

Assembly on Respiratory Structure & Function

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Message from the Assembly Chair

Dear Members:

Since the last Spring Assembly Newsletter, the scourge of COVID-19 continued to rage across the globe with millions of lives lost and countless others upended. Along the way so many aspects of life were transformed and all of us were compelled to recalibrate our needs and priorities. Collectively we retreated from commuting, travel, large gatherings and other glitzy trappings of modern living to focus more on personal health, well-being, families and close friends. Face masks, physical distancing and cyberspace interactions became embedded in the fabric of daily life. Within the ATS, clinical pulmonologists, intensivists, infectious disease specialists and nurses have borne much of the frontline burden, dedicating their lives to the caring of patients under difficult and risky circumstances while researchers raced to characterize and understand the disease, develop vaccines, and search for a cure. After a seemingly interminable year of alienation and disruption, spring arrives as the Texas bluebonnets blossom, vaccination gathers momentum, case numbers decline, and a new dawn beckons with enticing possibilities. While SARS-CoV-2 remains an untamed beast and the 2021 ATS International Conference and our Assembly Business Meeting will again be virtual, it has not dampened our anticipation for a bright future or enthusiasm for sharing with you the state of the Respiratory Structure and Function (RSF) Assembly.



Editor: Connie Hsia, MD

The RSF Assembly was one of the earliest assemblies established in the 1970's. We bring together basic and applied scientists, translational and clinical investigators, and clinicians who share an interest in advancing scientific discovery and patient care in respiratory health. The scientific scope of our Assembly is one of the broadest among ATS Assemblies and our members have diverse interests. To learn more about our mission and activities, [please visit our website](#).

The RSF Assembly has more than 2,600 members representing 70 different countries; our membership is as diverse as our interests. One-third of our members reside outside of the USA. One-third of us are women. About 37% are 40 years of age or younger; this group includes many rising stars who will become the future leaders of ATS. We are MDs, PhDs, and allied health professionals at all career stages from students, postgraduate trainees to faculty, in academia, industry and other sectors. We are proud of our diversity and inclusiveness. RSF is a comfortable scientific "home" for anyone interested in basic research, translational biology and clinical approaches to address disease pathogenesis and therapy.

For the RSF Assembly and ATS, the past year has been one of adjustment characterized by resilience and adaptability; both qualities are necessary to weather the pandemic-imposed constraints. Not surprisingly, the number of abstract submissions decreased across ATS compared to previous years, and the 2021 Virtual Conference will remain downsized. Despite a smaller number of sessions, RSF Assembly continues to have a robust program consisting of three Scientific Symposia, two Mini-symposia, one Meet the Expert session, one Postgraduate Course, multiple Thematic Poster Sessions and a small number of case reports. We are proud of the scientific contributions of our members, and grateful for the high quality programming accomplished by members of the Programming Committee led by Cindy Thamrin, PhD and Jason Woods, PhD.

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MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY CHAIR (continued)

Our Web Director, Johanna Uthoff, PhD and her team continue to expand our social media presence and showcase “RSF Infographics” on Twitter and ATS websites to provide a visual road map for developing a scientific abstract or poster. Johanna has produced additional infographics for preparing for a journal club and navigating the ATS Conference, and regular spotlights of journal articles authored by RSF members.

Our Early Career Professionals Working Group (ECPWG), chaired by Sana Siddiqui, PhD, collaborates closely with the Web Committee and other assemblies to feature the research of junior members on “ECP Highlights”. Each year the RSF ECPWG spearheads the selection of two apprentices who will serve on the Program Committee and the Planning Committee; this coming year a third apprentice will be added to serve on the Web Committee. The apprentices will gain practical experience and appreciation for the workings of the Assembly and be prepared for continued involvement with ATS. In addition, we participate in the ATS-wide Mentorship Program, a venture that matches junior individuals with experienced mentors who can provide career guidance and advice.

Our Science and Innovation Center (SIC) representatives, Michael O’Sullivan, PhD and Tillie Louise Hackett, PhD, have programmed strong scientific sessions proposed by RSF members and seminars centered on career development of young investigators. The SIC sponsors the Rising Star Award, and works closely with the PhD, Basic and Translational Scientists (PBTS) Working Group (Blanca Camoretti-Mercado, PhD, representative); both SIC and PBTS Working Group focus on advancing the career goals of PhD and MD scientists by providing a forum for scientific exchange and networking at the International Conference and through various initiatives during the year.

We could not have persevered through the past year without the support of dedicated committee leaders. I would like to personally thank members of the Executive Committee who participated in monthly Zoom meetings to discuss and coordinate assembly events. These individuals include Amir Zeki, MD (Planning Committee Chair), Cindy Thamrin, PhD (outgoing Program Committee Chair) and Jason Woods, PhD (incoming Program Committee Chair), Gwen Skloot, MD (Nominating Committee Chair), Johanna Uthoff, PhD (Web Committee Director), Sana Siddiqui, PhD (Early Career Professionals Working Group Chair), Michael O’Sullivan, PhD and Tillie-Louise Hackett, PhD (Science and Innovation Center), Blanca Camoretti-Mercado, PhD (PhD and Basic and Translational Scientists Working Group), and Janette Burgess, PhD and Anurag Agrawal, MD, PhD (Science Core). A special note of gratitude goes to Gwen Skloot, MD, our immediate Past Assembly Chair, for lending her experience and guidance to me, and to Reynold Panettieri, MD, for his advice and insight. I truly appreciate your dedication, diligence and insight.

Please also join me in expressing our appreciation for the outgoing Nominating Committee members – Geoffrey Maksym, PhD and Jill Johnson, PhD – who along with the Nominating Committee Chair Gwen Skloot, MD brought forth a strong slate of candidates for RSF leadership positions.

We congratulate our members who are recipients of the RSF Assembly Awards, the ATS Abstract Scholarship Awards, the Rising Star Awards, and the Stuart J. Hirst Abstract Excellence Award; the 2021 winners will be announced at the RSF Membership Meeting on May 13, 2021. We also extend a warm welcome to the incoming apprentices, and to Jason Woods, PhD, the incoming Program Committee Chair.

The entire Executive Committee would like to acknowledge Miriam Rodriguez, Senior Director of Assembly Programs and Program Review Subcommittee, for her invaluable support and guidance, and the dedicated staff of ATS who facilitated these activities.

It is an extreme honor for me to serve and represent the best interests of RSF members. As we emerge from the pandemic I look forward to a productive 2021-2022 with fresh opportunities to advance the mission of our Assembly and the ATS. Please contact me (Connie.Hsia@utsouthwestern.edu) if you would like to discuss an idea or initiative. I would be happy to answer any questions that you have as would our Assembly Officers who are also [listed on the website](#).

Connie Hsia, MD

Assembly on Respiratory Structure & Function (RSF) Membership Meeting

Thursday, May 13, 2021
3:00 - 5:00 PM Eastern Time
(US and Canada)

[Register Now](#)



ATS 2021

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
MAY 14-19 #ATS2021

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Amir A. Zeki, MD, Chair

The RSF Planning Committee is responsible for evaluating the Assembly Project proposals in the fall and selecting deserving awardees for the Assembly Awards in the spring of each year. The Committee also participates in the ATS-wide Apprentice Program.

Award Nominations. RSF offers four prestigious Assembly Awards:

- i) The Ann Woolcock Memorial Award is for an accomplished young investigator working on any area of obstructive airway disease. Runner-up will receive the Rising Stars Award for Basic Scientific or Translational Research sponsored by the Science and Innovation Center.
- ii) The Joseph R. Rodarte Award for Scientific Distinction is for an established investigator who has made distinguished contributions in the fields of respiratory medicine or physiology.
- iii) The Robert Crapo Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award in Pulmonary Diagnostics is for recognition of lifetime dedication and accomplishment in the study of pulmonary diagnostic testing.
- iv) The Solbert Permutt Trailblazer Award in Pulmonary Physiology and Medicine is for an established investigator who has done pioneering research in the area of respiratory structure and function and has guided and inspired others in the field.

These awards honor and span the full career trajectory of our members from the early career trainee/faculty to the most senior of professors and giants in the field. The deadline for application is March 31, 2021. The Committee meets in April to consider the applications and the awardees will be announced at the RSF Assembly Business Meeting on May 13, 2021. A list of past RSF awardees is available at [RSF Assembly Awards](#).

RSF Assembly Projects fulfill an essential mission of ATS and have been responsible for some of the landmark projects leading to important documents on topics such as technical standards for pulmonary function tests, innovative respiratory physiological assessment, quantitative assessment of lung structure, management of asthma in the elderly, and advancing airway remodeling as a therapeutic target, to name a few. The five types of ATS documents include: clinical practice guidelines, policy statements, research statements, technical statements, and workshop reports. Applications are due usually in July. Projects can involve joint Assembly submissions or joint submissions with other societies, and are evaluated in a competitive process.

In FY2021 one new RSF Assembly project proposal entitled “**Race and Ethnicity in Pulmonary Function Testing**”, proposed by Nirav Bhakta, MD, was approved for funding. Two renewal proposals have also been approved.

These project proposals offer unique opportunities for convening a panel of experts to consolidate the state-of-the-art and advance new concepts and approaches in clinical and/or basic science arenas. We encourage submissions across diverse topic areas that reflect the interests and needs of our Assembly, ATS members, and the respiratory scientific community at large. Prospective applicants are highly encouraged to discuss their ideas with Planning Committee members to obtain feedback prior to submitting a full application online. [See Assembly Project Resource Center](#) for additional information and instructions.

RSF Assembly participates in the **Apprenticeship Program** that encourages highly motivated junior members to join RSF, participate and take on leadership roles. Applications deadline was March 12, 2021. The evaluation of applications is ongoing. The successful applicants will be active members of either the Planning or Program committees or the Early Career Professionals Working Group, involved in all of their activities.

If you have a project idea that you would like to pursue, please do not hesitate to contact myself (aazeki@ucdavis.edu) or members of the Planning Committee, [RSF Officers Committees](#) for assistance.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

Cindy Thamrin, PhD, Chair and Jason Woods, PhD, Chair-Elect

What a strange year this has been! The Program Committee learned to be agile and adaptable in planning the conference during constantly evolving circumstances. This year RSF received 251 Scientific Abstracts and 18 Case Reports for ATS2021, approximately half of previous year's intake and consistent with trends across other Assemblies.

This year we will again hold a virtual conference, though with a brand new platform. We thank the membership for the fantastic proposals submitted this year. Despite the slimmer virtual content, a lot of hard work and collegiality has gone into putting it all together, for which we are also especially grateful to the ATS staff. We hope you will find the program exciting and representative of the most cutting-edge science today:

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PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT (continued)

- Joint Symposium: “**SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19: responding to their uncertainties together**”, featuring prominent experts across immunology, virology, medicine and public health
- Scientific Symposia: “**Sex changes everything: differences in lung disease between men and women**” in keeping with the Basic Science Core Theme this year, and “**Physiological phenotyping and treatable traits**”, about the role of the physiome in disease phenotyping.
- Postgraduate Course: “**PFT 2021 Focus: updates in clinical pulmonary function and exercise testing**”
- Meet the Expert (replacing Sunrise and Meet the Professor Seminars): “**Complex in vitro models of the lung: bridging the gap Between disease complexity and therapeutics**” with Emmanuel Osei (2020 Stuart Hirst Award winner) and Melanie Köenigshoff (RCMB)
- Two Mini-Symposia: “**Best of imaging 2021: from phenotyping to treatment**” and “**New insights into structure and function in COPD**” featuring some really excellent abstracts this year.
- Thematic poster sessions on RSF’s traditional areas of strength and emerging topics: airway smooth muscle/airway hyperresponsiveness, in vitro and clinical asthma and COPD studies, imaging, modelling, lung growth and physiology (in collaboration with the PEDS Assembly), as well as parenchymal diseases and of course, COVID19.
- Last but not least, we selected the top 30 RSF trainee/student abstracts to receive ATS Scholarship Awards, and the top abstract in the area of airway biology and physiology for the Stuart J. Hirst Award; the winners will be announced at the RSF membership meeting on **May 13, 2021**.

Thank you to all 35 committee members for their hard work in reviewing scientific proposals and abstracts, and ensuring the best science is programmed for ATS 2021. If you have any ideas for the 2022 Program, please feel free to contact us.

ATS 2021 SESSIONS SPONSORED BY THE ASSEMBLY ON RESPIRATORY, STRUCTURE & FUNCTION

Code	Session Title	Session Type	Session Time (EST)
Sunday, May 16, 2021			
A12	NEW INSIGHTS INTO STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION IN COPD	Mini Symposium	3:30 PM - 5:00 PM
A14	MILITARY DEPLOYMENT RESPIRATORY HEALTH: INSIGHTS INTO POTENTIAL EXPOSURES, CLINICAL FINDINGS, AND MECHANISMS	Scientific Symposium	7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
A31	COVID-19 AND SARS-COV-2: RESPONDING TO THEIR UNCERTAINTIES TOGETHER	Joint Scientific Symposium	On-Demand
Monday, May 17, 2021			
B11	SEX CHANGES EVERYTHING: DIFFERENCES IN LUNG DISEASE BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN	Scientific Symposium	1:30 PM - 3:00 PM
Tuesday, May 18, 2021			
C4	BEST OF IMAGING 2021: FROM PHENOTYPING TO TREATMENT	Mini Symposium	8:00 AM - 9:30 AM
C28	PHYSIOLOGICAL PHENOTYPING AND TREATABLE TRAITS	Joint Scientific Symposium	On-Demand
Wednesday, May 19, 2021			
ME19	COMPLEX IN VITRO MODELS OF THE LUNG: BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN DISEASE COMPLEXITY AND THERAPEUTICS	Meet the Experts	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
Tuesday, June 8, 2021			
PG6	PFT 2021 FOCUS: UPDATES IN CLINICAL PULMONARY FUNCTION AND EXERCISE TESTING	PG Course	7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

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PROGRAM SESSIONS (continued)

E-Poster Sessions

Themes: airway smooth muscle/AHR, in vitro and clinical asthma and COPD studies, imaging, modelling, lung function, pediatric structure and function, parenchymal diseases, mechanical ventilation, COVID19 pathophysiology

On-Demand

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, MPH	Keynote Series	On-Demand

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Gwen Skloot, MD, Chair

We have the results of what was a very close election. The new officers for Assembly Chair-Elect, Program Committee Chair-Elect, and Nominating Committee members will be announced during the RSF business meeting on **May 13, 2021 at 3-5 PM Eastern Time**. We thank our colleagues who accepted the nomination to run for these important assembly positions.

I am also grateful for the dedication and service of my Committee members, Drs. Geoffrey Maksym and Jill Johnson who made a difficult task seamless.

Finally, I want to take the opportunity to encourage all RSF members to participate in the election not only of your assembly leaders but also of the future ATS Secretary-Treasurer.

WEB COMMITTEE REPORT

Johanna Uthoff, PhD, Web Director

1. **Twitter (with David Mummy):** RSF remains active on Twitter, [follow us](#). Our weekday RSF member publication highlights have increased, leading to an increase in Tweet impressions (number of times the tweet was seen) and number of followers (currently 385). We started scheduling tweets to publicize RSF Infographics, the Respiratory Care week (October 25, 2020) and Lung Cancer and COPD Awareness Month (November 2020).

2. **Podcast:** 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. A Podcast **“Geographic Migration in the Sciences – Episode 2 with Dr. Janette Burgess”** (June 23, 2020) was hosted by Sana Siddiqui and originally conceptualized by Jade Jaffar.

3. **Webinars:** RSF hosted/participated in several webinars this year.

- RSF/PR joint webinar **“Clinical Aspects of COVID-19 Recovery”** (June 23, 2020) was co-chaired by Neil Greening, Chris Ryerson and Reynold A. Panettieri.
- RCMB/RSF joint webinar **“Cellular Mechanisms of SARS-CoV-2 Infection”** (June 3, 2020) was co-chaired by Malte Lücken, Enid Neptune and Brian Oliver.
- The joint webinar **“Technology Development: Translating Innovation from Bench to Bedside, Part 1”** by RSF and the Drug/Device Discovery and Development (DDDD) Committee is scheduled on April 30, 2021, co-chaired by Connie Hsia, MD and Heidi Mansour, PhD, RPh, and featuring RSF member David Kaczka, MD, PhD.

4. **Infographics:** RSF has produced a new infographic, on an **Abstract Preparation Guide** and an **Abstract Submission Guide**, to assist submission and disseminate information on the RSF abstract categories for ATS 2021. Infographics have been periodically distributed through social media.

5. **DocMatter:** Recently we met with representatives of DocMatter and developed plans to highlight RSF member publications and engage online discussions on topics targeted to the interests to RSF members.

The Web Committee will continue our mandate to create original content with the specific aim of encouraging interactions among ATS members. Our current social media offerings can be found at the links below:

- [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 in producing any type of original content, we can work with you to make it happen. Please let me know if you would like to be involved and forward your ideas to me at j.uthoff@sheffield.ac.uk.

EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONALS WORKING GROUP REPORT

Sana Siddiqui, PhD, Chair

On behalf of the Early Career Professionals Working Group (ECP WG) we hope you and your families have kept safe and healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are delighted that the ECP WG has had several new members in 2020-21 and we have exciting updates to report. The ECP WG takes pride in providing a platform and tools to help advance careers of graduate students, postdocs, clinical fellows and junior professionals. ECP WG offers apprenticeship opportunities, a mentoring program, and other resources to maximize exposure at ATS and in the scientific community.

This year we held meetings, on average, every 2 months, with about 8-10 attendees at each meeting. When we began planning activities for the 2020-21 year, we started with discussing ideas for proposal submissions to RSF. However, one of our immediate priorities was to update the abstract guidelines and submission tips. This document was updated by Sergey Gutor and may be found at [RSF abstract writing guide](#). We appreciate the additional input we received from Connie Hsia and Cindy Thamrin in the process.

In fall of 2020, we successfully submitted one proposal to RSF that will be programmed as a Meet the Expert session at the upcoming ATS 2021: **‘Complex *in vitro* models of the lung: bridging the gap between disease complexity and therapeutics’** (submitted by Emmanuel T. Osei).

Additionally, ideas from the following submitted proposal are under consideration for programming via the Science and Innovations Center (SIC) this year: **‘Early Career Professionals and the Landscape of Research Funding Affected by COVID-19’** (submitted by Sana Siddiqui). We thank Cindy Thamrin for suggesting this proposal for further consideration and Michael O’Sullivan and Tillie Hackett for presenting this and other proposals to the SIC Committee.

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EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONALS WORKING GROUP REPORT (continued)

This year we have also continued to work closely with Johanna Uthoff, Chair of the Web Committee. Collectively, we have discussed ideas for podcasts, journal clubs and utilization of social media to promote RSF activities.

We have also continued to utilize the infographics created by Johanna Uthoff. Topics include, but are not limited to, how to develop a podcast, run a journal club, build a poster, and review an article.

Peter Niedbalski, PhD (University of Kansas Medical Center) and **John McDonough, PhD** (Yale University) were selected as the 2021-22 RSF Apprentices for the Program and Planning Committees, respectively. For the first time we are offering an apprenticeship within the Web Committee; **Suhani Patel, MSc, PhD** (Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust) was selected.

The **RSF Mentoring Program** is to launch in March of 2021. It is a program that allows students and trainees to network with mentors who are established in their careers. The mentors offer advice and guidance. The program is currently run by Johanna Uthoff. We are always looking for new mentors and mentees. Potential mentees, if you are interested, keep in tuned for ATS and RSF announcements to sign up. New potential mentors, please do not hesitate to contact ATS's Coordinator, Assembly Programs, Nicole Feijoo at nfeijoo@thoracic.org.



We hope to increase our **ECP Highlights** in the coming year. We encourage ECP members to take advantage of this platform as it highlights the achievements of the young professionals within RSF! The ECP highlights may be found on [RSF ECP Highlights](#). To learn more, please contact Katrina Tonga at katrina.tonga@sydney.edu.au.

We would also like to acknowledge the continued guidance of the previous Chair of the ECP WG, Corrine Kliment during this past year and for all the help we have received from Nicole Feijoo from ATS.

If you would like to learn more or get involved in the ECP WG, please do not hesitate to contact me, Sana Siddiqui (sanathemcgillian@gmail.com).

ATS Early Career Kick Off
Saturday, May 15 at
6:30 – 7:00 PM Eastern time (US and Canada)
[Register here](#)

SCIENCE AND INNOVATION CENTER (SIC) REPORT

Michael O'Sullivan, PhD and Tillie-Louise Hackett, PhD, RSF 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. The goal of SIC is to provide ATS members with a space to network and to learn cutting-edge science, with a strong focus on mentoring junior investigators involved in basic-science research. Since its inception in 2012, RSF has been deeply involved in the planning and organization of the SIC.

As the current RSF SIC representatives, we have been collaborating with members from the ATS assemblies Allergy, Immunology and Inflammation (AII), Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology (RCMB), Pulmonary Infections and Tuberculosis (PI-TB), Pediatrics (PEDS), Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology (SRN) and Pulmonary Circulation (PC) assemblies, as well as with members from the PhD and Basic Translational Scientists working groups. This diverse group has worked hard to program exciting content across all fields of basic lung research.

As this year's conference will be virtual, the SIC has put forth a program of seminars highlighting cutting-edge science, training modules for early-career professional development in the era of COVID-19, the Rising Stars in Lung Research Awards Ceremony and the PhD and Basic and Translational Scientists Working Group (PBTSWG) reception. The SIC will have online virtual content from Sunday May 16 – Tuesday May 18 in coordination with the ATS conference, and broadcast webinars and podcasts throughout the year. The SIC had more than 1,000 visitors at the in-person ATS conference held in Dallas 2019, and high attendance for webinars and podcasts in 2020. We hope the enthusiasm for the SIC content will continue to grow. To keep up-to-date with the latest SIC news, please follow [@AtsSic](#) on Twitter for updates and live tweets.

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SCIENCE AND INNOVATION CENTER (SIC) REPORT (continued)

The full program will soon be published in the ATS app. For now, here's a sneak-peek at some of the content that will be broadcast this May:

SIC Awards Session – a key event in the SIC program. Everyone is welcome to attend. We will be revealing the RSF “Rising Star” Award as well as the most innovating abstract by an Early Career Professional (ECP). Awardees will make a mini-presentation about their exciting work.

Reception for PhDs & Basic and Translational Science Researchers – this popular session is back again and provides an opportunity to connect with colleagues and friends alike. There will be “breakout” rooms available to interact with others in a smaller scale discussion. As this session will be virtual, attendees are encouraged to informally consume snacks and beverages as we do at the in-person meetings.

Research and Discovery Presentations – Our diverse committee has programmed an exciting lineup of cutting-edge scientific symposia. This year's sessions include:

- Innovations in Airway Stem Cell Usage for Studying Chronic Lung Diseases
- Microbiome and Medicine: New Multidisciplinary Approaches to Complicated Infections in Cystic Fibrosis
- Quantitative Physiology: Modern Imaging Tools for Tackling Timeless Questions
- Lung Epithelial Damage and Repair; from Cell Death to Lung Tissue Regeneration
- Sex Matters during Post-Infection Lung Injury, Repair and Regeneration

Career Development – A key goal of the SIC is to provide junior investigators with a series of seminars geared towards topics in career development. This year's sessions include:

- Early Career Professionals and the Landscape of Research Funding Affected by COVID-19
- Enhancing Academic Partnerships with Industry: Collaborations, Careers, and Innovation
- Successful Partnering of MDs and PhDs

Webinar – “AI in Health Care and Research” was delivered on September 29, 2020 by Blanca Camoretti-Mercado and Jason Bates (speakers) and Michael O'Sullivan (moderator).

We welcome all to “stop by” this year's virtual SIC! We look forward to seeing you in May. For any questions please contact Tillie or Mike (tillie.hackett@hli.ubc.ca; mosullivan@hsph.harvard.edu).

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

Blanca Camoretti-Mercado, PhD, MBAIS, RSF Representative

Despite the uncertainties and pain caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the PBTS Working Group continued its work during the year; some of our accomplishments are listed below. The working group has members from multiple assemblies, and they gather monthly to discuss issues of importance to the non-clinical ATS members. We also welcome research-focused physician-scientists. The PBTS Working Group thrives on creating a smaller community within ATS for support, networking, and advocacy to ATS leadership. The current co-chairs of the Working Group are Beth Moore (All) and Tom Mariani (RCMB). RSF is honored to house the PBTS working group despite membership across the ATS.

Reception for Researchers: The PBTS Reception was held during the virtual ATS International Conference in the Science and Innovation Center (SIC). In 2020 we had 225 registrants with over 70 attendees. Planning of the 2021 reception is under way. Stay tuned!

Speaker Database: The COVID-19 disruption created real challenges to conducting research, networking and opportunities for speaking engagements. Therefore, we created a database of investigators who signed up to provide seminars (virtually or in person in the future) on a variety of topics. Our hope is this database increases prospects for institutions to include more research-oriented seminars in their weekly offerings. Currently, the database has 133 scientists! If you would like to sign up and/or invite a colleague to speak, check out the [ATS Speaker Database](#).

Job Postings: We advocated for the ability to advertise for post-doc positions and allow post-docs to post their CVs to the ATS job board free of charge. [Check out this resource here](#).

Social Justice and Citizenship: We formed a subcommittee to discuss how our Working Group and the ATS at large can better respond to issues of racism and social injustice within our society and institutions. Our member also encouraged the ATS leadership to condemn such incidents.

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

Survey: We are preparing a survey of Pulmonary, Sleep and Pediatric Division Chiefs to better understand how PhDs and non-practicing clinical faculty are hired and retained, and what barriers and opportunities may exist for strengthening engagement between these researchers and the clinicians. We expect these data will provide the foundation for an ATS project proposal that aims to address this important issue. Let us know if you want to be involved!

DocMatter: We successfully used this platform to communicate about the 2020 PBTS Reception. We met with DocMatter executives to strategize for better engagement and discussion of research and non-clinical matters.

Technique videos: We have a subgroup working on identifying common and important research techniques and producing quality videos to be published in an ATS venue to share that knowledge broadly.

Awards: We need your input for identifying and nominating non-practicing clinicians for many of the assembly- and society-based awards.

If you would like more information, suggest a topic for us to tackle or are interested in joining, please email Beth Moore (bmoore@umich.edu), Tom Mariani (tom_mariani@urmc.rochester.edu), or Blanca Camoretti-Mercado (bcamoret@usf.edu).

*“Science is not only a disciple of reason
but also one of romance and passion”*

Stephen Hawking

ATS 2021
May 14-19

Showcasing
breakthrough research
in respiratory care.

Register Now

The American Thoracic Society

is pleased to announce our new

2020 ATSF Fellows



2020
ATSF

David Itiro Kasahara
Arrowhead Pharmaceutical

Abebaw Yohannes
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