Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology Assembly Newsletter
Edited by Zea Borok, MD, Assembly Chairman

Message from Zea Borok, MD
Chair of the RCMB Assembly

In this newsletter, I thought it would be useful to review the role of the RCMB Assembly in the context of the overall structure of ATS. This was prompted by my realization after several years in a leadership role in the Assembly that to many (myself included) the structure of the ATS organization remains somewhat obscure and people are often confused as to the role of the Assemblies in the organization. As a result members are often frustrated by not knowing how to get involved in either the organization as a whole or the Assembly. For many, the only opportunity for interaction and involvement appears to be at the annual meeting. The Assembly business meeting at ATS can be overwhelming for some and does not always seem to impact people for the rest of the year. It was not until I became Chair of the Assembly that I actually started to figure out how some of this works!

There are 13 ATS Assemblies with diverse missions (described in detail at http://www.thoracic.org/sections/about-ats/assemblies/index.html). The structure is somewhat confusing, because the mandates of the Assemblies are not necessarily parallel. For example, our Assembly mission is quite broad and is directed towards ‘studying cellular and molecular functions in the normal and abnormal lung as we aim to understand the biological basis of lung disease.’ The same could be said of Allergy, Immunology and Inflammation (All) and a number of other Assemblies. In contrast, some Assemblies are focused on a particular disease or entity (e.g., Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology and Pulmonary Rehabilitation) while others are even broader than ours (e.g., Clinical Problems). These overlapping focuses can create conflicts about what topics pertain to an individual Assembly when planning the program for the ATS meeting. The RCMB Assembly has been instrumental in trying to promote interdisciplinary sessions at the ATS meeting by working across Assemblies to program sessions that reflect the best science. However, there is room for improvement with regard to overlap, ability to use outside (non-ATS member) speakers, and also programming of the same speaker for multiple sessions. Many of these issues are being addressed by our representatives on the International Conference Committee (Charles A. Powell, M.D. and Thomas J. Mariani, Ph.D) and by the Assembly Chairs who sit on the Board of Directors.
Message from Zea Borok, MD
Chair of the RCMB Assembly

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Our Assembly has four standing committees.

1. The Executive Committee consists of the Assembly Officers (Assembly Chair, Chairs of Program, Planning, Nominating and Web committees as well as our liaison to the ATS Education Committee). The EC is responsible for co-coordinating all Assembly activities. We have instituted monthly leadership conference calls to facilitate our interactions. The Chair represents the Assembly at ATS Board of Directors meetings.

2. The Program Committee (Chair, Charles A. Powell, M.D.) is responsible for coordinating the RCMB program at ATS and for reviewing and organizing abstracts submitted to RCMB. The Program Chair is elected at the Annual Assembly meeting and serves one year first as Chair-Elect. The Chair should ideally have served on the Program committee for at least two years and preferably three before serving as chair. The Chair serves one year as Chair-Elect in order to become familiar with the workings of the International Conference Committee. Our Program Committee consists of ~ 30 members each of whom serve a three-year term. About one third are rotated off each year. We try to include individuals with expertise that cover all categories in which we review abstracts, and aim to have a balance of senior and junior members. Those with an interest in serving on the Program Committee for next year should contact the Chair-Elect Thomas Mariani, Ph.D., who will be appointing members for next year in ~ February 2009. Remember that given the small number that rotate off each year, you may not be selected the first year, so you should follow up with subsequent chairs who will review the need for members with specific expertise each year.

3. The Planning Committee (Chair, Jesse Roman-Rodriguez, M.D.) is responsible for developing the long-term strategy of the Assembly but in the past has been responsible mainly for reviewing Assembly Projects that are submitted yearly for funding by ATS. Past Assembly projects include a Consensus statement on Idiopathic Pneumonia Syndrome and a CD-ROM of Career Talk: The Book by Angela Wang. The Planning Committee Chair who typically serves a two-year term appoints members of the Planning Committee. In an attempt to increase involvement by Assembly members, under the leadership of Jesse Roman the planning Committee this year has formed a number of working groups (described in greater detail below) with a view to developing more Assembly projects, developing documents and identifying future research directions in these areas.

4. The Nominating Committee (Chair, Courtney Broaddus, M.D.) is responsible for putting together a slate of candidates for the election of Assembly Chair, Program committee Chair-elect and the Nominating committee members. Nominating committee members are the only positions where nominations can be taken from the floor at the membership meeting. The Chair of the Nominating committee is appointed by the Assembly Chair.

We have received a terrific response to our request for involvement in our Web committee run by Angela Wang. We seek to enhance the web-site by making it more user-friendly and by including information that could be helpful for both networking and scientific enhancement. Suggestions for web-site improvement are welcomed.
Message from Zea Borok, MD  
Chair of the RCMB Assembly

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In addition to the Assemblies, there are a number of ATS standing committees (http://www.thoracic.org/sections/about-ats/committees/index.cfm). Members of the committees are appointed each year by the ATS President-elect. Those interested in participating in specific ATS committees should let me know and I will forward names for next year to Dr. J. Randall Curtis ATS President-elect. Communication between Committees and Assemblies has not been optimal creating somewhat of a disconnect within the organization. In an attempt to remedy this, we will consider having representatives from the various committees on which we have RCMB members report to the Executive Committee on a rotating basis at our monthly conference calls.

There are also a number of Task Forces that have been appointed by the ATS President and the ATS Past-President. One of the Task Forces most relevant to us is the Task Force that is reviewing the structure of the International Conference. As you may recall, input was solicited from RCMB membership after the May 2008 meeting. Your recommendations have been summarized and forwarded to the chair of the Task Force.

I hope that this information serves to de-mystify some of the aspects of both the ATS and the RCMB Assembly. I am committed to trying to improve involvement of all members of the Assembly including junior and international members and welcome suggestions/input in this regard.

The Abstract deadline is rapidly approaching – please remember to choose a category that will be reviewed by RCMB as this will significantly help Dr. Charles A. Powell, RCMB Program Chair with programming. This is indicated on the Abstract submission form at: www.thoracic.org/go/call4abstracts.

Best regards,
Zea Borok, Assembly Chair

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**2009 RCMB ABSTRACT CATEGORIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>PRIMARY REVIEWER</th>
<th>SECONDARY REVIEWER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>Animal Models of Pulmonary Fibrosis</td>
<td>RCMB</td>
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<td>3.2</td>
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<td>Functional Genomics/Proteomics</td>
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<td>3.7</td>
<td>Gene Regulation: Developmental Control/Mouse Models</td>
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<td>3.8</td>
<td>Gene Regulation: General and Tissue Specific</td>
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<td>3.9</td>
<td>Growth Factors and Receptors</td>
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<td>Ion Transport and Membrane Channels</td>
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<td>microRNA</td>
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<td>Pulmonary Fibrosis/Fibroblast Biology</td>
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<td>3.13</td>
<td>Signal Transduction: Intracellular Pathways</td>
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2009 RCMB ABSTRACT CATEGORIES

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3.14 Signal Transduction: Membrane Receptors  RCMB
3.17 Stem Cells/Tissue Regeneration/Tissue Engineering  RCMB
3.18 Transcription Factors  RCMB
3.22 Cell Plasticity/EMT  RCMB
3.23 Injury/Repair  RCMB
3.24 Senescence  RCMB
3.25 Survival/Apoptosis/Cell Cycle  RCMB
3.28 Cell-Cell Interactions  RCMB
3.29 Extracellular Cell-Matrix: Cell Interactions, Biology  RCMB
3.30 Airway General  RCMB
3.31 Airway Gene Expression  RCMB
3.33 Airway Mucins  RCMB
3.34 Alveolar General  RCMB
3.35 Alveolar Gene Expression  RCMB
3.36 Surfactant/Collectin Biology  RCMB
8.6 Application of Nanotechnology  RSF/RCMB
9.19 Gene Therapy: Cellular and Molecular Aspects  RCMB
9.24 Lung Cancer: Cellular and Molecular Aspects  RCMB
13.1 Alpha 1 Antitrypsin: Cellular and Molecular Aspects  RCMB
13.2 Matrix Metalloproteinases: Cellular and Molecular Aspects  RCMB
13.3 Nitric Oxide, Carbon Monoxide  RCMB

Donations to RCMB

When making donations to ATS, please note that you can direct your donation specifically to RCMB. Donations directed to RCMB will be used towards supplementing travel awards for ATS in recognition of outstanding abstracts every year.

Planning Committee Update
Jesse Roman, MD, Planning Committee Chair

Establishment of Assembly Working Groups

The Planning Committee of the RCMB Assembly continues to move forward with the agenda established during its annual meeting held in May 2008. Its goal is to help assembly leadership with the establishment of a long-term strategic plan that will promote the goals of our membership, while advancing the objectives of the Society. In its effort to accomplish this goal, the Committee has embarked on an ambitious initiative designed to attract attention to specific areas of interest, to engage assembly members in collaborative work, to promote communication with other assemblies, and to enhance the program of the International ATS Meeting while having it reflect the interests of assembly members. This effort involves the establishment of teams of physicians, scientists, trainees, and
Planning Committee Update
Jesse Roman, MD, Planning Committee Chair

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educators into distinct working groups charged with developing a strategic plan that addresses a particular area of investigation through the promotion of research, education, and advocacy. One example is the Lung Cancer Working Group (LCWG) which was established this year to put forth an agenda that promotes high quality research that will lead to significant improvements in the diagnosis and management of lung cancer, and continue to raise the profile of lung cancer in the Society. This group has worked diligently to attract members, develop a sound strategic plan, and promote the dissemination of new knowledge regarding lung cancer at the annual meeting.

Another example is the Stem Cell Biology Working Group (SCBWG) also established this year to foster education and researchcell therapy approaches for lung diseases, among other goals. A third group currently being developed is the Lung Fibrosis Working Group (LFWG) whose goal is to promote research on the mechanisms of tissue fibrogenesis with the ultimate objective of identifying novel targets for therapeutic intervention and the development of biomarkers of disease. These groups are spearheaded by members of the Planning Committee, but include assembly members interested in advancing the goals of the team.

One charge given to these working groups was to assist with the development of programs to be presented during the annual International ATS Meeting. In response to this charge, each of these groups submitted outstanding proposals with multidisciplinary and international support for postgraduate courses, symposia, and other presentations which will be presented in the 2009 meeting in San Diego. For example, the efforts of the Lung Cancer Working Group have resulted in a Postgraduate Course and a Symposium on Lung Cancer at ATS 2009. In addition, these groups submitted proposals to the ATS leadership requesting support for diverse related efforts such as the publication of conference proceedings and the preparation of statements related to the focus of each working group. Some of these proposals were well-received upon initial review and represent another success of this initiative.

The Planning Committee is looking forward to the development of more working groups. Most importantly, it welcomes the input of assembly members and hopes to engage many more in its ongoing efforts. If you wish to join this effort and/or want to provide recommendations, please contact the committee chair, Jesse Roman (jroman@emory.edu) or committee member, Patricia Sime (patricia_sime@urmc.rochester.edu).

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<tr>
<th>RCMB Planning Committee</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jesse Roman Rodriguez, MD, Chair</td>
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<td>Tomoko Betsuyaku, MD</td>
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<td>Zea Borok, MD</td>
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<td>Gregory P. Cosgrove, MD</td>
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<td>Horace M. Delisser, MD</td>
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<td>Edward A. Hirschowitz, MD</td>
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<td>Venkateshwar Keshamouni, PhD</td>
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ICC 2009 Meeting Report
Charles A. Powell, MD, Program Committee Chair

1. Scientific Symposia
We have TEN major scientific symposium slots. of these sessions were selected from those submitted directly to RCMB in June. In collaboration with colleagues from other assemblies, several RCMB members also submitted proposals in response to a request from the ATS International Conference Program committee for Jointly Developed Symposia. submissions from RCMB members for Jointly Developed sessions were selected for programming by vote of the International Conference Committee. This is certainly a promising pathway both for improving the scientific content of the meeting and for increasing the number of sessions developed by RCMB.

Of special note is the Scientific Breakthroughs Session, which will be held on Sunday afternoon, May 17. The session will focus on genomics in lung disease and will feature keynote addresses by Kari Stefansson, CEO of deCODE Genetics and by Eric Schadt, Executive Director of Research Genetics at Rosetta Inpharmatics.

Scientific Symposia
5 RCMB Sessions - selected from 34 submissions
4* Joint Symposia, chair or co-chair from RCMB
1 Scientific Breakthroughs Symposium

Sunday, May 17
AM  7775  Emerging Therapeutic Targets in Lung Disease
     Mike Hart and Tim Oury

PM  Scientific Breakthroughs
     Deciphering Lung Disease in the Genomic Era
     Confirmed Speakers:
     Kari Stefansson, CEO deCODE Genetics
     Eric Schadt, Executive Director Research Genetics, Rosetta

Monday, May 18
AM  7726  Correcting The Basic Defect of Cystic Fibrosis
     James Chmiel

     8347* Flying with Wingless: Wnt Signaling in Development and Disease
     Zea Borok

PM  8338* Unusual Suspects: New Roles for Old Lipids in Lung Disease and Critical Illness
     Mike Fessler

Tuesday, May 19
AM  7945  Bioengineering for Lung Disases: Can We Rebuild The Lung?
     Angela Panoskaltsis-Mortari

PM  7612  Mechanotransduction in Lung Injury, Repair, and Fibrosis
     Jeff Horowitz
ICC 2009 Meeting Report
Charles A. Powell, MD, Program Committee Chair

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8341* Targeting Proteases in Pulmonary Inflammation and Remodeling
   Amit Gaggar, Sorachai Sriruma

Wednesday, May 20
PM  7935  Targeting Tumor Microenvironment Interactions in Lung Cancer
    Jesse Roman and Doug Arenberg

8346* A Tale of Two Cities: Remodeling in the Lung Vasculature and Airway
    Amy Simon, Martin Kolb, Ioana Preston

2. Postgraduate Courses
All three of our submissions were approved by the Education Committee, thanks to excellent work
by our Education Committee liaison, Angela Wang. was a relative shortage of submissions to the
Education Committee. To increase the number of RCMB developed Postgraduate Courses, we will
discuss establishing a core set of Postgraduate Courses to be programmed on a regular basis.

Postgraduate Courses - 3 submitted, 3 approved
Friday, May 15
PG 10:  Risky Business: The Scientific and Clinical Basis of Lung Cancer Risk Assessment
        Ed Hirshowitz

PG 11:  Stem Cells in Lung Biology and Regenerative Medicine
        Barry Stripp

Saturday, May 16
PG 26:  Systems Biology of Lung Disease: A Genomics Toolbox in Action
        Tom Mariani

Submitting Abstracts to RCMB and RFA's for Minisymposia
The deadline for Abstract Submission is October 29. Please be sure to carefully select the abstract
category so that your work is directed to RCMB for review and programming at: www.thoracic.org/
go/call4abstracts

This year we are specifically requesting abstracts pertaining to the following topics. We plan to fea-
ture these abstract categories in Mini-symposia at the International Conference provided we receive
enough excellent abstracts in these areas.

Please encourage your colleagues to submit their best scientific abstracts related to these categories:
- microRNA  3.11
- Epigenetics  3.5
- Stem Cells  3.17
- Nanotechnology  8.6
- Aging  3.22, 3.23, 3.24, or 3.25