



# Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology Assembly Newsletter

We help the world breathe  
PULMONARY • CRITICAL CARE • SLEEP

Edited by Zea Borok, Assembly Chair

FALL 2009

## Officers of the Assembly on Respiratory Cell Molecular Biology

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### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Program Committee Report 2-4

Planning Committee Report 4

## Message From the Assembly Chairperson

Zea Borok, M.D.

The deadline for submission of abstracts for ATS 2010 in New Orleans has come all too quickly. Hopefully all of you have responded to the many reminders that were sent out and have submitted your abstracts to categories that will be reviewed by RCMB. Tom Mariani (Program Chair) and Susan Guttentag (Program Chair-Elect) will be working hard with members of the Program Committee in the next two months to program these into sessions (mini-symposia, poster discussions and thematic poster sessions) for the upcoming meeting. Tom and Susan attended the meeting of the International Conference Committee in September where they were able to program an excellent line-up of Symposia, Workshops and Postgraduate Courses for ATS 2010. A recent focus has been the development of cross-disciplinary sessions that bridge several Assemblies and RCMB will also contribute to a number of these sessions. RCMB promises to have a very strong presence at sessions throughout the meeting.

Over the last few months, the International Conference Committee has been discussing strategies for simplifying and condensing abstract categories. This is not a simple task, since the Assemblies are not necessarily parallel structures – some focus on disease entities, others focus on basic mechanisms and still others encompass specific areas of professional expertise. This is further complicated by the fact that the number of abstracts an Assembly receives directly determines the number of sessions the Assembly gets to program at the conference making this a very territorial issue. Since changing the latter would require a complete overhaul of the abstract review process, it was decided for now to simply decrease the number of categories for each Assembly and to try to eliminate/consolidate categories which receive very few abstracts. This new system will likely be implemented in 2011 with continuing discussion of whether further changes are needed and how to implement them.

I encourage you to submit nominations for Program Chair-elect and for nominating committee members for 2010-2011. Nominations will be reviewed by the Assembly Nominating Committee chaired by David Ingbar, to be voted on at our Annual RCMB assembly Membership meeting in New Orleans. The deadline for suggestions is December 11, 2009 and nominations should be forwarded to Miriam Rodriguez at [rcmb@thoracic.org](mailto:rcmb@thoracic.org)

## Message From the Assembly Chairman cont'd

Zea Borok, M.D.

The RCMB Executive Committee has been active this year, interacting on issues of importance to the Assembly through monthly conference calls. As always, we welcome your suggestions with regard to areas for future development and ways to improve interactions among Assembly members as well as programming ideas. Included in this newsletter are brief reports from the Assembly committees.

Best regards.

Zea Borok, M.D.

Assembly Chair

## Program Committee Report

Thomas Mariani, Ph.D., Chair and Susan Guttentag, M.D., Chair-Elect

### Scientific Symposia

Due to the volume of abstracts submitted annually to RCMB for review and programming at the International Conference, RCMB was given the opportunity to program five Scientific Symposia. These were selected from a number of outstanding proposals submitted in June by the RCMB membership.

RCMB, along with the assemblies on AII, RSF and EOH, is responsible for programming the annual Scientific Breakthroughs symposium. The topic chosen for this year is "Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine." This hybrid session includes 2 "keynote" lectures from internationally recognized thought leaders alongside short presentations from chosen abstracts submitted to the conference. We are delighted to have recruited our top choices for the lectures; Dr. David Scadden, Co-Director of the Harvard Stem Cell Institute and Dr. Art Caplan, Director of the Center for Bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania.

Additionally, the 2010 conference will feature 7 cross-disciplinary Scientific Symposia, jointly developed by collaboration among multiple assemblies. We are excited to have contributed significantly to 3 of these 7 sessions. Finally, our own Jesse Roman, Chair of the RCMB Planning Committee, developed an outstanding session that was programmed by the assembly on RSF.

The schedule for these sessions is as follows;

#### **Sunday AM, May 16th**

EPIGENOMICS IN LUNG CANCER: LINKING DEVELOPMENT TO DISEASE

#### **Sunday PM, May 16th**

THE MISSING LINKS: COPD AND LUNG CANCER, NEW INSIGHTS FOR PATHOGENESIS, PREDICTION, PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

#### **Monday AM, May 17th**

CELL FATE DECISIONS IN LUNG DEVELOPMENT AND REPAIR

## Program Committee Report

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### **Monday PM, May 17th**

SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGHS OF THE YEAR: STEM CELLS AND REGENERATIVE MEDICINE (featuring keynote lectures by David Scadden and Art Caplan)

VASCULAR-MATRIX INTERACTIONS IN LUNG DEVELOPMENT AND DISEASE (Joint session developed with RSF, Peds, PC)

### **Tuesday AM, May 18th**

MOLECULAR PHENOTYPES: FROM THE BENCH TO BEDSIDE DIAGNOSIS

### **Tuesday PM, May 18th**

THE NON-NEURONAL ACETYLCHOLINE SYSTEM IN THE LUNG: EMERGING ROLES FOR NICOTONIC RECEPTORS IN LUNG DEVELOPMENT, TISSUE REMODELING AND LUNG CANCER (RSF session developed by Jesse Roman)

### **Wednesday AM, May 19th**

TRANSLATIONAL SYSTEMS BIOLOGY AS APPLIED TO DISEASES OF PULMONARY INFLAMMATION (joint session developed with AII)

### **Wednesday PM, May 19th**

TOP NOTCH DECISIONS IN LUNG DEVELOPMENT AND DISEASE

PPAR-GAMMA: A NOVEL TARGET IN LUNG CELL BIOLOGY AND DISEASE (joint session developed with AII)

Additional sessions developed from abstracts submitted to the conference including Minisymposia, Poster Discussion and Thematic Poster sessions will be programmed later this year.

The following educational sessions are available to conference attendees for an extra fee. Please remember to consider enrolling in these sessions when registering for the meeting!

### **Postgraduate Courses**

RCMB will be offering 3 postgraduate courses at the 2010 conference;

1. Susan Guttentag, Chair-Elect of the Program Committee, developed a session focused on translational studies involving large populations. Topics include Study Design, Adult and Pediatric Phenotyping of lung diseases, Ethics and Regulatory issues, Biobanking, Database design and integration, and Important topics in Statistical analysis. This session is scheduled for Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup>.
2. Ann Marie LeVine organized a reprise of a popular course providing guidance on grantsmanship. Topics include identifying appropriate funding opportunities, developing each section of the application, and will include a mock study section. This session is scheduled for Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Program Committee Report

Thomas Mariani, Ph.D., Chair and Susan Guttentag, M.D., Chair-Elect

3. Russ Klein and Avi Spira collaborated to develop a new course on lung cancer, spanning from bench to bedside. Session topics include cancer genomics, inflammation and lung cancer, animal models of lung cancer and personalized therapies. This session is scheduled for Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Workshops

We are pleased this year to offer our assembly's first ever Workshop. This format features a one-hour, lunchtime session on a focused topic. Susan Guttentag has developed a session aimed at orienting new/junior members to the structure and function of our society entitled, "Navigating the ATS." Speakers include Jeff Glassroth covering the basic structure of the ATS, Zea Borok discussing the ATS Assembly structure, Lynn Schnapp on Program Committees, and Susan Guttentag on engaging in the process.

### Sunrise Seminar/Meet the Professor

The following sessions have been programmed;

1. Soumyaroop Bhattacharya, "Demystifying microarray data analysis: An overview of available options"
2. Raju Reddy, "New Mass Spectrometry Techniques and Applications in Biological Research"
3. Gustavo Pacheco-Rodriguez, "Biomarkers in lung disease"
4. Eric White, "Pathobiology of Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis"
5. Thomas Mariani, "Functional Genomics: Uncovering Disease Biomarkers and Mechanisms"
6. Pyong Wu Park, "Proteoglycan-Pathogen Interactions in Bacterial Pneumonia"
7. B Gochuico, "Pulmonary Fibrosis: Clinical Spectrum and Pathogenesis of a Hereditary Form of Fibrotic Lung Disease"

As Chair and Chair-Elect of the RCMB Program Committee, we would like to acknowledge and thank the members of our committee. Their time and effort is responsible for developing these sessions and ensuring the best in basic science is presented at the International Conference.

## Planning Committee Report

Jesse Roman, M.D., Chair

The RCMB Planning Committee reports that the first three Working Groups related to Stem Cell Biology, Lung Cancer, and Lung Fibrosis remain active; they submitted successful proposals and abstracts for the 2010 ATS International Conference and, for those involved in document preparation, these initiatives continue to move forward. Some of these groups have also started developing websites. Members of the Working Groups in Vascular Biology and Alcohol-Related Lung Biology also submitted successful abstracts for the 2010 ATS meeting. There is an interest in establishing other working groups including one on Developmental Biology and another on Aging. If you have an interest in these or related areas, please contact Jesse Roman ([j.roman@louisville.edu](mailto:j.roman@louisville.edu)) or Patricia Sime ([patricia\\_sime@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:patricia_sime@urmc.rochester.edu)).