



CANCER RESEARCH SUMMIT

May 12-14, 2026

Hosted by SAS Institute

NOTE: All event times listed are in Eastern Time

May 12 | Tuesday

6:00 PM **Welcome Social Gathering at the Westin Raleigh-Durham Airport Hotel (until 8:00 PM)**
Halcyon Rooftop Room (weather permitting)

May 13 | Wednesday

7:00 AM **Breakfast at the Westin Hotel**
3rd Floor Banquet Space

8:00 AM **Group Transportation from Westin Hotel to SAS Campus**
*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.*

8:45 AM **Attendee Check-In & Registration**

9:00 AM **Welcome to the 2026 V Foundation for Cancer Research Summit**

Susanna Greer, PhD
Chief Scientific Officer | the V Foundation

Brandi Williams Broome
Chief Executive Officer | the V Foundation

9:15 AM **V Grantee Introductions**

9:30 AM **Telling a Science Story: Evidence-Based Strategies for Science Communication**

Humans evolved to enjoy stories--and storytelling is a powerful tool for communicating science to any audience. In this interactive workshop, grantees will learn how to design their flash talks using evidence from the science of learning, with a focus on storytelling. The workshop will also include guidance on appropriate use of emotion and non-verbal cues to tell a compelling story. Throughout the workshop, grantees will be able to iterate on their flash talks and receive feedback on a practice round from a partner.

Presenter

Melanie Peffer, PhD

Author, Science Communication Consultant, Research Scientist | MKPEF4/University of Colorado Boulder

12:00 PM **Lunch Service & Networking Time**
SAS Café (Reserved Area for the V Foundation)

Current as of 4/15/26

1:15 PM Effective and Impactful Lab Management

V Foundation grantee alumni and V Foundation leaders share personal experience, proven strategies, and actionable insights to help early career investigators manage labs more effectively. In this interactive panel discussion, you'll ask questions and get advice on how these experts navigate people management, HR, and financial challenges. Attendees will learn ways to motivate staff, address personnel challenges, manage financial questions, improve lab culture, and more.

Moderator

Kara Coleman, PhD

Vice President of Research and Grants | the V Foundation

Panelists

Kara Bernstein, PhD 2014 V Scholar

George W. Raiziss Professor in Biochemistry and Biophysics II | University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine

Chanda Douglas-Ward, MBA

Vice President of Human Resources | the V Foundation

Michael Emanuele, PhD 2013 V Scholar

Professor & Director, T32 Training Grant Program, Pharmacology Member | UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center

Seth Liston, CPA

Senior Director of Finance | the V Foundation

2:15 PM Short Break

2:30 PM When the Problem isn't the Science

In this small group collaborative problem-solving activity, grantees will have the opportunity to discuss non-scientific challenges they are facing in their day-to-day work. Participants will reflect on their experiences, exchange perspectives, and offer practical insights drawn from their work. The activity is designed to promote cross-grantee learning, highlight common challenges, and strengthen connections across the group.

Moderator

Kara Coleman, PhD

Vice President of Research and Grants | the V Foundation

3:30 PM Cancer Collaboration Challenge: Innovation through New Perspectives

Grantees will be paired up and challenged to develop an innovative way they could work together on a collaborative research project. Pairings will be across cancer research fields, and the research 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 scored on creativity and potential impact.

Moderator

Kara Coleman, PhD

Vice President of Research and Grants | the V Foundation

4:30 PM Group Transportation from SAS Campus to the Westin Hotel

- 5:00 PM** **Break**
- 6:00 PM** **Group Transportation from the Westin Hotel to the ZincHouse**
- 6:30 PM** **Dinner and Social Mixer at the ZincHouse (Until 9:00 PM)**
6225 Wake Forest Hwy, Durham, NC 27703 (Barrel House Building)

May 14 | Thursday

- 7:00 AM** **Breakfast at the Westin Hotel**
3rd Floor Banquet Space
- 8:00 AM** **Group Transportation from Westin Hotel to SAS Campus**
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.
- 8:45 AM** **Arrivals & Check-In at SAS**
- 9:00 AM** **Grantee Flash Talk Presentations**
All flash talk sessions will be held in the Theater (EBC-250). After Sessions 1 and 2, attendees are invited to a 15-minute networking break in the EBC Networking Hall before the following session begins.

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.

Session 1 (9:00 – 9:45 AM)

Moderator

Susanna Greer, PhD

Chief Scientific Officer | the V Foundation

Session 2 (10:00 – 11:00 AM)

Moderator

Caroline Smith, PhD

Senior Director, Foundation and Scientific Partnerships | the V Foundation

Session 3 (11:15 AM – 12:00 PM)

Moderator

Kara Coleman, PhD

Vice President of Research and Grants | the V Foundation

- 12:00 PM** **Lunch Service & Networking Time**
SAS Café (Reserved Area for the V Foundation)

- 1:00 PM** **Around the Table: Conversations with Business Executives and Leaders in Science**

This session brings V Foundation grantees into small-group conversations with members of the V Foundation Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), Board, and grantee alumni. Participants will engage directly with experienced scientific and business leaders to discuss what leadership looks like in practice, from building and sustaining high-performing teams to communicating clearly, navigating complexity, and making decisions under uncertainty.

Through candid discussion and Q&A, conversation leaders will share lessons learned over the course of their careers, including how they have approached difficult challenges, aligned teams around a

common purpose, and balanced rigor with real-world constraints. The goal is to provide practical insight, perspective, and mentorship that grantees can carry forward in their own leadership journeys.

Moderator

Susanna Greer, PhD

Chief Scientific Officer | the V Foundation

Small Group Advisors

Justin Balko, PharmD, PhD *V Foundation SAC Member*

Professor of Medicine; Ingram Professor of Cancer Research | Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Kara Bernstein, PhD *2014 V Scholar*

George W. Raiziss Professor in Biochemistry and Biophysics II | University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine

George Bodenheimer *V Foundation Board of Directors*

Retired Executive Chairman | ESPN

Brandi Williams Broome

Chief Executive Officer | the V Foundation

Julie Chase *V Foundation Board of Directors*

President and CEO | Chase Strategies

Nancy E. Davidson, MD *V Foundation Board of Directors & Immediate Past Chair of the SAC*

Executive VP & Chief Academic Officer | Fred Hutch Cancer Center

H. Shelton (Shelley) Earp, MD *V Foundation SAC Member*

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

Michael Emanuele, PhD *2013 V Scholar*

Professor & Director, T32 Training Grant Program, Pharmacology Member | UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center

Evan Goldberg *Board Chair, the V Foundation*

Founder and Executive Vice President | Oracle NetSuite Global Business Unit

Michael B. Kastan, MD, PhD *V Foundation Board of Directors & SAC Chair*

William and Jane Shingleton Professor of Pharmacology and Cancer Biology; Professor of Pediatrics
Duke Cancer Institute

Carl C. Liebert *V Foundation Board of Directors*

Global Business Executive & Advisor | American Securities

Nancy Major, MD *V Foundation Board of Directors*

Adjunct Professor of Radiology | University of Utah

William Nelson, MD, PhD, DSc *V Foundation SAC Member*

Marion I. Knott Professor of Oncology and Cancer Center Director | Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins

Brian Patrick O'Neill, MD *V Foundation SAC Member*

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

Harry E. Rhoads, Jr. *V Foundation Board of Directors*

Co-Founder | Washington Speakers Bureau

Susan Scott *DEGU Board of Directors*

Enterprise Strategist & Board Advisor

Connie Skidmore *V Foundation Board of Directors*

Retired Managing Partner | PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Barry Sleckman, MD, PhD *V Foundation Board of Directors & SAC Chair Elect*

Cancer Center Director | O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center

Kris Wood, PhD *2013 V Scholar & 2025 All-Star Grantee*

Professor, Department of Pharmacology and Cancer Biology | Duke University

Shizhen (Jane) Zhu, MD, PhD *V Foundation SAC member, 2015 V Scholar, & 2023 All-Star Grantee*

Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology | Mayo Clinic Cancer Center (Minnesota)

2:15 PM

Short Break

2:30 PM

Where the P Meets the Value: Biostatistics That Move Science

In this session, attendees will hear from a panel of biostatistics experts. Grantees will be able to unravel all of the questions they have on the best ways to work with biostatistical experts at their institution, how and when to involve them in project design and data analysis, what biostatisticians wish you knew about their role, and how to include strong biostatistical plans in grant proposals.

Moderator

Susanna Greer, PhD

Chief Scientific Officer | the V Foundation

Panelists

Gregory R. Pond, PhD, PStat *V Foundation SAC Member*

Professor, Dept. of Oncology | McMaster University

Director | Escarpment Cancer Research Institute

Naim Rashid, PhD *V Foundation SAC Member*

Associate Professor of Biostatistics | UNC Gillings School of Public Health

Associate Director, Biostatistics Core | UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center

Min Zhang, MD, PhD *V Foundation Reviewer*

Professor, Dept. of Epidemiology & Biostatistics; Director of Biostatistics Shared Resource | University of California (Irvine) Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

3:30 PM

V Summit Closing