

Fall 2008



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Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology Assembly Newsletter

Edited by Zea Borok, MD, Assembly Chairman

Message from Zea Borok, MD Chair of the RCMB Assembly

In this newsletter, I thought it would be useful to review the role of the RCMB Assembly in the context of the overall structure of ATS. This was prompted by my realization after several years in a leadership role in the Assembly that to many (myself included) the structure of the ATS organization remains somewhat obscure and people are often confused as to the role of the Assemblies in the organization. As a result members are often frustrated by not knowing how to get involved in either the organization as a whole or the Assembly. For many, the only opportunity for interaction and involvement appears to be at the annual meeting. The Assembly business meeting at ATS can be overwhelming for some and does not always seem to impact people for the rest of the year. It was not until I became Chair of the Assembly that I actually started to figure out how some of this works!

There are 13 ATS Assemblies with diverse missions (described in detail at <http://www.thoracic.org/sections/about-ats/assemblies/index.html>). The structure is somewhat confusing, because the mandates of the Assemblies are not necessarily parallel. For example, our Assembly mission is quite broad and is directed towards 'studying cellular and molecular functions in the normal and abnormal lung as we aim to understand the biological basis of lung disease.' The same could be said of Allergy, Immunology and Inflammation (All) and a number of other Assemblies. In contrast, some Assemblies are focused on a particular disease or entity (e.g., Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology and Pulmonary Rehabilitation) while others are even broader than ours (e.g., Clinical Problems). These overlapping focuses can create conflicts about what topics pertain to an individual Assembly when planning the program for the ATS meeting. The RCMB Assembly has been instrumental in trying to promote interdisciplinary sessions at the ATS meeting by working across Assemblies to program sessions that reflect the best science. However, there is room for improvement with regard to overlap, ability to use outside (non-ATS member) speakers, and also programming of the same speaker for multiple sessions. Many of these issues are being addressed by our representatives on the International Conference Committee (Charles A. Powell, M.D. and Thomas J. Mariani, Ph.D) and by the Assembly Chairs who sit on the Board of Directors.

Officers of the RCMB Assembly

Assembly Chairman
2008-2010: Zea Borok
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Planning Chairman
2008-2010: Jesse Roman
jroman@emory.edu

Program Chairman
2008-2009: Charles A. Powell
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Program Chair-elect
2008-2009: Thomas J. Mariani
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Nominating Chair
2008-2009: V. Courtney Broaddus
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Web Director
2007-2009: Angela C. Wang
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Message from Zea Borok, MD Chair of the RCMB Assembly

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Our Assembly has four standing committees.

1. The **Executive Committee** consists of the Assembly Officers (Assembly Chair, Chairs of Program, Planning, Nominating and Web committees as well as our liaison to the ATS Education Committee). The EC is responsible for co-coordinating all Assembly activities. We have instituted monthly leadership conference calls to facilitate our interactions. The Chair represents the Assembly at ATS Board of Directors meetings.

2. The **Program Committee** (chair, Charles A. Powell, M.D.) is responsible for coordinating the RCMB program at ATS and for reviewing and organizing abstracts submitted to RCMB. The Program Chair is elected at the Annual Assembly meeting and serves one year first as Chair-Elect. The Chair should ideally have served on the Program committee for at least two years and preferably three before serving as chair. The Chair serves one year as Chair-Elect in order to become familiar with the workings of the International Conference Committee. Our Program Committee consists of ~ 30 members each of whom serve a three-year term. About one third are rotated off each year. We try to include individuals with expertise that cover all categories in which we review abstracts, and aim to have a balance of senior and junior members. Those with an interest in serving on the Program Committee for next year should contact the Chair-Elect Thomas Mariani, Ph.D., who will be appointing members for next year in ~ February 2009. Remember that given the small number that rotate off each year, you may not be selected the first year, so you should follow up with subsequent chairs who will review the need for members with specific expertise each year.

3. The **Planning Committee** (chair, Jesse Roman-Rodriguez, M.D.) is responsible for developing the long-term strategy of the Assembly but in the past has been responsible mainly for reviewing Assembly Projects that are submitted yearly for funding by ATS. Past Assembly projects include a Consensus statement on Idiopathic Pneumonia Syndrome and a CD-ROM of Career Talk: The Book by Angela Wang. The Planning Committee Chair who typically serves a two-year term appoints members of the Planning Committee. In an attempt to increase involvement by Assembly members, under the leadership of Jesse Roman the planning Committee this year has formed a number of working groups (described in greater detail below) with a view to developing more Assembly projects, developing documents and identifying future research directions in these areas.

4. The **Nominating Committee** (chair, Courtney Broaddus, M.D.) is responsible for putting together a slate of candidates for the election of Assembly Chair, Program committee Chair-elect and the Nominating committee members. Nominating committee members are the only positions where nominations can be taken from the floor at the membership meeting. The Chair of the Nominating committee is appointed by the Assembly Chair.

We have received a terrific response to our request for involvement in our Web committee run by Angela Wang. We seek to enhance the web-site by making it more user-friendly and by including information that could be helpful for both networking and scientific enhancement. Suggestions for web-site improvement are welcomed.

Message from Zea Borok, MD Chair of the RCMB Assembly

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In addition to the Assemblies, there are a number of ATS standing committees (<http://www.thoracic.org/sections/about-ats/committees/index.cfm>). Members of the committees are appointed each year by the ATS President-elect. Those interested in participating in specific ATS committees should let me know and I will forward names for next year to Dr. J. Randall Curtis ATS President-elect. Communication between Committees and Assemblies has not been optimal creating somewhat of a disconnect within the organization. In an attempt to remedy this, we will consider having representatives from the various committees on which we have RCMB members report to the Executive Committee on a rotating basis at our monthly conference calls.

There are also a number of Task Forces that have been appointed by the ATS President and the ATS Past-President. One of the Task Forces most relevant to us is the Task Force that is reviewing the structure of the International Conference. As you may recall, input was solicited from RCMB membership after the May 2008 meeting. Your recommendations have been summarized and forwarded to the chair of the Task Force.

I hope that this information serves to de-mystify some of the aspects of both the ATS and the RCMB Assembly. I am committed to trying to improve involvement of all members of the Assembly including junior and international members and welcome suggestions/input in this regard.

The Abstract deadline is rapidly approaching – please remember to choose a category that will be reviewed by RCMB as this will significantly help Dr. Charles A. Powell, RCMB Program Chair with programming. This is indicated on the Abstract submission form at: www.thoracic.org/go/call4abstracts.

Best regards,
Zea Borok, Assembly Chair

2009 RCMB ABSTRACT CATEGORIES

CATEGORY	PRIMARY REVIEWER	SECONDARY-REVIEWER
3.1 Animal Models of Pulmonary Fibrosis	RCMB	
3.2 Bioinformatics/Biological Computing	RCMB	RSF
3.5 Epigenetics	RCMB	
3.6 Functional Genomics/Proteomics	RCMB	RSF
3.7 Gene Regulation: Developmental Control/Mouse Models	RCMB	
3.8 Gene Regulation: General and Tissue Specific	RCMB	
3.9 Growth Factors and Receptors	RCMB	
3.10 Ion Transport and Membrane Channels	RCMB	
3.11 microRNA	RCMB	
3.12 Pulmonary Fibrosis/Fibroblast Biology	RCMB	
3.13 Signal Transduction: Intracellular Pathways	RCMB	

2009 RCMB ABSTRACT CATEGORIES

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3.14	Signal Transduction: Membrane Receptors	RCMB
3.17	Stem Cells/Tissue Regeneration/Tissue Engineering	RCMB
3.18	Transcription Factors	RCMB
3.22	Cell Plasticity/EMT	RCMB
3.23	Injury/Repair	RCMB
3.24	Senescence	RCMB
3.25	Survival/Apoptosis/Cell Cycle	RCMB
3.28	Cell-Cell Interactions	RCMB
3.29	Extracellular Cell-Matrix: Cell Interactions, Biology	RCMB
3.30	Airway General	RCMB
3.31	Airway Gene Expression	RCMB
3.33	Airway Mucins	RCMB
3.34	Alveolar General	RCMB
3.35	Alveolar Gene Expression	RCMB
3.36	Surfactant/Collectin Biology	RCMB
8.6	Application of Nanotechnology	RSF/RCMB
9.19	Gene Therapy: Cellular and Molecular Aspects	RCMB
9.24	Lung Cancer: Cellular and Molecular Aspects	RCMB
13.1	Alpha 1 Antitrypsin: Cellular and Molecular Aspects	RCMB
13.2	Matrix Metalloproteinases: Cellular and Molecular Aspects	RCMB
13.3	Nitric Oxide, Carbon Monoxide	RCMB

Donations to RCMB

When making donations to ATS, please note that you can direct your donation specifically to RCMB. Donations directed to RCMB will be used towards supplementing travel awards for ATS in recognition of outstanding abstracts every year.

Planning Committee Update

Jesse Roman, MD, Planning Committee Chair

Establishment of Assembly Working Groups

The Planning Committee of the RCMB Assembly continues to move forward with the agenda established during its annual meeting held in May 2008. Its goal is to help assembly leadership with the establishment of a long-term strategic plan that will promote the goals of our membership, while advancing the objectives of the Society. In its effort to accomplish this goal, the Committee has embarked on an ambitious initiative designed to attract attention to specific areas of interest, to engage assembly members in collaborative work, to promote communication with other assemblies, and to enhance the program of the International ATS Meeting while having it reflect the interests of assembly members. This effort involves the establishment of teams of physicians, scientists, trainees, and

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Planning Committee Update

Jesse Roman, MD, Planning Committee Chair

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educators into distinct working groups charged with developing a strategic plan that addresses a particular area of investigation through the promotion of research, education, and advocacy. One example is the **Lung Cancer Working Group (LCWG)** which was established this year to put forth an agenda that promotes high quality research that will lead to significant improvements in the diagnosis and management of lung cancer, and continue to raise the profile of lung cancer in the Society. This group has worked diligently to attract members, develop a sound strategic plan, and promote the dissemination of new knowledge regarding lung cancer at the annual meeting.

Another example is the **Stem Cell Biology Working Group (SCBWG)** also established this year to foster education and research cell therapy approaches for lung diseases, among other goals. A third group currently being developed is the **Lung Fibrosis Working Group (LFWG)** whose goal is to promote research on the mechanisms of tissue fibrogenesis with the ultimate objective of identifying novel targets for therapeutic intervention and the development of biomarkers of disease. These groups are spearheaded by members of the Planning Committee, but include assembly members interested in advancing the goals of the team.

One charge given to these working groups was to assist with the development of programs to be presented during the annual International ATS Meeting. In response to this charge, each of these groups submitted outstanding proposals with multidisciplinary and international support for post-graduate courses, symposia, and other presentations which will be presented in the 2009 meeting in San Diego. For example, the efforts of the Lung Cancer Working Group have resulted in a Post-graduate Course and a Symposium on Lung Cancer at ATS 2009. In addition, these groups submitted proposals to the ATS leadership requesting support for diverse related efforts such as the publication of conference proceedings and the preparation of statements related to the focus of each working group. Some of these proposals were well-received upon initial review and represent another success of this initiative.

The Planning Committee is looking forward to the development of more working groups. Most importantly, it welcomes the input of assembly members and hopes to engage many more in its ongoing efforts. If you wish to join this effort and/or want to provide recommendations, please contact the committee chair, Jesse Roman (jroman@emory.edu) or committee member, Patricia Sime (patricia_sime@urmc.rochester.edu).

RCMB Planning Committee

Jesse Roman Rodriguez, MD, Chair	Danielle Morse, MD
Tomoko Betsuyaku, MD	Patricia J. Sime, MD
Zea Borok, MD	Viranuj Sueblinvong, MD
Gregory P. Cosgrove, MD	Angela C. Wang, MD
Horace M. Delisser, MD	Christine H. Wendt, MD
Edward A. Hirschowitz, MD	Cherry Wongtrakool, MD
Venkateshwar Keshamouni, PhD	Todd A. Wyatt, PhD

ICC 2009 Meeting Report

Charles A. Powell, MD, Program Committee Chair

1. Scientific Symposia

We have TEN major scientific symposium slots. of these sessions were selected from those submitted directly to RCMB in June. In collaboration with colleagues from other assemblies, several RCMB members also submitted proposals in response to a request from the ATS International Conference Program committee for Jointly Developed Symposia. submissions from RCMB members for Jointly Developed sessions were selected for programming by vote of the International Conference Committee. This is certainly a promising pathway both for improving the scientific content of the meeting and for increasing the number of sessions developed by RCMB.

Of special note is the Scientific Breakthroughs Session, which will be held on Sunday afternoon, May 17. The session will focus on genomics in lung disease and will feature keynote addresses by Kari Stefansson, CEO of Decode Genetics and by Eric Schadt, Executive Director of Research Genetics at Rosetta Inpharmatics.

Scientific Symposia

- 5 RCMB Sessions - selected from 34 submissions
- 4* Joint Symposia, chair or co-chair from RCMB
- 1 Scientific Breakthroughs Symposium

Sunday, May 17

AM 7775 Emerging Therapeutic Targets in Lung Disease
Mike Hart and Tim Oury

PM Scientific Breakthroughs
Deciphering Lung Disease in the Genomic Era
Confirmed Speakers:
Kari Stefansson, CEO deCODE Genetics
Eric Schadt, Executive Director Research Genetics, Rosetta

Monday, May 18

AM 7726 Correcting The Basic Defect of Cystic Fibrosis
James Chmiel

8347* Flying with Wingless: Wnt Signaling in Development and Disease
Zea Borok

PM 8338* Unusual Suspects: New Roles for Old Lipids in Lung Disease and Critical Illness
Mike Fessler

Tuesday, May 19

AM 7945 Bioengineering for Lung Disases: Can We Rebuild The Lung?
Angela Panoskaltsis-Mortari

PM 7612 Mechanotransduction in Lung Injury, Repair, and Fibrosis
Jeff Horowitz

ICC 2009 Meeting Report

Charles A. Powell, MD, Program Committee Chair

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8341* Targeting Proteases in Pulmonary Inflammation and Remodeling
Amit Gaggar, Sorachai Srisuma

Wednesday, May 20

PM 7935 Targeting Tumor Microenvironment Interactions in Lung Cancer
Jesse Roman and Doug Arenberg

8346* A Tale of Two Cities: Remodeling in the Lung Vasculature and Airway
Amy Simon, Martin Kolb, Ioana Preston

2. Postgraduate Courses

All three of our submissions were approved by the Education Committee, thanks to excellent work by our Education Committee liaison, Angela Wang. was a relative shortage of submissions to the Education Committee. To increase the number of RCMB developed Postgraduate Courses, we will discuss establishing a core set of Postgraduate Courses to be programmed on a regular basis.

Postgraduate Courses - 3 submitted, 3 approved

Friday, May 15

PG 10: Risky Business: The Scientific and Clinical Basis of Lung Cancer Risk Assessment
Ed Hirshowitz

PG 11: Stem Cells in Lung Biology and Regenerative Medicine
Barry Stripp

Saturday, May 16

PG 26: Systems Biology of Lung Disease: A Genomics Toolbox in Action
Tom Mariani

Submitting Abstracts to RCMB and RFA's for Minisymposia

The deadline for Abstract Submission is October 29. Please be sure to carefully select the abstract category so that your work is directed to RCMB for review and programming at: www.thoracic.org/go/call4abstracts.

This year we are specifically requesting abstracts pertaining to the following topics. We plan to feature these abstract categories in Mini-symposia at the International Conference provided we receive enough excellent abstracts in these areas.

Please encourage your colleagues to submit their best scientific abstracts related to these categories:

microRNA	3.11
Epigenetics	3.5
Stem Cells	3.17
Nanotechnology	8.6
Aging	3.22, 3.23, 3.24, or 3.25