

Emory Children's Center Vaccine Research Clinic 2025 Annual Report



Vision

To protect individuals from infectious diseases and enhance health and well-being for all.

Mission

To advance the development of safe, effective, and accessible vaccines and treatments by performing high-quality clinical trials and epidemiological studies.

Values

- Integrity- Doing what is right
- Teamwork- Working together
- Service- Furthering the common welfare
- Resilience- Perservering through challenges
- Respect- Celebrating differences
- Mentorship- Investing in the next generation

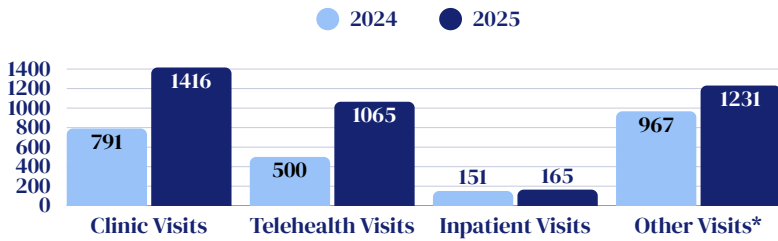
Living Out Our Values

Respect: Started in 2025, the All Here committee exemplifies respect by acknowledging and celebrating the different identities, passions, and expertise of our team members. The committee aims to create a welcoming and inclusive environment by holding events and activities throughout the year. These efforts remind us that although we come from different backgrounds, we are united in our shared vision to enhance health and well-being for all.

Resilience: On a typical day, there are many ups, downs, challenges, and opportunities in clinical research. This year has felt different, as we have seen the promise of preventive vaccines and therapeutics undermined by misinformation and misguided policy. These shifts threaten the health of vulnerable people, and ultimately the health of us all. For these reasons, we are persevering in the work we are positioned and purposed to do with deep conviction and great love.

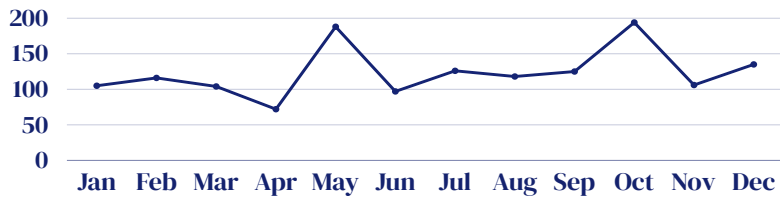
ECC-VRC By the Numbers

Study Visits

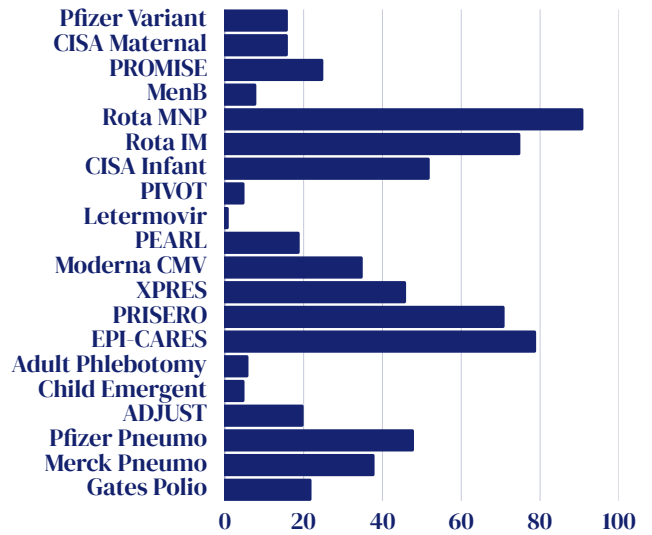


*Other visits include waiver of consents and observational study visits

Clinic Visits By Month

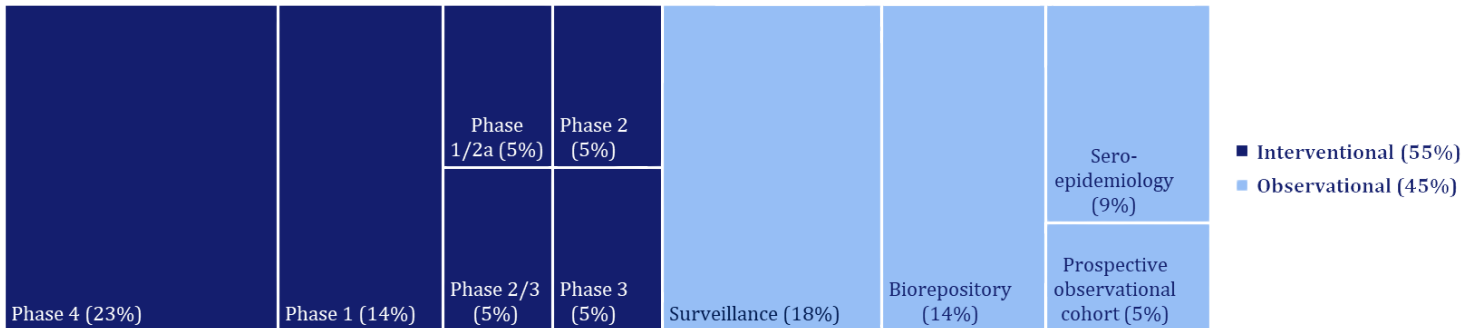


Study Participants by Study**

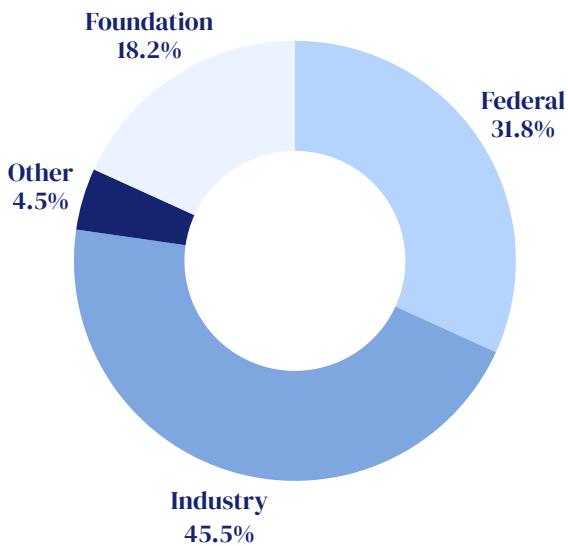


**Participants is defined by the number of individuals who consented and completed at least one study visit. To learn more about our active studies, visit our website at <https://ecc-vrc.emory.edu>.

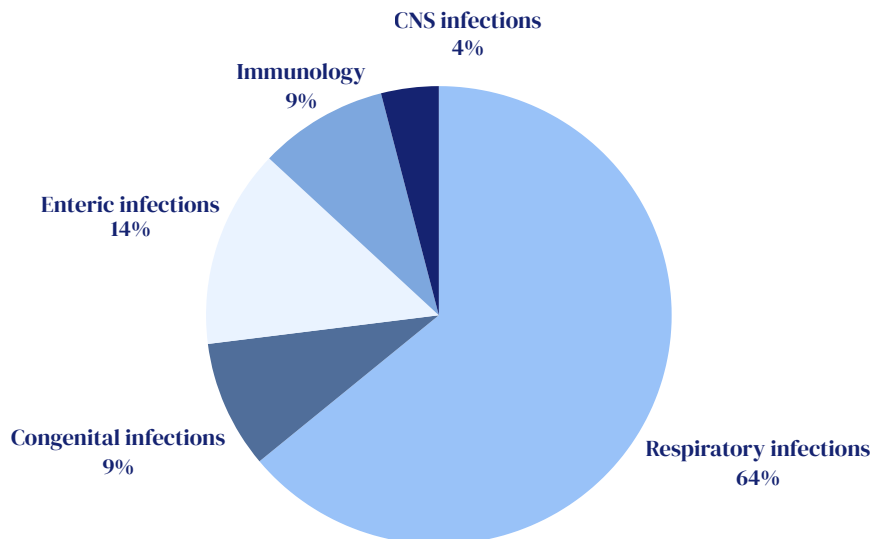
Distribution of Studies by Design/Type



Study Funding Sources



Study by Indication



Where are our trainees now?

Medical School:



Gabby Ess

“My time at ECC strongly influenced me to pursue medicine through the clinical and research exposures I got as a CRC. I received incredible mentorship and was supported every step of the way in my path to medical school by the ECC team.”

Other trainees in medical school: Chris Choi, Ashley Lew, Grace Li, and Amy Keane

Medicine/Pediatrics Residency: Amy Bohling

Nursing School: Anna Mitchell, Khadijah Francois, and Jadyn Baldwin

Public Health School: Julia Bartol, Nadine (Baida) Hachme, Olivia Reese, and Bianca Orosco

Pharmacy School: Maanu Mansuria

Graduate School: Grace Taylor (PhD in Psychology)

Participant Experience

“Our family has participated in Emory Children’s Center (ECC) studies beginning in 2021 with the Moderna COVID vaccine for kids. All 3 of our children have participated in various studies over the past 4 years. Some studies are long term with weekly e-diaries and regularly calls, others required a single visit and sample collection for baseline data. It’s not a big time commitment and we’ve been able to talk to our kids about science, how research works, and why scientists conduct studies like the ones they’ve participated in. We are so glad we’re able to support the Emory ECC team in their important work ensuring the safety and efficacy of vaccines! Over the last 5 years we’ve gotten to know and love the staff who have taken such great care with our children and miss them when a study ends!”

-The Daffron Family



2025 Staff Awards

2025 Emory University School of Medicine Team Excellence Award- ECC-VRC Team

2025 Infectious Diseases Clinical Research Consortium (IDCRC) Investigator of the Year Award- Christina Rostad, MD

2025 The Liz McCarty Standing Ovation Award- Kathy Stephens



Kathy Stephens

“I came to the Emory University Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases in January of 2005 when our portfolio included just about all childhood vaccines from multiple pharmaceutical companies, and our participants were largely referred to us from nearby pediatric practices. By 2025 our leadership team had many new faces, and our studies included many investigator-initiated concepts that enhanced collaboration with departments at Emory University and at other academic institutions, CDC, and interested sponsors. The leadership of Dr. Kamidani and Dr. Rostad has maintained the mission and vision that has allowed and supported 40 faculty and staff who over the months/years have coalesced into a team respected for diligence and quality research. Being part of this growth and development for the past 20 years is not unlike watching a family grow, change, move on, and constantly renew. For that reason, it is always fresh - new faces, new ideas, new problems to solve and all with the wisdom and experience that comes from being part of a committed team. We are the "mother ship" and I am proud to have been part of it for all these years.”

2025 Safety & Technology Advances

eRegulatory: This year, the regulatory team transitioned from paper-based regulatory documentation and binders to a secure eRegulatory REDCap platform which improved efficiency, accessibility, and sustainability. This has streamlined our processes and helped to enhance our compliance and collaborative efforts.

Clinic safety: In 2025, we harmonized medical emergency equipment and supplies in the clinic for both the ECC-VRC team and our Emory Children’s Center- Research Unit colleagues. The clinic now has a dedicated AED and emergency cart with portable oxygen, supplies to start IVs, and medications to manage anaphylaxis and other medical emergencies.

2025 Study Highlights

Rotavirus IM/MNP: ECC-VRC was given the opportunity to work with the CDC on two Phase I clinical trials evaluating novel rotavirus vaccines. Both the intramuscular (Rota IM) and microneedle patch (Rota MNP) trials evaluate safety and immunogenicity with the goal of developing more effective rotavirus vaccines. The Rota MNP trial also utilizes microneedle patch technology developed at Georgia Tech that could one day transform how vaccines are administered.

CISA RSV Infant: ECC-VRC collaborated with local pediatricians to enroll 52 infants in a multi-center study to evaluate the safety and reactogenicity of co-administering the RSV preventive antibody nirsevimab (Beyfortus) with routine vaccines. ECC-VRC led all sites in total enrollments for this important study.

21-0027 Letermovir: In 2025, we enrolled the first participant in the nation in a Letermovir clinical trial, paving the way for more treatment options for infants with congenital CMV.

24-0003 PROMISE: The PROMISE study evaluated the safety and immunology of maternal RSV vaccine, infant nirsevimab, or both products to help inform clinical decision making regarding RSV prevention in infants.

2025 Conference Presentations

- Edwards Vaccinology Symposium, Nashville, Tennessee, March 2025
- Pediatric Academic Society (PAS) Annual Conference, Honolulu, Hawaii, April 2025
- Southeast Pediatric Research Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, June 2025
- ESCMID Vaccines 2025, Lisbon, Portugal, September 2025
- ID Week, Atlanta, Georgia, October 2025

2025 Key Publications

- Future Goals and Long-term Vision of the Infectious Diseases Clinical Research Consortium/Vaccine and Treatment Evaluation Unit Network. Clin Infect Dis. 2025 Oct 10;81(Supplement_2):S137-S146.
- Viral Etiologies of Acute Respiratory Illness in Older Adults and of Congestive Heart Failure and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Exacerbations Requiring Hospitalization During 2 Prepandemic Respiratory Seasons. Open Forum Infect Dis. 2025 Jun 20;12(7):ofaf366.
- Evaluation of Cellular Immune Responses After mRNA-1273 Vaccination in Children 6 Months to 11 Years of Age. J Infect Dis. 2025 Jun 2;231(5):e945-e955.
- Neutralizing Antibody Immune Correlates for a Recombinant Protein Vaccine in the COVAIL Trial. Clin Infect Dis. 2025 Feb 5;80(1):223-227.
- Evaluation of Immunoglobulin A Enzyme Immunoassays to Detect Primary Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infection in Infants and Young Children. J Infect Dis. 2025 Apr 15;231(4):1060-1068.
- Nirsevimab Effectiveness Against Intensive Care Unit Admission for Respiratory Syncytial Virus in Infants - 24 States, December 2024-April 2025. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2025 Nov 20;74(37):580-588.

To view a list of all of our 2025 publications, please visit www.ecc-vrc.emory.edu, linked [here](#).

How can you help?

The Emory Children's Center-Vaccine Research Clinic aims to prevent infectious diseases and enhance health and well-being for all through the conduct of high-quality research studies and mentoring the next generation of researchers. If you would like to support our work, please follow this link to [volunteer for a study](#) or to [make a tax-deductible donation](#).

Thank You!

We are so grateful to our study volunteers, our wonderful colleagues and collaborators, our study funders, and Emory Department of Pediatrics and university leadership, without whom this work would not be possible. We all share in the work, which is an act of hope, and an investment in a brighter future for all humanity and for those who come after us.

Satoshi Kamidani, MD, PhD, Associate Director, ECC-VRC
Christina A. Rostad, MD, Director, ECC-VRC