Message from the Assembly Chair

Dear Colleagues,

I am happy to welcome you to my hometown of San Diego for the 2024 ATS International Conference! I look forward to the science, connections, and camaraderie of our meeting, particularly within the SRN Assembly. A reminder that our Assembly meeting will be on Monday May 20th from 5:00-7:00 PM. This membership meeting will be followed immediately by a reception by the ASPIRE Fellowship where we will hear from our assembly award winners (see 2023 pictures below). All are welcome! I would encourage those new to the assembly to join to get a better sense of our community and activities.

Please take a moment to read through this newsletter, which shows the activities of our committees and working groups. You will see the efforts and dedication of your colleagues who volunteer to make the SRN an academic and professional home for many of us. I am so proud of the many accomplishments of the Assembly and its members. Please let me know if you would like to get involved or have suggestions.

In addition to the SRN executive committee members reporting out below, I would also like to thank Indira Gurubhagavatula, John Kimoff, Mihaela Teodorescu and particularly my predecessor Reena Mehra whose advice and input has been invaluable.

While we will have the opportunity to meet together at the International Conference, there are many ways to be active in the ATS and the SRN Assembly. After the conference, please consider:

- Submitting session proposals for the 2025 International Conference. You have the ability to shape the conference and what is presented. Talk to Program Chair Molly Billings or anyone on the committee.
- Submitting a proposal for SRN Assembly-sponsored projects such as clinical practice guidelines, policy statements, research statements, or workshop reports. You have the ability to influence clinical care, research agendas and health policies. This is usually due in July. Sushmita Pamidi or anyone on the planning committee can help.
- Getting involved in any of the Assembly groups. See details below. These groups range from social media to advocacy and everywhere in between.
- Submitting your name, interest, and expertise to an ATS-wide database to help us find you for opportunities in ATS, here. It is critical to have a “Sleep” voice in all parts of the ATS.
- Submitting abstracts for ATS 2025 or encouraging your junior mentees to submit. This is usually due in October or early November.
- Contributing to fundraising to support ATS. Our ASPIRE program has been incredibly successful at supporting the next generation.

I will close with some pictures from last year’s meeting and award winners.
It has been my privilege to lead the SRN Assembly. Again, my thanks to my colleagues of the SRN Executive Committee, and the ATS staff! Sincerely,

Bob Owens, MD
rowens@health.ucsd.edu
Assembly on Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology (SRN) Membership Meeting

Monday, May 20, 2024
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Building: Marriott Marquis San Diego
Room: Grand Ballroom 2-4
Floor: Second Floor, Lobby Level

PROGRAM COMMITTEE
Bharati Prasad, MD, MS, ATSF (Chair) and Martha E. Billings, MD, MSc

We look forward to seeing all of you in sunny San Diego for the ATS 2024 International Conference. The conference includes various themes, from cutting-edge science and current controversies to trainee educational and presentation sessions. There are several Joint Symposia on topics relevant to sleep clinicians and researchers.

We want to thank the SRN Program Committee and other members who took the time to submit and review proposals and abstracts. A special thanks to the members volunteering their time as moderators and facilitators. High-quality programming would not have been possible without you!

This year, we sought and welcomed international and other members to increase the diversity of the SRN Program Committee. We encourage SRN members interested in contributing to the scientific content and programming for ATS 2025 to contact us.

ATS 2024 International Conference
Assembly on Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology (SRN) Sessions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Code</th>
<th>Session Title</th>
<th>Session Type</th>
<th>Session Date</th>
<th>Session Start Time</th>
<th>Session End Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PG3</td>
<td>HOME MECHANICAL VENTILATION: EVIDENCE AND HANDS ON EXPERIENCE WITH THE EXPERTS</td>
<td>Postgraduate Course</td>
<td>5/17/2024</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>A19</td>
<td>THE FRONTLINE SLEEP APNEA: INNOVATIONS IN OSA</td>
<td>Mini Symposium</td>
<td>5/19/2024</td>
<td>9:15 AM</td>
<td>11:15 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>A77</td>
<td>DECODING THE MOLECULAR MAZE OF SLEEP APNEA</td>
<td>Thematic Poster Session</td>
<td>5/19/2024</td>
<td>9:15 AM</td>
<td>4:15 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>A110</td>
<td>NEW FRONTIERS IN SLEEP APNEA DIAGNOSIS AND THERAPIES</td>
<td>Poster Discussion Session</td>
<td>5/19/2024</td>
<td>2:15 PM</td>
<td>4:15 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>B6</td>
<td>INTEGRATING EVIDENCE FROM RANDOMIZED TRIALS AND OBSERVATIONAL COHORTS IN SLEEP DISORDERED BREATHING</td>
<td>Scientific Symposium</td>
<td>5/20/2024</td>
<td>9:15 AM</td>
<td>10:45 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>B80-3</td>
<td>OSA 2.0: LEVELING UP THE SLEEP APNEA TOOL KIT</td>
<td>Thematic Poster Session</td>
<td>5/20/2024</td>
<td>9:15 AM</td>
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<td>B80-4</td>
<td>THE Z-FILES OF SLEEP PUZZLES</td>
<td>Thematic Poster Session</td>
<td>5/20/2024</td>
<td>9:15 AM</td>
<td>4:15 PM</td>
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<td>B108</td>
<td>BREATHE EASY: NAVIGATING THE WORLD OF VENTILATORY DISORDERS</td>
<td>RAPID Poster Discussion Session</td>
<td>5/20/2024</td>
<td>2:15 PM</td>
<td>4:15 PM</td>
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<td>B86</td>
<td>AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH: HEALTH DISPARITIES AND HEALTH CARE INEQUALITY IN RESPIRATORY MEDICINE</td>
<td>Jointly-Developed Symposium</td>
<td>5/20/2024</td>
<td>2:15 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>B99</td>
<td>SLEEP APNEA UNPLUGGED: NAVIGATING A MYRIAD OF HEALTH OUTCOMES</td>
<td>Mini Symposium</td>
<td>5/20/2024</td>
<td>2:15 PM</td>
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### C13: REASSESSING THE VALUE OF PHYSIOLOGIC ENDOTYPES IN UNDERSTANDING OSA HETEROGENEITY
- **Session Type:** Scientific Symposium
- **Date:** 5/21/2024
- **Start Time:** 9:15 AM
- **End Time:** 10:45 AM

### C30: APNEA AWAKENING: DECODING INTERMITTENT HYPOXIA
- **Session Type:** Poster Discussion Session
- **Date:** 5/21/2024
- **Start Time:** 9:15 AM
- **End Time:** 11:15 AM

### C76: SLEEP DISORDERS IN UNCOMMON REALMS
- **Session Type:** Thematic Poster Session
- **Date:** 5/21/2024
- **Start Time:** 9:15 AM
- **End Time:** 4:15 PM

### MTE29: MORE THAN JUST INITIAL SETTINGS: ADJUSTING NIV FOR PATIENTS WITH PROGRESSIVE NEUROMUSCULAR DISEASE
- **Session Type:** Meet the Expert
- **Date:** 5/21/2024
- **Start Time:** 10:30 AM
- **End Time:** 11:30 AM

### C109: PAP THERAPY CHRONICLES: THE ART OF RESTFUL NIGHTS
- **Session Type:** Poster Discussion Session
- **Date:** 5/21/2024
- **Start Time:** 2:15 PM
- **End Time:** 4:15 PM

### D19: UNRAVELING THE IMPACT OF OSA ON NEUROCOGNITIVE FUNCTION
- **Session Type:** Mini Symposium
- **Date:** 5/22/2024
- **Start Time:** 8:15 AM
- **End Time:** 10:15 AM

### D86: AMBULATORY CRITICAL CARE: A BENCH TO BEDSIDE UNDERSTANDING OF CHRONIC RESPIRATORY FAILURE
- **Session Type:** Scientific Symposium
- **Date:** 5/22/2024
- **Start Time:** 11:00 AM
- **End Time:** 4:15 PM

### ATS 2024 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
#### ADDITIONAL SESSIONS OF INTEREST

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<tr>
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<th>Session Type</th>
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<td>C88</td>
<td>HEALTH EQUITY ACROSS PEDIATRIC PULMONARY DISEASE</td>
<td>Scientific Symposium</td>
<td>5/21/2024</td>
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<td>C89</td>
<td>HIV-RELATED LUNG DISEASE: UPDATES IN PATHOPHYSIOLOGY, CLINICAL TRIALS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS</td>
<td>Scientific Symposium</td>
<td>5/21/2024</td>
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<td>C86</td>
<td>PULMONARY REHABILITATION - KEEPING THE WHEEL ROLLING FORWARD</td>
<td>Scientific Symposium</td>
<td>5/21/2024</td>
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<td>D11</td>
<td>ON THE HORIZON: NEW, NOVEL, AND CUTTING EDGE FOR NONTUBERCULOUS MYOBACTERIA (NTM)</td>
<td>Scientific Symposium</td>
<td>5/22/2024</td>
<td>8:15 AM</td>
<td>9:45 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D6</td>
<td>WHAT CAUSES SARCOIDOSIS?</td>
<td>Scientific Symposium</td>
<td>5/22/2024</td>
<td>8:15 AM</td>
<td>9:45 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>D5</td>
<td>TIME-LIMITED TRIALS IN CRITICAL CARE</td>
<td>Scientific Symposium</td>
<td>5/22/2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>D7</td>
<td>WHERE CHILDREN LEARN AND BREATHE: THE IMPACT OF SCHOOL-BASED EXPOSURES ON CHILDHOOD RESPIRATORY HEALTH</td>
<td>Scientific Symposium</td>
<td>5/22/2024</td>
<td>8:15 AM</td>
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<td>D8</td>
<td>GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES OF PULMONARY HYPERTENSION BIOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT? AN ATS/ERS JOINT SYMPOSIUM</td>
<td>Scientific Symposium</td>
<td>5/22/2024</td>
<td>8:15 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>D9</td>
<td>LINKING NOVEL MULTI-OMICS WITH MACHINE LEARNING TO UNLOCK LUNG PATHOPHYSIOLOGY</td>
<td>Scientific Symposium</td>
<td>5/22/2024</td>
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<tr>
<td>D10</td>
<td>TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK: MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES FOR HIGH-QUALITY LUNG CANCER SCREENING</td>
<td>Scientific Symposium</td>
<td>5/22/2024</td>
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<td>CS1</td>
<td>CHAIR SYMPOSIUM</td>
<td>Scientific Symposium</td>
<td>5/22/2024</td>
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<td>D83</td>
<td>RESPIRATORY HEALTH IMPACTS OF HUMAN MADE DISASTERS AND NATURAL DISEASES, WILDFIRES, EARTHQUAKES, AND VOLCANOES</td>
<td>Scientific Symposium</td>
<td>5/22/2024</td>
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</table>
Greetings SRN Members!

I am pleased to provide the Planning Committee’s report. The Committee continues to support the development and review of Assembly Projects. For 2024, one new workshop project was approved, entitled Research Priorities for Translating Obstructive Sleep Apnea Endo-phenotyping to the Clinic (submitted by Thomas Tolbert and Danny Eckert) – congratulations to Drs. Tolbert and Eckert and team! There was one renewal for a workshop entitled The Great Controversy of Obstructive Sleep Apnea Treatment for Cardiovascular Risk Benefit: Moving the Needle through Scientific Consensus (project lead: Oren Cohen)

Several recent SRN projects were recently completed and published, including:


Now is a great time to start exploring project ideas for 2025! Members are encouraged to contact Dr. Sachin Pendharkar if you would like to discuss any ideas. Details on project proposals are available at: 

The SRN Assembly offers 3 prestigious awards to honour the achievements of our outstanding colleagues. At the 2023 ATS International Conference in Washington, we were able to celebrate the successes of the winners of the following awards (see pictures above):

- James B. Skatrud New Investigator Award – Dr. Chris Schmickl, MD, PhD
- Lifetime Achievement Award – Dr. David Rapoport, MD
- Carol L Marcus Award Outstanding Achievement Award – Dr. Ariel Williamson, PhD

You can learn more about the award winners and their significant contributions at [https://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/assemblies/srn/awards/](https://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/assemblies/srn/awards/).

Finally, the Planning and Executive Committee have been working with the National Centre for Sleep Disorders Research (NCSDR) to plan a workshop aimed at strengthening research collaboration between sleep researchers and the NIH. The initial workshop will focus on navigating NIH grant applications and understanding the peer review process.

On behalf of the SRN Assembly, I would like to thank the Planning Committee members who have devoted their time and expertise to supporting the above SRN activities. I would also like to add my own sincere thanks to the SRN Executive Committee for supporting me in my role as Chair for the last 2 years. I am pleased that Dr. Sushmita Pamidi from McGill University in Montreal will assume the role of SRN Planning Committee Chair for 2024-2026.

Sachin Pendharkar, MD ATSF
Chair, SRN Planning Committee
(sachin.pendharkar@ucalgary.ca)
WEB COMMITTEE REPORT
Nancy Stewart, DO, MS and Refika Ersu, MD (Web Directors)

The SRN Web committee is led by co-chairs Nancy Stewart and Refika Ersu and has had a busy few months. The webinar and podcast subcommittee, co-chaired by Iris Perez, has sponsored multiple podcasts and webinars. In addition, a series led by Helena Schotland titled “Pioneers in Sleep Medicine” has been a remarkable experience both to see Helena’s leadership take off and to listen to these interviews with “Greats” in our field of Sleep Medicine. We ask these Greats what got them into Sleep Medicine, and what has changed in the field, and what they are excited about for the future. The education subcommittee co-chaired by Melissa Maloney and Sonal Malhotra have been hard at work updating 2 different questionnaires, 2 ATS Quick Hits, and produced a Patient Education piece on Healthy Sleep. Brandon Nokes has chaired our social media subcommittee through the times of the transition from Twitter to X, and has guided our group through expansion on other social media platforms.

To our team and assembly members, I am grateful for this group of leaders and thankful for the opportunity to have served the SRN and our assembly members in this role and look forward to the next year as Refika and Helena lead us onward and upward! THANK YOU! –Nancy

Podcasts:
1. The Impact of Opioids on Sleep
2. Artificial Intelligence in Sleep Medicine: the Past, the Present, and the Future. Parts 1
3. Artificial Intelligence in Sleep Medicine: the Past, the Present, and the Future. Parts 2
4. Sleep Pioneer- Allan Pack
5. Sleep Pioneer- Judith Owens
6. Sleep Pioneer- Mary Carskadon
7. Sleep Pioneer- Tom Keens
https://www.thoracic.org/about/ats-podcasts/

Journal Clubs:
1. Treatment Adherence to Inform Treatment Efficacy
2. Evaluation of Upper Airway Stimulation for Adolescents with Down Syndrome and Obstructive Sleep Apnea
3. Management of Persistent Post-Pediatric Adenotonsillectomy Obstructive Sleep Apnea in Children (upcoming)
https://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/assemblies/srn/journal-club/

Webinars:
2. Affecting Change: Moving towards Equitable Care for Sleep Apnea in the US
3. Melatonin: The Beauty or the Beast
4. Panel Discussion on Sleep Disordered Breathing in the First 2 years of Life (joint with ERS)
5. Circadian Disorders (upcoming)
Education:
1. 2 sleep questionnaire updates
2. ATS Quick Hits: 2 pieces submitted (DISE criteria for HNS, recognizing signs of PAP mask issues on PSG)

https://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/assemblies/srn/patient-educational-materials/

Follow Us on X (Twitter) @ATSSRN!

Be sure to follow us at @ATS_Assemblies for news on webinars, deadlines, and other things you might have missed in your inbox!

EARLY CAREER WORKING GROUP REPORT
Aesha Jobanputra, MD and Priya Vassant Borker, MD (Co-Chairs)

SRN Early Career Working Group members’ activities: Our Early Career Working Group (ECWG) was led by Co-Chairs Priya Borker, MD, Aesha Jobanputra, MD and Vice-Chair Brandon Nokes, MD. The group continues to build on continuing engagement of the early career physicians and scientists by coordinating networking and mentorship opportunities. In the Fall 2023, they hosted a successful Early Career Twitter Chat revolving around the topic of Sleep Deprivation. Last year, in 2023, with the MITT committee and other assembly early career working group chairs, the SRN helped to host a workshop for early career ATS members on how to successfully Navigate the ATS. This event was well received and will continue again this year. The SRN Apprenticeship program continues to serve as an avenue to engage with trainees to create intentional tracks and ways to engage those who are interested in developing careers in sleep medicine. For 2023-2024 our apprentices were Dr. Ana Sanchez-Azofra (Program Committee), Dr. Kevin Eng (Planning Committee), and Dr. Vesna Buntak (Web Committee). We look forward to the next class of apprentices to continue this now important tradition to grow our pipeline. In addition to development within the SRN committee, three mentees, Drs. Nancy Stewart, Sreeja Sompalli, and Erin Eschbach were successfully paired with senior sleep physician scientists across the country, Dr. Henry Yaggi and Dr. Safwan Badr, to receive personalized mentorship in grant writing and career development. Overall, the ECWG is accomplishing the important task of developing the next generation of sleep physicians and scientists.

Assembly Mentoring Programs’ Meeting Spot
Struggling to find a quiet location to meet with your mentor? The Assembly Mentoring Programs is offering a meeting spot exclusively for mentors and mentee to meet.

Marriott Marquis
Vista, Level 1, South
Sunday, May 19th – Monday, May 20 from 6 am to 6 pm
*Please note, this space is exclusively for Mentoring Program participants*

ATS Contact- Tiana Lino at tlino@thoracic.org
SCIENCE AND INNOVATION CENTER (SIC) REPORT
Brian Cade, PhD, SRN Representative

The Science and Innovation Center (SIC) is a collaboration of basic and translational scientists to network and learn more about emerging new technologies advancing research in respiratory, critical care and sleep medicine. The SIC is a particularly good venue to learn research techniques from experts in diverse assemblies in a face-to-face setting. The SIC hosts long-format presentations (topics this year include early-stage drug development, genomics, in silico and ex-vivo lung models, and wireframing artificial intelligence models). Additional events include the Bear Cage research proposal competition, the Rising Star Awards, and the SIC Abstract Awards. Similar to last year, the SIC is housed within a larger Networking Super Center, which provides additional in-depth content for clinicians, career development, and international participants. Please check the mobile app for the finalized schedule of all content.

Please consider submitting SIC content for next year. We are always looking for broadly applicable technical content that could drive collaborations. The submission is independent of the International Conference symposia mechanism and happens in the early Fall. Please email Brian Cade (bcade@bwh.harvard.edu) if you are potentially interested.

The SIC will once again host the Reception for PhDs and Other Basic Science Researchers, which provides a social opportunity for attendees focusing on research from all backgrounds to interact with other attendees. Light food and drinks will be provided. The event is free and will be in a nice space this year. Last year, we had over 300 attendees. The event is a highlight of the SIC. Please consider attending:

Reception for PhDs & Other Basic Science Researchers
Sunday, May 19th from 3 - 5 p.m.
San Diego Convention Center
Sails Pavilion Terrace (Upper Level)

The ATS Science and Innovation Center (SIC) working group and the PhD working group, would like to invite PhDs and other Basic Science Researchers to a special reception event. The reception will provide an intimate setting for networking while also allowing guests to mingle. Cocktails will be provided.

Register Here: [https://conference.thoracic.org/program/events/reception-phd-other-basic-science-researchers.php](https://conference.thoracic.org/program/events/reception-phd-other-basic-science-researchers.php)

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
Sanjay R. Patel, MD (Chair)

In 2023, the SRN Assembly continued to monitor and promote advocacy issues important to SRN Assembly members. Some of these activities have included:

- Continued monitoring of the Philips recall and FDA actions
- Participation in dialogue with the National Center for Sleep Disorders Research and Dr. Marishka Brown on ways to have NCSDR participation in the international meeting and advocate for research issues important to the sleep and breathing research community.
- Outreach to ensure close communication and collaboration with allies at ACCP, AASM and sleep apnea patient organizations.
- Advocacy within the ATS to have the ATS cosign the AASM position statement on Permanent Standard Time.
- Creation of a letter to Medicaid advocating for coverage of home sleep apnea testing for OSA evaluation across all states. This letter was cosigned by ATS, ACCP, and AASM.
- Advocacy with Medicare to revise LCD for broader coverage of BPAP devices with back up rate for COPD and other hypoventilation syndromes.
- Collection of data to support a broadening of CMS criteria for long-term coverage of CPAP in OSA.
- Collaboration with the PFT committee to advise an ATS position statement on reducing disparities in sleep related
care due to biases in pulse oximetry.

The committee meets monthly. My thanks to Drs. Indu Ayappa, Molly Billings, Lucas Donovan, Indira Gurubhagavatula, Anna May, and Vaishnavi Kundel for their participation. Our activities would not be possible without the support of Dr. Robert Owens and Gary Ewart, our ATS staff liaison for Government Relations.

**ASPIRE FELLOWSHIP REPORT**

Richard Schwab, MD, Fellowship (Program Director)

The ASPIRE (Academic Sleep Pulmonary Integrated Research/Clinical) fellowship has been a very successful program generating a pipeline for the next group of pulmonary/ORL/sleep leaders. Any pulmonary fellow interested in sleep-related research should consider applying to this unique program. The applications for the 2024-2025 ATS ASPIRE Fellowship closed last month, and the new fellows will be announced at the end of April. However, applications will reopen in the Winter/Spring of 2025.

This program is administered through the ATS with an executive council from institutions that have strong Pulmonary/Critical Care/ENT/training programs. These include the University of Pennsylvania, Harvard University, UC San Diego Health System, University of Pittsburgh, Case Western Reserve University and Mount Sinai. The ASPIRE program is competitive and prestigious. Accepted fellows are provided a $10,000 annual grant during their research years and $3,000 during their clinical years to be used for conferences, courses, or research endeavors.

Since its inception, monthly webinars given by leaders in the field from institutions both national and international have been sponsored by the ASPIRE program. The ASPIRE fellows benefit by receiving mentorship from prominent researchers and present their research at monthly seminars. The present and former ASPIRE fellows have published over 500 papers and have been the recipients of numerous grants and awards including multiple K23 grants. From 2021-2023, three of our fellows (Drs. Lucas Donovan, Anna May and Christopher Schmickl) have been recipients of the ATS Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology James B. Skatrud New Investigator Award.

All previous webinars as well as a list of our current and former fellows can be found on the ASPIRE Fellowship website ([www.aspirefellowship.com](http://www.aspirefellowship.com)). Sponsorship for the ATS Aspire Fellowship is provided by ResMed, Philips Respironics, and Fisher & Paykel.

**2024 ATS ASPIRE FELLOWS**

- Anna Lucia Fuentes, MD, University of California, San Diego
- Allison Ikeda, MD MS, University of Washington
- Dipan Karmali, MD, Jackson Health System/University of Miami
- Avnee Kumar, MD, University of California, San Diego
- Aristotle Leonhard, MD, University of Washington
- Linda Magana, MD, PhD, University of Pennsylvania
- Elizabeth Sanchez, MD, New York University Grossman School of Medicine
- Ana Sanchez Azofra MD, University of California, San Diego
- Catherine Tarantine, MD, MSc, University of Pittsburgh