

# Assembly on Respiratory Cell & Molecular Biology (RCMB) Newsletter



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## Message from the Assembly Chair

Dear Members and Friends,

I am looking forward to this year's American Thoracic Society International Conference membership meeting on May 15, 2022, in San Francisco—more than ever. It will be a chance to see some of you in person and continue to celebrate our advances in research, education and clinical practice. High-impact translational science and innovation remain pillars of Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology, and the program will undoubtedly continue to quench our thirst for knowledge while inspiring us ever onwards. It is a time for us to pause and reflect on the remarkable achievements of our colleagues from around the world and the advances we have made despite a pandemic that changed our lives and challenged us all. It is also a time to reflect on our continued efforts towards inclusion and diversity in all we do. Our junior colleagues have been especially challenged in the last two years. They are the future, and we remain dedicated to their mentorship, career success and involvement in all parts of our assembly.

In this newsletter, you will find updates on the progress of all our committees and working groups. I hope you enjoy them! As you will see, we have been able to continue content throughout the year with the help of our Web Committee and other groups. From wonderful podcasts to seminars and journal clubs, our scientific and mentoring programs have continued in a virtual setting, providing great opportunities to work together with other assemblies. The inclusion of our MD, PhD, basic and translational scientists from around the world has been key to the success of all of these endeavors, and my hope is that we will continue to bridge activities across assemblies.

As my time as assembly chair draws to a close, I want to thank you all for your resilience, talents, kindness and generosity. It has been a huge honor to serve with such amazing friends and colleagues, and you continue to make us all proud. A special thanks to the RCMB executive committee and the ATS staff who have helped champion all we do as "TEAM RCMB."

For those able to join the assembly meeting we are excited to welcome you and look forward to your input on [time and location]. There we will celebrate our accomplishments, cheer on those who have won awards, review our progress and, crucially, look to the future with our new assembly leaders. All are welcome, and please bring along your junior colleagues. Finally, I look forward to passing on the assembly leadership to the very capable hands of Enid Neptune, Associate Professor of Medicine and Director of the Program in Translational Research in COPD at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. I know Enid will inspire and challenge us all, and we look forward to her leadership.

Please continue to share your ideas; reach out to our committees, our assembly leadership and of course myself at any time ([patricia.sime@vcuhealth.org](mailto:patricia.sime@vcuhealth.org)).

Thank you for the joy of serving as your assembly leader.

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With warm regards and admiration,

Assembly Chair  
Patricia Sime, MD

Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology (RCMB)

### Assembly on RCMB Membership Meeting

**Sunday, May 15, 2022**  
**5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**  
**Building: Moscone Center West**  
**Room: 3001/3003**  
**Floor: Level 3**




American Thoracic Society  
ASSEMBLIES


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## Message from the Assembly Chair-Elect

Enid Neptune, MD

I am excited to assume the leadership of this great assembly at a time of challenge for the Society and challenge for discovery science. We will certainly build upon the assured and mindful guidance of Patricia Sime during the height of the pandemic. Our leadership team and our membership have persevered at a time when all of our laboratories were skeletonized and the local research infrastructure was anything but facile. Well done! As the preeminent basic science assembly, we are charged with highlighting the basic translational research landscape in pulmonary biology and also engaging our seasoned and emerging research workforce. I hope we can fully enable the virtual platforms to increase the visibility of cutting-edge research of our members and to expand our membership among early stage researchers, groups underrepresented in biomedical research, PhD scientists and bioengineering colleagues. We also want to provide deliverables with respect to mentoring skills, career development programming and midcareer maintenance. We invite our membership to interact directly with our leadership team to provide feedback and to help us align the assembly efforts with communal goals. We will emerge from the pandemic doldrums with strength, agency and enthusiasm.

## Program Committee

Christopher Waters, MD (Chair)

Rachel Zemans, MD (Chair-Elect)

The annual American Thoracic Society meeting is one of the highlights of the academic year for the members of the RCMB and other ATS assemblies. It is the goal of the RCMB Program Committee to help bring cutting edge basic and translational science to our membership. The Program Committee membership now comprises 36 members from around the world who worked with tremendous enthusiasm to construct an exciting program for the ATS 2022 Meeting. We were also joined by our talented RCMB Program Committee Apprentice David Nagel. Every year the Program Committee reviews, grades, collates and develops all of the Scientific Symposia, Minisymposia, Poster-discussion and Thematic poster sessions, Post-graduate courses, Meet the Professor sessions, Workshops and Sunrise Seminars. The Meet the Professor Sessions and Sunrise Seminars were combined into Meet the Expert sessions.

To promote interactions and programmatic synergy across assemblies, we also work closely with colleagues in other assemblies including All, PI-TB, RSF, CP, PC, EOPH, NUR, CC, TO, BSHSR, and PEDS. The committee's work began last summer, reviewing 17 excellent proposals for scientific symposia, 2 proposals for Meet the Expert, and 3 proposals for postgraduate courses. We were able to program 3 RCMB major symposia. One of our sessions is a Top-Down Symposia that was anchored to the Basic Science Core theme of **Senescence and its Emerging Role in Lung Disease**. Our ATS 2022 meeting includes RCMB-sponsored 3 Scientific Symposia, 13 Joint Symposium, 2 Meet the Experts session, and 2 Postgraduate Courses. These were selected by the International Conference Committee and ATS staff.

This year's "Basic Science Core Topic" is **Senescence and its Emerging Role in Lung Disease**. The RCMB programmed a symposium for this theme entitled "ATS MTHBUSTERS: AGING BIOLOGY AND CELLULAR SENESENCE IN CHRONIC LUNG DISEASE - CHICKEN OR THE EGG." This is scheduled as Session B5 for Monday, May 16, 2022, 9:30 – 10:45 am.

This year RCMB received 476 abstract submissions, about 50% more than the number submitted for the 2021 conference. These abstracts were programmed into 6 Mini Symposia, 7 Poster Discussion sessions (1 RAPiD), and 13 Thematic Poster Sessions. Over 100 colleagues agreed to help in chairing sessions, serving as facilitators/moderators at this year's programmed sessions. We want to emphasize our gratitude for the enthusiastic participation of our members and colleagues. We sought to provide opportunities to participate for as many of the RCMB members as we could. We look forward to a return toward normal at ATS 2022 as we maintain this high level of enthusiasm.

We encourage you to be part of shaping the RCMB Program for 2023. The call for proposals for Scientific Symposia, PG courses, and Meet the Expert Sessions for ATS 2023 will be live in mid to late May 2022 and the deadline for submission is Wednesday, June 29, 2022, at 5:00 p.m eastern time. The Call for Scientific Abstract and Case Reports abstract submission deadline for 2023 is Wednesday, November 2, 2022. Now is the time to start working with your colleagues to develop ideas for the 2023 program. The Basic Science Core Theme for next years' conference is Integrating Layers of Biological Data to Elucidate Mechanisms of Lung Disease which is an exciting topic for our Assembly. The Program chairs and committee are always available and happy to offer suggestions before final submission. New members for the Program Committee and new chairs and facilitators for the sessions are important to sustaining a vibrant and inclusive ATS meeting, and we welcome contributions from enthusiastic members. The Program committee for 2022-23 has been finalized, but there are approximately 5-10 new positions available every year. We are also excited about our new RCMB Program Committee Apprentice, Eleanor Valenzi.

If you are interested in joining the Committee for next year, please contact the Incoming Chair, Rachel Zemans ([zemansr@med.umich.edu](mailto:zemansr@med.umich.edu)), who will maintain a list of interested individuals. Lastly, we would like to thank the Program Committee Members and the ATS-IC staff. We especially appreciated the patience, expertise, experience, guidance, and dedication of ATS-IC staff!

**ATS 2022 International Conference  
Assembly on Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology (RCMB) Sessions**

<b>Session Code</b>	<b>Session Title</b>	<b>Session Type</b>	<b>Session Date</b>	<b>Session Start Time</b>	<b>Session End Time</b>
PG6	JUMP START: A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO DRUG/TECHNOLOGY AND COMPANY DEVELOPMENT IN AN ACADEMIC SETTING	Postgraduate Course	5/13/2022	8:00 AM	4:00 PM
PG17	THE SENESENCE PIPELINE: FROM BASICS TO MODELS AND THERAPEUTIC IMPLICATIONS	Postgraduate Course	5/14/2022	8:00 AM	4:00 PM
A17	COPD: SINGLE CELL RNA SEQUENCING, EPIGENETICS, MODELS, AND MACROPHAGES	Mini Symposium	5/15/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
A60	PULMONARY FIBROSIS: ANIMAL AND CELL CULTURE MODELS	Thematic Poster Session	5/15/2022	9:30 AM	3:45 PM
A61	BPD, LUNG DEVELOPMENT, AND NEONATAL LUNG DISEASE	Thematic Poster Session	5/15/2022	9:30 AM	3:45 PM
A62	CYSTIC FIBROSIS AND NON-CF BRONCHIECTASIS: MECHANISTIC INSIGHTS	Thematic Poster Session	5/15/2022	9:30 AM	3:45 PM
ME9	THE "MIDAS" TOUCH: MITOCHONDRIAL DYSFUNCTION AS A DRIVER OF CELLULAR SENESENCE IN LUNG DISEASE	Meet the Expert	5/15/2022	10:45 AM	11:45 AM
A98	EPITHELIAL-MESENCHYMAL BIOLOGY IN LUNG DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION	Mini Symposium	5/15/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
A107	MECHANISMS OF FIBROSIS/FIBROBLAST BIOLOGY	Poster Discussion Session	5/15/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
A88	AS PEOPLE AGE, DOES COPD SUSCEPTIBILITY ORIGINATE FROM DIFFERENT CELL TYPES	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
B27	ACUTE LUNG INJURY AND ARDS: MODELS AND MECHANISMS	Poster Discussion Session	5/16/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
B5	ATS MTHBUSTERS: AGING BIOLOGY AND CELLULAR SENESENCE IN CHRONIC LUNG DISEASE - CHICKEN OR THE EGG	Scientific Symposium	5/16/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
B59	ACUTE LUNG INJURY AND ARDS: CELLS, TISSUES, AND ANIMAL MODELS	Thematic Poster Session	5/16/2022	9:30 AM	3:45 PM
B60	ASTHMA AND ALLERGIC RESPONSES: CELLS, TISSUES, AND ANIMAL MODELS	Thematic Poster Session	5/16/2022	9:30 AM	3:45 PM
B61	MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR MECHANISMS IN LUNG EPITHELIAL CELLS	Thematic Poster Session	5/16/2022	9:30 AM	3:45 PM
B62	E-CIGARETTES AND VAPING: ANIMAL AND CELL CULTURE MODELS	Thematic Poster Session	5/16/2022	9:30 AM	3:45 PM
B98	MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR MECHANISMS OF INJURY AND REPAIR IN ACUTE LUNG INJURY AND ARDS	Mini Symposium	5/16/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
B107	MOLECULAR MECHANISMS OF SARS-CoV-2, INFLUENZA, AND OTHER LUNG INFECTIONS	Poster Discussion Session	5/16/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
C17	NOVEL THERAPEUTICS AND BIOMARKERS FOR IDIOPATHIC PULMONARY FIBROSIS	Mini Symposium	5/17/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
C29	SENESENCE, SENOLYTICS, AND AGING IN LUNG BIOLOGY	RAPiD: Rapid Abstract Poster Discussion Session	5/17/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
C64	LUNG VASCULAR BIOLOGY AND MECHANISMS OF PULMONARY ARTERIAL HYPERTENSION	Thematic Poster Session	5/17/2022	9:30 AM	3:45 PM

C65	COPD: PRE-CLINICAL MODELS AND MECHANISMS	Thematic Poster Session	5/17/2022	9:30 AM	3:45 PM
C66	COPD: GENETICS, GENOMICS, AND EPIGENETICS	Thematic Poster Session	5/17/2022	9:30 AM	3:45 PM
C67	COPD: TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE	Thematic Poster Session	5/17/2022	9:30 AM	3:45 PM
C68	LUNG CANCER: BASIC MECHANISMS	Thematic Poster Session	5/17/2022	9:30 AM	3:45 PM
C69	OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURES: MODELS AND MECHANISMS	Thematic Poster Session	5/17/2022	9:30 AM	3:45 PM
C109	PULMONARY FIBROSIS: MOVING FORWARD WITH GENETICS AND SEQUENCING	Poster Discussion Session	5/17/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
D18	NEW INSIGHTS IN FIBROBLAST BIOLOGY AND PULMONARY FIBROSIS	Mini Symposium	5/18/2022	8:15 AM	9:45 AM
D29	MECHANISMS IN LUNG INJURY, REPAIR, AND FIBROSIS	Poster Discussion Session	5/18/2022	8:15 AM	9:45 AM
D97	MACROPHAGES AND INFLAMMATION IN ACUTE LUNG INJURY	Mini Symposium	5/18/2022	12:45 PM	2:15 PM
D108	NEW INSIGHTS IN CELL FATE, REGENERATIVE MEDICINE, iPSCs, AND MSCs	Poster Discussion Session	5/18/2022	12:45 PM	2:15 PM
D88	DISSECTING LUNG DISEASE DOWN TO A SINGLE-CELL: RECENT SINGLE-CELL RNA SEQUENCING BREAKTHROUGHS IN PULMONARY PATHOGENESIS	Scientific Symposium	5/18/2022	12:45 PM	2:15 PM

**ATS 2022 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ADDITIONAL SESSIONS OF INTEREST**

Session Code	Session Title	Session Type	Session Date	Session Start	Session End
A1	CLINICAL YEAR IN REVIEW 1	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
A11	TACKLING HEALTH DISPARITIES: HOW DO WE TALK AND TEACH ABOUT THEM?	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
A2	JAMA AND THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE. DISCUSSION ON THE EDGE: REPORTS OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED PULMONARY RESEARCH	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
A3	FELLOWS CASE CONFERENCE	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
A5	CROSSTALK OF SENESCENT CELLS WITH THE MICROENVIRONMENT: IT TAKES TWO TO TELL A STORY	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
CC1	CRITICAL CARE CLINICAL CORE CURRICULUM	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	11:30 AM	1:00 PM
PCC1	PEDIATRIC CLINICAL CORE CURRICULUM	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	12:00 PM	1:00 PM
A83	GREAT CASES: CLINICAL, RADIOLOGIC, AND PATHOLOGIC CORRELATIONS BY MASTER CLINICIANS	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM

A84	THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE AND JAMA. DISCUSSION ON THE EDGE: REPORTS OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED CRITICAL CARE RESEARCH	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
A85	DEVELOPMENT AND WOUND HEALING: WHERE SENESCENCE IS THE SILVER LINING	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
A90	RECENT ATS CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
B1	CLINICAL YEAR IN REVIEW 2	Scientific Symposium	5/16/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
B12	CLINICAL TRIALS SESSION	Scientific Symposium	5/16/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
B13	INSIGHTS INTO MECHANISMS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS OF HIV ASSOCIATED LUNG DISEASE	Scientific Symposium	5/16/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
CC2	PULMONARY CLINICAL CORE CURRICULUM	Scientific Symposium	5/16/2022	11:30 AM	1:00 PM
PCC2	PEDIATRIC CLINICAL CORE CURRICULUM	Scientific Symposium	5/16/2022	12:00 PM	1:00 PM
B88	INCLUDING ALL FOR RESPIRATORY HEALTH	Scientific Symposium	5/16/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
B91	PUBLISHING THE BEST SCIENCE: THE COMPREHENSIVE SPECTRUM PROVIDED BY THE ATS FAMILY OF JOURNALS	Scientific Symposium	5/16/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
CC3	CRITICAL CARE CLINICAL CORE CURRICULUM	Scientific Symposium	5/16/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
C1	CLINICAL YEAR IN REVIEW 3	Scientific Symposium	5/17/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
C11	USE OF NOVEL TECHNOLOGIES TO IMPROVE CLINICAL TRAINING AND ENHANCE PATIENT SAFETY	Scientific Symposium	5/17/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
PCC3	PEDIATRIC CLINICAL CORE CURRICULUM	Scientific Symposium	5/17/2022	12:00 PM	1:00 PM
C90	MORE THAN MAKING UP FOR LOST TIME: CAREER DEVELOPMENT AFTER COVID-19	Scientific Symposium	5/17/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
CC4	PULMONARY CLINICAL CORE CURRICULUM	Scientific Symposium	5/17/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
D1	CLINICAL YEAR IN REVIEW 4	Scientific Symposium	5/18/2022	8:15 AM	9:45 AM
D5	THE IMPACT OF FLAVORED NICOTINE PRODUCTS: BIOLOGY, BEHAVIOR AND THE "BAN"	Scientific Symposium	5/18/2022	8:15 AM	9:45 AM
CC5	SLEEP CLINICAL CORE CURRICULUM	Scientific Symposium	5/18/2022	10:45 AM	12:15 PM
CC6	SLEEP CLINICAL CORE CURRICULUM	Scientific Symposium	5/18/2022	12:45 PM	2:15 PM

## Planning Committee

Elizabeth F. Redente, PhD (Chair)

The RCMB Planning Committee has two primary responsibilities. First, we solicit and assist in the development and review of applications to ATS for the support of **Assembly/Committee Projects**. These projects can be submitted by any Assembly Member, and if approved the funds can be used to support activities that enhance the communication and collaborative efforts of members with common interests. Frequently, these projects involve the development of workshops around a specific research focus that reflects the interests of our Assembly. We also encourage collaborative projects between Assemblies that will address the needs and interests of the greater respiratory and scientific community. These workshops should have defined goals, a feasible timeline and include plans for the rapid development of a report or document for publication. Proposals are first reviewed by the Planning Committee which provides feedback and then are submitted for evaluation by the ATS Program Review Subcommittee. This year, RCMB members Drs. Louise Hecker and Milica Vukmirovic were successful in having their proposal "**Assessing challenges and opportunities for biomarker, device, and pre-clinical drug development/commercialization in the pulmonary arena**" funded! We encourage all of our members to start brainstorming new proposal ideas and look forward to reviewing applications in the fall. Please reach out if you have ideas or if you have questions about the process ([Redentee@njhealth.org](mailto:Redentee@njhealth.org)).

Second, the RCMB Planning Committee also has the privilege of reviewing applications for the three RCMB Assembly Awards. The **Carol Basbaum Award** to recognize outstanding scientific achievement and leadership potential in a junior investigator, the **Andy Tager Award** for Excellence in Mentoring, and the **Award for Research Excellence and Service by an International Member.** We look forward to celebrating our outstanding RCMB member awardees at the RCMB Assembly Business Meeting! We also participate in the Assembly **Apprenticeship Program** which encourages highly motivated junior members to join RCMB, participate and take on leadership roles. This year we were excited to welcome Dr. Merry-Lynn McDonald to the Planning Committee. Please reach out to the ECP working group with questions about this fantastic program ([jaime.hook@mssm.edu](mailto:jaime.hook@mssm.edu)) and we hope you consider joining us next year.

### **Submit an Assembly/Committee Project Application for Funding in FY2023!**

We are happy to announce that ATS will once again accept **NEW Assembly/Committee Projects for FY2023**. All interested applicants should begin developing their ideas for Assembly/Committee Project Applications.

**Applications will be available on the ATS website at [www.thoracic.org](http://www.thoracic.org)**

Please consider submitting an application for an Assembly/Committee project. If you have a suggestion for a project application and you need assistance, please contact your **Assembly Planning Committee Chair Elizabeth Redente, PhD at [redentee@njhealth.org](mailto:redentee@njhealth.org)**

For questions regarding submissions please contact  
Miriam Rodriguez  
Tel: (212) 315-8639 or email: [Mrodriguez@thoracic.org](mailto:Mrodriguez@thoracic.org).

## Web Committee

Brian Southern, MD (Web Director)

As members of the RCMB assembly, we are part of a global community of pulmonologists, scientists, and researchers. The ability to share ideas with colleagues around the world is critical to achieving our mission of reducing the burden of lung disease. The goal of the RCMB website committee is to **provide a virtual forum to facilitate scientific conversations and collaborations amongst RCMB members**. We have been successful in using various media forums to accomplish this goal over the past year.

This past year we were excited to welcome our first apprentice, Dr. Chao He, from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. We also welcomed new members Dr. Amy Attaway (Cleveland Clinic), Dr. Krithika Langappan (Baylor), and Dr. Jeffrey Robert Koentizer (Washington University in St. Louis).

Our biggest push this past year was to increase our presence on social media including Twitter and ATS DocMatter. Hopefully, you noticed the increased content we felt would be of value to our members including prominent publications, meetings, and seminars. As a result, we have had a much higher level of engagement among members this year.

We were involved in some exciting journal club webinars this past year. The first was a joint project with the Clinical Problems Assembly, discussing the manuscript by Dr. Sreyankar Nandy and colleagues called "*Diagnostic Accuracy of Endobronchial Optical Coherence Tomography for the Microscopic Diagnosis of Usual Interstitial pneumonia*", moderated by Drs. Rachel Knipe and Deji Adegunsoye. The second was a collaboration between the section of Genetics and Genomics (SGG) entitled "*Identification of LZTFL1 as a candidate effector gene at a COVID-19 risk locus*" by Dr. Damien Downes et al. and featuring Dr. Luisa Morales-Nebreda as a panelist. We have also been proud to help support the Science and Innovation Center and the Lung Aging Research working group in their seminars and other endeavors.

We have continued to create stimulating podcasts with content targeted to those involved in lung biology research. One example included an informative discussion of "The Role of Lymphatics in Lung Health and Disease" with Drs. Hasina Outtz Reed and Souheil El-Chemaly, with Dr. Rachel Knipe moderating.

All Journal Clubs and podcasts can be viewed and/or downloaded from the ATS website. ATS podcasts can also be found on iTunes.

The RCMB website committee is a great way to get involved in ATS, particularly for junior members, and we are always looking to add members to our committee. It's also a great way to share your research with the ATS community. Please contact me at [southeb@ccf.org](mailto:southeb@ccf.org) if you would like to participate or have any suggestions.

 Follow us on Twitter @ATS\_RCMB

Be sure to follow us at [@ATS\\_Assemblies](https://twitter.com/ATS_Assemblies) for news on webinars, deadlines, and other things you might have missed in your inbox!



## Early Career Professionals Working Group (ECPWG)

Jaime Hook, MD (Chair)

Ciara Shaver, MD, PhD (Co-Chair)

The mission of the *Early Career Professionals Working Group* (ECPWG) is to promote the involvement of early career professionals (ECPs) in the RCMB Assembly and the ATS. Our membership is a mix of postdoctoral research and clinical fellows, instructors, and assistant professors with MD, PhD, and MD/PhD backgrounds from three continents. We're proud to report the work our ECPWG has done in 2021-2022, and we extend our gratitude to our ATS liaison, **Nicole Feijoo**, for another year of tireless help and support.

This year our **Seminar Committee**, led by **Joe Bednash, MD**, created "On Air", a Live Virtual Seminar Series. The goals of the seminar series are to connect ECPs with established investigators and other ECPs, provide a forum for discussion of topics relevant to ECPs, and promote diversity, equity, and inclusion through thoughtful choice of speakers, engagement, and community. We hope you will join us for our inaugural event, **A Journey to Success with ATS President, Dr. Lynn Schnapp on Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 at 4-5 pm (ET)**. During this event, we will learn from Dr. Schnapp's own Journey to Success through a discussion of her early career development and approach to leadership and excellence in academic medicine. We look forward to hosting Dr. Schnapp and expect a lively and insightful discussion.

Our **Communications Committee**, run by **Mareike Lehmann, PhD**, has continued to expand our [website](#) and social media presence to make our initiatives more accessible. This year we focused on Twitter and DocMatter. On Twitter, we posted to the ATS RCMB account (@ATS\_RCMB) on a weekly basis to share ECP-relevant content including advertisements of ATS initiatives and announcements of ECP accomplishments (#thefutureisbright). **Scott Denstaedt, MD** worked with DocMatter to increase ECP usability of the platform and collected six topic suggestions from our ECPWG for posting. Three of these topics have been posted already and have garnered numerous comments, attesting to their interest to the ATS community. Finally, we have continued to send RCMB Assembly and ECP-targeted emails to promote ECP awareness of our group's initiatives.

The **RCMB Mentoring Program**, organized by **Rachel Knipe, MD**, has run successfully now for many years. The Program matches mentors (mid-career and senior RCMB members) with mentees (trainees, post-doctoral fellows, and junior faculty) to provide opportunities to exchange ideas and experiences that support scientific collaboration, ECP career development, and networking. Historically, mentors have helped mentees navigate opportunities at the ATS Conference. In 2021, we recruited 29 mentees and 23 mentors to participate in a Virtual Mentoring Program. We're proud to report that the virtual program increased the participation of mentors and mentees from institutions not typically represented in the RCMB Mentoring Program, including some outside of the United States. Although we look forward to returning to an in-person Mentoring Program at the 2022 ATS Conference, we will continue to provide a virtual mentoring option to support mentees and mentors who cannot attend the live conference. We thank all the mentors who signed up!

This is now the fourth year of the **RCMB Apprenticeship Program**, a mechanism by which ECP applicants are selected to serve on the RCMB Program, Planning, and Web Committees. Under the mentorship of a committee member, apprentices get a "behind the scenes" look at the operations of the RCMB Assembly while developing skills for evaluation of committee applications and development of committee projects. Our Apprenticeship Program is organized by **Hrishikesh Kulkarni, MD**. This year, we revised our apprentice selection criteria to better account for applicant participation in Assembly activities, commitment to diversity, completion of research deliverables, and collaboration. We're pleased to have had a number of

highly competitive applications, and we plan to announce this year's Apprentices at the RCMB Assembly Business Meeting.

As part of our mission to support ECP career development, we look forward to announcing this year's two recipients of the **Recognition of Early Academic Achievement (REAAch) Award** at the RCMB Assembly Business Meeting. Our REAAch Award Program is run by **Kara Mould, MD**. This award is given to Early Stage Investigators at the Instructor or Assistant Professor level who demonstrate a sustained commitment to developing a productive academic career, with focus on research areas addressed by the RCMB Assembly. This year we modified the award eligibility criteria to be more inclusive of ECPs adversely affected by the pandemic, and we worked to streamline the application and reduce the administrative burden associated with the nomination process. We are again pleased to have received a number of highly competitive nominations, reflecting the high caliber of ECP investigators in our RCMB Assembly.

Our **Conference Committee**, run by **Josh Englert, MD**, strives to ensure that ECPs make the most of their experience at the ATS International Conference. This year, the committee plans to continue our tradition of providing ECPs with our annual **RCMB Roadmap** that highlights conference programming and events of potential interest to RCMB ECPs. In addition, the committee is making plans for an ECP social event with the highly anticipated return of a live ATS Conference.

Thanks for your interest in the RCMB ECPWG. We're always looking to add qualified people to enrich our group, so please contact us if you're interested in participating ([jaime.hook@mssm.edu](mailto:jaime.hook@mssm.edu)). We look forward to welcoming you to ATS 2022, and we hope to see you at the annual RCMB Membership Meeting!

### **Assembly Mentoring Programs' Meeting Spot**

Struggling to find a quiet location to meet with your mentor? The Assembly Mentoring Programs is offering a meeting spot exclusively for mentors and mentee to meet and two receptions.

**Moscone Center West**

**(Room: Overlook 3018, Floor: Level 3)**

Sunday, May 15 – Monday, May 16, 2022, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**Join us at the Mentoring Receptions:**

Sunday, May 15 – Monday, May 16, 2022, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

**Please note, this space is exclusively for Mentoring Program participants\***

ATS Contact- Nicole Feijoo at [NFeijoo@thoracic.org](mailto:NFeijoo@thoracic.org)

## **Nominating Committee**

Melanie Koenigshoff, MD, PhD (Chair)

The role of the RCMB Nomination Committee is supporting the Assembly to identify and promote RCMB members for leadership positions within the Assembly. This year, we had the task to nominate candidates for Program Committee Chair

and members of the Nomination Committee within RCMB. Candidates are identified through an open-to-all process and selected based on their expertise and experience as well as previous RCMB involvement and commitment. We encourage all RCMB members to become actively involved, reach out to the Nomination Committee, and promote a colleague or themselves. The selected candidates have been up for election and every member of the Assembly is able to vote. The results of the election and thus future RCMB leaders will be announced during the Assembly Membership Meeting. I am grateful to Rachel Knipe, MD and Clemente Britto, MD serving on this committee and thank them for their valuable insights and work to secure another round of outstanding candidate for RCMB leadership. Please feel free to reach out with any question you might have about the committee work and future leadership positions within RCMB ([koenigshoffm@upmc.edu](mailto:koenigshoffm@upmc.edu)). For upcoming annual elections, please actively participate! We want your voice and vote!

## Lung Aging Research Working Group

Irfan Rahman, PhD, ATSF (Co-Chair)

Ben Singer, MD, PhD (Co-Chair)

The Lung Aging Research Working Group continued its core activities throughout 2021-2022 despite the challenges of the pandemic and Omicron surges. We were pleased to learn that the International Conference Executive Committee chose 'cellular senescence' as the Basic Science Core for the ATS 2022 conference. The prominence of aging biology in the ATS is all due to the outstanding support from our membership. We are looking forward to meeting you all in San Francisco.

View the Lung Aging Research web page [here](#).

We continued our activities during the pandemic by increasing our membership and sending regular email alerts regarding seminars/webinars and grant opportunities, including SenNet (human and mouse networks) from the NIH Common Fund. We will be sending out some newly released RFAs on R01s to our membership as well. We also hope to provide networking experiences and opportunities for mentoring in aging biology through our members.

On February 17, 2022, we proudly presented a 90-minute webinar on **"Lung cellular senescence programming and SenNet."** This webinar-retreat focused on mechanisms of lung cellular senescence, senescence phenotypes, and planning to prepare the senescence-networking atlas based on multi-omics datasets. It was an overwhelming success with ~90 participants. The webinar was led by our committee officials Irfan Rahman, PhD, ATS, Benjamin D. Singer, MD, ATSF, Patty Lee, MD, Enid Neptune, MD, and Ana Mora, MD. Melanie Koenigshoff, MD, PhD, ATSF, provided the overview of the SenNet program. Talks featured topics including Animal Models of Senescence by Gagandeep Kaur, PhD, Cellular Senescence in IPF by Mallar Bhattacharya, MD, and Mitochondrial Dysfunction and Senescence by Corrine Kliment, MD, PhD. Our next webinar will focus on techniques and methods as well as reconstruction of the lung aging map based on lung diseases – so stay tuned!

Our main goal is to increase awareness and disseminate knowledge of the pathophysiological mechanisms and hallmarks of aging in the lungs with interests in basic biology of aging in debilitating lung diseases including critical care. Our group brings together lung researchers who are interested in understanding the cellular and molecular mechanisms of aging and age-related lung diseases and forms a forum for discussion on hallmarks of lung aging and associated diseases.

We will again have our annual meeting as a virtual event this year – please save **June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2-3pm eastern time!** In addition,

we have some exciting news about the PG course on cellular senescence and various exciting sessions in San Francisco that we will share in an email blast and on social media.

If you are interested in learning more about our goals and activities, please feel free to contact us:

[irfan\\_rahman@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:irfan_rahman@urmc.rochester.edu)

[benjamin-singer@northwestern.edu](mailto:benjamin-singer@northwestern.edu), Twitter: @bsinger007

## The PhD, Basic and Translational Scientist Working Group

Richard Johnston, PhD, Natalie Bauer, PhD, Scott Randall, PhD & Elizabeth F. Redente, PhD (RCMB Representatives)

The PhD and Basic and Translational Scientist Working Group (PBTS WG), created in 2019, works to enhance the value of ATS membership for basic and translational scientists. It has thirty-six members drawn from all ATS Assemblies. The WG meets monthly to discuss issues of importance to folks not licensed to practice medicine and research-intensive physician-scientists. The RSF Assembly is the administrative home of the WG.

We are excited to return to an in-person **PhD Reception** co-hosted with the SIC which will be held on Sunday May 15, 2022 from 3-5 pm. Be on the lookout for the registration!

During the past year, the PBTS WG focused on developing programs and devising strategies to recruit PhD scientists to ATS, highlighted below.

Bethany Moore, PhD, ATSF spearheaded an **Assembly Project** titled "PhD's in Clinical Departments: Barriers, Opportunities and ATS Membership". This project addresses roles and barriers that may exist for PBT scientists in clinical departments. By convening a meeting of leaders and members, the organizers will demonstrate the importance of PBT scientists in the biomedical research enterprise, while providing support necessary for success.

PBTS WG members Natalie Bauer, PhD and Samantha Yeligar, PhD co-chaired a **PBTS WG/Science and Innovation (SIC) Center Virtual Networking Event** titled "Successful Collaborations", in which two U.S. and two European-based MD and PhD scientific collaborators discussed their successful scientific relationship. The event included breakout rooms for in-depth discussion and the PBTS WG/SIC hopes to provide more events in the upcoming year.

With ATS graphic designers, a subcommittee headed by James Londino, PhD has created a **Brochure** highlighting the advantages of ATS membership for PBT scientists attending the ATS International Conference but who are not currently ATS members. In addition, view the digital version [here](#).

A **T32** subcommittee, chaired by Indu Ayappa, PhD, was formed following the May 2021 Virtual PhD/Science and Innovation Center (SIC) Reception. The objectives are to increase the pipeline of PBT scientists by advocating for T32 slots for pre-doctoral students and post-doctoral fellows, increasing PBT scientists as principal investigators on T32 s, and providing resources for PhD scientists interested in submitting T32 applications. On behalf of this subcommittee, Natalie Bauer, PhD will present "So, You Want to Write a T32?" at the 2022 SIC.

To understand why non-ATS member PBT scientists attend the ATS International Conference, Janette Burgess, PhD, ATSF assembled a subcommittee to design a **Survey** that will be distributed to 2022 ATS International Conference PBT attendees that spend 50% or more of their time in research but are not ATS members. Survey data will be used to understand how the ATS and PBTS WG can address their needs.

The PBTS WG **Awards** subcommittee, chaired by Scott Randell, PhD, seeks to identify and enable nomination of worthy PBT scientists for the annual ATS Respiratory Health Awards.

To become involved with the PBTS WG or for WG-related issues, please contact the PBTS WG chairs Richard Johnston, PhD ([rfj1@cdc.gov](mailto:rfj1@cdc.gov)) or Natalie Bauer, PhD ([nbauer@southalabama.edu](mailto:nbauer@southalabama.edu)).

### Third Reception for PhDs & Other Basic Science Researchers

**Sunday, May 15 from 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.** The reception will be held in the Science and Innovation Center (SIC) at the Moscone Convention Center (Room: 155, South, Upper Mezzanine). There will be food provided and activities during the event will include an opportunity to get to meet and network with other scientists, to engage with leaders from the ATS and assemblies and to provide feedback regarding activities or programs that ATS could offer to benefit the basic and translational science members, especially those who are not also clinicians.

**Register Here:** <https://conference.thoracic.org/program/events/reception-phd-other-basic-science-researchers.php>

## Innovation and Entrepreneurial Working Group

Milica Vulmirovic, PhD (Co-Chair)

Louise Hecker, PhD (Co-Chair)

Innovation and Entrepreneurial Working Group gathers world renowned academic and industry experts who support entrepreneurial activities in respiratory field and within the RCMB Assembly. The goals of our group are to organize educational sessions in entrepreneurship and bridge learning gaps for the development of new drugs and devices coming from academic research in lung diseases.

In 2021, our group developed and launched a survey tool to assess the early-stage development of biomarkers, drugs and devices within academic settings. The results of the survey will be analyzed within the approved RCMB Assembly ATS project led by our group and prepared for publication in 2022. We thank ATS for this opportunity and look forward to sharing our findings with the broader ATS community. Stay tuned!

## Science & Innovation Center (SIC)

Tom Mariani, PhD (Chair)

Francesca Polverino, MD, PhD (Co-Chair)

Starting this year the [SIC](#) is now charged with organizing the “Scientific Breakthroughs” symposium at the IC. The 2022 IC session, entitled “**Scientific Breakthroughs: Emphasis on RNA Biology**“, will be held in the afternoon of Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>.

## Basic Science Core Committee

Ivana Yang, PhD

Karen Ridge, PhD

Karen Ridge and Ivana Yang have served as RCMB representatives on the Basic Science Core Committee this past year. They organized the following program session. A5: "CROSSTALK OF SENESCENT CELLS WITH THE MICROENVIRONMENT: IT TAKES TWO TO TELL A STORY" for Sunday 5/15/2022 9:30 - 11:00AM.