

# ATS Highlights 2026: Critical Care Assembly Early Career Professionals



## **Matthew Modes, MD, MPP, MS**

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### ***Tell us about yourself.***

I am a pulmonary and critical care medicine physician at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. Prior to that, I completed fellowship at University of Washington in Seattle and internal medicine residency at University of Chicago.

### ***Tell us about your research.***

I conduct clinical research at the intersection of critical care and supportive, palliative care. I am currently conducting a randomized pilot trial of an intervention that utilizes hospital chaplains to enhance the emotional support that ICU teams provide to families of adults with critical illness. This work is funded by the National Palliative Care Research Center.

### ***Where do you see yourself in 5 years?***

I hope to be an independently funded investigator developing and testing innovations that improve the psychological well-being of adults with critical illness and their families.

### ***How has the Critical Care Assembly contributed to your career?***

Being part of the Assembly has been a wonderful experience, particularly in fostering opportunities for networking, collaborating, developing leadership skills, and disseminating my research. It has been rewarding to co-lead the Assembly's Mentoring Program.



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## **Recently published work:**

**Modes ME**, Ejem DB, Welsh W, Preiss D, Sperling J, Pollak KI, Cox CE, Kross EK, Nuckols TK, Johnson KS, Kim S, Carson SS, Hough CL, White DB, Ashana DC. Exploring racial differences in family expressions of emotion and clinician empathy in ICU family meetings. *CHEST Critical Care*. 2025 Dec;3(4). [original work]

Sankar K, Modi N, Polyak A, Directo MP, Johnson LR, Kho N, Isonaka SK, Pedraza I, Chen P, **Modes ME**. Comparison of clinical characteristics and outcomes of critically ill adults with SARS-CoV-2 infection during Delta and Omicron variant predominance periods: a single-hospital retrospective cohort study. *BMJ Open Respir Res*. 2023 Feb;10(1):e001274. (PMCID PMC9943693) [original work]

Brown CE, Steiner JM, **Modes M**, Lynch Y, Leary P, Curtis JR, Engelberg RA. Palliative care perspectives of patients with pulmonary arterial hypertension. *Ann Am Thorac Soc*. 2022 Nov 23. (PMID 36416739) [original work]

**Modes ME**, Engelberg RA, Nielsen EL, Brumback LC, Neville TH, Walling AM, Curtis JR, Kross EK. Seriously ill patients' prioritized goals and their clinicians' perceptions of those goals. *J Pain Symptom Manage*. 2022 Oct;64(4):410-418. (PMCID PMC9482939) [original work]

McDermott CL, Coats H, Bernacki GM, Blakeney EAR, Brown CE, Lau N, Lee RY, **Modes ME**, Steineck A, Steiner JM, Taylor MR, Kross EK. What does it mean to be an excellent mentor? J. Randall "Randy" Curtis' living legacy. *J Pain Symptom Manage*. 2022 Jun;63(6):e657-e659. (PMID 35595383)

**Modes ME**, Directo MP, Melgar M, Johnson LR, Yang H, Chaudhary P, Bartolini S, Kho N, Noble PW, Isonaka S, Chen P. Clinical characteristics and outcomes among adults hospitalized with laboratory-confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection during periods of B.1.617.2 (Delta) and B.1.1.529 (Omicron) variant predominance – one hospital, California, July 15 – September 23, 2021, and December 21, 2021 – January 27, 2022. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep*. 2022 Feb 11;71(6):217-223. (PMCID PMC8830624) [original work]

**Complete list of published work in my NCBI bibliography at:** <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/myncbi/1fyCr8qbd3PQCR/bibliography/public/>



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