

Assembly on Respiratory Cell & Molecular Biology (RCMB) Newsletter



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Message from the Assembly Chair

The American Thoracic Society International Conference meeting May 17-20, 2026, in Orlando, FL will be here soon! For many of us it is a highlight of the year, a time to hear about exciting and new science, meet up with colleagues and friends, make new connections and collaborations and be reinvigorated with new ideas. This year more than ever I think we will need the connections and comradery that is such a strength of our ATS community to help us navigate the challenging landscape. If you have any questions about the Advocacy and Safety Plans ATS has in place for this years meeting, please visit their comprehensive webpage: [Destination Orlando webpage](#) or reach out to me with any questions. ATS has partnered with several fantastic local community engagement programs.

The RCMB Assembly is driven by novel and cutting-edge basic and translational research that is foundational to the mission of ATS. In this year’s newsletter, you will read highlights of the amazing and enthusiastic efforts from our hardworking Programming, Planning and Basic Science Core Committees and experience many of these in person during the conference. ATS as well as RCMB have made a consistent effort over the last year to provide year-round virtual content. We have provided fantastic and well attended webinars, journal clubs, grant writing workshops, research retreats and podcasts through the hard work and leadership from our Web Committee, Early Career Professionals Working Group, Lung Aging Research Working Group and PhD and Basic and Translational Scientist Working Group (PBTS WG). RCMB also provides leadership within the Science and Innovation Center, located within the Networking Super Center at the ICC. This unique space allows us to deliver innovative content, discussion panels, mentoring sessions and Q&A sessions with NIH and Industry partners. It is also where the RCMB Rising Star awards are presented but we will also have an opportunity to honor these recipients at our Membership Meeting.

I would also like to highlight the collaborative nature of all of our committees. Many of conference sessions and year-round virtual programming are co-sponsored with other Assemblies as we seek to provide content that reaches across disciplines creating partnerships and collaborations throughout ATS.

Please plan to join us for our membership meeting **Monday May 18th 5-7pm** where start of with some networking activities, welcome new members, newly appointed leaders, celebrate our accomplishments and announce our awardees. **All are welcome, and please bring along your trainees and junior colleagues so they can learn about our amazing Assembly!** Another amazing opportunity to connect with your peers will be the **Reception for PhDs & Other Basic Science Researchers (Sunday May 17th 3-5 pm)** that is co-sponsored by the SIC and PBTS WG.

I will conclude by saying, as we move forward into the next year of ATS that I am excited to pass the leadership of the RCMB Assembly onto our next Chair, Daniel Tsumperlin, PhD. who has been a valued partner this year. Dan is a Professor and Vice Chair of Physiology and Biomedical Engineering at Mayo Clinic and brings an extraordinary interdisciplinary and innovative perspective to

pulmonary biology. Dan will certainly ensure the continued elevation of great science that our group embodies.

Please reach out to myself or Dan with ideas and suggestions for improvement. I believe that we can work together along with the incredibly creative and dedicated ATS staff to support and expand on the strengths of the RCMB Assembly membership and that we can continue to provide the strong basic and translational science that is critical for the overall success of ATS. In trying times, it is important that we come together and support our trainees, early and mid-career members. I know we don't have all the answers, but the programs, opportunities and connections afforded to us through ATS will help get us through. We are creative and resilient individual and will continue find ways to survive and thrive even during these difficult times if we stand together.

Together we are ATS

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Redente, PhD, ATSF
RCMB Assembly Chair

Assembly on Respiratory Cell & Molecular Biology (RCMB)

Membership Meeting
Monday, May 18, 2026
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

**Orange County Convention Center (Level III,
West Concourse)**
W311E-H

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Rachel Knipe, MD (Chair) and Jaime Hook, MD (Chair-Elect)

The annual American Thoracic Society meeting is one of the high points of the academic year for the members of the RCMB and other ATS assemblies. It is the goal of the RCMB Program Committee to bring cutting edge basic and translational science to our membership. Every year the Program Committee reviews, grades, and collates all the Scientific Symposia, Mini Symposia, Poster discussions and Thematic Poster sessions, Postgraduate courses, and Meet the Expert sessions. The Program Committee membership now comprises 40 members from around the world including our talented RCMB Program Committee Apprentice Dr. Amy Attaway, MD. All members worked with tremendous enthusiasm to construct an exciting program for the ATS 2025 Conference.

The committee began last summer, reviewing 16 excellent proposals for Scientific Symposia, Meet the Expert, and Postgraduate courses. We also work closely with colleagues in other assemblies including All, PI-TB, RSF, CP, PC, EOPH, NUR, CC, TO, BSHSR, and PEDS; to promote interactions and programmatic synergy across assemblies developing joint symposiums. Based on the submitted proposals, the ATS 2026 meeting includes 5 RCMB-sponsored Scientific Symposia, including 2 joint proposals with other assemblies, 1 Meet the Experts session, and 2 Postgraduate courses. RCMB cosponsored with the International Conference Committee and ATS staff the Basic Science Core sessions in the topic of the Lung Microenvironment.

This year RCMB received 418 abstract and 41 Late Breaking Abstract Submissions. These abstracts were programmed into 6 Mini Symposia, 7 Poster Discussion sessions, and 8 Thematic Poster Sessions. The topics for the 6 mini symposia cover themes of Lung Transplantation Rejection, COPD Pathogenesis, Lung Injury Repair and Regeneration, Airway Biology including Environmental and Cellular Stressors, and Pulmonary Fibrosis Pathogenesis and Novel Therapeutic Strategies. Poster sessions covered a similar range of exciting molecular biology topics. This year we want to highlight a "**Bench to Bedside**" **Basic and Translational Poster Discussion Session** co-sponsored with the Critical Care Assembly, highlighting novel advances in Acute Lung Injury disease mechanisms and biomarker studies. We are excited to get this group of scientists in a room together!

Over 100 colleagues agreed to help with chairing sessions. We want to emphasize our gratitude for the enthusiastic participation of our members and colleagues. We sought to provide opportunities to participate for as many of the RCMB

members as we could. We are grateful for this high level of enthusiasm. We encourage all RCMB members to be part of shaping the 2027 ATS program. The call for proposals for Scientific Symposia, PG courses, and Meet the Expert will May 20, 2026. The Scientific Abstract and Case Reports submission deadline is November 4, 2026. Now is the time to start working with your colleagues to develop ideas for the 2027 program. The Program committee chairs and members are always available and happy to offer suggestions before final submission. New members of the Program Committee and new chairs and facilitators for the sessions are important to sustaining a vibrant and inclusive ATS meeting. The Program committee for 2026-2027 has been finalized. We are also excited about our new RCMB Program Committee Apprentice. If you are interested in joining the Committee for the following year, please contact the Incoming Chair, Jaime Hook, MD (jaime.hook@mssm.edu). Lastly, we would like to thank the Program Committee Members and the ATS-ICC leadership and staff. We appreciate their expertise, guidance, and dedication!

**ATS 2026 International Conference
Assembly on Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology (RCMB) Sessions**

Session Code	Session Title	Session Type	Session Date	Session Time
PG21	TRANSLATIONAL WINDOWS INTO THE LUNG MICROENVIRONMENT: ADVANCES WITH PRECISION-CUT LUNG SLICES	Postgraduate Course	5/16/2026	12:00 PM - 4:00 PM
A73	NOVEL MOLECULAR DETERMINANTS OF COPD AND LUNG CANCER PATHOGENESIS	Thematic Poster Session	5/17/2026	9:15 AM - 4:15 PM
A74	SENESCENCE, TISSUE MECHANICS, AND FIBRO-INFLAMMATORY CROSSTALK IN LUNG FIBROSIS	Thematic Poster Session	5/17/2026	9:15 AM - 4:15 PM
A87	YOU BREATHE WHAT YOU EAT - EFFECTS OF NUTRITION ON LUNG HEALTH AND DISEASE	Scientific Symposium	5/17/2026	2:15 PM - 3:45 PM
A109	FROM CELLS TO CIRCULATION: DETERMINANTS OF PULMONARY FIBROSIS SEVERITY AND PROGRESSION	Poster Discussion Session	5/17/2026	2:15 PM - 4:15 PM
B19	EMERGING THERAPEUTIC STRATEGIES FOR FIBROTIC LUNG DISEASE	Mini Symposium	5/18/2026	9:15 AM - 11:15 AM
B28	MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR DETERMINANTS OF AIRWAY BIOLOGY AND LUNG IMMUNITY	Poster Discussion Session	5/18/2026	9:15 AM - 11:15 AM
B5	NOVEL INSIGHTS INTO THE COMPLEMENT INFLUENCE ON LUNG MICROENVIRONMENT IN ACUTE AND CHRONIC DISEASE	Basic Science Core	5/18/2026	9:15 AM - 10:45 AM
B75	DETERMINANTS OF SEVERITY AND RESOLUTION IN ACUTE LUNG INJURY AND TRANSPLANT REJECTION	Thematic Poster Session	5/18/2026	9:15 AM - 4:15 PM
B76	IMMUNE, VASCULAR AND OTHER NEW MECHANISMS IN THE BIOLOGY OF COPD	Thematic Poster Session	5/18/2026	9:15 AM - 4:15 PM
B77	FROM TARGET DISCOVERY TO CLINICAL TRANSLATION IN PULMONARY FIBROSIS	Thematic Poster Session	5/18/2026	9:15 AM - 4:15 PM
B93	LIVING LANDSCAPES: HOW LUNG MICROENVIRONMENTS ORCHESTRATE HOST RESPONSE DURING LUNG INFECTIONS	Scientific Symposium	5/18/2026	2:15 PM - 3:45 PM
B100	ALLOGRAFTS GONE WILD: CELLS, SIGNALS AND THE DRAMA OF LUNG TRANSPLANTATION	Mini Symposium	5/18/2026	2:15 PM - 4:15 PM
B109	CELLULAR, GENETIC, AND DEVELOPMENTAL DRIVERS OF COPD, EMPHYSEMA AND SARCOPENIA	Poster Discussion Session	5/18/2026	2:15 PM - 4:15 PM
C19	HOW TO FIX A LUNG: TREATMENT, REPAIR AND REGENERATION AFTER LUNG INJURY	Mini Symposium	5/19/2026	9:15 AM - 11:15 AM
C29	SENESCENCE, METABOLISM, AND CELL FATE IN LUNG REPAIR AND FIBROSIS	Poster Discussion Session	5/19/2026	9:15 AM - 11:15 AM
C70	FROM EXPOSURE TO THERAPY: TRANSLATIONAL BIOLOGY OF AIRWAY INFLAMMATION AND LUNG INFECTION	Thematic Poster Session	5/19/2026	9:15 AM - 4:15 PM
C71	CELLULAR HETEROGENEITY AND MOLECULAR SIGNATURES ACROSS FIBROTIC AND RARE INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASES	Thematic Poster Session	5/19/2026	9:15 AM - 4:15 PM

MTE37	THE CELLULAR LANDSCAPE OF COPD: NOVEL INSIGHTS FROM GENOMICS AND CELL BIOLOGY	Meet the Expert	5/19/2026	10:45 AM - 11:45 AM
C82	LUNG FIBROSIS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN: EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERVENTION	Basic Science Core	5/19/2026	2:15 PM - 3:45 PM
C98	NEW INSIGHTS INTO COPD PATHOGENESIS	Mini Symposium	5/19/2026	2:15 PM - 4:15 PM
C107	ADVENTURES IN ACUTE LUNG INJURY, REPAIR AND DEVELOPMENT	Poster Discussion Session	5/19/2026	2:15 PM - 4:15 PM
D18	ENVIRONMENTAL AND CELLULAR STRESSORS SHAPING LUNG BIOLOGY, IMMUNITY AND DISEASE	Mini Symposium	5/20/2026	8:15 AM - 10:15 AM
D29	NEXT-GENERATION ANTI-FIBROTIC THERAPIES: TARGETS, TECHNOLOGIES, AND TRANSLATION	Poster Discussion Session	5/20/2026	8:15 AM - 10:15 AM
D5	EMPHYSEMA DECODED: AGING GONE WRONG OR REPAIR GONE MISSING?	Scientific Symposium	5/20/2026	8:15 AM - 9:45 AM
D95	GOOD INTENTIONS, BAD OUTCOMES: HOW LUNGS BECOME FIBROTIC	Mini Symposium	5/20/2026	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
D108	EMERGING CONCEPTS IN THE PATHOGENESIS OF COPD AND LUNG CANCER	Poster Discussion Session	5/20/2026	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Clemente Britto, MD (Chair)

The RCMB Planning Committee has two primary responsibilities. First, we solicit and provide guidance in the development and review of applications to ATS for the support of **Assembly/Committee Projects**. Any Assembly Member can submit these projects, which serve to support activities that enhance the communication and collaborative efforts of members with common interests within the ATS. These projects include workshops focused on a research topic that reflects the interests of our Assembly but also collaborative projects between Assemblies addressing the needs and interests of the greater respiratory and scientific community.

Competitive projects should have defined goals, demonstrate feasibility and include a clear timeline for the rapid development of a report or document for publication. Proposals are initially reviewed by the Planning Committee which provides feedback and then are submitted for evaluation by the ATS Program Review Committee. In 2025, Dr. Amy Attaway received strong support for her new proposal for a Workshop Report entitled "Advancing COPD Biomedical Research Through Preclinical Models", Dr. Christine Bojanowski's project "Physician Scientist Training and the Future of Academic Medicine" was also strongly supported.

We encourage all of our members to start networking and brainstorming new proposal ideas, which will be due usually by the end of July at our annual conference this year in San Francisco. Please reach out if you have ideas or questions about the process (clemente.britto@yale.edu). This is a great opportunity to generate consensus on impactful, novel and innovative topics!

The RCMB Planning Committee also reviews applications for the three RCMB Assembly Awards. The **Carol Basbaum Award** recognizes outstanding scientific achievement and leadership potential in junior investigators, the **Andy Tager Award** for Excellence in Mentoring for senior investigators, and the **Award for Research Excellence and Service by an International Member recognizes international members**, who contributed significantly to their research area and the mission of the ATS." We are looking forward to honoring our outstanding RCMB member awardees at the RCMB Assembly Business Meeting during our annual conference! These awards represent a great opportunity to recognize the excellence and diversity of the RCMB membership. Although 2027 seems far away – please start thinking of who you would like to nominate for next year. Reach out with any questions, we are here to help!

The Planning Committee also participates in RCMB's **Apprenticeship Program** which encourages highly motivated junior members to join RCMB, participate and take on leadership roles. We look forward to seeing you in our mentorship program as both mentors and mentees.

Submit an Assembly/Committee Project Application for Funding in FY2026!

We are happy to announce that ATS will once again accept **NEW Assembly/Committee Projects for FY2026**. All interested applicants should begin developing their ideas for Assembly/Committee Project Applications.

Applications will be available on the ATS website July 1st at www.thoracic.org

Please consider submitting an application for an Assembly/Committee project or nominating a colleague for a RCMB Award. If you have a suggestion for a project application and you need assistance, please contact your **Assembly Planning Committee Chair, Clemente Britto, MD at clemente.britto@yale.edu**

For questions regarding submissions please contact Miriam Rodriguez Tel: (212) 315-8639 or email: mrodriguez@thoracic.org

Submit an Assembly/Committee Project Application for Funding in FY2027!**Assembly/Committee Project Applications for 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, Clemente Britto, MD at clemente.britto@yale.edu

For questions regarding submissions please contact
Miriam Rodriguez
email: mrodriguez@thoracic.org

The RCMB Web Committee aims to provide a virtual forum to facilitate scientific conversations and collaborations amongst RCMB members. In the contemporary era of a hybrid work environment, the Web Committee provides an increasingly important role in maintaining an active and collaborative community of scientists. We continue to promote the dissemination of science and actively work to bring together RCMB members from diverse locations and backgrounds.

The RCMB Web Committee has hosted a number of exciting virtual events this past year. Spearheaded by **Drs. Erin Crossey**, we organized an exciting Journal Club on “Integrated Longitudinal Transcriptomic and Proteomic Analysis of the Murine Lung Response to Influenza A Virus,” a recent publication in the American Journal of Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology. Led by **Dr. Amy Attaway**, our Webinar team hosted, jointly with the ATS Section on Genetics and Genomics and the Japanese Respiratory Society (JRS), a session entitled, “Frontiers in Omics: Translational Insights from JRS and ATS Experts.” This session featured a panel of experts from ATS and JRS to discuss advances in multi-omics approaches and their applications in respiratory research, with the overall goal of fostering group discussion and collaboration.

This year’s Web Committee apprentice, **Dr. Anthony Joudi**, and **Dr. Christopher Molina** have continued the RCMB Lung Biology Podcast, interviewing notable scientists about their career paths, research programs, and thoughts on the future of science. You can access the podcast and recordings of all of our RCMB virtual events on our new [YouTube Channel!](#)

We have also worked closely with the Early Career Professionals Working Group, led by **Dr. Elizabeth Middleton**, to promote and publicize webinars providing guidance on grant preparation (the fourth year of this much lauded series!) and science communication in an era of skepticism.

As always, thanks to our BlueSky/Twitter (X) - champion, **Dr. Marta Bueno**, who keeps us updated on important RCMB events and deadlines!

In the next year, we aim to continue focusing on virtual events that promote the advancement of science and meet the needs of our assembly members at all career stages.

The Web Committee has room to grow! We are always looking for enthusiastic trainees and junior faculty aiming to get more engaged in the ATS community. Please email me at sarah.moore@mssm.edu if you are interested in getting involved!

Find all of The Assembly's social media channels in

One place — just one click away via Linktree:
https://linktr.ee/ats_rcmb_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!



Follow Us on X (Twitter) [@ATS_RCMB](#)



Follow Us on Bluesky [@ats-rcmb.bsky.social](#)

EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONALS WORKING GROUP (ECPWG)

Elizabeth Middleton, MD (Chair)

The RCMB Early Career Professionals (ECP) working group is home to **20 ECPs** with diverse backgrounds including MD and PhD members across **18 institutions internationally**. They support **7 sub-committees** focused on developing content and opportunities for ECP promotion, networking, and visibility. **Below is a summary of activities for 2025-2026.**

All the virtual content from the ECP working group is recorded and available on the [ATS RCMB YouTube playlist!](#)

Apprenticeship Program, (Ksenija Bernau, PhD, lead): This program provides a pathway for ECP involvement in RCMB and ATS leadership. This year we had a pool of highly competitive applicants, allowing us to select outstanding Apprentices who will serve on the RCMB Program, Planning, and Web Committees. Under the mentorship of a standing Committee member, these Apprentices will get a “behind the scenes” look at the operations of the RCMB Assembly while developing skills for evaluating Committee applications and developing Committee projects. Apprentices will be announced at the RCMB Assembly Business Meeting in Orlando.

Communications Committee, (Sinem Koc-Guenel, MD, lead): The Communications subcommittee has been busy expanding how we connect with and support RCMB Early Career Professionals. First the RCMB Early Career Professionals Newsletter was distributed in early winter and highlighted recent K and R award recipients, member publications, and upcoming deadlines. Keep an eye out for the upcoming **spring ECP newsletter!** To expand how we connect with ECPs our RCMB ECP **LinkedIn** group is now live! Join us at [linkedin.com/groups/15304008](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/15304008) for the latest news, member highlights, and webinar announcements. The committee also organizes webinars including two cross-assembly webinars. "*Science Communication in an Era of Skepticism*" featuring Dr. Jonathan Samet, Dr. Mary Rice, and Dr. Santiago Gisler discussing practical strategies for communicating research and building public trust. A second webinar on building your professional brand through social media is in development. We welcome content submissions for future newsletters — reach out to koc-guenel@med.uni-frankfurt.de.

Conference Committee, (Joanna Tsai, MD lead). This committee ensures that Early Career Professionals have a valuable experience at the ATS International Conference. This year will be the first time RCMB joins the ATS Teaching Competition. The committee curates the yearly **RCMB Roadmap** (to be published in April), which highlights conference programming and events of interest to RCMB ECPs. Additionally, the committee has organized for RCMB ECPs to **network** during the **PhD Reception** at ATS to strengthen connections among ECPs from different assemblies and institutions.

Grant Writing Committee, (Jennifer Larson-Casey, PhD, and Luis Rodriguez, PhD, co-leads): We continue to advance professional development for early-career investigators through its highly successful virtual **Grant Writer's Toolkit** series. The 2026 series spotlights grant mechanisms most relevant to early-stage scientists, with a strong focus on career-development and K-level awards. This year's program features four dynamic sessions: **(1) A Practical Guide to Foundation Grant Mechanisms, (2) Mastering the Specific Aims Page, (3) Strengthening Your Biosketch and Essential Research Documents,** and **(4) Navigating the Resubmission: A Mock Study Section.** Delivered monthly from January through April, the sessions

blend practical, interactive learning with expert-led discussions and benefit from outstanding participation by RCMB faculty and collaborators from multiple assemblies and working groups. Strong attendance and active participation highlight the success of this series and demonstrate the value of cross-assembly collaboration in supporting career development within the ATS community. Building on this momentum, the committee's goals for the coming year include incorporating additional interactive and small-group opportunities and broadening the scope of grant mechanisms aimed at meeting the evolving needs of early career professionals.

Mentoring Program. (Pat Hume, MD, PhD, lead): This initiative pairs mentors (early, mid-career and senior RCMB faculty members) with mentees (trainees, post-doctoral fellows, and early-career faculty), fostering the exchange of ideas and experiences that enhance scientific collaboration, career development, and networking at the ATS conference. In 2026, we have expanded the program to allow mentees to pair with multiple mentors if interested! Your involvement as mentors and mentees is invaluable, and we greatly appreciate the dedication required to maximize the benefits of this essential program. Sign-up by March 6, 2026 [here](#).

REAAch Award Program. (Tatiana Zyrianova, PhD, lead): This award recognizes and supports Early Stage Investigators who are committed to a career in respiratory cell and molecular biology. Each year, we evaluate a highly competitive pool of nominations, showcasing the exceptional promise of researchers at the Instructor and Assistant Professor levels. The program's impact is clear—past awardees have made significant strides in their careers, expanded their professional networks, secured over \$16 million in research funding, and published more than 75 scientific papers since receiving the award. Each awardee is selected to moderate sessions in the upcoming ATS conference.

Seminar Committee. (Obada Shamaa, MD, lead): Our Seminar Committee aims to create topical, live virtual events to provide connection for ECPs with each other and established investigators. We aim to promote culture and community through thoughtful choices of topics and speakers. Our up-coming session is "Beyond the Bench: Starting Your Own Lab" and features Luisa Morales-Nebreda, MD and RCMB ECP alumni Jaime Hook, MD and Hrish Kulkarni, MD. Our upcoming spring seminar will focus on scientific techniques in the study of COPD. See the [ATS Events calendar](#) for upcoming dates!

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 18th from 6 am to 6 pm

Please note, this space is exclusively for Mentoring Program participants

ATS Contact- Tiana Lino at tlino@thoracic.org

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Enid Neptune, MD (Chair)

The role of the RCMB Nomination Committee is to identify RCMB members who are interested in leadership positions in our Assembly. Candidates are identified and selected based on their expertise, interest, and experience in the assembly. We encourage all members to become actively involved and to reach out to the nomination committee to offer their service or identify a colleague for a leadership role. We prioritize broad and inclusive representation. After careful consideration and discussions, members of this year's nominating committee were excited to have several accomplished colleagues agree to stand for election for the positions of Program Chair-elect and Nominating Committee member. Every member of our assembly is encouraged to vote. We will announce the results of the election and our new RCMB leaders at the Assembly Membership Meeting in San Francisco.

I am grateful to Ciara Shaver, MD and Amy Ryan, PhD for serving on this committee and thank them for their efforts and skills in identifying truly outstanding candidates for our RCMB leadership positions. Please reach out with any question you might have about the committee work and future leadership positions within RCMB (eneptune@ihmi.edu). Our Assembly serves a critical role in the Society and relies on a leadership team with vision, creativity and enthusiasm. This is your assembly, and

we value your input as we identify our leaders of tomorrow and further develop our assembly to meet the needs of our members and the broader ATS community.
Thank you for your commitment to the mission of RCMB.

Best Wishes,
Enid R. Neptune (Chair, Nominating Committee)

BASIC SCIENCE CORE

Maor Sauler, MD and Amy Ryan, PhD

We are thrilled about this year's ATS Core Science theme - "Understanding the Lung Microenvironment in Disease". This has been a focal point for our committee's efforts. We've worked closely with other assemblies to develop additional sessions that span assemblies and explore the tools and ideas that inform our understanding of the lung microenvironments, and how those ideas are changed in disease.

Looking ahead, we're excited to roll up our sleeves once again to shape next year's ATS Basic Science Core topic. If you have innovative ideas you'd like to see highlighted or would like to get involved in the process, please reach out. We welcome your input and look forward to another year of incredible RCMB-driven science.

Session Code	Session Title	Publication Session Type	Session Date	Start time	End time
B5	NOVEL INSIGHTS INTO THE COMPLEMENT INFLUENCE ON LUNG MICROENVIRONMENT IN ACUTE AND CHRONIC DISEASE	Basic Science Core	5/18/26	9:15 AM	10:45 AM
B85	BEYOND -OMICS: CONNECTING MOLECULAR BIOLOGY TO CELL PATHOPHYSIOLOGY USING SPATIO-TEMPORAL MULTI-MODAL IMAGING	Basic Science Core	5/18/26	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
A2	VISUALIZING THE TARGET: IMAGE-BASED MULTIMODAL PROFILING OF MICRO AND MACROENVIRONMENT IN LUNG DISEASE	Basic Science Core	5/17/2026	9:15 AM	10:45 AM
C2	IMMUNE ACTIVATION AND FIBROSIS WITHIN THE PULMONARY VASCULAR MICROENVIRONMENT	Basic Science Core	5/19/2026	9:15 AM	10:45 AM
C82	LUNG FIBROSIS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN: EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERVENTION	Basic Science Core	5/19/2026	2:15 PM	3:45 PM

LUNG AGING RESEARCH WORKING GROUP

Irfan Rahman, PhD, ATSF (Co-Chair), Beata Kosmider, MS, PhD (Co-Chair) and Mareike Lehmann, PhD (Co-Chair)

The Lung Aging Research Working Group continued its core activities throughout 2025-2026. It meets the society's strategic goals and mission. We communicate frequently and discuss initiatives and plans. Through interactive and well-attended webinars, email blasts to our membership, and scientific discussions at the ATS International Conference, we increased awareness and disseminated knowledge about the basic biology of lung aging and promoted an understanding of the cellular and molecular mechanisms of aging and age-related lung diseases. We are looking forward to seeing you all in Orlando!

View the Lung Aging Research Working Group web page [here](#).

We continued our activities by increasing our membership (now over 280!) and sending regular email alerts regarding seminars/webinars and grant opportunities, including SenNet (human and mouse networks) from the NIH Common Fund. We also provided networking experiences and opportunities for mentoring in aging lung biology and disease through our members.

We presented two webinars (see below) and one annual virtual retreat, and all were very well attended and generated interest across different disciplines. Through these activities, our group brought together lung researchers who are interested

in understanding the cellular and molecular mechanisms of aging and age-related lung diseases, creating a forum for discussion on hallmarks of lung aging and associated diseases.

During our webinar in December 9, 2025 as annual retreat, Dr. [Aditi Gurkar](#) at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center presented the updates on 'Metabolomics of Lung Aging', whereas Dr. [Hongwei Yao](#) from Brown University showed his original findings on 'Postnatal lung injury and cellular senescence in lung development and aging'. This retreat was chaired by Dr. Irfan Rahman, PhD ATSF (URMC), Dr. Beata Kosmider (Temple University), and Dr. Mareike Lemmann (University of Marburg, Germany).

"Emerging and Junior Investigators/Researchers Forum Spring Retreat"

Monday April 7, 2025 at 11:00 am till 12:30 pm-ET

Webinar

#1: Jonathan Baker, PhD

King's Centre for Lung Health, School of Immunology and Microbial Sciences, Faculty of Life Sciences and Medicine, King's College London, London, UK
jonathan.r.baker@kcl.ac.uk

Title: Dysregulated iron homeostasis as a driver of cellular senescence in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

#2: Natalia Vanegas, PhD

Senior Research Associate at Lung Aging Lab,
Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care, & Sleep Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, The Ohio State University.
nataliadel Pilar.vanegas@osumc.edu

Title: Transcriptomic signatures for aging and senescence in the lung

Q&A: Chairs/Panelists/Moderators

Panel Discussion: 30 mins

- Maja Funk, PhD (Introduction: **Jonathan Baker, PhD**)
 Head, Junior Research Group "Ageing & Environmental stress in lung disease"
 Helmholtz Munich, Germany
maja.funk@helmholtz-munich.de
- Delphine Beaulieu, PhD (Introduction: **Natalia Vanegas, PhD**)
 University of Pittsburgh
 Email: beaulieudp@upmc.edu

We also held webinars/retreats on lung aging based on developmental biology with two outstanding speakers

Title: RCMB Lung Aging Group Retreat

Date/Time: Mon, Nov. 24, 12 p.m. ET

Duration: One hour and a half

Activity Type: Webinar

Assembly: Respiratory Cell & Molecular Biology (RCMB)

Brief Description: We have planned a retreat.

Presenters:

Puroshothama Rao Tata, MSc, PhD, Duke University, Lung Regeneration: Cells, models, and mechanisms, and
Jane Deng, MS, MD, University of Michigan, Immunescence, microbiome, and lung infections

Lastly, we are planning launch a Lung Aging Working Group Journal Club to review and discuss novel literature in the context of pulmonary aging and beyond the lung. We also plan to have a focused group of junior investigators including postdoctoral fellows/trainees within members of our working group.

If you are interested in learning more about our goals and activities, please feel free to contact us:

irfan_rahman@urmc.rochester.edu

beata.kosmider@temple.edu

mareike.lehmann@helmholtz-muenchen.de

Ph.D. and BASIC and TRANSLATIONAL SCIENTIST WORKING GROUP

Anne-Karina Perl, MSci, PhD, ATSF and Jennifer Casey, PhD (RCMB Representatives)

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 Larson-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.

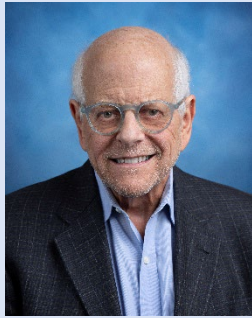
Sunburst Room and Terrace

Orange County Convention Center (West Concourse Level III)

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

2026 Respiratory Health Awards RCMB Assembly Colleagues - don't miss this!

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2026 Respiratory Health Awards! 🎉



**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**



Recognition Awards for Scientific Accomplishment – Gloria S. Pryhuber, MD
Building a Comprehensive Molecular Lung Atlas: Advancing Pediatric and Adult Lung Health through Investigator Collaboration

Monday, May 18 – 2:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.
Orange County Convention Center Lecture Hall W300 (Level III)



Research Innovation and Translation Achievement Award – Kambez H. Benam, Dphil, ATSF
Plenary Session – Tuesday, May 19 - 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Orange County Convention Center - Chapin Theater (Level III - West Concourse)

SCIENCE AND INNOVATION CENTER (SIC)

Patrick Link, PhD (Chair)

The Science and Innovation Center opens its doors with a complete program designed for basic and translational scientists seeking to network or participate in studio talks and panel discussion featuring the latest in respiratory, critical care, and sleep medicine research technologies.

Three experiences anchor your SIC visit. The Learning Studio in the Networking Super Center Located in the Orange County Convention Center West Concourse, Hall C, Level II. specialized programming where you can participate in studio talks, panel discussions and networking opportunities at the annual conference. Steps away, the SpeakEasy hosts the ATS Storytelling Series, where mid-career members share the unexpected turns and defining moments of their professional journeys. In support of all our PhD and basic science researchers, we're planning a dedicated reception with a carefully selected venue, quality refreshments, and focused networking time.

Behind the scenes, our team is finalizing awards, producing AV content, and designing materials that showcase what the SIC does best: connecting researchers across career stages and specialties. Whether you're exploring new technologies, building collaborations, or charting your next career move, the Science and Innovation Center brings those opportunities together in one space.

Special 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.)				

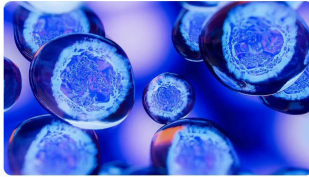
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A link for Assembly Giving can be found on each Assembly home page.



Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology Assembly

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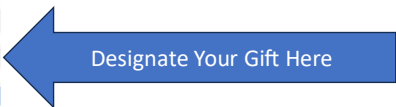
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