

2025 KUHR-TN NATIONAL CONFERENCE

*Kidney, Urology, and Hematology Research
Training Network*

**Atlanta, Georgia
May 19-21, 2025**

Hosted by:



Conference Overview

Pre-Conference Social: Join us for bowling, dinner, and networking the night before the conference!

Date and time: May 19, 2025, from 6:30-8:00 PM EST

Location: Wisteria Lanes at [Emory Conference Center and Hotel](#) (1615 Clifton Rd N E, Atlanta, GA 30329)

2025 KUHR-TN National Conference Meeting

Date: May 20-21, 2025

Location: Claudia Nance Rollins Building, Emory University (1518 Clifton Rd. NE, Atlanta, GA 30322)

Directions to building: Registration and breakfast will be in the plaza of the Claudia Nance Rollins Building from 7:30-8:30 AM EST. If you are coming from the Michael Street Parking Deck and walking up to the complex, it is the first building on the left with outdoor seating. We will have signs to help guide you to the building.

Parking at the Conference (May 20-21, 2025)

Those driving to the conference should park in the Michael Street Parking Deck (550 Houston Mill Road, Atlanta, GA 30322). Please see registration table at the end of the conference to have your parking validated.

Conference Materials

[Click here](#) or
scan the QR code to
visit the conference website.



Agenda Attendance Key

Some individual sessions are only open to specific attendees. Unless otherwise noted, sessions are available for all attendees. Everyone is welcome to attend all trainee presentations.

U2C/TL1 trainees only	Only current KUHR-TN trainees are allowed to attend the session
Trainees, pick 1	Sessions are geared towards pre- and postdoctoral trainees, but other faculty and staff may attend if interested
U2C/TL1 Faculty and Staff only	Only U2C/TL1 faculty and staff may attend session
Current mentors only	Only faculty who are current mentors for trainees may attend

Trainee Poster Presentation Schedule is the final page of the agenda.

May 19, 2025

Time	Event	Location
6:30PM – 8:00PM	<u>Pre-Conference Social – A Network Core Sponsored Event:</u> Join us for bowling, dinner, and networking the night before the conference!	Wisteria Lanes Emory Conference Center Hotel 1615 Clifton Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30329

May 20, 2025

Time	Event	Location
7:30AM – 8:30AM	<u>Conference Registration and Breakfast</u>	CNR Plaza and Auditorium
8:45AM – 9:00AM	<u>Welcome</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Susan Wall, MD – Welcome from ATLANTIS Jenny Varner, MD – Welcome from Trainee Steering Committee 	CNR Auditorium
9:00AM – 10:00AM	<u>Keynote speaker</u> “Leadership Skills for Clinical and Translational Investigators” Dr. Ravi Thadhani, MD, MPH	CNR Auditorium
10:00AM – 10:35AM	<u>Overview and Description of Trainee Round Table</u> <u>Special Topics Session:</u> Stacy Heilman, PhD	CNR Auditorium
10:35AM – 10:45AM	<u>Instructions on next sessions:</u> Vivien Sheehan, MD, PhD Travel to sessions	CNR Auditorium

10:45AM – 11:45AM **Training Core Meeting**
(U2C/TL1 faculty only)

Training Core:
CNR auditorium

**Round Tables Special Topics – A Network Core
Sponsored Event**

(Trainees attendees only. No additional faculty or staff due to limited seating.)

Round Tables:
Klamon, 8th
floor

Trainees will rotate through 4 different tables for 12 minutes each

1. **“Translating Academic Strengths into Industry Impact”** Simon Higgins, PhD
2. **“Tips and tricks for getting published”** Robert Hoover, MD, FASN, FAHA
3. **“Cascading mentorship”** Leah Roesch, PhD
4. **“Key qualities that make a great mentor in academic research”** Rosalyn Adam, PhD
5. **“Strategies early-career researchers can use to build a strong professional network”** Dennis Brown, PhD
6. **“Entrepreneurship and Commercialization”** Rahul Sharma, PhD
7. **“Writing a Winning Grant Proposal: Strategies and Tips”** Elaine Ku, MD, MAS
8. **“Keeping Patients at the Center of Your Research: Communication, Education, Advocacy”** Julie Wright Nunes, BSME, MD, MPH
9. **“Experiences in Academia and Industry: Finding the Right Fit for your Research Career”** Trent Spencer, PhD and Dr. Rick McIndoe, MD, PhD
10. **“Finding the balance: How to say "no" and find work/work balance”** Jackie Ho, MD, MSc and Joseph Bonventre, MD, PhD
11. **“The highs and lows of academia: Surviving the current environment and identifying who to work with”** Petra Popovics, MD and Mark Okusa, MD
12. **“How to have resiliency and flexibility throughout your career”** Dena Rifkin, MD, MS and Joe Ix, MD, MAS

Faculty and other attendees not attending either session have a free hour.

11:50AM – 12:40PM	<u>Trainee Oral Presentations – Group 1 (concurrent, everyone pick 1)</u>	
	Session 1A: Transplantation and Immunologic Responses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dillon Bohinc, B.S. (Cleveland Training Network) Krystle Frazier, MD (Learners to Leaders) Sarah McLarnon, PhD (NC KUH TRIO) John Hobbs, MS (NYC Train KUHR) 	Session 1A: CNR auditorium
	Session 1B: Biomarkers, Diagnostics, and Innovation in Kidney Disease <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brendyn Miller, PhD (NC KUH TRIO) Pedro Vasquez, PhD Candidate (NCOR-KUH) Rayna Birnbaum, PhD (NYC Train KUHR) Bernadette Tiberi, PhD Candidate (PERFORM-KUH) 	Session 1B: CNR 1000
12:45PM – 1:00PM	<u>Brief instructions on lunch, group photo, and following sessions:</u> Stacy Heilman	CNR Auditorium
1:00PM – 1:55PM	<u>Lunch Buffet</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Job fair during lunch: join Network Core members from different institutions to discuss finding faculty and postdoc positions at our KUHR-TN Institutions. Bring your lunch down to network! Additional seating is available in CNR 1051, CNR 1055, and outside (<i>weather permitting</i>) 	Buffet: Klamon (8 th floor) Job fair: CNR 1055
2:00PM – 2:55PM	U2C/TL1 Faculty and Staff Meeting with Program Officers (<i>U2C/TL1 faculty only</i>)	U2C/TL1 Meeting: CNR auditorium
<u>Breakout sessions (concurrent, trainees pick 1)</u>		
	Session 1: “Managing Lab and Research Finances” Amelia Randall, MBA	Session 1: CNR 1051
	Session 2: “Networking - Elevator Pitch/Job Search Tips” Samantha Ramosevac, PhD	Session 2: CNR 1055

Session 3: “From Pipettes to Prototypes Building Bridges Beyond the Lab” Catherine Murari-Kanti, PhD

Session 3:
CNR 1000

**3:00PM –
3:45PM**

Network Core meeting
(U2C/TL1 faculty only)

Network Core:
CNR 1051

Professional Development Core meeting
(U2C/TL1 faculty only)

PD Core:
CNR 1055

Breakout sessions (concurrent, trainees pick 1)

Session 1: “Professional Societies as a Catalyst for Innovation and Career Development” Prabir Roy-Chaudhury, MD, PhD

Session 1:
Klamon (8th floor)

Session 2: “Bridging the gap between Academia and Industry” Trent Spencer, PhD and Wilbur Lam, MD, PhD

Session 2:
CNR 1000

Session 3: F-award Panel Discussion Session with Recent F-award recipients

Session 3:
CNR auditorium

- Jennifer Pollock, PhD (moderator)
- Alexander Razavi, MD, PhD, MPH (panelist)
- Naziya Noorani, MSN, RN, PhD candidate (panelist)
- Victoria Placentra, PhD candidate (panelist)
- Lauren Askew, PhD (panelist)

**3:50PM –
4:25PM**

Trainee Rapid Fire Sessions – Group A (concurrent, everyone pick 1)

Trainees may hang posters immediately after rapid fire session concludes.

Session 1A: Molecular and Genetic Mechanisms in Kidney and Blood Disorders

Session 1A:
CNR auditorium

- Andrea Liu, MD (Chicago KUH FORWARD)
- Rodrigo P. Silva-Aguiar, PhD (Cleveland Training Network)
- Andrew Barbera, MD (Deep South PRIME)
- Tha Luong, MS (Deep South PRIME)
- Maria Venegas, PhD (Deep South PRIME)
- Martin Rodriguez, PhD (NC KUH TRIO)
- Jennifer Varner, MD, MS (NC KUH TRIO)
- Fabliha Chowdhury, PhD (PCT-KUH)
- Joshua Gale, PhD candidate (PERFORM-KUH)

-
- Po-Ju Chen, PhD (University of Michigan Training Network)

Session 1B: Innovations in Diagnostics, Monitoring, and Therapeutics

- Brenna Kirkpatrick, BS (Chicago KUH FORWARD)
- Alexandra Schmidt, PhD (Cleveland Training Network)
- Maggie Jones-Carr, MD (Deep South PRIME)
- Brianna Silverman, BS (HKUHTI)
- Alexander Hernández-Tirado, MD (KUH ART)
- Timothy Dobroski, B.S. (NC KUH TRIO)
- Sarah Wachtman, PhD Candidate (NC KUH TRIO)
- Samaneh DiMartino, PhD (NYC Train KUHR)
- Nga H. Nguyen, PhD (PCT-KUH)
- Amani Alkayyali, PhD (University of Michigan Training Network)

Session 1B:
CNR 1000

4:30PM – 5:15PM **Trainee Poster Session (Group 1)**
(See final page of agenda for poster presentation schedule and numbers.)

Posters 1-15:
Plaza outside auditorium

Posters 16-32:
CNR Bridge

5:20PM – 5:30PM **Closing remarks:** Vivien Sheehan

End Day 1

May 21, 2025

Time	Event	Location
7:30AM – 8:30AM	Breakfast	CNR Plaza and Auditorium
8:00AM – 9:00AM	KUHR-TN Trainees meeting with Program Officers <i>(U2C/TL1 trainees only)</i>	CNR 1000
9:00AM – 9:05AM	Welcome back for Day 2: Susan Wall, MD	
9:10AM – 9:50AM	<u>Trainee Oral Presentations – Group 2</u> <u>(concurrent, everyone pick 1)</u>	
	Session 2A: Sickle Cell and Hematologic-Endothelial Interactions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaysha Williams, MSc, PhD (ATLANTIS) Jamie Hamilton, PhD (ATLANTIS) Karla Marquez-Nogueras, PhD (Chicago KUH FORWARD) Oliver Pelletier, Ph.D. (IGNITE-KUH) 	Session 2A: CNR auditorium
	Session 2B: Renal Pathophysiology and Injury Mechanisms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andrea Zuccaro, Ph.D. (Cleveland Training Network) Lance Benson, Ph.D. (Deep South PRIME) Choah Kim, PhD (HKUHTI) Samantha Bryce, PhD (PCT-KUH) 	Session 2B: CNR 1000
9:55AM – 10:25AM	<u>Trainee Rapid Fire Sessions – Group 2</u> <u>(concurrent, everyone pick 1)</u> <i>Trainees may hang posters immediately after rapid fire session concludes.</i>	
	Session 2A: Cellular and Metabolic Responses in Kidney Function and Injury <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ryan Allen, PhD (ATLANTIS) Dana Battle, BS (ATLANTIS) Annika Gompers, MPhil (ATLANTIS) Audrey Wang, BA (ATLANTIS) Sul A Lee, M.D., M.S. (HKUHTI) Mesbahi Asma, PhD (HKUHTI) Morgan Walcheck, PhD (HKUHTI) Olivia Fay, B.S. (NC KUH TRIO) Yasmin Roye, Biomedical Engineering (NC KUH TRIO) 	Session 2A: CNR auditorium

	Session 2B: Health Policy and Systems-Level Interventions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebecca Horowitz, BS (Deep South PRIME) • Eriene-Heidi Sidhom, MD, PhD (HKUHTI) • Aisha Siebert, MD PhD MPH (HKUHTI) • Rebecca Zubajlo, Ph.D. (HKUHTI) • Elizabeth Thompson, PhD Candidate (IGNITE-KUH) • Taylor Kress, PhD (NC KUH TRIO) • Justina Ray, MD (NYC Train KUHR) • Mark Soto, MS (NYC Train KUHR) 	Session 2B: CNR 1000
10:30AM – 11:15AM	Trainee Poster Session (Group 2) <i>(See final page of agenda for poster presentation schedule and numbers.)</i>	Posters 1-15: Plaza outside auditorium Posters 16-32: CNR Bridge
11:15AM – 11:25AM	Break <i>Enjoy snacks and refreshments in the plaza outside of the auditorium</i>	CNR Plaza
11:30AM – 12:10PM	“Mentor Coaching: Maintaining Effective Communication” <i>(Current mentors only)</i> - Leah Roesch, MBA and Mike Caudle, PhD	Mentor Coaching: CNR 1000
Breakout sessions (concurrent, trainees pick 1)		
	Session 1: “Creating MD and PhD collaborations” Rabin Tirouvanziam, PhD and Lokesh Guglani, MD, FAAP	Session 1: CNR 1051
	Session 2: “Strategic Professional Alignment: Surrounding Yourself with the Right People and the Right Places” Vivien Sheehan, MD, PhD, Susan Wall, MD, and Chia-shi Wang, MD	Session 2: CNR auditorium
	Session 3: “Updating your NIH Biosketch” Julie Hawk, PhD	Session 3: CNR 1055

12:15PM – 12:55PM	Program Evaluation Working Group (<i>hybrid, U2C/TL1 Faculty and Staff only</i>) - Amber Mason	Working group: CNR 1000
------------------------------	---	-----------------------------------

Breakout sessions (concurrent, trainees pick 1)

Session 1: Alternative Careers in Science Panel Discussion

- Nael McCarty, PhD (moderator)
- Karla K.V. Haack, PhD, Senior Medical Writer, Merck and Co. (panelist)
- Richard T. Timmer, PhD, Senior Patent Agent, Brown Rudnick, LLP (panelist)
- Patrick Reynolds, PhD, Director, Faculty & Startup Services, Emory University - Office of Technology Transfer (panelist)

Session 1:

CNR auditorium

Session 2: “Creating and maintaining cross-institutional collaborations” John Sedor, PhD and David Pollock, PhD

Session 2:

CNR 1055

1:00PM **Closing remarks:** Vivien Sheehan

CNR
Auditorium

End with Lunch

Klamon (8th
floor)

End of Conference

Trainee Poster Presentation Schedule

- Group 1 presents Tuesday May 20, 2025
- Group 2 presents Wednesday May 21, 2025
- The Plaza is located outside of the auditorium on Level P
- The CNR Bridge is on the 1st floor, right by the staircase

TRAINEE	POSTER SESSION	RAPID FIRE	POSTER NUMBER	LOCATION
ABIGAIL BROOKS, MS (DEEP SOUTH PRIME)	Group 2	No	11	Plaza
ADRIANA GORDON DE JESUS, MD (HKUHTI)	Group 1	No	30	CNR Bridge
AISHA SIEBERT, MD PHD MPH (HKUHTI)	Group 2	Yes	27	CNR Bridge
ALEXANDER HERNÁNDEZ-TIRADO, MD (KUH ART)	Group 1	Yes	5	Plaza
ALEXANDRA SCHMIDT, PHD (CLEVELAND TRAINING NETWORK)	Group 1	Yes	2	Plaza
ALEXIA ORELLANA, B.S (DEEP SOUTH PRIME)	Group 2	No	12	Plaza
ALISON BUCK, PHD. BIOENGINEERING (PCT-KUH)	Group 2	No	17	CNR Bridge
AMANDA CLARK, PHD (DEEP SOUTH PRIME)	Group 1	No	27	CNR Bridge
AMANI ALKAYYALI, PHD (UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN TRAINING NETWORK)	Group 1	Yes	10	Plaza
ANDREA LIU, MD (CHICAGO KUH FORWARD)	Group 1	Yes	11	Plaza
ANDREW BARBERA, MD (DEEP SOUTH PRIME)	Group 1	Yes	13	Plaza
ANH-DAO CHENG, MD (HKUHTI)	Group 1	No	29	CNR Bridge
ANMOL SINGH, MS (CHICAGO KUH FORWARD)	Group 2	No	10	Plaza
ANNIKA GOMPERS, MPHIL (ATLANTIS)	Group 2	Yes	3	Plaza
AUDREY WANG, BA (ATLANTIS)	Group 2	Yes	4	Plaza
BENJAMIN TAJER, PH.D. (HKUHTI)	Group 2	No	15	Plaza
BRENNA KIRKPATRICK, BS (CHICAGO KUH FORWARD)	Group 1	Yes	1	Plaza
BRIANNA SILVERMAN, BS (HKUHTI)	Group 1	Yes	4	Plaza

DANA BATTLE, BS (ATLANTIS)	Group 2	Yes	2	Plaza
DENISHA SPIRES, PHD (DEEP SOUTH PRIME)	Group 1	No	21	CNR Bridge
ELIZABETH THOMPSON, PHD CANDIDATE (IGNITE-KUH)	Group 2	Yes	29	CNR Bridge
EMILY KING, MS (HKUHTI)	Group 2	No	14	Plaza
ERIENE-HEIDI SIDHOM, MD, PHD (HKUHTI)	Group 2	Yes	26	CNR Bridge
FABLIHA CHOWDHURY, PHD (PCT-KUH)	Group 1	Yes	18	CNR Bridge
GARRETT CAMPBELL, B.S. (PCT-KUH)	Group 1	No	26	CNR Bridge
GAVIN TRABER, PHD (LEARNERS TO LEADERS)	Group 2	No	16	CNR Bridge
HILARY MONTANO, BSC (IGNITE-KUH)	Group 1	No	25	CNR Bridge
HUY NGUYEN, MS (DEEP SOUTH PRIME)	Group 1	No	28	CNR Bridge
JENNIFER OKALOVA, BS (ATLANTIS)	Group 2	No	8	Plaza
JENNIFER VARNER, MD, MS (NC KUH TRIO)	Group 1	Yes	17	CNR Bridge
JOCELYN CERVANTES, B.S. (NCOR-KUH)	Group 1	No	31	CNR Bridge
JOSHUA GALE, PHD CANDIDATE (PERFORM-KUH)	Group 1	Yes	19	CNR Bridge
JULIAN EHRMANN, PH.D. (HKUHTI)	Group 1	No	22	CNR Bridge
JUSTINA RAY, MD (NYC TRAIN KUHR)	Group 2	Yes	31	CNR Bridge
KUNAL BAILOOR, MD, HCE-C (UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN TRAINING NETWORK)	Group 2	No	18	CNR Bridge
MAGGIE JONES-CARR, MD (DEEP SOUTH PRIME)	Group 1	Yes	3	Plaza
MALLORY MANDEL, MD, MPH (HKUHTI)	Group 1	No	24	CNR Bridge
MARIA VENEGAS, PHD (DEEP SOUTH PRIME)	Group 1	Yes	15	Plaza
MARK SOTO, MS (NYC TRAIN KUHR)	Group 2	Yes	32	CNR Bridge
MARTIN RODRIGUEZ, PHD (NC KUH TRIO)	Group 1	Yes	16	CNR Bridge
MATTHEW GILLEN, MD (ATLANTIS)	Group 2	No	6	Plaza

MELISSA MCGRANAHAN, PHD (ATLANTIS)	Group 2	No	7	Plaza
MESBAHI ASMA, PHD (HKUHTI)	Group 2	Yes	21	CNR Bridge
MIN-LEE YANG, M.S. (UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN TRAINING NETWORK)	Group 2	No	19	CNR Bridge
MORGAN WALCHECK, PHD (HKUHTI)	Group 2	Yes	22	CNR Bridge
NGA H. NGUYEN, PHD (PCT- KUH)	Group 1	Yes	9	Plaza
OLIVIA FAY, B.S. (NC KUH TRIO)	Group 2	Yes	23	CNR Bridge
PO-JU CHEN, PHD (UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN TRAINING NETWORK)	Group 1	Yes	20	CNR Bridge
PRISCILLA DELGADO, M.S. (ATLANTIS)	Group 2	No	5	Plaza
REBECCA HOROWITZ, BS (DEEP SOUTH PRIME)	Group 2	Yes	25	CNR Bridge
REBECCA ZUBAJLO, PH.D. (HKUHTI)	Group 2	Yes	28	CNR Bridge
RODRIGO P. SILVA-AGUIAR, PHD (CLEVELAND TRAINING NETWORK)	Group 1	Yes	12	Plaza
ROHIT UPADHYAY, PHD (DEEP SOUTH PRIME)	Group 2	No	13	Plaza
RYAN ALLEN, PHD (ATLANTIS)	Group 2	Yes	1	Plaza
SAMANEH DIMARTINO, PHD (NYC TRAIN KUHR)	Group 1	Yes	8	Plaza
SARAH WACHTMAN, PHD CANDIDATE (NC KUH TRIO)	Group 1	Yes	7	Plaza
STEPHAN GEORGE, BS (HKUHTI)	Group 1	No	23	CNR Bridge
SUL A LEE, M.D., M.S. (HKUHTI)	Group 2	Yes	20	CNR Bridge
TAYLOR KRESS, PHD (NC KUH TRIO)	Group 2	Yes	30	CNR Bridge
THA LUONG, MS (DEEP SOUTH PRIME)	Group 1	Yes	14	Plaza
TIMOTHY DOBROSKI, B.S. (NC KUH TRIO)	Group 1	Yes	6	Plaza
TYROME SWEET, PHD (ATLANTIS)	Group 2	No	9	Plaza
YASMIN ROYE, BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING (NC KUH TRIO)	Group 2	Yes	24	CNR Bridge