



Program Schedule

Surgeon Scientist Career Development Conference

October 9-10, 2025 | Duke University Campus, Durham, NC

The Inaugural Surgeon Scientist Career Development conference is designed to provide a career roadmap for early, mid, and late career surgeon scientists. The roadmap includes preconference video modules covering key aspects such as outcomes research, health services research, clinical trials, and basic science, highlighting the significance of finding one's 'why', or passion, and the value of persistence through challenges. The conference will take place on the Duke Campus at the Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans Center for Health Education.

Thursday, October 9, 2025			
13:00	13:30	Introduction & Welcome	Ginny Bumgardner MD, PhD, FACS & Allan Kirk MD, PhD, FACS
13:30	15:10	Becoming a Surgeon Scientist	Moderators: Ginny Bumgardner MD, & Debra Sudan, MD, Allan Kirk, MD, PhD
13:30	13:40	Starting a Career With Start-Up Funding	Keri Lunsford MD, PhD, FACS
13:40	13:50	Starting a Career Without Start-Up Funding	Juliet Emamaullee MD, PhD, FRCSC, FACS
13:50	14:00	Finding Your “Why” as a Surgeon Scientist	Sylvester Black MD, PhD, FACS
14:00	14:10	View of the Early Career Surgeon Scientist from Above (Perspective of a Center Director)	Satish Nadig MD, PhD, FACS
14:10	14:20	Panel Discussion	All Speakers & Moderators
14:20	15:10	Career Development Breakout Table Discussions	Career level-specific breakouts – finding your focus.
15:10	15:30	Break	
15:30	17:00	Being a Surgeon Scientist	Moderators: Meera Gupta MD, MSCE, & Aleah Brubaker MD, PhD
15:30	15:45	Negotiating a Job as a Surgeon Scientist	Jason Wertheim MD, PhD, FACS
15:45	16:00	How to Frame your Ideas to get Funding: Catching a Reader’s Attention with Specific Aims	Sylvester Black MD, PhD, FACS
16:00	16:15	Navigating the NIH	Ali Zarrinpar MD, PhD, FACS
16:15	17:00	Grant Focused Breakout Table Discussions	All Speakers & Moderators. Career level specific breakouts & specific aims feedback.
17:15	17:45	Travel to Reception	
18:00	19:00	Networking Reception at Washington Duke Inn	

Friday, October 10, 2025

07:00	08:00	Breakfast at Trent Semans Great Hall Atrium	
08:00	08:10	Introduction and Welcome to Day 2	Ginny Bumgardner MD, PhD
08:10	10:00	Mentoring a Surgeon Scientist	Moderators: Satish Nadig, MD, PhD, & James Guarrera, MD
8:10	8:30	Being an Active Surgeon Scientist Mentee	Aleah Brubaker MD, PhD
8:30	8:50	Tools for Being an Effective Mentor	Daniela Ladner MD, MPH
8:50	9:10	Mentoring Across Career Stages	Peter Stock MD, PhD
9:10	9:30	Peer to Peer Networks	Juliet Emamaullee MD, PhD, FRCSC, FACS
9:30	10:00	Panel Discussion	All Speakers & Moderators
10:00	10:15	Break	
10:15	12:00	Alternative Pathways to Becoming a Transplant Surgeon Scientist*	Moderators: Stuart Knechtle, MD, PhD, & Andrew Barbas, MD
10:15	10:30	Leveraging your Clinical Program for Research Development	Alfred Tector (III) MD, PhD, FACS
10:30	10:45	Collaborative Health Services & Outcomes Research	Daniela Ladner MD, MPH, FACS
10:45	11:00	Industry Relationships and Clinical Trials	Allan Kirk MD, PhD, FACS
11:00	11:15	AI and Big Data Analysis	Abbas Rana, MD, FACS
11:15	11:30	Device Development & Intellectual Property	James Guarrera MD, FACS
11:30	12:00	Panel Discussion	All Speakers & Moderators
12:00	13:00	Lunch	
13:00	14:30	The Social and Professional Network*	Moderators: Keri Lunsford, MD, PhD, & Juliet Emamaullee, MD, PhD
13:00	13:15	Developing Your Network & Establishing Multidisciplinary Teams	Lisa McElroy MD
13:15	13:30	Expanding Visibility of Your Work	Meera Gupta, MD, MSCE
13:30	13:45	Engaging With Philanthropy and Industry Funding	Stuart Knechtle MD
13:45	14:00	Developing Your Elevator Pitch	Abbas Rana, MD
14:00	14:30	Breakout Table Discussions: Elevator Pitch	All Speakers & Moderators - Career level-specific breakout discussions & elevator pitch development.
14:30	15:00	Break	
15:00	15:30	Keynote Speaker *	Intro: Ginny Bumgardner MD, PhD

15:05	15:30	Keynote	Alfred Tector (III) MD, PhD, FACS
15:30	16:50	Getting to Yes for Transplant Publications *	Moderators: Lisa McElroy, MD, & Meera Gupta, MD, MSCE
15:30	15:50	Thoughts from an Editor-In-Chief	Sandy Feng MD, PhD
15:50	16:10	Manuscript Preparation	Keri Lunsford MD, PhD, FACS
16:10	16:30	Abstract Writing & Publication	Ashesh Shah, MD
16:30	16:50	Time Management When Publishing	Ali Zarrinpar MD, PhD
16:50	17:00	Closing Remarks	Ginny Bumgardner MD, PhD

Schedule and Speakers subject to change. Sessions Noted with * do not carry CME.