



THE ECPWG BEAT

The ATS Pulmonary Circulation Early Career Professionals Working Group Quarterly Newsletter | March 2026

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

1. Journal Club: SOTERIA: A Long-Term Follow-Up on Safety and Tolerability of Sotatercept

Date: Feb. 17 (This event has already occurred, but the recording is available at <https://site.thoracic.org/assemblies/pc/journal-club>)

This session provides a brief overview of the landmark STELLAR, ZENITH, and HYPERION trials and examines how sotatercept has reshaped the PAH treatment algorithm.

2. Navigating ATS: Leadership Opportunities Through ATS Programming

Date/Time: 1-2 p.m. ET, Tuesday, March 3

This webinar will introduce early-career professionals to the structure and opportunities within the American Thoracic Society. Participants will learn how to navigate the ATS assemblies, committees, and programs to become actively involved. Attendees will leave with clear strategies to build visibility, expand their professional network, and pursue leadership roles within ATS. [Register here.](#)

3. Strengthening Your Biosketch and Essential Research Documents

Date/Time: 2-3 p.m. ET, Thursday, March 5

Join the RCMB Assembly Early Career Working Group for the third session in the "Grant Writer's Toolkit" webinar series as Roya Kalantari, PhD, Elizabeth Redente, PhD, and Robert Tighe, MD, discuss the numerous components of an NIH K-series grant that are not the Specific Aims or Research Approach. [Register here.](#)

4. Industry Partnerships Webinar

Date/Time: 3:30 p.m. ET, Friday, March 27

Learn how industry partnerships can accelerate your research and how to transition from academia to industry. Registration will be available soon on the [PC Assembly Website](#) and the weekly ATS Assembly Virtual Events & News e-mail. Make sure you are receiving ATS Assembly e-mails by checking the "ATS General Assemblies & Sections" box on your [ATS E-mail Communication Preferences](#).

5. Pulmonary Circulation Work in Progress Webinar

Date/Time: 1-2pm ET, Thursday, April 16

The ECPWG invites early career investigators to present work in preparation for a grant or manuscript in a supportive, collaborative forum. The sessions are informal, interactive, and designed to spark feedback, new ideas, and lasting connections. We are always recruiting interested presenters for this date and future dates. Please contact [Maida Yaqoob](#) if interested.

Want to get involved in the PC ECPWG?

Consider applying for an observership position!

Contact the chair [Maryam Sharifi-Sanjani, PhD](#) or co-chair: [Sue Gu, MD](#)



ATS PC ECPWG SPOTLIGHTS: ATS MENTORING PROGRAM AND PC ASSEMBLY WEB COMMITTEE



ATS Mentoring Program

Application Deadline: March 6th 2026

- The ATS Assembly Mentoring Program matches early- to mid-career professionals with senior members of their respective assemblies for a one-on-one mentorship experience at the International Conference (or virtually).
- The Pulmonary Circulation assembly has a wealth of enthusiastic mentors across all career paths and scientific areas that are relevant to the Pulmonary Circulation.
- [Apply here](#) to be a mentor or mentee.

Mentorship Experiences: Sue Gu MD MScPH

I have participated in the program nearly every year since I began attending the ATS conference—first as a mentee, and recently, as both a mentor and mentee. This has led to lasting collegial relationships, from trainees I've advised to senior physician-scientists who have provided invaluable external perspectives to my career. In 2024, I was fortunate to be matched with Dr. Stephen Chan (University of Pittsburgh). We met at the conference and have crossed paths several times since. His mentorship has helped me crystallize my vision for my independent research program, and he has generously supported my development through ongoing guidance and letters of recommendation.



Updates from the PC ECPWG Web Committee

Co-Chairs:

Khushboo Goel MD
Kathryn del Valle MD

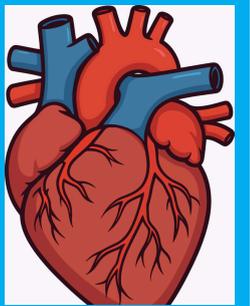


1. We have been hard at work recording episodes of our “Practical PH” podcast! Our latest episode is about the new hemodynamic definition of PH. These episodes are part of the “ATS Assemblies & Sections” podcast, available on Spotify and Apple podcasts:
<https://open.spotify.com/show/0WPQLQ0ThYjeHArlywxUWC>
<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/ats-assemblies-sections/id1825163080>

2. We started a new monthly “Tweetorial” series on X/Bluesky. This longitudinal educational series will provide links to relevant webinars, journal clubs, podcasts, and papers. January’s Tweetorial was about the diagnosing PH. February’s Tweetorial was about risk stratification.
https://x.com/ATS_PC/status/2019755201645752601?s=20



RESEARCH GRANT AND FELLOWSHIP AWARD DEADLINES



NIH Awards

1. F Series (National Research Service Awards):

Pre- and post- doctoral fellowships are due 4/8, 8/8, and 12/8 this year.

2. K series (Research Career Development):

New applications are due 2/12, 6/12, and 10/12 this year.

Renewal/resubmission/revision applications are due 3/12, 07/12, and 11/12 this year.

Deadlines and instructions for applications are available at:

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants-process/submit/submission-policies/standard-due-dates#application-due-dates>

**Parker B Francis Foundation Fellowships
Due October 2026**

<https://www.francisfellowships.org/apply-for-the-fellowship/>

2026 ATS Funding Opportunities

Letters of Intent are due March 11th, 2026

Full Applications are due July 1st, 2026

<https://site.thoracic.org/research/the-ats-research-program/grants-and-eligibility>

1. ATS Unrestricted awards
2. ATS Emerging Voices in Health Research
3. ATS/ALA/CHEST respiratory Health Equity Research Award
4. ATS/Alveolar Capillary Dysplasia Research Grant
5. ATS/Pulmonary Hypertension Association Early Career Award

PHenomenal Impact Fund for Global PH Research Award

Letters of Intent are due March 20th, 2026

Full Applications are due April 24th, 2026

<https://phenomenalimpactresearchfund.org/program-overview/>

The PHenomenal Impact Fund for Global PH Research funds projects that are novel and forward-thinking in the field of pulmonary hypertension. This year we are specifically asking for projects in the following categories:

1. Diversity and Inclusion in Registries and Clinical Trials
2. Unmet Needs in Patients with Pulmonary Hypertension
3. Substance Abuse and PAH
4. What is a PAH Disease Modifying Agent
5. Patient Engagement Strategies
6. Clinical Trial Design and Improving Data Quality

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 pccn@gmail.com or visit [ATS Committees – Get Involved.](#)