

Assembly on Thoracic Oncology (TO) Newsletter



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Message from the Assembly Chair

Dear Assembly Friends,

Thank you so much for being part of our team and contributing to the success of the Thoracic Oncology Assembly (TOA). As we reflect on the last year, it is clear that our field continues to rapidly gain momentum with changes in practice on the immediate horizon. We strive to be at the leading edge of clinical care, policy, education and research in the field of thoracic malignancies while remaining steadfast in our commitment to growing an assembly that is both inclusive and focused on engaging the next generation of clinicians and researchers. We are so very grateful to have an assembly membership that is passionate and dedicated to ultimately improving the lives of our patients.

Please take a moment to read the TOA newsletter. We are proud of our accomplishments and proud of our teams who have worked tirelessly to prepare what we anticipate to be an engaging and educational program for 2024. I am very grateful to our executive committee members for their tireless effort this past year. I also want to acknowledge the amazing guidance and support from ATS staff and would like to recognize Miriam Rodriguez and Alexandra Gonzales for their hard work.

In the current newsletter, we provide you with a snapshot of some of the exciting programming led by both our committees and working groups. We hope that you will appreciate the scope our content that spans from fundamental bench science to immunotherapy to links between lung development and cancer to revisiting the Cancer Moonshot program. TOA is proud of our work developing important clinical and research statements and guidelines which you can read more about in the section from the Planning Committee.

TOA members are amazing! We would like to acknowledge the 2023 recipients of the Thoracic Oncology Lifetime Achievement Award: Steven M. Dubinett, MD, the newly established Mid-Career Achievement Award: Rajkumar Savai, PhD and Early Career Achievement Award: Edwin Ostrin, MD, PhD. Their awards exemplify their commitment and leadership within our assembly and are a testament to their scientific contributions to Thoracic Oncology. Secondly, we recognize that beyond the work of the executive committee, we have so many talented members making impactful contributions to the future of ATS and the field of thoracic malignancies. We have included a section entitled "Our Future Leaders in the Spotlight" where we introduce the membership to four early career faculty. It is our hope to highlight many more early career members who will serve to build the future of our assembly. TOA is excited to participate in the PhD and Basic and Translational Science Working Group which will help ensure ATS remains THE place for scientists in our field.

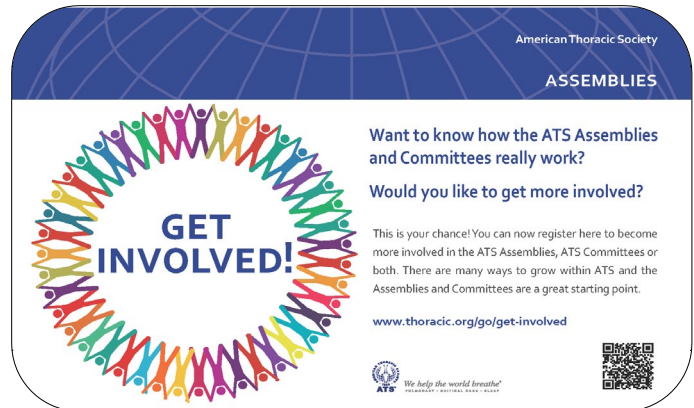
If you have thoughts about ways the Assembly can better meet your needs, please reach out to me directly (Christopher.slatore@va.gov). If you have feedback for ATS leadership, I will work with you to make your voice heard. I look forward to seeing you all in person in San Diego in May!

It has been a privilege to serve as chair of such an amazing assembly. I am truly inspired by the work that each of you do and have every bit of confidence in a bright future. A sincere thank you to each of you for being part of TOA.

TO Membership Meeting

**Sunday, May 19, 2024
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

**Building: Marriott Marquis
Room: Pacific Ballroom 21-22
Floor: First Floor, Ground Level, North
Tower**



PLANNING COMMITTEE

Tobias Peikert, MD (Chair)

The Planning Committee is charged with shaping the long-term strategy of the Assembly, through soliciting and sponsoring projects including clinical practice guidelines, position papers (Research Statements, Policy Statements, Technical Standards, and Clinical Statements) and workshops (workshop reports) benefitting the Assembly and the field of Thoracic Oncology. ([Document Development \(thoracic.org\)](https://www.thoracic.org))

The Thoracic Oncology Assembly has one new project accepted for funding in 2024:

Effects of Inhaled Tobacco and Cannabis Co-Use on Respiratory Health and Tobacco Cessation: A Research Policy Statement. This project is led by Dr. Hasmeena Kathuria, University of Wisconsin.

In addition, three projects were accepted for renewal in 2023 and we look forward to seeing these projects published in the next year:

Dr. Anne Gonzalez **Advanced Diagnostic Bronchoscopy for Peripheral Lung Lesions: When is a Technology Ready for Clinical Use? An Official ATS Research Statement**

Dr. Louise Henderson **Lung Cancer Screening and Incidental Findings: A Research Statement**

Dr. Seyed Javad Moghaddam **Pre-malignant progression in the lung: knowledge gaps and novel opportunities for interception of non-small cell lung cancer**

Furthermore, members of the TOA submitted six additional competitive proposals, 1 Clinical Guideline, 1 Clinical Statement, 2 Research Statements, 1 Policy Statement and 1 Workshop Report. Unfortunately, these six projects were not selected for funding by ATS in 2024, but we are hoping for improved re-submissions and new innovative proposals for 2025.

Dr. Yeon Wook Kim from Seoul National University College of Medicine is serving as the 2023-2024 apprentice on the TOA Planning Committee. Dr. Kim provided very constructive reviews of the proposed projects and was also engaged in proposals.

Lastly, the Planning Committee is currently evaluating multiple nominations for the 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award, Mid-Career Achievement and the Early Career Achievement Award. The 2024 recipients will be honored during the 2024 ATS meeting in San Diego TOA business meeting.

The recipients of the 2023 awards were:

Lifetime Achievement Award: **Dr. Steven M. Dubinett, MD**

Mid-Career Achievement Award: **Dr. Rajkumar Savai, PhD**

Early Career Achievement Award: **Dr. Edwin Ostrin, MD, PhD**

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. If you have a suggestion for a project application and you need assistance, please contact your **Assembly Planning Committee Chair Tobias Peikert, MD at peikert.tobias@mayo.edu**

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

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Melinda C. Aldrich, MPH, PhD (Chair) and Katie R. Sears, MD (Chair-Elect)

The TOA Program Committee is excited to unveil an exceptional lineup for the 2024 International Conference, scheduled for May 17-22 in San Diego. The conference will showcase pivotal advances in thoracic oncology, with a focus on topics such as early detection, biomarkers, mechanisms of disease, radiomics, air pollution, and translational research. The committee worked to include investigators with a range of expertise and career stage to moderate and facilitate sessions.

There were many meritorious scientific symposia submissions and abstracts reviewed by the committee. The Assembly has a planned full agenda that includes 3 major scientific symposia, 3 mini-symposia, a postgraduate course, 3 meet the experts sessions, a jointly developed symposium, a mid-day symposium, 4 poster discussions, a RAPiD poster discussion, and 10 thematic poster sessions. A few highlights for this year's thoracic oncology programming include:

State of the Art: Lung Cancer in 2024 (Saturday): This long running and popular postgraduate course will provide attendees with the latest advances in lung cancer. This all-day session will include tobacco treatment, advances in lung cancer screening, pulmonary nodule management, mechanisms of lung carcinogenesis, biomarkers in lung cancer, advances in bronchoscopic treatment, impact of changes in lung cancer staging, updates in treatment (medical, surgical, and radiation oncology) of lung cancer, and an interactive tumor board.

Is it in the Air? Emerging Risks for Lung Cancer (Sunday PM) This scientific symposium, jointly sponsored with the Environmental, Occupational and Population Health Assembly, will address emerging evidence for exposures in persons who have never smoked. This includes exposures such as vaping, cannabis use, air pollution, secondhand smoke, and deployment-specific exposures in veterans. This promises to be an outstanding session about risks for lung cancer beyond tobacco smoking and will be rounded out with a patient perspective.

Moving the Needle in the Right Direction: A Pro-Con Debate on Strategies for Lung Nodule Biopsies (Tuesday AM) This session will feature a pro-con debate to explore the benefits and limitations of recent advances in lung nodule biopsy. Topics will include necessity of robotic bronchoscopy, advantage of intra-operative imaging, necessity of rapid on-site evaluation, and importance of cryobiopsy of peripheral pulmonary nodules.

Teamwork Makes the Dream Work: Multidisciplinary Approaches for High-quality Lung Cancer Screening (Wednesday AM)

This scientific symposium focuses on the multidisciplinary approach to lung cancer screening and includes speakers from a range of subspecialties including pulmonary medicine, thoracic surgery, thoracic radiology, primary care, population science and cancer epidemiology. Topics will cover the continuum of lung cancer early detection, ranging from defining lung cancer risk and engaging with primary care physicians to managing lung cancer screening results and improving screening equity.

ATS 2024 International Conference Assembly on Thoracic Oncology (TO) Sessions

Session Code	Session Title	Session Type	Session Date	Session Start Time	Session End Time
PG9	STATE OF THE ART: LUNG CANCER IN 2024	Postgraduate Course	5/18/2024	8:00 AM	4:00 PM
A30	CHALLENGES AS OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE LUNG CANCER DIAGNOSIS AND CARE	Poster Discussion Session	5/19/2024	9:15 AM	11:15 AM
A78	THE SPACE BETWEEN: PLEURAL CASES	Thematic Poster Session	5/19/2024	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
A79	DEFINING LUNG CANCER DEVELOPMENT AND CHARACTERISTICS	Thematic Poster Session	5/19/2024	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
A87	IS IT IN THE AIR? EMERGING RISKS FOR LUNG CANCER	Scientific Symposium	5/19/2024	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
B20	LUNG SCREENING: ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL	Mini Symposium	5/20/2024	9:15 AM	11:15 AM
B80-5	DIAGNOSING LUNG CANCER: MORE THAN A SCAN	Thematic Poster Session	5/20/2024	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
B80-6	GET ME TO THE AIRWAYS: IP, CENTRAL TUMORS AND MORE	Thematic Poster Session	5/20/2024	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
B80-7	DIAGNOSTIC DILEMMAS IN THORACIC ONCOLOGY	Thematic Poster Session	5/20/2024	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
B80-8	UNCOMMON COMPLICATIONS IN THORACIC ONCOLOGY	Thematic Poster Session	5/20/2024	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
MTE15	FROM EMINENCE TO EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE: THE INTERVENTIONAL PULMONOLOGY OUTCOMES GROUP	Meet the Expert	5/20/2024	11:30 AM	12:30 PM
MTE24	LUNG NODULE: TRANSBRONCHIAL BIOPSY, ARE WE CLOSE TO 100% DIAGNOSTIC YIELD?	Meet the Expert	5/20/2024	11:30 AM	12:30 PM
MD26	RESEARCH IN VHA'S LPOP PROVIDES IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE LUNG CANCER SCREENING	Mid-Day Symposium	5/20/2024	12:00 PM	1:00 PM
B89	INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON TOBACCO/VAPING PRODUCT/HEATED TOBACCO PRODUCT DEPENDENCE AND CONTROL	Jointly-Developed Symposium	5/20/2024	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
B109	DIVING INTO DISCOVERY: CURRENTS OF BASIC SCIENCE AND IMMUNOTHERAPIES IN LUNG CANCER	Poster Discussion Session	5/20/2024	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
B110	ADVANCES IN PRECISION APPROACHES TO DETECTION AND TREATMENT OF EARLY LUNG CANCER	RAPiD Poster Discussion Session	5/20/2024	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
C77	NEEDLES AND KNIVES: INVESTIGATING LUNG CANCER DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT	Thematic Poster Session	5/21/2024	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
C78	WHAT'S THAT? ATYPICAL AND RARE PRESENTATIONS IN THORACIC ONCOLOGY	Thematic Poster Session	5/21/2024	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
C79	INFECTIONS AND CRITICAL ILLNESS: CHALLENGES IN THORACIC ONCOLOGY	Thematic Poster Session	5/21/2024	9:15 AM	4:15 PM

C8	MOVING THE NEEDLE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION: A PRO-CON DEBATE ON STRATEGIES FOR LUNG NODULE BIOPSIES	Scientific Symposium	5/21/2024	9:15 AM	10:45 AM
C80	THORACIC COMPLICATIONS OF CANCER DRUGS AND IMMUNOTHERAPIES	Thematic Poster Session	5/21/2024	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
MTE28	HOW TO CREATE A CENTRALIZED LUNG CANCER SCREENING PROGRAM	Meet the Expert	5/21/2024	10:30 AM	11:30 AM
C100	NEW FRONTIERS IN LUNG CANCER: TOYS, TOOLS AND TREATMENTS	Mini Symposium	5/21/2024	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
C110	SURFING THE INNOVATION WAVE IN SAN DIEGO: CUTTING-EDGE LUNG CANCER BIOMARKERS, DIAGNOSTICS AND TREATMENTS	Poster Discussion Session	5/21/2024	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
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
D20	NOVEL INSIGHTS IN LUNG CANCER: MECHANISTIC ORIGINS TO OUTCOMES	Mini Symposium	5/22/2024	8:15 AM	10:15 AM
D110	PUZZLING PRESENTATIONS AND COMPLEX DIAGNOSES: NAVIGATING THE DIVERSE LANDSCAPE OF THORACIC ONCOLOGY	Poster Discussion Session	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



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PHD AND BASIC AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENTISTS WORKING GROUP

Seyed Javad Moghaddam, MD, TOA Representative

The “PhD and Basic and Translational Scientists Working Group” (PBTS WG) has been in existence since 2018, and is currently co-chaired by James Londino, PhD, and Lindsay McDonald PhD (Assembly on RCMB). It is charged with enhancing the value of ATS membership for basic and translational scientists, specifically PhDs, identifying their concerns, developing ways of increasing ATS value delivered to them, and improving their overall ATS experience. The PBTS WG consists of thirty-six members that are drawn from each of the ATS Assemblies. Despite consisting of members from all fourteen ATS Assemblies, the Assembly on RSF is the administrative home for the PBTS WG. The WG meets monthly via Zoom to discuss issues of importance to (1) non-clinical ATS members and (2) research-intensive physician-scientists.

During the past year, the PBTS WG has been extraordinarily active in developing programs for its constituency as well as devising strategies to recruit Ph.D. scientists to the Society. We have highlighted some of the WG’s efforts in the subsequent text.

- Equity and ATS Opportunities.** This subcommittee is working on emphasizing parity in the fee structure for Ph.D. scientists at the conference. This subcommittee has also worked with the ATS Health Equity and Diversity Committee to help promote diversity. With guidance from this subcommittee, the PBTS co-chairs, and other PhD representatives within the ATS, met with the ATS leadership and were successful in promoting PhD involvement through the inclusion of more basic science focused seminar series; and reduction of the conference fee for PhD’s and postdoctoral fellows this year by 30%.
- Seminar.** The Seminar Subcommittee has the goal of highlighting Ph.D. scientists and innovative methods/techniques in a seminar format. The planned structure is for 2-3 seminars per year with the co-sponsorship of assemblies within the ATS is a discussion of the research, preferably by a Ph.D. early career scientist,

followed by discussion. This group held a seminar the inaugural seminar “Identification of Lung Innervating Sensory Neurons and Their Target Specificity” last Spring. In addition, in conjunction with the RSF web committee, the group, co-sponsored a workshop entitled ‘Building Career Paths for Ph.D., Basic, and Translational Scientists in Clinical Departments in the U.S.’ based on the assembly project “Ph.D.s in Clinical Departments: Barriers, Opportunities and ATS Membership” and the recently published article on the topic by Dr. Beth Moore.

- **Survey.** To understand the rationale as to why Ph.D. scientists attend the ATS International Conference but do not join ATS as members, a subcommittee of PBTS WG members was assembled to answer this question. This survey was distributed to all 2023 ATS International Conference attendees who hold a Ph.D. or equivalent and spend 50% or more of their time in research yet are not currently ATS members. The data demonstrated that the cost of the conference and membership was the prime concern for researchers attending the conference. In addition, the survey showed that PhD specific resources within the ATS were appreciated by the attendees and were an important driver of membership. This survey will be resubmitted for the 2024 conference to ascertain whether the new fee structure alleviates these concerns and to identify additional concerns of Ph.D. members of the ATS.
- **Research Integrity.** There is a need for formally recognized research integrity training for basic science and translational researchers as scientific organizations increasingly require training be specified in grant applications and for fellowships. The Research Integrity subcommittee was formed with the goal of promoting ATS as a recognized leader among professional societies in promoting the basic principles of Research Integrity through education, information dissemination and collaboration and to make integrity a part of all ATS members’ research practices, procedures, and processes.
- **PBTS WG/Science and Innovation (SIC) Center Collaboration Events.** The PBTS WG/SIC hopes to provide more Ph.D.-centric events in the upcoming year and to help facilitate programming for the SIC. In addition, the PBTS working group will be co-hosting the Science and Innovation Center Ph.D. Reception at the 2024 ATS International Conference in San Diego, CA.
- **Awards.** The purpose of this subcommittee is to identify and nominate worthy basic and translational scientists (i.e., Ph.D. scientists) for the annual Assembly- and ATS-wide awards. This subcommittee is also available to aid in the submission of material for the nomination of PhD and basic science candidates for ATS-wide awards.
- **Symposium.** Increasing the number of PhD specific research symposiums at the conference is a priority for the PBTS working group. This year the group successfully programmed a seminar “MECHANICAL FORCES IN LUNG DISEASE” which was co-sponsored by the RSF assembly. This subcommittee is currently looking to program research focused symposium for the 2025 conference. Please contact the PBTS working group with suggestions and help is available to facilitate the programming of basic science topics.

Finally, if you would like to become involved with the PBTS WG or have any issues you feel that WG could effectively address, please feel free to e-mail either TOA representative, Seyed Javad Moghaddam (smoghadd@mdanderson.org), or directly contact Lindsay McDonald (Lindsay.McDonald3@va.gov) or James Londino (james.londino@osumc.edu).

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>

OUR FUTURE LEADERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Matthew Triplette, MD, MPH

Francesca C. Duncan, MD, MS

Dr. Duncan is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine at Indiana University School of Medicine with clinical training in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine and a passion for ensuring health equity in lung cancer. As a physician scientist, her research involves assessing ways to address those disparities by testing potential strategies to increase early lung cancer detection through lung cancer screening, educate primary care providers, patients, and community partners about lung cancer screening, and ensure equitable lung cancer treatment, particularly among Black and Hispanic patients who carry the burden of this disease. Locally, she serves as a member of the Eskenazi Health Lung Cancer Screening Multi-Disciplinary Committee and Co-Chair of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion for the Department of Medicine. Within the ATS, she serves on the Underrepresented Trainee Development Scholarship Committee, Membership Committee, and the Thoracic Oncology Assembly Early Career Professionals Working Group. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, spending time with family & friends, and Pilates.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed being a member of the ATS Thoracic Oncology Assembly. It has afforded me the opportunity to connect with my peers, esteemed colleagues, as well as foster collaboration and mentorship among members of the assembly. I have received a tremendous amount of support from the TOA leadership and opportunities to present."



Adam Fox, MD, MS

Dr. Fox is an Assistant Professor and clinician scientist at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) in Charleston, SC. He completed fellowship training in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine here at MUSC and a Master's in Health Services Research at Northwestern University. Much of his clinical time is spent evaluating patients with lung cancer and lung nodules in the Multi-Disciplinary Thoracic Oncology Clinic. The goal of his research is to improve lung cancer care through improvements in the diagnostic process. In particular, his research focuses on interventions related to biomarker testing, which is needed to deliver personalized lung cancer treatments to patients. The focus of his ongoing work is to describe the current state of biomarker testing across the US as well as the pulmonologists' role in performing this testing. He is also working locally on interventions to improve the success rate and timing of biomarker testing for patients newly diagnosed with lung cancer.

"Joining the ATS Thoracic Oncology Assembly and its Early Career Professionals Working Group (ECPWG) has provided me with invaluable friends, collaborators, and advice. Anyone looking for a fantastic and supportive assembly will find a home at the TOA. The ECPWG, in particular, is a fantastic opportunity for pulmonary fellows and junior faculty to network and collaborate in a small and supportive setting."



Ismini Kourouni, MD

Dr. Kourouni is an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine and Sleep Medicine Division at the Case Western Reserve University (CWRU), MetroHealth Medical Center, in Cleveland, Ohio. She directs the Thoracic Diagnostics program. Beyond administrative responsibilities, she provides care to populations challenged by marginalization because of socioeconomic variability. Her clinical focus centers on screening, lung nodule management, and lung cancer diagnostics within all stages of the disease. Within this domain, her key priorities include not only improving access to care but also bridging critical gaps in lung cancer care coordination.

"On the national level, engaging with my colleagues in the TOA goes beyond mere professional growth, the Assembly acts as a hub for collaborative efforts with the added advantage of readily available mentorship. Collectively, we cultivate a culture of knowledge exchange and uplifting support to enhance the care and quality of life for patients with thoracic malignancies. The Assembly provides an inspirational venue where innovative minds bring a wealth of knowledge, insights, and experiences that profoundly enrich both my professional and personal perspectives."



Natoushka Trenard, MD, MPH

Dr. Trenard currently serves as the Chief of Pulmonary/Critical Care Medicine at Metropolitan Hospital/ NYC Health and Hospitals, Assistant Professor at New York Medical College and Site Director for the Pulmonary/Critical Care Fellowship at Westchester Medical Center. She completed fellowship training at NYU. Her academic research interests are in Health Equity in medical education and improving underutilization of lung cancer and tobacco screening in high-risk populations. She is currently conducting community-based research to inform lung cancer prevention care delivery in the hospital setting for diverse populations.

"Being a member of the Thoracic Oncology Assembly has introduced me to mentors with vast experience in LCS implementation which has had a profound impact on my work in LCS in safety net hospitals and opened up new opportunities for growth and fulfilment."

