

Assembly on Pulmonary Rehabilitation (PR) Newsletter



Assembly Chair:
Marilyn L. Moy, MD, MSc
Assembly Officers

Francois Fadell, MD, ATSF
Planning Chair
[\[francfad@bu.edu\]](mailto:francfad@bu.edu)

Neil James Greening, MBBS, PhD,
FRCP, BMedSci
Program Chair
[\[neil.greening@leicester.ac.uk\]](mailto:neil.greening@leicester.ac.uk)

Rachael Evans, MBChB, FRCP, PhD
Nominating Chair
[\[re66@leicester.ac.uk\]](mailto:re66@leicester.ac.uk)

Linzy Houchen-Woloff, PhD
Web Director
[\[linzy.houchen@uhl-tr.nhs.uk\]](mailto:linzy.houchen@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)

Dmitry Rozenberg, MD, PhD
Co-Web Director
[\[linzy.houchen@uhl-tr.nhs.uk\]](mailto:linzy.houchen@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)

Assembly Contact
Website
<https://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/assemblies/pr/index.php>
Email: pulmrehab@thoracic.org

IN THIS ISSUE

Message From The Assembly Chair1

Planning Committee Report.....2

Program Committee Report3-4

Nominating Committee Report.....4

Web Committee Report.....4-7

Outcome Measures Advisory Group Report...7

PhD, Basic & Translational Scientists Working Group Report.....8-9

EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONALS WORKING GROUP REPORT.....10

Tele-Pulmonary Rehabilitation Advisory Group..10

Message from the Assembly Chair

Dear Members and Colleagues,

Welcome to the Spring 2026 edition of the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Assembly newsletter. I hope this newsletter provides an inspiring overview of our Assembly's accomplishments and future goals.

The strength of our Assembly lies in the unwavering dedication of its members. I want to personally thank you all for your hard work over the past year, particularly in improving access to and delivering high-quality, evidence-based pulmonary rehabilitation to people living with chronic respiratory diseases. I also want to highlight the commitment of the ATS staff whose tireless work is critical to attaining our shared goals.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the tremendous loss felt by our community with the passing of Professor Mike Morgan and Mary Burns, RN.

Highlights and Milestones

I am proud of the work we accomplished this past year in clarifying terminology around tele-PR. We continue to address unresolved issues facing tele-PR in the U.S. A major advocacy victory occurred in January, 2026 when a Congressional bill was passed providing a 2-year extension for Medicare reimbursement for hospital-based tele-PR programs. My greatest hope is that as hospital-based PR sites start/grow their tele-PR programs, they will collect data to address efficacy, safety, rural reach, and guide patient selection.

Our committees have been active in advocating for PR, disseminating the latest knowledge on PR, connecting with other Assemblies and societies, and ensuring our presence at the upcoming International Conference. I also want to recognize the incredible international effort during World COPD Day 2025, with the successful Big Baton Pass highlighting PR to a global audience.

Looking Ahead: Opportunities to Engage

The Pulmonary Rehabilitation Executive Committee is eager to engage with all members and encourages involvement in our various projects. We are particularly focused on supporting early career members and fostering growth across all our committees.

If you are looking to get involved, please do not wait to be asked—reach out to us with your ideas. Whether it is contributing to the Web Committee, supporting clinical, educational, and research initiatives, or joining our advocacy efforts, there is a place for you.

Join Us at the Conference

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible, especially at our Assembly Membership Meeting on Monday, May 18, 2026, 5-7 pm EST. This year, the meeting will have a new structure with interactive games and more time for networking! By definition, pulmonary rehabilitation is multi-disciplinary and collaborative. We are a friendly, driven, and passionate group, and I look forward to sharing our vision with you in person.

Please follow us on X/Twitter@PR_assembly and check in on the Doc Matters Pulmonary Rehabilitation subgroup for regular updates.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our patients and our field.

Sincerely,

Marilyn L. Moy, MD, MSc

Chair, Assembly on Pulmonary Rehabilitation

Assembly on Pulmonary Rehabilitation (PR)

Membership Meeting

Monday, May 18, 2026

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

**Orange County Convention Center (Level III, West Concourse)
Lecture Hall W300**

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Francois Fadell, MD, ATSF (Chair)

The primary responsibility of the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Assembly Planning Committee is to review grant proposals for Assembly-based projects based on the goals and priorities of the Assembly. Additional duties are to suggest updates to existing documents and/or new projects that would be of benefit to the Assembly and to review award nominations.

For the 2026 project year, the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Assembly submitted one ATS project proposal. For this round we invited applicants to attend the Planning Committee review meeting to see if there was value in hearing the feedback and discussion surrounding applications first-hand.

The application for the ATS workshop "*Towards effective and sustainable tele-pulmonary rehabilitation in the United States*" was approved by the ATS. Congratulations to the co-chairs Linda Nici and Marilyn Moy, and all participants in this important endeavor.

The next round of project submissions will likely close in July 2026. We actively encourage all Assembly members to collaborate to submit project proposals to develop and sustain the exemplary work produced in previous projects.

Please feel free to reach out to the Planning Committee Chair Francois Fadell, or other members of the Planning Committee, if you would like to discuss a proposal.

Assembly Awards are currently under review, with awardees to be announced at ATS2026. Details on awards, and previous recipients, can be found on the Assembly webpage (<https://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/assemblies/pr/awards/>). Awards criteria were modified this year and voted by the Planning Committee to align better with career achievements and also to be more inclusive in considering service to the pulmonary rehabilitation field and not just the PR Assembly. Award nominations typically open in October/November each year. Without your nominations, the Assembly is unable to recognize worthy recipients. We encourage you to consider a worthwhile pulmonary rehabilitation researcher, clinician or provider and submit a nomination.

We will plan for an in-person Planning Committee Business meeting at ATS 2026.

Our thanks to the Committee, new and continuing, for their valuable contributions over the last 12 months.

A special thank you and acknowledgement of Committee member and previous Chair, Dr. Narelle Cox, who stepped down from the Planning Committee at ATS2025.

Planning Committee Members 2025-2026 include: Narelle Cox; Christopher Mosher; Kelsey Black; Alan Hamilton; Rachael

Evans; Debora Petry; Linda Nici; Enya Daynes; Rachel S Tappan; Richard Casaburi; Tania Janaudis-Ferreira; Alessandra Adami; Thomas Cascino; Jessica Walsh; Michael Steiner; and Francois Fadell.

Submit an Assembly/Committee Project Application for Funding in FY2027!

Assembly members interested in submitting a Project application should start developing their ideas. Applications for NEW Assembly Projects for 2027 will be accepted July 1 through July 31, 2027.

If you have an idea or suggestion for a project application and need assistance, please contact your Assembly Planning Committee Chair, Francois Fadell, MD, ATSF at: ffadell@Buffalo.EDU

For questions regarding submissions please contact Miriam Rodriguez
Mrodriguez@thoracic.org

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

Neil Greening, MBBS, PhD, FRCP (Chair) and Alan Hamilton, PhD (Chair-Elect)

We have an exciting program lined up for the ATS 2026 International Conference (May 15-20 in Orlando, FL)! The Program Committee has organized a Postgraduate Course, two Scientific Symposia, two Mini-Symposia, a RAPiD Poster Discussion Session, a Poster Discussion Session, two Thematic Poster Sessions, and a Meet the Expert Session. Details about these sessions can be found in the table below. Please stop by to one or all sessions for the science and the camaraderie! You can browse the full program using this link to discover many other excellent sessions offered by other assemblies: <https://ats2026.d365.events>.

We are very grateful to everyone who took the time to submit a proposal for the conference and to our committee members.

Program Committee:

Chair, Neil Greening, MBBS, PhD, FRCP

Chair-Elect, Alan Hamilton, PhD

Amy Attaway, MD

Andre Nyberg, DrMed

Andrew Berical, MD

Annemarie Lee, PhD

Atsuhito Nakazawa, MD

Déborá Melissa Petry Moecke, PT, MSc, PhD

Dmitry Rozenberg, MD, PhD

Francois Fadell, MD, MBA

Hayley Puffer Israel, MD, MHS

Heleen Demeyer, PT, MSc, PhD

Ingeborg Farver-Vestergaard

Jana De Brandt

Joseph Stanley Bednash, MD

Parizad Torabi-Parizi, MD

Patricia Brazee, PhD

Rachel Tappan, PT, DPT

Samantha Harrison, PhD, MSc, BSc(Hons)

Sara Souto-Miranda, DPT, MPT, PT

Tania Janaudis-Ferreira, PhD

Tom Ward, MBBS, BSc(Hons), MRCP(UK), PhD

**ATS 2026 International Conference
Assembly on Pulmonary Rehabilitation (PR) Sessions**

Session Title	Code	Session Type	Start – End (EDT)
Saturday May 16, 2026			
CARDIOPULMONARY EXERCISE TESTING: ADVANCES AND APPLICATIONS	PG14	Postgraduate Course	8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Sunday May 17, 2026			
CASE REPORTS FROM THE PULMONARY REHABILITATION ASSEMBLY	A72	Thematic Poster	9:15 AM - 4:15 PM
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, EXERCISE AND PULMONARY REHABILITATION FROM AROUND THE GLOBE	A29	Poster Discussion	9:15 AM - 11:15 AM
ADVANCING PULMONARY REHAB: RESPIRATORY MUSCLE TRAINING ACROSS CARE SETTINGS	MTE8	Meet the Expert	10:45 AM - 11:45 AM
DIFFERENT DELIVERY AND NEW POPULATIONS: CLINICAL TRIALS OF PULMONARY REHABILITATION	A99	Mini Symposium	2:15 PM - 4:15 PM
Monday May 18, 2026			
PULMONARY REHABILITATION ACROSS DIFFERENT SETTINGS AND DISEASES	B74	Thematic Poster	9:15 AM - 4:15 PM
PULMONARY REHABILITATION IN NON-COPD PATIENTS: UPDATES ON THE EVIDENCE, CLINICAL INDICATIONS AND PHYSIOLOGY	B8	Scientific Symposium	9:15 AM - 10:45 AM
IMPROVING FUNCTION, STRENGTH AND OUTCOMES THROUGH PULMONARY REHABILITATION	B108	RAPiD Poster Discussion	2:15 PM - 4:15 PM
Tuesday May 19, 2026			
PULMONARY REHABILITATION AROUND THE WORLD: LEARNING FROM THE FRONTLINES	C10	Scientific Symposium	9:15 AM - 10:45 AM
NOVEL APPROACHES AND UNDERSTANDING TO SKELETAL MUSCLE, REHABILITATION AND ACUTE RECOVERY	C97	Mini Symposium	2:15 PM - 4:15 PM

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Rachael Evans, PhD (Chair)

Candidates have been nominated for positions on the committee and voting is now closed. We thank our excellent candidates for embracing the leadership roles. Results will be announced at the Assembly Membership Meeting.

WEB COMMITTEE REPORT

Linzy Houchen-Wolloff, PhD and Dmitry Rozenberg MD, PhD, FRCPC (Web Co-Directors)

The committee has continued its tradition of producing a large amount of content for assembly members as part of another successful year. The following link brings you to the Assembly's website where you can access content we have produced to date: <https://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/assemblies/pr/>. The website has been revamped in the last 12 months and is now hopefully easier to navigate.

We work closely with the other Assembly committees to promote awards, apprenticeship/ mentorship programs and any

other information for dissemination via our social media platforms. Particular thanks go to Bryan Ross who leads the Early Career Professionals working group; Alessandra Adami who leads the Basic and Translational Scientists working group; Sue Lareau and Clarice Tang from the Outcome Measures working group; and Chris Garvey and Seyedmohammad Pourshahid from the Reimbursement working group as we regularly co-produce content with these groups.

We welcome the continued submission of any content ideas as well as volunteers to partake in webinars, podcasts, early career spotlights and/or quarterly bites [mailto: Dmitry.Rozenberg@uhn.ca](mailto:Dmitry.Rozenberg@uhn.ca)

Journal Club Webinars: Since our last newsletter, the Web Committee have organized six online journal clubs (see table below), with an additional one planned before the end of the term. We would like to take this opportunity to highlight that our journal clubs are available to both ATS members and non-ATS members. It is free to register. For those who miss our Journal Club sessions, all of our journal clubs are recorded and can be accessed via the ATS PR Assembly website: <https://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/assemblies/pr/journal-club/> at any time with any questions post-recording being discussed using the DocMatter platform. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the authors, presenters and expert panel members who have participated in our journal clubs this year. Thanks must also go to Daniel Robledo at ATS for providing technical support throughout.

Month	Journal Title	Author	Presenter	Expert Panel
Apr	Similar Weaning Success Rate with High-intensity and Sham Inspiratory Muscle Training: A Randomized Controlled Trial (IMweant)	Marine Van Hollebek, Diego Poddighe and Daniel Langer	Bernie Bisset	Darlene Reid and Matthew Ko
Sep	Telerehabilitation Compared with Center-based Pulmonary Rehabilitation for People with Chronic Respiratory Disease: Economic Analysis of a Randomized Controlled Clinical Trial	Angela Burge	Cátia Paixão	Christopher Mosher and Peter Lindenauer
Oct	Landmark paper: 30 years on. Skeletal muscle adaptation to endurance training in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	Francois Maltais	Dan Nguyen	Richard Casaburi and Martjin Spruit
Dec	A Long-Term Physical Activity Coaching Program for Patients with COPD: A Randomized Controlled Trial	Astrid Blondeel, Helen Demeyer and Thierry Troosters	Felipe Machado	Judith Garcia Aymerich and Fabio Pitta
Feb	Personalised exercise-rehabilitation for people with multiple long-term conditions (PERFORM): a randomised feasibility study	Rachael Evans	Sara Souto-Miranda	Carly Rochester
Mar	Characteristics of Responders and Short- and Medium-Term Effects of a Behavioral Intervention to Increase Physical Activity in Moderate-to-Severe Asthma	Fabiano Francisco de Lima and Celso Carvalho	Joice Mara de Oliveira	Roberto Benzo

The next webinar is planned for April: Singing for lung health following completion of pulmonary rehabilitation: feasibility of a randomised controlled trial from lead author Adam Lewis. It is organized by Linzy Houchen-Wolloff. More details will follow

soon.

Podcasts: Since the last newsletter, we are now able to create podcasts again 😊. We have recorded one podcast: Field Walking Tests- Why Should We Keep Doing Them? with Host Dr. Clarice Tang interviewing guest Dr. Filipa Machado. Previous podcasts are available to view/ download from the assembly website:

<https://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/assemblies/pr/podcasts.php>

We are planning a further webinar/ podcast on 'The Roadmap to the ATS 2026.' This is organized by Alan Hamilton and Dmitry Rozenberg and will serve as an opportunity to hear what you can expect from the conference this year, with a particular focus on our programmed PR assembly sessions. More details to follow.

Quarterly Bites: We have continued the success of our quarterly bites, which capture different views about subjects of interest and highlight relevant content in both the clinical and academic settings. We have had a further three quarterly bites this year - see below. Thank you to those who have participated:

<https://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/assemblies/pr/quarterly-bite/>

- ATS conference feedback (written by Francois Abi Fadell , Alan Hamilton, Peter Rassam and Dmitry Rozenberg).
- Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension: Exercise-based Rehabilitation and Emerging Therapies (Antenor Rodrigues and Steeve Provencher).
- Can assessment of multi-tasking inform the cognitive-motor function in people living with COPD? (Manjiri Kulkarni; Dmitry Rozenberg and Darlene Reid).

There are 2 more quarterly bites in the pipeline before the end of this term.

Early career professional spotlight: This feature provides early career professionals with a platform to introduce themselves on a personal level and share their favourite piece of work undertaken to date. This feature can be found under the early career professional tab of our website. This year we have produced two spotlight features (see below). Thank you to all the early career professionals who have supported this feature to date:

<https://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/assemblies/pr/early-career-professionals/ecp-spotlight/>

- Omid Pourshahid
- Sairam Raghavan

ERS Literature Reviews: Literature reviews on the latest published research in the field of pulmonary rehabilitation compiled by Anouk Vaes and Sarah Houben-Wilke continue to be published on a bi-monthly basis on our webpage. We would like to thank Dr. Vaes and Dr. Houben-Wilke and the Rehabilitation and Chronic Care assembly of the ERS for sharing these updates with us: <https://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/assemblies/pr/literature-reviews/>

Online Presense:

X (formally Twitter): We opened our Twitter account in 2015 and now have over 2,500 followers. Our x handle is @PR_Assembly so please do follow us if you use this platform. We tweet about @PR_Assembly activities, relevant publication updates and re-tweet all relevant PR related tweets. These and other issues related to the Assembly are regularly communicated through this account. We hope to see this platform continue to develop as a means of communication for our multidisciplinary assembly members and patients across multiple continents. However we are also exploring having a presence on other platforms such as Bluesky, LinkedIn and Instagram to reach more members.

Doc Matter: we have our own dedicated subgroup for PR on DocMatter that you can access for free here:

<https://www.docmatter.com/ATS> We use this platform to discuss clinical cases, recent publications and to continue the conversation after Journal Club webinars. Thanks to Alan Hamilton, Amanda Sisco and the DocMatter team for spearheading this work.

YouTube: All of our recorded content (videos, podcasts and webinars) are now available on YouTube. You can access these at: <http://www.youtube.com/@atscommunity>

Membership: Our enthusiastic, dedicated, international group of committee members all contribute to the activity described above. A huge thank you to you all for your efforts. We are very grateful to all the people who have contributed helping us make a success of the ATS PR Web Committee activities described above. We encourage all assembly members to be involved, but particularly want to encourage our new or Early Career faculty members to volunteer – please don't wait to be asked; we are keen to hear from you. We have space on the committee at the moment and a position to join the committee will be available for 2026-2027 through the ATS apprenticeship program for anyone who should be interested. Please contact <mailto:Dmitry.Rozenberg@uhn.ca> if you'd like to join our team!

Current Web Committee Members include: Linzy Houchen-Wolloff (Chair- UK, outgoing in May 2026), Dmitry Rozenberg (Co-Chair, Canada), Alan Hamilton (DocMatter lead- Canada), Katie Menson (X Lead- USA), Mariana Hoffman (Australia), Antenor Rodrigue (Canada), Elyce Sheehan (USA), Paola Urroz Guerrero (Australia), Seyedmohammad Pourshahid (USA), Omid Pourshahid (USA), Akesh Thomas (USA), Sairam Raghavan (Apprentice member- USA).

Find all of The Assembly's social media channels in one place – just one click away via Linktree:
https://linktr.ee/ats_pr_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](#) for news on webinars, deadlines, and other things you might have missed in your inbox!

OUTCOME MEASURES ADVISORY GROUP REPORT

Suzanne C. Lareau, RN, MS, ATSF and Clarice Tang, PhD, PT

The Pulmonary Rehabilitation Assembly Outcomes Advisory Group posts outcome measures related to PR on the website at

<https://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/assemblies/pr/outcome-measures/>

Each of the outcomes requires significant dedication of time to ensure accuracy. The time and commitment by those contributing are gratefully appreciated!

The categories posted now include; **Body Composition, Dyspnea/Breathlessness, Health-Related Quality of Life, Learning Outcomes, Field Walking Tests, Fatigue, Frailty** and **Balance**.

Teams are in the process of preparing the outcomes on **Depression and Anxiety** (by Ingeborg Farver-Vestergaard and her team) and **Cognition** by (Dmitry Rosenburg, Alessandra Adami, Darlene Reid and Peter Rassam). Both outcomes are due to be posted at the end of January 2026. We also plan to recruit any interested members for development of measures in cough and self-efficacy.

Any members interested in developing measures or serving as a reviewer to update the current measures would be gratefully welcomed. Working on outcome measures is a great opportunity to immerse yourself in the literature related to outcomes in PR. We would like to expand the current outcomes to include reference to conditions other than COPD.

Please let Clarice (Clarice.Tang@vu.edu.au) or Sue (Suzanne.Lareau@Cuanschutz.edu) know of your interest in new categories to pursue or interest in updating a category with studies on PR in those with conditions other than COPD.

PhD, BASIC AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENTISTS WORKING GROUP REPORT

Alessandra Adami, PhD (Representative)

The Ph.D. and Basic and Translational Scientist Working Group (PBTS WG) has been in existence since January 1, 2019, and resides under the Assembly on RSF, which is the administrative home for the PBTS WG. The PBTS WG is currently led by two co-chairs, Jarrod Barnes, PhD., ATSF, and Claudia Staab-Weijnitz, Ph.D., ATSF who are supported by immediate past co-chair Richard Johnston, Ph.D., ATSF. The working group is made up of representatives/liaisons from all fourteen ATS Assemblies, which meet to find ways to enhance the value of ATS membership for basic and translational scientists, specifically Ph.D. scientists. During this past year, our goal was to continue growth of the WG and increase participation of our members within their home ATS committees/assemblies.

We are active in continuing the success of previous years by promoting our mission, which is “To advocate for science and discovery by promoting basic/translational research throughout all channels of the ATS.” The PBTS WG meets 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 are extraordinarily active in developing programs for this constituency and in devising strategies to recruit more Ph.D. scientists to the Society, increase Ph.D. participation in ATS, and promote basic and translational research within and outside of the International Conference. Below are highlights of our successes, which were driven by member led sub-committees.

1. International Conference Proposals. This subcommittee, chaired by Jill Johnson, Ph.D., ATSF (Assembly on RSF), is 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 and scientists. In total, PBTS members submitted or sponsored 11 proposals 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
B90	DECODING BACTERIAL PNEUMONIA: INTEGRATING HUMAN TRIALS, TRANSLATIONAL IMMUNOLOGY, AND NEXT-GEN MODELING TO ADVANCE PRECISION MEDICINE	Scientific Symposium	Mon 05/18/2026	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
B93	LIVING LANDSCAPES: HOW LUNG MICROENVIRONMENTS ORCHESTRATE HOST RESPONSE DURING LUNG INFECTIONS	Scientific Symposium	Mon 05/18/2026	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
C82	LUNG FIBROSIS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN: EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERVENTION	Scientific Symposium (Basic Science Core)	Tue 05/19/2026	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
C86	VASCULOPATHIES IN PULMONARY DISEASE ? THE DARK SIDE OF THE LUNG	Scientific Symposium	Tue 05/19/2026	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
D86	LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION: INTERCELLULAR COMMUNICATION DRIVING LUNG DISEASE	Scientific Symposium	Wed 05/20/2026	11:00 AM	12:30 PM
MTE32	MODELING THE DISEASED LUNG MICROENVIRONMENT: EXPERIMENTAL STRATEGIES FOR COMPLEX CO-MORBID CONDITIONS	Meet-the-Expert Seminar	Tue 05/19/2026	10:45 AM	11:45 AM

2. Communications. The Communications Subcommittee, chaired by Reshed Abohalaka (Assembly on CP), maintained the webpage for 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). This group was instrumental in helping us create an Immediate Past-Chair position for the PBTS WG, which is highlighted on our WebPage. Communications has also been working on launching a LinkedIn group, **NERRD** (Network for Respiratory Research and Discovery) for all respiratory/pulmonary researchers who want a community to share knowledge and stay informed. Our goal for the upcoming year is to have our LinkedIn group fully functioning and active to help spread the word and promote our research agenda.

3. Awards. The Awards Subcommittee, chaired by Amali Samarasinghe, Ph.D., ATSF (Assembly on PI-TB), wrote letters in support of five individuals for the 2026 ATS Respiratory Health Awards. This year we were able to sponsor five nominations for different awards.

4. Survey. The Survey Subcommittee, chaired by Janette Burgess, Ph.D., ATSF (Assembly on RSF), distributed a survey internally to our PBTS WG members to better understand the needs of the group and how to focus our goals and initiatives for the upcoming year. The results helped us to develop more webinars, facilitate internal reviews and sponsorships of proposals, and increase member participation throughout ATS and IC.

5. Road Map. Last year, the Road Map Subcommittee assembled an inaugural “Road Map for Basic and Translational Scientists 2025,” which highlighted post-graduate courses, scientific symposia, meet-the-expert seminars, and other events pertinent to basic and translational scientists at the 2025 International Conference. This year, the Road Map Subcommittee, led by Jennifer Casey (Assembly on RCMB), is excited to announce the availability of the 2026 RoadMap for those who might be interested! Stay tuned!

6. ATS Opportunities. The Equity and ATS Opportunities Subcommittee, under the leadership of Kelly Potter, Ph.D., R.N. (Assembly on NUR) and Susan Majka, Ph.D. (Assembly on PC), continues to advocate for parity for Ph.D. scientists in terms of membership and International Conference registration fees. This subcommittee put together a podcast (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OPQ9extpd3Q>) in 2025, and plans to sponsor several webinars and podcasts for this year. Please be on the lookout for the PBTS WG events coming up in the next few months.

The goal for the PBTS WG is to obtain Section status in ATS to provide a home for Ph.D. and other basic and translational scientists, strengthen advocacy for their interests, and expand our footprint across the society. Additionally, we submitted one Assembly project proposal (RSF assembly) for the organization of a virtual international respiratory science conference (VIRSI), which was not funded, but received enthusiastic support by all ATS Assemblies. Lastly, the PBTS WG has extended our participation in the Networking Super Center Organizing Committee and the New Faculty Boot Camp (NFBC) by serving as lecturers and organizers in the program. In fact, Richard Johnston was invited to serve as the Ph.D. co-chair for the organizing committee of the NFBC to help enhance Ph.D. participation and offerings. We will continue to advocate and promote the PBTS WG mission.

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.

Thank you all for your continued support!

Reception for PhDs & Other Basic Science Researchers

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

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](#)

EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONALS WORKING GROUP REPORT

Bryan A. Ross, M.D., F.R.C.P.C., M.Sc. (Epidemiology, Physiology), B.Sc.H. (Chair)

We are pleased to report that we have successfully engaged with and recruited new early career members into the working group, mainly from local and regional clinical and academic milieus, which has led to a near-doubling of the active working group contact list. New members include alumni from accredited COPD and Pulmonary Rehabilitation clinical fellowship programs (ex. McGill University PGY-6 fellowship) as well as from clinical research laboratories with a focus on rehabilitation.

We have been regularly connecting early career professionals with opportunities that will support and enhance their career development throughout the year. These have included 'Early Career Spotlight' opportunities, small group intimate 'fireside chat' style discussions on the approach to early career success (*e.g., launching an early career clinical research program; or starting up an academic clinical practice; or both!*), as well as the opportunity to attend and present at the regular ATS academic journal clubs. The opportunity for 'cross-pollination' with international respiratory sister societies has been targeted as a strategic priority. Collaborations with the Canadian Thoracic Society (ex. academic/learning opportunities), the European Respiratory Society (ex. joint ATS/ERS PR Literature Updates), and international endeavors such as the Big Baton Pass have all been shared with ECWG members in the interest of tightening international networks and collaborations and of putting our members on the international center-stage.

As one example of this engagement, in the last semester one member did an excellent job of presenting Dr. Francois Maltais' famous article in front of an international group of experts at the ATS PR Journal Club celebrating '30 years of skeletal muscle adaptation in COPD', and then went on to deliver a brief presentation for the Big Baton Pass (BBP) 2025. There are several additional stories of engagement and early career interest. For example, one ECWG member applied to and was awarded the Assemblies Teaching Competition; several promising individuals have applied to the 2026 PR Assembly Apprenticeship Program; and finally, at the time of writing, we are still accepting applicants in either Mentor or Mentee role for the 2026 Mentoring Program.

TELE-PULMONARY REHABILITATION ADVISORY GROUP

Linda Nici, M.D.

The Tele-PR Advisory Group was established in early 2025, charged with addressing the multiple challenges to sustainable effective and scientifically sound tele-PR. These include (1) raising awareness of the current climate for tele-PR (primarily in the US) which has stymied development of programs; (2) advocacy for appropriate reimbursement for tele-PR; (3) support for development of scientifically sound tele-PR programs; and (4) development of quality metrics for continued oversight of tele-PR programs to ensure that they maintain fidelity to the established definition of PR. We recognize that some of these objectives are country-specific with the US having unique challenges to tele-PR; however, we encourage participation by international colleagues who can help inform and guide this group. We also continue to work closely with the PR reimbursement working group.

During the past year, we have published several editorials and viewpoints to bring awareness to tele-PR and its challenges. These include:

1. Moy ML, Corn J, Kizziar A, Kaye R, Dorney Koppel GA, Bhatt SP, Casaburi R, Desiato JT, Garvey C. Characteristics of virtual pulmonary rehabilitation in the United States: results from a national electronic survey. *Ann Am Thorac Soc.* 2025; 22(8):1140-1146.
2. Moy ML, Bhatt SP, Casaburi R, Garvey C, Nici L. Not all tele-pulmonary rehabilitation models for chronic respiratory diseases are created equal. *Chest.* 2025; 167(5): e169-e170.
3. Moy ML, Nici L. An alarming loss of pulmonary rehabilitation programs: examples from the US Veterans Administration. *AJRCCM.* 2025; 211(9): 1559-1561.
4. Moy ML, Casaburi R, Garvey C, Bhatt SP, Nici L. The rapid evolution of remotely delivered pulmonary rehabilitation in the United States: why it matters to clarify terminology now. *Ann Am Thoracic Soc.* 2025; 22(10): 1453-1456.
5. Nici L, Moy ML. Pulmonary rehabilitation at a crossroads: balancing the need for centers of excellence and the need to improve access through telemedicine. *Chest* 2026, *in press*

We are also excited that our Assembly Workshop application titled "Toward Effective and Sustainable Tele-Pulmonary Rehabilitation in the US" was approved. The goal of the workshop is to publish an official ATS workshop report to critically evaluate existing domestic and international models of tele-PR, explore the challenges to development of tele-PR in the US, and provide a framework that can guide development of effective and sustainable tele-PR in the US.

The Tele-PR Advisory Group is currently looking for interested members who can meet regularly (quarterly) to discuss ways to further the advisory groups objectives. Please contact Linda Nici at linda_nici@brown.edu to get involved or if you have additional questions.

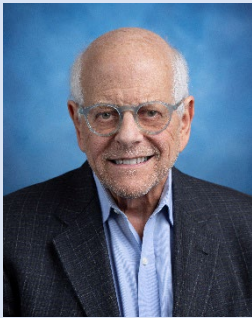
Advocacy Sessions

Special Topic Sessions 12-1:15		
Sunday		
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 & 0-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.)				



**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**

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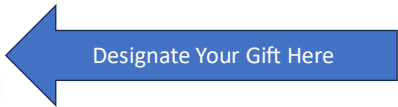
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