

# Road Map for Mid Career Professionals

**ORLANDO** May 15-20





# ATS Mid-Career Professional Roadmap & Toolkit

Because mid-career shouldn't mean mid-direction.



## About

Mid-career is often the most impactful—and the most overlooked—phase of a professional journey. The American Thoracic Society Mid-Career Professional Roadmap & Toolkit is designed to help you pause, realign, and intentionally shape what's next.

### What the RoadMap helps you do:

How to Navigate the Conference



- Focuses your session choices
- Makes attendance strategic
- Highlights mid-career sessions
- Aligns talks with your goals
- Guides intentional networking
- Balances skills and visibility
- Turns meetings into momentum
- Converts ideas into action
- Reduces overload



### What the Toolkit helps you do:

Templates & Planning Guides



- ✓ Clarify professional identity/priorities
- ✓ Build a personalized, sustainable plan
- ✓ Leadership and sponsorship strategy guides
- ✓ Scholarship and visibility planning frameworks
- ✓ Tips to navigate plateaus, pivots, reinvention
- ✓ Practical templates you can use immediately

# ATS 2026

Scan the QR Code to access:



Explore the ATS Mid-Career Toolkit at <https://atsedplus.thoracic.org/mid-career-toolkit/group/mid-career-toolkit>

# Download the ATS 2026 App to Enhance Your Conference Experience



*Available in the App Store or Google Play to download starting early-May.*

For information at your fingertips, download the conference app from the App Store or Google Play. With this tool, you can build your itinerary, learn about special events, browse sessions and speakers, map your trip to the exhibit hall and receive important updates.

## Features include:

- **Search** - Find the sessions you want by date, speaker, type, track and disease state and then build a personalized itinerary.
- **Audience response** - Use the app to participate in session Q&A and provide us with your feedback through the app's session evaluations.
- **Education** - View the wide array of available educational opportunities – MOC, CME, Industry Supported Evening Symposia, Industry Theaters, and Guru Bars.
- **Maps** - Use the enhanced maps function to access interactive floorplans of the Orange County Convention Center West Concourse and surrounding headquarter hotels.
- **Connect** - Find other attendees and share your contact information. Its functions include identifying and messaging other attendees, as well as taking notes and compiling contact information of those you connect with.
- **Scan a Badge** - Easily exchange contact information by scanning colleagues' registration badges. Once scanned, their contact information will appear on your screen and can be stored on your device, saving you time and allowing you to continue the conversation long after the conference.

Together, these and other capabilities make the ATS 2026 conference app a must-have tool.

[Download the App Now](#)

# Welcome to ATS 2026!



## **Professional Development Committee, Mid-Career Working Group:**

Diana Kelm, MD, ATSF  
Patricia Kritek, MD, EdM  
Rania Esteitie, MD, ATSF, FCCP  
Megan Koster, MD, PharmD  
Joshua Lee Denson, MD, MSCR  
Christina C. Kao, MD, PhD, ATSF

**What does mid-career mean to you?** The answers will almost certainly be different. As compared with “Early Career” or “Late Career”, where one’s pathway forward can usually take shape with minimal contemplation or debate, the middle of one’s career is often a turbulent period filled with diverse emotions and difficult to predict pathways forward. As a working group within the ATS, we recognize our obligations not just to early or late career members, but also to those who may not exactly fit with a traditional pathway or may be having difficulty remaining in their chosen “pathway”.

To produce and promote content geared towards this population, **we have compiled a flowchart of ATS International Conference activities that are meant to inspire and stimulate passion in your work.** These activities may be as simple as hearing a case presentation by a medical student or resident to bring you back to the “why” of what you do or an engaging scientific discussion among investigators infatuated with a particular subject. We have included a fair amount of what might seem like alternative pathway material, but these sessions are really intended to generate thought and help those who might be contemplating change that space to understand what other ATS members have accomplished, or, perhaps more importantly, also struggled with. Burnout is a real phenomenon and, in our opinion, the mid-career space is where it thrives. Let’s not allow ourselves the opportunity to waste the knowledge so many ATS members possess but rather harness these skills into something meaningful by generating community and “finding your people”.

**Please enjoy the ATS International Conference and open yourself up to take full advantage of all the people that it brings together.**

# Making the Most of ATS

## Get Involved With

- [Become a member](#), if you haven't already!
- [Learn more and join](#) an ATS committee assembly or section
- [Join MECOR](#)
- [Join SCALE](#)
- [Get involved in Advocacy](#)

## Ways to Stay Involved After ATS 2025

- [Help with ATS 2026 proposals](#) (due end of June)
- Listen to [Breathe Easy](#) and subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#)
- [Sign up for ATS Newsletters](#)

## Preparing for ATS

- [Become an Early Career Professional Teacher](#) for Students Scholars, Resident Boot Camp, Fellows Track Symposium
  - Look out for the "Call for Teacher" in emails and social media in October (Deadline is mid-November)
  - Teaching assignments made in December
- [Sign up to be a mentee or mentor within your assembly](#)



**Join the conversation:**

Use #ATSEarlyCareer

## Networking Exchange for Early Career Professionals

**Saturday, May 16**

**5:30-6:30 p.m.**

Hall C (Level II, OCCC West Concourse)

*Sponsored by Professional Development Committee*

- + Become an ATS in-training member for FREE!
- + Connect with peers!
- + Get involved!
- + Learn more about the ATS conference!
- + Appetizers and drinks will be available.

Professional Development Committee, Networking Super Center Chairs and ATS Leadership will be present at this event. Feel free to ask them any questions or just say hello!

## PhD Reception

**Sunday, May 17**

**3:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

Sunburst Room and Terrace Room W340 (Level III, OCCC West Concourse)

*Organized by Science and Innovation and PhD Working Groups*

If you are PhD, basic scientist, post-doc, or early career professional, come on down to Sunburst Room and Terrace for this networking event! There will be lots of opportunities to meet new people, make new connections, establish new collaborations, and share career development experiences and advice. Plus, there will be free appetizers and drinks, so that's a bonus!

## TEACH Networking Event

**Monday, May 18**

**4:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

Sunburst Room and Terrace Room W340 (Level III, OCCC West Concourse)

*Organized by ATS Section on Medical Education Leadership*

TEACH is where trainees and faculty come together to shape the future of Section on Medical Education (SoME).

This dynamic networking event brings together trainees interested in Medical Education and faculty from SoME for meaningful connections and collaboration.

What to Expect:

- Intentional networking with faculty and peers who share your passion for Medical Education
- Teaching partnerships and mentorship connections
- A welcoming space to explore and grow your educational interests

Whether you're looking to launch a project, find a mentor, or simply connect with like-minded educators, TEACH is your space to meet, mingle, and move your ideas forward!

## IMG International Medical Graduates Networking Event

**Tuesday, May 19**

**Time: 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

Hall C (Level II, OCCC West Concourse) Reception Area

*Sponsored by Professional Development Committee*

Navigating Your Path as an International Medical Graduate (IMG). This interactive Networking Event follows a speed-dating event which is designed to provide and support you with practical guidance and meaningful connections.

What You'll Gain:

- Insight into visa considerations and career pathways
- Guidance on job opportunities and advanced training options
- Strategies for finding mentors and research funding
- Small-group networking with experienced faculty from diverse institutions
- Advice from faculty at different career stages — many of whom are IMGs themselves

This highly informative Networking Event offers structured, small-group discussions and ample time to connect, ask questions, and build lasting professional relationships.



**JOIN US FOR THE ATS 2026 SYMPOSIUM:**

# **Breathing New Life Into Your Career: Thriving Through Transitions**

This interactive session is designed for mid-career clinicians, clinician-scientists, educators, and researchers who are exploring new directions or seeking renewed purpose in their work.

**Through expert insights and real-world experiences, this session will cover:**

- **Strategies to address burnout and rediscover career satisfaction**

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- **Navigating transitions into leadership, administrative, or non-clinical roles**

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- **Shifting between research and clinical responsibilities**

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- **Aligning your career with your values and long-term goals**

Hear from experienced leaders and engage in a dynamic panel discussion on diverse career pathways across academic, community, and industry settings.

Whether you are considering a change or looking to grow where you are, this session will provide practical tools and inspiration to help you thrive.

**We hope to see you there!**

# Suggested Conference Activities

Session Code	Title	Time
<b>Saturday</b>		
PG18	AI IN MEDICINE: EDUCATING THE FUTURE, TRANSFORMING PRACTICE	12:00 PM - 4:00 PM
<b>Sunday</b>		
A11	ADVANCING HEALTHCARE QUALITY THROUGH WORKFORCE EQUITY	9:15 AM - 10:45 AM
A12	DO NO HARM, UNLESS THE AI SAYS OTHERWISE - AI ETHICS, A PRO/CON	9:15 AM - 10:45 AM
MTE2	A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO USING GENERATIVE AI IN RESEARCH	10:45 AM - 11:45 AM
ME101	COMMUNICATING AND TEACHING ABOUT UNCERTAINTY IN CLINICAL, EDUCATION, AND RESEARCH SETTINGS	10:45 AM - 11:45 AM
MD14	ATS SCHOLAR: SUCCESSFUL PUBLICATION IN MEDICAL EDUCATION	12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
MD15	WHEN THE FUNDING STOPS: NAVIGATING RESEARCH IN A SHIFTING LANDSCAPE	12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
<b>Monday</b>		
B4	WORDS MATTER: THE POWER OF LANGUAGE IN SHAPING CRITICAL CARE	9:15 AM - 10:45 AM
MTE15	POTENTIAL AND PITFALLS OF AI FOR CLINICIANS AND EDUCATORS	10:45 AM - 11:45 AM
MTE 26	PRACTICAL APPROACHES TO INCORPORATING NOVEL AI TECHNIQUES INTO CLINICAL/TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH	10:45 AM - 11:45 AM
ME102	ICU ROUNDS AS LEARNING LABS: PRACTICAL STRATEGIES FOR THE ICU EDUCATOR	10:45 AM - 11:45 AM
<b>Tuesday</b>		
ME103	BLENDING TRADITION AND TECH: NAVIGATING LEARNING RESOURCES IN THE DIGITAL AGE	10:45 AM - 11:45 AM
C87	ADAPTING TO AN EVOLVING RESEARCH FUNDING ENVIRONMENT: A MULTI-NATIONAL APPROACH	2:15 PM - 3:45 PM
C88	BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO YOUR CAREER: THRIVING THROUGH TRANSITIONS	2:15 PM - 3:45 PM
C89	TAKING PRIDE IN OUR WORK: ADVANCING LGBTQIA2S+ ALLYSHIP THROUGH EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY	2:15 PM - 3:45 PM

Sunday, May 17 – Tuesday, May 19  
from 7 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Wednesday, May 20  
from 7 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**Networking Super Center: Hall C  
(Level II, Orange County Convention  
Center, West Concourse)**

The learning studio was created as a professional development space for early career professionals (ECP: graduate students, medical students, residents, fellows, post docs, other allied healthcare and research professionals) and mid-careers in pulmonary, critical care or sleep medicine. The learning studio talks will be aimed at enhancing the professional development for all health care professionals. The studio talks are a unique and valuable opportunity for attendees to interact with experts and have questions answered.

For more information about sessions below visit:  
<https://site.thoracic.org/conference/program/networking-super-center>

Dates/Times	Sunday, May 17	Monday, May 18	Tuesday, May 19	Wednesday, May 20
7 - 8:00 a.m.	PRDS Ceremony	How to Work with Industry in 2026	From A-to-I & O-to-Omics: An Introductory Field Guide to AI & Omics Research in Lung Diseases	High-Tech, Human-Centered: Practical Strategies for Integrating Ultrasound, AI, and Digital Tools Without Losing the Patient
9 - 10:00 a.m.	Teaching in the ICU @ Night	Getting Engaged in Clinical Trials: Pathways and Strategies for Budding Trialists	From Science to Storytelling: How to Use Narratives to Advocate for Change	Widen Your Net, Broaden Your Path: Networking and Portfolio Building for Early Career Scientists
10 - 11:00 a.m.	Conducting High-Impact Pulmonary Research in Low- and Middle-Income Countries	Elevator Speech Workshop: Sharpening Your Professional Identity	Diagnosing and Addressing Learning Disabilities in Trainees	Models and Techniques to Map the Influence of Extracellular Matrix Across the Lung
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Advocacy Roadmap: A Path to Career and Advocacy integration	AJRCCM, AJRCMB, AnnalsATS, ATS Scholar Combined Journal Talks Journal editors AJRCCM: Lydia Finney, Ph.D., AJRCMB: Andrew J. Halayko, Ph.D., FCAHS, ATSF Scholar: Dr. Nitin Seam, MD, ATSF AnnalsATS: Colin Cooke, M.D. Michael O. Harhay Geneva Tatem	Legislation, Implementation, Outcomes, and the Path to 50 States: Stock Albuterol Policies	Reliable Lung Sounds: Practical AI at the Point of Care
12 - 1:00 p.m.	Navigating Prior Authorization Challenges and Finding Solutions Indira Gurubhagavatula (confirmed)	Breathe Easy: The Scope of Pediatric Pulmonary Fellowship Training in the United States Early - Mid Career Professional Talk	Developing a Financial Plan: Top Considerations at the Start of Your Career	Survive, Then Thrive: Innovations in Post-ICU Recovery with Team-Based Care
1 - 2:00 p.m.	Strategies for Success in Leadership	Strategies for Patient Engagement in Research & Clinical Care: PAR Expertise and Support	Who I Am Matters: The Impact of Intersecting Identities on Workforce, Research, and Health Outcomes	<b>Receptions/Networking Events</b>  <b>Receptions/Networking Events on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday</b>  <b>PhD Reception</b> Sunday, May 17, 3-5 p.m.  <b>TEACH Reception (SoMe)</b> Monday, May 18, 4-5 p.m.  <b>IMG Reception</b> Tuesday, May 19, 4-5 p.m.
2 - 3:00 p.m.	Resources from the NIGMS Sepsis Human Biospecimens Program	Optimizing Individual Learning in the Multi-Disciplinary ICU: Building Skills & Gaining Competencies	From Labs to Lungs: Translating Respiratory Science for Impact	
3 - 4:00 p.m.	Physician Wellbeing 2.0 (Beyond the Warm and Fuzzy Hour)	Navigating the Early Career: Expert Panel Discussion of Career Development, Mentoring, and Networking	Academic Career as an International Medical Graduate (IMG) Viren Kaul, MD Sheetal Gandotra, MD Alice Gallo de Moraes, MD	
4 - 5:00 p.m.	<b>SpeakEasy: Everyone has a story to tell...</b> Sushma Cribbs, MD, MSc, ATSF – Sunday, May 17, 4-5 p.m.	M. Patricia Rivera, MD, ATSF – Monday, May 18, 4-5 p.m.	Ganesh Raghu, MD, ATSF and Yolanda Mageto, MD, MPH, ATSF (mentor/mentee session) – Tuesday, May 19, 4-5	



**Sunday, May 17 – Monday, May 18**  
**4 – 5 p.m.**

**Networking Super Center: Hall C**  
**(Level II, OCCC West Concourse)**

**Sunday Storyteller:**

**Sushma Cribbs, MD, MSc, ATSF**  
**Sunday, May 17, 4–5 p.m.**



Dr. Cribbs is a Professor of Medicine in Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine at Emory University. She earned her undergraduate and medical degrees from Boston University and completed her residency, fellowship, and a Master's in Clinical Research at Emory, joining the faculty in 2009. She has held multiple leadership roles, including Medical Director of the Pulmonary Clinic at Grady Memorial Hospital and leadership positions in fellowship training and respiratory programs.

She currently serves as Vice Chair for Faculty Development, overseeing programming and the promotions process for more than 950 faculty. Nationally, she is active in the American Thoracic Society, where she has helped develop major career development initiatives and received the ATS Presidential Commendation in 2022.

Her work focuses on career development, education, and research in HIV-related lung disease and COVID-19. She leads the NIH RECOVER study at the Atlanta VA, where she also cares for patients and mentors trainees.

**Monday Storyteller:**

**M. Patricia Rivera, MD, ATSF**  
**Monday, May 18, 4–5 p.m.**



Professor of Medicine and Oncology and the C. Jane Davis & C. Robert Davis Distinguished Professor in Pulmonary Medicine, Chief of the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, and an Associate Director at Wilmot Cancer Center in the University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, New York. Her clinical expertise includes screening, diagnosing, and staging lung cancer, as well as managing treatment complications. Through NCI-funded research, she studies the delivery, quality, and outcomes of lung cancer screening and examines interventions to increase screening rates. Throughout her career, Dr. Rivera has held numerous leadership positions in professional societies, including President of the American Thoracic Society from 2023 to 2024. Dr. Rivera is passionate about research, teaching, mentoring, and developing the next generation of leaders in pulmonary and critical care medicine.

**Tuesday Storyteller:**

**Ganesh Raghu, MD, ATSF**  
**and Yolanda Mageto, MD, MPH, ATSF**  
**(Mentor/Mentee Session) – Tuesday, May 19, 4–5 p.m.**



**Dr. Yolanda N. Mageto** is a pulmonary and critical care physician with more than 30 years of experience in clinical care, research, and academic leadership. She earned her medical degree from Washington University in St. Louis, completed residency at UT Southwestern, and fellowship training at the University of Washington, where she also received an MPH in Epidemiology.

She has held faculty positions at the University of Washington, UT Southwestern, and the University of Vermont, and is currently Professor of Medicine at Texas A&M School of Medicine and Medical Director of Interstitial Lung Disease at Baylor University Medical Center Dallas. An expert in interstitial lung disease and sarcoidosis, Dr. Mageto has led clinical trials, contributed to American Thoracic Society guidelines, and served on the ATS Board of Directors. She is also a committed advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion in academic medicine.



**Dr. Ganesh Raghu** is an internationally recognized expert in interstitial lung diseases, with nearly four decades of leadership in research, clinical care, and guideline development. His work focuses on ILD, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, sarcoidosis, and rheumatologic lung diseases. He has led major clinical trials, contributed to NIH-funded research, and chaired multiple national and international guidelines. Dr. Raghu has authored more than 475 publications and has been named a Highly Cited Researcher by Clarivate multiple times.

At the University of Washington, he directs the Center for Interstitial Lung Disease and a WASOG Center for Excellence for Sarcoidosis and co-directs the Scleroderma Clinic. He also founded the UW Lung Transplant Program and remains an active clinician and patient advocate, including leading a pulmonary fibrosis support group since 1988.



Related Events:  
[Networking Exchange](#)  
[Assembly Meetings](#)

## 1. There are so many sessions; where do I begin?

The Early Career Road Map is a great place to start! It highlights sessions likely to be of interest to early career members in adult and pediatric pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine or allergy. Also, check out the ATS App and filter sessions by your disease areas of interest or based on your career path (e.g. clinician, basic and translational scientist, physician scientist, or clinician educator). The Clinical Year in Review is a great resource for trainees—be sure to download via ATS APP before you attend!

## 2. There are so many people! How do I meet potential mentors, friends, and colleagues?

Networking is such a great opportunity at the ATS conference! Don't limit yourself to people you know and aim to network in both one-on-one and group settings. For one-on-one meetings, be sure to reach out via email beforehand to schedule. Many ATS members set aside time during the conference to meet with early career professionals! Also, there are several opportunities to meet peers at all stages of their career, including the Networking Exchange, Assembly Networking events, Networking Super Center, Diversity Forum, and the Women's Forum. Be sure to also check out the Assemblies for networking events.

## 3. How can I get involved in the International Conference?

For Conference programming, each assembly is allotted a specific number of slots for each type of session. The Program Committee for each assembly ranks various submissions. Have an idea for a session for next year's conference? Networking events and assembly meetings are great places to begin conversations. You can then submit your suggestions to the appropriate assembly during the call for input period which takes place immediately after the conference.

## 4. How can I prioritize wellness during the conference?

Since the conference spans a fair amount of physical distance and time, make sure to prioritize your comfort. Wear walkable shoes and comfortable clothing with layers (the convention centers can often be cool despite how warm it is outside!) Carry a small refillable bottle of water and use water stations throughout the conference area. Information about Lactation rooms, mobility assistance, and accessibility related features are available can be sent to: [meetingservices@thoracic.org](mailto:meetingservices@thoracic.org) or visit the onsite information desk. Make plans to meet up with old and new friends! Check out the city and the local food scene!

## 5. How can I access CME?

The ATS is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians. The designation of AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ per session will be available within the conference program. Physicians should only claim the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity. This live activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of ACCME and is free from the control of ineligible companies. The ATS is unable to offer AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ per sessions that include presentations made by industry-employed speakers if the topic of their presentation relates to a product or business line of their employer. Major symposia, postgraduate courses, core curriculum, meet the expert and keynote series are eligible for AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Instructions on how to claim your CME credits will be available within the conference app and on the conference website.



Related Events:

[Assembly Membership Meetings](#)

## 6. How does the ATS work?

The day-to-day functions of the ATS relies on a dedicated staff of more than 90 employees, who work in offices in New York and Washington, D.C. The Society's leadership is represented by an Executive Committee comprised of the executive director and five elected officers that rotate. For more info: <https://site.thoracic.org/about-us/leadership-governance/ats-leadership>

## 7. Why should I get involved in the ATS?

As an ATS member, you can have a direct impact on pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine both nationally and internationally. Active members help the Society to develop statements and guidelines, create new educational programs, prioritize content for existing activities, and guide the political voice of the ATS. ATS leaders are actively soliciting the voice of early career members, so the best time to get involved is NOW! Click here or visit: [Click here or visit: https://site.thoracic.org/about-us/get-involved-with-ats-your-voice-matters](https://site.thoracic.org/about-us/get-involved-with-ats-your-voice-matters)

## 8. What are Assemblies, Sections and Committees?

The ATS is organized into 14 Assemblies and 3 Sections. Through these, ATS members review, analyze and disseminate science, organize advocacy efforts, promote networking, and plan conference and non-conference programming. To learn more about Assemblies and Sections please go to <https://site.thoracic.org/membership/assemblies-sections>

Committees are appointed groups of professionals with shared interests that shape and carry out the ATS's many activities. Committee members are selected annually via a nomination process in the months preceding each International Conference. To learn more about committees and how to get involved please go to <https://site.thoracic.org/membership/committees>

## 9. How can I be involved in the ATS, even after the Conference?

Reach out to committee chairs and fill out the [Get Involved! form](#), nominate yourself (or a colleague) for committees, submit programming ideas during the Call for Input, sign up for the Assembly specific mentoring programs that are offered annually, subscribe to ATS email updates, and follow [@atscommunity](#), and [@atsearlycareer](#) on Twitter/X and <https://bsky.app/profile/atsearlycareer.bsky.social> on Bluesky to keep up with webinars and other opportunities that may be of interest. Attending events hosted by your local ATS chapter can also be a great way to get involved. A list of local chapters can be found at <https://site.thoracic.org/membership/chapters/chapter-list>.

## 10. What is the Public Advisory Roundtable (PAR) ?

In February 2001, former ATS president William J. Martin, II, MD, founded ATS PAR, the arm of the ATS that incorporates patient and family perspectives into the Society's activities. Today, ATS PAR comprises 15 member organizations that represent patients affected by respiratory diseases, critical illnesses, and sleep-related conditions. The group collaborates with the ATS to advance their shared educational, research, patient care and advocacy missions. To learn more please go to <https://site.thoracic.org/advocacy-patients/par>.



# ATS 2027

New Orleans | May 14-19



*See you next year!*