Center for Discovery & Innovation

Member of Hackensack Meridian *Health*

RESEARCH DAY 2026

November 5, 2026, Thursday

8:30 am - 6:00 pm

Main Auditorium, Center for Discovery and Innovation

111 Ideation Way, Nutley, NJ 07110 (in-person only)

Keynote Speaker

Michail Lionakis, MD, ScD

Chief, Laboratory of Clinical Immunology and Microbiology, and Chief, Fungal Pathogenesis Section, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), National Institutes of Health

Translating Core Human Immunology into Antifungal Immunotherapy

Session Chairs:

Erika Shor, PhD
Alvin Makohon-Moore, PhD
Claire Carter, PhD

Program Highlights:

- 9 oral presentations
- 7 flash talks
- 25 posters in two sessions
- Keynote, awards & reception

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RESEARCH DAY 2026 - AGENDA

Main Auditorium, Center for Discovery and Innovation

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Breakfast (CDI lobby area)	
9:00 AM - 9:10 AM	Opening remarks: Erika Shor, PhD	
9:10 AM - 10:25 AM	**Oral Presentation: Session 1 - chaired by Claire Carter, PhD**	
	Amanda Khoudary	Patient-level modifiable factors associated with symptomatic adverse events among people with advanced colorectal cancer
	Raju Shivarathri	Locally produced C3 drives myeloid antifungal effector functions required for protection during invasive pulmonary aspergillosis
	Richa Mandrekar	Clonal dynamics of cancer cells evolving under defined selective pressures
	Nicole Alayo	*In Vivo* TN-seq Reveals Shared and Strain-Dependent Determinants of *Candida glabrata* Fitness Within the Host
	Tabinda Sidrat	Antibody-drug-conjugates (ADCs) with lineage-specific anti-tumor activity against human adenoid cystic carcinoma (ACC)
10:30 AM - 10:40 AM	**Flash Talks: Session 1 - chaired by Erika Shor, PhD**	
	Kolsoum Dehdar	Effects of Environmental Temperature on Sleep Apnea and Respiration-Neural Coupling
	Priyanka Ashwath	Lineage-dependent drug susceptibility of non-replicating *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*
	Taiane Nascimento de Souza	The Fungal Histone Acetyl Transferase Gcn5 is required for gut colonization in *Candida albicans*
10:45 AM - 12:00 PM	**Poster Presentation: Posters 1-13**	
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Lunch (CDI lobby area) and switching posters	
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	**Oral Presentation: Session 2 - chaired by Alvin Makohon-Moore, PhD**	
	Isabella Sarria	Implementation Facilitation of Mothers & Babies, a Perinatal Mental Health Intervention, in Home Visiting: Early Results from the IMPACT Trial
	Geselle Cancino-Prado	Antifungal Activity of Tavaborole and Novel Benzoxaboroles Against *Candidozyma auris* and other *Candida* spp.
	Evangelos Liapis	Development of Clinically Relevant Three-Dimensional Models of Pediatric and Adult Brain Tumors
	SooJin Kim	Loss of a nuclear envelope protein LAP1 in hepatocytes promotes hepatocellular carcinoma through epigenetic dysregulation
2:00 PM - 2:15 PM	**Flash Talks: Session 2 - chaired by Erika Shor, PhD**	
	Risha Rasheed	Developing Air–Liquid-Interface model using human Bronchial Airway Epithelial Cells for characterization of human viral infections
	Eleftherios Koutsilianos	A Quantitative Comparison of Interneuron Synapses *in vivo* versus *in vitro* using SSID, a Machine Learning Platform for High-Content Synaptic Analysis
	Osairys Billini & Isabella Westervelt	Investigating lasting effects of childhood experiences during metastatic colorectal cancer survivorship: An exploratory analysis
	Enrique Corapi	Decitabine Retains Antimyeloma Activity Across Distinct Gut Microbiota Richness States and Remodels Microbial Composition in the 5TGM1 Myeloma Model
2:15 PM - 3:30 PM	**Poster Presentation: Posters 14-25 and Coffee**	
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM	**Keynote Introduction, Jigar Desai, PhD** **Keynote Presentation Michail Lionakis, MD, ScD**	**Translating Core Human Immunology into Antifungal Immunotherapy**
4:40 PM - 5:00 PM	Closing Remarks and Award Presentations	
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Reception (CDI lobby area)	

RESEARCH DAY 2026 - AGENDA

Main Auditorium, Center for Discovery and Innovation

Poster Presentation: Session 1 (Posters 1-13) | 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM

#	Presenter	Title
1	Lea Anne Maristela	Influence of distinct regional brain microenvironments on tumor growth and phenotype in patient-derived orthotopic xenografts of ETMR
2	Kolsoum Dehdar	Effects of Environmental Temperature on Sleep Apnea and Respiration-Neural Coupling
3	Priyanka Ashwath	Lineage-dependent drug susceptibility of non-replicating Mycobacterium tuberculosis
4	Jonathan Nicklas	Candida species Biofilm-on-Catheter Model with Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) Relevant Materials
5	Hyun Huh	A HaloTag Knock-In Mouse Model for Live-Cell Analysis of TorsinA and ER Cargo Export in Hepatocytes
6	Mia Bucich	Reduced Outer-Membrane Permeability Potentiates β-Lactamase-Mediated Resistance in Clinical Klebsiella pneumoniae
7	Dhanya Dhanyalayam	Macrophage Adrenergic Signaling Drives Sex Differences in Mtb Clearance
8	Xavier Ramirez	Operationalizing Implementation Facilitation in Home Visiting: Preliminary Findings from the IMPACT Study
9	Syeda Maryam Azeem	Lipid Droplet Proteome of Mycobacterium tuberculosis and Its role in Drug-Tolerant TB Persistence
10	Baizhen Zhao	Decoupling of spontaneous and evoked activity in locus coeruleus neurons: early synaptic and ion-channel remodeling in a mouse model of Alzheimer's disease
11	Manju Chauhan	The Ssk1 Response Regulator Links Iron Homeostasis to Systemic Infection in Candida auris
12	Adele Asia Ponzoni	Spatial lipid profiles in primary and recurrent glioblastoma are a function of cellular composition rather than disease status
13	Taiane Nascimento de Souza	The Fungal Histone Acetyl Transferase Gcn5 is required for gut colonization in Candida albicans

Poster Presentation: Session 2 (Posters 14-25) | 2:15 PM - 3:30 PM

#	Presenter	Title
1	Francesca Sonbolian	Exploring links between socioeconomic status and cognitive and physical function in individuals with metastatic colorectal cancer
2	Risha Rasheed	Developing Air–Liquid-Interface model using human Bronchial Airway Epithelial Cells for characterization of human viral infections
3	Raju Shivarathri	Complement C5AR1 signaling integrates microbial cues, myeloid inflammation, and cancer-cell survival in colorectal cancer
4	Osairys Billini & Isabella Westervelt	Investigating lasting effects of childhood experiences during metastatic colorectal cancer survivorship: An exploratory analysis
5	Sajad Padder	Elucidating environmental and sequence determinants of Cas9-Induced DNA Break repair in Candida glabrata
6	Enrique Corapi	Decitabine Retains Antimyeloma Activity Across Distinct Gut Microbiota Richness States and Remodels Microbial Composition in the 5TGM1 Myeloma Model
7	Eleftherios Koutsilianos	A Quantitative Comparison of Interneuron Synapses in vivo versus in vitro using SSID, a Machine Learning Platform for High-Content Synaptic Analysis
8	Diya Vemuganti	Bringing Outside Information into the Clinical Visit: The Role of Patient Attitudes toward and Self-Efficacy during such Conversations.
9	Jenish Patel	Distinct roles of Candida auris Mkc1 and Cek1 MAP Kinases in Antifungal Resistance and Host Interactions
10	Vidhyalakshmi Acharya	Roles of TorsinA in Regulating Lipid Metabolism in Human Hepatocytes
11	Lingxiao Yi	The σ1R–ATAD3A axis regulates mitochondria-associated membrane integrity in Alzheimer's disease
12	Rachel Loia	Exposure to negative Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine information and vaccinate hesitancy