



# 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 5/7/25*

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>12:00 – 1:15PM</b> | <b>Lunch Service &amp; Networking Time</b><br><i>SAS Café (Reserved Area for the V Foundation)</i>   |
| <b>1:15 – 2:15PM</b>  | <b>Mentoring Panel Session – Advice from Past V Grantees</b><br>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.<br><br><b>Moderator</b><br><b>Kara Coleman, PhD</b><br>Vice President of Grants and Research   the V Foundation<br><br><b>Panelists</b><br><b>Camila dos Santos, PhD (2016 V Scholar)</b><br>Associate Professor, dos Santos Laboratory   Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory<br><br><b>Chad Pecot, MD (2014 V Scholar)</b><br>Professor, Division of Oncology   UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center<br><br><b>Leo D. Wang, MD, PhD (2022 Translational Grantee)</b><br>Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Immuno-Oncology   City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center |
| <b>2:15 – 2:30PM</b>  | <b>Short Break</b>   |
| <b>2:30 – 3:45PM</b>  | <b>Peer-to-Peer Consultancy Workshop</b><br>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.<br><br><b>Moderator</b><br><b>Kara Coleman, PhD</b><br>Vice President of Grants and Research   the V Foundation  |
| <b>3:45 – 4:30PM</b>  | <b>Cancer Collaboration Challenge</b><br>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.<br><br><b>Moderators</b><br><b>Susanna Greer, PhD</b><br>Chief Scientific Officer   the V Foundation<br><br><b>Kara Coleman, PhD</b><br>Vice President of Grants and Research   the V Foundation<br><br><b>Caroline Smith, PhD</b><br>Director, Foundation and Scientific Partnerships   the V Foundation  |
| <b>4:30 – 5:00PM</b>  | <b>Group Transportation from SAS Campus to the Westin Hotel</b>  |
| <b>5:00 – 6:00PM</b>  | <b>Break</b>   |

*Current as of 5/7/25*

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

## May 14 | Wednesday

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|-------------------|---|
| 7:30 – 8:00AM     | Group Transportation from the Westin Hotel to SAS Campus  |
| 8:00 – 9:00AM     | Breakfast Service<br><i>EBC Networking Hall</i>   |
| 9:00 – 9:45AM     | <p><b>Grantee Flash Talk Presentations – Session 1</b></p> <p><i>All flash talk sessions will be held in Auditorium EBC-150</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Moderator</b><br/> <b>Susanna Greer, PhD</b><br/>           Chief Scientific Officer   the V Foundation</p> |
| 9:45 – 10:00AM    | Short Break   |
| 10:00 – 10:45AM   | <p><b>Grantee Flash Talk Presentations – Session 2</b></p> <p><b>Moderator</b><br/> <b>Caroline Smith, PhD</b><br/>           Director, Foundation and Scientific Partnerships   the V Foundation</p>   |
| 10:45 – 11:15AM   | <p><b>Morning Break &amp; Networking Time</b></p> <p><i>EBC Networking Hall</i></p>   |
| 11:15AM – 12:00PM | <p><b>Grantee Flash Talk Presentations – Session 3</b></p> <p><b>Moderator</b><br/> <b>Kara Coleman, PhD</b><br/>           Vice President of Grants and Research   the V Foundation</p>  |
| 12:00 – 1:00PM    | <p><b>Lunch Service &amp; Networking Time</b></p> <p><i>SAS Café (Reserved Area for the V Foundation)</i></p>   |
| 1:00 – 2:15PM     | <p><b>Grant Writing &amp; Review - Advice from V Foundation Scientific Advisory Committee Members</b></p> <p>Grantees will have the opportunity to hear from SAC members on topics relating to grant writing and review such as how to approach NIH vs. foundation grants, how to get reviewer experience, and common grant writing pitfalls to avoid.</p> <p><b>Moderator</b><br/> <b>Kara Coleman, PhD</b><br/>           Vice President of Grants and Research   the V Foundation</p>      |

Current as of 5/7/25

### 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**

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