



CANCER RESEARCH SUMMIT

May 12-14, 2025

Hosted by SAS Institute

NOTE: All event times listed are in Eastern Time

May 12 | Monday

6:00 – 8:00PM **Welcome Social Gathering**
[The Westin](#) in Raleigh, NC - Halcyon Room (rooftop)

May 13 | Tuesday

*All daytime sessions will be held at SAS Institute - Executive Briefing Center (EBC)
Building C - 820 SAS Campus Drive, Cary, NC; Room EBC-7 unless otherwise noted below.*

7:30 – 8:00AM **Group Transportation from Westin Hotel to SAS Campus**

8:00 – 9:00AM **Breakfast Service**
EBC Networking Hall

Attendee Check-In & Registration
EBC Networking Hall (Event Desk)

9:00 – 9:15AM **Welcome to the 2025 V Foundation for Cancer Research Summit**
Room EBC-7
Executive welcome from the V Foundation and host sponsor, SAS Institute.

Shane Jacobson
Chief Executive Officer | the V Foundation for Cancer Research

9:15 – 9:30AM **V Grantee Introductions**

9:30 – 12:00PM **Communicating Science with Clarity and Impact**
Science is powerful—but only if people understand it. In this interactive workshop, grantees will explore practical, high-impact techniques to make their research clear, memorable, and engaging. Through fun exercises and real-time feedback, participants will refine their ability to connect with diverse audiences, craft compelling narratives, and deliver with confidence. Bring your curiosity, a willingness to experiment, and maybe even a little humor as we sharpen your science communication skills together.

Presenter

Melissa Booth, PhD

Founder & Director of Communication Training | The Science Communicator, LLC

Current as of 4/18/25

12:00 – 1:15PM	Lunch Service & Networking Time <i>SAS Café (Reserved Area for the V Foundation)</i>
1:15 – 2:15PM	Mentoring Panel Session – Advice from Past V Grantees Panel of past V Grantees share their career path experience and advice during this Q&A session. Discussion topics include work/life balance, managing lab dynamics, navigating uncertainty in funding, the tenure process, and publishing. Moderator Kara Coleman, PhD Vice President of Grants and Research the V Foundation Panelists Camila dos Santos, PhD (2016 V Scholar) Associate Professor, dos Santos Laboratory Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Chad Pecot, MD (2014 V Scholar) Professor, Division of Oncology UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center Leo D. Wang, MD, PhD (2022 Translational Grantee) Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Immuno-Oncology City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center
2:15 – 2:30PM	Short Break
2:30 – 3:45PM	Peer-to-Peer Consultancy Workshop Interactive group problem-solving activity where grantees have the opportunity to discuss non-scientific challenges they may be facing as early career investigators and provide support, new perspectives, and ideas to one another. Moderator Kara Coleman, PhD Vice President of Grants and Research the V Foundation
3:45 – 4:30PM	Cancer Collaboration Challenge Grantees will be paired up and challenged to develop an innovative way they could work together on a new collaborative research project. Pairings will be across cancer research fields and the idea must be one that neither individual could complete without the other. This creative, exploratory exercise will allow grantees to consider new research perspectives. Collaborations will be evaluated on creativity and potential impact. Moderators Susanna Greer, PhD Chief Scientific Officer the V Foundation Kara Coleman, PhD Vice President of Grants and Research the V Foundation Caroline Smith, PhD Director, Foundation and Scientific Partnerships the V Foundation
4:30 – 5:00PM	Group Transportation from SAS Campus to the Westin Hotel
5:00 – 6:00PM	Break

Current as of 4/18/25

6:00 – 6:30PM	Group Transportation from the Westin Hotel to the Angus Barn
6:30 – 9:00PM	Dinner and Social Mixer <i>Pavilion at the Angus Barn</i> <i>9401 Glenwood Ave. Raleigh, NC 27617</i>

May 14 | Wednesday

7:30 – 8:00AM	Group Transportation from the Westin Hotel to SAS Campus
8:00 – 9:00AM	Breakfast Service <i>EBC Networking Hall</i>
9:00 – 9:45AM	Grantee Flash Talk Presentations – Session 1 <i>All flash talk sessions will be held in Auditorium EBC-150</i> V Grantees have the opportunity to put their newly enriched communication skills to work while presenting 2.5 minute “flash talks” about their V Foundation-funded research projects targeted towards a non-specialist audience. Moderator Susanna Greer, PhD Chief Scientific Officer the V Foundation
9:45 – 10:00AM	Short Break
10:00 – 10:45AM	Grantee Flash Talk Presentations – Session 2 Moderator Caroline Smith, PhD Director, Foundation and Scientific Partnerships the V Foundation
10:45 – 11:15AM	Morning Break & Networking Time <i>EBC Networking Hall</i>
11:15AM – 12:00PM	Grantee Flash Talk Presentations – Session 3 Moderator Kara Coleman, PhD Vice President of Grants and Research the V Foundation
12:00 – 1:00PM	Lunch Service & Networking Time <i>SAS Café (Reserved Area for the V Foundation)</i>
1:00 – 2:15PM	Grant Writing & Review - Advice from V Foundation SAC Members Grantees will have the opportunity for small-group discussions with SAC members on topics relating to grant writing and review such as how to approach NIH vs. foundation grants, how to get reviewer experience, common grant writing pitfalls to avoid, and how to incorporate biostatistics into your proposal. Moderator Kara Coleman, PhD Vice President of Grants and Research the V Foundation

Current as of 4/18/25

Scientific Advisory Committee Members

H. Shelton (Shelley) Earp, MD

Lineberger Distinguished Professor of Cancer Research | UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center

Yelena Janjigian, MD

Professor and Chief Attending, Gastrointestinal Oncology Service | Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Joseph O. Moore, MD

Professor Emeritus of Medicine | Duke Cancer Institute

Brian Patrick O'Neill, MD

Program Director/Principal Investigator, NCI T32 Training Grant in Brain Cancer Research | Mayo Clinic Cancer Center

Barry P. Sleckman, MD, PhD

Director | O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Alabama

Leo D. Wang, MD, PhD

Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Immuno-Oncology | City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center

2:15 – 2:30PM

Short Break

2:30 – 3:15PM

Exploring Collaborative Research

Explore the pros and cons of collaborative projects and how they can help advance careers, accelerate scientific progress, and maximize research impact. Hear from V Foundation Alumni about their experiences and strategies on topics including how to find the right collaborators, tips for building and maintaining effective partnerships, avoiding common pitfalls, lessons learned, and more.

Moderator

Susanna Greer, PhD

Chief Scientific Officer | the V Foundation

Presenters

Camila dos Santos, PhD (2016 V Scholar)

Associate Professor, dos Santos Laboratory | Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory

Gaorav Gupta, MD, PhD (2019 Translational Grantee)

Associate Chair for Research, Dept of Radiation Oncology | UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center

Benjamin Vincent, MD (2018 Translational Grantee)

Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Hematology | UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center

3:15 – 3:30PM

V Summit Recap & Housekeeping

Current as of 4/18/25