

EOPH Connections

A Publication of the **E**nvironmental, **O**ccupational, and **P**opulation **H**ealth Assembly Web Committee

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Ranu Surolia, PhD.

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Gillian Catherine Goobie, MD, PhD

Maeve Georgia Macmurdo, MBChB, MPH

Nicholas J. Nassikas, MD

Seeking Input on Updating the ATS

Statement on Respiratory Impairment and

Disability. Do you rate impairment for patients with lung disease? Do you conduct research linking pulmonary physiologic measures with disability measures? The ATS last provided official guidance on this topic in 1986 and 1993. Help us sculpt a future ATS project proposal! Please contact Dr. Stella Hines at EOPH@thoracic.org



Ranu Surolia, PhD, Mary Rice, MD, MPH, and Daniel Croft, MD, MPH at the EOPH Assembly Annual Meeting, 2026 ATS International Conference. Dr. Surolia (left) accepts a certificate for her work as chair of the Early Career Professionals Working Group. She also received an Early Career Achievement Award. For more photos, visit <https://site.thoracic.org/assemblies/eoph/ats-conference-photos-2026>

Congratulations to our EOPH Award Recipients!

Early Career Achievement Award: Ranu Surolia, PhD

Mid Career Achievement Award: Allison Lee, MD, MS

John Peters Award: Agosto A Litonjua, MD, MPH

Margaret Becklack Award: Nina M. Flores, PhD

David Bates Award: Bonnie K Patchen, PhD

Upcoming Deadlines

- Respiratory Health Award Nominations—**September 30, 2027**
- ATS EOPH Assembly Awards—**December 1, 11:59 PM ET**
 - Early Career Achievement Award
 - Mid-Career Achievement Award
 - John Peters Award
 - David Bates Award
 - Margaret Becklack Award
- Abstract Submissions—**November 4, 2026**
- Late Breaking Abstract—**December 7, 2026 - January 27, 2027**
- Call for Clinical Trials—**January 7, 2027- March 10, 2027**

Upcoming Events

"When Exposure Meets Development: Early-Life Environmental Exposures and Respiratory Health" to be held on October 13 from 1- 3 p.m. Registration link pending.

EOPH W.E.B. CommitteeJoanne McKell, MD, *chair*

Sarah Chambliss, PhD

Xiaojia He, PhD

Xin Hu, PhD

Chris Rider, PhD

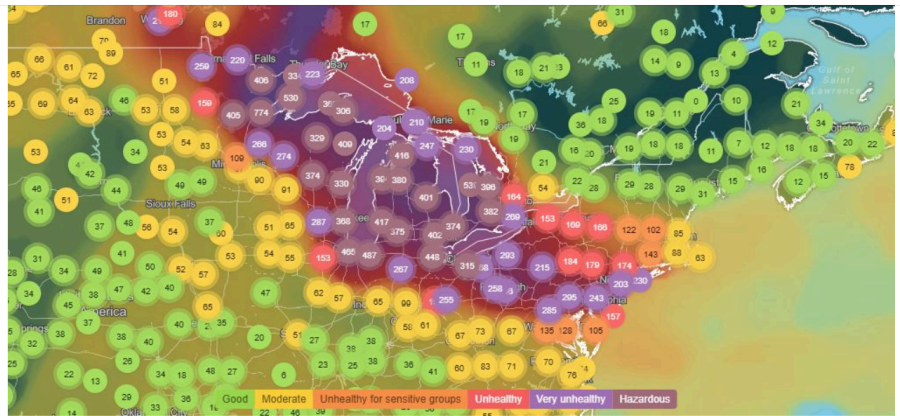
Member Highlight

Erika Mosesón, MD, MA,
Intensivist, Pulmonologist,
Podcaster, Clean Air Advocate

Dr. Mosesón's path into advocacy began around 2017 through her involvement with the Oregon Thoracic Society Executive Committee. Working alongside the American Lung Association, she began meeting with Oregon state legislators on issues including raising the tobacco purchase age to 21 and regulating diesel engine emissions. The Air Health, Our Health podcast and blog officially launched in 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic. She now serves on the ATS Environmental Policy Committee, co-hosts ATS Breathe Easy podcast episodes, and chairs the Pulmonary Section at Legacy Emanuel Health Medical Center, all while co-parenting 3 children.

“Taking action actually makes you feel better”

For clinicians interested in clean air or climate advocacy, Dr. Mosesón urges clinicians to start local, noting that city councils, county commissioners, and state legislators are often overworked, underpaid, and genuinely want to improve their communities. She shares more tips in her podcast episode Clean Air & Climate Advocacy for Busy People. Find more of Dr. Mosesón's work at her bilingual website, Air Health Our health.org.



Air quality map of the Midwest and Northeast US, as of 1:00 AM (EST) on July 17, 2026. Source: IQAir.

Updates

National: The chemical industry has successfully lobbied for new laws in states like Louisiana, Kentucky, and Ohio to disqualify air quality data gathered by citizens. As the federal monitoring network significantly declines due to budget cuts and aging equipment, industrial groups are pushing legislation that prevents regulators from using low-cost community sensors for enforcement, arguing they are technically unreliable. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2026/sep/10/us-chemical-industry-air-pollution-monitors>

Midwest: Driven by Canadian and northern Minnesota wildfires, Midwestern cities faced some of the nation's worst air quality, with 16 of the top 18 most smoke-impacted major U.S. counties in the region. <https://www.directrelief.org/2026/08/why-midwestern-cities-faced-americas-most-unhealthy-air-this-summer/#content>

Southwest: Record heat accelerated smog formation, prompting National Weather Service "do not drive" advisories across Arizona, Colorado, and Texas. Phoenix ranked 4th worst in the nation for ozone pollution. <https://www.newsweek.com/thousands-colorado-texas-arizona-urged-not-drive-air-quality-11939728>

On ATS Now

Clean Air and the Courts: <https://atsnow.thoracic.org/media/1fc002fc-0c5b-4189-8b14-e8fec33f26e9>

The Truth Behind Vaping Myths: <https://atsnow.thoracic.org/media/661fba7a-a1f5-445b-8426-fec35a5c1b06>

What the Executive Committee is Reading

Mary Rice, MD, MPH: "Silicosis among Workers Fabricating Engineered Stone ("Quartz") Countertops in California, 2019-2026" https://evidence.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/EVIDpha2600187?query=featured_home

Maeve G. Macmurdo, MBChB, MPH: "Effects of China's Clean Heating Policy on respiratory symptoms and airway inflammation in adults: a quasi-experimental study in rural Beijing" <https://academic.oup.com/ajrccm/article/212/9/2061/8660447>