

THE ECPWG BEAT

The ATS Pulmonary Circulation Early Career Professionals Working Group Quarterly Newsletter | December 2025

The Early Career Professionals Working Group: Who We Are

The goal of the ECPWG is to engage and serve early career professionals within American Thoracic Society (ATS) Assembly on Pulmonary Circulation (PC). Our objectives are to:

- Enhance career development by promoting participation and engagement in ATS leadership within the Assembly on Pulmonary Circulation
- Design, curate, and share content relevant to early career professionals
- Create a networking infrastructure to foster collaborative clinical, research, and educational endeavors within the Assembly

Virtual Programming

Managing Your Time and Maximizing Your Efficiency

A webinar co-sponsored by the Pulmonary Circulation Women in Pulmonary Vascular Disease Working Group (WoW) and ECPWG

Date/Time: 5 - 7 p.m. ET, Thursday, Dec. 11

Don't miss this conversation with a remarkable group of expert women who will discuss strategies to share the tools, tactics, and time-management strategies that have helped them excel in their careers. [Register here.](#)

PC ECPWG Works in Progress

Date/Time: 3 - 4 p.m. ET, Thursday, Dec. 18

Join the ECPWG in a supportive, low-pressure space where early-career researchers can present ongoing projects and receive guidance from a nationwide network of pulmonary vascular and RV biology experts, with Karina Mora Massad, MD as our inaugural presenter. [Register now.](#)

If you are interested in presenting at a future PC WIP, please contact [Maida Yaqoob.](#)

Practical PH Podcast - Foundations of PH - Diagnosing PH | On Apple Podcasts

Tune into Practical PH's inaugural episode of the Foundations of PH series with PH expert Dr. Namita Sood who takes us through a systematic approach of accurately diagnosing pulmonary hypertension along with hosts Khushboo Goel, MD and Kathryn del Valle, MD.

Developing a Career in Pulmonary Hypertension and Science

In case you missed it, a panel of pulmonary vascular disease specialists discuss how to pursue a career in science and pulmonary hypertension in the last PC Journal Club/Webinar. [Watch here.](#)



SPOTLIGHT: ATS PC ASSEMBLY MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The ATS Pulmonary Circulation Assembly Mentorship Program is a long-standing, beloved initiative that matches mentees with mentors based on their areas of interest, offering focused, individualized guidance across clinical practice, research, education, networking, work-life balance, career development, and more. Mentor-mentee pairs will first connect via email, with the option to meet virtually or in person at the ATS International Conference. We strongly encourage members at any career stage to participate as a mentor or mentee—every phase of a professional journey benefits from mentorship, and each of us has valuable experiences and expertise to share with colleagues earlier in their path. Applications will open in January on the [ATS Website](#), with a sign-up deadline of March 2026.

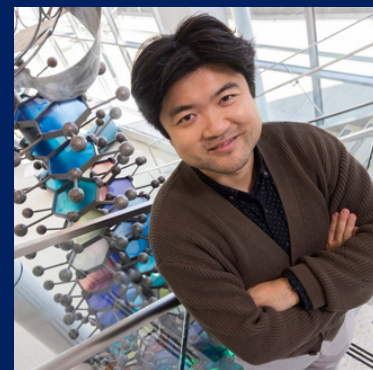
Participant Insights: Aleksandra Babicheva, PhD



I have had the incredible opportunity to participate in the ATS Mentorship Program, which has been a transformative experience for my career. I first met my mentor, Dr. Elena Goncharova, in person at the ATS International Conference, where we connected immediately over shared research interests and career goals. Throughout the year, we maintain regular communication via email and virtual meetings, which provide me with ongoing guidance, feedback, and encouragement. This mentorship has been invaluable: my mentor not only offers advice on research strategy and professional development but also recognized my potential by nominating me for the ATS PC Early Career Award, an award that has significantly advanced my visibility in the field. The program has strengthened my network, enhanced my confidence, and provided practical support that has shaped my career trajectory. I highly encourage early-career investigators to participate — it is a rewarding and career-defining experience!



Mentorship Experiences: Yuanjun "Steve" Shen, Ph.D



I applied for the ATS Assembly Mentorship Program in 2023. In the weeks leading up to the meeting and afterwards, I received thoughtful reminders confirming my acceptance, introducing my matched mentor, and inviting post-conference feedback. The clear and welcoming communication set a strong foundation for a meaningful mentoring experience.

I was paired with Dr. Ke Yuan, someone I had seen at prior conferences and seminars but never had the chance to truly connect with. During the ATS Conference, I shadowed Dr. Yuan for an entire day, observing how she navigated sessions, moderated discussions, and engaged with colleagues. She graciously introduced me to researchers involved in ATS volunteer initiatives, expanding my understanding of the community and opening doors to deeper involvement. Motivated by this experience, I applied to join the PC Assembly Early Career Working Group, marking the beginning of my ongoing engagement with ATS beyond the annual meeting. Dr. Yuan and I continue to stay in touch, and her leadership and generosity remain a continued source of inspiration.



DEADLINES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- ATS Call for Late Breaking Abstracts: Submit your late breaking research, education or quality improvement projects to be included at the ATS International Conference. Applications will open in early December on the ATS Website. Deadline: January 28th, 2026.
- The ATS Assembly Apprenticeship Programs provide early-career members with an opportunity to get involved with ATS PC Assembly Committees and with guiding the future of ATS. Apprenticeship positions are open on the Program, Planning, and Web Committees. Deadline: February 6, 2026.
- The ATS Assemblies Teaching Competition: Apply for a chance for you to represent the PC assembly and showcase your teaching on a topic of your choice. Deadline: February 6, 2026.

Nominations Open for Pulmonary Circulation Early- and Mid-Career Awards

Please consider recognizing an outstanding mentee or colleague, or even asking a mentor/colleague to nominate you if you meet these criteria. Award recipients will be honored at the ATS 2026 International Conference. Deadline: December 31, 2025.

Early Career/Junior Fellowship Award

The purpose of this award is to recognize scientific achievements from ATS PC members that are early in their careers to encourage ongoing commitment to science. The individual must have outstanding scientific achievements in the field of pulmonary vascular disease by a mentored early career stage investigator (e.g., paper(s), grants, program building, educational efforts, society contribution), and should have submitted an abstract for at least two ATS meetings.

- ATS PC Assembly Member
- Postdoctoral fellow, senior postdoc, instructor, or within the first two years of a faculty appointment/lectureship
- Has not yet received a career development award (e.g., NHLBI K08/23/99 award, VA career development award, AHA career development award, new investigator/career development awards from UKRI, Wellcome, ERC awards) at the time of nomination.
- Will be expected to serve as a PC Executive Committee Apprentice following acceptance of the award for education and to encourage ongoing ATS participation

Submission of a complete nomination package including 1) letters of support from 2 different members of the assembly describing the candidate's contributions, potential, and why the award is appropriate; 2) the candidate's curriculum vitae and 3) a copy of an abstract that will be presented at the ATS meeting on which the candidate is first or senior author. Nominate here: <https://site.thoracic.org/membership/awards/pc-early-career-award>

Mid-Career/Senior Fellowship Research Achievement Award

This award will be given to one individual with a promising career trajectory who has made outstanding scientific contributions relevant to the understanding of the vascular basis of lung disease, including basic science at the level of the cell and molecular biology, lung vascular physiology, translational biology, or clinical medicine.

- ATS PC Assembly Primary Member
- Must be within 7 years of the start of first faculty appointment/lectureship at the time of submission

Submission of a complete nomination package including 1) letters of support from 2 different members of the PC assembly describing the candidate's contributions, potential, and why the award is appropriate; 2) the candidate's curriculum vitae and 3) a copy of an abstract that will be presented at the ATS meeting on which the candidate is first or senior author. Nominate here: <https://site.thoracic.org/membership/awards/pc-mid-career-research-achievement-award>



We invite all early career professionals to get involved, share ideas, and help us strengthen our community.

To learn more or connect with us, please email pcecn@gmail.com or visit [ATS Committees – Get Involved](#).