromatosis type 1. *Neurosci Biobehav Rev.* 2025;178:106355.

Hou Y, Yu L, **Liu D**, et al. Systematic review and meta-analysis: attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder symptoms in children with neurofibromatosis type 1. *J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry.* 2025;64(4):447–462.

Hou Y, Zong X, Wu X, **Liu D**, et al. Academic achievement of children with neurofibromatosis type 1. *Pediatrics.* 2025;155(2):e2024067016.

Liu D, Yu L, Wu X, et al. Internalizing and externalizing symptoms in individuals with neurofibromatosis type 1: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Syst Rev.* 2025;14(1):20.

Yu L, **Liu D**, Payne JM, et al. Academic achievement of children and adolescents with neurofibromatosis type 1: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Neuropsychol Rev.* November 27, 2025. [Epub ahead of print]

Yu L, **Liu D**, Payne JM, et al. Visuospatial and visuomotor abilities of individuals with neurofibromatosis type 1: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Neuropsychol Rev.* August 5, 2025. [Epub ahead of print]

Krasniqi E, **Liu D**, Blatny M, Vazsonyi AT. Does pubertal status potentiate the developmental links between maternal parenting and internalizing problems? *Eur J Dev Psychol.* 2024;21(2), 275–292.

Liu D, Vazsonyi AT. Longitudinal links between parental emotional distress and adolescent delinquency: the role of marital conflict and parent-child conflict. *J Youth Adolesc.* 2024;53(1):200–216.

Burke AR, Bernabe C, Dietrich A, [...] **Lukkes JL**, et al. Adolescent social isolation increases social behavior in Wistar rats: role of post-weaning isolation housing on Social Familiarity-induced Anxiolysis (SoFiA) and social memory in adulthood. *Behav Brain Res.* 2025;483:115481.

Park SJ, **Lukkes JL**, Chan KK, et al. A haploinsufficiency restoration strategy corrects neurobehavioral deficits in Nf1+/- mice. *J Clin Invest.* 2025;135(13):e188932.

Bhatwadekar AD, **Lukkes J**, Mahajan N, et al. Central overexpression of BMAL1 improves circadian rhythm and retinal health in db/db mice. *Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci.* 2024;65(7):304.

Sullivan M, Arenas S, Pareda C, [...] **Lukkes J**. Adolescent social Isolation increases alcohol intake and aversion-resistant drinking in both males and females. *Neurosci Appl.* 2024;3:105164

"The NFYIF had a positive impact on my career development and trajectory. The feedback I received on my research project led to more robust analyses that will be included in a forthcoming manuscript. In addition, I am grateful for the opportunity to interact with leaders in the field of NF, and I have been able to maintain ongoing relationships with some of the mentors as I continue to grow my research program. I would recommend participating in this unique experience to any junior NF investigator!"

—Chelsea Kotch, MD, MSCE

Carias SC, Buono FD, Von Imhof L, [...] **Merker VL**. "It's not any one thing, it's always all of them, all at the same time": quality of life in NF2-related schwannomatosis from patient and clinician perspectives. *Fam Cancer.* 2025;25(1):4.

Chiu D, Willis KD, Whitman JD, [...] **Merker VL**, et al. Neurotransitions: a novel, population-specific support intervention for patients with idh-mutant gliomas. *Neuro-oncol.* 2025;27:v388–v388.

Choksi D, Craven M, McVeigh T, [...] **Merker VL**, et al. Coherence of stroke survivors' lived experiences and the stroke-specific quality of life scale. *JAMA Netw Open.* 2025;8(10):e2537951.

Choksi D, Mallick A, McVeigh T, [...] **Merker VL**, et al. An exploratory mixed-methods study of organizational health literacy in a neurosciences intensive care unit. *BMC Health Serv Res.* 2025;25(1):1532.

Merker VL, Ma Y, Chibnik LB, et al. Self-reported access to specialty clinics and receipt of health surveillance among U.S. patients with neurofibromatosis 1: a national survey. *Orphanet J Rare Dis.* 2025;20(1):185.

Park ER, Haas JS, Rigotti NA, [...] **Merker VL**, et al. Integrating tobacco treatment into lung cancer screening: the screen assist factorial randomized clinical trial. *JAMA Intern Med.* 2025;185(5):531–539.

Plotkin S, Yohay K, Nghiemphu P, [...] **Merker V**, et al. Updated results on brigatinib treatment for progressive tumors in patients with NF2-related schwannomatosis: a sub-study of the intuitt-NF2 trial. *Neuro-oncol.* 2025;27:v137–v138.

Soares C, Radtke H, Yohay K, [...] **Merker V**, et al. Real world evidence for quality of schwannomatosis care within the United States (S29. 008). *Neurol.* 2025;104(7_Suppl_1):145.

Stec N, Lee V, Barker II, [...] **Merker V**, et al. Long-term efficacy and safety of bevacizumab for progressive vestibular schwannoma in patients with NF2-related schwannomatosis (NF2-SWN). *Neuro-oncol.* 2025;27:v143–v143.

Ur Rehman MA, Emerson K, **Merker VL**, et al. A patient-centric approach to neuro-recovery after acute brain injuries. *J Clin Neurosci.* 2025;135:111158.

Chou C, Wiredu SO, Von Imhof L, [...] **Merker VL**. Health services interventions to improve the quality of care in rare diseases: a scoping review. *Ther Adv Rare Dis.* 2024;5:1–13.

Merker VL, Gross AM, Widemann BC, Plotkin SR. Advancing neurofibromatosis and schwannomatosis clinical trial design: consensus recommendations from the Response Evaluation in Neurofibromatosis and Schwannomatosis (REiNS) international collaboration. *Clin Trials.* 2024;21(1):3–5.

Merker VL, Thompson HL, Wolters PL, et al. Recommendations for assessing appearance concerns related to plexiform and cutaneous neurofibromas in neurofibromatosis 1 clinical trials. *Clin Trials*. 2024;21(1):6–17.

Plotkin SR, Yohay KH, Nghiemphu PL, [...] **Merker VL**, et al. Brigatinib in NF2-related schwannomatosis with progressive tumors. *N Engl J Med.* 2024;390(24):2284–2294.

Silverman D, Da J, **Merker V**, et al. Phase 2 randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of the anti-nerve growth factor (NGF) antibody tanezumab in subjects with moderate to severe pain due to schwannomatosis. *Neurology.* 2024;102(17_suppl_1):3692.

Vogt D, Borowski S, Etingen B, **Merker VL**, et al. Using well-being measurements to enhance clinical practice: why and how to ask patients about their broader well-being. *Med Care*. 2024;62(12 Suppl 1):S73–S75.

Wolters PL, Ghriwati NA, Baker M, [...] **Merker VL**, et al. Perspectives of adults with neurofibromatosis regarding the design of psychosocial trials: results from an anonymous online survey. *Clin Trials.* 2024;21(1):73–84.

Boni J, Fernández-González M, Han H, [...] **Nogué C**, et al. Concurrence of FGFR1 mutations modulates oncogenesis in glioneuronal tumors. *EMBO J.* 2025;44(24):7513–7540.

Nogué C, Salvador L, Hasselblatt M, Rivera B. Novel susceptibility genes for non-NF2-/LZTR1-/SMARCB1-related hereditary schwannomatosis. *Fam Cancer.* 2025;24(4):87.

Ortega-Bertran S, Creus-Bachiller E, Magallón-Lorenz M, et al. New models for MPNST: establishment and comprehensive characterization of two tumor cell lines. *Cancer Cell Int.* 2025;25(1):268.

Ortega-Bertran S, Fernández-Rodríguez J, Magallón-Lorenz M, et al. Triple combination of MEK, BET, and CDK inhibitors significantly reduces human malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumors in mouse models. *Clin Cancer Res.* 2025;31(5):907–920.

Creus-Bachiller E, Fernández-Rodríguez J, Magallón-Lorenz M, **Ortega-Bertran S**, et al. Expanding a precision medicine platform for malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumors: new patient-derived orthotopic xenografts, cell lines and tumor entities. *Mol Oncol.* 2024;18(4):895–917.

Borcherding D, Wang G, Zhang X, [...] **Oztosun G**, et al. DDDR-59. Focal adhesion kinase (FAK) inhibitor synergizes with RAF/MEK inhibitor in malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumors with chromosome 8 Gain. *Neuro Oncol.* 2025;27(Suppl_5):v176.

Oztosun G, Armstrong A, Hirbe AC. Mirdametinib, an FDA-approved MEK1/2 inhibitor for adult and pediatric NF1-associated plexiform neurofibromas. *Expert Opin Investig Drugs.* 2025;34(9):665–673.

Zhang X, Borcherding DC, Zhang M, [...] **Oztosun G**, et al. MTA-cooperative PRMT5 inhibitors are efficacious in MTAP-deleted malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumor models. *Clin Cancer Res.* 2025;31(22):4779–4789.

Zhang X, Borcherding D, Zhang M, [...] **Oztosun G**, et al. MTA-cooperative PRMT5 inhibitors demonstrate efficacy in MTAP-deleted MPNST models and enhance chemotherapy response. *Neuro Oncol.* 2025;27:v177–v178.

Oztosun G, Acar S, Bhatia H, et al. TMOD-26. Generation of a chromosome 8 gain; nf1-/-hipsc-derived schwann cell precursor model. *Neuro Oncol.* 2024;26(Suppl_8):viii325.

Wang G, Borcherding D, **Oztosun G**, et al. EXTH-62. Focal adhesion kinase (FAK) in chromosome 8 gain-associated malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumors (MPNST). *Neuro Oncol.* 2024;26(Suppl_8):viii250.

Kolokolnikov G, **Schmalhofer ML**, Götz S, et al. MOIS-SAM2: Exemplar-based segment anything model 2 for multi-lesion interactive segmentation of neurofibromas in whole-body MRI. *Comput Biol Med.* 2026;201:111422.

Falkenbach F, Mazzucato G, **Schmalhofer ML**, et al. Robot-assisted PSMA-radioguided surgery for local recurrence in the prostatic bed. *BJU Int.* 2025;136(3):412–415.

Falkenbach F, **Schmalhofer ML**, Tian Z, et al. Size and SUVmax define the contribution of nodal metastases to PSA in oligorecurrent prostate cancer. Prostate. 2025;85(1):105–111.

Kolokolnikov G, **Schmalhofer ML**, Well L, et al. Anatomy-informed deep learning and radiomics for neurofibroma segmentation in whole-body MRI. *Comput Med Imaging Graph.* 2025;126:102667.

Mazzucato G, Falkenbach F, **Schmalhofer ML**, et al. Robot-assisted PSMA-radioguided salvage surgery for oligorecurrent prostate cancer using the novel SENSEI drop-in gamma probe: correlation of intraoperative measurements to preoperative imaging and final histology. *Cancers (Basel).* 2024;17(1):93.

Ristow I, Apostolova I, Kaul MG, [...] **Schmalhofer ML**, et al. Discrimination of benign, atypical, and malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumours in neurofibromatosis type 1—intraindividual comparison of positron emission computed tomography and diffusion-weighted magnetic resonance imaging. *EJNMMI Res.* 2024;14(1):127.

Schmalhofer ML, Farschtschi S, Kluwe L, et al. Whole-body MRI-based long-term evaluation of pediatric NF1 patients without initial tumor burden with evidence of newly developed peripheral nerve sheath tumors. *Orphanet J Rare Dis.* 2024;19(1):412.

Hensing WL, Podany EL, **Sears JJ**, et al. Evolving concepts in HER2-low breast cancer: genomic insights, definitions, and treatment paradigms. *Oncotarget.* 2025;16:11–27.

Sears JJ, Xu Y, Liu J, et al. Incidence and survival trends in small bowel adenocarcinoma (SBA) from 2000–2019 in the United States. *J Clin Oncol.* 2025;43(4 Suppl):801.

Mazzeo R, **Sears J**, Palmero L, et al. Liquid biopsy in triple-negative breast cancer: unlocking the potential of precision oncology. *ESMO Open.* 2024;9(10):103700.

Chong WC, **Subramaniam B**, Roy D, et al. NFS-07. CDKN2A deletion drives malignant transformation in NF1 deficient glioma. *Neuro Oncol Ped.* 2025;1(Suppl_1):wuaf001.244.

Coppé JP, Kritzer B, Hwang Y, **Subramaniam B**, et al. DMG-58. Uncovering independent targetable mechanisms to counteract multi-modal therapeutic resistance in pediatric diffuse midline gliomas. *Neuro Oncol Ped.* 2025;1(Suppl_1):wuaf001.088.

Doherty R, Wink K, Schwark K, [...] **Subramaniam B**, et al. EXTH-107. Effective targeting of EGFR-driven diffuse midline glioma with BLU5082, a novel brain-penetrant EGFR-targeting tyrosine kinase inhibitor (TKI). *Neuro Oncol.* 2025;27(Suppl_5):v364–v364.

Doherty R, Wink K, Schwark K, [...] **Subramaniam B**, et al. DMG-38. Effective targeting of EGFR-driven diffuse midline glioma with X117195, a novel brain-penetrant EGFR-targeting tyrosine kinase inhibitor (TKI). *Neuro Oncol Ped.* 2025;1(Suppl_1):wuaf001.068.

Ji S, Doherty R, Mota M, [...] **Subramaniam B**, et al. TMET-51. EGFR metabolically suppresses differentiation in H3K27M-mutant diffuse midline glioma. *Neuro Oncol.* 2025;27(Suppl_5):v440.

Ji S, Mota M, Natarajan SK, [...] **Subramaniam B**, et al. DMG-63. EGFR confers resistance to ONC201 in H3K27M-mutant diffuse midline glioma. *Neuro Oncol Ped.* 2025;1(Suppl_1):wuaf001.092.

Okada M, **Subramaniam B**, Jung J, et al. DMG-45. Single-nucleus profiling of postmortem diffuse midline gliomas identifies mitochondrial biogenesis as a resistance mechanism to imipridone therapy. *Neuro Oncol Ped.* 2025;1(Suppl_1):wuaf001.075.

Roy D, **Subramaniam B**, Chong WC, et al. MODL-09. Zebrafish-a suitable model for rapid discovery of effective pediatric cancer therapeutics. *Neuro Oncol Ped.* 2025;1(Suppl_1):wuaf001.298.

Subramaniam B, Chong WC, Bhattacharya S, et al. NFS-06. Targeting PRMT5 in MTAP-deleted NF1 high grade gliomas. *Neuro Oncol Ped.* 2025;1(Suppl_1):wuaf001.243.

Subramaniam B, Chong WC, Babaei A, et al. MTAP-null tumors: a comprehensive review on synthetic vulnerabilities and therapeutic strategies. *Cells.* 2025;14(24):1964.

Subramaniam B, Roy D, Woldegerima A, et al. Dual treatment with Val-083 and AZD1775 shows potent anti-tumor activity in diffuse midline glioma models. *NPJ Precis Oncol.* 2025;9(1):209.

Chong WC, Putnam E, **Subramaniam B**, et al. MODL-03. Therapeutic efficacy of imipiridones in lynch syndrome-associated gliomas. *Neuro Oncol Ped.* 2024;26(Suppl_4):0.

Chong WC, **Subramaniam B**, Tomasso F, et al. NFS-10. Role of CDKN2A co-deletion in driving tumor invasiveness in nf1 mutant glioma. *Neuro Oncol Ped.* 2024;26(Suppl_4):0.

Roy D, **Subramaniam B**, Chong WC, et al. Zebrafish-a suitable model for rapid translation of effective therapies for pediatric cancers. *Cancers (Basel).* 2024;16(7):1361.

Roy D, **Subramaniam B**, Chong WC, Nazarian J. MODL-04. Zebrafish: the future of pediatric brain cancer research. *Neuro Oncol Ped.* 2024;26(Suppl_4):0.

Subramaniam B, Roy D, Woldegerima A, et al. DIPG-38. VAL-083 in combination with AZD1775 for the treatment of diffuse midline glioma. *Neuro Oncol Ped.* 2024;26(Suppl_4):0.

Khan S, Aina O, Veneklasen X, [...] **Sun D**. The combination of HSP90 inhibitors and selumetinib reinforces the inhibitory effects on plexiform neurofibromas. *Cancers (Basel).* 2025;17(14):2359.

Njoya K, Zayed H, Sun L, [...] **Sun D**. Natural history of SPP1 signaling in NF1 tumors. *NPJ Precis Oncol.* 2025;9(1):320.

Sait SF, Tang KH, Angus SP, [...] **Sun D**, et al. Hydroxychloroquine prevents resistance and potentiates the antitumor effect of SHP2 inhibition in NF1-associated malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumors. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A.* 2025;122(1):e2407745121.

Khan S, Alson D, Sun L, [...] **Sun D**. Leveraging neural crest-derived tumors to identify NF1 cancer stem cell signatures. *Cancers (Basel).* 2024;16(21):3639.

Pierpont EI, Bennett AM, Schoyer L, [...] **Sun D**, et al. The 8th International RASopathies Symposium: expanding research and care practice through global collaboration and advocacy. *Am J Med Genet A.* 2024;194(4):e63477.

Xie XP, Ganbold M, Li J, [...] **Sun D**, et al. Glioblastoma functional heterogeneity and enrichment of cancer stem cells with tumor recurrence. *Neuron.* 2024;112(24):4017–4032.e6.

Kim A, Ballman KV, Wolters PL, [...] **Sundby RT**, et al. SARC031: a phase 2 trial of selumetinib and sirolimus for patients with unresectable or metastatic malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumors (MPNST). *Clin Cancer Res.* January 8, 2026. [Epub ahead of print]

Hirbe AC, Dehner CA, Dombi E, [...] **Sundby T**, et al. Contemporary approach to neurofibromatosis type 1-associated malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumors. *Am Soc Clin Oncol Educ Book.* 2024;44(3):e432242.

Murphy J, **Sundby RT**, Resch EE, et al. Brain metastasis in pediatric patients with osteosarcoma. *Curr Oncol.* 2024;31(11):7014–7022.

Sundby RT, Rhodes SD, Komlodi-Pasztor E, et al. Recommendations for the collection and annotation of biosamples for analysis of biomarkers in neurofibromatosis and schwannomatosis clinical trials. *Clin Trials*. 2024;21(1):40–50.

Sundby RT, Szymanski JJ, Pan AC, et al. Early detection of malignant and premalignant peripheral nerve tumors using cell-free DNA fragmentomics. *Clin Cancer Res.* 2024;30(19):4363–4376.

Thornton JR, Capurro A, Harwood S, et al. Screening of candidate analgesics using a patient-derived human iPSC model of nociception identifies putative compounds for therapeutic treatment. *Clin Transl Med.* 2025;15(5):e70339.

Wopken JP, **Thornton JR**, van Kleef RGDM, Westerink RHS. Inhibitory effects of (synthetic) cannabinoids and (designer) benzodiazepines on spontaneously active neuronal networks of primary rat cortical cultures in vitro. *Neurotoxicology.* 2026;112:103379.

Presentations

American Society for Bone and Mineral Research (ASBMR) Annual Meeting 2025

September 5–8, 2025; Seattle, Washington

Kovaci F, Goachet C, Perrin S, et al. Cellular origin of spine deformity in a mouse model of neurofibromatosis type 1. Abstract PM-108.

2025 American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium

January 23–25, 2025; San Francisco, California

Sears JJ, Xu Y, Liu J, et al. Incidence and survival trends in small bowel adenocarcinoma (SBA) from 2000–2019 in the United States. Abstract 801.

"Participating in the NFYIF has had a significant impact on my scientific and professional development. The program expanded my network, connected me with leading experts in the NF community, and provided valuable feedback that strengthened my research direction. Importantly, the financial support associated with the award enabled me to present my work at additional international conferences, which directly contributed to further recognition and the receipt of new awards. Although I am currently working on a project involving another genetic disease, my commitment to the NF1 field remains strong. I fully intend to return to NF1 research, as I believe deeply in continuing efforts that can improve the lives of patients and lead to meaningful therapeutic advances."

—Franceska Kovaci (PhD student)

2025 Society for Neuro-Oncology (SNO) 8th Biennial Pediatric Neuro-Oncology Conference
May 15–17, 2025; San Diego, California

Subramaniam B, Chong WC, Bhattacharya S, et al. NFS-06. Targeting PRMT5 in MTAP-deleted NF1 high grade gliomas. Abstract NFS-06.

Children's Cancer Foundation (CCF) Inc. 9th Annual Research Symposium
June 4, 2025; Greenbelt, Maryland

Sundby T, Milewski D, Murray J, et al. AI: potential and challenges for pediatric oncology. Jeffrey Toretsky Honorary Keynote Panel.

2025 Children's Tumor Foundation (CTF) Global Neurofibromatosis (NF) Conference
June 21–24, 2025; Washington, DC

Bouley S, Fernandez F, Caulin AF, et al. Comparative profiling of activated kinome and transcriptome in NF1 schwann cell lines: pathway insights for therapeutic targeting. Abstract 5896.

Cappel Z, Waclaw R, Schwartz G, et al. Molecular and circuit mechanisms of visual hypersensitivity in mice modeling NF1. Abstract 5445.

Dyson A, Brown M, Veraksa A, et al. Identification and functional analysis of novel neurofibromin-interacting proteins. Abstract 5891.

Kotch C, de Blank PM, Solomon DA, et al. Treatment heterogeneity and survival outcomes in an international, multi-institutional cohort of individuals with NF1-associated high-grade glioma and high-grade astrocytoma with piloid features. Oral Sesson Clinical Platform Presentation.

Liu D, Wolters PL, Klein-Tasman BP, et al. Age-varying associations between ADHD symptoms and internalizing/externalizing behaviors in children with neurofibromatosis type 1: integrative analyses of data from six institutions. Abstract 5859.

Liu D, Zong X, Wolters PL, et al. Age-varying associations between executive function and internalizing/externalizing behaviors in children with neurofibromatosis type 1: integrative analyses of data from nine institutions. Abstract 5860.

Lukkes JL, Drozd HP, Galbardi T, et al. Aberrant cortico-striatal neural activity underlies impulsivity and adhd in a preclinical model of neurofibromatosis type 1. Oral Session Basic/Preclinical Platform Presentation.

Merker V, Koch E, Arias P, et al. Feasibility, acceptability, and preliminary efficacy of an online platform to promote evidence-based care for underserved patients with neurofibromatosis 1 (NF1). Abstract 5637.

Oztosun G, Acar S, Bhatia H, et al. Exploring chromosome 8 gain in NF1-/- schwann cell precursors using a hiPSC-based model. Abstract 5553

Schmalhofer ML, Well L, Mautner VF, et al. Prevalence and MRI-based characteristics of distinct nodular lesions in patients with NF1 on whole-body MRI. Abstract 5037.

Stillwell AM, Lambert L, Bradley K, et al. Developmental analyses of skeletal manifestations in knock-in mouse model of neurofibromatosis type 1 p.M992del "mild" patient mutation. Abstract 5358.

Sundby RT, Patel S, Jung H, et al. Deep learning predicts CDKN2A/B status from H&E-stained whole slide images in peripheral nerve sheath tumors. Abstract 5871.

Honors and Awards

Zoe Cappel, BA

2025 | Children's Tumor Foundation (CTF) Young Investigator Award

Alex Dyson, PhD

2024–2025 | Children's Tumor Foundation (CTF) Young Investigator Award

2025 | Celebration of Science Poster of Distinction Winner, Massachusetts General Hospital

Franceska Kovaci, PhD

2025 | American Society for Bone and Mineral Research (ASBMR) Young Investigator Award

Vanessa Merker, PhD

2024–2025 | Anne Klibanski Visiting Scholar Award at Massachusetts General Hospital

Alexis Stillwell, BS

2024–2025 | Children's Tumor Foundation (CTF) Young Investigator Award

R. Taylor Sundby, MD

2025 | Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) Neurofibromatosis (NF) Research Program New Investigator Award

Start Planning for 2026!

6TH ANNUAL

NEUROFIBROMATOSIS

Young Investigators' Forum

Abstract submission deadline and forum details coming soon.
To be notified when the Call for Abstracts is distributed,
please email **info@ceconcepts.com**.

Visit the NFYIF **website** for all things NFYIF!

Follow us on **@NFYIForum**

cecCONCEPTS
HEALTHCARE EDUCATION