

Assembly on Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology

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Message from the Assembly Chair

Dear members and friends,

This year more than ever, I am incredibly proud of the amazing contributions from our assembly members, the broader ATS network and our clinical and scientific colleagues around the world. Thank you for all you do for our patients, our research and educational missions and each other. There is no doubt that the impact of the last year has been profound with much to test our personal and professional resilience. However, the rapid development of highly effective vaccines and the advances in clinical, basic, and translational research of COVID-19 have highlighted the critical importance of science and innovation that are the very foundations of our RCMB assembly.



Editor: Patricia Sime, MD

This is the time when our attention turns to the ATS 2021 international meeting (May 14th-19th), which is one of the highlights of the year for many. While we cannot meet in person this year, a wonderful ATS 2021 Program will be presented in a virtual format with both live and recorded sessions featuring the best of our basic and translational science including COVID-19 biology and disease. Our Program Committee has worked incredibly hard to continue to bring to us the best of cellular and molecular biology in lung development, health, ageing and disease with a focus on translational biology. This year we have been able to Program 3 Scientific Symposia, 2 Joint Symposia, 2 Meet the Experts sessions and 3 mini-symposia, in addition to many e-posters. While we will undoubtedly miss seeing each other in person, I look forward to our virtual interactions as part of both the ATS program and other Webinars that will be announced.

One particular focus has been our efforts to include our junior colleagues in all aspects of assembly life as they are missing opportunities for in-person networking and professional activities resulting from the pandemic. Our assembly meeting will be held on May 12th and we look forward to “seeing” you there where we will provide additional opportunities to meet and celebrate your contributions including those who have won awards! You are all most welcome and we invite you to share your ideas with us and enjoy some camaraderie. [Please register here.](#)

In this newsletter, we are also excited to share the many activities of our MD and PhD researchers and trainees this year. I want to personally thank our assembly leaders for their dedication, talents, and support.

Jeanine D'Armiento and **Christopher Walters** have fearlessly led our **Program Committee** with 35 members from around the world. They have worked closely with many other assemblies to synergize and bring together our virtual program. The team is already gearing up for ATS 2022. Please bring us your ideas and become a part of ATS 2022, when we hope we can see more of you in person.

Jeffrey Horowitz and **Elizabeth Redente** have steered our hard-working **Planning Committee**, by both championing our efforts to develop projects and have helped ensure amazing recipients for our named RCMB awards. These recipients will be announced and celebrated at the RCMB Assembly meeting! Please join us to cheer on these terrific colleagues and re-

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR (continued)

searchers.

Brian Southern and the **Web Committee** have ensured that our assembly remains in contact, communicating our assembly members work through tweets, podcasts, and some fabulous journal clubs. It was a great way to stay connected during the pandemic and will continue to serve us well in the year ahead and beyond. Please keep your ideas and tweets rolling!

Jaime Hook and our growing **Early Career Professional Group** have been enthusiastically bringing together opportunities to connect early career investigators and highlighting their critical career needs. Your ongoing support of these colleagues and careers is so appreciated. Please join them for their ATS early career kick off meeting, Saturday, May 15th. [Register here](#). This is also a great place to start your involvement in ATS leadership.

Irfan Rahman and **Benjamin Singer** continue to champion our **Aging Work Group** including a top-notch recent Research Retreat on senescence.

Milica Vukmirovic, **Louise Hecker** and our **Innovation and Entrepreneurial Working Group**, are organizing key educational sessions in entrepreneurship and development of new drugs and devices including exciting Webinars.

Scott Randell and **Elizabeth Redente** are our champions for the **PhD, Basic and Translational Scientists Working Group**. This group has been working diligently to continue to foster communication and interactions and have planned another virtual reception. [Register here](#). They have also helped develop a database of researchers interested in giving seminars to outside institutions. Please reach out to them if you are interested in participating and hearing from our great junior and other researchers.

Melanie Königshoff has expertly served our assembly in many capacities, most recently as Assembly Chair. Melanie continues to lead the **Nominating Committee** who recruit our wonderful assembly leadership. These new leaders will be announced at the Assembly meeting.

Thomas Mariani has led our efforts for the **Science and Innovation Center (SIC)**. This center fosters networking, career assistance, education and social opportunities and creates exciting new initiatives of interest to all ATS members. I am pleased to share, joining as our RCMB representative on SIC this year is **Francesca Polverino**.

Finally, congratulations to **Irina Petrache** who has just been elected ATS secretary/ treasurer. Dr. Petrache has skillfully served many roles for our assembly and this year led the **Science Core**. I am pleased to announce **Ivana Yang** will be serving our assembly as part of the Science Core leadership this year.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter and importantly please reach out to any of our committees, our assembly leadership and of course myself (patricia.sime@vcuhealth.org). We value your input, talents and enthusiasm.

I am so proud to serve you as assembly chair and look forward to the year ahead.

With warm regards and admiration,

Patricia J. Sime,
Assembly Chair
Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology (RCMB)

Assembly on Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology (RCMB) Membership Meeting

Wednesday, May 12, 2021
6-8 PM EST

[Register Now](#)



ATS 2021

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

MAY 14-19 #ATS2021

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

Jeanine M. D'Armiento, MD, PhD, Chair and Christopher M. Waters, PhD, Chair-Elect

The annual American Thoracic Society meeting is one of the highlights of the academic year for the members of the RCMB and other ATS assemblies. It is the goal of the RCMB Program Committee to help bring cutting edge basic and translational science to our membership. The Program Committee membership now comprises 35 members from around the world who worked with tremendous enthusiasm to construct an exciting program for the virtual ATS 2021 Meeting. We were also joined by our talented RCMB Program Committee Apprentice Jennifer Larson-Casey. Every year the Program Committee reviews, grades, collates and develops all of the Scientific Symposia, Minisymposia, Poster-discussion and Thematic poster sessions, Post-graduate courses, Meet the Professor sessions, Workshops and Sunrise Seminars. Because this year's meeting will be virtual, there were no Poster-discussion sessions programmed, and the Meet the Professor Sessions and Sunrise Seminars were combined into Meet the Expert sessions. Furthermore, the number of Symposium and Mini Symposium were decreased significantly.

To promote interactions and programmatic synergy across assemblies, we also work closely with colleagues in other assemblies including AII, RSF, CP, EOPH, and PEDS. The committee's work began last summer, reviewing 14 excellent proposals for scientific symposia, sunrise seminars, and postgraduate courses. Because of the limitations of the virtual format, we were able to program fewer sessions than normal, but the content will be outstanding. We programmed 2 RCMB major symposia that will be partially live, and an additional major symposium that will be on-demand. Along with other assemblies, we programmed an additional partially live symposium and an on-demand symposium. One of our sessions is a Top-Down Symposia that was anchored to the Basic Science Core theme of Understanding the Role of Sex Differences in Lung Disease. Our virtual ATS 2021 meeting includes RCMB-sponsored 3 Scientific Symposia, 2 Joint Symposium, 2 Meet the Experts session, and 3 mini-symposium. These were selected by the International Conference Committee and ATS staff.

This year's "Basic Science Core Topic" is Understanding the Role of Sex Differences in Lung Disease. The RCMB programmed Scientific Breakthroughs session is entitled "Sex as a Vital Biological Variable in Lung Disease Across the Lifespan" and will feature talks from leaders in this field including Patricia Silveryra, Krithika Lingappan, Andrea Lee Frump, Joe Zein and Sabra Klein. This is scheduled as Session B4 for Monday, May 17, 2021, 8:00 – 9:30 am.

This year RCMB received 314 abstract submissions, about half the number from from the 2020 conference. These abstracts were programmed into 2 Mini Symposia and 12 Thematic Poster Sessions. For the virtual ATS meeting, the presenters of these programmed abstracts will be able to submit ePosters. Over 25 colleagues agreed to help in chairing sessions, serving as featured speakers or as facilitators/moderators at this year's programmed sessions. We want to emphasize our gratitude for the enthusiastic participation of our membership and colleagues. We are aware of the constraints imposed by the COVID realities which clearly limited our research spectrum in the Virtual Program.

We look forward to a return to normal in 2022 as we maintain this high level of enthusiasm. We encourage you to be part of shaping the RCMB Program for 2022. Now is the time to start working with your colleagues to develop ideas for the 2022 program. The Program chairs and committee are always available and happy to offer suggestions before final submission. New members for the Program Committee and new chairs and facilitators for the sessions are important to sustaining a vibrant and inclusive ATS meeting, and we welcome contributions from enthusiastic members. The Program committee for 2021-22 has been finalized but there are approximately 5-10 new positions available every year. We are also excited about our new RCMB Program Committee Apprentice, David Nagel.

If you are interested in joining the Committee for next year, please contact the Incoming Chair, Chris Waters (chris.waters41@uky.edu), who will maintain a list of interested individuals. Lastly, we would like to thank the Program Committee Members. We especially appreciated the patience, expertise, experience, guidance, and dedication of ATS-IC staff!

A promotional graphic for the ATS 2021 meeting. It features a blue-tinted background image of a person wearing a surgical cap and a face mask. Overlaid on the image are several text elements: a dark blue box with white text that reads "ATS 2021 May 14-19", a white box with blue text that reads "Showcasing breakthrough research in respiratory care.", and a yellow box with black text that reads "Register Now". The graphic is set against a white background with blue and red geometric shapes.

ATS 2021 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY ON RESPIRATORY CELL AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY (RCMB)

Code	Session Title	Session Type	Session Time (EST)
Sunday, May 16, 2021			
A10	NOVEL DISCOVERIES IN LUNG BIOLOGY	Mini Symposium	1:30 PM - 3:00 PM
A14	MILITARY DEPLOYMENT RESPIRATORY HEALTH: INSIGHTS INTO POTENTIAL EXPOSURES, CLINICAL FINDINGS, AND MECHANISMS	Joint Scientific Symposium	7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Monday, May 17, 2021			
B4	SEX AS A VITAL BIOLOGICAL VARIABLE IN LUNG DISEASE ACROSS THE LIFESPAN	Scientific Symposium	8:00 AM - 9:30 AM
ME12	LUNG AGING - NEW PRECLINICAL MODELS AND MECHANISMS OF CELLULAR SENESENCE	Meet the Experts	5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
Tuesday, May 18, 2021			
C9	MODULATORS OF LUNG INJURY AND REPAIR	Mini Symposium	10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
C13	MOLECULAR MECHANISMS DEFINING HOST-PATHOGEN INTERACTIONS IN COVID-19 LUNG INFECTION	Scientific Symposium	3:30 PM - 5:00 PM
Tuesday, June 8, 2021			
PG3	HOW THE EXTRACELLULAR MATRIX INSTRUCTS LUNG REGENERATION: TRANSLATING TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES	Postgraduate Course	12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

Sessions of General Interest

Code	Session Title	Session Type	Session Time (EST)
Sunday, May 16, 2021			
A1	REHABILITATION AND COVID-19: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES	Scientific Symposium	8:00 am - 9:30 am
A11	ATS PRESIDENT'S SYMPOSIUM: CAN RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES IN RESPIRATORY HEALTH BE ELIMINATED?	Scientific Symposium	3:30 pm - 5:00 pm
Monday, May 17, 2021			
B1	MIND THE GAP: ENDING GENDER DISCRIMINATION AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN CRITICAL CARE	Scientific Symposium	6:00 am - 7:30 am
B7	BREAKING NEWS: CLINICAL TRIAL RESULTS IN PULMONARY MEDICINE	Scientific Symposium	10:00 am - 11:30 am
Recorded			
K1	VACCINES ON THE HORIZON: IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE AND POLICY – Kristen Feemster, MD, MPH, MSHP	Keynote Series	On-Demand
K2	BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO RESEARCH AND PRACTICE WITH SEX AND GENDER SCIENCE – Cara Tannenbaum, MDCM, MSc	Keynote Series	On-Demand
K3	CRISIS COMMUNICATION IN A RESPIRATORY PANDEMIC: THE COMPLICATED INTERSECTION OF MEDIA, DATA, AND POLITICS – Vinay Gupta, MD, MPA, MSt	Keynote Series	On-Demand
K4	THE CLIMATE GAP: CONNECTING EQUITY AND SUSTAINABILITY TO ADVANCE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE – Rachel Morello-Frosch, PhD,	Keynote Series	On-Demand

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Jeffrey C. Horowitz, MD, Chair

The RCMB Planning Committee has two primary responsibilities. First, we solicit and assist in the development and review of applications to ATS for the support of **Assembly/Committee projects**. These projects can be submitted by any Assembly member, and if approved the funds can be used to support activities that enhance the communication and collaborative efforts of members with common interests. Frequently, these projects involve the development of workshops around a specific focus of interest and can be written collaboratively between Assemblies. These workshops should have defined goals, a feasible timeline and include plans for the rapid development of a report or document for publication. After submission, the proposals are reviewed by the Planning Committee, and the committee provides feedback to the submitting member to develop the best program possible before submission to ATS for evaluation by the ATS Program Review Subcommittee. Ultimately, decisions about funding are made by the Program Review Subcommittee. This past year, RCMB members submitted three proposals for review by the planning committee. Two of those proposals were revised and advanced as submissions to ATS. While we were very disappointed that neither proposal was funded, we were encouraged by the ideas, scientific areas covered and quality of all of the proposals and hope that they will be revised and submitted again next year. If any member has interest in developing a proposal, please don't hesitate to contact us to discuss the idea and potential approaches.

The RCMB Planning Committee also has the privilege of reviewing applications for the RCMB Assembly Awards. These included the **Carol Basbaum Award** to recognize outstanding scientific achievement and leadership potential in a junior investigator and the **Andy Tager Award for Excellence in Mentoring**. Last year, we introduced a new award to recognize the scientific accomplishments and contributions of investigators from the international ATS community. The timing of this introduction was in the midst of the COVID19 pandemic surge, and no nominations were received. We are looking forward to reviewing nominations for this year's "**RCMB Award for Research Excellence and Service by an International Member.**" This inaugural award will be presented in the memories of Geoff Laurent, Ph.D. and Tomoko Betsuyaku M.D. and will serve as a testament to their passion for knowledge, service to our community and contributions to our understanding of the biological basis of lung disease.

As I conclude my term as the Chair of the RCMB planning committee, I am grateful for the contributions of all committee members who have continued to serve RCMB through these trying times. I would especially like to thank Elizabeth Redente, Ph.D. for her efforts this past year as the Vice-chair of the committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey C. Horowitz, MD, ATSF
Chair, RCMB Planning Committee

WEB COMMITTEE REPORT

Brian D. Southern, MD, Web Director

As members of the RCMB assembly, we are part of a global community of pulmonologists, scientists, and researchers. The ability to share ideas with colleagues around the world is critical to achieving our mission of reducing the burden of lung disease. The goal of the RCMB website committee is to **provide a virtual forum to facilitate scientific conversations and collaborations amongst RCMB members**. We have been successful in using various media forums to accomplish this goal over the past year.

This past year we conducted we were involved in some exciting journal club webinars. The first was a joint project with the Section on Genetics/Genomics, discussing the AJRCCM manuscript by Laure-Emmanuelle Zaragosi and colleagues called "A Single-Cell Atlas of the Human Healthy Airways", moderated by Jeff Koenitzer. The second was a collaboration between the RCMB Lung Aging Research and Aging in Critical Care Interest Groups entitled "A Retreat of Lung Aging Groups: Cellular and Molecular Biology of Lung Aging and Disease." This was an insightful presentation moderated by RCMB's Irfan Rahman and Benjamin Singer. We are also happy to co-sponsor a Workshop Webinar in April 2021 with the Assembly on Allergy, Immunology, and Inflammation (AII) on the ATS Scholar article "Inclusion in the Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine Physician-Scientist Workforce. Building with Intention," co-authored by RCMB's Enid Neptune. In the coming weeks we will be presenting, in collaboration with the Assembly on Pulmonary Circulation (PC), the AJRCCM manuscript by George Alba and colleagues entitled "NEDD9 is a Novel and Modifiable Mediator of Platelet-Endothelial Adhesion in the Pulmonary Circulation."

We have continued to create stimulating podcasts with content targeted to those involved in lung biology research. Maor Sauler produced a three-part series called "Interview with the Editors" where five editors of major respiratory journals provided advice on the editorial review process. In collaboration with the RCMB Early Career Professionals Working Group, we presented a podcast, moderated by Rachel Knipe, called "The Effect of COVID-19 on Young Career Professionals Inside and Outside the Lab and Clinic." This informative discussion included a number of early career scientists from RCMB.

All Journal Clubs and podcasts can be viewed and/or downloaded from the ATS website. ATS podcasts can also be found on iTunes. We continue to have a very active social media presence with our twitter account @ATS_RCMB. With over 1600 followers our tweets aim to highlight the work of fellow RCMB members and keep the assembly informed on important topics!

The RCMB website committee is a great way to get involved in ATS, particularly for junior members, and we are always looking to add members to our committee. It's also a great way to share your research with the ATS community. Please contact me at southeb@ccf.org if you would like to participate or have any suggestions.

EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONALS WORKING GROUP REPORT

Jaime Hook, MD, Chair

The mission of the *Early Career Professionals Working Group* (ECPWG) is to increase the involvement of early career professionals (ECPs) in the RCMB Assembly and the ATS as a whole. Our membership is a mix of postdoctoral research and clinical fellows, instructors, and assistant professors with MD, PhD, and MD/PhD backgrounds from three continents.

We're proud to report that, despite the challenges of the past year, our ECPWG has continued our initiatives to support our ECP colleagues. We're grateful to our ATS liaison, **Nicole Feijoo**, for tireless help and support. In addition to our annual initiatives, which include the RCMB Mentoring Program, Apprenticeship Program, and Recognition of Early Academic Achievement (REAAch) Award, this year we: 1) **submitted suggestions** from our ECWPG to the RCMB Assembly Executive Committee as to how our Assembly and the ATS might support ECP basic and translational investigators during and after the COVID-19 pandemic; 2) partnered with the RCMB Web Committee to raise awareness of pandemic-related difficulties for ECPs by creating the podcast, "**The Effect of COVID-19 on Young Career Professionals Inside and Outside the Lab and Clinic**"; and 3) co-sponsored the AII-RCMB Assembly Joint Interactive Workshop, "**Constructing a Roadmap to Further Inclusion at ATS**". On a more local level, we promoted ECP career development by reorganizing our working group's leadership structure to provide **new leadership opportunities** for our working group members.

Our **Communications Committee**, run by **Mareike Lehmann, PhD**, is updating our [ECPWG website](#) and increasing our Twitter presence (@ATS_RCMB) to make our initiatives more accessible. This year we tried a new system of sending targeted email messages to RCMB ECPs that included a concise listing of our major initiatives, important deadlines, and links to participate. Going forward, we will continue to hone our communication mechanisms to promote broad ECP engagement in a streamlined manner.

The **RCMB Mentoring Program**, organized by **Rachel Knipe, MD**, has run successfully now for many years, matching mid-career and senior RCMB mentors with trainees, post-docs, fellows, and junior faculty mentees. This pairing provides opportunities to exchange ideas and experiences that support scientific collaboration, career development, and networking among our members in a welcoming one-on-one format. Historically, mentors have helped mentees navigate opportunities at the ATS Conference. This year, our Mentoring Program will take place virtually, which means the support of our mentors takes on new significance as mentees look for guidance with networking and career development during the COVID-19 pandemic, when opportunities for chance encounters is lower, and travel is limited. Help us increase visibility and participation in this important program for ATS 2021. Your participation as mentors and mentees is very valuable – please join us!

This is now the third year of the **RCMB Apprenticeship Program**, a mechanism by which ECP applicants are selected to serve on the RCMB Program, Planning, and Web Committees. Our Apprenticeship Program is organized by **Hrishikesh Kulkarni, MD**. Under the mentorship of a committee member, apprentices get a "behind the scenes" look at the operations of the RCMB Assembly while developing skills for evaluation of committee applications and development of committee projects. This year, we revised our apprentice selection criteria to better account for applicant participation in Assembly activities, commitment to diversity, completion of research deliverables, and collaboration. We're pleased to have had a number of highly competitive applications. We'll announce this year's Apprentices at the RCMB Assembly Business Meeting.

As part of our mission to support ECP career development, we look forward to announcing this year's two recipients of the **Recognition of Early Academic Achievement (REAAch) Award** at the RCMB Assembly Business Meeting. Our REAAch Award Program is run by **Ciara Shaver, MD, PhD**. This recognition is given to Early Stage Investigators at the Instructor or Assistant Professor level who demonstrate a sustained commitment to developing a productive academic career, with focus on research areas addressed by the RCMB Assembly. This year we were again pleased to receive a number of competitive nominations, reflecting the high caliber of ECP investigators in our RCMB Assembly.

Our **Conference Committee**, run by **Josh Englert, MD**, strives to ensure that ECPs make the most of their experience at the ATS International Conference. This year, the committee has worked to come up with innovative new ways to promote ECP involvement and engagement in ATS Conference programming. Although ATS 2021 is virtual, we still plan to provide our annual **RCMB Roadmap** highlighting conference programming and events of potential interest to RCMB Assembly ECPs. In addition, we're working on a new initiative to **help ECPs design and submit competitive proposals** for scientific symposia, sunrise seminars, and other session programming for future ATS Conferences. Stay tuned.

Finally, we welcome ECPs to join us at the **ATS Early Career Kick-Off, Saturday, May 15th from 6:30-7:00 pm**, right before the ATS Conference Opening Ceremony with Dr. Fauci. We'll introduce the RCMB Assembly and our ECPWG, then have informal meet-and-greet networking time.

Thanks for your interest in our ECPWG. We're always looking to add qualified people to enrich our group, so please contact us if you're interested in participating (jaime.hook@mssm.edu). We look forward to welcoming you to ATS 2021, and we hope to see you at the annual RCMB Membership Meeting!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Melanie Koenigshoff, MD, PhD, Chair

The RCMB Nomination Committee has the privilege to support the Assembly by identifying and promoting RCMB members for leadership positions within the Assembly. This year, we had the task to nominate candidates for Assembly Chair, Program Chair, and members of the Nomination Committee within RCMB. Candidates are identified through an open-to-all process and selected based on their previous RCMB activities and commitment. We encourage all RCMB members to become involved and nominate a colleague or themselves. The selected candidates have been up for election and all of you have been encouraged to vote. The results of the election and thus new RCMB leaders will be announced during the Assembly Membership Meeting. I am grateful to Yohannes Tesfaigzi, PhD and Scott Budinger, MD serving on this committee and thank them for their insights and hard work. Please feel free to reach out with any question you might have about the committee work and future leadership positions within RCMB. Moreover, please actively participate in future elections (koenigshoffm@upmc.edu). We want your voice and vote!

LUNG AGING RESEARCH WORKING GROUP REPORT

Irfan Rahman, PhD, ATSF, Ben Singer, MD, PhD, Louise Hecker, PhD, Co-Chairs

The Lung Aging Research Working Group continued its core activities throughout 2020-2021 despite the challenges of the pandemic. Because of the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on older individuals, we have focused many of our activities on mechanisms of inflammation and tissue injury that are modified during aging. Our main goal is to increase awareness and disseminate knowledge of the pathophysiological mechanisms/hallmarks of aging in the lungs with interests in terms of basic biology of aging in debilitating lung diseases including critical care. Our group brings together lung researchers who are interested in understanding the cellular and molecular mechanisms of aging and age-related lung diseases and forms a forum for discussion on hallmarks of lung aging and associated diseases. Additional details can be found on the [working group website](#).

We hosted a very well-attended Research Retreat on November 20th, 2020, highlighting insights from NIH and junior and senior investigators focused on senescence. Drs. Weiniu Gan, Mauricio Rojas, and Mareike Lehmann each delivered outstanding presentations. Stay tuned for our details on our Annual Meeting, planned for a virtual format in June 2021, which will bring together investigators and clinicians across ATS assemblies. Our core topic this year will be, “Pathways to Funding for Aging-Focused Research in Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine.”

If you are interested in learning more about our goals and activities, please feel free to contact us:

irfan_rahman@urmc.rochester.edu

benjamin-singer@northwestern.edu

lhecker@email.arizona.edu

THE PhD, BASIC AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENTISTS (PBTS) WORKING GROUP REPORT

Scott Randell, PhD, Elizabeth Redente, PhD, Co-Chairs

The PTBS WG meets monthly to discuss issues of importance to non-physician ATS members and physician-scientists primarily focused on research, creating a smaller community structure for support, networking and advocacy within the large and diverse ATS. The PTBS WG is housed within the RSF assembly but includes members across the ATS. Beth Moore, PhD (AII, University of Michigan) and Tom Mariani, PhD (RCMB, University of Rochester) are the current co-chairs.

Through this difficult year PBTS WG members have worked to help maintain important missing connections. In 2020 we co-hosted a successful virtual PBST reception with the Science and Innovation Center (SIC). *Be on the lookout for this year's 2021 virtual reception registration!*

We developed a database of researchers eager to provide seminars (virtually or in person in the future) to counteract the challenges for networking and speaking opportunities created by COVID-19, particularly for early career stage investigators. As of March, 2021, the database contains 133 scientists eager to fill seminar series slots! [Check out the database here](#).

The PBTS WG works to highlight ATS resources available to post-doctoral fellows and basic science members, including: 1) [posting CV's on the ATS job board free of charge](#), 2) meeting with DocMatters to map strategies to engage research-focused ATS members, 3) a portal for on-line ATS technical training videos, 4) continuing the conversation about how ATS members can mitigate racism and social injustice within our society and institutions. We welcome you to use current resources and to join the conversation!

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THE PhD, BASIC AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENTISTS (PBTS) WORKING GROUP REPORT (continued)

Finally, we seek to survey Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep and Pediatric Pulmonary Division Chiefs to better understand how PhDs and non-practicing MDs are hired, and barriers and opportunities to strengthen researcher and clinician collaboration. A goal is for survey data to provide the foundation for an ATS project focusing on key issues important to this ATS constituency. Let us know if you want to be involved and encourage your Division Chiefs to participate!

For more information, to suggest a topic, or if you are interested in joining, please email Beth Moore (bmoore@umich.edu) or Tom Mariani (tom_mariani@urmc.rochester.edu).

INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURIAL WORKING GROUP REPORT Milica Vukmirovic, PhD and Louise Hecker, PhD, Co-Chairs

Innovation and Entrepreneurial Working Group gathers world known academic and industry experts who support entrepreneurial activities in respiratory field and within the RCMB Assembly. The goals of our group are to organize educational sessions in entrepreneurship and bridge learning gaps for the development of new drugs and devices coming from academic research in lung diseases. In 2020, our group developed a survey tool to assess the early-stage development of biomarkers, drugs and devices within academic settings.

To organize upcoming series of webinars on “Innovation in Pulmonary”, our group works closely with the Science and Innovation Center (SIC). The webinars will be posted on virtual [SIC website](#). Stay tuned!

For more details on group activities and how to get involved, [visit our webpage](#) and [follow Twitter page](#).

SCIENCE AND INNOVATION CENTER REPORT Tom Mariani, PhD, Francesca Polverino, MD, PhD, Co-Chairs

Welcome to the **Science and Innovation Center (SIC)**, a venue for basic and translational scientists to network and learn more about emerging new technologies advancing research in respiratory, critical care and sleep medicine. The Center also offers sessions on professional and career development. In addition, the Center hosts the annual PhD and Basic and Translational Scientists Reception, the annual Bear Cage Competition, the Rising Star Awards as well as the SIC Abstract Awards. The principles of the Center are Networking, Career Assistance, Education and Social Opportunities. The SIC Planning committee works collectively with multiple ATS assemblies to program and create exciting new initiatives of interest to all ATS members.

Join us:

- If you are interested in learning more about emerging technologies and innovative methods advancing lung research
- If you are interested in learning more about scientific careers in academia and industry
- If you want to meet with NIH program officers

If you want to meet with emerging leaders in respiratory, critical care and sleep research

[@ATS_SIC](#)

SCIENCE CORE REPORT Irina Petrache, MD, Ivana Verona Yang, PhD, Co-Chairs

The goal of the Science Core is to create an area of scientific focus at each ATS-IC that can be leveraged to attract leaders in the field and spur interactions and the quality of scientific sessions programmed in the selected area of investigation. We hope that you will enjoy this years Basic Science Core theme of Understanding the Role of Sex Differences in Lung Disease

The approach to establish the Science Core topic for the upcoming ATS-IC is by discussion of candidate themes following by voting among a committee formed by former program committee chairs of AII, RCMB, and RSF (the Science Core “TRIO”), that serve a 3-yr tenure. The candidate themes are determined with input from current PC chairs of these assemblies. Once a topic is selected, the Science Core members propose speakers for several sessions in this track, with the rest of the programming being provided via grassroots efforts, whereby ATS Members submit proposals geared towards the chosen topic. The Program Committees of the respective assemblies rank and crafts sessions in collaboration with the Science Core “TRIO”.

The Science Core topic for the 2022 ATS IC is in the process of selection.

Irina Petrache

ATS SCHOLAR INDEXED IN PUBMED/PUBMED CENTRAL

The American Thoracic Society is pleased to announce that ATS Scholar is now indexed in PubMed Central, the full text archive of biomedical and life sciences literature at the National Library of Medicine. Articles archived in PubMed Central can be found when searching PubMed and receive an identifying PMID number. For ATS Scholar, this has also been done retroactively for authors who have already published manuscripts in prior issues.

This is an important milestone for ATS Scholar as only 32% of journals that apply get indexed in PubMed Central. It is great validation for our authors and confirms that quality of the content published in the journal. You can find ATS Scholar articles by accessing the following links:

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Editor-In-Chief Nitin Seam remarks, “We are proud to achieve PubMed Central indexing only 14 months after publishing our first papers.”

ATS Scholar is an international, open-access online journal publishing health professions education manuscripts relevant to the fields of pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine, including those related to the teaching of common clinical topics, the training of healthcare providers and scientists, and educational research. Visit the [website](#) to learn more about the journal.

The American Thoracic Society

is pleased to announce our new

2020 ATSF Fellows



2020
ATSF

David Itiro Kasahara
Arrowhead Pharmaceutical

Abebaw Yohannes
Azusa Pacific University

Elena Goncharova
University of California, Davis

Jose Antonio Castro Rodriguez
Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile

David Griffith
National Jewish Health

Alexander Sy
Wake Forest Health

Susmita Chowdhuri
School of Medicine,
Pulmonary/Critical Care and Sleep

Samya Nasr
University of Michigan

Adam Benjafield
ResMed

Richard Casaburi
Lundquist Institute for Biomedical Innovation
at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center

Obianuju Ozoh
Department of Medicine, College of
Medicine, University of Lagos

Lida Hariri
Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard
Medical School

Yuksel Peker
Koc University School of Medicine

Usha Raj
University of Illinois at Chicago

Basak Coruh
University of Washington

James Donohue
University of North Carolina
at Chapel Hill

Marcus Jones
Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande
do Sul

Lisa Maier
National Jewish Health

Blanca Himes
University of Pennsylvania

Yvonne Jean Huang
University of Michigan

R. Scott Stephens
Johns Hopkins University

Timothy Girard
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Motoo Yamauchi
Department of Respiratory Medicine,
Nara Medical University

Jennifer Ingram
Duke University

MeiLan Han
University of Michigan

Sanjay R. Patel
University of Pittsburgh

Marianna Sockrider
Baylor College of Medicine

Micheala Aldred
Indiana University

Max Salfinger
University of South Florida College of Public
Health & Morsani College of Medicine

Peter Calverley
University of Liverpool

Angela Rogers
Stanford University

Rodney Britt
Nationwide Children's Hospital

L. Keoki Williams
Wayne State University School of Medicine
& Center for Individualized and Genomic
Medicine Research (CIGMA), Henry Ford
Health System

Praveen Akuthota
University of California San Diego

Sunil Sharma
West Virginia University

Erin Wetherbee
University of Minnesota / Minneapolis VAHCS

Jacqueline Kagima
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine

Ammar Saadoon Alishlash
The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Nandita Nadig
Medical University of South Carolina

Daniel Obaseki
Obafemi Awolowo University

Julie A. Barta, MD
Korman Respiratory Institute at Thomas
Jefferson University

Sivaraja Subramaniam
Delta Care Hospital

Dr. Neeraj Vij
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine,
Precision Theranostics Inc
& VIJ Biotech

The ATS Fellow designation is a mark of distinction, conferring recognition on members for their accomplishments, dedication, and contributions to the Society as well as to the fields of pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine.

The ATS Fellow application period will open in May 2021. The new ATS Fellows will be announced this Fall and recognized at ATS 2022.

For more information about the ATS Fellows, visit our website:

<https://www.thoracic.org/members/membership/ats-fellows.php>