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Microbiology, Tuberculosis and Pulmonary Infections

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MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY CHAIR

One of the most impressive aspects of being the Assembly Chair has been to see how much leadership in the ATS is a team sport. This clearly is true on the Microbiology, Tuberculosis & Pulmonary Infections (MTPI) Assembly level. I greatly appreciate all the work of the Executive committee, Assembly Committees, and the Assembly Working Groups. This has been an active year for the various committees. Some of the major highlights include:



Richard G. Wunderink, MD

- Continued evolution in the process of planning for the International Conference.** Incorporation of yearly theme lectures into the Conference has brought more coherence to the meeting. Increased emphasis on a core curriculum has mandated coverage of broad topics on a regular basis and led to institution of a Program Advisory Committee, independent of the Program Committee, to give a long term perspective on topics that have been covered too little or too much in the recent conferences. The last five MTPI Program Chairs have graciously agreed to extend their responsibilities to participate in this role. A report from the initial Chair of this new committee, Henry Koziel, is below.
- Assembly Projects.** The Planning Committee again did a wonderful job of shepherding a variety of projects through the process of approval or re-approval. All of the projects approved by the Planning Committee also received funding by the ATS Finance Committee. The list of projects is below in the report from the Planning Committee Chair, Joe Keane.
- MTPI Recognition Awards.** In a project initiated by the previous Assembly Chair, David Lewinsohn and chaired by Henry Koziel, MTPI now has three annual peer-recognition awards: Junior-level, Mid-career, and Senior-level. The application process has now been streamlined this year. Details are in the Working Group report below. Since we anticipate this being an ongoing program of the MTPI Assembly, we have added the selection process and any further refinements of the Recognition Awards to the responsibilities of the Planning Committee. We thank Henry and the mem-

(Continued on page 2)

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY CHAIR (continued)

4. **Crisis in antibiotic resistance.** President Obama's Sept 18, 2014 Executive Order announcing new initiatives to combat antibiotic resistant infections, particularly Gram negatives, induced a variety of responses. I have worked with Nuala Moore from ATS Government Relations on several responses to Congress and represented the ATS at an IDSA-sponsored stakeholders meeting. As part of the MTPI response, I have also asked Charles Dela Cruz to co-chair a new working group on Acute Pneumonia (see the report below). Also, the ATS leadership has agreed to endorse a post-ATS research symposium initiated by Julio Ramirez and co-chaired by Charles Feldman and myself. This year's symposium will focus mainly on community-acquired pneumonia. Details are given below for those interested.

Much of the Assembly work goes on behind the scenes with ATS staff playing a tremendous support role. I would like to particularly thank Miriam Rodriguez, Vladimir Crevecoeur, and Nuala Moore for their support and assistance to me and the MTPI Executive Committee.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Joe Keane, MD, Chair

It was another busy year for the planning committee. We continue to exploit 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 San Diego 2014, 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 favorably reviewed by the ATS Program Review sub-committee, 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).
- Diagnostic Standards and Classification of Tuberculosis in Adults and Children (David Lewinsohn, Chair).



Joe Keane, MD

- Defining a Research Agenda for Non-Tuberculosis Mycobacterial Infections, (Charles Daley, ATS Chair)
- Clinical Practice Guidelines for Non-tuberculous Mycobacterial Infection (Joint ATS/ ERS Application) (Charles Daley, ATS Chair).

(2) New MTPI Assembly Project Proposals: New proposals were required to fulfil PICO question format (P=Patient problem or population, I=intervention, C=comparison and O=outcomes). We had 2 new proposals approved where MTPI was the primary proposer.

- 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)

In addition, we co-sponsored 3 successful applications.

The MTPI Planning Committee continues to function as a liaison between the MTPI Membership and the MTPI Assembly Chair. We welcome your 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. The next ATS meeting is nearly upon us, so please begin to think of additional assembly projects for next year.

As I complete my final year as the Planning Committee Chair, I would like to thank Rich Wunderink (the current MTPI Assembly Chair), David Lewinsohn (immediate past assembly chair) and Henry Koziel (the immediate past Planning Committee Chair) for advice and support. I join the committee in welcoming Grant Waterer who will take over as chair at ATS 2015.

Thank you for the tireless efforts and generous contributions of time of the MPTI Committee Members over the last year: Charles Daley, Carol Hamilton, Max Salfinger, Kristina Crothers, Grant Waterer, Stephen Gordon, Mark Meteresky, Payam Nahid, Charles Dela Cruz, Chadi Hage, Adithya Cattamanchi, and Scott Evans. The next MTPI Planning Committee meeting will be at the ATS 2015 in Denver.

** You can also find more information about the project proposal process especially with regards to the new PICO format requirement in this weblink. <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

Kevin Fennelly, MD, MPH, Chair, and, Charles Feldman, MB BCh, PhD, 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 you the 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 Kevin Fennelly, Chair of the Program Committee, and Charles Feldman, Chair-Elect, represented MTPI. They programmed more than 400 submitted abstracts into presentations that we hope will promote the academic and clinical activity our members, while stimulating interest in pulmonary infection – which will attract new people to our assembly.



Kevin Fennelly, MD, MPH,
Chair



Charles Feldman, MB BCh, PhD,
Chair-Elect

We have scheduled 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 2 Post-Graduate Courses (Lung Innate Immunity and Understanding the Lung Microbiome). 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. Three thematic Poster sessions are dedicated to case reports of unusual manifestations of pulmonary infections. In addition to the scientific abstract sessions, MTPI has programmed four major Scientific Symposia with highly respected international speakers, and we are co-sponsoring five other sessions with other assemblies.

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.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge and thank each of the committee members for their service, hard work and input into the programming during the past year.

The committee members for 2014-2015 are: Eva Maria Carmona Porquera, James Chalmers, Sushma Cribbs, Navneet Dhillon, Scott Evans, Christina Fiske, Kyle Happel, Kenneth Knox, Christina Lancioni, Marc Lipman, Carlos Luna, Peter Mancuso, Rosario Menendez, Joseph Mizgerd, Michael Niederman, Terence O'Connor, David Park, Michelle Prickett, Salman Qureshi, Stephen Ruoss, Stephan Schwander, Oriol Sibila, Richard Silver, Rachel Thomson, Richard Van Zyl Smit, Nicholas Walter, William Worodria, Richard Wunderink

ATS 2015 - Denver

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

| Session Code | Session Title | Session Time | |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------|----------|
| Postgraduate Courses | | | |
| Friday, May 15, 2015 | | | |
| PG8 | LUNG INNATE IMMUNITY: THE FRONTLINES OF HOST DEFENSE | 8:00 AM | 4:00 PM |
| Saturday, May 16, 2015 | | | |
| PG20 | UNDERSTANDING THE LUNG MICROBIOME: CURRENT STATE AND CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS | 8:00 AM | 4:00 PM |
| Scientific Symposium | | | |
| Sunday, May 17, 2015 | | | |
| A9 | NONTUBERCULOUS MYCOBACTERIAL INFECTIONS: AN EVOLVING PARADIGM | 9:30 AM | 11:30 AM |
| Monday, May 18, 2015 | | | |
| B87 | TUBERCULOSIS GENOMICS: IMPROVING DIAGNOSTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE | 2:15 PM | 4:15 PM |
| Tuesday, May 19, 2015 | | | |
| C89 | REDUCING MORTALITY FROM COMMUNITY-ACQUIRED PNEUMONIA | 2:15 PM | 4:15 PM |
| Wednesday, May 20, 2015 | | | |
| D88 | HOST-PATHOGEN INTERACTIONS IN LUNG INFECTION | 1:30 PM | 3:30 PM |
| Jointly-Developed Symposium | | | |
| Monday, May 18, 2015 | | | |
| B5 | HOW PATHOGENS EVADE IMMUNE DEFENSES AND HOW WE CAN FIGHT BACK | 9:30 AM | 11:30 AM |
| B11 | AIR POLLUTION: A MAJOR GLOBAL THREAT TO LUNG HEALTH | 9:30 AM | 11:30 AM |
| B85 | US VERSUS THEM: MUCINS AND BIOFILMS IN THE BATTLE FOR THE LUNGS | 2:15 PM | 4:15 PM |
| Tuesday, May 19, 2015 | | | |
| C11 | D'AIR TO BREATHE: AIRBORNE PATHOGENS AND PREVENTION | 9:30 AM | 11:30 AM |
| C85 | SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGHS OF THE YEAR: HOST PATHOGEN INTERACTIONS AND HOST DEFENSE | 2:15 PM | 4:15 PM |

| Session Code | Session Title | Session Time | |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------|----------|
| Sunrise Seminars | | | |
| Monday, May 18, 2015 | | | |
| SS112 | AN INTRODUCTION TO THE LUNG MICRO-BIOME | 7:00 AM | 8:00 AM |
| Tuesday, May 19, 2015 | | | |
| SS213 | TREATMENT OF DRUG RESISTANT TUBERCULOSIS AND TB DRUGS IN THE PIPELINE | 7:00 AM | 8:00 AM |
| Wednesday, May 20, 2015 | | | |
| SS313 | BASIC SCIENCE AND TRANSLATIONAL INSIGHTS USING CO-INFECTION MODELS IN | 7:00 AM | 8:00 AM |
| Meet The Professor Seminars | | | |
| Sunday, May 17, 2015 | | | |
| MP411 | CHALLENGES IN DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF HOSPITAL ACQUIRED PNEUMONIA IN THE AGE OF BACTERIAL RESISTANCE | 12:15 PM | 1:15 PM |
| Monday, May 18, 2015 | | | |
| MP509 | HISTOPATHOLOGY OF LUNG INFECTIONS IN THE MOLECULAR ERA | 12:15 PM | 1:15 PM |
| Tuesday, May 19, 2015 | | | |
| MP610 | PRINCIPLES OF ANTIBIOTIC MANAGEMENT OF SEVERE PNEUMONIA | 12:15 PM | 1:15 PM |
| Mini-Symposium | | | |
| Sunday, May 17, 2015 | | | |
| A16 | FUNGAL INFECTIONS | 9:30 AM | 11:30 AM |
| A96 | MOLECULAR MYCOBACTERIOLOGY: HOST AND BACILLUS | 2:15 PM | 4:15 PM |
| Monday, May 18, 2015 | | | |
| B14 | BRONCHIECTASIS | 9:30 AM | 11:30 AM |
| Wednesday, May 20, 2015 | | | |
| D95 | INHALED SMOKE AND LUNG IMMUNITY TO TUBERCULOSIS AND OTHER INFECTIONS | 1:30 PM | 3:30 PM |
| Poster Discussion Sessions | | | |
| Monday, May 18, 2015 | | | |
| B106 | HOST PATHOGEN INTERACTIONS I | 2:15 PM | 4:15 PM |
| Tuesday, May 19, 2015 | | | |
| C26 | TREATMENT OF RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS | 9:30 AM | 11:30 AM |
| C105 | NONTUBERCULOUS MYCOBACTERIA EPIDEMIOLOGY | 2:15 PM | 4:15 PM |
| Wednesday, May 20, 2015 | | | |
| D21 | LATENT TUBERCULOSIS INFECTION | 9:30 AM | 11:30 AM |
| D22 | NOSOCOMIAL AND FUNGAL INFECTIONS | 9:30 AM | 11:30 AM |
| D108 | DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT OF NON-TUBERCULOUS MYCOBACTERIA INFECTION | 1:30 PM | 3:30 PM |

Thematic Poster Sessions

Sunday, May 17, 2015

| | | | |
|-----|--|---------|---------|
| A47 | CLINICAL ASPECTS AND DIAGNOSIS OF RESPIRATORY TRACT INFECTIONS | 9:30 AM | 4:15 PM |
| A48 | PULMONARY INFECTIONS: CASE STUDIES (BACTERIAL) | 9:30 AM | 4:15 PM |
| A49 | PULMONARY INFECTIONS: CASE STUDIES (FUNGAL AND OTHER) | 9:30 AM | 4:15 PM |

Monday, May 18, 2015

| | | | |
|-----|--|---------|---------|
| B47 | HOST PATHOGEN INTERACTIONS II | 9:30 AM | 4:15 PM |
| B48 | CASE REPORTS ON TUBERCULOSIS | 9:30 AM | 4:15 PM |
| B49 | TUBERCULOSIS EPIDEMIOLOGY | 9:30 AM | 4:15 PM |
| B50 | DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF ACTIVE TUBERCULOSIS DISEASE | 9:30 AM | 4:15 PM |

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

| | | | |
|-----|---|---------|---------|
| C55 | HIV-ASSOCIATED LUNG DISEASES AND INFECTIONS | 9:30 AM | 4:15 PM |
|-----|---|---------|---------|

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Nathan Dean, 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 (2014-15), 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.

Assembly Chair Candidates:

Philip A. Lobue, MD
Kevin P. Fennelly, MD

Program Committee Chair Elect Candidates:

Jussi J. Saukkonen, MD
Payam Nahid, MD, MPH

Nominating Committee Members Candidates:

Eric M. Mortensen, MD
Rosario Menendez, MD
Sundari R. Mase, MD
Kevin L. Winthrop, MD, MPH



Nathan Dean, MD

Voting will continue in the established online format, and elected individuals will be named at the MTPI Membership meeting in Denver, CO. Voting for these vital MTPI positions begins in March – please remember to vote! 2014-2015 MTPI Nominating Committee also include Luke Davis and Diane Bilton. Many thanks for the invaluable assistance of Breana Portelli and Miriam Rodriguez.

MTPI Program Advisory Committee REPORT

Henry Koziel, MD, Chair

bers of the working group for their tremendous contribution.

The MTPI Program Advisory Committee is a newly ATS Board-sanctioned committee, with membership and chair appointed by the MTPI Assembly Chair. The charge of the Committee is to serve an advisory role and provide an important resource for the MTPI Program Committee Chair and Chair-Elect, particularly during the planning stages for the MTPI programming for the ATS 2016 International Conference. The principal goal of the Committee is to provide an “institutional memory” and assure that MTPI programming continues to include topics that represent essential cornerstones of the MTPI Assembly, assure that under-represented topics in lung infections are included, and the topics remain timely and appropriately reflect the focus of the MTPI Assembly and fulfill the educational needs of the general membership attending the ATS International Conference. In addition to serving an advisory role to the MTPI Program Committee, the MTPI Program Advisory Committee will also interface with Program Advisory Committees from other Assemblies, the Educational Committee and ATS International Conference Committee to identify more global needs, and promote novel joint programs.



Henry Koziel, MD
Chair

My sincere appreciation and gracious thanks to the hard-working members of the 2014-2015 MTPI Program Advisory Committee: Joseph Keane, MD, Grant Waterer, MD, Carol Hamilton, MD, Kristina Crothers, MD, and the

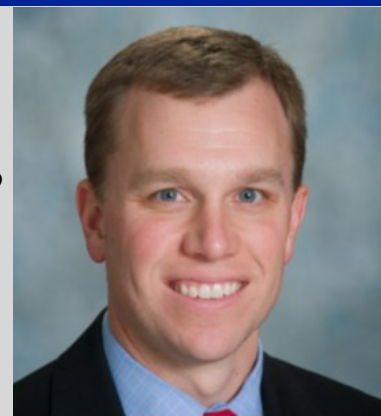
WEB DIRECTOR REPORT

Scott Evans, MD, Chair

invaluable administrative assistance from Vladimir Crevecoeur and Miriam Rodriguez

Like most organizations, the MTPI Assembly is increasingly reliant 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 ATS Official Documents, 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 2014 MTPI Symposium and ongoing updates about the many important projects the MTPI Assembly supports.



Scott Evans, MD,
Web Director

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 an interactive webinar series addressing novel, controversial, and timely issues. This 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 page (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.

For the webinar series, the contacts are: Ritwij Kulkarni, rkulkarni@lsu.edu or Shanjana Awashthi, Shanjana-

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.

MTPI Awards & Recognition Working Group REPORT

Henry Koziel, MD, Chair

The MTPI Awards & Recognition Working Group was established with the charge to develop a new program of annual awards to recognize MTPI Assembly members for significant and meaningful contributions to the MTPI Assembly. Since the initial face-to-face meeting at the 2013 ATS Conference in Philadelphia, PA, the Working Group worked exhaustively, sharing progress with the MTPI Executive Committee, to establish the framework for an inaugural program. Work culminated in the selection of three MTPI Assembly members, with recognition and certificates presented at the MTPI Business Meeting during the 2014 ATS International Conference in San Diego. The three MTPI Assembly members selected for the 2014 MTPI Peer Recognition Awards included: Charles Dela Cruz, MD, PhD, (junior level award), Kristina Crothers, MD (mid-career level award), and Philip Hopewell, MD (senior level award). As the recipient of the MTPI Senior Level Peer Recognition Award, Dr. Hopewell was the featured speaker at the MTPI reception following the business meeting in San Diego in May.



Henry Koziel, MD
Chair

Following on the success of the past year, the Working Group worked diligently to modify, enhance, simplify and standardize the nominations and selection process, and is pleased to continue these annual peer-recognition awards. The awards recognize individuals for exemplary support and commitment to the MTPI Assembly, and for potential or recognized contributions in the areas of education and teaching, research, clinical care, mentoring or service (not limited to leadership). Annual awards recognize individuals at different phases of career development, including Junior-level (<10 years from completing training), Mid-career level (10-20 years from completing training), and Senior level (>20 years from completing training). Candidates are nominated by peers from the general MTPI membership, candidates voted upon by the MTPI Awards & Recognition Working Group, and a certificate presented at the 2015 MTPI Assembly Business meeting in Denver, CO. Details for award qualifications and the nomination procedure are provided on line (<http://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/assemblies/mtpi/awards/peer-recognition.php>) and require a letter of nomination (limited to 2 pages on a standard template) and the nominee's current CV. The MTPI Senior-level awardee will be the featured speaker at the 2015 MTPI Assembly Reception. We look forward to continuing this exciting series of peer-recognition awards for deserved individuals and anticipate these awards will become a highly anticipated and respected component of our annual MTPI meetings.

As the goals of the MTPI Awards & Recognition Working Group have been achieved this year, the administration and responsibilities for the annual awards process in the future will be assumed by the MTPI Planning Committee. A tremendous thanks to the members of the MTPI Awards & Recognition Working Group for making this a successful program, including David Lewinsohn, MD, PhD, Laurence Huang, MD, Charles Daley, MD, David Cohn, MD, Jim Beck, MD, Andy Limper, MD, and Adithya Cattamanci, MD, for comprehensive and thoughtful discussions, and the invaluable administrative assistance from Vladimir Crevecoeur and Miriam Rodriguez.

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 economical crisis, especially in South Europe, making it difficult for overseas travelling 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

EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONALS WORKING GROUP REPORT

Charles Dela Cruz, MD, PhD, (Junior Faculty, Co-Chair) and Robert Blount, 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:



Charles Dela Cruz, MD, PhD,
Junior Faculty, Co-Chair



Robert Blount, MD
In-Training Member, Co-Chair

- 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 (primary or secondary); (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.
- Sponsor 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 in 2015 ATS, we will have new mentorship pairing where we plan for the mentee-mentor pairs to meet in Denver between the scientific sessions.

Our MTPI Early Career Professional Working Group also includes the following: Monica Campo-Patino (Fellow, U Wash), Laura Frye (MD, UPENN), Scott Evans (Assistant Professor, MD Anderson; who is also MTPI Web/Communication Director), Sushma Cribbs (Assistant Professor, Emory), Nicholas Walter (Assistant Professor, UC Denver), and Salman Qureshi (Assistant Professor, McGill), Navneet Dhillon (PhD, KUMC), Jyotika Sharma (PhD, UND), Chad Marion (Fellow, Yale), Bashar Staitieh (Fellow, Emory), Samatha Yeligar (Assistant Professor, Emory), Richard van Zyl Smith (Faculty, U Cape Town), Shanjana Awasthi (Assistant Oklahoma), Keira Cohen (Fellow, Brigham and Women's Hospital), Amali Samarasinghe (Assistant Professor, U Tennessee), Elly Karamooz (fellow, OHSU), Colin Swenson (Fellow, U Florida). We thank the assistance of Breana Portelli and Miriam Rodriguez from the ATS staff.

Our next MTPI Membership Working Group meeting will be held at the ATS 2015 International Conference in Denver, CO on Monday May 18th, 2015, 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 robert.blount@ucsf.edu or charles.delacruz@yale.edu

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

This has been an important area for MTPI in the past but the changing environment has left the ATS much less of stakeholder role than previously. This is particularly pertinent in light of the Presidential Executive Order addressing the issue of antibiotic-resistant infections. The ATS role has been overshadowed by both our Infectious Diseases Society of America and European professional society colleagues.

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. Preliminary objectives of this working group include the following (which may be modified by the actual members):

- 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 regarding alternative Assembly structures to facilitate acute pneumonia education and research

Charles Dela Cruz and Rich Wunderink will be co-chairing the working group. The group membership is being finalized and the first meeting will take place in Denver ATS 2015.



Richard G. Wunderink, MD



Charles Dela Cruz, MD, PhD

“Clinical and Translational Research in Pneumonia, Influenza and Emerging Respiratory Pathogens: Defining a Research Agenda for Today and Tomorrow”.

MAY 20-21, immediately following ATS 2015

The ATS, European Respiratory Society, and the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Disease (ESCMID) have endorsed this special two day research symposium on pneumonia to be held in Denver on May 20-21, immediately following ATS 2015. Using a unique format, the sessions will explore clinical and translational research ideas in the field of pneumonia, influenza, and emerging respiratory pathogens. The intent is to foster international collaboration and engage junior investigators, in addition to recognizing gaps in the knowledge of lung infections and identifying research pathways to fill these gaps.

Further information and registration is at

<http://researchsymposium.ctrsu.org/>

Meet Your Mentor **HERE!**



Struggling to find a quiet location to meet with your mentor? Look no further! This year at the 2015 ATS International Conference in Denver, the Assembly Mentoring Programs is offering a meeting spot exclusively for mentors and mentees to meet.

The Assembly Mentoring Programs' Meeting Spot will be located in the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel in room Plaza Court 5 (Concourse Level). The room will be available:

Friday May 15th – Tuesday May 19th, 2015 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Wednesday May 20th from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Light snacks and beverages will be offered throughout the day. Also in the room there will be laptops and printers available for use. You can also pick up your Assembly Mentoring Program ribbon and pin!

We hope you can join us at the Assembly Mentoring Programs' Meeting Spot!

Other opportunities to meet:

- 1) New Member Meet and Greet – this occurs 30 minutes prior each Assembly Membership Meeting
- 2) Early Career Professionals' Corner
Science and Innovation Center (Denver Convention Center)
Tuesday, May 19th, 2015
7:00– 8:00 a.m.
Light breakfast will be served

For more information on the Mentorship Programs, contact Breana Portelli at bportelli@thoracic.org.

Official ATS Documents: Informational Opportunities at the 2015 ATS International Conference in Denver

If you're developing or interested in developing an Official ATS Document (Policy Statement, Research Statement, Clinical Practice Guideline, Workshop Report, or Technical Standards), please consider attending one or more of these free opportunities while you are in Denver at the ATS International Conference:

- Documents Development & Implementation Committee (DDIC) Workshop: Friday, May 15th from 6-9 PM, Governor's 14, Concourse Level, Plaza Building, Sheraton Denver Downtown. This session is required for both current and new guideline panel chairs, as well as the chairs of new document projects. The session is recommended for the chairs of ongoing non-guideline projects. Please RSVP to Katrina Gorres at kgorres@thoracic.org if you have not already done so. The schedule is as follows:
 - o 6-7 PM – Presentations by DDIC members about the Official Document types, methodological requirements for each, and other practical issues (e.g., conflict of interest management, review, and approval); a light dinner will be served.
 - o 7-9 PM – Current guideline chairs (or their designees) will give progress reports and then troubleshoot informally with DDIC members and ATS staff. New guideline chairs will have the opportunity to listen to these reports and learn about the "trials and tribulations" of guideline development from experienced peers.
- Guideline methodology training program: All ATS clinical practice guidelines require the support of an experienced methodologist; however, there is a shortage of methodologists from which to derive the support. The ATS has a guideline methodology training program that provides on-the-job training to individuals who are interested in becoming a methodologist. Applications for the training program are available at <http://www.thoracic.org/statements/document-development/index.php>. An informational session is being held on Monday, May 18th from 7 pm until 8:30 pm at the ATS International Conference for anyone who is interested in learning more about the program. A light dinner will be served. Please RSVP to Kevin C. Wilson, MD, ATS Senior Director of Documents and Medical Affairs at kwilson@thoracic.org. Space is limited.
- Ad Hoc meetings: If your project committee is having a full day, half day, or meal meeting in Denver, you have the opportunity to schedule an appointment for Dr. Kevin Wilson (ATS Documents Editor and ATS Senior Director of Documents and Medical Affairs) or Dr. Jan Brozek (ATS Methodologist) to stop by your committee meeting to discuss and answer questions about Official ATS Documents. To schedule a meeting, email Kevin Wilson at kwilson@thoracic.org or Jan Brozek at brozekj@mcmaster.ca. Please indicate the name of your panel and a range of time that would be appropriate for their visit.
- Office Hours: Stop by our second annual "Office Hours" to meet and talk with Dr. Kevin Wilson and/or Dr. Jan Brozek about any Official ATS Document related matters. Contact John Harmon at jharmon@thoracic.org for dates and times.

ATS Patient Education Resources

- ATS continues to expand its patient education resources - there are currently more than 70 high quality patient oriented fact sheets on a range of pulmonary, critical care, and sleep topics including both common and rare diseases such as COPD, VCD, and HPS; common procedures and diagnostic tests such as sleep studies, lung function studies, and bronchoscopy; and special focus topics including palliative care and lung cancer prevention. These fact sheets are available at no cost via the ATS website at www.thoracic.org under the Patients Tab. See pieces that you like? Feel free to use them in your practice and share them with others! Have new topics you'd like to propose? Contact Judy Corn at jcorn@thoracic.org with your ideas and feedback.

ATS Assembly Members Give Generously to the ATS Foundation

At the 2014 Leadership Summit, assembly leaders voted to establish an ATS Assembly Challenge in support of the ATS Foundation. The Challenge kicked off on #GivingTuesday, on December 2, 2014, a special day worldwide dedicated to the joy of giving, and ran all month long.

Gifts both large and small were received and much appreciated. December giving from assembly members rose from \$121,970 in 2013 to \$170,974 in 2014—an increase of \$49,000! These gifts are greatly meaningful to young investigators at risk of terminating their careers in pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine. Your generous gifts to the ATS Foundation help launch careers dedicated to scientific discovery and better patient care.



Naftali Kaminski, MD, chair for the Assembly on Respiratory Cell & Molecular Biology; Gregory P. Downey, MD, chair for the Assembly on Allergy Immunology & Inflammation; and Kristin A. Riekert, PhD, chair for the Assembly on Behavioral Science and Health Services Research, proudly display their 2014 ATS Assembly Challenge awards

Personal outreach from assembly chairs especially helped drive giving to the ATS Foundation.

“Without member support, amazing programs such as MECOR and young investigator research grants wouldn’t exist. If every ATS member gave even a small donation, even more ground-breaking research and training could be supported,” said **Kristin A. Riekert, PhD**, chair for the Assembly on Behavioral Science and Health Services Research.

Dr. Riekert sent personal messages to her fellow BSHR members to encourage them to give, and capitalized on the momentum of #GivingTuesday to encourage giving. That outreach made a tremendous difference.

Naftali Kaminski, MD, chair for the Assembly on Respiratory Cell & Molecular Biology, also sent messages to his fellow RCMB members and spurred giving through #GivingTuesday.

“For me the participation of RCMB members in the assembly challenge was very, very meaningful,” said Dr. Kaminski. “The fact that they made the effort and donated (and many did) demonstrated their commitment to our community and to the future of respiratory research.”

There were three ways to win the Challenge: be the assembly with the most dollars raised in 2014, be the assembly with the highest member participation rate, and be the assembly with the largest average gift per member.

Allergy Immunology & Inflammation raised the most dollars in the ATS Assembly Challenge with \$63,549. **Behavioral Science and Health Services Research** had the highest member participation with 20.86%, and the largest average gift per member with \$98.27. **Respiratory Cell & Molecular Biology**'s outstanding outreach efforts led to the creation of a brand new award in recognition of having the most first-time givers. Their outreach efforts inspired 26 members to give to the Foundation for the very first time during December alone!

Congratulations to the Allergy Immunology & Inflammation, Behavioral Science and Health Services Research, and Respiratory Cell & Molecular Biology assemblies! They will receive special recognition in a number of ATS communications, at ATS 2015, and within their own assemblies.

The ATS Foundation would like to thank all ATS assemblies for their generous support and for rising to the challenge. Your giving is life-changing for young investigators, patients, and communities worldwide. To learn more about the ATS Foundation or to make a gift, visit foundation.thoracic.org.

***Assembly on
Microbiology, Tuberculosis and Pulmonary Infections
Membership Meeting***

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

Embassy Suites Denver Downtown Hotel

***Silverton Ballroom 1-2
Second Floor***

***Assembly on
Microbiology, Tuberculosis and Pulmonary Infections
Reception***

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

Embassy Suites Denver Downtown Hotel

***Silverton Ballroom 3
Second Floor***

Help Us Help You!

Have you:

- moved,
- changed your title,
- added a new specialty, credential or other information?

Or perhaps we just do not have a complete profile for you!

Please take a minute to update your contact information, assembly affiliations, and demographic profile today. And now you can also upload your PHOTO to your member profile! Log in [HERE](#).

[link is: <https://www.thoracic.org/login/ats-member-login.php>]

By keeping your profile current, you help us provide programs and services that are targeted to you, and it also ensures accuracy when you register for the International Conference.

Refer a Fellow to the ATS!

Do you know a Fellow who could benefit from ATS membership? Nearly 20 per cent of ATS members are currently in training, and many ATS leaders joined as Fellows too. And there's a BONUS! ATS Trainee Members receive their **first year of membership for FREE!** After the first year, trainee member dues are just \$100 per year for US members, and \$40 per year for international members, as long as the member is still in training. Read what Trainee members say about the value of membership:

ATS membership helps you to keep up-to-date with innovations in pulmonary medicine with access to journals, publications, guidelines and the Fellows corner.

Ajay Kasi, California

The ATS membership is the best option to participate in the world's biggest thoracic society, be an important part of scientific exchange and access the best scientific publications.

Adrian Ceccato, Argentina

My membership gives me the opportunity to expand my knowledge on pulmonary diseases in general and in interstitial lung diseases in particular through news, e-mails, journals, special learning opportunities (like the ILD video series) and the annual meeting.

Sandra Chartrand, Canada



Enter the BEAR Cage

Hosted by the ATS Drug Device Discovery and Development (DDDD) Committee, the BEAR Cage (Building Education to Advance Research) competition was open to all ATS members who are early career investigators. Applicants were asked to submit an innovative clinical or translational research proposal for consideration and the opportunity to participate in the live BEAR Cage at ATS 2015. You are invited to join us at the Science and Innovation Center to see the selected top three finalists competitively “pitch” their highly innovative research proposals to a panel of translational science experts representing academia, industry, and governmental sectors in front of a live audience. The panel, with audience participation, will vet the proposals with each presenter and ultimately award a grand prize winner a \$5,000 prize as well as two runner-up proposals, each receiving \$2,500. The goal of this unique event is to promote productive discussion of these innovative research ideas in the setting of a fun, yet competitive, forum promoting opportunities for collaboration, mentorship, and improvement of the research proposal. To build on this concept, a DDDD committee-sponsored “project advisory team” will provide feedback and distance mentorship to the awardees over the ensuing year.

Submit an Assembly/Committee Project Application for funding in FY2016!

We are happy to announce that ATS will once again accept NEW Assembly/Committee Projects for FY2016. All interested applicants should begin developing their ideas for Assembly/Committee Project Applications. Applications will be available on the ATS website at www.thoracic.org.

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

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

Connect with your ATS assembly on social networks for the latest on journal clubs, webinars, ATS International Conference activities, and much more!

On Facebook:

ATS All Assembly
ATS SRN Assembly
ATS MTPI
ATS Assembly on
Thoracic Oncology

ATS RSF Assembly
RCMB Assembly
of the American
Thoracic Society
ATS Section on Genetics
and Genomics

ATS Environmental,
Occupational and
Population Health
Early Faculty/Fellows
ATS Nursing Assembly

On Twitter:

@ATS_All @PR_Assembly
@ATSSRN @ATS_PC
@ATS_MTPI @ATSNursing
@atstoa @ATS_RCMB
@ATS_RSF

Also look for the main ATS social media accounts:

Twitter: @atscommunity

Facebook: American Thoracic Society

Instagram: atscommunity

LinkedIn: American Thoracic Society

