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Pulmonary Circulation

Editor: Jason X.-J. Yuan, MD, PhD

ASSEMBLY OFFICERS

Jason X.-J. Yuan, MD, PhD
Assembly Chair
jasonyuan@email.arizona.edu

Larissa Shimoda, PhD
Planning Committee Chair
lshimod1@jhmi.edu

Rachel Damico, MD, PhD
Program Committee Chair
rdamico1@jhmi.edu

Steven M. Kawut, MD
Program Committee Chair-elect
kawut@mail.med.upenn.edu

Kurt Stenmark, MD
Nominating Committee Chair
kurt.stenmark@ucdenver.edu

Dustin Fraidenburg, MD
Roberto Machado, MD
Website Directors
dfraiden@uic.edu
machador@uic.edu

Troy Stevens, PhD
Incoming Assembly Chair
tstevens@jaguar1.usouthal.edu

ASSEMBLY CONTACT

Website:
<http://www.thoracic.org/assemblies/rsf/index.php>

Email: rsf@thoracic.org

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MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY CHAIR

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter from the American Thoracic Society Assembly on Pulmonary Circulation (PC). I look forward to seeing everyone in Denver, CO at the International Conference, May 16th - 20th. Our assembly continues to focus on promoting advancements in our understanding of cellular and molecular mechanisms of pulmonary vascular function, gas exchange and right heart dysfunction while encouraging new and innovative clinical trials, drug development, diagnostic and therapeutic interventions in pulmonary vascular disease. Our program for the International Conference will highlight the great advancements and innovative strategies that have taken place over the last year and shine a spotlight on the wonderful PC investigators from around the world.



Jason X.-J. Yuan, MD, PhD

Our annual PC assembly membership meeting will take place on Monday May 18th at 5 pm in the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel, Plaza Ballroom A-B. We encourage everyone to attend this meeting which will begin again this year with an informal banquet and cash bar. Every year this is a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and colleagues as well as network with like-minded investigators from all over. The membership meeting will give updates from the PC assembly over the past year and the highlight, as always, will be the presentation of numerous awards including Scholarship awards, Early Career Research Achievement award, Leadership award, and the Grover Prize. This year we are also inviting each of our new members and early career investigators to a welcome event. This will take place just prior to the membership meeting at 4:30 pm in the Plaza Ballroom A-B. The PC Executive Committee members will be on hand to welcome new members, describe how the assembly functions, and identify ways in which new members and early career investigators can become involved in assembly activities and committees.

(Continued on page 2)

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY CHAIR (Continued)

I would also like to highlight a second conference taking place in Colorado this year; the Grover Conference will occur from September 9th through the 13th. The Lost Valley Conference Center will once again be the site of the only international conference in North America dedicated solely to the pulmonary circulation. This will be the 17th conference in a series that started in 1984 and has been tremendously successful in promoting research with regard to the pulmonary vasculature and pulmonary hypertension. I would like to encourage our members to participate in this unique and enjoyable experience which has given so much to our field.

It is with great pleasure that I use this newsletter to introduce our incoming PC Assembly Chair. Professor Troy Stevens of the University of South Alabama will be taking over for me starting at the International Conference this year. It has been a pleasure to serve as the chair of the PC assembly over the past two years and I know that Dr. Stevens will be an excellent leader and will continue to carry out the vision of our assembly to “advance knowledge of the physiology, biologic processes, and clinical aspects of the pulmonary circulation, as well as the interrelations between respiration and the pulmonary circulation.” As always, we encourage correspondence from our PC assembly members through PC@thoracic.org.

Thank you and I will see you in Denver!

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Larissa Shimoda, PhD, Chair

The Planning Committee is charged with developing long range plans for the PC Assembly and serving as an “executive body” to the Assembly Chair and Assembly members. The primary responsibility of the PC Planning Committee is to review and prioritize Assembly Projects, which can range from development of Clinical Practice Guidelines or Workshop reports to support a scientific meeting of relevance to the PC assembly. An important point to remember is that in order to obtain ATS support, projects must have a published output in the form of an official ATS document.

The following PC Assembly projects were supported by the PC Planning Committee and approved by the main ATS Program Review Sub-Committee for 2015:

- “Assessment of the Failing Right Ventricle in the Research Setting - Current Approaches and Knowledge Gaps”. Research Statement-Lead proposer: Tim Lahm.
- “Pulmonary Circulation in the ‘-omics’ era: new insights into pathogenesis”- The 17th Grover Conference (September 9-13th). Lead proposer: Eric Austin

An immediate goal of the PC Planning Committee is to increase the number of project proposals put forth by the PC Assembly. Assembly projects are a key part of what we do, and a good number of strong proposals would strengthen our standing in the eyes of the ATS.

Planning for project submissions begins during the official Planning Committee Meeting at the ATS International Conference, and submission of new Assembly/Committee projects occurs during the summer. Information on submitting new project applications can be found on the ATS website. If you have an idea for a project, but do not have time to fully develop it before our meeting in Denver, come and discuss your ideas at the Planning Committee meeting. Contact me (lshimod1@jhmi.edu) if you would like to attend. Don't have an idea? Not to worry, the Committee has identified several key areas in which they feel projects should be developed, including: Biologics and Vasculitis in the Lung, Correlating Genotypes with Phenotypes, and Guidelines for Right Heart Catheterization. If you would like to be involved in a project on any of these topics, please let me know.

Note that this could be a great opportunity for junior faculty to gain visibility, and senior members of the assembly are always happy to provide advice and assistance, so do not be put off!

We hope to see many more excellent proposals from the PC Assembly this year!

As a reminder, the 17th Grover Conference will be held Sept 9-13th, 2015. Organized by Eric Austin, Wendy Chung, Hunter Best and Greg Elliott, the conference will be held in Sedalia near Denver, with an exciting line up of speakers and topics. More details will be available on the PC Assembly website in late spring. Ideas for the 2017 Grover Conference will be solicited later this fall.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

Rachel Damico, MD, PhD, Chair, and Steven M. Kawut, MD, MS, Chair-Elect

This year our PC assembly Programming Committee has been led by Dr. Rachel L. Damico who, with the help of the 32 other outstanding committee members, has worked diligently to produce what is sure to be an outstanding program at the ATS International Conference. We look forward to seeing an assortment of essential topics presented by both established members of the PC assembly and early career investigators. Each of our selected abstracts has been arranged into a variety of mini symposia, poster discussion sessions, and thematic poster sessions. Mini symposia will include oral presentations on a wide variety of important topics related to the pulmonary circulation including right heart function, clinical trials in PAH, vascular injury and repair, chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension, and lung development among others. Poster discussion sessions will include half day sessions on diverse topics such as barrier dynamics, gender differences in PH development and therapy, effects of inflammation on the pulmonary circulation, and assessment of the right ventricle in health and disease. Our thematic poster sessions will complement these diverse topics with a wide range of basic science, clinical, and translational research being presented each day of the conference.

There are a number of post-graduate courses available this year including Pediatric Pulmonary Hypertension: Mechanisms and Management and The Art of Pediatric Respiratory Physiology developed in partnership with the Assembly on Pediatrics and others; also Data Collection in Bench and Preclinical Translational Studies and Implementation Science, both of which have been developed in collaboration with a number of other assemblies. We encourage our early career investigators to take part in any of these wonderful programs which have been developed by some of our outstanding, established PC members.

We would like to thank everyone who submitted abstracts to the PC assembly programming, and our thanks go out to those who will be presenters or session leaders during the conference. We would also like to thank Dr. Damico and the entire Program committee for all of their hard work this year.

ATS 2015 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

SESSIONS SPONSORED BY THE ASSEMBLY ON PULMONARY CIRCULATION

Session Code	Session Title	Session Time	
Scientific Symposium			
Sunday, May 17, 2015			
A10	JUNCTIONS OF PRO-PROLIFERATIVE SIGNALING PATHWAYS IN PULMONARY HYPERTENSION: “HOT SPOTS” FOR THERAPEUTIC INTERVEN-	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
Monday, May 18, 2015			
B8	THE LIVER-LUNG VASCULAR CONUNDRUM	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
B89	BEYOND MICRORNAS: NOVEL EPIGENETIC MODIFIERS AND THEIR IMPLICATION IN PULMO-NARY HYPERTENSION AND RIGHT VENTRICULAR	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
Tuesday, May 19, 2015			
C6	ENDOTHELIUM UNDER ATTACK: THE EMERGING UNDERSTANDING OF PULMONARY VASCULAR RESPONSES TO DISEAS	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
Wednesday, May 20, 2015			
D86	PULMONARY HYPERTENSION AND LUNG DIS-EASE: OUT OF THE GRAVEYARD	1:30 PM	3:30 PM
Sunrise Seminars			
Monday, May 18, 2015			
SS114	RIGHT VENTRICULAR DYSFUNCTION IN SCLERO-DERMA ASSOCIATED PULMONARY HYPERTEN-SION	7:00 AM	8:00 AM
Tuesday, May 19, 2015			
SS215	CHRONIC THROMBOEMBOLIC PULMONARY HY-PERTENSION: WHAT YOU REALLY NEED TO KNOW	7:00 AM	8:00 AM
Wednesday, May 20, 2015			
SS315	TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN RIGHT HEART CATHETERIZATION FOR THE EVALUATION OF PULMONARY HYPERTENSION	7:00 AM	8:00 AM
Meet The Professor Seminars			
Monday, May 18, 2015			
MP511	LUNG TRANSPLANTATION FOR PAH: WHEN SHOULD YOU REFER YOUR PATIENT?	12:15 PM	1:15 PM

Session Code	Session Title	Session Time	
Mini-Symposium			
Sunday, May 17, 2015			
A18	RIGHT VENTRICLE: MRNA, MALENESS, MRI OR MATH	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
A98	CLINICAL TRIALS AND OUTCOMES IN PULMONARY ARTERIAL HYPERTENSION	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
Monday, May 18, 2015			
B15	VASCULAR INJURY, REPAIR, AND RESTORATION	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
Tuesday, May 19, 2015			
C96	SUGARS AND FATS-ENERGY UTILIZATION IN PULMONARY HYPERTENSION	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
Wednesday, May 20, 2015			
D18	CHRONIC THROMBOEMBOLIC PULMONARY HYPERTENSION: DIAGNOSTICS AND THERAPEUTICS	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
Poster Discussion Sessions			
Monday, May 18, 2015			
B28	BARRIER DYNAMICS IN THE PULMONARY CIRCULATION	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
B108	BEYOND WHO GROUP I PULMONARY HYPERTENSION	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
Tuesday, May 19, 2015			
C28	SEX, DRUGS, AND PULMONARY HYPERTENSION	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
C106	IRON, HEMOLYSIS, AND INFLAMMATION: EFFECTS ON THE PULMONARY CIRCULATION	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
Wednesday, May 20, 2015			
D25	ETIOLOGY AND DETERMINANTS OF PROGNOSIS IN PULMONARY HYPERTENSION	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
D26	ASSESSMENT OF THE RIGHT VENTRICLE IN HEALTH AND DISEASE	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
Thematic Poster Sessions			
Sunday, May 17, 2015			
A51	EXPERIMENTAL MODELS OF PULMONARY HYPERTENSION	9:30 AM	4:15 PM
A52	PRECLINICAL TRIALS IN PULMONARY HYPERTENSION MODELS: NOVEL TARGETS AND DELIVERY	9:30 AM	4:15 PM
A53	PULMONARY VASCULAR REMODELING IN PULMONARY HYPERTENSION	9:30 AM	4:15 PM
A54	GENETICS AND EPIGENETIC	9:30 AM	4:15 PM

Session Code	Session Title	Session Time	
Tuesday, May 19, 2015			
C58	CLINICAL PULMONARY VASCULAR DISEASE	9:30 AM	4:15 PM
C59	BIOMARKERS AND PROGNOSTIC FACTORS IN PULMONARY HYPERTENSION	9:30 AM	4:15 PM
C60	CHRONIC THROMBOEMBOLIC PULMONARY HYPERTENSION	9:30 AM	4:15 PM
C61	RIGHT VENTRICLE: STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION	9:30 AM	4:15 PM
C62	ACUTE PULMONARY EMBOLISM	9:30 AM	4:15 PM
C63	CASE REPORTS IN PULMONARY VASCULAR MEDICINE	9:30 AM	4:15 PM
Wednesday, May 20, 2015			
D42	CYTOSKELETON AND INFLAMMATION IN THE PULMONARY CIRCULATION	9:30 AM	3:30 PM
D43	CELL FATE	9:30 AM	3:30 PM

WEB DIRECTOR UPDATE

Dustin Fraidenburg, MD, Roberto Machado, MD, Co-Web Directors

The PC assembly website committee, along with the help of the entire ATS web editorial committee, has worked to improve the content and functionality of the website over the past year. This has culminated in the recent launch of a new website design with an upgraded, user friendly interface and restructured, easy to find content. We will continue to improve the design and content of the PC assembly webpages in order to bring you a comprehensive site with the latest news, updates, and events. One aspect of this has been the return of the PC assembly journal club with a fresh concept. Monthly journal clubs are now split between text-based summaries, complete with expert commentary from leaders in our field, as well as live webinars that include moderators, journal authors, and expert commentators. These are interactive journal clubs that are open to participation from all of our PC assembly members and the entire ATS community, as well as being available as a recording after the live webinar is complete. We encourage submissions for potential articles or topics for the future and this is a great way for early career professionals to build their CV. Please feel free to contact one of the journal club editors, Matt Lammi, Kara Goss, or R. Scott Stephens with your ideas. Lastly, social media has continued its evolution of our online community and the way in which the world processes information. In order to keep up with these growing trends, the PC assembly has begun using social media to interact with its members and numerous professional communities around the world. We are excited to introduce both a facebook page and twitter account to the PC assembly. The facebook page can be found at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/ATS-PC-Assembly/655104071212234> and our twitter handle, @ATS_PC, can be found at http://twitter.com/ATS_PC. We hope that having a greater identity on social media will help introduce our assembly to a new generation of trainees and early career professionals from around the world. We plan to use this platform to circulate groundbreaking research and journal articles, daily news and events, as well as pictures and bulletins from national and international conferences throughout the year. We encourage you to check out the latest from both our website and social media sites. Friend us, follow us, and as always please feel free to contact us (dfraiden@uic.edu) if you have content to share or are interested in being part of the website committee.

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 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. 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 or Jan Brozek at 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 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 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 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.

***Assembly on
Pulmonary Circulation
Membership Meeting***

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

Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel, Plaza Ballroom D-E

***Plaza Ballroom AB
Concourse Level***

Register now for the 2015 Grover Conference!

**Grover Conference on Pulmonary Circulation in the "omics" Era:
New Insights into Pathogenesis**

Location:

Lost Valley Conference Center - Sedalia, CO

Conference Dates:

September 9-13, 2015

Registration Form:

Download the registration form the Pulmonary Circulation page of the ATS Web site [here](#).

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

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.

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.

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.

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 Larissa Shimoda, PhD at lshimod1@jhmi.edu.

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

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

