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Assembly on Pulmonary Circulation

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MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY CHAIR

Welcome to the Pulmonary Circulation Assembly and our Spring Newsletter! This newsletter is full of information about the Assembly and was originally written to highlight the activities and sessions at the International Conference previously scheduled to take place in Philadelphia, PA May 15-20, 2020. As with all International Conferences, this year was planned to bring the very best opportunities to hear the latest in research, clinical care and health care policy while allowing for attendees to connect, reconnect and network. Unfortunately, due to the COVID19 pandemic, the conference has been cancelled for this year and I'd like to take a minute in this newsletter to highlight the many activities of our assembly that would have been covered in our assembly meeting Monday night so that we can all be informed of what all that is going on and feel excited about the next year for the PC Assembly.



Assembly Chair:
Anna Hemnes, MD, ATSF

First, our Program Committee Chair and Chair-Elect had put together a truly tremendous program for our Assembly and brought a real enthusiasm to developing the junior membership's role in the Program Committee. I wish I had the opportunity to thank Sebastian Bonnet and Elena Goncharova in person for their dedication and hard work, but I will do it in this newsletter instead! Thank you both!

Our Assembly has also grown this year with the addition of an Early Career Working Group that is headed by Rebecca Vanderpool. She has assembled a group junior assembly members and is working with her colleagues to come up with working groups and assist in several key functions of our Assembly as well as provide opportunities for the next generation of Assembly leaders to help us all improve. They have an early interest in the web and social media content, so please be on the lookout for their posts on Twitter among other places.

Speaking of online content, Jarrod Barnes has been keeping our website up to date and working with Jason Elinoff on some well attended journal clubs. I have participated in some myself and found the format to be very easy to use and really enjoyed the opportunity to engage with colleagues near and far in timely scientific discussions.

As a fellow, junior investigator and now as a faculty member, the PC Assembly has provided me with a home where I can receive mentorship, critical feedback, opportunities to serve and a network around the world of peers and friends. While we will not meet in person this year, these opportunities will still be here for you in the many ongoing activities in our Assembly. I encourage you to get involved and be excited about the 2021 International Conference. Please engage with our Assembly through social media, through online journal clubs, through participation in committees and, most importantly, through submitting your best science for presentation in 2021! If I can facilitate in any way, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

I really do look forward to our meeting again in person in 2021!

Sincerely,
Anna Hemnes

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

Sebastien Bonnet, PhD, MSc Chair, Elena A. Goncharova, PhD, Chair-Elect

The International ATS Conference is the best place to learn and exchange on the latest basic, translational and clinical research on pulmonary and critical care. PC assembly is dedicated to promote and support innovative basic, translational, epidemiological and clinical science in every pediatric and adult pulmonary vascular diseases and right heart disease. This year our Program Committee lead by Dr. Sebastien Bonnet and Dr. Elena Goncharova has put a lot of effort in providing the best possible program by involving a large number of young faculty in both the program construction and their participation as presenter and moderator in every single PC sessions. In fact for the first time the program committee has created a young faculty program sub-committee (lead by Dr. Umar Soban; Dr. Rebecca Vanderpool and Dr. Imad Al Ghouleh) which has proposed innovative and novel ways of improving poster sessions discussion. Again for the first time 2 other sub-committees has been put together by the PC program committee. A clinical research committee (lead by Dr. Patricia Thistlethwaite; Dr. Steeve Provencher and Dr. Thenappan Thenappan) in charge of building a unique and innovative clinical program covering the latest clinical outcome related to PC assembly interest. A basic and translational research committee (lead by Dr. Soni Pullamsetti, Dr. Micheala Aldred and Dr. Steve Chan) has been helping in developing an outstanding basic and translational research program covering the latest cutting edge techniques used in preclinical research and offering the opportunity to present to the international ATS audience the future therapies for pulmonary vascular diseases. Finally, over the course of the last several months, our Program Committee worked very hard, together with the other Assemblies, to get the best science programmed at the International Conference on “hot topic” in lung diseases including E-cigarette; microbiota or cannabis used. Hoping everyone stays safe!

WEB COMMITTEE REPORT

Jarrold Wesley Barnes, PhD, MSc, Web Director

The Pulmonary Circulation Web Editorial Committee is made up of a mixture of pulmonologists and research scientists, which are all interested in a better understanding of vascular biology and curing lung disease. The goal of the Pulmonary Circulation Web Editorial Committee is to extend our knowledge base and information flow through use of the website and social media platforms. Over the past year, we have been active in streamlining the website and social media to ensure seamless alignment for capturing and promoting key content including Journal Clubs and Podcasts.

The Pulmonary Circulation Assembly Journal Club has created exciting new content with webinars and important journal recaps with expert commentary. Upcoming and past Journal Clubs can be viewed on our website at <https://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/assemblies/pc/journal-club/>. In addition, you can use this website to reserve your seat for the journal club presentations. We encourage submissions for potential articles or topics for the future! This is a great way for early career professionals to build their CV. Please feel free to contact one of the journal club editors: Drs. Jason Elinoff (elinoffj@cc.nih.gov), Andrea Frump (anfrump@iu.edu), Eric Gartman (eric_gartman@brown.edu), Daniel Lachant (daniel_lachan@urmc.rochester.edu) or John Swisher (jswisher@comcast.net) if you are interested.

We also have published two Podcasts over the past year and would like to increase our numbers using this platform. These and other podcasts can be viewed on our website at <https://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/assemblies/pc/podcasts.php>. If you are interested in helping with the Podcasts or have ideas you would like to contribute, please contact Meghan Cirulis (meghan.cirulis@hsc.utah.edu) or Jarrod Barnes (barnesj5@uab.edu) for more information. For those that would like to know more about what’s going on in Pulmonary Circulation, please follow us on twitter @ATS_PC to get real time tweets about ‘everything’ Pulmonary Circulation as well as the latest updates and information on upcoming conferences, Journal Clubs, Podcasts, etc.

We are looking to grow our Web Team! If you are interested in getting involved with the Pulmonary Circulation Assembly and the Web Committee on any level please contact the PC Web Director, Jarrod Barnes (barnesj5@uab.edu) or the Early Career Investigators Working Group Chair, Rebecca Vanderpool (vanderpoolrr@email.arizona.edu) for more details.

JOURNAL CLUB REPORT

Jason Elinoff, MD, Chair

On behalf of the PC Journal Club co-editors, I would like to thank the presenters, authors and discussants that participated in our webinar presentations in 2019. We featured a variety of excellent studies this past year (see below for details) and we could not have done it without enthusiastic colleagues who generously volunteered their time.

The goal of the current format of the PC Journal Club is to pair senior trainees or junior faculty with senior faculty from the host site and to broaden the reach of the journal club. Host junior faculty/trainees select and present an article of interest while harnessing the ATS

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JOURNAL CLUB REPORT (continued)

Jason Elinoff, MD, Chair

webinar platform to involve the article authors and ATS member participants in a group discussion of the article after the presentation. The journal club co-editors and ATS support Staff assist with the organizing and scheduling so that the presenter really only focuses on the article presentation. A typical presentation is no more than 20-25 minutes, thus the bulk of the webinar is a moderated discussion with the authors, invited expert discussants and the online audience.

We are always looking for programs, labs, or fellowships to “host” a PC Journal Club webinar. If you are interested, please do not hesitate to reach out to one of the co-editors: Jason Elinoff (elinoffj@cc.nih.gov), Andrea Frump (anfrump@iu.edu), Daniel Lachant (daniel_lachant@urmc.rochester.edu), and John Swisher (jswisher@comcast.net)

2019 Journal Club Highlights

January 2019

Article: “Nintedanib plus Sildenafil in Patients with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis”

NEJM. 2018;379:1722-1731

Presenter: John Swisher MD, PhD (Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center)

Participating Author(s): Dr. Fernando Martinez (Weill Cornell Medicine)

Expert Discussant(s): Dr. Steve Nathan (Inova Advanced Lung Disease and Transplant Program)

March 2019

Article: “Exome Sequencing in Children with Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension Demonstrates Differences Compared with Adults”

Circ Genom Precis Med. 2018;11(4):e001887

Presenter: Lea Steffes MD (Stanford University Pediatric Pulmonary Department)

Participating Author(s): Dr. Wendy Chung (Columbia University)

Expert Discussant(s): Drs. David Cornfield (Stanford University), Eric Austin (Vanderbilt University), and David McCulley (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

August 2019

Abstracts:

“PVDOMICS: Early Clinical Findings Across the Spectrum of Pulmonary Hypertension”

Decrease in Intraparenchymal Small Vessel Fraction in Exercise Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension

129Xenon MR Imaging and Spectroscopic Signatures to Differentiate Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension from Other Heart and Lung Disease

Presenter(s): Jason Elinoff MD (NIH Clinical Center), Daniel Lachant (University of Rochester Medical Center) and John Swisher MD, PhD (Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center)

Participating Author(s): Drs. Anna Hemnes (Vanderbilt University), Nick Rahaghi (Brigham and Women’s Hospital), Elianna Bier (Duke University) and Sudarshan Rajagopal (Duke University)

October 2019

Article: "Discovery of Distinct Immune Phenotypes Using Machine Learning in Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension”

Circ Res. 2019;124(6):904-919

Presenter: Mona Alotaibi MD (University of California San Diego)

Participating Author(s): Drs. Andrew Sweatt (Stanford University) and Roham Zamanian (Stanford University)

Expert Discussant(s): Drs. Anna Hemnes (Vanderbilt University), Jane Leopold (Brigham and Women's Hospital), Jason Yuan (University of California San Diego) and Laura Crotty (University of California San Diego)

Free Patient Fact Sheets!

The ATS Patient Information Series contains over 150 high quality, patient-friendly fact sheets on topics such as COPD, PFTs, OSA, and special topics such as COVID-19. These fact sheets are free and accessible from the ATS Website at www.thoracic.org/patients. If you would like to serve as an author, reviewer, or have topic suggestions, contact Judy Corn, ATS Staff, at jcorn@thoracic.org



ATS 2020 | VIRTUAL IS COMING



ATS 2020 | VIRTUAL

August 2020

American Thoracic Society

ATS Research Program

Spread the word: Apply for a Research Grant

- Last year, ATS awarded 25 grants totaling over \$1.2 million
- Two grants are accepting applications now
 - ATS/CHEST Foundation Research Grant in Diversity
 - ATS/GSK Research Grant in COVID-19
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- Annual Grant Portfolio opens June 1st
 - Letter of Intent Deadline August 25th

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ATS Giving Opportunities

Make a gift today!

- **Research Program:** provides lifeline funding for young investigators pursuing promising cures and treatments for lung-disease patients
- **MECOR:** improving global health through research and education
- **Ziskind Clinical Research Scholar Awards:** recognizing outstanding clinical researchers
- **Assembly Awards & Scholarships:** supporting ATS assembly awards and scholarships
- **Assembly Programs:** supporting ATS Assembly programmatic activities
- **Medical Education Research:** fueling novel educational approaches for training medical residents, fellows, and junior faculty
- **Philip Hopewell Prize for Global Respiratory Health Research:** recognizing early-career investigators from developing countries for their published research in a peer-reviewed journal

Reminder: The ATS Foundation dissolved in February, 2020. All Foundation programs are now part of the ATS



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