

# 2025 IRIS Research Forum: Respiratory Infections, Challenges and Opportunities

Summary Report



International  
Respiratory Infections  
Society

## International Respiratory Infection Society

International Respiratory Infections Society (IRIS) is a non-profit corporation whose purpose is to address, educate, coordinate, and promote research in the field of respiratory infections and vaccines on a global level. We provide education by providing open access presentations and discussions as well as utilizing social media channels and the corporation's website to provide facts, statistics, and other related data on causes, current efforts and solutions to promote research in the field of respiratory infections. To maximize our impact on current efforts, we take opportunities to collaborate with other non-profit organizations which fall under the 501(c)(3) section of the internal revenue code and are operated exclusively for educational and charitable purposes. At times, per the discretion of the board of directors, we may provide internships or volunteer opportunities which shall provide opportunities for involvement in said activities and programs in order to have a greater impact for change.

This objective shall be achieved by coordinating and facilitating research related activities of IRIS members and others interested in engagement. In order to attain its objective, and for no other purpose, the Society will, through its members:

1. Promote all aspects of research in respiratory infections, vaccines, and vaccination.
2. Disseminate scientific information concerning all aspects of research in respiratory infections, vaccines, and vaccination.
3. Organize congresses, conferences, symposia, and seminars in the field of respiratory infections, vaccines, and vaccination.
4. Encourage and support continuous education and training in respiratory infections research, including vaccines and vaccine-preventable diseases.
5. Promote and support education on topics with global health importance.
6. Collaborate with other national and international organizations having similar objectives.

## 2025 IRIS Research Forum Summary

The 2025 International Respiratory Infections Society (IRIS) Research Forum took place on Sunday, May 18th, at the Canopy by Hilton San Francisco SoMa in San Francisco, California. This event was hosted by the International Respiratory Infections Society (IRIS), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to advancing knowledge and solutions for respiratory infections. The event was made possible through an independent medical education grant provided by Pfizer Inc., whose support helped the overall success of the 2025 Research Forum. Additional support from Paratek enabled the administrative support necessary for the meeting logistics.

Designed as a high-impact, one-day event, the 2025 IRIS Research Forum provided a unique and dynamic platform for an international audience of clinicians, researchers, and public health experts to engage directly with thought leaders from around the world. Participants had the rare opportunity to hear about the latest advances in the field of respiratory infections, explore innovative research directions, and contribute to vibrant discussions on current and emerging challenges in the field.

The central goals of the 2025 Research Forum were twofold:

1. To convene a multidisciplinary group of experts with specialized knowledge in respiratory infections in order to share cutting-edge research findings, ongoing projects, and ideas for future studies.
2. To foster robust dialogue among attendees, encouraging collaborative ideation and the exploration of practical strategies for implementation, policy, and future investigation.

This year's forum focused on two timely and critically important themes:

1. Community-Acquired Pneumonia: Challenges and Opportunities in 2025
2. Vaccinology and Respiratory Infections: Challenges and Opportunities in 2025

Each theme was explored through a structured format designed to promote both the dissemination of knowledge and the generation of new insights. Thirteen internationally recognized opinion leaders in the field were invited to share their expertise. Each presenter delivered a 15-minute presentation summarizing key research findings or perspectives related to one of the forum's core themes. Presentations were immediately followed by 15-minute facilitated brainstorming sessions, enabling an interactive exchange of ideas and perspectives among all participants.

The day concluded with an evening networking dinner, providing participants an informal setting to continue conversations, strengthen professional connections, and explore opportunities for future research collaborations.

The forum welcomed a total of 40 participants, representing a diverse range of institutions, disciplines, and geographic regions. The relatively small size of the gathering allowed for an intimate and collaborative environment where meaningful dialogue and peer engagement could thrive.

This summary report aims to provide a high-level overview of the key discussions, insights, and takeaways from the 2025 IRIS Research Forum. It also serves as a springboard for ongoing learning, research development, and professional collaboration within the global respiratory infection community.

# 2025 IRIS Research Forum Agenda

Registration and Breakfast (6AM to 7AM)

2025 IRIS Research Meeting: Presentations

## Session 1 (7AM to 9AM)

Marcos Restrepo, MD, MSc, PhD. VA San Antonio GRECC Director - Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center. Professor of Medicine - Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine - Department of Medicine - University of Texas Health San Antonio. Associate Program Director - Pulmonary and Critical Care Fellowship Program - University of Texas Health San Antonio. Director of the INSPIRE Network - INnovation Science in Pulmonary Infections REsearch Network.

“Rethinking Aging and Immunity through the Dual Lenses of Salutogenesis and Pathogenesis”

Chiagozie Pickens, MD. Assistant Professor. Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care  
Northwestern University.

“Leveraging BAL Amylase as a Biomarker for Aspiration Pneumonia.”

Matt Christensen, MD. Pulmonary and Critical Care Fellow. T32 Postdoctoral Research Fellow  
MS candidate, Biomedical Informatics. Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

“User-centered re-design of a pneumonia clinical decision support system”

Mark Metersky, M.D., F.C.C.P. Professor of Medicine. Chief of Service, Department of Medicine Chief, Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine. Director, Center for Bronchiectasis Care. UConn Health.

“Macrolides for Bronchiectasis: It’s not just about exacerbation”

Paula Peyrani, MD. Pfizer Vaccines. US Medical Affairs. US Pneumococcal Adult Medical Lead

“The role of bacteremia in pneumococcal pneumonia”

## Session 2 (9.30AM to 11.30 AM)

Scott E. Evans, MD, FCCP, ATSE. Professor & Chairman ad interim, Department of Pulmonary Medicine. Rebecca Meyer Brown and Joseph Mellinger Brown Chair in Basic Science Research, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

“Multifunctional roles of oligodeoxynucleotides in inducible epithelial resistance against pneumonia”

Jesse Wackerbarth, MD. Pulmonary and Critical Care Fellow. Pulmonary Medicine Intermountain Health. University of Utah.

“Electronic Decision Support for Pneumonia is Associated with Reduced Outcome Disparities”

Gurinder Sidhu, MD, MHA, MBA. U.S. Paxlovid Medical Lead. Senior Director US Medical Affairs. Pfizer.

“Unraveling Long COVID (Post-Covid Conditions)”

Daniel Musher, MD. Infectious Disease Section, Medical Care Line, Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Houston, Texas, United States.

“Commensal streptococci cause pneumonia. Are they encapsulated?”

### **Session 3 (12PM to 2PM)**

Michael Niederman, M.D., MACP, FCCP, FCCM, FERS. Lauder Family Professor in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine Weill Cornell Medical College. Lead Academic and Patient Quality Officer Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine. New York Presbyterian/ Weill Cornell Medical Center. Weill Cornell Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine

“Anti-inflammatory therapy in Severe CAP: A focus on macrolides and steroids”

Santiago Lopez, MD. US Senior Medical Director, Medical and Scientific Affairs Lead, mRNA Vaccines. Pfizer Inc., Collegeville, PA, USA.

“The Impact of Pneumonia Beyond the Acute Infection”

Julio Ramirez, MD. Chief Scientific Officer, Norton Infectious Diseases Institute, Norton Healthcare, Louisville, KY, USA. Emeritus Professor of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY, USA.

“Role of Gut Microbiome Dysbiosis in the Pathogenesis of Acute and Long-Term Sequelae of CAP”

Barbara Jones, MD MS, Associate Professor, Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine

University of Utah and Veterans Affairs Healthcare System.

“CAP Guidelines: Challenges & Opportunities”

### **Networking Dinner (5PM to 7PM)**

An evening networking dinner provided opportunities for presenters, researchers, and attendees to gather and discuss projects in more detail. Continued dialogue regarding individual research ideas and opportunities led new research question structures and collaborative approaches.











## Thank You Sponsors!

The 2025 Research Forum organizers recognize and appreciate the support provided by Pfizer Inc. that funded the Research Forum. Conference day expenses, preparation, and management were supported by funds from International Respiratory Infections Society and Paratek.



**International  
Respiratory Infections  
Society**