



We help the world breathe®
PULMONARY • CRITICAL CARE • SLEEP

Microbiology, Tuberculosis and Pulmonary Infections

Editor: Richard G. Wunderink, MD

ASSEMBLY OFFICERS

Richard G. Wunderink, MD
Assembly Chair
r-wunderink@northwestern.edu

Charles Feldman, MD, PhD
Program Chair
Charles.Feldman@wits.ac.za

Jussi J. Saukkonen, MD
Program Chair– Elect
jsaukk@bu.edu

Grant W. Waterer, MBBS, MBA, PhD
Planning Chair
grant.waterer@uwa.edu.au

Rosario Menendez, MD
Nominating Committee Chair
rosmenend@gmail.com

Scott E. Evans MD
Web Director
seevans@mdanderson.org

ASSEMBLY CONTACT

Website: <http://www.thoracic.org/assemblies/mtpi/index.php>
Email: mtpi@thoracic.org

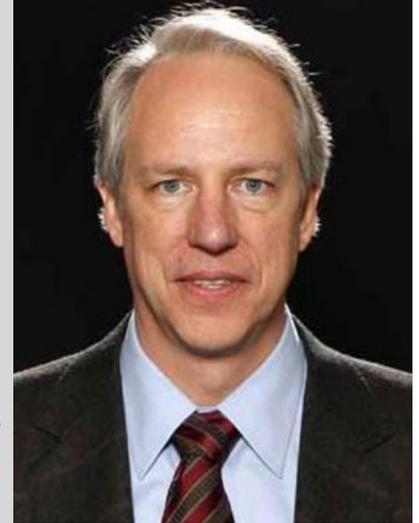
IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the Assembly Chair.....	1-2
Planning Committee Report.....	2-3
Program Committee Report.....	4-5
MTPI Sessions.....	4-6
Nominating Committee Report.....	6
Web Committee Report.....	7
ECP Working Group Report.....	8
Acute Pneumonia Working Group.....	9
International Working Group Report.....	10
MTPI Membership Meeting/Reception...	10
Mentoring Programs.....	11
Grant & Award Recipients.....	11
Patient Education Material	11
ATS Foundation.....	12
Walking Challenge.....	13
Science and Innovation Center.....	14
Official ATS Documents Info.....	14
Assembly/Committee Projects Application.....	15
Member Benefits.....	15
Member Profile Update.....	15
Bear Cage.....	16
ATS Social Media.....	16

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY CHAIR

Richard G. Wunderink, MD (Chair)
Kevin P. Fennelly, MD, MPH (Chair-Elect)

I am shocked to realize that my 2-year term as Assembly Chair will end in May. The time has truly flown quickly. I therefore must start with thanking those who facilitate the work of the Assembly including all the members of the Executive and other Assembly Committees, Working Group members, and the ATS staff, particularly Miriam Rodriguez and Vladimir Crevecoeur.



Richard G. Wunderink, MD

This past year has been notable for important advances in several areas. Probably the most satisfying is the work of the Acute Pneumonia Working Group detailed below. I think that we have successfully raised awareness among the ATS leadership and staff regarding the issue of antibiotic resistant bacterial infections and the major role that pneumonia and other acute pulmonary infections play in US and world health. Through the efforts of this working group and our government liaisons, ATS is now perceived as an important player in the presidential initiative to Combat Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria. As one example of this, the ATS will lead a multi-society workshop with the CDC on Antibiotic Stewardship in the ICU before the International Meeting.

The Assembly Chair receives input and requests from multiple different sources as the ATS representative for pulmonary infection issues and as representative to members of the Assembly. Several issues during my term as Assembly Chair have led to concerns about whether we have the optimal organizational structure to respond to important, even critical, issues that affect our various interests. **Specifically, I now question whether an assembly which combines both TB and the various non-TB constituencies is best for either.** Each faces major concerns about eroding attendance and submission of fewer important abstracts to the International meeting. However, the threats and potential solutions are very different. We sometimes find ourselves in conflict regarding public policy issues (e.g. the role of fluoroquinolones in CAP treatment) or government/NIH funding priorities. The oscillation of all levels of assembly leadership makes addressing these challenges in a consistent and coherent manner difficult.

(Continued on Page 2)

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY CHAIR (continued)

Changes in the Program committee and abstract submission categories make this a potentially opportune time to consider restructuring. The number of symposia at the international meeting is no longer linked to the number of abstracts. A major effort for programming of symposia is to actually break down Assembly silos. So, one of the major stumbling blocks to separation in the past is now less relevant. In addition, the ATS Board of Directors is planning to review the Assembly structure in the near future. Assuming an even split in membership between TB and non-TB, both Assemblies would still be larger than several other current clinical Assemblies, such as Pulmonary Circulation and Thoracic Oncology.

No mechanism to split an Assembly exists; in its wisdom, the ATS bylaws mandate initially developing a Section within an Assembly. Only after 3 years with documentation of ongoing participation, can a Section apply to become an Assembly. I cannot conceive of an ATS without a TB Assembly since tuberculosis is part of the DNA of the ATS. So the Acute Infection Working Group has initiated preliminary steps to create a provisionally named Respiratory Infections Section. An opportunity to sign a petition to start this process and volunteer for opportunity to participate in the Section will be initiated after the May meeting.

This is not an easy or straightforward decision. Many of us carry significant emotional and professional ties to MTPI as it currently exists. I am thankful to Kevin Fennelly, the incoming MTPI chair, and many others of you that I have already reached out to with this concern for your advice and thoughts. I plan to make this the major discussion at the MTPI Assembly Membership Meeting Monday evening May 16. Please plan to attend to discuss this important issue. I am also happy to receive emails and/or calls prior to the meeting.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Grant W. Waterer, MBBS, MBA, PhD, Chair

This was my first year as Planning Committee Chair and it was an extremely busy one. We continue to make great use of our MTPI membership and the opinion leaders in pulmonary infection, diagnostics and treatment. The main business of the group remains the generation of reference documents such as guidelines and position papers that delivers on the talent of our MTPI pulmonary infection scholars. At our annual face-to-face meeting at the ATS International Conference in Denver 2015, the committee reviewed the status of active projects and discussed new submissions. In a subsequent teleconference, the committee reviewed, scored, and prioritized applications for ATS funding consideration.

Summary of progress to date:

(1) Update on Active MTPI Assembly projects: The following active projects represent proposals that were favourably reviewed by the ATS Program Review subcommittee, recommended for approval to the ATS Finance Committee, and approved for funding by the ATS Board of Directors. :

- Updated guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of HAP and VAP, (Mark Meterskey, ATS Co-Chair, Andre Kalil, IDSA Co-Chair).
- Targeted tuberculosis testing and treatment of latent TB infection update (Carol Hamilton, ATS Co-Chair, Tim Sterling IDSA Co-Chair; John Jereb CDC Co-Chair).
- ATS/IDSA Community Acquired Pneumonia Guidelines (Grant Waterer, ATS Co-Chair).
- Revision of the ATS CDC IDSA 2003 TB treatment statement (Payam Nahid, ATS Chair).



Grant W. Waterer, MBBS, MBA,
PhD

- Diagnostic Standards and Classification of Tuberculosis in Adults and Children (David Lewinsohn, Chair).
- Clinical Practice Guidelines for Non-tuberculous Mycobacterial Infection (Joint ATS/ ERS Application) (Charles Daley, ATS Chair).
- National Drug Resistant Tuberculosis Guideline (Payam Nahid, Chair)
- An ATS Clinical Practice Guideline: Diagnosis of Fungal Infections in Pulmonary and Critical Care Practice (Andrew Limper, Chair)

Several of these projects are now nearing completion and this year we will be very focused on what new guidelines we should be sponsoring for potential funding by ATS. Therefore if you have a burning desire to see MTPI tackle an area, 2016 will be a great year to get started. If you haven't been involved in guidelines before, an particularly in GRADE documents, then please contact me or one of the other members of the committee below for some advice on how best to get your idea up.

The MTPI Planning Committee continues to function as a liaison between the MTPI Membership and the MTPI Assembly Chair. We welcome any ideas, comments, criticism and suggestions. We also encourage persons to identify themselves if they would like to participate more actively in future MTPI Planning Committees. This year the planning committee has also taken over stewardship of the three MTPI awards (junior, mid-level and senior faculty), benefitting from all the hard work done by Henry Koziel and his committee over the past couple of years getting them established.

Thank you for the tireless efforts and generous contributions of time of the MTPI Committee Members over the last year: James Chalmers, Adithya Cattamanchi, Charles Daley, Charles Delacruz, Scott Evans, Carol Hamilton, Joe Keane, Henry Koziel, David Lewinsohn, Mark Metersky, Payam Nahid, and Jussi Saukkonen. We have also been very ably helped by Vladimir Crevecoeur from ATS. The next MTPI Planning Committee meeting will be at the ATS 2016 in San Francisco.

** You can also find more information about the project proposal process especially with regards to the new PICO format requirement in this web link, <http://www.thoracic.org/statements/document-development/module-b.php>. Statements about ATS Document Development are available at the following link: <http://www.thoracic.org/statements/document-development/index.php>

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

Charles Feldman, MB BCh, PhD, Chair, and, Jussi J. Saukkonen, MD, Chair-Elect

Charles Feldman, MB BCh, DSc, PhD (Chair)

Jussi J. Saukkonen, MD (Chair-Elect)

Our main agenda is to answer the meeting requirement for a comprehensive syllabus, while remaining true to that unique ATS gift, which is to bring to our members fresh and exciting research questions that drive thinking and innovation in our field of pulmonary infections.

As usual, two face-to-face International Conference Committee (ICC) planning committee meetings took place in September and December, where Charles Feldman, Chair of the Program Committee, and Jussi Saukkonen, Chair-Elect, represented MTPI. During the September meeting, the main task was to schedule the scientific symposia. During the December meeting we programmed more than 450 submitted abstracts into presentations that we hope will promote the academic and clinical activity of our members, while stimulating interest in pulmonary infections – which will



Charles Feldman, MB BCh, PhD,
Chair

(Continued on Page 2)

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT (Continued)

attract new people to our assembly. We have scheduled 1 joint scientific symposium, 4 mini-symposia, 6 poster discussion sessions and 8 thematic poster sessions. In addition, the MTPI Assembly is sponsoring Meet-the-Professor Seminars, Sunrise Seminars, and 1 Post-Graduate Courses (Difficult clinical problems in pulmonary and critical care infections).

Thematic Poster sessions will have teams of at least 2 or more facilitators viewing each poster to allow increased interaction between facilitators and presenters. For most sessions, experienced facilitators have been paired with more junior facilitators to provide junior members the opportunity for greater involvement and to learn from more senior mentors. The abstract sessions present exciting results of cutting-edge research on mycobacterial and non-mycobacterial topics, including results of clinical trials, epidemiologic studies, and novel insights into mechanisms of host defense. Overall, we have a full docket of MTPI sessions over the 4-day conference that will interest our members, and provide insight into scientific advances and updates on clinical care.

For the first time this year, the Program Committee was ably advised by the newly established MTPI Program Advisory Committee under the leadership of Henry Koziel. The members of this committee for 2015-2016 are: Kristina Crothers, Caroline Hamilton, Grant Waterer, and Joseph Keane. Most of the scientific symposia that were scheduled for the 2016 meeting came from suggestions made by this committee.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge and thank each of the Program Committee members for their service, hard work in reviewing and scoring abstracts, as well as for their input into the programming during the past year. The Committee Members for 2015-2016 are: Eva Maria Carmona Porquera, James Chalmers, Nathan Dean, Navneet Dhillon, Scott Evans, Kevin Fennelly, Christina Fiske, Joseph Keane, Marc Lipman, Carlos Luna, Mark Metersky, Joseph Mizgerd, Michael Niederman, Roomi Nusrat, Terence O'Connor, Peter Openshaw, Michelle Prickett, Salman Qureshi, Ruxana Sadikot, Stephan Schwander, Oriol Sibila, Colin Swenson, Rachel Thomson, Richard Van Zyl Smit, Nicholas Walter, William Worodria, Richard Wunderink.

ATS 2016 - San Francisco

Sessions Sponsored by the Assembly on Microbiology, Tuberculosis and Pulmonary Infections

Session Code	Session Title	Session Time	
Postgraduate Courses			
Saturday, May 14, 2016			
PG22	DIFFICULT CLINICAL PROBLEMS IN PULMONARY AND CRITICAL CARE INFECTIONS	8:00 AM	4:00 PM
Scientific Symposium			
Sunday, May 15, 2016			
A88	COMMUNITY ACQUIRED PNEUMONIA IN THE ELDERLY PATIENT	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
Monday, May 16, 2016			
B90	NEW INSIGHTS INTO THE PREDISPOSITION, PATHOGENESIS, AND MANAGEMENT OF FUNGAL PNEUMONIA	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
Tuesday, May 17, 2016			
C88	VIRAL COMMUNITY-ACQUIRED PNEUMONIA	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
Wednesday, May 18, 2016			
D86	CONTROVERSIES AND ADVANCES IN THE MANAGEMENT OF VENTILATOR ASSOCIATED PNEUMONIA	1:30 PM	3:30 PM

Jointly-Developed Symposium			
Sunday, May 15, 2016			
A91	HOT TOPICS IN DISPARITIES IN PULMONARY, CRITICAL CARE AND SLEEP MEDICINE	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
Wednesday, May 18, 2016			
D10	NEW CONCEPTS IN TB IMMUNITY AND TARGETS FOR TREATMENT	9:00 AM	11:00 AM
Workshop Sessions			
Tuesday, May 17, 2016			
WS5	LATEST ADVANCES IN THE LUNG MICROBIOME	11:45 AM	1:15 PM
Sunrise Seminars			
Monday, May 16, 2016			
SS114	IMMUNODIAGNOSTICS IN LATENT TB INFECTION	6:45 AM	7:45 AM
Tuesday, May 17, 2016			
SS212	TREATMENT OF NTM: ALTERNATIVES TO CURRENT ANTIMICROBIALS	6:45 AM	7:45 AM
Wednesday, May 18, 2016			
SS312	TREATMENT OF DRUG RESISTANT INFECTIONS IN INDIVIDUALS WITH BRONCHIECTASIS	6:45 AM	7:45 AM
Meet The Professor Seminars			
Sunday, May 15, 2016			
MP411	TUBERCULOSIS AND THE TNF-ALPHA INHIBITORS	12:15 PM	1:15 PM
Monday, May 16, 2016			
MP511	THE USE OF ANTIBIOTICS AND ADJUNCTIVE THERAPIES IN CRITICALLY ILL PATIENTS WITH CAP	12:15 PM	1:15 PM
Tuesday, May 17, 2016			
MP610	DIAGNOSTIC ALGORITHMS FOR SUSPECTED PNEUMONIA IN VENTILATED PATIENTS	12:15 PM	1:15 PM
Mini-Symposium			
Monday, May 16, 2016			
B16	CYSTIC FIBROSIS (CF) AND NON-CF BRONCHIECTASIS	9:00 AM	11:00 AM
B17	TUBERCULOSIS: SUSCEPTIBILITY AND IMMUNE RESPONSE	9:00 AM	11:00 AM
Tuesday, May 17, 2016			
C15	TB GAME CHANGERS: DIAGNOSTICS, HIV, DRUG-RESISTANCE, AND TREATMENT	9:00 AM	11:00 AM
Wednesday, May 18, 2016			
D94	NON-TUBERCULOUS MYCOBACTERIA: ORGANISM AND HOST	1:30 PM	3:30 PM
Poster Discussion Sessions			
Monday, May 16, 2016			
B25	NON-TUBERCULOUS MYCOBACTERIA: EPIDEMIOLOGY, DIAGNOSIS, AND TREATMENT	9:00 AM	11:00 AM
B106	CELLULAR/MOLECULAR MECHANISMS AND TRANSLATIONAL ASPECTS OF RESPIRATORY TRACT INFECTIONS	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
B107	TUBERCULOSIS: ISSUES DURING TREATMENT	2:15 PM	4:15 PM

Session Code	Session Title	Session Time	
Tuesday, May 17, 2016			
C25	HIV-ASSOCIATED LUNG INFECTIONS/DISORDERS - FROM BASIC TO CLINICAL	9:00 AM	11:00 AM
Wednesday, May 18, 2016			
D24	GRAM NEGATIVE PNEUMONIAS: FROM BENCH TO BEDSIDE	9:00 AM	11:00 AM
D107	TUBERCULOSIS INFECTION AND DISEASE: EPIDEMIOLOGY AND DIAGNOSIS	1:30 PM	3:30 PM
Thematic Poster Sessions			
Sunday, May 15, 2016			
A61	CLINICAL ASPECTS OF NON-BACTERIAL LUNG INFECTIONS	9:00 AM	4:15 PM
A62	CLINICAL ASPECTS OF CAP, HCAP, HAP, AND VAP	9:00 AM	4:15 PM
Monday, May 16, 2016			
B49	NON-TUBERCULOUS MYCOBACTERIAL DISEASE AND CASE REPORTS	9:00 AM	4:15 PM
B50	TUBERCULOSIS: CASE REPORTS	9:00 AM	4:15 PM
Tuesday, May 17, 2016			
C57	CELLULAR/MOLECULAR MECHANISMS AND TRANSLATIONAL ASPECTS OF RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS	9:00 AM	4:15 PM
C58	TUBERCULOSIS INFECTION AND DISEASE	9:00 AM	4:15 PM
Wednesday, May 18, 2016			
D48	LUNG INFECTION CASE REPORTS I: FUNGAL INFECTIONS	9:00 AM	3:30 PM
D49	LUNG INFECTION CASE REPORTS II: INFECTIONS OTHER THAN FUNGAL INFECTIONS	9:00 AM	3:30 PM
D40	CRITICAL CARE: DIAGNOSING AND TREATING BACTERIAL AND	9:00 AM	3:30 PM
D43	CRITICAL CARE CASE REPORTS: INFECTIONS LEADING TO CRITICAL ILLNESS	9:00 AM	3:30 PM

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Rosario Menendez, MD, Chair

The charge of the Nominating Committee is to identify qualified MTPI members who are willing to be included as candidates for available elected leadership positions. For the upcoming elections, the Nominating Committee focused on identifying 2 candidates for the **Assembly Chair** position (1 will be elected), 2 candidates for the **Program Chair-Elect** position (1 will be elected), and 4 candidates for the **Nominating Committee** (2 will be elected). To reflect the primary interests of the MTPI Assembly, the nominated candidates alternate between members with primary interests in Mycobacterial infections, and members with primary interests in non-mycobacterial infections. The Nominations Committee term is a 1-year position, and elected members work directly with the Nominating Committee Chair (appointed by the MTPI Assembly Chair). The Nominating Committee candidates reflect interests in Mycobacterial and non-mycobacterial infections as well as international membership. The Nominating Committee has identified and submitted an exceptional list of candidates, and we thank their willingness to be included on the ballot. The candidates that have agreed to run for the positions are:



Rosario Menendez, MD

Program Committee Chair Elect Candidates:

Mark Metersky, MD
Marcos Restrepo, MD

Nominating Committee Members Candidates:

Non-TB: Charles de la Cruz, MD PhD and James Chalmers, MD
TB: Robert Belknap, MD and Sundari R. Mase, MD

Voting will continue in the established online format, and elected individuals will be named at the MTPI business meeting in San Francisco, CA. Voting for these vital MTPI positions will begin in March – please remember to vote!

Many thanks for the invaluable assistance of Breana Portelli and Miriam Rodriguez.

WEB DIRECTOR REPORT

Scott Evans, MD, Chair

Like most organizations, the MTPI Assembly principally relies on electronic media to disseminate information and to provide members a point of access. Accordingly, the executive committee has redoubled its efforts to provide easy access to important pulmonary infection-related content through the MTPI website.

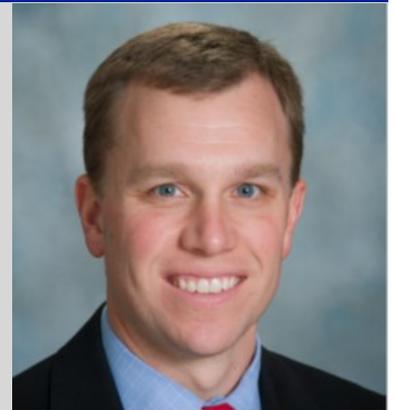
The MTPI website features links to our many highly cited statements and positions papers, as well as links to infection-related organizations around the globe. The website also provides assembly-specific data, including leadership contacts and assembly news. In particular, look for upcoming information regarding the ATS 2016 MTPI Symposia and ongoing updates about the many important projects the MTPI Assembly supports.

In addition to the static content posted to the website, the MTPI's efforts to provide important information related to the pathogenesis, host response, diagnosis, and management of lower respiratory tract infection now include live, interactive webinar and journal club series addressing novel, controversial, and timely issues. These series includes live presentations by international experts followed by interactive question and answer sessions from ATS members from all Assemblies.

To reach the MTPI website from the ATS Home (thoracic.org), select the "Members" tab on the upper blue ribbon, select "Assemblies," then and select "Microbiology, Tuberculosis and Pulmonary Infections" to gain immediate access to all of the updated content.

The webinar series directors are Ritwij Kulkarni rkulkarni@lsu.edu and Shanjana Awasthi Shanjana-Awasthi@ouhsc.edu. The journal club directors are Amali Samarasinghe asamaras@uthsc.edu and Chad Marion chad.marion@yale.edu.

MTPI members who are interested in optimizing the MTPI website, supporting the social media presence of the assembly, providing updated links, suggesting webinar topics, participating in the MTPI web committee or otherwise contributing ideas to improve the website are encouraged to contact Scott Evans at seevans@mdanderson.org.



Scott Evans, MD,
Web Director

EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONALS WORKING GROUP REPORT

Sushma Cribbs, MD MSc, Co-Chair & Elly Karamooz, MD, In-Training Member, Co-Chair

The MTPI assembly executive leadership started the MTPI Early Career Professionals Working Group several years ago. The purpose of this committee is to develop and implement strategies for increasing participation and membership in the MTPI assembly, with a focus on ways to facilitate leadership opportunities among our fellows and early career faculty members. Our mission and current activities have included the following:



Sushma Cribbs, MD MSc



Elly Karamooz, MD

- Develop and implement strategies for increasing membership: Our efforts to increase membership have included the following: (1) Emailing MTPI abstract authors who are not officially members of MTPI; (2) Inviting non-members to our annual orientation prior the MTPI assembly business meeting; (3) On site sign-up sheet for active participation of junior members in the Assembly. We have worked closely with ATS and other Assemblies on developing common activities for early career professionals.
- Facilitate increased participation and leadership opportunities for our fellows and early career faculty members through identification of those who are interested in participating in MTPI committee activities, and through promoting leadership activities at the annual ATS international conferences: Our Committee has helped increase the visibility and full participation of our early career and new members of MTPI. We work closely with the Chair of the Assembly as well as the chairs of the various Program, Planning and Working Group Committees to increase involvement of members in MTPI activities such as becoming members of those committees or becoming poster facilitators or chairs of ATS sessions. New and early career members have volunteered their time helping with Dr. Scott Evans' effort in updating our MTPI website and in initiating new web activities such as the Webinar, Journal Club, Web Case Report series and social media use. We have created an online survey to keep track of MTPI members' interests in participation.
- Create and update the annual MTPI newsletter and brochure: We update the annual MTPI newsletter and developed an MTPI brochure to better inform ATS members about MTPI and encourage participation and membership.
- Sponsored an MTPI mentorship program: In the past several years through web-based surveys and networking at the ATS meetings, we have initiated a successful MTPI mentorship program that pairs interested fellows and early career faculty with more senior MTPI members in their areas of their interest. This program has been very successful and this year at ATS 2016 ATS, we will have new mentorship pairing where we plan for the mentee-mentor pairs to meet in San Francisco between the scientific sessions.

Our committee members are: Monica Campo-Patino (U Wash), Laura Frye (UPENN), Scott Evans (MD Anderson), Nicholas Walter (UC Denver), Salman Qureshi (McGill), Navneet Dhillon (KUMC), Jyotika Sharma (University North Dakota), Chad Marion (Yale), Bashar Staitieh (Emory), Samantha Yeligar (Emory), Shanjana Awasthi (University of Oklahoma), Keira Cohen (Brigham and Women's Hospital), Amali Samarasinghe (U Tennessee), Colin Swenson (Emory), Richard Van Zyl Smit (University of Cape Town), Charles Dela Cruz (Yale), Eduardo Egea (Emory), Eva Carmona Porquera (Mayo), and Robert Blount (UCSF).

Our next MTPI Membership Working Group meeting will be held at the ATS 2015 International Conference in San Francisco, CA on Monday May 16th, 2016, from 6:45-8:15 am.

If you are interesting in any of these activities or becoming involved in our working group, we welcome your participation! Please contact us at karamooz@ohsu.edu or skomaku@emory.edu.

We greatly thank the assistance of Vladimir Crevecoeur, Breana Portelli and Miriam Rodriguez from the ATS staff for all their hard work and dedication!

ACUTE PNEUMONIA WORKING GROUP REPORT

Richard G. Wunderink, MD & Charles S. Dela Cruz, MD PhD

The overarching goal of this Working Group is to seek methods to enhance the voice of ATS in general and the MTPI Assembly specifically in the arena of acute pneumonia, both community- and hospital-acquired.

Acute pneumonia has been an important focus area for MTPI in the past but the changing healthcare environment has left the ATS much less of stakeholder role than previously, particularly in light of the Presidential Executive Order addressing the issue of antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections. The role of pulmonary and critical care physicians in this critical issue was not recognized in this government initiative. Both the Infectious Diseases Society of America and European professional society colleagues threaten to overshadow the ATS in this area. In addition, EU and European national funding for acute pneumonia research is significantly greater than the US, suggesting a lack of prioritization by funding agencies.



Richard G. Wunderink, MD



Charles Dela Cruz, MD, PhD

Objectives of this working group include the following:

- Increase the public awareness of the importance of bacterial pneumonia, both in the US and around the world.
- Develop a policy brief on Antibiotic Resistant Pneumonia for internal and external advocacy purposes
- Determine methods to increase early career investigators to address acute pneumonia as their research focus and, secondarily, encourage basic researchers to find a home in MTPI
- Address and submit proposals to the MTPI Planning Committee regarding acute pneumonia topics
- Advise alternative Assembly structures to facilitate acute pneumonia education and research

The Working Group initiated a Top 20 fact sheet on pneumonia for World Pneumonia Day (November 12, 2015). For this, please refer to <http://www.thoracic.org/patients/patient-resources/resources/top-pneumonia-facts.pdf>. These facts were made into single panel infographics and were sent out to the ATS, the pulmonary and critical care community and the public at large through social media such as Twitter. The goal of this initiative is to raise awareness of the importance of pneumonia. The Working Group also responded to an ATS Board RFP and was awarded support for a workshop on antibiotics stewardship in the ICU that will be co-sponsored by Center of Disease Control and Prevention. We are also working on an initiative to have an NIH/NHLBI working group to focus on research priorities and strategy related to Clinical Pneumonia Research for 2017.

We would like to thank the following group members: Grant Waterer, Jean Chastre, Cristina Vasquez Guillamet, Erika Lease, John Devincenzo, Joseph Mizgerd, Marcos Restrepo, Mark Metersky, Michael Niederman, Roomi Nusrat, and Scott Evans.

INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP REPORT

Antoni Torres, MD, Chair

This committee is designed to help our MTPI Assembly better serve the needs of our international members. Senior and junior European, TB and non-TB experts, met last year in Philadelphia to discuss some concerns and opportunities as regards to their relationship with the annual ATS meeting. One of the main issues was the economic crisis, especially in South Europe, making it difficult for overseas traveling and attending meetings such as ATS. An initiative from this committee was to propose a program of Research and Clinical Fellowships from Europe to attend ATS Pulmonary Excellence Centers. This program started several years ago in the European Respiratory Society with great success and would be very well appreciated in Europe strengthening the ATS/ERS relationships. Another major goal of this committee is to establish a collaborative program related to International Research in Pulmonary Infections.



Antoni Torres, MD
Chair

Assembly on Microbiology, Tuberculosis and Pulmonary Infections Membership Meeting

*Monday, May 16th
5:00pm-7:00pm
San Francisco Marriott Marquis*

*Yerba Buena Ballroom Salon 4-6
Lower B2 Level*

Assembly on Microbiology, Tuberculosis and Pulmonary Infections Reception

*Monday, May 16th
7:00pm-10:00pm
San Francisco Marriott Marquis*

*Yerba Buena Ballroom Salon 1-3
Lower B2 Level*



Meet Your Mentor HERE!

Struggling to find a quiet location to meet with your mentor? Look no further! This year at the 2016 ATS International Conference in San Francisco, 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 San Francisco Marriott Marquis Hotel in the Willow room on the B2 Level of the Hotel. The room will be available:

Friday May 13th – Tuesday May 17th, 2015 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Wednesday May 18th 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!

Interested in joining a mentoring program? Visit the Assemblies homepage and click on [ATS Mentoring Program](#) to learn more or contact Breana Portelli at bportelli@thoracic.org

ANNOUNCING ATS FOUNDATION RESEARCH PROGRAM AWARDEES

The ATS Foundation is pleased to announce the grant and award recipients for the 2015-2016 grant cycle. The support of our members, donors, and partners helps make these awards possible—thank you! These grants and awards support research encompassing pulmonary, critical care, and sleep illnesses. In addition, they provide crucial support for early stage investigators from around the world. To see the awardees please click here.

(<http://foundation.thoracic.org/what-we-do/2015-research-awardees.php>)

Deadline for Letters of Intent to be submitted: **June 20th, 2016**

Patient Education Materials Available at the 2016 International Conference

The ATS now maintains over 100 patient education handouts as part of its Patient Information Series. The Series includes a wide variety of pulmonary/critical care/sleep topics including: Bronchoscopy, Pneumonia, Mechanical Ventilation, Oxygen Therapy, Asthma, COPD, PFTs, Sleep Testing, Lung Cancer, COPD, VCD, and Palliative Care.

In addition to the Patient Information Series, a new Lung Cancer Screening Decision Aid is now available for free on the ATS Website, with bulk copies available for purchase.

All are encouraged to use these free-access materials, which are published in the ARJCCM, posted on the ATS Website at www.thoracic.org/patients and can be provided upon request in alternative formats for EMR systems. Stop by the ATS Center in San Francisco to view copies of these materials. Contact Judy Corn, ATS Staff, at jcorn@thoracic.org for additional information.



ATS Assembly Members Give Generously to the ATS Foundation

Thank you for participating in the [2015 ATS Assembly Challenge](#) in support of the [ATS Foundation Research Program](#)!

The Research Program has been outstandingly successful in launching careers dedicated to scientific discovery and better patient care. Member gifts also support core ATS mission-related programs including MECOR, Medical Education Research, the Ziskind Clinical Research Scholar Award, and Assembly Awards and Scholarships.



Naftali Kaminski, MD, chair for the Assembly on Respiratory Cell & Molecular Biology, receives RCMB's 2015 ATS Assembly Challenge awards from James F. Donohue, MD, ATS Foundation Chair

Gifts both large and small were received—and much appreciated—throughout the Assembly Challenge. **Thank you!**

Many assembly chairs sent personal messages to their members to encourage giving to the Foundation during the challenge. That outreach provided a big boost to Foundation year-end giving campaigns—and a boost to our upcoming grant-making capacity for young investigators.

Naftali Kaminski, MD, chair for the Assembly on Respiratory Cell & Molecular Biology, hopes the challenge will continue to “ignite a healthy competition among the assemblies, and that next year we will see a dramatic rise in donations and new donors from all assemblies. This will have a great impact on the availability of research funds, and on pulmonary research and medicine.”



DorAnne M. Donesky, PhD, ANP-BC, chair for the Assembly on Nursing, receives Nursing's 2015 ATS Assembly Challenge award from Atul Malhotra, MD, ATS President (left) and James F. Donohue, MD, ATS Foundation Chair (right)

The ATS Foundation would like to thank all ATS assemblies for their outreach efforts and generosity during the 2015 ATS Assembly Challenge.

- **Respiratory Cell & Molecular Biology** raised the most dollars with \$95,741
- **Nursing** had the highest member participation with 17.46%
- **Respiratory Cell & Molecular Biology** had the highest number of first-time givers in December with 37 new donors

Congratulations to the Respiratory Cell & Molecular Biology and Nursing assemblies! They will receive special recognition in ATS communications, at ATS 2016, and within their own assemblies.

Thank you for everything that you do for the ATS Foundation, young investigators and clinicians, patients, and respiratory health worldwide.

To learn more about the ATS Foundation or to make a gift, visit foundation.thoracic.org.

First Annual ATS Walking Challenge

*Think you walk a lot at an ATS conference?
Let's see how you compare to other attendees.*

Step up to the First Annual ATS Walking Challenge.

Every step helps raise money for the ATS Foundation. Walk around the Exhibit Hall, meet new people, move from session to session and engage in friendly competition against other attendees with the ATS Walking Challenge. The top 3 overall steppers win a prize. Watch it all unfold in real-time on leaderboards in the Teva Respiratory booth #419 or at the ATS Walking Challenge booth.

The first 2,000 registrants receive a free ATS wireless activity tracker to use with the ATS Walking Challenge Mobile App (distributed on a 'first-come, first-served' basis). The ATS Walking Challenge Mobile App also supports attendees that prefer to use their own FitBit, Jawbone or iPhone/Android smart phone step counters.

The three individuals who log the most steps will win prizes!

- **Grand Prize** – Microsoft Surface Pro 3
- **2nd prize** – Fitbit Surge
- **3rd prize** – Zolt Laptop Charger Plus

Visit the Teva Respiratory booth #419 each day for a step booster.

Use the Walking Challenge mobile app to scan the QR code booster each day to earn your bonus steps. The more you visit, the more you receive:

First Day Visit - 500 steps
Second Day Visit - 750 steps
Third Day Visit - 1,000 steps

Walk for a good cause! For every participant who walks 30,000 steps, Teva Respiratory will make a donation of \$100 to the ATS Foundation, for a total maximum donation of \$50,000. Remember - 100% of all donations to the ATS Foundation fund new research awards. Learn more at Foundation.Thoracic.org.

Learn more and pre-register online at cloud.hekahealth.com/ats2016 or stop by the Walking Challenge Booth in the South building lobby of the Moscone Center, beginning 5/13/16.

Sponsored by:



The Science & Innovation Center

Sunday, May 15 – Tuesday, May 17: 7:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Moscone Center Lobby (West Building, Level 1)

The Science & Innovation Center is a forum where scientists and researchers can relax, network, and learn. Here are selected SIC events you may enjoy:

SIC 101

Learn the basic principles underpinning high profile symposia at ATS 2016.



Sun, May 15	Mon, May 16
CRISPR 7:15 – 8 a.m. Tushar Menon , PhD	Lineage Tracing 7:15 – 8 a.m. Andrew Lechner , MD/PhD Candidate
Clock Genes 11:15 a.m. – 12 p.m. Jeff Haspel , MD, PhD	Metabolic Reprogramming 11:15 a.m. – 12 p.m. Kurt Stenmark , MD

Keynote Lecture Viewings

Sun, May 15 – Tues, May 17, 8 – 8:45 a.m.

Watch the Keynote Lecture Series via a live closed-circuit broadcast in a low-key environment.

Rising Stars of Research

Sun, May 15 – Mon, May 16, 1:15 – 3 p.m.

Early career professionals making waves in their fields. Each Rising Star will give a 15-minute presentation with Q&A at the end of the session.

NHLBI and NIAID Presentations

Tues, May 17, 11:15 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Meet representatives of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

Breakfast 7 a.m. • Light lunch 12 p.m. • Informal networking and rest area all day

Official ATS Documents: Informational Opportunities at the 2016 ATS International Conference in San Francisco

If you're developing or interested in developing an Official ATS Document (Statements, Clinical Practice Guidelines, Workshop Reports, or Technical Standards), please consider attending one or more of these free opportunities while you are in San Francisco at the ATS International Conference:

- Documents Development & Implementation Committee (DDIC) Workshop/Meeting: Friday, May 13th from 6-9 PM, San Francisco Marriott Marquis.
This session is **required** for all Guideline Panel Chairs and Chairs of new non-guideline projects. The session is **recommended** for Chairs of ongoing non-guideline projects. Please RSVP to John Harmon at jharmon@thoracic.org if you have not already done so.
- 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.
- 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.
- Ad Hoc meetings: If your project committee is having a meeting in San Francisco, you have the opportunity to schedule an appointment for Dr. Kevin Wilson (ATS Documents Editor) or Dr. Jan Brozek (ATS Methodologist) to stop by your committee meeting. To schedule a meeting, email Kevin Wilson at kwilson@thoracic.org or Jan Brozek at brozekj@mcmaster.ca.
- Office Hours and Documents Meeting Space: Stop by our 4th annual "Office Hours" to meet and talk with Drs. Kevin Wilson and Jan Brozek about document-related matters. Contact Kevin Wilson at kwilson@thoracic.org or cell 617/771-6589 to secure an appointment. The Documents meeting space will also be available to document developers when office hours are not in session from Sunday-Wednesday; contact Kimberly Lawrence at klawrence@thoracic.org for additional details.

Submit an Assembly/Committee Project Application for funding in FY2017!

We are happy to announce that ATS will once again accept NEW Assembly/Committee Projects for FY2017. 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.

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 Dr. Grant W. Waterer, MBBS, MBA, PhD at grant.waterer@uwa.edu.au

For questions regarding submission please contact Miriam Rodriguez tel: 212/315-8639 or email: mrodriguez@thoracic.org.

Did you know that as an ATS member you:

- [Receive a discount of 20% \(average\) on education products at the ATS Store?](#)
- [Benefit from FREE ABIM and ABP MOC self-assessment products?](#)
- [Have access to NEW member benefits that include:](#)

Significant discounts on Springer respiratory books (print copies), and FREE online access to this book series,
Copies of our new ATS pocket guidelines.

Save \$1,200 – or more – per year on ATS products and services over nonmember rates.

See why [members love the ATS!](#) Link: <http://www.thoracic.org/members/membership/>

*Trainee members receive 30% and Affiliate members 10%

Assembly Members: Help Us to 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 most targeted to you.

2nd Annual ★ BEAR Cage



Attend the BEAR Cage

(Building Education to Advance Research)

Sunday, May 15, 2016 11:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Moscone Center, Room 105 (South Building, Lower Level)

Hosted by the ATS Drug Device Discovery and Development (DDDD) Committee, the 2nd Annual 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 2016. You are invited to join us 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.

Follow **#ATS2016** for the latest updates during the ATS 2016 International Conference.



Facebook: **American Thoracic Society**

Twitter: **@atscommunity**

Instagram: **atscommunity**

LinkedIn: **American Thoracic Society**