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PULMONARY CIRCULATION ASSEMBLY NEWSLETTER

EDITED BY MARK GILLESPIE, PHD

SPRING 2011



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Message from the Assembly Chair

Mark Gillespie, PhD

Welcome to the PC Assembly's Spring Newsletter. We have much to report. First, I am delighted to say that our Assembly is prominent among all ATS assemblies because the number of abstracts submitted to PC categories, unlike virtually all of the other assemblies, has continued to rise. This year's International Conference will see a record number of abstracts focusing on the pulmonary circulation. My sense is that our continued growth can be attributed to the increasing interest amongst scientists and clinicians in pulmonary vascular disorders and to a stellar job crafting a first-rate program by our Program Committee chair and co-chair, Nick Morrell and Beth Harrington, respectively. Take a minute to read their update later in this Newsletter.

Another important development this year is a small but significant addition to the annual PC Assembly Business Meeting. As is customary, the Meeting will be held Monday, May 16 at 5:00. This year, however, beginning thirty minutes prior to the meeting we will hold a reception for postdocs, Fellows, and junior faculty. And along these lines I have two requests of our more "seasoned" members: First, please encourage your "young people" to attend this special event. It will be an exceptional opportunity for them to get to know the people and leadership that make up the PC Assembly. Second, I am hopeful that many of you veteran members can arrange to get to the business meeting a bit early. After all, one of the main attractors for younger people to affiliate with our Assembly is the presence of many "wise old sages" and up-and-coming stars in our ranks. Check out Katie Grinnell's invitation to this special reception displayed below.

After a one-year hiatus (because of the ominous world financial situation), I am immensely pleased to announce that the Grover Conference will be held this September at its traditional "home", the Lost Valley Ranch in Sedalia, CO. As most of you know, the Grover Conference is the world's premier, longest-running conference dedicated exclusively to topics germane to the pulmonary circulation. This year's program, developed by Mandy MacLean, Nick Morell, and Karen Fagan, is focused on "Risk factors in pulmonary hypertension" and is absolutely superb. Mandy's write up about the Conference, shown later in

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Message from the Assembly Chair

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this Newsletter, provides more information.

All of the other PC Assembly Committees have been unusually active. Our web directors, Diego Alvarez and Rachel Damico, have led an effort to develop on-line case reports. The Program Committee, under Jeremy Ward, has instituted new Assembly projects, and our nominating committee, chaired by Larissa Shimoda, has identified a slate of outstanding candidate for Assembly offices. Take a minute to read the Committee reports that follow; you'll be proud of your affiliation with one of the ATS' fastest growing Assemblies.

Finally, since this will be my last Newsletter as Assembly chairperson, I wanted to introduce you to the incoming PC Assembly Chair, Paul Hassoun, M.D. Many of you know of Paul for his outstanding work in the area of scleroderma-associated pulmonary hypertension as well as other topics germane to the pulmonary circulation. Some things you might not know about Paul are that he is a tremendous administrator and organizer, dedicated to the activities of our Assembly and to getting things done. He is an absolute pleasure to work with, and the PC Assembly will certainly be in good hands for the next couple of years.

Planning Committee

Jeremy P.T. Ward, PhD

The Pulmonary Circulation 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 position statements and formulation of best practice reports to support for a scientific meeting of relevance to the PC assembly, although any other form of project may be considered. Note that to gain ATS support all projects have to have a published output in the form of an official ATS document (see below), materials or other publication. Planning for project submission begins during the official Planning Committee Meeting at the ATS International Conference, and submission of new Assembly/Committee projects occurs in June. Information on submitting new project applications can be found on the ATS website, and if you are interested in submitting one or just have a great idea then send the planning committee chair an email at: jeremy.ward@kcl.ac.uk.

This year the following PC Assembly projects were supported by the PC Planning committee and finally approved for support by the main ATS Program Review Committee:

Grover Conference 2011: *Risk factors in pulmonary hypertension*. Lead proposer and organizer: Mandy MacLean. This will be the 15th Grover conference on the pulmonary circulation since its inauguration in 1984. See elsewhere for further details.

Pulmonary Hypertension Phenotypes. Lead proposer: Raed Dweik. Purpose: To determine areas where more information is needed to define existing and/or new pulmonary hypertension phenotypes. Final output: document/report.

Assessment for Pulmonary Embolism Disease During Pregnancy (Renewal). Lead proposer: Todd Bull. Final output: document/report due 2011.

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Planning Committee

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Diagnosis and Treatment of Pulmonary Hypertension of Sickle Cell Disease (Renewal). Lead proposer: Elizabeth Klings. Final output: document/report due 2011.

Angiogenesis in the post-natal pulmonary circulation: Fact or fiction (Renewal). Lead proposer: Troy Stevens. Final output: document/report due 2011.

We hope to see many more excellent proposals from the PC Assembly this year! If you would like to learn the specifics of developing ATS society documents the ATS Documents Development and Implementation Committee will hold a meeting/workshop for all project chairs and interested individuals at the upcoming meeting in Denver. The meeting will provide key information about document development from leading experts in the field, and key document personnel within the Society.

What: "Document Development: Frequently Asked Questions and Answers"

When: Friday, May 13 from 12:30-4:00 PM; lunch will be served

Where: The Sheraton Hotel in Denver

Program Committee

Nicholas W. Morell, MD

Elizabeth O. Harrington, PhD

The Program Committee for the PC Assembly, jointly chaired by Nick Morrell and Elizabeth Harrington, has worked to provide a well-balanced program for the forthcoming ATS International Conference in Denver, CO, on May 13-18, 2011. This year we received a record 461 scientific abstracts, 27 case reports, and 22 late-breaking abstracts from which to generate the program for the PC Assembly. The program incorporates a variety of topics ranging from an historical perspective on hypoxic pulmonary hypertension to sessions focusing on hot topics such as pulmonary vascular progenitor cells, novel therapies and insights into acute lung injury and pulmonary hypertension. The genetics and genomics of pulmonary vascular disease also receive attention. The PC Assembly is sponsoring one Postgraduate Course, three sunrise seminars, three Meet the Professor Seminars, and an additional twenty-seven scientific sessions (including four Scientific Symposia, five Mini-Symposia, six Poster Discussions, and twelve Thematic Poster sessions). In organizing the program we have actively sought the contribution of PC Assembly junior members, senior members, and our Assembly international colleagues, to chair or moderate the various PC Assembly sponsored sessions. For a full program and details, please click [place link here](#). At the International Conference, please remember to attend the PC Assembly membership meeting, which will be held on Monday May 16th 2011.

Nominating Committee

Larissa Shimoda, PhD

The PC Nominating Committee (Karen Fagan, Jahar Bhattacharya and Larissa Shimoda) met via conference call in late winter to select candidates for the upcoming Assembly leadership elections. We were fortunate to receive many excellent nominations for each position, and after careful consideration and a long discussion, proposed the following slate of candidates:

Program Committee Chair-Elect: Todd Bull and Jim Klinger

Nominating Committee: Jahar Bhattacharya, Robb Glenny and Jim White

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Nominating Committee

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We would like to thank all of the candidates for their enthusiasm and willingness to serve the PC Assembly. The final vote for one Program Committee Chair-Elect and two Nominating Committee members will take place online beginning April 1st. Your participation is important and we encourage as many members as possible to vote. The results will be revealed at the Assembly Membership Meeting in Denver. See you there!

ATS 2011 Pulmonary Circulation Assembly Reception for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Trainees

Graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, residents, and junior faculty—whether you are already a member of the PC Assembly or looking to find out more about it, please join us from 4:30-5 pm on Monday, May 16th. This is a great opportunity to network, catch up with friends and colleagues, and learn a little more about the PC Assembly and how it may be the right fit for you—cocktails and refreshment are also included! All attendees are welcome to stay and attend the Annual PC Assembly meeting immediately following.

15th Grover Conference

Risk factors in pulmonary hypertension

7th-11th September 2011. Lost Valley Conference Center, Sedalia, CO

Pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) is a progressive disease of the pulmonary vasculature resulting in right heart failure and death. Idiopathic and heritable forms of PAH demonstrate a mean age at diagnosis of 35 years and a median survival of 2.8 years if untreated. Mutations in the bone morphogenetic protein receptor 2 (BMPR2) have been identified in at least 70% of FPAH patients. However, the penetrance of these BMPR2 mutations is 10-20%, suggesting that genetic and/or environmental modifiers are required for disease expression. In addition, females are significantly over-represented amongst PAH patients. Neither of these phenomena have been adequately explained and this conference will review and discuss recent research with a view to determining the major factors influencing disease penetrance.

The 2011 Grover Conference (supported by the ATS, AHA and NIH) will, as always, be a dynamic, discussion focused meeting. It will bring together experts in the basic research fields of genetics, physiology, pharmacology, endocrinology, as well as clinical approaches dealing with drug development and the clinical management of PAH. Sessions will discuss genetic risk factors, epigenetics, obesity as a risk factor, endogenous risk factors, estrogen metabolism and disease penetrance and current and emerging therapies. The outputs of the meeting will be published in a series of articles in the new journal, Pulmonary Circulation. We look forward to seeing you all there for what we know will be a fantastic meeting.

Registration details will be available on the PC Assembly webpage on the ATS website at

www.thoracic.org.



PULMONARY CIRCULATION ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MONDAY MAY 16TH 5:00PM-7:00PM
EMBASSY SUITES THIRD FLOOR
CRESTONE BALLROOM
SALON A

Submit an Assembly/Committee Project Application for funding in FY2012!

We are happy to announce that ATS will once again accept NEW Assembly/Committee Projects for FY2012. 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 beginning in June. 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 Jeremy P.T. Ward at jeremy.ward@kcl.ac.uk

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

ATS 2011—DENVER

Sessions Sponsored by the Assembly on Pulmonary Circulation

Session Code	Session Title	Sess Time Begin	Sess Time End
<i>Kenneth Moser Memorial Symposium</i>			
Monday, May 16, 2011			
B88	RIGHT VENTRICULAR DYSFUNCTION: THE OTHER HEART FAILURE	2:00 PM	4:30 PM
<i>Scientific Symposium</i>			
Sunday, May 15, 2011			
A87	RESTORATION OF ALVEOLO-CAPILLARY BARRIER FUNCTION	2:00 PM	4:30 PM
Tuesday, May 17, 2011			
C6	HYPOXIC PULMONARY HYPERTENSION: A HALF CENTURY OF DISCOVERY	8:15 AM	10:45 AM
Wednesday, May 18, 2011			
D10	PULMONARY VASCULAR PROGENITOR CELLS	8:15 AM	10:45 AM
<i>Meet The Professor Seminars</i>			
Sunday, May 15, 2011			
MP413	PERI-OPERATIVE RISK AND MANAGEMENT IN THE PATIENT WITH PH: THE SCIENCE AND THE ART	12:00 PM	1:00 PM
Monday, May 16, 2011			
MP516	PULMONARY HYPERTENSION: CHALLENGES IN MANAGING COMPLEX CASES	12:00 PM	1:00 PM
Tuesday, May 17, 2011			
MP613	CASE-BASED GUIDE TO GROUP V PULMONARY HYPERTENSION	12:00 PM	1:00 PM
<i>Sunrise Seminar</i>			
Monday, May 16, 2011			
SS113	EVALUATING THE PATIENT REFERRED FOR PULMONARY HYPERTENSION	7:00 AM	8:00 AM
Tuesday, May 17, 2011			
SS211	MOLECULAR MECHANISMS AND THERAPEUTIC STRATEGIES FOR RIGHT VENTRICULAR FAILURE IN THE ICU	7:00 AM	8:00 AM
Wednesday, May 18, 2011			
SS313	PULMONARY EMBOLISM IN PREGNANCY	7:00 AM	8:00 AM
<i>Mini-Symposium</i>			
Sunday, May 15, 2011			
A17	NOVEL INSIGHTS INTO PATHOBIOLOGY OF PULMONARY VASCULAR DISEASE	8:15 AM	10:45 AM
A97	BIOMARKERS IN PULMONARY HYPERTENSION	2:00 PM	4:30 PM
Monday, May 16, 2011			
B16	EMERGING TRANSLATIONAL THERAPIES FOR PULMONARY HYPERTENSION	8:15 AM	10:45 AM
B96	NEW INSIGHTS INTO THE MECHANISMS INVOLVED IN ACUTE LUNG INJURY	2:00 PM	4:30 PM
Wednesday, May 18, 2011			
D96	CLINICAL TRIALS AND OUTCOMES IN PULMONARY HYPERTENSION	2:00 PM	4:30 PM

ATS 2011—DENVER

Sessions Sponsored by the Assembly on Pulmonary Circulation

Poster Discussion Session

Sunday, May 15, 2011

A106	CHRONIC THROMBOEMBOLIC PULMONARY HYPERTENSION: BENCH TO BEDSIDE	2:00 PM	4:30 PM
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Monday, May 16, 2011

B27	ACUTE PULMONARY EMBOLISM: DIAGNOSIS, RISK STRATIFICATION AND TREATMENT	8:15 AM	10:45 AM
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Tuesday, May 17, 2011

C26	REGULATORS OF THE LUNG ENDOTHELIAL BARRIER	8:15 AM	10:45 AM
C107	HYPOXIA AND PULMONARY VASCULAR CELL SIGNALING	2:00 PM	4:30 PM
C108	GENETICS AND FUNCTIONAL GENOMICS OF PULMONARY VASCULAR DISEASE	2:00 PM	4:30 PM

Wednesday, May 18, 2011

D26	PULMONARY VASCULAR AND RIGHT HEART PHYSIOLOGY	8:15 AM	10:45 AM
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Thematic Poster Sessions

Sunday, May 15, 2011

A60	PULMONARY HYPERTENSION: DIAGNOSIS	8:15 AM	4:30 PM
A61	LUNG ENDOTHELIUM FUNCTIONS: THE BARRIER AND BEYOND	8:15 AM	4:30 PM
A62	PULMONARY HYPERTENSION: BIOMARKERS AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE	8:15 AM	4:30 PM

Monday, May 16, 2011

B61	PULMONARY HYPERTENSION: EXPERIMENTAL MODELS I	8:15 AM	4:30 PM
B62	ACUTE PULMONARY EMBOLISM	8:15 AM	4:30 PM
B63	PULMONARY CIRCULATION: VASCULAR SMOOTH MUSCLE	8:15 AM	4:30 PM

Tuesday, May 17, 2011

C61	PULMONARY HYPERTENSION: EXPERIMENTAL MODELS II	8:15 AM	4:30 PM
C62	RIGHT VENTRICULAR STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION	8:15 AM	4:30 PM
C63	ENDOTHELIUM AND PULMONARY HYPERTENSION PATHOGENESIS	8:15 AM	4:30 PM
C64	PULMONARY CIRCULATION: VASOREACTIVITY	8:15 AM	4:30 PM

Wednesday, May 18, 2011

D33	PULMONARY HYPERTENSION: TREATMENT	8:15 AM	4:30 PM
D34	PULMONARY HYPERTENSION: ENDPOINTS AND OUTCOMES	8:15 AM	4:30 PM

Postgraduate Course

Saturday, May 14, 2011

PG26	PRACTICAL APPROACH TO PULMONARY HYPERTENSION: A CASE-BASED DISCUSSION	8:00 AM	4:00 PM
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**Please join us for
the Third Annual ATS Foundation Research Dinner
on Saturday, May 14, 7:00 pm, at the Hyatt Regency Denver.**

This year's exciting dinner includes a video paying tribute to the Colorado scientists and clinicians whose groundbreaking discoveries and revolutionary treatments have shaped how pulmonary medicine is practiced today. The evening also honors Louis S. Libby, MD, executive vice president and chief medical officer of The Oregon Clinic, and this year's recipient of the "Breathing for Life" award. The dinner also features entertainment.

For the foreseeable future, the continuation of unrestricted and research partner grants will depend largely on the Foundation's ability to raise funds from ATS members like you. Our dinner goal in 2011 is to raise \$200,000 for two unrestricted research grants. Please help us achieve that goal by joining us in Denver. To register, please use this link: <https://www.xpressreg.net/register/thor051/foundation/start.asp>. Or, you may also visit the Foundation Web site: <http://foundation.thoracic.org>. For more information, contact Lydia Neumann: Lneumann@thoracic.org.



The *American Journal of Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology* has become an electronic-only publication and will no longer appear in print.

The ATS came to this decision as part of its efforts to extend the reach of the *AJRCMB*, take advantage of opportunities for the use of four-color and creative presentation and become more electronically interactive and environmentally responsible. This change, the ATS believes, can also enhance the journal's national and international exposure.

Becoming an electronic-only journal does not change anything related to article submissions or reviews. All editorial policies, processes and content remains unchanged.

The March 2011 issue of the *AJRCMB* is now posted online at <http://ajrcmb.atsjournals.org>. Subsequent issues of the journal will be posted by the beginning of each month and can be found at this same address.

You may also choose to have an electronic table of contents emailed to you each month. To sign up, please visit www.thoracic.org/journals/index.php and click on "e-TOC" under the journal.