

Assembly on Respiratory Structure and Function

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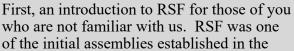
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MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY CHAIR

Although the CoViD-19 pandemic prevented us from convening at the ATS International Conference this year, it has not dampened our enthusiasm over what the Respiratory Structure and Function (RSF) Assembly has accomplished as a group since last May. We are planning a Virtual Membership Meeting to share this information with you. Here I include the reports from our committee chairs and directors and summarize the state of the Assembly.





Assembly Chair: Gwen Skloot, MD,

1970s. We join together basic scientists, clinical investigators, and clinicians who share an interest in advancing scientific discovery and patient care. The scope of the Assembly is one of the broadest scientifically and our members have diverse interests. To learn more about what we do as a group and how we do it, please visit our website: (https://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/rsf/). I would be happy to answer any questions that you have as would our Assembly Officers, also listed on the website.

Our membership is as diverse as our interests and this enriches us as a group. In 2020, we are the 5th largest assembly. Thirty-six percent of us come from abroad. Almost one third of us are women. Thirty-seven percent of us are 40 years old or younger. This segment of our Assembly includes many rising stars who will become the leaders of RSF in the future. We are PhDs and MDs and span the gamut from students and medical trainees to senior faculty. I am proud of our inclusiveness. RSF is a comfortable scientific "home" for anyone interested in basic research, translational biology and clinical approaches to address disease pathogenesis and therapy.

2019-2020 was a productive year for RSF, marked by growth, restructuring and new ideas. We added 71 new members to our roster in 2020. For the third year in a row, our number of abstract submissions exceeded 500 with a slight increase compared to last year. A small percentage of the total submissions were case reports, first introduced alongside our traditional scientific abstracts in 2019.

The PhD and Basic and Translational Scientists Working Group officially

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MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY CHAIR (continued)

started in 2019 (chaired by past RSF Assembly Chair, Blanca Camoretti-Mercado, PhD) has continued to expand and has representation from all 14 assemblies. This working group focuses on the career goals of PhD and MD scientists and provides a forum for scientific programming and networking related to their interests at the International Conference.

On the social media front and thanks to the technical prowess of our Web Director, Jade Jaffar, PhD and her team, we have continued to showcase "Images of RSF" and "RSF Infographics." "Images of RSF" confirms that a picture is worth a thousand words and includes graphics that reflect RSF research. The Infographics, created by RSF member, Johanna Uthoff, PhD (incoming Director of the Web Committee), provide a visual road map for developing a scientific abstract or poster. Johanna has worked on additional infographics for preparing for a journal club and navigating the ATS Conference. A new feature this year is "RSF Spotlight on Publications," short summaries of journal articles authored by our members with visual enhancements that add to their appeal. We continue to work on podcasts in our "How Geographic Migration Affects Research Careers," "Ask the Inventor," and "Perspectives" series. We developed the idea of "perspectives" last year to include the basic science and clinical viewpoints on disease entities, enhancing our translational understanding of respiratory pathobiology. A two-part podcast on "Vaping as Portrayed in the Media: The Facts and the Myths" was our most recent release.

I am particularly excited to tell you that we launched the first "Chat with the RSF Assembly Chair" in 2020. With the support of ATS staff, this one-hour chat was held live in January, using GotoWebinar technology. The well-attended event was an opportunity for direct communication between members and leadership and provided insight into gaps in knowledge about the Assembly and ATS in general.

The Early Career Professionals Working Group (ECPWG), chaired by Corrine Kliment, MD, PhD, has worked closely with the Web Committee and has been very productive. They have collaborated with other assemblies and sponsored or co-sponsored 9 journal clubs in 2019-20. A new Journal Club Committee was formed this year, chaired by Geoff Maksym, PhD. With an invigorated group of members and new infrastructure, the committee has a goal of producing 4 journal clubs each year with broad appeal across all assemblies. We continue to feature the research of our junior members on the website as our "ECP Highlight" and presented 9 such highlights in 2019 -20. The ECPWG has spearheaded the selection of two apprentices, who will serve on the Program and Planning Committee, respectively. The mentorship program is an ATS-wide venture designed to match junior individuals with "veterans" who can provide them with general career guidance and navigational advice at the International Conference. This year, 11 mentees were matched with appropriate mentors under the leadership of Johanna Uthoff, PhD, Michael O'Sullivan, PhD and Tiziana Cremona, PhD from the ECPWG.

As an outgoing Assembly Chair, I feel grateful to have served in this role. I have been supported by a group of strong committee leaders and an involved membership. None of our accomplishments would have been possible without you. I wanted to personally thank the members of the Executive Committee who joined me on a monthly call to discuss and plan assembly business. These individuals include Connie Hsia, MD (Planning Committee Chair), Y.S. Prakash, MD, PhD (outgoing Program Committee Chair), Cindy Thamrin, PhD (incoming Program Committee Chair), Jade Jaffar, PhD (Web Committee Director), Corrine Kliment, MD, PhD (Outgoing Early Career Professionals Working Group Chair), Sana Siddiqui, PhD (Incoming Early Career Professionals Working Group Chair), Jane Bourke, PhD (Science and Innovation Center Chair), Michael O'Sullivan, PhD (Science and Innovation Center Co-Chair), Basil Petrof, MD (Nominating Committee Chair), Blanca Camoretti-Mercado, PhD (PhD and Basic and Translational Scientists Working Group Chair), Reynold A. Panettieri, Jr., MD and Janette Burgess, PhD (Science Core) and my appointees, Robert Brown, MD and Susan Gunst, PhD. I thank you all for your dedication and diligence. I would also like to acknowledge Miriam Rodriguez from ATS for her strong support and guidance during the past two years. Finally, I have been fortunate to learn from multiple prior Assembly Chairs and I appreciate the insights they have given me.

Please join me in congratulating the recipients of this year's RSF Assembly awards as well as the Stuart J. Hirst Abstract Excellence Award. I also would like to recognize those who have received Abstract Scholarship Awards. I extend a special welcome to our new apprentices for the Program and Planning Committees, Victoria Mock, MD

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MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY CHAIR (continued)

and Edwin Yoo, MD, PhD. In closing, it has been an extreme honor to serve as the RSF Assembly Chair. I leave you in excellent hands, as I pass the baton to Connie Hsia, MD, our new Assembly Chair. I am confident that she will continue to represent your interests and advance the mission of RSF and ATS.

Gwen Skloot, MD, ATSF

IN MEMORIIAM

In 2019 and early 2020, we lost several giants in the field of airway physiology: Professors Newman Stephens, Arthur Dubois, Richard Mitchell and Regis McFadden. Though we are unable to honor their memories together in person at the ATS this year, it should be said that our understanding of airway and lung physiology would not have come this far today without them.









PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Connie Hsia, MD, Chair

The RSF Planning Committee is charged with reviewing Assembly Project Proposals and providing feedback to the applicants before they submit the revised proposal to the ATS Program Review Subcommittee for final selection. The RSF Assembly continues to lead state-of-the-art projects in pulmonary function assessment, pulmonary imaging, and structure-function biology of the respiratory system in collaboration with other ATS Assemblies and major scientific societies.

For FY2020, one out of three submitted new RSF proposals was approved for funding by ATS:
A joint ATS/ERS Technical Statement entitled "Updated Technical Standards for the Measurement of Lung Volumes" co-chaired by Nirav Bhakta and Aisling McGown.

Two renewal projects were also approved:

Joint ATS/ERS Technical Statement, "Updated Technical Standards for Interpretive Strategies for Basic Lung Function Tests" co-chaired by Sanja Stanojevic, David Kaminsky and Martin Miller.

Joint ATS/Fleischner Society Workshop, "Quantitative Imaging Metrics for the Assessment of Pulmonary Pathophysiology" co-chaired by Connie Hsia, Sue Hopkins, and David Lynch.

The ATS places great emphasis on supporting project proposals; they offer unique opportunities for convening a diverse panel of experts to consolidate the state-of-the-art and advance new concepts and approaches in the clinical and/or basic arenas to meet the needs of our members. The review process is competitive. Prospective applicants are highly encouraged to discuss their ideas with the Planning Committee members by email or phone to obtain feedback prior to submitting the full application online, which is usually due in late July.

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PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT (continued)

The Planning Committee is also charged with reviewing nominations for four annual RSF Assembly Awards:

The Ann Woolcock Memorial Award for a young investigator,

The Joseph R. Rodarte Award for Scientific Distinction,

The Dr. Robert Crapo Lifetime Achievement Award in Pulmonary Diagnostics, and

The Solbert Permutt Trailblazer Award in Pulmonary Physiology and Medicine.

The 2020 awardees will be recognized at the virtual RSF Assembly Business Meeting later this year. All members are encouraged to take advantage of these awards and nominate your distinguished colleagues for recognition.

The Planning Committee is pleased to participate in the **Assembly Apprentice Program** each year and introduce an early career apprentice to the activities of the Committee and the networking opportunities within the RSF community. We welcome our new (2020-2021) apprentice Edwin Yoo, MD, PhD (Mt. Sinai Hospital, New York).

Finally, we welcome a new **Planning Committee Chair**, Amir Zeki, MD (UC Davis) whose two-year term began in May 2020.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

Y.S. Prakash, MD, PhD, Chair and Cindy Thamrin, PhD, Chair-Elect

This year RSF received 505 Scientific Abstracts, 43 Case Reports, and 24 Late Breaking Abstracts for ATS 2020, representing an increase in submissions to our Assembly, and thanks to the outreach efforts of committee members, the assembly leadership and our sister committees including the RSF Early Career Professional Working Group. Major themes included cornerstone RSF topics such as airway smooth muscle, imaging and mechanics, as well as emerging or hot topics such as e-cigarettes, obesity and idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis.

While much of the program we have put together will now either be delivered online or deferred for consideration in 2021, we have achieved much as an Assembly:

- From the many outstanding session proposals submitted, we were initially able to program 2 Postgraduate Courses, 3 Scientific Symposia, 5 Mini-symposia, 6 Poster Discussion sessions, 18 Thematic Poster sessions, 3 Meet the Professor Seminars, and 3 Sunrise Seminars.
- Two of the scientific symposia will now be delivered online: "CELLULAR PLASTICITY AND LUNG TISSUE BIOENGINEERING: NOVEL APPROACHES TO ADVANCED RESPIRATORY DISEASE" and "THE MATRIX REVEALED: UNDERSTANDING EXTRACELLULAR MATRIX INFLUENCES ON LUNG DISEASES".
- The topmost meritorious 30 RSF abstracts submitted by trainees or fellows-in-training were selected to receive ATS Scholarship Awards. We also selected a top-ranked abstract in the area of airway biology and physiology for the Stuart J. Hirst Award; the winner will be announced at the RSF membership meeting.
- The 2020 Basic Science Core Theme is "Lung Regeneration and Repair." We worked with the AII and RCMB assemblies to assist the Basic Science Core Working Group with the two scientific symposia created "LUNG REGENERATION: WHAT DO WE WANT?" and "LUNG REGENERATION: HOW DO WE GET THERE?" Look out for details on when these will be available online.

The Program Committee is only as good as its membership, and we would like to thank all 35 committee members for their hard work in reviewing scientific proposals and abstracts, and for ensuring that the best science was pro-

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PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT (continued)

grammed for ATS 2020. If you have any ideas for the 2021 Program, please feel free to email Cindy Thamrin, PhD (cindy.thamrin@woolcock.org.au).

WEB COMMITTEE REPORT

Jade Jaffar, PhD, ATSF, Web Director

In 2019-2020, we continued our mandate to create more original content for our social media presence. We had the specific aim of encouraging interaction between ATS members, particularly since RSF is one of the larger assemblies with approximately one third of our members aged 40 and under. Our small core of 7 Web Committee members has been successful in implementing many new features that make up the RSF Social Media brand. As I hand over the reins of Web Director, I am proud to detail the work that our dedicated team has completed over the last year.

Our in-coming Web Director Johanna Uthoff, PhD (Sheffield, UK) created the "RSF Infographics Series" to assist in presenting complex information quickly and clearly. These infographics provide guidance on multiple topics including how to submit an abstract or case report (used ATS-wide), how to present/chair a RaPiD poster session and how to moderate a podcast. Podcasts are a staple of our social media content and are moderated by Sana Siddiqui, PhD (Frisco, TX) and Lakshanie Wickramasinghe (Hons) (Melbourne, Australia).

RSF podcasts mostly fall into 4 "themes": (1) Work/Life Balance, (2) Ask the Inventor/Scientist, (3) Geographic Migration in the Sciences and (4) Perspectives. Each of the podcast themes reflect the well-rounded interests of the RSF audience.

Our Assembly has diverse scientific interests which are highlighted in "RSF Spotlight – Publications." These are journal article summaries presented by Moin Hassan MD, PhD (Boston, MA). The summaries serve as snapshots of cutting edge research and enhance our online journal club experience, which Moin also moderates. Imaging is another scientific focus of the RSF developed by Gregoire Ruffenach, PhD (Los Angeles, CA).

Twitter allows us to quickly promote RSF activities and disseminate information such as on upcoming journal clubs and abstract deadlines. We are lucky that David Mummy, PhD (Durham, NC) has run our Twitter account since May 2019. With David's efforts, we have been able to increase the number of followers by 33% to 265 in less than 1 year. David will continue to drive engagement through Twitter by posting additional original content created by our Early Career Professionals Working Group such as the ECP Highlights series led by Katrina Tonga (Sydney, Aus).

Our current social media offerings can be found at the links below:

- RSF Infographics <specific link to RSF website coming>
- Podcasts
- RSF Facebook Page
- RSF Twitter Page

We are always looking for new team members, so please contact us if you'd like to contribute. If you are interested

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WEB COMMITTEE REPORT (continued)

in producing any type of original content, we can work with you to make it possible. Please forward your ideas to our new Web Director Johanna Uthoff, PhD and let her know if you would like to become more involved (johanna-uthoff@outlook.com).

It has been a pleasure serving the ATS and RSF Assembly. Jade Jaffar, PhD, ATSF (Melbourne, Aus).

EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONALS WORKING GROUP REPORT Corrine Kliment, MD PhD, Chair

It was another busy year for the Early Career Professionals work group (ECP). The ECP aims to help graduate students, postdocs, clinical fellows and junior professionals get ahead in their careers by offering workshops, a mentoring program, and other tools to maximize exposure at ATS and in the scientific community. The working group is composed of early career professionals spanning 3 continents and a wide variety of backgrounds.

We organized 2 sessions for the Science and Innovations Center for this year:

- Get in the Game: Executive Coaching as a Tool for Leadership Development in Medicine and Research
- Mentorship matters: How to connect, motivate and achieve

The RSF mentoring program continues to be popular and allows students and trainees to connect with mentors who have already established themselves in their careers to receive advice and guidance. Mentee-Mentor pairs have a dedicated space at the ATS international conference for face-to-face meetings. This year, the communication will be handled differently due to CoViD-19. The program is currently run by Johanna Uthoff, PhD Michael O'Sullivan, PhD and Tiziana Cremona, PhD. We are always looking for new mentors and mentees, so do not hesitate to contact ATS's senior coordinator Nicole Feijoo, nfeijoo@thoracic.org.

- We have also developed several other initiatives aimed at assisting ECPs in their careers:
- We are continuing to develop exciting and helpful infographics (created by RSF member, Johanna Uthoff, PhD). Topics include: how to develop a podcast, how to run a journal club, how to build poster, how to review an article and making the most of ATS conference.
- We completed the application cycle of the Apprenticeship program and welcome Victoria Mock, MD and Edwin Yoo, MD, PhD as the 2020-21 RSF Apprentices to work closely with and learn from the Programming and Planning Committees. Congratulations!
- Abstract Writing Guide: The abstract writing guide helps both in the writing of the abstract and the navigation of the submission process at ATS to maximize the exposure of your research. Every year we update this guide to incorporate changes in the submission process. The guide can be found here: https://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/rsf/resources/rsf-abstract-writing-guide-2020.pdf
- We are continuing to highlight the exciting research efforts of our junior members through our ECP Highlights. We encourage ECP members to take advantage of this avenue to highlight their work! They can be found on http://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/assemblies/assemblies/rsf/ecp-highlights/
- We are helping the RSF web committee with development of Podcasts, journal clubs and social media with ongoing active posting.

If you would like to get more involved in RSF and the ECP committee working group, please do not hesitate to contact the incoming ECP working group chair, Sana Siddiqui, PhD (sanathemcgillian@gmail.com).

SCIENCE AND INNOVATION CENTER (SIC)

Jane Bourke, PhD and Michael O'Sullivan, PhD (Representatives)

The Science and Innovation Center (SIC) is an important networking center for RSF researchers providing a counterpart to the Clinician Center at the ATS International Conference. It's a place to hear cutting edge science from experts and from the research leaders of the future, and to benefit from a range of professional development activities – as well as a place to rest, eat, and mingle during the busy schedule of ATS!

Planning for all the SIC activities for 2020 was managed by Assembly representatives, including Jane Bourke, PhD and Mike O'Sullivan, PhD from RSF, and others from Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology (RCMB), Pulmonary Infections and Tuberculosis (PI-TB), and Allergy, Immunology and Inflammation (AII) Assemblies, as well as members from the PhD and Basic and Translational Scientists Working Group.

Although the full program of Research and Discovery presentations that was planned will not occur this year, planning for the following sessions to be presented virtually is well underway, with additional webinars, podcasts and twitter chats to follow:

- Beyond Alum and Capsular Polysaccharides: Novel Vaccine Approaches for Pulmonary Infection (webinar) tentatively scheduled for mid-late June
- Aging and Regeneration in the Lung (webinar) tentatively scheduled for early July
- Improving the Quality and Reproducibility of Flow Cytometry in the Lung (webinar) tentatively scheduled for mid-summer

SIC Awards session

This session is typically a focal point of the SIC program - we name the RSF Assembly Rising Stars and the most innovative RSF abstract by an Early Career Professional (ECP). We are working on arranging this virtually.

Reception for PhDs & Other Basic and Translational Science Researchers

This highly successful reception occurs at the ATS Conference and provides a great start to the meeting and the perfect opportunity to connect with friends and colleagues.

Annual Bear Cage Competition

In this competition, finalists selected by the ATS Drug Device Discovery and Development (DDDD) Committee pitch their highly innovative research proposals to a "Bear (Building Education to Advance Research) Cage" panel of translational science experts from academia, industry, and government. The panel, with audience participation, vets these proposals and asks questions of each presenter before awarding a \$10,000 prize to the winner, and \$2,500 to each of the two runner-ups.

In recent news, the SIC now has its own Twitter account @AtsSic to promote the SIC as a valuable resource for researchers and provide updates and live tweets before and during the ATS Conference - follow us to get all the latest news! The SIC has also launched its webpage as part of the ATS Virtual Network, providing a mission statement, brief history of the evolution of SIC, links to the Twitter feed and 2020 Conference content as it becomes available.

Please contact us if you have any questions (jane.bourke@monash.edu; mosullivan@hsph.harvard.edu).

PhD AND BASIC AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENTISTS WORKING GROUP

Blanca Camoretti-Mercado, PhD

Since its creation a little over a year ago, the "PhD and Basic and Translational Scientists Working Group" (PBTS WG) had grown to include 38 PhDs, physician and nurse scientists, and other health professional members from all 14 assemblies. Through strong partnership with various ATS committees and groups, the PBTS WG has advocated and made efforts to educate and bring awareness to all levels of the ATS leadership and staff on matters concerning this important segment of the ATS membership, including a major concern about costs of attending the International Conference (IC).

These are the main accomplishments the PBTS WG achieved during the last year as well as some immediate future goals:

- The Second Reception was held during the 2019 IC with support from the Science and Innovation Center (SIC). The event was attended by 180+ people who enjoyed good food and a friendly atmosphere that facilitated socialization, networking, and fun. For future conferences, the WG plans to increase the participation of mid and senior professionals at the reception for the sake of advancing mentoring and network opportunities for junior colleagues attending the IC.
- The PBTS WG played a key role in providing content and leadership in the programming of the sessions and activities organized by the SIC for the 2020 IC. In addition, the WG promoted the participation of PBTSs in the ATS Mentoring Program and developed the dedicated track for non-MDs in the "New Faculty Boot Camp" that includes sessions for trainees, fellows, and junior investigators on career development, networking, education, and gaining sense of community.
- The PBTS WG contributed to the Research News Quarterly published by the ATS Research Advocacy Committee and collaborated with the ATS Education committee in preparing the Researcher Education Questionnaire, a society-wide survey for needs assessment. The WG will participate in the next phases of questionnaire dissemination, promotion, and analysis of results.
- Because the activities of the PBTS WG are at the core of the mission of ATS, the ATS membership, and the structure of ATS as the leading professional society, we had proposed the formation of the PBTS Interest Group to continue the efforts of the PBTS WG and to more broadly engage and organize members. The mission of the IG will be two-fold, "To support, facilitate, and empower ATS members to achieve their full professional potential as researchers by active participation in the ATS. To advocate for scientists who perform basic and early translational research, non-physician allied health professionals, and non-clinically credentialed MDs within ATS, in order to improve the value to their society membership and their experience as ATS members." Due to the CoViD-19 pandemic, the goal of forming an IG was temporarily put on hold and we will remain as a WG for the time being.

We look forward to future ATS Conferences so that you can learn what the PBTS WG can do for you, and how you can get involved in advancing the mission of the PBTS WG!

Submit an Assembly/Committee Project Application for funding in FY2021!

We are happy to announce that ATS will once again accept NEW Assembly/Committee Projects for FY2021. All interested applicants should begin developing their ideas for Assembly/Committee Project Applications. Applications will be available on the ATS website at https://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/about/project-application.php on August 1st with a deadline of August 31st. 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, Amir A. Zeki, MD at aazeki@ucdavis.edu

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

Free Patient Fact Sheets!

The ATS Patient Information Series contains over 150 high quality, patient-friendly fact sheets on topics such as COPD, PFTs, OSA, and special topics such as COVID-19. These fact sheets are free and accessible from the ATS Website at www.thoracic.org/patients If you would like to serve as an author, reviewer, or have topic suggestions, contact Judy Corn, ATS Staff, at journ@thoracic.org

Upcoming Science and Innovation Webinars

Register Now: https://thoracic.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUlcumvpjorEtGoPuuksKJS6dr93F1znO0J

Topic: Improving the Quality and Reproducibility of Flow Cytometry in the Lung

When: Wednesday, June 24, 12 p.m. ET

For: PhDs, MDs, Nurses, Early Career Professionals

Moderator: Anne Sperling, PhD, ATSF (University of Chicago) and John Alcorn, PhD (Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh) Discussants:

- Elizabeth Redente, PhD (National Jewish Health)
- Benjamin Singer, MD, ATSF (Northwestern University)
- Robert M. Tighe, MD (Duke University)

Register now: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8664255388339304719

Topic: Beyond Alum and Capsular Polysaccharides

When: Tuesday, Jun 30, 2020 5:00 p.m. ET

For: PhDs, MDs, Nurses, Early Career Professionals

Moderator: Alexa Pragman, MD, PhD (Minneapolis VA Medical Center)

Discussants:

- Elizabeth Norton, PhD (Tulane School of Medicine)
- Jay Kolls, MD, ATSF (Tulane School of Medicine)



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 - Letter of Intent Deadline August 25th
 - Full Application Deadline December 1st

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- **Research Program:** provides lifeline funding for young investigators pursuing promising cures and treatments for lung-disease patients
- MECOR: improving global health through research and education
- Ziskind Clinical Research Scholar Awards: recognizing outstanding clinical researchers
- Assembly Awards & Scholarships: supporting ATS assembly awards and scholarships
- Assembly Programs: supporting ATS Assembly programmatic activities
- Medical Education Research: fueling novel educational approaches for training medical residents, fellows, and junior faculty
- Philip Hopewell Prize for Global Respiratory Health Research: recognizing early-career investigators from developing countries for their published research in a peer-reviewed journal

Reminder: The ATS Foundation dissolved in February, 2020. All Foundation programs are now part of the ATS

