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To the members of the Critical Care Assembly,

I am delighted to provide a nomination for Dr Bronwen Connolly of the Wellcome-Wolfson Institute for Experimental Medicine, Queen’s University Belfast, for your consideration for the International Early Career Achievement Award. As a former winner of this award and frequent attender of ATS, I know how meaningful this award can be for its winners. As such, I am particularly pleased to recommend Bronwen.

Dr Connolly earned her BSc in Physiotherapy from Kings College London in 1999, which was followed by a MSc in Physiotherapy at the University of Brighton in 2008. She earned her PhD in 2014 and therefore qualifies as Early Career within our ATS community. At present, Bronwen leads an ambitious programme of work, which blends innovative trial methodology and rehabilitation from critical illness

Dr Connolly’s academic, professional and citizenship accomplishments are incredibly impressive. Dr Connolly has been competitively awarded three prestigious National Institute of for Health and Care Research (NIHR) clinical fellowships over the last decade, each focussed on improving the quality of care of critically ill patients. This was exemplified in her recent Clinical Trials Fellowship, where she worked with the Intensive Care National Audit and Research Centre (ICNARC) to understand the potential integration of physical rehabilitation outcomes into routinely collected data across the UK. Her work has had a profound impact on how we think about recovery and how it can be captured in a systematic and meaningful way.

Dr Connolly also leads large scale multicentre clinical trials within the UK and has collaborated with multiple national and international partners. Dr Connolly is Chief Investigator of a multicentre randomised controlled, open label, phase 3 trial, examining the impact of mucoactive drugs for acute respiratory failure. She is also co-investigator of the current NIHR funded trial examining the impact of a remote multicomponent rehabilitation intervention in survivors of critical illness following hospital discharge, and was the UK Chief Investigator for the Early Activity and Mobilisation in the ICU (TEAM) trial. This leadership within the critical care community nationally and internationally, has led to Dr Connolly being invited to significant leadership roles including the Director of Research within the UK Intensive Care Society. Moreover, she has actively participated within the ATS community in various roles including as a member of the Critical Care Assembly Program Committee and as Co-Chair of the Critical Care Assembly workshop, ‘*Determining the Outcomes for Assessment after Critical Illness’.* Dr Connolly also frequently publishes in the Society’s journals with a total of four publications in the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine and the Annals of the American Thoracic Society.

Dr Connolly has also had a significant impact on the careers of other within critical care. She has/is supporting more than 16 PhD and MSc students of a variety of professional backgrounds. This includes obtaining 4 competitive fellowships as supervisor or co-supervisor. Having written with Bronwen and worked with her on multiple projects, I can also attest to what an utter pleasure it is to collaborate with her as a peer. Dr Connolly consistently makes other people’s work better. She is a finisher who gets work completed to an exceptional standard, and who has made my own work better with her generous and insightful feedback.

Dr Connolly’s work has led to a stream of high impact papers, which has driven thinking and innovation in the care of critically ill patients. Some of the work which Dr Connolly has led and has contributed to includes:

1. White C, Connolly B, Rowland MJ. [Rehabilitation after critical illness.](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33858835/) British Medical Journal.
2. Perkins GD, Ji C, Connolly BA et al [Effect of Noninvasive Respiratory Strategies on Intubation or Mortality Among Patients with Acute Hypoxemic Respiratory Failure and COVID-19: The RECOVERY-RS Randomized Clinical Trial.](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35072713/) JAMA.
3. Prescott HC, Iwashyna TJ, Blackwood B, Calandra T, Chlan LL, Choong K, Connolly B, et al on behalf of the International Sepsis Forum .Understanding and Enhancing Sepsis Survivorship: Priorities for Research and Practice. American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine.
4. Connolly B, et al. [Recovery, rehabilitation and follow-up services following critical illness: an updated UK national cross-sectional survey and progress report.](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34607869/) BMJ Open.
5. Blackwood B, Ringrow S, Clarke M, Marshall JC, Connolly B, et al A core outcome set for critical care ventilation trials. Critical Care Medicine.

Of course, Dr Connolly’s output is far greater than this. In the last decade, she has written over 60 peer reviewed papers, with an H-index of 27.

In sum, Dr Connolly is a superb clinician-scientist with a substantial track record of successful fundraising, conceptual innovation, and publication success.



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**Professor Theodore J. Iwashyna**

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