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# Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology

Editor: Naftali Kaminski, MD

## ASSEMBLY OFFICERS

**Naftali Kaminski, MD**  
Assembly Chair  
naftali.kaminski@yale.edu

**Carol Feghali-Bostwick, PhD**  
Planning Chair  
feghalib@musc.edu

**Melanie Konigshoff, MD, PhD**  
Program Chair  
melanie.koenigshoff@helmholtz-muenchen.de

**Patricia J. Sime, MD**  
Program Chair– Elect  
patricia\_sime@urmc.rochester.edu

**David J. Erle, MD**  
Nominating Chair  
david.erle@ucsf.edu

**Jeffrey Horowitz, MD**  
Website Director  
jchorow@med.umich.edu

## ASSEMBLY CONTACT

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

Email: [rcmb@thoracic.org](mailto:rcmb@thoracic.org)

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## MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY CHAIR

Dear RCMB friends

It is hard to believe that close to ten months have passed since I took over as Assembly Chair from my colleague and friend, Dr. Jesse Roman, but now it's my turn to introduce to you the newsletter of our Assembly, describing the progress, many achievements and exciting opportunities for you to participate in.

The momentum generated by Dr. Roman and his executive committee, as well as previous leadership teams, allowed me and my executive committee to continue and position RCMB as the home for ATS members who study cellular and molecular and systems biology of lung cell function through development, health, aging and disease with a specific focus on **translational lung biology**. Thus, at RCMB, we strive to develop programs and initiatives designed to address the needs of our memberships, to look for new ways to disseminate the exciting progress in respiratory cell and molecular and systems biology, and to provide education and mentoring to trainees and junior faculty focusing on research. More importantly, we at RCMB recognize that peer support is critically important for all us. When times are tough and funding is tight, advice, appreciation, shared information or even reagents can have a significant impact on careers, thus we make an effort to create a sense of *community* among our members, to make RCMB really our scientific home.

This year we put a significant effort to strengthen the feeling of community and enhance the relevance of RCMB to membership. Our **web committee** led by Dr. Jeff Horowitz made significant strides in enhancing our presence on social media. RCMB now has a twitter handle @ATS\_RCMB, as well as twitter journal club handle @RCMBJClub and you're all welcome to follow the handles and participate in the discussions as well comment on papers, or livetweet from conferences or talks you attend – Just add @ATS\_RCMB and we'll respond (I can be found as @kaminskimed). The leading role of RCMB in ATS social media campaigns was highlighted recently in ATSNews (<http://news.thoracic.org/?p=5685>).

(Continued on page 2)



Naftali Kaminski, MD

## MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY CHAIR (Continued)

Similarly, our **Early Career Professionals working group** headed by Dr. Anna Lam, made an effort this year to make the assembly dinner more dynamic as well as affordable. First, we raised donations to sponsor drinks for RCMB members, so that the cost of the dinner is reduced. Second, to enhance networking and exposure we added a component of “speed dating” in which senior leadership rotate and meet all attendees. Last, recognizing that while the assembly structure is important, there is also a lot of overlap among assembly interests and methods, so we decided to have a joint reception with AII, hoping again to maximize the potential for networking and “cross fertilization” for our junior members. We are very excited about these changes and together with our enhanced mentoring program we feel that the sense of RCMB as a community of partners in *translational lung biology* research will be enhanced.

In this vein, our **Education Session Planning Sub Committee**, headed by Steve White continued together with AII to lead the Science and Innovation Center. I strongly recommend attending their sessions and I want to highlight one of the most exciting sessions, the BEAR Cage (Building Education to Advance Research) competition. This session, planned with the cooperation of the ATS Drug Device Discovery and Development (DDDD) Committee, that allows early career investigators an opportunity to “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 and will award a grand prize winner a \$5,000 prize as well as \$2,500 to two runner-up proposals.

While I highlighted these plans and achievements, I do want to mention that our other committees and working groups have done an amazing job this year. Our **Planning Committee** led by Dr. Carol Feghali-Bostwick together with the working groups generated ATS sponsored projects, international meetings, and publications. Our **Program Committee** led by Dr. Melanie Konigshoff put together a stellar program for the 2015 International ATS Meeting with very exciting sessions that reflect the cutting edge and innovative nature of our research. The Working Groups and sub-committees on **Stem Cell and Cell-Based Therapies, Airway Bioengineering, Aging, Pulmonary Fibrosis, Metabolomics/Proteomics**, have also made significant contributions. Our **Nominating Committee**, chaired by Dr. David Erle, identified outstanding candidates for leadership positions for our assembly and I would like to encourage you all to vote to elect leadership. This is also the place to mention that we’re also looking for members to be active. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly or any of the other committee chairs to nominate yourselves or others for assembly activities or fill in the online form (<http://vovici.com/wsb.dll/s/3c23g4b05e>).

For me, being a member of the RCMB assembly is very important. This is where I started creating my community of peers, where I exchanged ideas, got the first opportunities to present my results and even got job offers. I learned a lot from putting in session proposals, from serving on program committee and reviewing abstracts and from the opportunity to work closely on committees and working groups with many outstanding individuals. I was always impressed by the number of members of RCMB who performed profound research that led to understanding of disease pathogenesis and even into potential therapeutics. Indeed, every year, RCMB members are among the recipients of ATS recognition of scientific achievement awards, as well as other awards recognizing excellence in science, and many of the recipients of the prestigious Amberson Lecture. Looking at our membership, I have no doubt that this trend will continue, because our members are really characterized by their commitment to innovative cutting edge lung biology disease relevant research. We should all be proud of these accomplishments and make sure that we keep developing the next generations of RCMB leaders.

I look forward to meeting you all this year in Denver. Please do not hesitate to contact me with anything you need (e-mail [Naftali.kaminski@yale.edu](mailto:Naftali.kaminski@yale.edu) , twitter handle @KaminskiMed).

# Update from Planning Committee Chair

Carol Feghali-Bostwick, PhD

The RCMB Planning Committee sets the long-term strategy of the Assembly through the development of specific projects and overseeing several working groups submitted and run by ATS members.

The committee is chaired by Carol Feghali-Bostwick, PhD, and the committee membership is available on our website. Assembly project proposals submitted in July are first reviewed and ranked by the Planning Committee in August. This review is available to the applicant prior to final submission in August. This year, the Planning Committee reviewed five new project proposals and one renewal. Of the six project proposals, three new projects and one renewal were approved by the ATS Program Review Sub-committee, for a 67% overall approval. One proposal did not require funding, bringing the overall funding to 50%.

Project proposals are due in late July, 2015. Instructions for submission are found on the ATS website. Tips for preparing a successful assembly project proposal can be found at <http://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/assemblies/rcmb/working-groups/planning-committee/project-proposal.php>

## New Projects:

- Stem Cells and Cell Therapies for Lung Biology and Diseases -- Daniel J. Weiss, MD, PhD (RCMB primary)
- An Official Research Policy Statement of the ATS/ERS: Future Directions in Lung Fibrosis Research -- Eric White, MD (RCMB primary)
- LAM Consensus Guideline Committee -- Francis McCormack, MD (RCMB primary)
- Evaluation of Pulmonary Nodules: An Agenda for Research and Implementation in Practice -- Christopher Slatore, MD (RCMB secondary)

## Current RCMB Working Groups:

- ◆ Early Career Professional Working Group- Chair: Anna Lam
- ◆ Lung Fibrosis Working Group: Chair, Patricia Sime
- ◆ Stem Cell Working Group: Chair, Dan Weiss  
⇒Bioengineered Airway: Sub Group Leader - Scott H. Randell, PhD
- ◆ Aging Working Group: Chair: Mauricio Rojas
- ◆ Metabolomics and Proteomics Working Group: Co-Chairs, Russ Bowler and Chris Wendt
- ◆ Educational Session Planning

# Update from Program Committee Chair

Melanie Königshoff, MD, PhD

The primary goal of the RCMB Program Committee (currently chaired by Melanie Königshoff, chair-elect is Patricia Sime) is to review, grade, collate, and prepare all scientific abstracts and session suggestions for the ATS International Conference. The program is essentially based on the hard work, thoughts and suggestions of the 30 RCMB members who comprise the Program Committee and who have worked extremely well together with us. We couldn't have done the program without them and are proud to present an outstanding and exciting RCMB program for ATS 2015 in Denver!

This year, we received over 400 abstract submissions, which were programmed into 5 Mini- Symposia, 6 Poster Discussion Sessions, and 7 Thematic Poster Sessions. In addition, the Program Committee planned several Major Symposia, Jointly Developed Symposia and the exciting Scientific Breakthroughs of the Year on this year's Basic Science Core Topic "Host Pathogen Interaction and Host Defense". We further programmed 2 Post-Graduate Course, 2 Sunrise Seminars and 2 Meet-the-Professor sessions.

If you are RCMB Member and would like to be part of developing and shaping the RCMB Program for future conferences, there are several ways to get involved. Importantly, the Call for Proposals for Scientific Symposia, PG Courses, Sunrise Seminar's and Meet the Professor Session for ATS 2016 will be shortly after ATS 2015 (Beginning of July 2015), so please submit your best idea's and feel free to circulate beforehand.

Moreover, we are always looking for dedicated and enthusiastic members for the Program Committee, please contact the incoming chair Patricia Sime ([Patricia\\_Sime@URMC.Rochester.edu](mailto:Patricia_Sime@URMC.Rochester.edu)), who will maintain a list of interested individuals. Although the Program Committee has been finalized for ATS 2016, each year approximately 10 spots become available as members rotate off the committee.

## ATS 2015 - Denver Sessions Sponsored by the Assembly on Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology

Session Code	Session Title	Session Time	
<b>Postgraduate Courses</b>			
<b>Friday, May 15, 2015</b>			
PG10	OBTAINING ROBUST DATA FROM BENCH AND PRE-CLINICAL TRANSLATIONAL STUDIES	8:00 AM	4:00 PM
<b>Saturday, May 16, 2015</b>			
PG25	TRANSLATIONAL BIOLOGY OF HUMAN AIRWAY EPITHELIUM: A BIG LAB MEETING	8:00 AM	4:00 PM

Session Code	Session Title	Session Time	
<b>Scientific Symposium</b>			
<b>Sunday, May 17, 2015</b>			
A11	SCAR-CINOMAS: THE SHARED BIOLOGY AND CLINICAL OVERLAP OF FIBROSIS AND CANCER	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
A85	DR. JEKYLL OR MR. HYDE? MACROPHAGE CONTRIBUTIONS IN PULMONARY DISEASE	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
<b>Monday, May 18, 2015</b>			
B9	ATS MYTHBUSTERS: ABERRANT RECAPITULATION OF DEVELOPMENTAL PATHWAYS IS A HALLMARK OF IPF	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
<b>Wednesday, May 20, 2015</b>			
D85	THE BRAVE NEW WORLD OF RNA: NONCODING RNAS IN LUNG DEVELOPMENT AND DISEASE	1:30 PM	3:30 PM
<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 INTERACTIONS 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>			
SS116	PHARMACOLOGICAL APPROACHES TARGETING DEVELOPMENTAL PATHWAYS FOR LUNG REPAIR AND REMODELING	7:00 AM	8:00 AM
<b>Wednesday, May 20, 2015</b>			
SS316	ANIMAL MODELS OF COPD: ARE WE SINGING FROM THE SAME HYMN SHEET?	7:00 AM	8:00 AM
<b>Meet The Professor Seminars</b>			
<b>Monday, May 18, 2015</b>			
MP513	HOW DOES RADIATION EXPOSURE ALTER PULMONARY SUSCEPTIBILITY TO INFECTION?	12:15 PM	1:15 PM
<b>Tuesday, May 19, 2015</b>			
MP612	WHAT IS A ROLE OF FIBROCYTES IN LUNG FIBROSIS AND CANCER?	12:15 PM	1:15 PM

Session Code	Session Title	Session Time	
<b>Mini-Symposium</b>			
<b>Sunday, May 17, 2015</b>			
A19	PATHOLOGIC PROGRAMMING OF AIRWAY EPITHELIUM	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
A99	TOMORROW'S TECHNOLOGIES FOR TODAY'S DISEASES	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
<b>Tuesday, May 19, 2015</b>			
C17	EMERGING MECHANISMS IN LUNG INJURY AND INFECTION	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
<b>Wednesday, May 20, 2015</b>			
D19	THE ENEMY WITHIN: NOVEL ENDOGENOUS FACTORS OF LUNG FIBROSIS	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
<b>Poster Discussion Sessions</b>			
<b>Sunday, May 17, 2015</b>			
A107	THE CONFLICT KITCHEN: FIBROBLAST PHENOTYPES	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
<b>Monday, May 18, 2015</b>			
B109	ALVEOLAR EPITHELIAL CELL PLASTICITY IN INJURY AND FIBROSIS	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
B110	COPD GALORE: NEW INSIGHTS INTO BRONCHITIS AND EMPHYSEMA DEVELOPMENT AND TREATMENT	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
<b>Tuesday, May 19, 2015</b>			
C108	AGING: THE COMMON DENOMINATOR	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
C109	MATRIX MANIA: THE COMPLEX WEBS WE WEAVE	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
<b>Wednesday, May 20, 2015</b>			
D27	MITOCHONDRIA: LIVE AND LET DIE	9:30 AM	11:30 AM
D97	WELCOME BACK: ALVEOLAR MACROPHAGES IN PULMONARY FIBROSIS	1:30 PM	3:30 PM
<b>Thematic Poster Sessions</b>			
<b>Sunday, May 17, 2015</b>			
A56	(PATHO)-PHYSIOLOGY OF THE ALVEOLUS	9:30 AM	4:15 PM
<b>Monday, May 18, 2015</b>			
B56	SCAR WARS: INSIGHTS INTO MECHANISMS AND TREATMENTS OF PULMONARY FIBROSIS	9:30 AM	4:15 PM
B57	GENE REGULATION: MIRNAS AND EPIGENETICS	9:30 AM	4:15 PM
<b>Tuesday, May 19, 2015</b>			
C64	HAVING A BLAST WITH FIBROBLASTS	9:30 AM	4:15 PM
C65	EXPLORING STEMNESS AND REGENERATION	9:30 AM	4:15 PM
<b>Wednesday, May 20, 2015</b>			
D44	FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE: AIRWAY RESPONSE TO INFECTIONS AND IRRITANTS	9:30 AM	3:30 PM
D45	CYSTIC FIBROSIS: FROM ION TRANSPORT TO OXIDANT METABOLISM	9:30 AM	3:30 PM

(Continued on page 2)

## Update from Web Director

Jeffrey Horowitz, MD

The primary goal of the RCMB Website Committee is to serve as a nexus between the assembly leadership and membership by facilitating communication and the dissemination of information. Over the past year, our efforts have focused on using social media as a platform to enhance communication within the assembly the scientific community, to promote the central position of cell and molecular biology as the foundation of new discovery and the link between discovery and clinical application, and to highlight the RCMB as the assembly of innovation and early adaptation of novel ideas and technologies.

To advance this agenda, we have established an RCMB Assembly Twitter feed (@ATS\_RCMB) which allows the interaction between members of the scientific community to disseminate information, discuss topics of interest, and to share thoughts and ideas with friends among the community. This feed has allowed us to “live tweet” during conferences of interest to the membership, including its launch during the International Colloquium on Lung and Airway Fibrosis. As of this writing, more than 120 pulmonary physicians, scientists, working groups and foundations are following (and commenting on) the RCMB feed.

Additionally, we launched a twitter based journal club (@RCMBJClub) which was the focus of an ATS News feature (<http://news.thoracic.org/?p=5685>). For these journal clubs we have invited the lead and senior authors of manuscripts of high interest to participate in an informal discussion and provide additional insight regarding the broader implications of their work. We are grateful to Matt Parker, Peter Bitterman, Mitch Olman, Suzanne Cloonan and Augustine Choi for their enthusiastic participation! We are also appreciative of Vamsee Raju, BPharm, PhD, (University of Alabama, Birmingham) for his ongoing efforts in organizing these journal clubs. In the upcoming months, we hope to have journal clubs discussing papers chosen by the different working groups within the RCMB Assembly. We anticipate that these journal clubs will move forward on a bi-monthly basis.

We welcome suggestions and participation from members of the RCMB Assembly. We encourage all of our members to try these platforms, follow us (@ATS\_RCMB and @RCMBJClub), and participate in our discussions. As always, if you have any questions or suggestions, or if you are interested in serving as a member of the RCMB Website Committee, please don't hesitate to contact me at: [jchorow@umich.edu](mailto:jchorow@umich.edu).

## Early Career Professional Working Group

Anna Lam, MD – Committee Chair

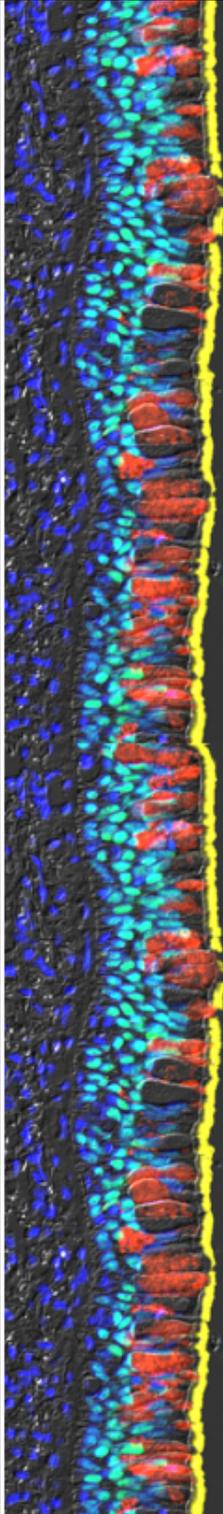
It's been a busy year for the RCMB Early Career Professional Working Group. We helped organize the annual RCMB Dinner at ATS 2014. This year we are currently organizing the first joint assembly dinner with the AII Assembly for ATS 2015. The joint reception will have a new casual, fun format that encourages camaraderie and fosters opportunities for inter-assembly collaborations. Funds raised by donations to RCMB will provide free drinks during the dinner. Ambassador teams consisting of RCMB and AII assembly members will circulate throughout the dinner reception to facilitate introductions.

We continued the RCMB Mentoring Program at ATS 2014; in its second year, this program grew to include 20 pairs of mentors and mentees. We are planning the continued growth of the RCMB Mentoring Program for ATS 2015. Keeping in mind the burden of conference costs to young faculty and trainees, we have partnered with the Science and Innovation Center to organize free programming for ATS 2015 that is focused specifically at Early Career Professionals. As such, we have coordinated “101” talks that are in alignment with the Basic Science Core for ATS 2015; we have planned an Early Career Professionals Corner, to encourage mentor-mentee meetings and promote involvement in the assembly.

## Early Career Professional Working Group (Cont')

In partnership with the Social Media Working Group, we explored new avenues for engaging the younger generation of scientists, including the RCMB Facebook page and RCMB Twitter website.

With the support of ATS, we have reached out to New Members of the ATS and RCMB to welcome them to the Assembly. We have also identified and sent letters to Abstract Authors in RCMB categories to encourage them to join the RCMB Assembly and participate in Assembly activities at the International Conference.



**Gordon Research Conferences**  
*frontiers of science*  
**Lung Development, Injury  
& Repair**

**Chair:** Thomas J. Mariani  
**Vice-Chairs:** Andreas Günther  
Jason Rock

**August 16-21, 2015**  
**Abstract Deadline: May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015**  
**Application Deadline: July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015**  
**Proctor Academy**  
**Andover, NH**

This conference will present innovative research focusing on mechanisms of lung development, injury and repair, and application of these concepts to an improved understanding of respiratory diseases. The program will bring together an outstanding group of scientists that span the spectrum from basic research to clinical translation.

**Featuring a Gordon Research Seminar :**  
**August 15-16, 2015**

A pre-conference meeting designed to enrich the conference experience for early career investigators!

**Chair:** Jin-Ah Park **Associate-Chair:** Sarah Utleby

Apply online:

<http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?id=14938>



## 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).*

*Assembly on  
Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology  
Membership Meeting*

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

*Hyatt Regency Denver at CCC*

*Mineral Hall D-G  
Third Floor*

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

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

*Hyatt Regency Denver at CCC*

*Centennial Ballroom F-G  
Third Floor*

## 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 Carol Feghali-Bostwick, PhD at [feghalib@musc.edu](mailto:feghalib@musc.edu).

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

### *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.

## 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





## 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.

## 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