

# Assembly on Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology (SRN) Newsletter



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**Reena, Mehra, MD, MS, ATSF**

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## Message from the Assembly Chair

Dear Colleagues:

I write to you with hope and optimism as we appear to be emerging from the throes of the pandemic and hope that you and your local communities have fared as well as can be expected. I am absolutely thrilled with the prospect of seeing all of you in person at the 2022 ATS International Conference! We have so many exciting updates to share with you!

I have had the distinct honor to pick up the reigns from my predecessors, Drs. Mihaela Teodorescu and Sanjay Patel, who I would like to sincerely thank for sage guidance serving as a sounding board and for putting into motion intentional and strategic initiatives which have catalyzed extension of reach for our Assembly's contributions and recognition. I would like to convey my sincere gratitude for the heroic work of Miriam Rodriguez, Senior Director of Assembly Programs, and ATS staff who have been stretched thin-- yet worked tirelessly-- to help Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology (SRN) achieve its objectives. I would like to sincerely thank our ATS President Dr. Lynn Schnapp as well as ATS Chief Executive Officer, Karen Collishaw and incoming President, Dr. Greg Downey for providing staunch support of our SRN Assembly as we face these trying times of the pandemic and superimposed positive airway pressure device manufacturer recall, which has had such dire effects on us as well as our patients.

As I reflect on my first year as Chair, I find myself inspired by the degree of engagement and commitment of our Executive Committee, Chairs and leads of our committees as well as respective group members and their resulting major contributions to our Assembly. The camaraderie and teamwork has been refreshing and provided a sense of accomplishment for the greater good of our field whether it be fostering careers of early career investigators, advocating as we face key challenges or providing high level input on national guidelines, funding mechanisms and initiatives.

Going forward, the areas of public health advocacy specific to sleep, engagement of our colleagues across the spectrum of career (early, mid and senior), engaging with our international members and attention to diversity and wellness will be key imperatives for our Assembly.

Please see below first a major highlight of SRN recipients of global ATS awards and then my summary of some of the key SRN achievements and contributions and below my summary, please find a more detailed overview from the leads and chairs of our committees and groups.

I could not be more appreciative of the support and contributions by all of our members!

## ASSEMBLY CHAIR MESSAGE (continued)

Reena, Mehra, MD

We are thrilled to share that we have an unprecedented number SRN members who are recipients of 2022 global ATS awards as follows! This is a testament to the outstanding leaders and exceptional contributions in the field of sleep medicine!

- **ATS Research Innovation and Translation Achievement Award—Colin Sullivan, MD, PhD**, University of Sydney, NSW, Sydney, Australia
- **ATS Jo Rae Wright Outstanding Science Award—Lucas Donovan, MD MS**, University of Washington, Seattle, WA
- **ATS Outstanding Educator Award-- Ilene M. Rosen, MD MSCE**, University of Pennsylvania, Perelman School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA
- **ATS Outstanding Clinician Award- Shazia M. Jamil, MD, ATSF**, Scripps Clinic, La Jolla, CA

1. Our **SRN Program Chairs, Drs. Neomi Shah and Andrey Zinchuk and the Committee** have done a truly tremendous job of facilitating strong presence of SRN and designing an incredibly exciting **ATS International Conference Program** covering timely and novel topics in our field with exemplars including the future of telemedicine, novel pharmacologic treatment of sleep apnea, opioid use disorder and sleep, gut-brain interactions in sleep apnea, deep phenotyping and hot topics in sleep apnea, such as new trials and the PAP recall, as well as several co-sponsored sessions. SRN is very well-represented at the meeting with 2 Scientific Symposia, 5 additional SRN- led joint Symposia, 3 Mini-Symposia/Rapid Poster Sessions, 4 Poster Discussion Sessions, 3 Thematic Poster Sessions, 2 Post-Graduate Courses, and 6 Meet the Expert sessions. **Please find details of the program schedule at the end of the newsletter, to start planning your schedule! We will also be sending email alerts during the IC for the daily schedule of SRN-specific courses and sessions to allow you to maximize your ability to coordinate your schedule accordingly!**

**In addition to the SRN program as above, Dr. Brian Cade has been leading sleep-specific programming at the IC for the** ATS-wide Science & Innovation Center (SIC) which is soon to be finalized and is planned to include important topics including multiple career development talks (e.g. early career grant mechanisms, interactions with industry, and negotiation techniques), research methods talks, and guidance on writing T32 grants..

2. **SRN Assembly Projects and Awards:** The Planning Committee, under the outstanding leadership of **Dr. Peter Cistulli**, reviews new Assembly project applications and supports ongoing projects.

We have a new project approved for funding, i.e. a Workshop Report on “Strategies to assess long-term outcomes of continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) use among symptomatic patients with obstructive sleep apnea (OSA)” led by Dr Lucas Donovan. Moreover, ongoing projects which were approved for continuation include Clinical Practice Guideline on the Management of Persistent, Post-adenotonsillectomy Obstructive Sleep Apnea in Children (Dr Zarmina Ehsan); Workshop Report on The causes, consequences, and treatments of sleep and circadian disruption in the ICU (Dr Melissa Knauert); Workshop report on the link between obstructive sleep apnea and neurocognitive impairment (Dr Chitra Lal); Policy Statement on Moving Towards Equitable Care for Sleep Apnea in the United States: Adherence Thresholds (Dr Martha Billings). Congratulations to these leads and groups-- we look forward to their contributions!

Importantly, we want to hear from you with your ideas for new projects, in the form of clinical practice guidelines, research statements, workshop reports. If you are interested in championing a proposal, please reach out to Dr. Cistulli for guidance (peter.cistulli@sydney.edu.au).

The Planning Committee oversees submissions of global ATS awards and the Assembly’s three prestigious awards.

We are delighted to recognize the SRN Assembly award 2021 recipients: 1) **Dr Lucas Donovan, MD**, (University of Washington), who was awarded the James B. Skatrud Award for rising stars, 2) **Dr. Christopher Cielo, DO** (University of Pennsylvania and Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia) who was awarded the Carole L. Marcus Award for outstanding achievement in pediatric sleep and respiratory neurobiology, and **Dr Colin Sullivan MD** (University of Sydney), who was awarded the distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award. For the 2022 awards cycle, application process is still ongoing. Awardees will be announced at our Assembly’s business meeting in May. Importantly, we are looking forward to celebrate all these past years’ successes at our next face to face.

We encourage you to consider applying for these [awards](#).

Beginning this year, the Planning Committee took the lead in seeking Assembly nominations for the overall ATS awards, which are due in the fall. We have many meritorious members in our Assembly, so we encourage you to nominate them. Reach out to Peter, later in the summer to seek advice for preparing your nomination(s).

**3. SRN Scientific and Public Health Advocacy:** The SRN has worked closely with ATS leadership to address queries and provide input on national guidelines, statements. We have also worked to facilitate communications and guidance surrounding the PAP device manufacturer recall—we are fortunate to have **Dr. Susheel Patil who has agreed to Chair the inaugural SRN Advocacy Committee** which has had a “soft start” this year. His leadership has been instrumental in helping to negotiate the approach to the recall.

- a) **As Chair of our Advocacy Committee, Dr. Patil and Gary Ewart, our ATS staff liaison for Government Relations led the coordination of a multi-society meeting with the FDA** concerning the device recall, to provide the society perspective and feedback on key areas to address including changes to regulatory oversight
- b) **Dr. Robert Owens led a letter published in the AJRCCM to provide immediate guidance to providers specific to the PAP device recall** involving soliciting feedback and input from key ATS sister assemblies
- c) We were asked to provide feedback regarding the AHRQ Report Evidence-based Practice Center Systematic Review Protocol on Continuous Positive Airway Pressure Treatment for Obstructive Sleep Apnea in Medicare Eligible Patients
- d) SRN worked with ATS leadership to provide feedback via the IDEASCALE Campaign on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Sleep Research Plan.
- e) **Dr. Indu Ayappa, our liaison for the Research Advocacy Committee (RAC)** is providing overall guidance as well as specific to sleep on the draft document response to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) regarding scientific and research opportunities appropriate for the proposed Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H)
- f) **We continue our monthly meetings with the Director of the National Center of Sleep Disorders Research at the NHLBI, Dr. Marishka Brown** to discuss synergies with ATS and NCSDR
- g) **On behalf of ATS SRN, I provided an update at the Sleep Disorders Research Advisory Board meeting 12/2/2021** on our current activities and opportunities for synergies.
- h) A townhall series on the highly relevant topic of **Sleep, Wellness and Burnout is being coordinated by Drs. Indira Gurubhagavatula, Mihaela Teodorescu and Sushmita Pamidi**. I am grateful for their thoughtful leadership to develop this series which is sure to be well-received. The first in the series will be on Thursday, April 28, 3:30-5PM on the topic of: **The Elephant in the Room: Professional Burnout and Moral Injury in Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep**.

**4. SRN Early Career Working Group members' activities:** I have been nothing short of impressed with the enthusiasm, dynamism and engagement of our Early Career Working (ECWG) group led by **Drs. Vaishnavi Kundel, Lucas Donovan and Oren Cohen**. I am truly grateful and appreciative of their efforts and continue to be inspired by them. Recognizing the challenges that the pandemic has imposed on limiting networking and obtaining mentoring, the ECWG has implemented networking activities and strategies to keep the membership informed through their quarterly newsletters. Quite notably, the success of the prior SRN Virtual Happy Hours organized by Drs. Donovan and Kundel gained such traction and attention that this served as a model for a 2021 ATS-wide Happy Hour which allowed a forum in which fellows and junior faculty had the opportunity to meet with leaders in the field, along with more relaxed and casual career discussions in smaller breakout sessions. Moreover, along with Members in Training and Transit Committee (MITT), Vaishnavi and Lucas have recently hosted a very engaging and informative Twitter Chat focused on “Virtual engagement of Trainees in Sleep Medicine Fellowship”, which was enormously successful garnering over 300K twitter impressions!

The SRN Apprenticeship program continues and serves 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 2021-2022, the apprentices were **Dr. Daniel Vena-Programming Committee, Dr. Thomas Tolbert-Planning Committee, and Dr. Sunjeet Kaur-Web Committee**. We look forward to the next class of apprentices to continue this now important tradition, to grow our pipeline!

**5. SRN Web Committee:** We recognize and appreciate the hard work of **Web Committee Chairs, Drs. Anna May and Notch Sigua**, who have been very active facilitating live webinars and podcasts on key topics which can be downloaded at any time for

listening. Given the toll of the PAP device manufacturer recall on our practice, several webinars, some in conjunction with other societies were organized including impact on vulnerable populations as well as the intersection of the recall with disparities and international perspectives. There has been a focus on topics related to pediatric OSA under the strong leadership of **Journal Club Co-Chairs, Refika Ursu and Nancy Stewart**. For example, the ATS SRN and ERS joint presentation: Treatment Approach to Children with Persistent Obstructive Sleep Apnea. Upcoming exciting topics include artificial intelligence in sleep medicine, alternative metrics to the apnea hypopnea index and drug induced sedation endoscopy in pediatric obstructive sleep apnea. Important, high-impact articles will also be highlighted including “Differences in Symptoms and Severity of Obstructive Sleep Apnea between Black and White Patients”. We are very appreciative of efforts to develop educational materials on range of topics including adaptive servoventilation, central sleep apnea in adults, healthy sleep in teens, positive airway pressure use in children and many more.

**6. ASPIRE Fellowship: Dr. Richard Schwab is responsible for spearheading the formation of the Academic Sleep Pulmonary Integrated Research (ASPIRE) fellowship via vying for industry sponsorship to develop this novel networking program to grow our pipeline.** This fellowship is now administered by the American Thoracic Society (ATS), continues to grow and is now accepting applications from around the world. The goal is to provide critical funding for pulmonary, ORL or sleep fellows interested in a research career related to sleep-disordered breathing. The benefits of ASPIRE fellowship include mentorship from expert sleep faculty nationwide, an opportunity to network with other like-minded fellows, and an annual stipend for research (\$3000 for clinical years, and up to \$10,000 for research years). This program began in 2017 and its graduates are already stars in the field!

The 2022 class has 8 fellows and includes:

- **Ambika Chidambaram, MBBS - University of Pennsylvania**
- **Denise Dewald, MD - Case Western Reserve University**
- **Seyni Gueye-Ndiaye, MD - Brigham and Women’s Hospital/Boston Children’s Hospital**
- **Amy Korwin, MD - Yale University**
- **Nathan Nowalk, MD - University of Chicago**
- **Weston Powell, MD, PhD - University of Washington/Seattle Children’s Hospital**
- **Jenny Shi, MD - Hospital for Sick Children**
- **Lena Xiao, MD, FRCP - Hospital for Sick Children**

We also congratulate last year’s graduating class:

- **Megan Acho, MD - University of Pittsburgh Medical Center**
- **Sigfus Gunnlaugsson, MD - Boston Children’s Hospital**
- **Neha Patel, MD - Columbia University Irving Medical Center**
- **Moshe Prero, MD - CWRU University Hospitals/Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital**

We commend all of the ASPIRE fellows for choosing to invest additional time in their education and congratulate them for representing the future of our field! Special thanks to Dr. Richard Schwab who spearheaded the creation of this program. Learn more about this exciting program, including how to apply for the current funding [cycle](#). We Thank ResMed, Philips Respironics and Fisher & Paykel for their generous support of the Aspire Fellowship Program.

Requirements include CV of the applicant, a 1-2 page statement of research goals and why they are a candidate for the ASPIRE fellowship and letter from mentor. Please contact Javier Guzman, Associate Director, Assembly American Thoracic Society ([jguzman@thoracic.org](mailto:jguzman@thoracic.org)) with any questions.

**7. SRN Sleep Medicine Fellowship Program Directors (PD) activities:** I am grateful to **Dr. Michelle Zeidler** for her great efforts to lead the establishment of this program. With assistance of ATS staff, they have created the Sleep PD Basecamp that allows real time communication and collaboration among Sleep PD’s from across the country, with a few Canadian members joining as well. This has served as a phenomenal resource for information sharing, apprising PDs of key updates and a platform for discussion of key issues facing fellowship programs. Dr. Zeidler and colleagues let the Distance Learning Town Hall as well as an AIRE Pilot Opportunities symposium, the latter to increase awareness of innovations in the structure of fellowship constructs. Continued goals for the upcoming year include creating sub-committees to set a bank of evaluation materials, as well as a bank of core reading materials, which will be accessible to all Sleep PDs on the Basecamp site.

**8. SRN PhD-related activities:** We are very fortunate to have **Dr. Brian Cade** representing SRN on the ATS Scientific Innovations Center (SIC) and the ATS PhD and Basic and Translational Scientist Working Group (PBTS WG). Our PhD members are very valued, key members whose perspective is essential to the success in cross-cutting ATS activities. In his summary below, Dr. Cade provides substantive opportunities for basic and translational scientists including initiatives to enhance engagement. The SIC, for

example, facilitates a research proposal competition, awards, programming separate from the IC, the latter including presentations pertaining to career development. The PBTS WG is focused on important initiatives such as identifying and overcoming barriers for PhD scientists to attain tenure-track faculty status, working with the SIC to conduct MD- PhD networking, developing strategies to enhance PhD representation in T32 programs and developing dedicated awards programs. Please reach out to Dr. Cade with questions regarding these important initiatives.

#### 9. Research Grants and SRN Assembly intramural research grant review:

The ATS [Research Program](#) has a variety of funding opportunities, including unrestricted grants. The program historically has supported 2-3 sleep related grants each year, with three awards in 2021: Dr. Peng Li, from University of Michigan for his project “Regulation of sighs and post-sigh apneas by sleep-wake states”, Dr. Rachel Jen, from Vancouver General Hospital for her project entitled “Pilot study of antioxidant therapy in OSA patients” and Dr. Brian Cade from Brigham and Women’s Hospital for his project “Pulmonary disease contributions to COVID-19 morbidity and mortality.” The 2022 Awards have not yet been announced. However, there were only 5 unrestricted grants total, and only 1 of these is reserved for each of the three ATS pillars of health: pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine. In the past, the number of unrestricted grants was higher, and 2 were allocated for each pillar. The SRN Assembly is working with the Scientific Grant Review Committee to make sure 1) that we preserve and increase the grants allocated for Sleep, and 2) that there is sufficient sleep expertise on the committee to review applications from our members.

We have a great resource which is newly established, i.e. Assembly intramural grant review process, aimed at improving the quality of the applications prior to submission to the ATS Research Program. I sincerely thank **Dr. Robert Owens** for his leadership in establishing this committee which offers review services. Last year, we instituted an SRN intramural grant review process, aimed at improving the quality of the applications prior to submission and formal review. Feedback from applicants and intramural reviewers was supportive that we continue the same services this year. Each applicant who submits a letter of intent to the ATS is contacted and offered one of two grant review services:

1) An expedited review of a near final application: Two weeks before the deadline, 1-2 anonymous reviewers review the proposals. The reviewers are senior SRN members, some of whom have previously been part of the ATS Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC). They return the applications ~1 week before the final deadline. This review serves as a “fresh set of eyes” on the application and provides feedback that could be implemented before the final submission.

2) Remote grant development: based on the subject matter of the grant, the applicant gets paired with an external, experienced researcher in the field who provides ongoing input as the grant is being developed, through its final submission. The expectation is that the external mentor would meet virtually with the applicant every two weeks. Thus, the external mentor gives input on the aims at all stages of the proposal.

This year a number of applicants took advantage of the intramural review services. Some of the external mentors and applicants continue to work together on other (non ATS) grant submissions!

I urge you to contribute to the ATS Research Program to help support young investigators doing cutting edge research in our field. If you are a young investigator, consider applying for one of the ATS Research Program awards!

**10. Pediatric Sleep. I appreciate the continued efforts of Dr. Raanen Aarens from SRN and Dr. Laura Sterni from the Pediatric Assembly** to build bridges across our assemblies. As the ABIM is now offering a longitudinal knowledge assessment for maintenance of certification to all sleep diplomates, the ATS Assemblies on Pediatrics and on Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology (SRN) are planning to develop in the upcoming year a Pediatric Sleep Interest Group within the ATS that will work closely with sleep experts from other organizations (e.g. APSS) and integrate these members to a cohesive working group providing consensus opinions and feedback to the ABP and ABIM on all matters regarding MOC/LKA and examination content as well as other matters related to the field such as educational materials. International collaborations, research priorities, etc. There are plans for a virtual meeting after the ATS IC and also plans to create pediatric representation on the content and test writing committee.

**11. ATS-Wide Assembly Representation. We are fortunate to have Dr. Indu Ayappa, as our liaison for the Research Advocacy Committee (RAC), Dr. Sushmita Pamidi for the Membership and International Health Committee, Dr. Lucas Donovan for the Members In Training and Transition (MITT) Committee and Dr. Brian Cade representing SRN on the ATS Scientific Innovations Center (SIC) and the ATS PhD and Basic and Translational Scientist Working Group (PBTS WG).** Please read the reports below highlighting the objective and their contributions to these committees.

**12. SRN Assembly Business Meeting:** Mark your calendar for this meeting set for **Monday, May 16, 5-7 pm EDT!** The Meeting will begin with networking from 5:00 to 5:15 PM EST, followed by the membership portion of the meeting, where our panel herein will

be updating the membership on the Assembly's programs and activities, discuss plans for the upcoming year and opportunities for engaging with the Assembly activities. Our Awardees and new leadership will also be announced. We will have a presentation from the National Center on Sleep Disorders Research.

The Assembly Executive Committee and I encourage and welcome your input and involvement with the ATS. Feel free to contact me at [mehrar@ccf.org](mailto:mehrar@ccf.org) if you wish to volunteer for our Assembly activities, or with any questions and ideas for what the Assembly can do, to better meet your needs! To get involved with the overall ATS Committees, **we encourage you sign up at the [Get Involved Portal](#) which the ATS has specifically created for this purpose** and to look for ways to participate in global ATS-wide committees as well.

**I look forward to seeing you all in person (finally!) at the business meeting, on May 16th!**

Sincerely Yours,  
**Reena Mehra, MD, MS, ATSF**  
**Chair, Assembly on Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology (SRN)**

**Assembly on Sleep and Respiratory  
Neurobiology (SRN) Membership Meeting**

**Monday, May 16, 2022  
5:00pm-7:00pm**

**Building: Moscone Center West  
Room: 3010/3012 - Level 3**

American Thoracic Society  
ASSEMBLIES




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## PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Neomi Shah, MD, MPH, MSc. (Chair) and Andrey Zinchuk, MD, MSH (Chair-Elect)

Andrey and I want to thank all members of the SRN Assembly, who submitted proposals for major symposia, postgraduate courses, meet the expert, and scientific abstracts as well as case reports for this year's meeting. We know it was a tough year and we appreciate your efforts. Thank you also in advance to those who have agreed to serve as Chairs and Moderators for the sessions.

Together with the assistance of the SRN Program Committee, we believe we have put together an amazing program that covers a range of sleep topics for the 2022 in-person ATS meeting. To help you with your conference planning, please see the SRN Program Brochure for this year's meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you all at ATS 2022 in San Francisco!

Chair Neomi Shah, MD, MPH, MSc.  
 Chair-Elect Andrey Zinchuk, MD, MSH

**ATS 2022 International Conference  
Assembly on Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology (SRN) Sessions**

<b>Session Code</b>	<b>Session Title</b>	<b>Session Type</b>	<b>Session Date</b>	<b>Session Start Time</b>	<b>Session End Time</b>
PG5	ADVANCES IN THE HOME MANAGEMENT OF CHRONIC RESPIRATORY FAILURE	Postgraduate Course	5/13/2022	8:00 AM	4:00 PM
A8	CRITICAL DECISIONS AND STEPS BEFORE THE NEXT BIG TRIAL OF CPAP	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
A67	FLIPPING THE SCRIPT ON SLEEP APNEA PATHOGENESIS	Thematic Poster Session	5/15/2022	9:30 AM	3:45 PM
A68	INFLAMMATION, CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE, COVID-19: WHAT DO THEY HAVE IN COMMON?	Thematic Poster Session	5/15/2022	9:30 AM	3:45 PM
ME14	HOSPITAL SLEEP MEDICINE: UNDERSTANDING PRACTICE MODEL AND IMPACT	Meet the Expert	5/15/2022	12:15 PM	1:15 PM
A108	PHARMACOTHERAPY TO PREVENT AND MITIGATE CONSEQUENCES OF SLEEP DISORDERED BREATHING	Poster Discussion Session	5/15/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
A91	MYTHS OR TRUTHS: CONTROVERSIES IN RESPIRATORY MEDICINE	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
B29	EMERGING APPROACHES: TRANSLATING SLEEP APNEA ENDOTYPES INTO CLINICAL PRACTICE	Poster Discussion Session	5/16/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
B65	CAN'T RUN, CAN'T HIDE: THE UBIQUITOUS IMPACT OF SLEEP RELATED BREATHING DISORDERS	Thematic Poster Session	5/16/2022	9:30 AM	3:45 PM
B66	AN ALL-INCLUSIVE SRN EXPERIENCE: DIAGNOSIS, CONSEQUENCES, AND MANAGEMENT OF SLEEP DISORDERS	Thematic Poster Session	5/16/2022	9:30 AM	3:45 PM
ME23	COMISA: HOW TO DIAGNOSE AND TREAT INSOMNIA COMORBID WITH SLEEP APNEA	Meet the Expert	5/16/2022	10:45 AM	11:45 AM
ME27	OPIOID USE DISORDER, SLEEP DEFICIENCY, VENTILATORY CONTROL AND TREATMENT IMPLICATIONS	Meet the Expert	5/16/2022	12:15 PM	1:15 PM
B109	FROM GUT TO BRAIN: NEW INSIGHTS INTO THE IMPACT OF OSA	Poster Discussion Session	5/16/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
B89	PATHWAYS TOWARDS PERSONALIZED SLEEP MEDICINE: INTEGRATING ENDOTYPES, MEDICAL INFORMATICS, AND MULTI-OMICS	Scientific Symposium	5/16/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
ME32	BRINGING WEIGHT LOSS TO THE FOREFRONT IN THE TREATMENT OF OBSTRUCTIVE SLEEP APNEA: INTEGRATING EVIDENCE-BASED GUIDELINES INTO CLINICAL PRACTICE	Meet the Expert	5/17/2022	7:00 AM	8:00 AM
C19	BENCH TO BEDSIDE: ADVANCES IN SLEEP AND CARDIOVASCULAR OUTCOMES	Mini Symposium	5/17/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
C12	ACHIEVING HEALTH EQUITY IN ASTHMA, LUNG CANCER, COPD, SLEEP, PULMONARY HYPERTENSION AND COVID-19	Scientific Symposium	5/17/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
C63	SLEEP GEMS: CASE REPORTS FROM THE WORLD OF SLEEP MEDICINE	Thematic Poster Session	5/17/2022	9:30 AM	3:45 PM
ME42	PRAGMATIC TARGETING OF SLEEP APNEA ENDOTYPES AND PHENOTYPES	Meet the Expert	5/17/2022	12:15 PM	1:15 PM
C98	DEEP PHENOTYPING FOR SLEEP APNEA THERAPY SUCCESS	Mini Symposium	5/17/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM

C110	BRIDGING THE GAPS: SLEEP, NIV, PULMONARY DISEASE, AND COMORBIDITIES	Poster Discussion Session	5/17/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
ME44	SLEEP DISORDERED BREATHING IN HEART FAILURE: PROPER DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT	Meet the Expert	5/18/2022	7:00 AM	8:00 AM
D19	HOT TOPICS IN SLEEP APNEA TREATMENT: NEW TARGETS, NEW TRIALS, AND PAP RECALL	Mini Symposium	5/18/2022	8:15 AM	9:45 AM
D89	WHAT COULD REPLACE THE AHI FOR EVALUATING SLEEP APNEA?	Scientific Symposium	5/18/2022	12:45 PM	2:15 PM

**ATS 2022 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ADDITIONAL SESSIONS OF INTEREST**

Session Code	Session Title	Session Type	Session Date	Session Start	Session End
A1	CLINICAL YEAR IN REVIEW 1	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
A11	TACKLING HEALTH DISPARITIES: HOW DO WE TALK AND TEACH ABOUT THEM?	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
A2	JAMA AND THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE. DISCUSSION ON THE EDGE: REPORTS OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED PULMONARY RESEARCH	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
A3	FELLOWS CASE CONFERENCE	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
A5	CROSSTALK OF SENESCENT CELLS WITH THE MICROENVIRONMENT: IT TAKES TWO TO TELL A STORY	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
CC1	CRITICAL CARE CLINICAL CORE CURRICULUM	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	11:30 AM	1:00 PM
PCC1	PEDIATRIC CLINICAL CORE CURRICULUM	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	12:00 PM	1:00 PM
A83	GREAT CASES: CLINICAL, RADIOLOGIC, AND PATHOLOGIC CORRELATIONS BY MASTER CLINICIANS	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
A84	THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE AND JAMA. DISCUSSION ON THE EDGE: REPORTS OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED CRITICAL CARE RESEARCH	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
A85	DEVELOPMENT AND WOUND HEALING: WHERE SENESENCE IS THE SILVER LINING	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
A90	RECENT ATS CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
B1	CLINICAL YEAR IN REVIEW 2	Scientific Symposium	5/16/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
B12	CLINICAL TRIALS SESSION	Scientific Symposium	5/16/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
B13	INSIGHTS INTO MECHANISMS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS OF HIV ASSOCIATED LUNG DISEASE	Scientific Symposium	5/16/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
CC2	PULMONARY CLINICAL CORE CURRICULUM	Scientific Symposium	5/16/2022	11:30 AM	1:00 PM



PCC2	PEDIATRIC CLINICAL CORE CURRICULUM	Scientific Symposium	5/16/2022	12:00 PM	1:00 PM
B88	INCLUDING ALL FOR RESPIRATORY HEALTH	Scientific Symposium	5/16/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
B91	PUBLISHING THE BEST SCIENCE: THE COMPREHENSIVE SPECTRUM PROVIDED BY THE ATS FAMILY OF JOURNALS	Scientific Symposium	5/16/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
CC3	CRITICAL CARE CLINICAL CORE CURRICULUM	Scientific Symposium	5/16/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
C1	CLINICAL YEAR IN REVIEW 3	Scientific Symposium	5/17/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
C11	USE OF NOVEL TECHNOLOGIES TO IMPROVE CLINICAL TRAINING AND ENHANCE PATIENT SAFETY	Scientific Symposium	5/17/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
PCC3	PEDIATRIC CLINICAL CORE CURRICULUM	Scientific Symposium	5/17/2022	12:00 PM	1:00 PM
C90	MORE THAN MAKING UP FOR LOST TIME: CAREER DEVELOPMENT AFTER COVID-19	Scientific Symposium	5/17/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
CC4	PULMONARY CLINICAL CORE CURRICULUM	Scientific Symposium	5/17/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
D1	CLINICAL YEAR IN REVIEW 4	Scientific Symposium	5/18/2022	8:15 AM	9:45 AM
D5	THE IMPACT OF FLAVORED NICOTINE PRODUCTS: BIOLOGY, BEHAVIOR AND THE "BAN"	Scientific Symposium	5/18/2022	8:15 AM	9:45 AM
CC5	SLEEP CLINICAL CORE CURRICULUM	Scientific Symposium	5/18/2022	10:45 AM	12:15 PM
CC6	SLEEP CLINICAL CORE CURRICULUM	Scientific Symposium	5/18/2022	12:45 PM	2:15 PM

## PLANNING COMMITTEE

Peter Cistulli MD (Chair)

The Planning Committee has continued to foster the development of new Assembly Projects, as well as review and support ongoing projects. The pandemic has had an inevitable impact on projects, but the following projects were approved for continuation: Clinical Practice Guideline on the Management of Persistent, Post-adenotonsillectomy Obstructive Sleep Apnea in Children (Dr Zarmina Ehsan); Workshop Report on The causes, consequences, and treatments of sleep and circadian disruption in the ICU (Dr Melissa Knauert); Workshop Report on The link between obstructive sleep apnea and neurocognitive impairment (Dr Chitra Lal); Policy Statement on Moving Towards Equitable Care for Sleep Apnea in the United States: Adherence Thresholds (Dr Martha Billings).

This year, the Assembly had one (out of 3) new project approved for funding: Workshop Report on "Strategies to assess long-term outcomes of continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) use among symptomatic patients with obstructive sleep apnea (OSA)" (Dr Lucas Donovan).

For any new ideas for projects, feel free to contact Dr. Peter Cistulli ([peter.cistulli@sydney.edu.au](mailto:peter.cistulli@sydney.edu.au)).

The SRN Assembly offers 3 prestigious awards to honour up and coming stars (James B. Skatrud Award), outstanding achievement in pediatric sleep and respiratory neurobiology (Carole L. Marcus Award), and distinguished achievement by senior members (Lifetime Achievement Award). In 2021, these were awarded to Dr Lucas Donovan, MD, (University of Washington); Dr. Christopher Cielo, DO (University of Pennsylvania and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia); and Dr Colin Sullivan MD (University of Sydney), respectively. Unfortunately, we were unable to celebrate their success in person at the Assembly dinner, but we did manage to recognize their outstanding achievements and contributions via a virtual format (available for viewing via the Assembly website).

Thanks to all the committee members who devote their time and skills to the ATS mission.

Peter Cistulli  
Chair, SRN Planning Committee

### Submit an Assembly/Committee Project Application for Funding in FY2023!

We are happy to announce that ATS will once again accept **NEW Assembly/Committee Projects for FY2023**. 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 Peter A. Cistulli, MD, MBA, PhD, ATSF** @[peter.cistulli@sydney.edu.au](mailto:peter.cistulli@sydney.edu.au)

For questions regarding submissions please contact  
Miriam Rodriguez  
tel: (212) 315-8639 or email: [Mrodriguez@thoracic.org](mailto:Mrodriguez@thoracic.org).

## WEB COMMITTEE REPORT

Anna M. May, MD, MS; Co-Chair Ninotchka Sigua, MD (Web Director)

The web committee has addressed timely issues and collaborated with other societies this year with our webinars and podcasts as outlined below.

### WEBINARS

- ATS SRN and ERS joint presentation: treatment approach to children with persistent obstructive sleep apnea
- ATS SRN, CHEST, AAN joint presentation on impact of Philips PAP device recall on vulnerable populations
  - Philips recall: international perspectives and health disparities
  - ATS SRN, CHEST, and AASM joint webinar: Philips recall guidance to providers

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Webinar on article, "Differences in Symptoms and Severity of Obstructive Sleep Apnea between Black and White Patients"
- Series of podcasts on PAP adherence in children
- Webinar on artificial intelligence in sleep medicine  
AASM guideline (joint with AASM)
- AHI and other sleep apnea metrics webinar
- Podcast on DISE in children

Our educational sub-committee has maintained steady productivity in learning materials.

### NEW PATIENT AND UPDATED EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

- PAP therapy – quick tips for Troubleshooting to Address Problems with Use
- What is adaptive servo-ventilation (ASV)?
- Behavioral insomnia of childhood
- Central sleep apnea in adults
- Emergency or disaster
- Healthy sleep in teens
- Obstructive sleep apnea, PAP
- PAP (positive airway pressure) in children with sleep apnea

- Sleep studies in children

## OTHER

- Stanford sleep disorders questionnaire

## UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL LITERATURE

- Sleep and sickle cell disease
- Cognitive behavioral therapy for insomnia
- Sleep and cancer
- Sleep and immunity
- Actigraphy

## FUNDING LINKS:

<https://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/assemblies/srn/funding-opportunities/>

Please email me or Madalina Macrea about additional/new opportunities that may interest assembly members.

## PEDIATRIC INTEREST GROUP

- Successful webinar with ERS
- Several patient handouts
- Podcast on PAP therapy in children

## SOCIAL MEDIA:

We have an active Twitter account; follow up on ATS SRN Assembly @ATSSRN

We continue to grow our social media presence

Publicize relevant events and interesting scholarly work. Please send our way if you have an article or ATS event to share.

Contact Drs. Anna M. May ([docannamay@gmail.com](mailto:docannamay@gmail.com)) or Notch Sigua ([nsigua@iu.edu](mailto:nsigua@iu.edu)) with any comments and ideas for future work or improvement.



## EARLY CAREER WORKING GROUP REPORT

Vaishnavi Kundel, MD and Lucas Donovan, MD, Co-Chairs

The goal of the SRN Early Career Working Group is to improve engagement of trainees and new members with the SRN assembly, ATS, and provide career opportunities for clinicians and researchers within the wider field of sleep. Spurred by a core group of engaged members, we have maintained a number of initiatives this year.

1. **Early Career Virtual Happy Hours:** The lack of an in-person conference has reduced networking opportunities that are crucial for early career professionals. This year, we continued our Virtual Happy Hours format to help fill this gap and allow fellows and junior faculty to interact with leaders in the field in a more relaxed atmosphere. One of the happy hours was centered around the topic “How to get promoted in academia” and the other (our first ATS multi-assembly early-career happy hour event) on “Submitting your first grant – where to begin?” Look out for more virtual happy hour announcements in Summer 2022!
2. **Quarterly email newsletters:** To maintain communication with trainees, we maintained quarterly early career newsletters focused on informing both pulmonary and sleep medicine fellowship program directors and trainees about ATS SRN activities, grants, and training opportunities in the fall, winter, spring and summer.
3. **SRN Apprenticeship Program:** We maintained our apprenticeship program for fellows and new faculty to serve on the Programming, Planning, or Web Committees. Apprentices serve under the mentorship of a committee member and develop skills in executing various committee projects. Our 2021-2022 apprentices were Dr. Daniel Vena-Programming Committee, Dr. Thomas Tolbert-Planning Committee, and Dr. Sunjeet Kaur-Web Committee. We will select our 2022-2023 apprentices in April 2022 for the programming, planning and web committees of the SRN.
4. **Twitter Chat:** In partnership with the ATS Members in Training and Transit Committee (MITT), we were able to have our third Twitter Chat focused on “Virtual engagement of Trainees in Sleep Medicine Fellowship.” With discussion spurred by several of the sleep faculty in ATS SRN assembly, we were able to facilitate an engaging conversation. Overall, this conversation reached 311k twitter impressions, and is a format we are excited to continue in the future to expand outreach!
5. **ATS Assemblies Teaching Competition:** The SRN ECWG plans to participate in a new ATS-wide early career working group effort – the 2022 ATS assemblies teach competition for trainees and early career professionals, where the winner gets a cash prize! Look out for announcements this spring!
6. **Mentor/Mentee Pairing:** We continued our mentorship pairings in the virtual format for 2021. This year, we will plan for both in-person (at the 2022 ATS conference) and virtual mentor-mentee pairing formats – either for one-time or sustained interactions starting in May 2022. Look out for sign-ups soon! These relationships are great ways to network with leaders in the sleep field, or simply to get career advice on grant writing, job interviews, work-life balance, etc.

If you know trainees or early career professionals (clinicians and PhDs) who might be interested in joining, please email Vaishnavi Kundel ([vaishnavi.kundel@mssm.edu](mailto:vaishnavi.kundel@mssm.edu)), Lucas Donovan ([ldonovan@uw.edu](mailto:ldonovan@uw.edu)), and Oren Cohen ([oren.cohen@mountsinai.org](mailto:oren.cohen@mountsinai.org))

### 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 and two receptions.

**Moscone Center West**

**(Room: Overlook 3018, Floor: Level 3)**

Sunday, May 15 – Monday, May 16, 2022, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**Join us at the Mentoring Receptions:**

Sunday, May 15 – Monday, May 16, 2022, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

or contact Nicole Feijoo at [NFeijoo@thoracic.org](mailto:NFeijoo@thoracic.org)

## SCIENCE AND INNOVATION CENTER (SIC) REPORT

Brian Cade, PhD, SRN Representative

The SIC is a place to network, learn about emerging new technologies advancing research in respiratory, critical care and sleep medicine, and engage in professional and career development. In addition, the Center hosts the annual PhD Reception, the annual Bear Cage (Building Education to Advance Research) research proposal competition, the Rising Star Awards as well as the SIC Abstract Awards. The SIC Planning committee works collectively with multiple ATS assemblies to program and create exciting new initiatives of interest to all ATS members. Off-conference events include a recent online networking event. The principles of the Center are Networking, Career Assistance, Education and Social Opportunities. The SIC is a particularly good venue to learn research techniques from experts in diverse assemblies in a face-to-face setting. The SIC venue is a good place to submit your work that may not fit into a traditional scientific abstract platform talk context. Please get in touch if you are interested in submitting your work for the next conference.

The SIC programming is independent of the main conference and will soon be finalized. This year we anticipate multiple career development talks (e.g. early career grant mechanisms, interactions with industry, and negotiation techniques), research methods talks, and guidance on writing T32 grants.

## PHD AND BASIC AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENTIST WORKING GROUP REPORT

Brian Cade, PhD, SRN Representative

The PhD and Basic and Translational Scientist Working Group (PBTS WG) is charged with enhancing the value of ATS membership for basic and translational scientists. The WG meets monthly to discuss issues of importance to non-clinical ATS members (eg Ph.D scientists) and research-intensive physician-scientists. The current co-chairs of the PBTS WG are Drs. Natalie Bauer (PC, nbauer@southalabama.edu) and Richard Johnston (RSF, [rj1@cdc.gov](mailto:rj1@cdc.gov)).

During the past year, the PBTS WG has been active in developing programs and devising strategies to recruit PhD scientists to the Society. Some of the WG's efforts include:

1. **Assembly Project.** Bethany Moore, PhD, ATSF developed and submitted an Assembly Project entitled "PhDs in Clinical Departments: Barriers, Opportunities and ATS Membership". This project will address the perception that many PhD scientists contribute to the mission of subspecialty clinical divisions within Departments of Medicine and of Pediatrics, yet barriers exist for them to attain tenure-track faculty status. By convening a virtual meeting in 2022 of Medical School Deans, Department Chairs, Division Directors, NIH Administrators, and PhD scientists with a vested interest in adult and pediatric pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine, the organizers of this project hope to demonstrate to Division Directors the importance of including PhD scientists in their hiring plan and providing the necessary support for their ultimate success.
2. **PBTS WG/Science and Innovation (SIC) Center Virtual Networking Event.** On February 8, 2022, Natalie Bauer, PhD (PC) and Samantha Yeligar, PhD (PI-TB), co-chaired a networking event along with the SIC entitled "Successful Collaborations". At this event, two pairs of MD and PhD scientific collaborators discussed how their professional scientific relationship evolved and became successful. Afterwards, participants went into separate breakout rooms for further discussion. The PBTS WG/SIC hope to provide more PhD-centric events in the upcoming year.
3. **Brochure.** James Londino, PhD (RCMB) has led a subcommittee that has put together a brochure highlighting the advantages of ATS membership for PhD scientists. This brochure specifically targets PhD scientists who attend the ATS International Conference but who are not currently ATS members. A hard copy of this brochure will be available at various locales at the International Conference. In addition, an electronic version will be available.

4. **T32:** This subcommittee is chaired by Indu Ayappa, PhD (SRN) and has the objectives of: (1) increasing the pipeline of PhD scientists in pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine by advocating for additional slots in T32 applications for pre-doctoral students and post-doctoral fellows, (2) increasing the number of PhD scientists as principal investigators of T32 applications, and (3) providing resources for PhD scientists interested in submitting T32 applications. On behalf of this subcommittee, Natalie Bauer, PhD submitted a proposal entitled "So, You Want to Write a T32?" for presentation at the 2022 SIC. As this newsletter is being prepared, the outcome of this proposal's programming is pending.
5. **Survey.** Janette Burgess, PhD, ATSF (RSF) leads a subcommittee that has designed a survey to understand why PhD scientists attend the International Conference but are not ATS members. This survey will be distributed to all 2022 ATS International Conference attendees who hold a PhD or equivalent and spend 50% or more of their time in research yet are not currently ATS members. The PBTS WG hopes to use the survey data to understand how the ATS and PBTS WG can be best equipped to address their needs.
6. **Awards.** A PBTS WG Awards subcommittee was established in the past year and is chaired by Scott Randell (RCMB). The purpose of this subcommittee is to identify and nominate worthy basic and translational scientists (ie, PhD's) for the annual ATS Respiratory Health Awards (ie, Recognition Award for Scientific Accomplishment, etc.)

### Third Reception for PhDs & Other Basic Science Researchers

**Sunday, May 15 from 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. The reception will be held in the Science and Innovation Center (SIC) at the Moscone Convention Center (Room: 155, South, Upper Mezzanine).** There will be food provided and activities during the event will include an opportunity to get to meet and network with other scientists, to engage with leaders from the ATS and assemblies and to provide feedback regarding activities or programs that ATS could offer to benefit the basic and translational science members, especially those who are not also clinicians.

**Register Here:** <https://conference.thoracic.org/program/events/reception-phd-other-basic-science-researchers.php>

## PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S COMMITTEE

Chair Michelle Zeidler MD

In spite of the COVID pandemic, the Sleep Fellowship training programs continue to evolve and innovate leading to increased number of trained Sleep specialists. This year the Sleep Fellowship match date (2023 appointment date) was changed to align with the general medicine subspecialty match date. This change in date, in conjunction with continued virtual interviews, resulted in the most successful Sleep match to date with eighty-six percent of programs, and 93% of positions filled by the match. In addition, the AIRE Sleep fellowship program continues to train Pulmonary and Critical Care fellows in sleep medicine within their 3-year fellowship. The ATS Sleep Program Directors committee continues to promote communication and engagement among Sleep program directors (PD) and associate program directors (APD) through the Base Camp Sleep PD site. If you are a new Sleep PD or have a new Sleep APD please contact [mzeidler@mednet.ucla.edu](mailto:mzeidler@mednet.ucla.edu) to have the names added to the site. In addition, the Sleep Program Director's committee continues to provide educational programs for the sleep training community. This year's programs included a Distance Learning Town Hall as well as an AIRE Pilot Opportunities symposium.

## ADVOCACY ADVISORY GROUP

Susheel Patil, MD (Chair)

In 2021, the SRN Assembly has begun to focus on potential advocacy issues of interest to the assembly. In particular, the Assembly chose to focus on issues related to unfortunate Philips Respironics recall that was issued in June of 2021 in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. The recall has raised substantial concerns amongst patient organizations and the medical community in how the recall has been handled at significant health and financial costs to our patients and the burden to clinicians.

A small group including Drs. Robert Owens, Indira Gurubhagavatula, Dr. Lucas Donovan, and Dr. Reena Mehra with assistance from Gary Ewart, our ATS staff liaison for Government Relations have been meeting on this issue to identify ways to mitigate the effects on patients and how regulatory oversight can be strengthened to prevent future events. In the fall/winter of 2021, we met with a representative from the Alliance of Sleep Apnea Partners (ASAP) to get the perspective of a sleep apnea patient organization about this issue. We have been in communication since with our sister organizations including the advocacy arms of the AASM and CHEST. In January of 2022 we had a joint meeting of ATS, AASM, and CHEST advocacy representatives with FDA officials who are monitoring Philips's implementation of the recall. Numerous issues were raised including the effects of recall on our patients, the communication of the true risks of affected devices, how patients are being prioritized for replacement devices, and obtaining status update on progress of the repair/replace program. The group plans to next reach out to CMS to advocate for affected patients and continue to WAIVE implementation of CMS's PAP adherence policy until patient's have their devices repaired/replaced if the COVID-19 public health emergency expires. We are continuing to explore if increased congressional oversight may be needed as well.

For 2022, we are looking forward to the full development of the SRN Advocacy Committee and expanding the issues we will be addressing. If you wish to raise issues that the Committee should be addressing and are interested in participating please reach out.

## ASPIRE FELLOWSHIP REPORT

Richard Schwab, MD, Fellowship (Program Director)

### Dear Pulmonary and Sleep Trainees:

Please consider applying to the [ATS ASPIRE Program](#), a cross-institutional, academic sleep/pulmonary fellowship program (ASPIRE: Academic Sleep Pulmonary Integrated REsearch/Clinical). The ASPIRE fellowship is designed to generate a pipeline for the next group of pulmonary/sleep leaders. If you are interested in sleep and pulmonary research, this could be a great program for you.

Few pulmonary/critical care fellows are pursuing clinical or research training in sleep medicine, creating a serious problem with the pipeline for leadership in this field. To rectify this, the ATS and participating institutions have developed a novel program to train pulmonary/sleep physician-scientists and the next generation of pulmonary/sleep leaders.

The program is administrated through the ATS with an executive council from institutions that have strong Pulmonary/Critical Care/Sleep training programs. These include the University of Pennsylvania, Johns Hopkins University, University of Pittsburgh, Harvard University, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and UC San Diego Health System. Eligible fellows can come from any US or international institution, but the institution/department needs a T32 training grant, R01 funded faculty, or the equivalent of such funding if an international applicant. Note that acceptance to the ATS ASPIRE fellowship is independent of acceptance into a Sleep and Pulmonary Training programs which are governed by the ACGME. Generous financial support for this important program has been provided by ResMed, Philips Respironics, and Fisher & Paykel.

The ASPIRE program is competitive and prestigious. Accepted fellows are provided a \$10,000.00 annual grant during their research years and \$3,000.00 during their clinical years to be used for conferences, courses, or research endeavors. There will

be monthly webinars on a variety of research topics. Research mentorship would be shared between the six medical centers that form the executive council. There will be monthly research webinars given by the ASPIRE fellows and a face-to-face meeting at the ATS International Conference to discuss research goals.

Any pulmonary/critical care/sleep fellow (adult or pediatric) can apply to be a 2021 ATS ASPIRE fellow assuming they are at an institution with a T32 or in a Department with RO1 funded faculty (or equivalent) and are willing to perform research on a topic related to sleep. Both international and US-based applicants with an MD are welcome to apply. Requirements include CV of the applicant, a 1-2 page statement of research goals and why they are a candidate for the ASPIRE fellowship and letter from mentor.

Learn more about this exciting program, including how to apply for the current funding [cycle](#).

## RESEARCH GRANTS AND SRN ASSEMBLY INTRAMURAL RESEARCH GRANT REVIEW

Lead: Dr. Robert Owens, MD

The ATS Research Program has a variety of funding opportunities, including unrestricted grants (information is located here: <https://research.thoracic.org/grants/>). This year, there were 5 unrestricted grants, with at least 1 allocated to each of the three ATS pillars of health: pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine. In the past, the number of unrestricted grants was higher, and 2 were allocated for each pillar. The SRN Assembly is working with the Scientific Grant Review Committee to make sure 1) that we preserve and increase the grants allocated for Sleep, and 2) that there is sufficient sleep expertise on the committee to review applications from our members.

Last year, we instituted an SRN intramural grant review process, aimed at improving the quality of the applications prior to submission and formal review. Feedback from applicants and intramural reviewers was supportive that we continue the same services this year. Each applicant who submits a letter of intent to the ATS is contacted and offered one of two grant review services:

- 1) An expedited review of a near final application:** Two weeks before the deadline, 1-2 anonymous reviewers review the proposals. The reviewers are senior SRN members, some of whom have previously been part of the ATS Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC). They return the applications ~1 week before the final deadline. This review serves as a “fresh set of eyes” on the application and provides feedback that could be implemented before the final submission.
- 2) Remote grant development:** based on the subject matter of the grant, the applicant gets paired with an external, experienced researcher in the field who provides ongoing input as the grant is being developed, through its final submission. The expectation is that the external mentor would meet virtually with the applicant every two weeks. Thus, the external mentor gives input on the aims at all stages of the proposal.

This year a number of applicants took advantage of the intramural review services. Some of the external mentors and applicants continue to work together on other (non ATS) grant submissions!

## ATS RESEARCH ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

SRN Member: Dr. Indu Ayappa

The Research Advocacy Committee (RAC) promotes the inclusion of the ATS’ research agenda in the programs of relevant funding agencies and advises the ATS Executive Committee and Board of Directors on issues of policy importance and priorities for ATS action regarding research advocacy. The RAC is working on a draft document response to the National



Institutes of Health (NIH) regarding scientific and research opportunities appropriate for the proposed Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H). This document will incorporate feedback received from the Assembly Chairs. Of relevance to the SRN Assembly, the upcoming issue of the RAC publication, the Research News Quarterly, will include an interview with Marishka Brown, PhD, Director of the NIH/NHBLI CENTER ON SLEEP DISORDERS RESEARCH (NCSDR). RAC members will participate in Hill Day to be held virtually in March 2022. This is an opportunity to meet with senate and house members/staff to advocate for key ATS legislative priorities including health research funding.

Indu Ayappa, PhD, RAC Committee member

## ATS MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE LIAISON FOR THE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

SRN Member Sushmita Pamidi, MD

Sushmita Pamidi, MD (McGill University), is a new member of the ATS Membership Committee and Membership Committee Liaison for the International Health Committee. The Membership Committee provides strategies for retaining and growing ATS membership. Key benchmarks for 2021-2022 included determining ATS Fellow Designation status for applicants, organizing and hosting the annual Diversity and Women's Forum at the Conference, evaluating applicants for the Elizabeth Rich Award, collaborating with both the IHC and MITT to identify relevant issues to members, and for a number of years now, it has been a priority of the Committee to address wellness and burnout among ATS members.

Professional wellness and burnout (not including exercise and meditation) has long been identified as a critical need among membership. Importantly, the SRN Assembly has been leading several ATS and Assembly-wide discussions this past year to advance our understanding of the problem of burnout as it relates to the pulmonary, critical care and sleep profession, and has highlighted the important role sleep problems have played in the literature as it pertains to physician burnout. During a recent Membership Committee meeting to further address issues related to professional burnout, a number of members from the SRN Assembly leadership were present (Indira Gurubhagavatula, Mihaela Teodorescu, Reena Mehra and Sushmita Pamidi) and presented several ideas to the Membership Committee for addressing this critical issue in a timely fashion. Those in attendance agreed that this was a highly important issue, especially given the additional strain from the pandemic, and its impact on underrepresented groups of physicians.

Future plans to address this issue include meeting in person at the ATS meeting in San Francisco to develop a future ATS-wide Workshop proposal for the 2023 meeting, as well as gathering data from membership on this issue. **In the meantime, the SRN Assembly leadership has decided to run a series of SRN Assembly Townhalls featuring experts in the field of burnout and wellness and to chair breakout groups, with attendees providing input on future directives to address this critical issue.**

## MEMBERS IN TRAINING AND TRANSITION (MITT) COMMITTEE

SRN Member Lucas Donovan, MD

This past year, we continued our ongoing collaboration with the Members in Training and Transition (MITT) committee.

For a third year running, we worked with MITT to co-sponsor a twitter chat focusing on training in sleep. This year's chat focused on "Virtual Engagement of Trainees in Sleep Medicine Fellowship" and was spearheaded by ten primary discussants including Drs. Ilene Rosen, Aneesa Das, Nancy Steward, Indira Gurubhagavatula, Sairam Parthasarathy, Susheel Patil, Rachel Quaney, and Sanjay Patel. This chat highlighted strategies for adapting sleep training in the virtual era and far-reach with over 300,000 views.

Members from SRN will also collaborate with MITT activities for the international conference in the Student Scholars Program and Center for Career Development. MITT's Student Scholars program runs concurrently with the international conference and includes 80-100 students from multiple fields (medicine, nursing, research). This year's Student Scholars Program will include panel discussions involving junior and senior sleep researchers and clinicians to discuss the benefits of a career in sleep. MITT's Center for Career Development, which is open to all attendees, will also involve SRN members to discuss training pathways in sleep medicine.

