

Assembly on Pediatrics (PEDS) Newsletter



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Message from the Assembly Chair

Dear Members of the Pediatrics Assembly:

It has been a productive year within the PEDS Assembly, and I am pleased to share the 2026 Spring Assembly Newsletter to highlight the activities of our committees and working groups. I am grateful to all the assembly members who have dedicated time and engaged with the ATS to promote the respiratory health of infants and children.

We have an outstanding program assembled for **ATS-2026 in Orlando!** I hope you will attend our Assembly business on **Sunday May 17th**. Following that meeting, please join me at the **Pediatric Assembly Celebration of Excellence dinner** (*registration required*), where we will recognize our 2026 assembly award winners.

Beyond the annual international conference, a remarkable volume of impactful and inspiring work occurs year-round. I encourage you to review the updates below and the ATS PEDS Assembly website to learn more. You will find journal clubs, webinars, other other web based content, bringing together ATS members worldwide. Various committees and working groups provide forums for collaboration across clinical and scientific areas. Additionally, there are ways to partner across ATS to amplify voices advocating for science and healthcare for all children. If you’d like to get involved, please reach out to the chair or co-chairs listed.

We are thankful to have a professional home within ATS for pediatricians and those who focus on research, innovation, and strategies to improve child health. We also thank the amazing ATS staff who support the work of our Assembly.

It is an honor to serve as PEDS Assembly Chair, and I look forward to seeing many of you in Orlando and hearing from you throughout the year.

Lisa R. Young, MD, ATS-F
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Assembly on Pediatrics (PEDS) Membership Meeting

Sunday, May 17, 2026
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Orange County Convention Center (Level III, West Concourse)
Room: W304E-H

Pediatrics Assembly Celebration of Excellence (PACE) Dinner

**Hyatt Regency Orlando
Regency Ballroom O, Convention Level
Sunday, May 17th, 7:30-9:30 PM**

Reconnect with old friends, forge new collaborations, introduce emerging faculty and trainees to our Assembly and celebrate all of our accomplishments over the past year. Winners of Assembly Awards, Abstract Awards and other accolades will be honored during the evening with a short program. Secure your spot today at the Third Annual Pediatrics Assembly Celebration of Excellence (Peds-ACE) Reception, and come see what makes our community so special.

Deadline for ticket purchases: May 5, 2026

Already registered for the conference? Add the PACE Dinner below:

[ATS 2026](#)

Not yet registered for the conference? Register below:

[American Thoracic Society | Register](#)

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mai ElMallah MD MS (Chair) & Benjamin Kopp, MD MPH (Co-Chair)

As always, we wish to thank ATS leadership and the Pediatric Assembly for all their support in allowing us to stay active and to continue to promote the respiratory health and well-being of children worldwide.

We are delighted to announce that we will have **one new clinical statement** approved:

The clinical statement will create an evidence-based consensus statement that standardizes the definition, diagnosis, and severity classification of Acute Chest Syndrome (ACS) across ages, clinical settings, and resource environments:

- A Multidisciplinary Approach to the Definition, Diagnosis, and Severity Classification of Acute Chest Syndrome in Individuals with Sickle Cell Disease: An American Thoracic Society Clinical Statement

In addition, the following projects were renewed this year:

- An Update to the Classification, Evaluation, and Management of Childhood Interstitial Lung Disease in Infancy
- Inert Gas Washout Testing. An Official ERS-ATS Technical Standard
- Updated Respiratory Care of the Patient With Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

The following projects have been completed and were published this year:

- **International clinical practice guideline for the diagnosis of Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia**
 - a. Shoemark A, Goutaki M, Kinghorn B, Ardura-Garcia C, Baz-Redón N, Chilvers M, Davis SD, De Brandt J, Dell S, Dhar R, Dixon L, Ferkol T, Hogg C, Legendre M, Leigh M, Lucas JS, Manion M, Rumman N, Toews I, Labonte V, Wee WB, Kouis P, Horani A. European Respiratory Society and American Thoracic Society guidelines for the diagnosis of primary ciliary dyskinesia. *Eur Respir J.* 2025 Dec 18;66(6):2500745. doi: 10.1183/13993003.00745-2025. PMID: 41005984.
- **Progressive Pediatric Pulmonary Hypertension Unresponsive to Optimal Therapy: An ATS Clinical Practice Guideline**
 - a. Hayes D Jr, Jennerich AL, Coleman RD, Abston E, Adamson GT, Berger JT, Cohen SP, Cooper DS, Egtesady P, Fynn-Thompson F, Grady RM, Hon SM, Hoopes CW, Jewell T, Lewthwaite H, Liu MF, McGiffin DC, Mullen MP, Qureshi AM, Morales DLS. *Interventional Strategies for Children with Progressive Pulmonary Hypertension*

Despite Optimal Therapy: An Official American Thoracic Society Clinical Practice Guideline. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med.* 2025 Feb;211(2):157-173. doi: 10.1164/rccm.202410-1901ST. PMID: 39531626; PMCID: PMC11812548.

- **Guidelines for Screening and Treatment of Nicotine Use Disorder in Adolescents Less Than 18 years of Age**
 - a. Bauer SE, Macrea M, Casey A, Dagli E, Eakin MN, Farber HJ, Gonzalez P, Hayes D Jr, Hu SW, Kathuria H, Knight SL, Moraes TJ, Neptune ER, Piper ME, Skeen EH, Ueng CS, Upson D, Walley SC, Rao DR. Treatment of Nicotine Use in Adolescents Under 18 Years of Age: An Official American Thoracic Society Clinical Practice Guideline. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med.* 2025 Sep;211(9):1584-1599. doi: 10.1164/rccm.202507-1577ST. PMID: 40879357; PMCID: PMC12432397.
- **Care of Infants and Children with Tracheostomies: An Official ATS Clinical Practice Guideline**
 - a. Amin R, Agarwal A, Chiang J, Collaco JM, Cristea AI, Propst EJ, Sobotka SA, Balakrishnan K, Benscoter D, Brenner MJ, Castro-Codezal ML, Cuevas Guaman M, Daines CL, Dawson JA, Edwards JD, Graham RJ, Henningfeld JK, Hoekstra NE, Jackson AJ, Johnson RF, Kam K, Kun SS, Napolitano N, Pacheco A, Panitch HB, Prager JD, Shi JY, Soma M, St-Laurent A, Syed F, Watters KF, Zielinski D, Ho ATN, Velagapudi RK, Zeba F, Knight SL, Iyer N, Baker CD. Care of Infants and Children with Tracheostomies: An Official American Thoracic Society Clinical Practice Guideline. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med.* 2025 Nov;211(11):2001-2020. doi: 10.1164/rccm.202508-2055ST. PMID: 41123183; PMCID: PMC12618984.

As a reminder to all, the deadline for Assembly Project applications for next year will be July 31, 2026. The chair and all members of the PEDS Planning Committee will be happy to discuss and answer any questions regarding project proposals.

The ATS has put together a comprehensive **Project Application Resource Center**, including videos and examples of successful applications.

<https://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/about/assembly-project-application-resource-center.php>

Pediatric Assembly Awards:

This year the planning Committee reviewed all nominations for the PEDS Assembly Awards. As always, we had exceptional nominees. We greatly appreciate all our colleagues who put in extensive effort and work to nominate these outstanding people.

The following are the five PEDS Assembly awards:

- **The Lifetime Contributions to Pediatric Respiratory Medicine Award** is presented annually to awardees who have dedicated their career to advancement in the field.
- **The Mid-Career Outstanding Contributions Award** recognizes mid-career individuals for their achievements in research, mentorship, clinical care, education, advocacy, or scholarship.
- **The Clinician Educator Award** is presented to a candidate at the assistant or early associate professor level who is an exemplary and innovative clinician and teacher.
- **The Robert Mellins Award** recognizes a nominee at the instructor, assistant, or early associate professor level for their achievements in scholarship or research.
- **The Carole Marcus Award** is presented to a junior faculty member for their accomplishments in pediatric sleep and respiratory neurobiology.

Awardees will be announced during the ATS PEDS Assembly Membership Meeting.

More information about these awards can be found on the PEDS Assembly Awards page on the ATS website for more info:

<https://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/assemblies/peds/awards/>

The next Pediatric ATS Planning meeting will be on Monday, May 18th, 2026, at 7:00 a.m.

Science and Innovation Center Report

Erin Plosa, MD, PEDS Representative

The Science and Innovation Center (SIC) is a networking and resource hub for basic and translational researchers at the ATS International Conference. SIC programming focuses on innovative research methods, emerging technologies, and new translational applications. New for ATS 2026 is a combined PhD Reception and SIC Awards Presentation on Sunday May 18th, from 3-5 pm EST. Come network with your basic science colleagues and celebrate with the Rising Star and Poster Award Recipients!

Assembly Mentoring Programs' Meeting Spot

Struggling to find a quiet location to meet with your mentor? The Assembly Mentoring Programs is offering a meeting spot exclusively for mentors and mentee to meet.

Hyatt Regency Orlando – Celebration 10

Sunday, May 17th – Monday, May 18 from 7 am to 7 pm

Please note, this space is exclusively for Mentoring Program participants*

ATS Contact- Tiana Lino at tlino@thoracic.org

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

Christian Rosas-Salazar, MD, MPH, ATSF (Chair) and Lael M. Yonker, MD (Chair-Elect)

Be our guest as we unveil the magic behind this year's pediatric programming for the ATS 2026 International Conference. We are thrilled to share another year of captivating didactic sessions, groundbreaking original research, and fascinating case reports.

The Pediatric Program Committee consists of 35 dedicated members with combined expertise in basic, clinical, and translational research in pediatric pulmonology, pediatric sleep medicine, neonatal intensive care, and pediatric intensive care. We are extremely grateful to our committee members for their hard work, their just keep swimming attitude, and their ability to go to infinity and beyond in advancing childhood lung health!

This year, we've been busy and reviewed 21 session proposals, 249 scientific abstracts, and 157 case reports from 26 countries. It really is a small world! Many of these were submitted by medical students, residents, or fellows, so please make every effort to attend and support our trainees' presentations.

For the first time in forever, we've programmed a two-day board review course in pediatric pulmonology. We've also collaborated with other ATS assemblies and committees to bring you 14 co-sponsored scientific symposia and one co-sponsored poster discussion session.

A sneak peek of the ATS 2026 International Conference program is included below to help with your planning. Closer to the conference, we'll share a detailed list of all pediatric-relevant sessions programmed by us and other ATS assemblies, your perfect roadmap for Orlando.

We can't wait to see you all in the happiest place on Earth, where dreams of discovery come true!


Friday May 15, 2026:



Time	Session type	Session name	Location
8:00AM-4:00PM	PG-D*	Take It All In!: Comprehensive Review of Pediatric Pulmonology and Preparation for the Boards (day 1/2)	W304 F-H (Level III, OCCC West Concourse)
8:00AM-4:00PM	ECP [†]	Resident Boot Camp (day 1/2)	W224 D (Level II, OCCC West Concourse)
8:00AM-4:00PM	ECP [†]	Fellows Track Symposium (day 1/2)	W224 H (Level II, OCCC West Concourse)
8:00AM-4:00PM	ECP [†]	New Faculty Boot Camp (day 1/2)	TBD

Saturday May 16, 2026:


Time	Session type	Session name	Location
8:00AM-4:00PM	PG-D*	Take It All In!: Comprehensive Review of Pediatric Pulmonology and Preparation for the Boards (day 2/2)	W304 F-H (Level III, OCCC West Concourse)
8:00AM-4:00PM	PG-S*	Pediatric Advanced Diagnostic and Interventional Bronchoscopy	W240 AB (Level II, OCCC West Concourse)
8:00AM-4:00PM	ECP [†]	Resident Boot Camp (day 2/2)	W224 D (Level II, OCCC West Concourse)
8:00AM-4:00PM	ECP [†]	Fellows Track Symposium (day 2/2)	W224 H (Level II, OCCC West Concourse)
8:00AM-4:00PM	ECP [†]	New Faculty Boot Camp (day 2/2)	TBD

Sunday May 17, 2026:

Time	Session type	Session name	Location
9:15AM-10:45AM	SS-PED	Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia in a Genomic Therapeutic Era	W304 A-D (Level III, OCCC West Concourse)
9:15AM-10:45AM	SS-Co-SP	The Obese Lung Microenvironment: New Insights Into Asthma Pathways and Therapeutic Targets	W109A (Level I, OCCC West Concourse)
9:15AM-10:45AM	SS-Co-SP	From Early Development Through Aging: Sex and Gender Effects on Cardiopulmonary Disease	W203 (Level II, OCCC West Concourse)
9:15AM-11:15AM	PD-Co-SP (SA)	Physiology, Phenotypes, and Trajectories in Acute Respiratory Failure Across the Lifespan	W414CD (Level IV, OCCC West Concourse)
9:15AM-11:15AM	RAPID (SA)	Pediatric Pulmonary Research in Global Health and Underserved Populations: It's a Small World	W206 (Level II, OCCC West Concourse)
10:45AM-11:45AM	MTE*	The Multifaceted Role of Flexible Bronchoscopy in Childhood Asthma: From Diagnosis to Phenotyping and Precision Care	W102B (Level I, OCCC West Concourse)
11:00AM-12:00PM	NSC	Advocacy Roadmap: A Path to Career and Advocacy Integration	Learning Studio, Hall C (Level II, OCCC West)
11:30AM-1:15PM	TP (CR + SA)	Childhood Asthma, Allergic Diseases, and Environmental Health: Fantasyland	Area D, Halls WA2-WA3 (Level II, OCCC West Concourse)
11:30AM-1:15PM	TP (CR + SA)	Pediatric Hematologic and Neoplastic Disorders Impacting the Lungs: Haunted Mansion	Area D, Halls WA2-WA3 (Level II, OCCC West Concourse)
11:30AM-1:15PM	TP (CR + SA)	Pulmonary Function Testing and Diagnostic Strategies for Pediatric Pulmonary Diseases: Journey Into Imagination	Area D, Halls WA2-WA3 (Level II, OCCC West Concourse)
11:30AM-1:15PM	TP (CR + SA)	Pediatric Upper Airway Diseases, Artificial Airway and Mechanical Ventilation: Expedition Everest	Area D, Halls WA2-WA3 (Level II, OCCC West Concourse)
12:00PM-1:00PM	PCC1 	- Pediatric Bronchiectasis: A Comprehensive Approach - Cystic Fibrosis: The Latest Therapeutic Advances	W203 (Level II, OCCC West Concourse)
1:00PM-2:00PM	NSC	Strategies for Success in Leadership	Learning Studio, Hall C (Level II, OCCC West)

2:15PM-3:45PM	SS-PED 	Pediatric Year in Review: The Magic Kingdom of Pediatric Pulmonary	W311 E-H (Level III, OCCC West Concourse)
2:15PM-3:45PM	SS-Co-SP	One Airway, Many Outcomes: Rethinking Asthma and COPD	W304 E-H (Level III, OCCC West Concourse)
2:15PM-3:45PM	SS-Co-SP	Air Pollution and Clean Air Zones: Natural Experiments for Respiratory Health in Three Global Cities	W308 (Level III, OCCC West Concourse)
2:15PM-4:15PM	PD-PED (SA)	You've Got a Friend in Me: Basic, Genetic, and Omics Research to Advance Children's Respiratory Health	W414AB (Level IV, OCCC West Concourse)
5:00PM-7:00PM	PED 	PEDS Assembly Meeting	W304 E-H + Corr (Level III, OCCC West)
7:00PM-9:00PM	PED*	Pediatrics Assembly Celebration of Excellence Dinner	Regency O (Convention Lvl, Hyatt Regency)


Monday May 18, 2026:

Time	Session type	Session name	Location
9:15AM-10:45AM	SS-PED	Pulmonary Function in Childhood Respiratory Disease: Evidence, Social Determinants, and Trajectories	W304 E-H (Level III, OCCC West Concourse)
9:15AM-10:45AM	SS-Co-SP	Pulmonary Rehabilitation in Non-COPD Patients: Updates on the Evidence, Clinical Indications, and Physiology	W240 (Level II, OCCC West Concourse)
9:15AM-10:45AM	SS-Co-SP	Respiratory Health, Policy, and the Environment in the 2026 Political Environment	W240 (Level II, OCCC West Concourse)
9:15AM-10:45AM	SS-Co-SP	Care of the Undocumented Migrant	W109A (Level I, OCCC West Concourse)
9:15AM-11:15AM	MS 	Best in Pediatrics: Bibbidi-Bobbidi-Breath!	W311 E-H (Level III, OCCC West Concourse)
11:30AM-1:15PM	TP (CR + SA)	BPD, Congenital Lung Diseases, and Pulmonary Vascular Disorders in Children: Big Thunder Mountain	Area L, Halls WA2-WA3 (Level I, OCCC West Concourse)
11:30AM-1:15PM	TP (CR)	Pediatric Infection, Autoimmunity, and Immunodeficiency: Jungle Cruise	Area L, Halls WA2-WA3 (Level I, OCCC West Concourse)
11:30AM-1:15PM	TP (CR + SA)	Pediatric Sleep, Neuromuscular, and Control of Breathing Disorders: Rock 'n' Roller Coaster	Area L, Halls WA2-WA3 (Level I, OCCC West Concourse)
11:30AM-1:15PM	TP (SA)	Education, Quality Improvement, and Health Services Research in Childhood Respiratory Diseases: Tomorrowland	Area L, Halls WA2-WA3 (Level I, OCCC West Concourse)
12:00PM-1:00PM	PCC2 	- Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia: Understanding the Basics and Beyond - Aspiration and Bronchiectasis: The Aerodigestive Team's Role	W203 (Level II, OCCC West Concourse)
12:00PM-1:00PM	NSC	Breathe Easy: The Scope of Pediatric Pulmonary Fellowship Training in the United States	Learning Studio, Hall C (Level II, OCCC West)
2:15PM-3:45PM	SS-PED	From Bench to Thriving: Recent Breakthroughs in Childhood Interstitial Lung Diseases	W415 D (Level IV, OCCC West Concourse)
2:15PM-3:45PM	SS-Co-SP	Decoding Bacterial Pneumonia: Integrating Human Trials, Translational Immunology, and Next-Gen Modeling to Advance Precision Medicine	W415 BC (Level IV, OCCC West Concourse)
2:15PM-3:45PM	SS-Co-SP	Escalating Use, Emerging Science: Vape/Smoke Induced Lung Disease	West F1 (Level II, OCCC West Concourse)
2:15PM-3:45PM	SS-Co-SP	Living Landscapes: How Lung Microenvironments Orchestrate Host Response During Lung Infections	W109A (Level I, OCCC West Concourse)
2:15PM-4:15PM	MS	New Horizons in Childhood Asthma Research: A Whole New World	W308 (Level III, OCCC West Concourse)
2:15PM-4:15PM	PD-PED (SA)	Hakuna Matata: Stress-Free Novel Approaches to Predict, Diagnose, and Manage Pediatric Pulmonary Diseases	W315 (Level III, OCCC West Concourse)

Tuesday May 19, 2026:

Time	Session type	Session name	Location
9:15AM-10:45AM	SS-PED 	Pediatric Clinical Chest Rounds: Mickey's Mystery Club	W304 E-H (Level III, OCCC West Concourse)
9:15AM-10:45AM	SS-Co-SP	Global Disparities and Social Determinants: Innovative Interventions for Lung Health	W240 (Level II, OCCC West Concourse)
9:15AM-11:15AM	PD-PED (SA)	Let It Go: Breaking Barriers in Childhood Asthma, Tobacco Exposure, and Environmental Pollutant Research	W230 (Level II, OCCC West Concourse)
11:00AM-12:00PM	NSC	Legislation, Implementation, Outcomes, and the Path to 50 States: Stock Albuterol Policies	Learning Studio, Hall C (Level II, OCCC West)
11:30AM-1:15PM	TP (CR)	Childhood Interstitial and Rare Lung Diseases: Peter Pan's Flight	Area L, Halls WA2-WA3 (Level I, OCCC West Concourse)
11:30AM-1:15PM	TP (CR + SA)	Pediatric Flexible Bronchoscopy and Interventional Pulmonology: Adventureland	Area L, Halls WA2-WA3 (Level I, OCCC West Concourse)
11:30AM-1:15PM	TP (CR + SA)	CF, PCD, and Non-CF Bronchiectasis in Children: Frontierland	Area L, Halls WA2-WA3 (Level I, OCCC West Concourse)
2:15PM-3:45PM	SS-PED	Taking Pride in Our Work: Advancing LGBTQIA2S+ Allyship Through Education and Advocacy	W308 (Level III, OCCC West Concourse)
2:15PM-3:45PM	SS-Co-SP	Lung Fibrosis Across the Lifespan: Emerging Opportunities for Intervention	W312 (Level III, OCCC West Concourse)
2:15PM-3:45PM	SS-Co-SP	Vasculopathies in Pulmonary Disease? The Dark Side of the Lung	W109A (Level I, OCCC West Concourse)
2:15PM-4:15PM	MS	Emerging Clinical Research in Pediatric Pulmonology: To Infinity and Beyond	W415 A (Level IV, OCCC West Concourse)

Wednesday May 20, 2026:

Time	Session type	Session name	Location
8:15AM-9:45AM	SS-PED	Meet the BOS: Phenotypes and Pathways in Bronchiolitis Obliterans Syndrome	W304 E-H (Level III, OCCC West Concourse)
9:15AM-11:15AM	MS	Be Our Guest: Exploring Cutting-Edge BPD Research	West F4 (Level II, OCCC West Concourse)
9:15AM-11:15AM	PD-PED (CR)	Mirror, Mirror on the Wall: Who Has the Best Pediatric Pulmonary Case of All?	W414CD (Level IV, OCCC West Concourse)
9:30AM-10:30AM	PCC3 	- Connecting the Dots: Bronchiectasis in Systemic Conditions - Innovative Frontiers: Diagnosis and Treating Bronchiectasis-Associated Microorganisms	W203 (Level II, OCCC West Concourse)
11:00AM-12:30PM	SS-Co-SP	Location, Location, Location: Intercellular Communication Driving Lung Disease	W203 (Level II, OCCC West Concourse)
11:00AM-1:00PM	PD-PED (SA)	Under the Sea: Diving Deep Into Pediatric Respiratory Infections	W315 (Level III, OCCC West Concourse)

- * = Requires separate registration
† = Requires separate application and acceptance
 = Must-attend session

Definition of abbreviations:

Co-SP = Co-sponsored

CR = Case reports

ECP = Early career program

MTE = Meet-the-expert seminar

MS = Mini symposium

NSC = Networking Super Center

OCCC = Orange County Convention Center

PCC = Pediatrics core curriculum

PED = Programmed by the Assembly on Pediatrics

PD = Poster discussion session

PG-D = Postgraduate course - Didactic

PG-S = Postgraduate course - Skill-based

RAPID = Rapid poster session

SA = Scientific abstracts

SS = Scientific symposium

TP = Thematic poster session

WEB COMMITTEE REPORT

Anne Coates MD (Chair) and Kristina Gaietto MD MPH (Co-Chair)

Greetings! Below are some of the PEDS Assembly Web Committee highlights from the past year and opportunities for your involvement as we are always looking for new members and fresh ideas!

Journal Clubs (Chairs- Drs. Maria Teresa “Teng” Santiago, Annie Coates, and Mitzi Go): Recent Journal Clubs include:

1. “Extended Continuous Positive Airway Pressure in Preterm Infants Increases Lung Growth at 6 Months: A Randomized Controlled Trial” (July 2025)
2. “Comparison of Prophylactic and Therapeutic Doses of Anticoagulation for Acute Chest Syndrome in Sickle Cell Disease” (Sept 2025).

If you would like to participate or have an idea for a future journal club, please contact msantiag@northwell.edu; anne.coates@mainehealth.org or gom@oshu.edu.

Town Halls (Chairs- Dr. Jane Taylor and Dr. Adrian O’Hagan): Recent Town Halls include:

1. Pediatric Interventional Pulmonology: Cryotherapy (Oct 2025)
2. Pediatric Lung Transplant: What’s New? What’s Next (Dec 2025)

If you would like to participate or have an idea for a future Town Hall, please contact jane.taylor@chp.edu or adrian.ohagan@louisville.edu.

ATS Pediatric Pulmonary and Sleep Case Conference Series (Chairs- Drs. Jane Taylor, Dave Ingram, and Adrian O’Hagan): This is a monthly webinar series held on the second and third Wednesday of each month for pulmonology and the third Wednesday of each month for sleep presentations. Each month, there are two cases with a review of the literature and time for questions. Cases are archived on the PEDS assembly webpage.

If you would like to get on the conference distribution list, please contact jane.taylor@chp.edu, dgingram@cmh.edu, or adrian.ohagan@louisville.edu.

Podcasts (Chair: Dr. Matt Wong): Recent podcasts include:

1. Research Priorities in Pediatric Asthma Morbidity
2. Pediatric Advocacy Series Podcast: Building an Advocacy Portfolio
3. Pediatric Advocacy Series Podcast: Policy Related Advocacy

Please contact mattwong@chla.usc.edu if you have any suggestions for topics or are interested in participating.

Quick Hits (Chairs: Drs. Erica Stevens and Addie Dodson): The archive includes radiographic based vignettes of pulmonology, sleep, and ICU cases- we are always looking for good cases for this series! *Thank you to former chairs Drs. Katelyn Krivchenia and Melissa Holtzlander, who recently passed the Quick Hits chair torch, for their years of outstanding Quick Hits leadership.*

If you’d like to submit a case for consideration, you can submit it here: <https://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/assemblies/peds/quickhits.php>.

Social Media (Chair: Dr. Ryan Thomas): Follow us on ats-peds.bsky.social!

If you are interested in joining the social media team, please contact ryan.thomas2@corewellhealth.org.

Virtual International Pediatric Pulmonary Network (Chairs: Drs. Ozge Yilmaz and Laura Gochicoa-Rangel): Hosts an every-other-monthly webinar series for the international community. The cases are also archived on the ATS Peds Assembly YouTube channel. If you would like to contact the VIPPN, please email ogilmaz_76@hotmail.com or laura_gochicoa@icloud.com.

The Virtual Pediatric Flexible Bronchoscopy Library (Chairs: Drs. Aneela Bidiwala, Joseph Piccione, and Dan Benscoter): This virtual library serves as a repository of bronchoscopy material for ATS members and can be accessed via the PEDS assembly webpage of the ATS website. Please email abidiwal@montefiore.org if you would like to get involved.

If you are interested in participating in the Web Committee, please contact us at anne.coates@mainehealth.org or kristina.gaietto@chp.edu. The web committee is a great way for fellows and young faculty to get involved with ATS. We are a very enthusiastic group and would love to have you join us!

Find all of The Assembly's social media channels in one place — just one click away via Linktree: https://linktr.ee/ats_pediatrics_assembly?utm_source=qr_code
Linktree is a simple landing page that holds all our important links so you can easily connect with everything we do. You can also scan the QR code to access it instantly



Be sure to follow us at [@ATS_Assemblies](https://twitter.com/ATS_Assemblies) for news on webinars, deadlines, and other things you might have missed in your inbox!

EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONAL WORKING GROUP REPORT

Seyni Gueye-Ndiaye, MD & Katiana Garagozlo, MD (Co-Chairs)

The Pediatric Early Career Professional (ECP) Working Group promotes networking and career development opportunities for postdoctoral fellows and early career faculty. This year, we advanced our mission by organizing several educational webinars:

1. "Science Communication in an Era of Skepticism" – A cross-assembly webinar developed in partnership with colleagues from the Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology (RCMB), Respiratory Structure and Function (RSF), and Critical Care (CC) assemblies. This session will explore evidence-based approaches for effectively communicating research, building public trust, countering misinformation, and engaging with skeptical audiences. Panelists will share practical strategies for early career researchers to navigate misinformation and effectively engage with diverse audiences.

Date/Time: Thursday, February 26, 1:30 p.m. ET

Duration: 1.5 hours

Registration: https://thoracic.zoom.us/meeting/register/p0Nw1cTdREKtIKC_Cosa-w

Event Information: <https://site.thoracic.org/events/science-communication-in-an-era-of-skepticism>

2. "How to Use Artificial Intelligence (AI) Responsibly" – This webinar will focus on how early career physicians can leverage AI for administrative tasks and clinical workflow optimization, while also addressing the ethical implications and policies surrounding AI use in NIH grant applications and journal submissions. Scheduled for June 2026; additional details to follow.

3. "Pitfalls and Pearls: High-Yield Billing and Coding" – This practical session will address common billing and coding challenges faced by pediatric pulmonologists, covering best practices for documentation, maximizing appropriate reimbursement, and avoiding common pitfalls. For early career professionals, understanding billing and coding is essential for establishing a successful practice, ensuring fair compensation for clinical work, and building a sustainable career foundation. The webinar will provide actionable strategies to optimize productivity while maintaining compliance with current coding standards. Scheduled for September 2026; additional details to follow.

Mentorship and Development Programs

We thank all participants in our **Mentorship Program** this past year which connects early-to-mid-career professionals with senior members of the Pediatrics Assembly. We encourage all interested members to sign up as either a mentor or mentee to take advantage of this valuable opportunity for professional growth and collaboration (new application launched January 5, closing March 6, 2026).

Learn more: <https://site.thoracic.org/membership/assemblies-sections/ats-mentoring-program>

Our **Apprenticeship Program** (launched November 3, 2025, closed February 6, 2026) provides early career members opportunities to serve on the ATS Program, Planning, and Web Committees and help shape the future of the ATS.

Learn more: <https://site.thoracic.org/membership/assemblies-sections/ats-apprenticeship-program>

We hope to have pediatric representation at the **Teaching Competition** during this year's ATS Conference. The competition launched on November 3 with applications closing February 6, 2026. Finalists will be confirmed and paired with coaches in March 2026, with the final competition scheduled for May 18, 2026 at the ATS Conference, where participants present a topic of their choice that pertains to the Pediatrics Assembly's focus.

Learn more: <https://site.thoracic.org/membership/assemblies-sections/the-ats-assemblies-teaching-competition>

Thank you to our working group members for their help with running programs and enthusiasm for building a supportive community for early career professionals.

The Pediatric ECP Working Group holds monthly virtual meetings and **will meet in person at the ATS Conference** in May in Orlando, Florida. Please reach out if you are interested in getting involved. Contacts: seyeni.gueye@childrens.harvard.edu, kgaragozlo@usf.edu.

PEDIATRIC ADVOCACY WORKING GROUP REPORT

Christy Sadreameli, MD, MHS (Chair) & Shade Afolabi, MD (Co-Chair)

This year we were excited to have longtime committee member Shade Afolabi, MD (UT Southwestern) become co-chair. Some of our interests continue to be: e-cigarettes, air quality/climate change, Medicaid access, stock albuterol, inhaler access and affordability, needs for children with chronic medical problems, and much more.

2026 ATS meeting sessions sponsored by the committee and/or its members:

1. **Postgraduate Course:** PG5 ADVOCACY TOOLS FOR PULMONARY, CRITICAL CARE AND SLEEP MEDICINE
2. **Symposium:** B92 ESCALATING USE, EMERGING SCIENCE: VAPE/SMOKE INDUCED LUNG DISEASE
3. **Networking supercenter:** Legislation, Implementation, Outcomes, and the Path to 50 States: Stock albuterol policies
4. **Networking supercenter: Advocacy Roadmap:** A path to career and advocacy integration- Networking Supercenter
5. **Networking supercenter:** Navigating Prior Authorization Challenges and Finding Solutions- Networking Supercenter
6. **Special Advocacy Programming:** Pediatric Pulmonary Advocacy in Action

- These are challenging times, but we press on and continue to join with the ATS and other medical organizations to be a voice for child health, respiratory health, evidence-based health policy, and research. We continue to support two-way communication on child respiratory health matters between the ATS, government agencies, and Congress.
- As in past years, we have cross-membership and collaboration with the ATS Policy Committee and Tobacco Action Committee.
- Our committee continues to be highly engaged in the stock albuterol space, with legislation being introduced in several new states. Several committee members are involved in implementation too. Stock albuterol laws are an excellent example of state-based advocacy, and ATS members have been national leaders in this space. We are making a difference here for kids!
- Check out our recent advocacy-themed podcast series with the Web Committee (part of the ATS Breathe Easy podcast series). Some episodes are already out and more continue to be released! Dr. Sadreameli and Coates also did a podcast on the Air Health Our Health Podcast, Pediatrician Parents on Raising Kids in a Changing Climate. All podcasts are available through major podcast platforms.
- We continue our interest in inhaler access and affordability, with a focus on MDI access for kids and the upcoming MDI propellant transition. We plan to continue to work on guidelines-aligned insurance formularies, including SMART access.
- We have many more interests and projects- our work continues!

The committee enjoys a diverse membership from around the U.S. with a nice mix of junior and senior members. We welcome questions, interests, or requests for expertise or collaboration. We are highly motivated to continue making a difference locally and nationally.

PHD AND BASIC AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENTISTS WORKING GROUP REPORT

Soula Danopoulos, PhD, MS, PEDS Assembly & Jennifer Franks, PhD, PEDS Assembly (Representatives)

The Ph.D. and Basic and Translational Scientist Working Group (PBTS WG) has been in existence since January 1, 2019 and is charged with enhancing the value of ATS membership for basic and translational scientists, specifically Ph.D. scientists. During this past year, one of our aims was to revitalize the WG, which we accomplished by re-populating and increasing our roster to forty-six members. Despite having members from all fourteen ATS Assemblies, the Assembly on RSF is the administrative home for the PBTS WG, and we are very thankful to the Assembly on RSF for their strong and continuing support of our efforts.

During the past year, the PBTS WG has met monthly *via* Zoom to discuss issues of importance to (1) non-clinical ATS members (i.e., Ph.D scientists) and (2) research-intensive physician-scientists. We have been extraordinarily active in developing programs for this constituency as well devising strategies to recruit more Ph.D. scientists to the Society. In addition, we have been active in promoting our mission, which is “to advocate for science and discovery by promoting basic/translational research throughout all channels of the ATS.” We have been extremely successful in fulfilling our mission and are grateful to the members of the PBTS WG who made this possible. Below are highlights of our successes, which were driven by member led sub-committees.

International Conference Proposals. A subcommittee, chaired by Jill Johnson (Assembly on RSF), focused on generating and/or sponsoring proposals for the 2026 International Conference including post-graduate courses, scientific symposia, and meet-the-expert seminars, which focus on basic and translational science. In total, eleven proposals were submitted by members of or sponsored by the PBTS WG. Six of these proposals were accepted for presentation at this year’s International Conference and include:

Session Code	Session Title	Session Type	Session Date	Start Time	End Time
C86	Vasculopathies in pulmonary disease – the dark side of the lung	Scientific Symposium	5/18/2026	2:15 pm	3:45 pm
D86	Location, location, location: Intercellular communication driving lung disease	Scientific Symposium	5/20/2026	11:00 am	12:30 pm
C82	Lung fibrosis across the lifespan: Emerging opportunities for intervention	Scientific Symposium	5/19/2026	2:15 pm	3:45 pm
B90	Decoding Bacterial Pneumonia: Integrating Human Trials, Translational Immunology, and Next-Gen Modeling to Advance Precision Medicine	Scientific Symposium	5/18/2026	2:15 pm	3:45 pm
B93	Living Landscapes: How Lung Microenvironments Orchestrate Host Responses During Infection	Scientific Symposium	5/18/2026	2:15 pm	3:45 pm
MTE32	Modeling the Diseases Lung Microenvironment: Experimental Strategies for Complex Co-Morbid Conditions	Meet the Experts	5/19/2026	10:45 am	11:45 am

Communications. The Communications Subcommittee, chaired by Reshed Abohalaka (Assembly on CP), has maintained and updated the web page for the PBTS WG, which details the WG’s mission and activities and is found on the Assembly on RSF website ([Ph.D. and Basic and Translational Scientist Working Group](#)). We are currently working on the creation of a LinkedIn group, Network for Respiratory Research and Discovery (NERRD), to extend our outreach.

Road Map. The Road Map Subcommittee assembled a “Road Map for Basic and Translational Scientists,” which highlights post-graduate courses, scientific symposia, meet-the-expert seminars, and other events pertinent to basic and translational

Reception for PhDs & Other Basic Science Researchers

Sunday, May 17th from 3 - 5 p.m.
Sunburst Room and Terrace
Orange County Convention Center (West Concourse Level III)

The ATS Science and Innovation Center (SIC) working group and the PhD working group, would like to invite PhDs and other Basic Science Researchers to a special reception event. The reception will provide an intimate setting for networking while also allowing guests to mingle. Cocktails will be provided.

Register Here: [Reception for PhDs and Other Basic Science Research | Education - Sessions - Session Detail](#)
[| ATS 2026](#)

scientists at the 2026 International Conference. The Road Map will be available online prior to this year's Conference for those who might be interested.

ATS PhD Opportunities. The ATS PhD Opportunities Subcommittee, under the leadership of Kelly Toth, R.N. (Assembly on NUR) and Susan Majka, PhD, continues to advocate for parity for Ph.D. scientists in terms of membership and International Conference registration fees. In addition, this subcommittee has several upcoming webinars.

Topic	Date & Time
Inside the Editorial Office: Peer Review and Editorial Board Training for Early Career Scientists	2/10/2026, 1-2 pm
From Postdoc to... Academia/Industry/Business Development	TBD
Interacting with the NIH/NHLBI	6/23/2026, 1-2 pm

If you are interested in becoming a member of the PBTS WG or have questions concerning our mission and activities, please contact Tara Walsh (twalsh@thoracic.org), the ATS staff member assigned to the PBTS WG. I am pleased to represent the PEDS assembly in this working group which advocates for the need of PhD researchers within the ATS. We provide a research voice toward Society-wide issues; promote inclusivity in the Society; encourage research integrity and advocate for early- and mid-career investigators.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Paul Moore, MD, ATSF (Chair)

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the election of Sharon McGrath-Morrow, MBA, MD, as Pediatrics Assembly Chair Elect and Reshma Amin, MD, M. Sc., FRCPC, as Program Chair Elect. Steve Kirkby, MD, ATSF, and Christy Sadreamelli, MD, MS, ATSF, are also the new members of the Nominating Committee. Paul Moore, MD, ATSF, chaired the Nominating Committee and expresses gratitude to Laurie Eldredge, MD, PhD, Theo Moraes, MD, PhD, FRCPC, and Caroline Okorie, MD, MPH, ATSF for serving on the committee.

PEDS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS WORKING GROUP REPORT

Ozge Yilmaz MD & Laura Gochioco, MD (Co-Chairs)

International relations working group has been functioning under the Pediatrics Assembly for more than 15 years to facilitate the global network of pediatricians working in the field of pediatric pulmonology around the World and to increase their participation in the ATS Peds Assembly.

VIPPEN web site (<https://vippn.thoracic.org>) has been designed by the group share information about Pediatric Pulmonology from ATS Peds Assembly and from different parts of the world. One of the initiatives is the "VIPPN clinical case series" webinars held every month since December, 2020. These webinars are a valuable platform for sharing experiences in pediatric pulmonology patient care across different parts of the globe. This year the webinars hosted presenters from Nigeria, Türkiye, Italy, Mexico, China, Dominican Republic and Egypt.

In line with our commitment to education and mentoring, we introduced the "Virtual international pediatric pulmonology research academy" (VIIPRA) in 2022. This interactive virtual course aims to assist international pediatric pulmonology fellows and early career researchers with interest in pediatric lung health to learn and apply scientific research methodology. The syllabus is composed of online interactive seminars by course faculty about scientific research methodology via zoom. Moreover, each student works on his/her own research protocol with a mentor for about five months. The program has graduated nearly 50 students from various parts of the world since 2022.

If you are interested in presenting a case in VIPPN clinical case series or in being a student in the next VIIPRA program starting in the fall of 2026, please contact us (oyilmaz_76@hotmail.com & drgochis@gmail.com).

INTEREST GROUP ON NEONATAL AND THE DEVELOPING LUNG REPORT

Krithika Lingappan, MD, MS, PhD (Chair)

Objectives of the ATS Neonatal and Developing Lung Interest Group (NDLIG) are to: (1) create networking opportunities for basic and clinical scientists in developmental biology, injury and repair, physiology, and clinical/translational research; (2) present state-of-the-art presentations on important topics in neonatal pulmonology; and (3) support both clinical and basic research in neonatal lung science.

NDLIG hosted a virtual webinar on 3/3/2026 on non-invasive lung function assessment technologies for preterm infants, with an emphasis on electrical impedance tomography (EIT) and non-invasive oscillometry. A panel will discuss current applications, clinical utility, and future research directions of these innovative technologies for early detection and monitoring of neonatal lung disease. <https://site.thoracic.org/events/non-invasive-lung-function-assessment-in-preterm-infants-advances-in-electrical-impedance-tomography-and-oscillometry>

NDLIG will host a session at the ATS meeting in Orlando. Our speaker will be Dr. Vladimir Kalinichenko. Please stay tuned for further information on an in-person gathering at ATS 2026 for the NDLIG group and program. We are also actively reviewing abstracts for the Whitsett Awards to encourage the best science pertaining to neonatal and developing lung. The awardees will be notified in April.

Please contact Dr. Krithika Lingappan with questions.

INTEREST GROUP ON PULMONARY COMPLICATIONS OF CHILDHOOD CANCER REPORT

Samuel B. Goldfarb, MD & Pi- Chun (Jenny) Cheng, MD (Co-Chairs)

The mission of the ATS Pulmonary Complications of Childhood Cancer Special Interest Group is to provide a welcoming and collaborative space for ATS members from diverse assemblies who share an interest in the pulmonary complications related to childhood cancer therapy. This includes both acute complications that arise during therapy as well as late pulmonary issues experienced by pediatric and adult survivors of childhood cancer.

Our goal is to foster collaboration in education and scholarly work among pediatric and adult pulmonologists, oncologists, as well as scientists who are interested in studying the mechanisms behind pharmacologic, radiation induced, and immunologic lung injury associated with cancer therapy and stem cell transplantation. We meet monthly to share research updates, discuss patient cases, and plan strategic initiatives for our scholarly endeavors.

Our group has remained active and productive throughout the year, with several ongoing initiatives. These include the development of guidelines for a pulmonary and stem cell transplantation clinical model, work within the pleuroparenchymal fibroelastosis working group, and a range of educational programs. If you were unable to attend our recent webinar on pulmonary complications and emerging treatments in sickle cell disease—including gene therapy—please visit the ATS website to access the session recording.

We invite you to attend our upcoming ATS sessions:

- **D6 MEET THE BOS: PHENOTYPES AND PATHWAYS IN BRONCHIOLITIS OBLITERANS SYNDROME SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM**
Wednesday, May 20, 2026
8:15 AM – 9:45 AM (EDT)
- **B17 BEST IN PEDIATRICS: BIBBIDI-BOBBIDI-BREATH!**
Monday, May 18, 2026
10:39 AM – 10:51 AM (EDT)
CT Predicts Lung-Related Events in Children Post-Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant: A TRANSPIRE Study
Samal R. Munidasa PhD, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
- **B101 DECODING DISEASE: BIOMARKERS, PHENOTYPES, AND PRECISION MEDICINE**

Mini Symposium

Monday, May 18, 2026

2:27 PM – 2:39 PM (EDT)

To Bronch or Not to Bronch? - Biologic Markers of Lung Injury in the Bronchoalveolar Lavage Fluid of Pediatric Patients Undergoing Allogeneic Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation, a Transpire Study

Lauren Strecker BSc, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

Our group has also contributed to several abstracts and oral presentations at ATS this year, reflecting on the breath of our collaborative research efforts and ongoing commitment to advancing the field.

Additionally, please join us for our Special Interest Group meeting at the ATS conference on May 18th from 11:45am to 1:15pm (location to be determined).

If you have any questions or would like to be added to our email list, please feel free to contact Samuel Goldfarb at Goldf091@umn.edu or Pi Chun (Jenny) Cheng at chengp@iu.edu.

DIFFUSE LUNG DISEASE RESEARCH NETWORK (chILDRN) INTEREST GROUP REPORT

Alicia Casey, MD & Jennifer Wambach, MD & Elizabeth Fiorino, MD (Co-Chairs)

The mission of the Children's Interstitial and Diffuse Lung Disease Research Network (chILD-RN) is to improve care for children with rare interstitial and diffuse lung diseases around the world through research, education and advocacy. The chILD-RN continues to meet virtually on a monthly basis with pediatric pulmonologists, neonatologists, pathologists, and pediatric radiologists in attendance. Each monthly meeting includes updates from the national chILD patient registry; the chILD Foundation parent advocacy group; clinical, translational and basic science research in chILD; chILD case presentations and discussion; and strategic planning. The group has been working on an ATS clinical practice guideline update on infant chILD ages 0-2 years. In partnership with the chILD Foundation, chILD-RN members received a capacity building, patient-centered research outcomes grant and have conducted multiple interviews and focus groups with patients, caregivers, chILD clinicians and researchers. These data will be presented at an in-person meeting in February 2026. Multiple chILD-RN members are involved in efforts to increase awareness of chILD among healthcare providers and to develop educational resources for affected families. We are planning for our annual chILD-RN interest group meeting and several chILD-focused sessions at the ATS international meeting in May 2026.

Pediatrics Assembly Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Working Group (DEI-WG)

Tanya Martínez MD, John Palla MD, Yadira Rivera-Sánchez MD, and Nicole Stephenson MD (Co-Chairs)

The mission of the PEDS Assembly Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Working Group is to promote workforce diversity and health equity within the field of pediatric pulmonology. The working group comprises individuals who identify as underrepresented in medicine or allies from across the US and Canada at all career and leadership levels. Our goal is to develop opportunities for our workforce through collaboration while cultivating an environment that advances health equity for children.

Focus over the past year has centered around developing a specialty-specific Health Equity Curriculum in Pediatric Pulmonology. Additionally, the group has an engaged IMG subgroup supporting faculty development and actively conducting a national assessment to identify the unique needs of IMG academic faculty.

We invite you to attend upcoming spring events:

- **Webinar:** *Small Moments, Lasting Impact: Building Stronger Teams Through Awareness and Cultivating a Culture of Respect.* April 2026. Please look for additional details from the web committee.
- **Networking Super Center Session:** *Who I Am Matters: The Impact of Intersecting Identities on Workforce, Research, and Health Outcomes.* ATS 2026, Orlando, May 19, 1:00-2:00 pm ET

The DEI WG group meets quarterly with subgroups meeting more frequently. Our next group meeting is scheduled for April 6, at 4 pm ET. If you are interested in joining this important effort, please reach out to any of the Co-Chairs: tanya.martinez@utsouthwestern.edu, JPalla@luriechildrens.org, Yadira.Rivera-Sanchez@UTSouthwestern.edu and/or Nicole.stephenson@med.unc.edu

Pediatric Pulmonology Division Directors Association (PPDDA) Report

Stacey Peterson-Carmichael, MD (President)

The PPDDA is composed of Pediatric Pulmonology Division Heads from across the United States and meets twice a year: in person at ATS and with a virtual meeting each fall. Elected leadership meets monthly and identifies specific projects to focus on based on feedback from the group. This year, PPDDA completed our manuscript describing the value our specialty brings to the care of children with breathing disorders. This manuscript is the product of our survey sent to all Division Heads and provides the framework for Divisions to advocate for what they need with Departmental and hospital leadership nationwide. We have received thoughtful feedback from our initial submission and will be re-submitting in the upcoming month. The PPDDA also sponsors the Pediatric Resident Development Scholarship (PRDS) program which supports pediatric residents to attend ATS with the goal of solidifying their decision to enter a pediatric pulmonology fellowship program. The ATS is now accepting donations to support its PRDS program to enable more residents to benefit and attend ATS. If you are interested in donating, please visit this ATS sponsored site: [American Thoracic Society | Pediatric Resident Development Scholarship](#)


The PPDDA Networking Super Center session “Strategies for Success in Leadership” has been chosen for ATS programming and will feature an interactive session on **Sunday, May 17, 2026, at 1:00 PM ET**- more details to come.

The Fall PPDDA Webinar “Leading through Uncertainty” for Pediatric Pulmonology Division Heads (which featured Dr. Ashley Chadha and Dr. Robin Deterding) was a successful gathering of leaders in our field to reinforce our critical leadership responsibilities during current state. Lastly, we held our PPDDA executive leadership election in May 2025 and our President Elect is Dr. Dawn Simon from Emory University, Children’s Hospital of Atlanta- we welcome Dr. Simon to our amazing team!

We are thankful to our entire executive committee and to our ATS staff for a productive 2025. Please note that if you are a Division Head and are not receiving emails from the PPDDA, please contact Lauren Lynch at llynch@thoracic.org.

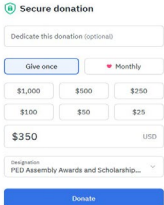
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Each page has a link to give to the ATS Research Program.

Pediatric Pulmonology Training Directors Association (PEPTDA) Report

Lara Bishay, MD, MPH (President)

The PEPTDA executive committee meets monthly to discuss key issues involving pediatric pulmonary fellowship programs. We support the education of fellows, and support program directors in this rapidly changing educational environment. PEPTDA continues to collaborate with other national organizations to inspire the next generation of pediatric pulmonologists, and promote excellence in pediatric pulmonology fellowship training. Key issues of focus over the past year have been on drawing more trainees to the field of pulmonology, enhancing recruitment, and developing a national and coordinated approach to sub-optimal national board passing rates. Some of our work has included:

PEPTDA Webinars

- In January 2026, Drs. Erin Khan and Jonathan Cogen conducted a webinar entitled “How to Engage Learners from all Levels to Choose Pediatric Pulmonology!”

PEPTDA Projects and Areas of Focus

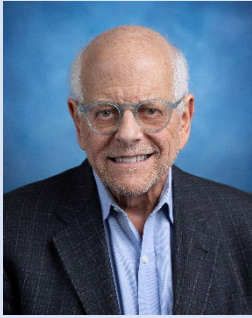
- Given the challenges with pediatric pulmonology recruitment, PEPTDA distributed a survey to pediatric pulmonology division heads and fellowship program directors nationally to survey ideas about a 2 year training instead of a 3 year training fellowship as a way to encourage more applicants. After a fruitful discussion at the fall business meeting about this, further follow up on optimizing recruitment without the risk of compromising training will be continued as patients become more complex and require more specialized pediatric pulmonology expertise from pulmonary hypertension to interventional bronchoscopy.
- PEPTDA members voted and endorsed a policy favoring applicant choice of virtual vs. in-person interviews for the 2024 interview cycle. We continue to collect follow-up survey data, and plan to publish our findings as quickly as possible. We believe this works supports that applicant choice is an effective and equitable approach in our field.
- PEPTDA is concerned by historically low pass rates on the 2022 and 2024 Pediatric Pulmonary Board Exams. We are advocating for more transparent data and modifications with the American Board of Pediatrics. To this end, Dr. Steve Kirkby, PEPTDA past president, Dr. Aliva De, Dr. Ben Nelson (prior PEPTDA EC members) and others have collaborated with ATS and multiple speakers to coordinate the first pediatric pulmonology board review course “Take it all in!” at the ATS conference in 2026.

ATS 2026 PEPTDA Sessions

- May 17-19 from 7-8am: Combined APCCMPD/PEPTDA Clinician Educator Forum. This session will be co-hosted with the Adult Pulmonary Critical Care Program Directors and will cover medical education topics relevant to clinician educators including AI in Education, building an education portfolio, and climate change.
- Monday, May 18 12pm ET: PEPTDA at the Networking Supercenter: Breathe Easy: Pediatric Pulmonary Fellowship Training in the US. This session will be geared towards medical students and residents. PEPTDA Board members will discuss the landscape of pediatric pulmonology fellowships in the US, and how to choose a fellowship program.
- Monday, May 19: Joint PPDDA and PEPTDA business meeting
- Monday, May 19: Poster Session for Fellowship Programs. This session will allow fellowship directors to display posters highlighting their program and team members and to network with current residents and students. There will be a cocktail hour reception immediately following the poster session.

PEPTDA will be holding their annual election for Vice President in May, with Dr. Lara Bishay moving into the Past President role and current Vice President Dr. Kensho Iwanaga assuming the Presidency. We will also be having elections for the Secretary Treasurer position and vice president position. We welcome interest from any Program Directors or Associate Program Directors who would like to join the PEPTDA leadership to help promote fellowship education within the ATS and the broader academic community.

Lastly, we would like to express gratitude to Dr. Stephen Kirkby for his service and commitment to education as PEPTDA Board member, VP, President, and Past President over the last several years; as well as acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Lauren Lynch, that has been vital to the success of our mission.



**Don't Miss the 2026 Amberson Lecture - Sunday, May 17- 4:30 - 5:00 p.m.
Orange County Convention Center - Chapin Theater (Level III - West Concourse)**

**J. Burns Amberson Lecture – Marc Peters-Golden, MD
Cyclic AMP vs. Fibrosis: Harnessing Homeostasis and the Power of Pleiotropy**

Advocacy Sessions

Special Topic Sessions 12-1:15		
Sunday, May 17		
Session Code:	Session Title	Speakers
SPS3	Advocating for Clean Air and a Better Climate - ATS Efforts in Environmental Health and What You Can Do	Alison Lee MD MS, Nick Nassikas MD
SPS4	Next Generation MDI Inhalers – Opportunities and Implementation Challenges	Mary Rice MD, William Feldman MD, Jyothi Tirumalasetty MD
SPS5	Coding and Billing Advocacy for ATS members	Dr. Frye, Dr. Ahasic
SPS6	Pediatric Pulmonary Advocacy in Action	Christy Sadreameli, Folashade Afolabi, Anna Volerman Beaser, Angela Metcalf, Devika Rao
MONDAY MAY 18		
SPS11	Preserving the Pathway – Early Career Professionals Road to Research	Siri Vaeth, MSW, Hara Levy, MD, MMSc Andrew Herrin
SPS13	Clearing the Air: Mobilizing Tobacco Advocacy	Anne Melzer, MD, Sven Jordt, PhD,
SPS15	Navigating Health Policy in a Changing Landscape: Coverage, Workforce, and Advocacy	Andrew Herrin, Sharron Crowder, PhD, RN, ATSF, FAAN, Nicholas Kolaitis, MD, MAS, Mary McGowan, Denise Kent, PhD, APRN
SPS16	Florida and its Critical Needs	Michael D. Schweitzer, MD, Amanda Kovacich, William Miller

Networking Super Center

Networking Super Center - ATS 2026: Learning Studio

Dates/Times	Sunday, May 17	Monday, May 18	Tuesday, May 19	Wednesday, May 20
7:00 - 8:00 AM	PRDS Ceremony	How to Work with Industry in 2026	From A-to-I & O-to-Omics: An Introductory Field Guide to AI & Omics Research in Lung Diseases	High-Tech, Human-Centered: Practical Strategies for Integrating Ultrasound, AI, and Digital Tools Without Losing the Patient
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Teaching in the ICU @ Night	Getting Engaged in Clinical Trials: Pathways and Strategies for Budding Trialists	From Science to Storytelling: How to Use Narratives to Advocate for Change	Widen Your Net, Broaden Your Path: Networking and Portfolio Building for Early Career Scientists
10:00- 11:00 AM	Conducting High-Impact Pulmonary Research in Low- and Middle-Income Countries	Elevator Speech Workshop: Sharpening Your Professional Identity	Diagnosing and Addressing Learning Disabilities in Trainees	Models and Techniques to Map the Influence of Extracellular Matrix Across the Lung
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Advocacy Roadmap: A Path to Career and Advocacy integration	AJRCCM, AJRCMB, AnnalsATS, ATS Scholar Combined Journal Talks Journal editors	Legislation, Implementation, Outcomes, and the Path to 50 States: Stock Albuterol Policies	Reliable Lung Sounds: Practical AI at the Point of Care
12:00 - 1:00 PM	Navigating Prior Authorization Challenges and Finding Solutions	Breathe Easy: The Scope of Pediatric Pulmonary Fellowship Training in the United States	Finding Your Team: Networking Across Disciplines for Stronger Science	Survive, Then Thrive: Innovations in Post-ICU Recovery with Team-Based Care
1:00-2:00 PM	Strategies for Success in Leadership	Strategies for Patient Engagement in Research & Clinical Care: PAR Expertise and Support	Who I Am Matters: The Impact of Intersecting Identities on Workforce, Research, and Health Outcomes	
2:00 - 3:00 PM	Resources from the NIGMS Sepsis Human Biospecimens Program	Optimizing Individual Learning in the Multi-Disciplinary ICU: Building Skills & Gaining Competencies	From Labs to Lungs: Translating Respiratory Science for Impact	
3:00 - 4:00 PM	Physician Wellbeing 2.0 (Beyond the Warm and Fuzzy Hour)	Navigating the Early Career: Expert Panel Discussion of Career Development, Mentoring, and Networking	Academic Career as an International Medical Graduate (IMG)	
4:00 - 5:00 PM	Storytelling Series	Storytelling Series	Storytelling Series	
Networking Events: PhD Reception (3-5 p.m.) TEACH (4-5 p.m.) IMG Reception (4-5 p.m.)				



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