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# Allergy, Immunology and Inflammation

Editor: Gregory Downey, MD

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## MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY CHAIR

Dear Assembly Colleagues:

The last two years have flown by in the blink of an eye, and I find myself in the last three months of my position as Chair of the Allergy, Immunology and Inflammation Assembly of the American Thoracic Society. It has been an honor and privilege to serve in this position with such an inspiring group of people in the best ATS Assembly!



Gregory Downey, MD

The AII Assembly has over 3,000 active members and is currently the third largest assembly in the American Thoracic Society. Over the last two years, the Assembly has evolved and undergone many changes including a remarkable diversification of our activities and communication strategies. I attribute this to an outstanding and highly proactive executive committee that includes a dynamic Early Career Professionals Working Group that has helped catalyze many of these changes. Our assembly has blazed a trail for many new initiatives that have been adopted within other assemblies and by the ATS Central Committees, notably the sponsorship of international trainees to the ATS annual meeting. The AII Assembly members have been instrumental in developing many outstanding symposia, workshops, and poster sessions for the upcoming annual meeting in Denver this May. I would briefly like to summarize the recent activities and accomplishments of the AII Assembly.

An important development over the last year has been increased dialogue and cooperation with other assemblies with overlapping scientific areas of interest including RCMB, MTPI, RSF, PEDs, EOPH, CC, TO, and CP. There has been tremendously positive cooperation with RCMB and RSF in organization of the SCIENCE CORE and SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGHS OF THE YEAR. This has been achieved through close interactions with the Executive and Program Committees resulting in an outstanding array of symposia including ‘hot topics’ that will most certainly be of interest to attendees to the international meeting. Jeff Curtis has been integral to this process and has provided his expertise for the SCIENCE CORE. We have also organized a joint dinner/reception with RCMB after our annual membership meeting to further enhance the interactions between AII and RCMB. I would like to acknowledge the support of Naftali

(Continued on page 2)

## MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY CHAIR (Continued)

Kaminski and Eric White from RCMB who have helped cement these important relationships with the AII Assembly. Please consider contributing financial support to the joint AII/RCMB Assembly dinner and reception that will help sponsor trainees to participate in this important event. You can make a donation at <https://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/about/assembly-donations.php>.

AII has also focused on recognition and support for the clinical educator career track. This has been done in collaboration with the Education Committee of the ATS Executive Committee and has been spearheaded by Laura Crotty Alexander from the University of California, San Diego. Recognizing the importance of the educator career track, the ATS has created an assembly devoted to career development for this group of faculty. AII has contributed importantly to this initiative.

## Update from Planning Committee

Angela Rogers, MD, MPH - Chair

The primary responsibility of the AII Planning Committee is to review and prioritize Assembly Projects. Examples of recent AII-supported Assembly Projects include the International ERS/ATS guidelines on definition, evaluation and treatment of severe asthma, published in the ERJ in 2014, and an ATS guideline on exercise-induced bronchoconstriction published in the AJRCCM in 2013. The major focus of our Planning Committee is to encourage and support submissions of new AII project proposals—we can help you with proposals directly, pre-submission, and put you in contact with substantial infrastructure available from ATS to support projects. If you have ideas about potential AII projects, also email to discuss, and we can help support you in the submission process, even before the initial deadline in ~July-August.

If you are interested in becoming more involved in your Assembly and want to serve on the AII Planning Committee, feel free to email me, [ajrogers@stanford.edu](mailto:ajrogers@stanford.edu) and you will be considered as openings occur. There will also be a sign up sheet at this year's Assembly meeting for people interested in serving on the Planning Committee. It is exciting to work with ATS to develop and then fund worthy projects that are of interest to all of us involved in ATS.

## Update from Program Committee Chair

Jay Kolls, MD - Chair & Angela Haczku, MD, PhD - Chair Elect

The AII program committee for the 2015 included 36 members from North America, Europe, South America, Australia, China and Japan. These colleagues provided rich expertise in the broad scientific and clinical topic areas spanning the range of interests in the AII assembly. The group worked together to propose and program major symposia, sunrise seminars, meet the professor sessions, and post graduate courses. The Program Committee is very proud that AII will be sponsoring the symposia, seminars and sessions listed below.

The AII program committee again worked closely this year with the RCMB and RSF program committees to develop and co-sponsor this year's SCIENCE CORE and SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGHS OF THE YEAR. Together, the program committee reviewed and scored over 650 abstracts. These abstracts were programmed into 6 mini-symposia, 6 poster discussion sessions, and 17 thematic poster sessions. More recently, we received approximately 50 late breaking abstracts that were reviewed and ranked. About 50% of the late-breaking abstracts were programmed this year into various sessions or placed into an organized Late Breaking Abstract session.

In addition to this the AII assembly dedicated its time to the meeting and more than 100 colleagues agreed to help in chairing sessions, serving as featured speakers, or as facilitators at the year's thematic poster sessions. We invited a mix of junior and more established colleagues in most sessions with broad international representation. On average, we invited on average one facilitator for each 7 abstracts in the thematic poster sessions to ensure that each presenter will have ample opportunity to interact with experts in the field and that the facilitators have manageable commitments.

It has been my honor and privilege to chair the program committee this past year. I would like to thank the Program Committee members for all of their hard work this year. Their work and dedication will assure ATS 2015 to be a great success. Dr. Angela Haczku has been wonderful to work with this year as our assembly program committee chair-elect. I am certain that the Program Committee is in great hands as she assumes its leadership in May. Dr. Haczku is already assembling the Program Committee for next year and would appreciate hearing from you if you have any suggestions for improving the process.

Please remember that is never too early to start building our conference program for 2016. To that end please start considering proposals for next year's scientific program for the 2016 ATS meeting.

Putting together a successful program benefits from the participation of all the assembly members, the program committee, experts in the field, and the outstanding ATS annual meeting staff! Please join us in this effort.

Lastly, Angela and I would like to thank the ATS annual meeting staff. They do an outstanding job every year on coordinating the entire process. It is their expertise, experience, guidance, and dedication that assure the tradition of excellence that we have come to expect from the annual meeting.

I hope you enjoy ATS 2015 and I look forward to seeing you in Denver!

# ATS 2015 - Denver

## Sessions Sponsored by the Assembly on Allergy, Immunology and Inflammation

Session	Session Title	Session Time	
<b>Postgraduate Courses</b>			
<b>Friday, May 15, 2015</b>			
PG5	USING 'OMICS TO STUDY LUNG DISEASE	8:00 AM	4:00 PM
<b>Saturday, May 16, 2015</b>			
PG16	ADAPTIVE LUNG IMMUNITY: MORE THAN JUST CROSSING YOUR T'S	8:00 AM	4:00 PM
<b>Scientific Symposium</b>			
<b>Sunday, May 17, 2015</b>			
A5	INNATE LYMPHOID CELLS: EMERGING MEDIATORS OF PULMONARY INFLAMMATION	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
A86	ASTHMA EXACERBATIONS: NEW CONCEPTS IN 2015	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
<b>Tuesday, May 19, 2015</b>			
C5	CONTROVERSIES IN ASTHMA MANAGEMENT 2015	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
C9	TALKIN' ABOUT RESOLUTION: OF INFLAMMATION AND INJURY	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
C87	DEVELOPMENT OF PULMONARY DISEASE IN OBESITY: THE INTERFACE BETWEEN METABOLISM, MICROBIOME AND IMMUNITY	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
<b>Wednesday, May 20, 2015</b>			
D7	NEW INSIGHTS INTO NEUTROPHILIC PULMONARY INFLAMMATION	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
<b>Jointly-Developed Symposium</b>			
<b>Monday, May 18, 2015</b>			
B5	HOW PATHOGENS EVADE IMMUNE DEFENSES AND HOW WE CAN FIGHT BACK	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
B11	AIR POLLUTION: A MAJOR GLOBAL THREAT TO LUNG HEALTH	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
B85	US VERSUS THEM: MUCINS AND BIOFILMS IN THE BATTLE FOR THE LUNGS	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
<b>Tuesday, May 19, 2015</b>			
C85	SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGHS OF THE YEAR: HOST PATHOGEN INTER-ACTIONS AND HOST DEFENSE	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
<b>Wednesday, May 20, 2015</b>			
D11	TRANSLATING COPD DISCOVERIES TO THE CLINIC	9:30 AM	11:30 AM

<b>Sunrise Seminars</b>			
<b>Monday, May 18, 2015</b>			
SS101	DIVERSE MACROPHAGE POPULATIONS MEDIATE ACUTE LUNG INFLAMMATION AND RESOLUTION	7:00 AM	8:00 AM
<b>Tuesday, May 19, 2015</b>			
SS201	THE ASTHMA-COPD OVERLAP SYNDROME: A NEW DISEASE OR OLD NEWS?	7:00 AM	8:00 AM
SS202	HYPERCAPNIA: GOOD OR BAD FOR THE LUNG?	7:00 AM	8:00 AM
<b>Wednesday, May 20, 2015</b>			
SS301	INTRODUCTION TO PULMONARY GENOMIC DATA-MINING USING OPEN DATA AND FREE ONLINE RESOURCES	7:00 AM	8:00 AM
<b>Meet The Professor Seminars</b>			
<b>Sunday, May 17, 2015</b>			
MP401	SMOKING ASTHMATICS OR PARTIAL REVERSIBLE COPD: THE SAME DISEASE?	12:15 PM	1:15 PM
<b>Monday, May 18, 2015</b>			
MP501	CHALLENGES OF HIV-ASSOCIATED OBSTRUCTIVE LUNG DISEASES	12:15 PM	1:15 PM
<b>Tuesday, May 19, 2015</b>			
MP601	PULMONARY DISEASE AND PRIMARY IMMUNODEFICIENCY	12:15 PM	1:15 PM
<b>Mini-Symposium</b>			
<b>Sunday, May 17, 2015</b>			
A93	NEW INSIGHTS INTO PULMONARY HOST DEFENSE	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
<b>Monday, May 18, 2015</b>			
B93	GENETIC SIGNATURES OF ASTHMA: KEY TO ENDOTYPES?	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
<b>Wednesday, May 20, 2015</b>			
D13	RESOLUTION OF INFLAMMATION AND LUNG REPAIR	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
D14	EPIGENETIC REGULATION OF INFLAMMATION	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
D91	REMODELING OF THE BRONCHOVASCULAR UNIT AND LUNG DISEASE	1:30 PM	3:30 PM
D92	THE COPD AND ASTHMA OVERLAP SYNDROME	1:30 PM	3:30 PM
<b>Poster Discussion Sessions</b>			
<b>Sunday, May 17, 2015</b>			
A21	GENETIC REGULATION OF CHRONIC AIRWAY INFLAMMATION	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
<b>Monday, May 18, 2015</b>			
B21	TRANSLATIONAL ASTHMA RESEARCH	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
B101	ACUTE LUNG INJURY AND INFLAMMATION	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
<b>Tuesday, May 19, 2015</b>			
C101	ALLERGIC AIRWAY INFLAMMATION AND HYPERRESPONSIVENESS: NOVEL MECHANISMS AND THERAPY	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
<b>Wednesday, May 20, 2015</b>			
D101	INFLAMMATION IN THE TRANSPLANTED LUNG AND FIBROSIS	1:30 PM	3:30 PM
D102	ADVANCES IN LUNG IMMUNOLOGY AND SARCOIDOSIS	1:30 PM	3:30 PM

<b>Thematic Poster Sessions</b>			
<b>Sunday, May 17, 2015</b>			
A31	THE EPITHELIUM IN LUNG INFLAMMATION	9:30 AM	4:15 PM
A32	MICROBIAL INTERACTIONS AND HOST DEFENSE	9:30 AM	4:15 PM
A33	IMMUNE REGULATION OF INFLAMMATION AND AIRWAY HYPER-RESPONSIVENESS	9:30 AM	4:15 PM
<b>Monday, May 18, 2015</b>			
B31	INFLAMMATION AND COPD	9:30 AM	4:15 PM
B32	REGULATION OF INFLAMMATION AND LUNG INJURY I	9:30 AM	4:15 PM
<b>Tuesday, May 19, 2015</b>			
C31	CLINICAL ASTHMA I	9:30 AM	4:15 PM
C32	CLINICAL ASTHMA II	9:30 AM	4:15 PM
C33	ASTHMA CO-MORBIDITIES	9:30 AM	4:15 PM
C34	NEW BASIC SCIENCE IN ASTHMA: ALLERGIC INFLAMMATION I	9:30 AM	4:15 PM
C35	ASTHMA THERAPY I	9:30 AM	4:15 PM
C36	ASTHMA THERAPY II	9:30 AM	4:15 PM
C37	STRUCTURAL AND HEMATOPOIETIC CELL INTERACTIONS	9:30 AM	4:15 PM
C38	BIOMARKERS OF ACUTE AND CHRONIC INFLAMMATION	9:30 AM	4:15 PM
C39	REGULATION OF INFLAMMATION AND LUNG INJURY II	9:30 AM	4:15 PM
<b>Wednesday, May 20, 2015</b>			
D31	IMMUNE REGULATION OF SARCOIDOSIS AND INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE	9:30 AM	3:30 PM
D32	INTERESTING CASES IN ALLERGY AND IMMUNOLOGY	9:30 AM	3:30 PM
D33	NEW BASIC SCIENCE IN ASTHMA: ALLERGIC INFLAMMATION II	9:30 AM	3:30 PM

## Update from Web Committee

Matthew C. Exline MPH, MD - Chair

AII has expanded its use of social media with Facebook and Twitter as well as redesigned our web site. Matt Exline, Jennifer McAllister and the Web Committee have taken the lead in this area. This year there will be live tweeting from talks and symposia at the ATS annual meeting, an approach that we have learned from RCMB. AII has also been active in updating and redesigning the ATS web site including the Asthma Center.

## Update from All Assembly Awards Committee

Last year we introduced AII scientific awards. The Senior Scientific Accomplishment Award was given to Dr. Jeff Drazen, Harvard Medical School and Editor of the New England Journal of Medicine, and the Early Career Achievement Award was given to Dr. Rachel Zemans of National Jewish Health and the University of Colorado Denver. Nominations are currently being reviewed for the 2015 awards that will be presented at the annual meeting in May 2015.

## Update from the Section on Genetics and Genomics

Benjamin A. Raby, MPH, MD - Chair & Mark M. Wurfel, MD, PhD - Co- Chair

The Genetics and Genomics section has been active on several fronts. Co-chairs Dr. Mark Wurfel and Dr. Benjamin Raby have organized a post-graduate course for ATS 2015 entitled “Using ‘Omics to Study Lung Disease” on Friday May 15<sup>th</sup>. The program includes a panel of cutting edge speakers that will provide attendees a with working knowledge of research techniques that seek to simultaneously measure the totality of particular classes of molecules and how these techniques are being used in the study of lung diseases. The use of these sorts of techniques in pulmonary and critical care-oriented research is exploding. We hope that this course will help attendees find ways to effectively apply these techniques in their research or just to better understand the implications of published studies using these techniques.

We have also co-sponsored a recent online journal club in conjunction with AII and RCMB. Dr. Jose Herazo-Maya and Dr. Naftali Kaminski discussed their recent publication using genome-wide expression studies to identify gene expression patterns in peripheral blood monocytes that predict outcomes in patients with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis. Dr. Blanca Himes organized and moderated this very successful joint venture that included real-time and post-event twitter discussions. We hope that this joint Journal Club will be the first of many tapping the expertise and shared interest across our Section and Assemblies.

Finally, Genetics and Genomics has put considerable effort into making their website (<http://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/sections/gg/>) more helpful to current and future members. Dr. Brian Cade has led our website revamping adding a repository of links to relevant educational and software resources and a listing of current funding opportunities of special interest. He has also initiated an online survey of our membership to facilitate the development of a database to help identify specific expertise and spark future collaborations.

Please come to our Section meeting on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at ATS 2015. See you in Denver.

# Early Career Professionals Working Group Report

Megan N. Ballinger, PhD & Beth Besecker, MD; Co-Chairs

One of our top priorities has been to expand the participation of young professionals and international members in our assembly. We currently have active members from the US, Canada, Europe, Japan, Australia, and China on our Executive, Program, and Nominating Committees. Importantly, our Young Professionals Working Group, led by Megan Ballinger and Beth Besecker has inspired and helped shape many of the new programs that I will describe below. They are an amazing group!

## Mentoring Program

### Goals

1. Provide an avenue for junior faculty and trainee participation in the AII Assembly.
2. Support junior faculty and trainees through individualized mentorship.
3. Help with navigating the ATS meeting

### Expectations for Mentors

1. Introduce yourself and start a dialog with assigned mentee via phone, email or social networking media before the ATS meeting
2. Arrange a face to face meeting at some point during the ATS meeting. If possible, attend the AII Welcome Orientation Meeting on Monday May 18th, held immediately before the AII Assembly meeting.
3. Attend AII/RCMB joint Assembly reception following the business meeting.

### Expectations for Mentees

1. Introduce yourself and start a dialog with your assigned mentor. via phone, email or social networking media before the ATS meeting
2. Be proactive about communication, while being considerate of your mentor's time.
3. Plan on attending the AII Welcome Orientation Meeting on Monday May 18th (immediately before the Assembly meeting) and the AII/RCMB joint Assembly reception following the business meeting that same evening.



## AII Journal Club

The AII journal club has evolved and matured over the last year with three recent highly successful journal clubs. This has been organized largely by the Young Professionals Working Group with the help of Michael Wechsler and Preveen Akuthota. Two journal clubs are planned in the next two months (the first scheduled for March 6, 2015) that we encourage our membership to participate in. We have introduced several novel aspects to the journal club including the participation of the authors of the manuscript being discussed as well as publication of the discussion in the Faculty of 1000 with the oversight of Bruce Levy. This enables trainees and young faculty who are primary discussants of these articles to obtain a peer reviewed publication from their efforts.

Our most recent Journal Club was on April 13th. It featured the article: “The role of bacteria in the pathogenesis and progression of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis” by Phillip L. Molyneaux and colleagues that appeared in October 2014 in AJRCCM. We were fortunate to have Dr. Molyneaux, from Imperial College, London, as the featured discussant. Please find this Journal Club presentation and all our other past journal club presentations on our webpage (<http://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/assemblies/aai/journal-club/>).

## All International Relations Committee

The International Committee continues to play a fundamental role in giving a voice to our international members and ensuring their participation in symposia, poster discussion sessions and thematic poster sessions. International members have contributed greatly to the Program and Nominating Committees. This is key to the continuing success of AII in attracting international members.

## Message from the Assembly Chair (Closing Remarks)

In closing, I would like to thank our outstanding Executive Committee including Jay Kolls, the current Program Committee Chair, and Angela Haczku, the incoming Program Committee Chair, who have done an outstanding job in programming this year’s international meeting. Mitch Olman, who is the incoming Chair of AII, has been integral in coordinating the activities of AII, particularly the SCIENCE CORE and SCIENTIFIC BREAK-THROUGHS OF THE YEAR. Mitch will assume the position of Assembly Chair in May at the annual meeting in Denver. Bruce Levy and the Nominating committee have done an outstanding job in soliciting candidates for key leadership positions in AII who will ensure that we will continue to have a vibrant assembly. Lastly, I would like to recognize the ATS staff who do such a wonderful job with the annual meeting. It is their expertise, experience and helpful guidance that help to uphold the tradition of excellence that we have come to expect from the annual meeting.

I hope you enjoy ATS 2014 and I look forward to seeing you here in Denver (and hope that it doesn’t snow this year!).

## Meet Your Mentor **HERE!**



Struggling to find a quiet location to meet with your mentor? Look no further! This year at the 2015 ATS International Conference in Denver, the Assembly Mentoring Programs is offering a meeting spot exclusively for mentors and mentees to meet.

The Assembly Mentoring Programs' Meeting Spot will be located in the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel in room Plaza Court 5 (Concourse Level). The room will be available:

**Friday May 15<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

**Wednesday May 20<sup>th</sup> from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

Light snacks and beverages will be offered throughout the day. Also in the room there will be laptops and printers available for use. You can also pick up your Assembly Mentoring Program ribbon and pin!

**We hope you can join us at the Assembly Mentoring Programs' Meeting Spot!**

Other opportunities to meet:

- 1) New Member Meet and Greet – this occurs 30 minutes prior each Assembly Membership Meeting
- 2) Early Career Professionals' Corner  
Science and Innovation Center (Denver Convention Center)  
Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
7:00– 8:00 a.m.  
Light breakfast will be served

**For more information on the Mentorship Programs, contact Breana Portelli at [bportelli@thoracic.org](mailto:bportelli@thoracic.org).**

## Official ATS Documents: Informational Opportunities at the 2015 ATS International Conference in Denver

If you're developing or interested in developing an Official ATS Document (Policy Statement, Research Statement, Clinical Practice Guideline, Workshop Report, or Technical Standards), please consider attending one or more of these free opportunities while you are in Denver at the ATS International Conference:

- Documents Development & Implementation Committee (DDIC) Workshop: Friday, May 15th from 6-9 PM, Governor's 14, Concourse Level, Plaza Building, Sheraton Denver Downtown. This session is required for both current and new guideline panel chairs, as well as the chairs of new document projects. The session is recommended for the chairs of ongoing non-guideline projects. Please RSVP to Katrina Gorres at [kgorres@thoracic.org](mailto:kgorres@thoracic.org) if you have not already done so. The schedule is as follows:
  - o 6-7 PM – Presentations by DDIC members about the Official Document types, methodological requirements for each, and other practical issues (e.g., conflict of interest management, review, and approval); a light dinner will be served.
  - o 7-9 PM – Current guideline chairs (or their designees) will give progress reports and then troubleshoot informally with DDIC members and ATS staff. New guideline chairs will have the opportunity to listen to these reports and learn about the “trials and tribulations” of guideline development from experienced peers.
- Guideline methodology training program: All ATS clinical practice guidelines require the support of an experienced methodologist; however, there is a shortage of methodologists from which to derive the support. The ATS has a guideline methodology training program that provides on-the-job training to individuals who are interested in becoming a methodologist. Applications for the training program are available at <http://www.thoracic.org/statements/document-development/index.php>. An informational session is being held on Monday, May 18th from 7 pm until 8:30 pm at the ATS International Conference for anyone who is interested in learning more about the program. A light dinner will be served. Please RSVP to Kevin C. Wilson, MD, ATS Senior Director of Documents and Medical Affairs at [kwilson@thoracic.org](mailto:kwilson@thoracic.org). Space is limited.
- Ad Hoc meetings: If your project committee is having a full day, half day, or meal meeting in Denver, you have the opportunity to schedule an appointment for Dr. Kevin Wilson (ATS Documents Editor and ATS Senior Director of Documents and Medical Affairs) or Dr. Jan Brozek (ATS Methodologist) to stop by your committee meeting to discuss and answer questions about Official ATS Documents. To schedule a meeting, email Kevin Wilson at [kwilson@thoracic.org](mailto:kwilson@thoracic.org) or Jan Brozek at [brozekj@mcmaster.ca](mailto:brozekj@mcmaster.ca). Please indicate the name of your panel and a range of time that would be appropriate for their visit.
- Office Hours: Stop by our second annual “Office Hours” to meet and talk with Dr. Kevin Wilson and/or Dr. Jan Brozek about any Official ATS Document related matters. Contact John Harmon at [jharmon@thoracic.org](mailto:jharmon@thoracic.org) for dates and times.

### ATS Patient Education Resources

- ATS continues to expand its patient education resources - there are currently more than 70 high quality patient oriented fact sheets on a range of pulmonary, critical care, and sleep topics including both common and rare diseases such as COPD, VCD, and HPS; common procedures and diagnostic tests such as sleep studies, lung function studies, and bronchoscopy; and special focus topics including palliative care and lung cancer prevention. These fact sheets are available at no cost via the ATS website at [www.thoracic.org](http://www.thoracic.org) under the Patients Tab. See pieces that you like? Feel free to use them in your practice and share them with others! Have new topics you'd like to propose? Contact Judy Corn at [jcorn@thoracic.org](mailto:jcorn@thoracic.org) with your ideas and feedback.

## ATS Assembly Members Give Generously to the ATS Foundation

At the 2014 Leadership Summit, assembly leaders voted to establish an ATS Assembly Challenge in support of the ATS Foundation. The Challenge kicked off on #GivingTuesday, on December 2, 2014, a special day worldwide dedicated to the joy of giving, and ran all month long.

Gifts both large and small were received and much appreciated. December giving from assembly members rose from \$121,970 in 2013 to \$170,974 in 2014—an increase of \$49,000! These gifts are greatly meaningful to young investigators at risk of terminating their careers in pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine. Your generous gifts to the ATS Foundation help launch careers dedicated to scientific discovery and better patient care.



Naftali Kaminski, MD, chair for the Assembly on Respiratory Cell & Molecular Biology; Gregory P. Downey, MD, chair for the Assembly on Allergy Immunology & Inflammation; and Kristin A. Riekert, PhD, chair for the Assembly on Behavioral Science and Health Services Research, proudly display their 2014 ATS Assembly Challenge awards

Personal outreach from assembly chairs especially helped drive giving to the ATS Foundation.

“Without member support, amazing programs such as MECOR and young investigator research grants wouldn’t exist. If every ATS member gave even a small donation, even more ground-breaking research and training could be supported,” said **Kristin A. Riekert, PhD**, chair for the Assembly on Behavioral Science and Health Services Research.

Dr. Riekert sent personal messages to her fellow BSHR members to encourage them to give, and capitalized on the momentum of #GivingTuesday to encourage giving. That outreach made a tremendous difference.

**Naftali Kaminski, MD**, chair for the Assembly on Respiratory Cell & Molecular Biology, also sent messages to his fellow RCMB members and spurred giving through #GivingTuesday.

“For me the participation of RCMB members in the assembly challenge was very, very meaningful,” said Dr. Kaminski. “The fact that they made the effort and donated (and many did) demonstrated their commitment to our community and to the future of respiratory research.”

There were three ways to win the Challenge: be the assembly with the most dollars raised in 2014, be the assembly with the highest member participation rate, and be the assembly with the largest average gift per member.

**Allergy Immunology & Inflammation** raised the most dollars in the ATS Assembly Challenge with \$63,549. **Behavioral Science and Health Services Research** had the highest member participation with 20.86%, and the largest average gift per member with \$98.27. **Respiratory Cell & Molecular Biology**'s outstanding outreach efforts led to the creation of a brand new award in recognition of having the most first-time givers. Their outreach efforts inspired 26 members to give to the Foundation for the very first time during December alone!

Congratulations to the Allergy Immunology & Inflammation, Behavioral Science and Health Services Research, and Respiratory Cell & Molecular Biology assemblies! They will receive special recognition in a number of ATS communications, at ATS 2015, and within their own assemblies.

*The ATS Foundation would like to thank all ATS assemblies for their generous support and for rising to the challenge.* Your giving is life-changing for young investigators, patients, and communities worldwide. To learn more about the ATS Foundation or to make a gift, visit [foundation.thoracic.org](http://foundation.thoracic.org).



## Enter the BEAR Cage

Hosted by the ATS Drug Device Discovery and Development (DDDD) Committee, the BEAR Cage (Building Education to Advance Research) competition was open to all ATS members who are early career investigators. Applicants were asked to submit an innovative clinical or translational research proposal for consideration and the opportunity to participate in the live BEAR Cage at ATS 2015. You are invited to join us at the Science and Innovation Center to see the selected top three finalists competitively “pitch” their highly innovative research proposals to a panel of translational science experts representing academia, industry, and governmental sectors in front of a live audience. The panel, with audience participation, will vet the proposals with each presenter and ultimately award a grand prize winner a \$5,000 prize as well as two runner-up proposals, each receiving \$2,500. The goal of this unique event is to promote productive discussion of these innovative research ideas in the setting of a fun, yet competitive, forum promoting opportunities for collaboration, mentorship, and improvement of the research proposal. To build on this concept, a DDDD committee-sponsored “project advisory team” will provide feedback and distance mentorship to the awardees over the ensuing year.

**Connect with your ATS assembly on social networks for the latest on journal clubs, webinars, ATS International Conference activities, and much more!**

### On Facebook:

ATS All Assembly  
ATS SRN Assembly  
ATS MTPI  
ATS Assembly on  
Thoracic Oncology

ATS RSF Assembly  
RCMB Assembly  
of the American  
Thoracic Society  
ATS Section on Genetics  
and Genomics

ATS Environmental,  
Occupational and  
Population Health  
Early Faculty/Fellows  
ATS Nursing Assembly

### On Twitter:

@ATS\_All @PR\_Assembly  
@ATSSRN @ATS\_PC  
@ATS\_MTPI @ATSNursing  
@atstoa @ATS\_RCMB  
@ATS\_RSF



### Also look for the main ATS social media accounts:

Twitter: @atscommunity  
Facebook: American Thoracic Society

Instagram: atscommunity  
LinkedIn: American Thoracic Society



***Assembly on  
Allergy, Immunology and Inflammation  
Membership Meeting***

***Monday, May 18th  
5:00pm-7:00pm***

***Hyatt Regency Denver a CCC***

***Mineral Hall A-C  
3rd Floor***

***Allergy, Immunology and Inflammation  
&  
Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology  
Reception/ Dinner***

***Monday, May 18th  
7:00pm-10:00pm***

***Hyatt Regency Denver at CCC***

***Centennial Ballroom F-G  
Third Floor***

***Help Us Help You!***

Have you:

- moved,
- changed your title,
- added a new specialty, credential or other information?

Or perhaps we just do not have a complete profile for you!

Please take a minute to update your contact information, assembly affiliations, and demographic profile today. And now you can also upload your PHOTO to your member profile! Log in [HERE](#).

[ link is: <https://www.thoracic.org/login/ats-member-login.php> ]

By keeping your profile current, you help us provide programs and services that are targeted to you, and it also ensures accuracy when you register for the International Conference.

## Submit an Assembly/Committee Project Application for funding in FY2016!

We are happy to announce that ATS will once again accept NEW Assembly/Committee Projects for FY2016. 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 Angela Rogers, MD, MPH at [ajrogers@stanford.edu](mailto:ajrogers@stanford.edu)

Please contact Miriam Rodriguez with any questions at tel: 212/315-8639 or email: [mrodriguez@thoracic.org](mailto:mrodriguez@thoracic.org).

### Refer a Fellow to the ATS!

Do you know a Fellow who could benefit from ATS membership? Nearly 20 per cent of ATS members are currently in training, and many ATS leaders joined as Fellows too. And there's a BONUS! ATS Trainee Members receive their **first year of membership for FREE!** After the first year, trainee member dues are just \$100 per year for US members, and \$40 per year for international members, as long as the member is still in training. Read what Trainee members say about the value of membership:

*ATS membership helps you to keep up-to-date with innovations in pulmonary medicine with access to journals, publications, guidelines and the Fellows corner.*

Ajay Kasi, California

*The ATS membership is the best option to participate in the world's biggest thoracic society, be an important part of scientific exchange and access the best scientific publications.*

Adrian Ceccato, Argentina

*My membership gives me the opportunity to expand my knowledge on pulmonary diseases in general and in interstitial lung diseases in particular through news, e-mails, journals, special learning opportunities (like the ILD video series) and the annual meeting.*

Sandra Chartrand, Canada