Message from the Assembly Chair

Dear Assembly Members,

I hope this message finds you all well and making preparations to attend the virtual ATS International Conference in May. As we prepare for this second virtual conference, I have realized how much I miss the opportunity to be energized annually by seeing all of you in person, hearing about your research, and learning new information. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to what is arguably the most difficult year in the history of critical care medicine. Many of us are exhausted and weary. And though vaccines provide hope, the call to care for our critically ill patients continues, and the disruption to every-day personal, family, and work life endures.

Throughout all the hardships of the past 14 months, you have been astonishing. From your tireless clinical care in ICUs around the world, to the incredible science you have produced, to your advocacy for health care equity during this crisis, to your teaching of trainees, to care you have provided for high risk people in your families to keep them safe, to juggling work demands with managing remote learning for your children, to all the pandemic-related problems you have willingly solved, you have inspired me and reminded me why I chose this field. Thank you so much for all you do! I am grateful to be among you every day!

Using the virtual platform for this year’s International Conference, the Program Committee has creatively put together a fantastic lineup of programming, including high-profile symposia, mini-symposia, and thematic poster sessions, all covering the latest developments in critical care research and clinical practice. Some sessions are occurring at times that are particularly favorable for some of our international members, and we welcome participation from across the globe.

In addition to the Conference sessions, I urge you to attend our Assembly’s annual Membership Meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, May 12 from 4-6 pm EDT, register here. This meeting provides an update on assembly and ATS-wide activities.

I also want to encourage all our members to take advantage of the many different ways to become active in the ATS, many of which fit under the umbrella of our Assembly. These opportunities include:

1) Submitting session proposals for the 2022 International Conference. The deadline for these submissions is usually in late June.
2) Submitting proposals for an Assembly-sponsored project. These projects may be clinical practice guidelines, policy statements, research statements, or workshop reports. The CC Assembly Planning Committee can advise you on these submissions, which are usually due in July.
3) Getting involved in a Working Group or Interest Group. Working Groups are smaller committees within an Assembly that have a specific focus; our current Working Groups are Early Career Professionals, Pre-ICU, and Clinical Pharmacist. Interest Groups are broader committees that, although housed within one Assembly, work across all Assemblies on a specific topic. Our current Interest Groups are Women in Critical Care (WICC) and Geriatrics/Aging.

(Continued on page 2)
MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY CHAIR (continued)

4) Submitting your name along with your interests and skills to an ATS-wide database, designed to help members get involved with the ATS: **GET INVOLVED!**

5) Last but not least: One of the most important functions of the ATS is to advocate with federal and state governments on behalf of our members and the patients we serve on issues including clean air, health care equity, occupational health, tobacco control, access to affordable health care, research funding, and other important areas. ATS provides members with opportunities to get involved in advocacy. You can find more information about these issues on the ATS Advocacy website. To get information on Virtual Hill day, visit the ATS Washington Newsletter.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at renee.stapleton@med.uvm.edu, the incoming Assembly Chair, Dr. Michelle Gong, MGONG@montefiore.org, or any of the Committee or Working Group Chairs or Co-Chairs (listed below in the newsletter) with your ideas, questions, or concerns relevant to the Assembly.

I look forward to hearing from you and to participating in ATS 2021 with you. My term as Chair will end in May. Thank you for the honor of allowing me to serve as Chair for the past two years; it has been such a pleasure!

Best regards,
Renee D. Stapleton, MD, PhD

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**Assembly on Critical Care (CC) Membership Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 12, 2021**

4-6 PM EST

Register Now

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**PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT**

C. Terri Hough, MD MSc, Chair, and Annette Esper, MD, MS, Chair-Elect

With this year’s ATS International Conference being virtual, the programming is reduced compared to prior years, although still informative and exciting. The Assembly has programmed two on demand symposia and three partially live symposia, in addition to 3 mini-symposia sessions—all listed below. We are hoping with programming throughout the day to include our colleagues from around the globe. In addition to the sessions listed below, there are also numerous additional thematic poster sessions with opportunities for comments and interaction.

**On-Demand Symposia:**

- A24 Extracorporeal Organ Support (ECOS) in Critical Illness: What Now and What Next?
- C23 Everything You Wanted to Know About Caring for Critically Ill Geriatric Patients
**Program Committee Report (continued)**

**Partially Live Symposia**
- **Monday, May 17 at 6:00–7:30 AM EDT**
  - B1 Mind the Gap: Ending Gender Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in Critical Care
- **Monday, May 17 at 1:30–3:00 PM EDT**
  - B10 Improving Research, Operations, and Clinical Care for the Next Pandemic: COVID-19 Lessons

**Mini-Symposia**
- **Sunday, May 16 at 8:00–9:30 AM EDT**
  - A3 Microbiome, Disparities, COVID-19 and More: Critical Care Hot Topics
- **Sunday, May 16 at 3:30–5:00 PM EDT**
  - A13 ARDS in the Time of COVID-19
- **Wednesday, May 19 at 1:30–3:00 PM EDT**
  - D9 A Broader View of Outcomes after Critical Illness

**Meet the Experts**
- **Wednesday, May 19 at 3:00–4:30 PM EDT**
  - ME23 Neurologic Disasters in the ICU

We look forward to seeing you at ATS 2021, with hope that ATS 2022 will be able to occur in person.

C. Terri Hough, MD MSc; Chair, Critical Care Assembly Program Committee (houghc@ohsu.edu)
Annette Esper, MD MS; Chair-Elect, Critical Care Assembly Program Committee (aesper@emory.edu)

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**ATS 2021 Sessions Sponsored by the Assembly on Critical Care**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Session Title</th>
<th>Session Type</th>
<th>Session Time (EST)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, May 16, 2021</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>A3</td>
<td>MICROBIOME, DISPARITIES, COVID-19, AND MORE: CRITICAL CARE HOT TOPICS</td>
<td>Mini Symposium</td>
<td>8:00 AM - 9:30 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>A13</td>
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<tr>
<td>B1</td>
<td>MIND THE GAP: ENDING GENDER DISCRIMINATION AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN CRITICAL CARE</td>
<td>Scientific Symposium</td>
<td>6:00 AM - 7:30 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B10</td>
<td>IMPROVING RESEARCH, OPERATIONS, AND CLINICAL CARE FOR THE NEXT PANDEMIC: COVID-19 LESSONS</td>
<td>Scientific Symposium</td>
<td>1:30 PM - 3:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, May 18, 2021</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>C3</td>
<td>HAS THE PENDULUM SWUNG TOO FAR? EVALUATING CURRENT PRACTICES IN CRITICAL CARE</td>
<td>Scientific Symposium</td>
<td>8:00 AM - 9:30 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, May 19, 2021</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>D9</td>
<td>A BROADER VIEW OF OUTCOMES AFTER CRITICAL ILLNESS</td>
<td>Mini Symposium</td>
<td>1:30 PM - 3:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ME23</td>
<td>NEUROLOGIC DISASTERS IN THE ICU</td>
<td>Meet the Experts</td>
<td>3:30 PM - 4:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D12</td>
<td>ADDRESSING SYSTEMIC RACISM IN ACADEMIA AND THE IMPACT ON TRAINEES AND JUNIOR FACULTY</td>
<td>Joint Scientific Symposium</td>
<td>3:30 PM - 5:00 PM</td>
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## Sessions of General Interest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Session Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>REHABILITATION AND COVID-19: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES</td>
<td>Scientific Symposium</td>
<td>8:00 am - 9:30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A11</td>
<td>ATS PRESIDENT’S SYMPOSIUM: CAN RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES IN RESPIRATORY HEALTH BE ELIMINATED?</td>
<td>Scientific Symposium</td>
<td>3:30 pm - 5:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B7</td>
<td>BREAKING NEWS: CLINICAL TRIAL RESULTS IN PULMONARY MEDICINE</td>
<td>Scientific Symposium</td>
<td>10:00 am - 11:30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K1</td>
<td>VACCINES ON THE HORIZON: IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE AND POLICY – Kristen Feemster, MD, MPH, MSHP</td>
<td>Keynote Series</td>
<td>On-Demand</td>
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<tr>
<td>K2</td>
<td>BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO RESEARCH AND PRACTICE WITH SEX AND GENDER SCIENCE – Cara Tannenbaum, MDCM, MSc</td>
<td>Keynote Series</td>
<td>On-Demand</td>
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<tr>
<td>K3</td>
<td>CRISIS COMMUNICATION IN A RESPIRATORY PANDEMIC: THE COMPLICATED INTERSECTION OF MEDIA, DATA, AND POLITICS – Vinay Gupta, MD, MPA, MSt</td>
<td>Keynote Series</td>
<td>On-Demand</td>
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<tr>
<td>K4</td>
<td>THE CLIMATE GAP: CONNECTING EQUITY AND SUSTAINABILITY TO ADVANCE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE – Rachel Morello-Frosch, PhD, MPH</td>
<td>Keynote Series</td>
<td>On-Demand</td>
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The Critical Care Assembly Planning Committee reviewed a number of excellent new and renewal assembly-related proposals in September, spanning multiple aspects of critical care. We are excited to inform you that there was one new CCA project approved for funding by ATS this year, “Mechanical Ventilation in Adults with Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome: A Clinical Practice Guideline Update.” Given the pandemic, this is an important and timely topic to review and update for our international community.

In addition, three CCA projects were renewed for funding:

- Research Priorities for Treatment of Severe Alcohol Withdrawal Syndrome
- Research Priorities for the Use of Extracorporeal Life Support (ECLS) in Adults with Acute Respiratory Failure
- The Research Agenda for Precision Medicine in Sepsis and Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome

In the weeks ahead, the Planning Committee is looking forward to reviewing the many deserving candidates who were nominated for the Critical Care Assembly Early Career Achievement Award, Mid-Career Achievement Award, Lifetime Achievement Award, and Early Career International Scholarship Award this spring.

The assembly continues to seek input from the membership on clinical practice guidelines, policy statements, research statements, or workshop reports that would be of benefit to our assembly. If you have a question about whether your proposal is better directed to the Planning or Program Committees, please reach out to either Mark Mikkelsen or Annette Esper, the respective committee chairs for the 2021-22 year. Consider planning a project proposal now and soliciting feedback from the Planning Committee and your colleagues. Proposals that involve more than one assembly and that fill a clinical need are often reviewed favorably.

Mark Mikkelsen, MD; Chair, Critical Care Assembly Planning Committee, mark.mikkelsen@pennmedicine.upenn.edu

The Critical Care Assembly has continued to have broad digital presence over the past year. Our ongoing projects include the Open Critical Care Grand Rounds Collective, podcasts, and journal clubs. We are also active on Twitter, especially with the help of the Critical Care Early Career Professionals Working Group, who sent out over 1,100 tweets since the account was started and now have more than 8,000 Twitter followers.

Please let me know if you have any questions or ideas for web content.

Daniel Fein, MD; Web Director, Critical Care Assembly (danielgfein@gmail.com)

It was an active year for the ECPWG. We added five members and an education-focused project group while maintaining or expanding the scope of our existing project groups (database, mentorship, apprenticeship, networking, social media, and website). These groups are led by the Drs. Anica Law, Nandita Nadig, Ben Singer, Kelly Vranas, Rachel Kohn, Sarina Sahetya, and Faraaz Shah, respectively. We added a new “ECP Highlights” feature on our website to celebrate accomplishments of EC Assembly Members. Responding to lost networking opportunities in the pandemic, we piloted a live virtual “Fireside Chat” with Dr. Stapleton. The event was successful and we will plan future events to discuss focused topics with other Assembly leaders. Our new education project group is overseeing participation in the new Cross-Assembly Teaching Competition. We added a web apprentice to our Apprenticeship Program (for Program and Planning Committees). We continue to maintain a database of ECP members who wish to participate in ATS events and projects. We will host a virtual mentorship program again this year (registration open now). Our @ATSCritCare Twitter community has over 8,000 members (join us!)

Learn more about our group and opportunities for ECPs on our webpage.

Please contact us with any questions or concerns.

Lisa Karen Vande Vusse, MD, MSCE, Co-Chair, Critical Care ECPWG (lkvandev@u.washington.edu)
Emily A Vail, MD, MSc (Emily.vail@pennmedicine.upenn.edu) Co-Chair, Critical Care ECPWG
The WICC Interest Group has taken on several projects over the past year, including mentoring and publications. Currently, our main endeavor is a survey about ICU Physician Wellness aimed at better understanding the impact of the pandemic on moral distress, burnout, professional fulfillment and coping. The survey is endorsed by the ATS and is being administered by local champions. It was first sent out in late February and will close on April 16.

Another update is a recent WICC social that we held on March 10 to promote and build community. It was great fun, and we plan to host another event in May or June.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Karen Burns, MD; Chair, WICC Interest Group (Karen.Burns@unityhealth.to)

The Aging in Critical Care Interest Group is a collaborative, interdisciplinary group of critical care experts with a multipronged focus on improving the health of older adults across the spectrum of critical illness and recovery. We strive to identify and develop patient-centered, aging-focused research priorities across the spectrum of critical illness and recovery, enhance the integration of principles of geriatrics and models of geriatric care into critical care medicine training and professional development, and increase awareness of important clinical care issues faced by older adults with critical illness.

Last year, our multidisciplinary membership significantly grew in size and expanded to include lung aging biology and a newly formed clinical pulmonary subgroup. The Lung Aging Research Group is chaired by Louise Hecker PhD, Benjamin D. Singer MD, and Irfan Rahman PhD, and the Clinical Pulmonary subgroup is chaired by Leah Witt, MD, and Anand Iyer, MD. Together these aging-focused groups represent many of the wide-ranging interests of the ATS membership. If you are interested in joining the Aging Interest Group or one of its subgroups, please reach out to Lauren Ferrante (lauren.ferrante@yale.edu) or Nathan Brummel (nathan.brummel@osumc.edu).
This year’s highlights for the Aging in Critical Care Interest Group include:

1. The ATS Toolkit for Older Adults, an educational toolkit focused on caring for older adults with critical illness and lung disease. This effort was led by Adrian Austin MD MSCR, Lauren Pollack MD, and Leah Witt MD. The toolkit can be found on the Interest Group webpage, view here.
2. An ATS webinar, “Promoting Recovery in Critically Ill Older Adults with COVID-19: Bench to Bedside,” which took place in the fall and can be viewed here.
3. A scientific symposium, “Everything You Wanted to Know About Caring for Critically Ill Geriatric Patients,” at the upcoming 2021 ATS International Conference.

The annual Aging in Critical Care Interest Group Meeting will take place in mid-June (date TBD). This meeting’s core topic is “Pathways to Funding for Aging-Focused Research in Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine,” and will feature NIH program officers from various institutes. When finalized, the meeting date and time will be posted on the Interest Group webpage.

PRE-ICU WORKING GROUP REPORT
Kusum Mathews, MD, MPH, MSCR, and Ithan Peltan, MD, MSc, Co-Chairs

The Pre-ICU Working Group consists of researchers and clinicians who are particularly interested in the care of critically ill patients prior to ICU arrival. While we initially intended to begin our activities at the 2020 ATS International Conference, in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic we will launch full working group activities with ATS 2021. Our group’s overarching objectives are to identify learning gaps around pre-ICU critical care delivery, leveraging the diversity of ATS members’ clinical and research expertise in pre-hospital, ED, and ward-based critical care practice. We also hope to create a forum for increased ATS engagement by multi-specialty and inter-professional critical care medicine clinicians and researchers.

Our two short-term goals are to:

1) Begin a scoping review of pre-ICU trajectories among critically ill patients.
2) Submit a proposal on this topic for the 2022 ATS International Conference.

Please let us know if you have any questions or input.

Kusum Mathews, MD, MPH, MSCR (kusum.mathews@mssm.edu) and Ithan Peltan, MD, MSc (Ithan.peltan@imail.org), Co-Chairs, Critical Care Assembly Pre-ICU Working Group

CLINICAL PHARMACIST WORKING GROUP REPORT
Brittany Bissel, PharmD, PhD, BS, Chair

The Clinical Pharmacist Working Group was established in 2019 in order to promote and facilitate the involvement of clinical pharmacists and faculty within the Critical Care Assembly and the American Thoracic Society at large. Three key objectives for the inaugural year included:

1. Establishing Continuing Education for Pharmacists
2. Increasing Programming Involvement
3. Building Committee and Assembly Representation
4. Establishing a Process for Critical Care Projects and ATS Official Documents
5. Build Pharmacist Membership

With these objectives, pharmacist representation was added to the CC programming and planning committee. Additionally, pharmacist representation was added to project proposal submissions and the guideline scholars program. Goals for the upcoming year include the addition of continuing education to build membership.
ATS ASSEMBLY CHALLENGE RESULTS
Assembly on Critical Care with Most First Time Givers in December

ATS Assembly Members Give Back!

The results of the 2020 ATS Assembly Challenge are: the Assembly on Allergy Immunology & Inflammation raised the most dollars with $66,072; Nursing had the highest member participation with 18 percent; Critical Care had the highest number of first-time givers in December with 9 new donors!

The annual ATS Assembly Challenge taps into the grassroots community — and competitive spirit — of the ATS Assemblies in support of the ATS Funds for the Future Campaign.

You provided a big boost to our year-end giving campaigns—and a boost to our upcoming grant-making capacity. The tremendous energy around the Challenge is truly inspiring and your support has been crucial for developing the next generation of researchers, clinicians, and medical educators.

The ATS would like to thank all ATS Assemblies for their outreach and generosity during the Challenge.

Congratulations to the Allergy Immunology & Inflammation, Nursing, and Critical Care Assemblies!

To learn more about the ATS Research Program or to make a gift, visit research.thoracic.org.

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:

PubMed Central
PubMed

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 ATS Fellows

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 Benjafeld
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

Mariana 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 Kaqima
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine

Ammar Saadoon Alishlash
The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Nandita Nadig
Medical University of South Carolina

Daniel Obasike
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 & VU 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