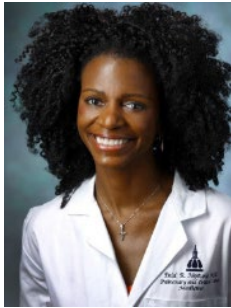


Assembly on Respiratory Cell & Molecular Biology (RCMB) Newsletter



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Message from the Assembly Chair

Our American Thoracic Society International Conference membership meeting on May 20, 2024, in San Diego, CA is quickly approaching. Wow, what a year! Having fully transitioned out of COVID conference challenges, we can now comfortably convene in person and engage in provocative research discussions, absorb the intriguing findings presented in symposia and poster sessions and enjoy the enticing atmosphere of lung research that defines the RCMB Assembly. As the signature discovery science assembly, we will maintain our focus on high-impact translational science. We also remain committed to the development of the next generation of lung biologists with paths for leadership and greater involvement in the widespread and evolving charge of our Assembly.

This year, we also confronted the challenges of devising a venue selection process that reflected the values of our Assembly in protecting the health and wellbeing of all of our members and in maintaining the viability of our Society. These discussions were challenging and we personally welcomed and strenuously conveyed your input and concerns. The society is also transitioning into a new ATS board governance model that will allow greater participation from the RCMB membership and hopefully generate enthusiasm for greater levels of involvement.

In this newsletter, you will find updates on the progress of all our committees and working groups. Consistent with the society goals, we have been able to continue content throughout the year with the help of our Web Committee, Early Career Professionals and Lung Aging research working groups. The Science and Innovation Center, now shares a large physical space with the Networking Supercenter, allowing us to deliver creative content that is fully responsive to the needs of our research community. We have also built upon our grant webinar series to provide requisite skills for applicants in the basic science that are transitioning from mentored to individual grants. Our series of podcasts, webinars and journal clubs not only served as a forum for cutting edge research and advanced methodologies but also fueled partnerships with other assemblies reinforcing aligned interests. The inclusion of our MD, PhD, basic and translational scientists from around the world is the secret sauce to advance research in lung disease.

Please plan to join us for our membership meeting Monday May 20th 5-7pm where we will welcome new members of leadership, celebrate our accomplishments and announce our awardees. We will also discuss the challenges going forward for basic researchers in lung disease and craft strategies to address these in our Assembly. All are welcome, and please bring along your junior colleagues. Finally, I am excited to turn over the Chair to Elizabeth Redente who has been a valued partner and advisor during this challenging year. Elizabeth will certainly ensure the continued elevation of great science that our group embodies.

Please continue to share your ideas; reach out to our committees, our assembly leadership and of course myself at any time (eneptune@jhmi.edu).


Thank you for the incredible joy of serving as your assembly leader.

Assembly Chair
Enid Neptune, MD

Assembly on RCMB Membership Meeting

**Monday, May 20, 2024
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

**Building Marriott Marquis San Diego
Room: Pacific Ballroom 24-26
Floor: First Floor, Ground Level, North
Tower**




American Thoracic Society
ASSEMBLIES


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Want to know how the ATS Assemblies and Committees really work?
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PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Ana L. Mora, MD (Chair) and Francesca Polverino, MD, PhD (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 help bring cutting edge basic and translational science to our membership. Every year the Program Committee reviews, grades, and collates all of the Scientific Symposia, Minisymposia, Poster-discussion and Thematic poster sessions, Post-graduate 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 Ksenija Benau. All members worked with tremendous enthusiasm to construct an exciting program for the ATS 2024 Conference.

The committee's work began last summer, reviewing 27 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 2024 meeting includes 8 RCMB-sponsored Scientific Symposia, including 5 joint proposals with other assemblies, 1 Meet the Experts session, and 1 Postgraduate Course. RCMB co-sponsored with the International Conference Committee and ATS staff the Basic Science Core sessions in the topic of Integrating Layers of Biological Data to Elucidate Mechanisms of Lung Disease.

This year RCMB received 514 abstract and 59 Late Breaking Abstract Submissions. These abstracts were programmed into 6 Mini Symposia, 7 Poster Discussion sessions, and 14 Thematic Poster Sessions. Over 100 colleagues agreed to help in 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 2025 ATS program. The call for proposals for Scientific Symposia, PG courses, and Meet the Expert will be June 26, 2024. The Scientific Abstract and Case Reports submission deadline for 2024 is October 30. Now is the time to start working with your colleagues to develop ideas for the 2025 program. The Program committee chairs and members are always available and happy to offer suggestions before final submission.

New members for 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 2023-2024 has been finalized, but there are new positions available every year. We are also excited about our new RCMB Program Committee Apprentice, Dr. Joseph Cooley. If you are interested in joining the Committee for the following year, please contact the Incoming Chair, Francesca Polverino, PhD, MD (fpolverino@copdnet.org).

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 2024 International Conference Assembly on Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology (RCMB) Sessions

Session Code	Session Title	Session Type	Session Date	Session Start Time	Session End Time
PG18	PATHOPHYSIOLOGICAL MECHANISMS IN COPD FROM THE MULTI-OMICS PERSPECTIVE	Postgraduate Course	5/18/2024	12:00 PM	4:00 PM
A6	ROLE OF SEX IN PULMONARY DISEASE ACROSS THE LIFESPAN	Jointly-Developed Symposium	Sunday	5/19/2024	9:15 AM
A17	COPD CHRONICLES: DECODING THE PATHOGENESIS OF A COMPLEX DISEASE	Mini Symposium	5/19/2024	9:15 AM	11:15 AM
A68	UNVEILING NOVEL AVENUES IN IPF THERAPIES	Thematic Poster Session	5/19/2024	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
A69	PATHOGENESIS OF INTERSTITIAL AND PLEURAL DISEASES	Thematic Poster Session	5/19/2024	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
A70	MOLECULAR INSIGHTS INTO ILD PATHOGENESIS	Thematic Poster Session	5/19/2024	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
A71	CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGIES FOR LUNG DISCOVERY	Thematic Poster Session	5/19/2024	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
A72	EPITHELIAL CELLS: KEY CULPRITS IN PULMONARY FIBROSIS	Thematic Poster Session	5/19/2024	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
A73	GENOMICS AND EPIGENOMICS IN LUNG DISEASES	Thematic Poster Session	5/19/2024	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
A74	MITOCHONDRIA AND METABOLISM IN LUNG HEALTH AND DISEASE	Thematic Poster Session	5/19/2024	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
A108	COPD PATHOGENESIS: OPENING THE PANDORA BOX	Poster Discussion Session	5/19/2024	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
B28	LUNGS THOROUGH TIME: EXPLORING LUNG AGING	Poster Discussion Session	5/20/2024	9:15 AM	11:15 AM
B29	BIOMARKERS AND NEW THERAPEUTICS TARGETS IN LUNG FIBROSIS	Poster Discussion Session	5/20/2024	9:15 AM	11:15 AM
B5	COPD AS AN ENDOTHELIAL DISORDER: ENDOTHELIAL INJURY LINKING LESIONS IN THE LUNGS AND OTHER ORGANS	Basic Science Core	5/20/2024	9:15 AM	10:45 AM
B70	COPD IN THE SPOTLIGHT: INSIGHTS INTO DISEASE PATHOGENESIS	Thematic Poster Session	5/20/2024	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
B71	ASTHMA PATHOGENESIS: MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE	Thematic Poster Session	5/20/2024	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
B72	LUNG INFECTIONS AND COVID-19: INSIGHTS, INNOVATIONS, AND IMPACT	Thematic Poster Session	5/20/2024	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
B73	NAVIGATING THE STORM: UNDERSTANDING ACUTE LUNG INJURY	Thematic Poster Session	5/20/2024	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
B74	BREATHING NEW LIFE: LUNG TRANSPLANT PATHOGENESIS AND MECHANISMS	Thematic Poster Session	5/20/2024	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
B75	POLLUTION AND LUNG HEALTH: MECHANISMS AND PATHOGENESIS	Thematic Poster Session	5/20/2024	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
B76	CHRONIC AIRWAY DISEASES: ABOVE AND BEYOND	Thematic Poster Session	5/20/2024	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
MTE16	ALVEOLAR ORGANOIDS - BEST PRACTICES	Meet the Expert	5/20/2024	11:30 AM	12:30 PM
B107	GENETIC AND TRANSCRIPTOMIC SIGNATURES IN LUNG DISEASES	Poster Discussion Session	5/20/2024	2:15 PM	4:15 PM

B85	LUNG HARMONY: UNRAVELLING THE SYNERGY BETWEEN MACROPHAGES AND ALVEOLAR EPITHELIAL CELLS IN DISEASE	Basic Science Core	5/20/2024	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
B86	AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH: HEALTH DISPARITIES AND HEALTH CARE INEQUALITY IN RESPIRATORY MEDICINE	Jointly-Developed Symposium	5/20/2024	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
B98	HEALING LUNGS: NAVIGATING THE PATHWAYS OF LUNG REPAIR	Mini Symposium	5/20/2024	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
C19	CHARTING THE LUNG: INNOVATION IN MULTIOMICS	Mini Symposium	5/21/2024	9:15 AM	11:15 AM
C28	MORE THAN MEET THE EYE: NOVEL INSIGHTS IN IPF PATHOGENESIS	Poster Discussion Session	5/21/2024	9:15 AM	11:15 AM
C70	FROM BUDS TO BREATH: MECHANISMS AND PATHOGENESIS OF LUNG DEVELOPMENT	Thematic Poster Session	5/21/2024	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
C84	NOVEL AND NEGLECTED ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURES AND LUNG HEALTH	Jointly-Developed Symposium	5/21/2024	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
C108	MECHANISMS OF LUNG INFLAMMATION AND INFECTION	Poster Discussion Session	5/21/2024	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
C98	ENERGIZING THE LUNG: MITOCHONDRIA AND METABOLIC PATHWAYS	Mini Symposium	5/21/2024	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
D18	DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION: UNVEILING THE SECRETS OF LUNG RENEWAL	Mini Symposium	5/22/2024	8:15 AM	10:15 AM
D108	SIGNALING PATHWAYS IN AIRWAY REGENERATION AND REPAIR	Poster Discussion Session	5/22/2024	11:00 AM	1:00 PM
D85	ONE TO RULE THEM ALL? IMMUNE CELLS CONTROL STEM CELL CAPACITY IN THE LUNG	Scientific Symposium	5/22/2024	11:00 AM	12:30 PM
D96	BREATH BEYOND: NOVEL INSIGHTS IN LUNG INJURY	Mini Symposium	5/22/2024	11:00 AM	1:00 PM

ATS 2024 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ADDITIONAL SESSIONS OF INTEREST

Session Code	Session Title	Session Type	Session Date	Start Time	End Time
C88	HEALTH EQUITY ACROSS PEDIATRIC PULMONARY DISEASES	Scientific Symposium	5/21/2024	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
C89	HIV-RELATED LUNG DISEASE: UPDATES IN PATHOPHYSIOLOGY, CLINICAL TRIALS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS	Scientific Symposium	5/21/2024	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
C86	PULMONARY REHABILITATION - KEEPING THE WHEEL ROLLING FORWARD	Scientific Symposium	5/21/2024	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
D11	ON THE HORIZON: NEW, NOVEL, AND CUTTING EDGE FOR NONTUBERCULOUS MYOBACTERIA (NTM)	Scientific Symposium	5/22/2024	8:15 AM	9:45 AM
D6	WHAT CAUSES SARCOIDOSIS?	Scientific Symposium	5/22/2024	8:15 AM	9:45 AM
D5	TIME-LIMITED TRIALS IN CRITICAL CARE	Scientific Symposium	5/22/2024	8:15 AM	9:45 AM
D7	WHERE CHILDREN LEARN AND BREATHE: THE IMPACT OF SCHOOL-BASED EXPOSURES ON CHILDHOOD RESPIRATORY HEALTH	Scientific Symposium	5/22/2024	8:15 AM	9:45 AM
D8	GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES OF PULMONARY HYPERTENSION BIOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT? AN ATS/ERS JOINT SYMPOSIUM	Scientific Symposium	5/22/2024	8:15 AM	9:45 AM

D9	LINKING NOVEL MULTI-OMICS WITH MACHINE LEARNING TO UNLOCK LUNG PATHOPHYSIOLOGY	Scientific Symposium	5/22/2024	8:15 AM	9:45 AM
D10	TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK: MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES FOR HIGH-QUALITY LUNG CANCER SCREENING	Scientific Symposium	5/22/2024	8:15 AM	9:45 AM
CS1	CHAIR SYMPOSIUM	Scientific Symposium	5/22/2024	8:15 AM	9:45 AM
D83	RESPIRATORY HEALTH IMPACTS OF HUMAN MADE DISASTERS AND NATURAL DISEASTERS, WILDFIRES, EARTHQUAKES, AND VOLCANOES.	Scientific Symposium	5/22/2024	11:00 AM	12:30 PM
D84	EMERGENT RESISTANCE TO NEW DRUGS FOR MDR-TB TREATMENT	Scientific Symposium	5/22/2024	11:00 AM	12:30 PM
D85	ONE TO RULE THEM ALL? IMMUNE CELLS CONTROL STEM CELL CAPACITY IN THE LUNG	Scientific Symposium	5/22/2024	11:00 AM	12:30 PM
D86	AMBULATORY CRITICAL CARE: A BENCH TO BEDSIDE UNDERSTANDING OF CHRONIC RESPIRATORY FAILURE	Scientific Symposium	5/22/2024	11:00 AM	12:30 PM

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Stefanie Krick, MD, PhD (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 can either involve the development of workshops around a specific research focus 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. This year, RCMB members Dr. Gloria Pryhuber and her team were approved for receiving funding for their project "Collaborative, Cross-Consortium and Country, Lung Cell Nomenclature Project (C3LCN)".

In addition, Dr. Melanie Koenigshoff and Dr. Mareike Lehmann were successful in renewing their proposal "**Precision cut lung slices (PCLS): emerging tools for preclinical and translational lung research**" as well as Dr. Louise Hecker and Dr. Milica Vukmirovic successfully renewed their proposal "**Assessing challenges and opportunities for biomarker, device, and pre-clinical drug development/commercialization in the pulmonary arena**". We look forward to seeing the publications from their workshops in print this year! We encourage all of our members to start networking and brainstorming new proposal ideas, which will be due usually by the end of July – our annual conference this year in San Diego . Please reach out if you have ideas or questions about the process (skrick@uabmc.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 honor 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 2025 seems far away – please start thinking of who you would like to nominate for next year! We also participate in the Assembly **Apprenticeship Program** which encourages highly motivated junior members to join RCMB, participate and take on leadership roles. This year we were excited to welcome Dr. Elinor Lee to the Planning Committee. Please reach out to the ECP working group with questions about this amazing program (jeremy.katzen@penntermedicine.upenn.edu). We hope you consider joining us next year.

Submit an Assembly/Committee Project Application for Funding in FY2025!

We are happy to announce that ATS will once again accept **NEW Assembly/Committee Projects for FY2025**. 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, Stefanie Krick, MD PhD at skrick@uabmc.edu**

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

WEB COMMITTEE

Mark E. Snyder, MD (Web Director)

The goal of the RCMB website committee is 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 webinars this past year, including the first installation of our RCMB Toolkit series entitled, "RCMB Toolkit: Human Lung Cell Atlas (HLCA) and LungMAP". This series is the inspired idea of our Webinar team, Drs. Chao He, Cassandra Albright, Francesco Polverino, and Amy Attaway. The goal of which is to provide a series of webinars designed to highlight cutting-edge resources available to the research community.

We have also worked closely with the Early Stage Career Working Group led by Dr. Jeremy Katzen to feature webinars providing guidance on grant preparation, a continuation of the much lauded series pioneered last year. We will continue this prioritization of academic skill development that meets the unique needs of our assembly and aligned partners.

Our Web Committee apprentice, Dr. Erin Crossley has worked closely with Drs. Dan Aldriges and Isis Fernandez to organize a series of exciting virtual journal clubs throughout the year, highlighting the work of early stage investigators. We are excited to welcome our new apprentice, Dr. Christopher Molina from the University of California at San Francisco. In the next year, we will continue to promote virtual inter-connectiveness, providing an inclusive resource for all scientists, especially those unable to join in-person meetings. We are excited for next year's programs including the next steps in our Toolkit series, collaborations with the Interest Group on Lung Aging, and additional virtual journal clubs highlighting cutting-edge lung biology.

Please visit the ATS website for a full access to all virtual journal clubs, webinars, and podcasts. ATS podcasts can also be found on iTunes.

The Web Committee has room to grow! We are looking for enthusiastic trainees and junior faculty to get more engaged in the ATS community. Please email me at snyderme2@upmc.edu if you are interested in getting involved! As always, thanks to our Twitter (X) - champion, Dr. Marta Bueno!!!

 **Follow Us on X (Twitter) @ATS_RCMB!**

Be sure to follow us at @ATS_Assemblies for news on webinars, deadlines, and other things you might have missed in your inbox!

EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONALS WORKING GROUP (ECPWG)

Jeremy Katzen, MD (Chair)

The mission of the Early Career Professionals Working Group (ECPWG) is to promote the involvement of early career professionals (ECPs) in the RCMB Assembly and the ATS. Our membership is a mix of postdoctoral research and clinical fellows, instructors, and assistant professors with MD, PhD, and MD/PhD backgrounds from three continents. We're proud to report the work our ECPWG has done in 2023-2024, and we extend our gratitude to our ATS liaison, **Tiana Lino** for her help and support.

Our **Grant Writing Committee** is led by **Scott Denstaedt, MD**. This year we continued to build our **Grant Writer's Toolkit** virtual series with a focus on independent awards and the K-to-R transition. The virtual series this year features over 15 RCMB faculty across multiple institutions and NIH program officers who provide didactic and interactive virtual sessions to attendees. Our sessions this year include 1) specific aims, 2) developing significance and innovation, 3) demystifying study section, and 4) proving feasibility. The first two sessions had nearly 30-40 participants each. We believe this is a vital resource for our RCMB colleagues and very much appreciate the support from ATS and RCMB faculty for this initiative. We will continue to cycle this series moving forward between K and R-level grant focus. We hope to collaborate with other Assemblies in the future to help diversify the content of these sessions in the future.

Our Seminar Committee, led by **Jennifer Larson-Casey, PhD**, continued our successful "On Air" Live Virtual Seminar Series. The goals of the seminar series are to connect ECPs with established investigators and other ECPs to provide a forum for discussion of topics relevant to ECPs, and to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion through thoughtful choices of speakers, engagement, and community. Our first session this year was a Mentoring Panel Discussion with the powerhouse trio of **Dr. Lorraine Ware, MD**, **Dr. Julie Bastarache, MD**, and **Dr. Ciara Shaver, MD, PhD**. More than 60 attendees learned about their approach to successful mentorship and how their team has excelled in academic medicine because of their mentorship. Our Spring Seminar "In the Red Zone with **Dr. Andrew Halayko**" focused on The American Journal of Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology commitment to early stage investigators as well as insight and perspective from the new editor-in-chief.

Our **Communications Committee**, run by Chi Hung, MD, has continued to expand the website (<https://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/assemblies/rcmb/working-groups/early-career-professional/>). This year, the committee worked on two initiatives. First, they started a bi-annual newsletter that highlights programs and opportunities of interest to early career professionals and celebrates successes of junior investigators within the RCMB. The first newsletter was distributed in late fall, and keep an eye out for the upcoming spring newsletter! **Sarah Moore, MD** and **Sinem Koc-Guenel, MD** were instrumental in getting the newsletter off the! Second, they organized a webinar that will be held in April. The session will be moderated by **Elizabeth Middleton, MD** and **Drs. Karen Ridge, PhD** and ECPWG alumna **Jaime Hook, MD** will discuss strategies and tips for giving effective short scientific presentations. We hope this session will be useful to junior investigators and trainees as they begin to prepare for ATS San Diego 2024!

The **RCMB Mentoring Program**, organized by **Divay Chandra, MD**, has run successfully for many years. The Program matches mentors (mid-career and senior RCMB members) with mentees (trainees, post-doctoral fellows, and junior faculty) to provide opportunities to exchange ideas and experiences that support scientific collaboration, ECP career development, and networking. Historically, mentors have helped mentees navigate opportunities at the ATS Conference. In 2023, we had 41 mentee-mentor pairs! This year, we are planning to continue to grow the **RCMB Mentoring Program** and will be making the match pairs later this spring. Your participation as mentors and mentees is very valuable and we appreciate the effort it takes for both the mentors and mentees to get maximum benefit from this important program.

The **RCMB Apprenticeship Program** has continued to be successful and is a pathway for ECP involvement in RCMB and ATS leadership. This program selects ECP representatives to serve on the RCMB Program, Planning, and Web Committees. Under the mentorship of a committee member, apprentices get a "behind the scenes" look at the operations of the RCMB Assembly while developing skills for evaluating committee applications and developing committee projects. Our Apprenticeship Program is organized by **Elizabeth Middleton, MD**. We're pleased to have had a number of highly competitive applications, and we plan to announce this year's Apprentices at the RCMB Assembly Business Meeting.

Led by **Kosuke Kato PhD**, our **REAAch Award Program** continues to spotlight and support Early Stage Investigators dedicated to advancing the field of respiratory cell and molecular biology. We're thrilled to celebrate the exceptional talents within our RCMB Assembly! This year, we have been graced with impressive nominations, all exemplifying the extraordinary potential of our Instructor and Assistant Professor level investigators. The commitment to excellence is evident, as past REAAch Award recipients have collectively secured over \$16 million in grants and have contributed to scientific literature with over 75 publications post-award.

Our **Conference Committee**, run by **Eleanor Valenzi, MD**, strives to ensure that ECPs make the most of their experience at the ATS International Conference. This year, the committee continued our tradition of providing ECPs with our annual RCMB Roadmap that highlights conference programming and events of potential interest to RCMB ECPs. In addition, the committee is planning an ECP social event to build relationships between ECPs at different institutions.

Thanks for your interest in the RCMB ECPWG. We're always looking to add qualified people to enrich our group, so please contact us if you're interested in participating (Jeremy.Katzen@penncmedicine.upenn.edu). We look forward to welcoming you to ATS 2024, and we hope to see you at the annual RCMB Membership Meeting!

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.

Marriott Marquis

Vista, Level 1, South

Sunday, May 19th – Monday, May 20 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

Patricia Sime, 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. It is important we have broad and inclusive representation. With the assistance of this year's nominating committee, we were excited to have several amazing colleagues agree to stand for election for the positions of Assembly Chair-elect, 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 DC.

I am grateful to Suzanne Cloonan, PhD and Corrine Kliment, MD 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 (patricia.sime@vcuhealth.org). 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.

Best Wishes.

Patricia Sime (Chair, Nominating Committee)

SCIENCE AND INNOVATION CENTER (SIC)

Clemente J. Britto-Leon, MD, ATSF (Chair) and Jennifer Sucre, MD (Co-Chair)

The Science and Innovation Center is in full swing, preparing for the International Conference! We are launching an energetic promotional campaign to invite ATS members to participate in our conferences and activities with the aid of some well-known ATS faces. Our Scientific Program is complete, with cutting-edge work representative of all assemblies that submitted

content for presentation. We also secured space, great snacks, and drinks, and most importantly, lots of fun party favors for our PhD reception. As the conference approaches, we are also working hard to update our website and to create informational AV and printed materials to raise awareness of the many opportunities to share work, find a thriving scientific community, and network at the SIC. See you in San Diego!

Reception for PhDs & Other Basic Science Researchers

**Sunday, May 19th from 3 - 5 p.m.
San Diego Convention Center
Sails Pavilion Terrace (Upper Level)**

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: <https://conference.thoracic.org/program/events/reception-phd-other-basic-science-researchers.php>

NO GREAT DISCOVERY WAS EVER MADE WITHOUT A BOLD GUESS.

Isaac Newton