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# Assembly on Respiratory Cell & Molecular Biology

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## MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY CHAIR

Dear RCMB Members and Friends,

The year 2020 is a very different year for all of us! The COVID-19 pandemic remains a challenge and changed our way of life, however, it also allowed us to explore and accelerate new opportunities to communicate, share, and interact with each other. Our activities at ATS/RCMB have taken us to new exciting roads over the past weeks: We have been focusing on transferring our ATS 2020 Program into a virtual format and providing fact-based scientific information on COVID-19 for our members and the broader community.

In this Newsletter, we will review and summarize our RCMB activities and initiatives over the last year(s) and also provide you with a preview of activities planned for the near future! I am happy to share these RCMB Achievements and Outlooks with all of you!

While I very much miss seeing you all in person at the International Conference this year, I am delighted to announce that we will hold our ATS RCMB Membership Meeting as a virtual session on June 25th, beginning at 6PM EST via ZOOM. The RCMB Membership Meeting will bring all of us together. The RCMB Leadership Team will share what we did over the last year, and we will honour and celebrate our members! Please join us by [registering here](#)). With the 2020 Virtual RCMB Membership Meeting, my term as RCMB Assembly Chair will end. It has been my privilege and honour to serve this amazing, buzzing, grassroots assembly, as well as the ATS community at large. The dedication and energy of our assembly stood out during the ATS Assembly Challenges, in which RCMB was the Assembly with the most first-time donors two years in a row. Thank you very much for being a RCMB member and for your continuous support of our Assembly!

I am very grateful for the opportunity to work with so many dedicated, smart, and fun people from the RCMB executive committee and beyond – Assembly work truly is a team effort! Here are some of our highlights, which are further detailed below: 1) We have initiated two new Working Groups on exciting and timely topics: one on Innovation and Entrepreneurship and one on Aging, which is now part of an ATS-wide Interest Group. 2) We further strengthened the visibility of and programming for PhDs, Basic and Translational Scientists, and expanded our programming within the Science and Innovation Center. 3) We initiated a new Award mechanism, honoring International RCMB Members for their passion of science and service to our RCMB community.

All of this wouldn't be possible without the support, commitment, and insight from the ATS staff, especially Miriam Rodriguez and her team! A big THANK YOU to our ATS Super Stars!

Moving forward, I am very excited that Patricia Sime, MD, Professor of Medicine and Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia, will be the new RCMB Assembly Chair. I couldn't think of a better person to continue to guide and lift RCMB to new heights! I am confident that our Assembly will continue to grow and get stronger – turning challenges into opportunities, as we always have!



**Assembly Chair:**  
Melanie Koenigshoff, MD, PhD, ATSF

(Continued on page 2)

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR (continued)

Thank you all again for being members of our Assembly, please stay healthy, strong and together!

Melanie Königshoff  
Outgoing Assembly Chair  
ATS Assembly Respiratory Cell & Molecular Biology (RCMB)

If I can be of any assistance moving forward, please feel free to contact me directly: [Melanie.koenigshoff@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:Melanie.koenigshoff@cuanschutz.edu), twitter handle: [@m\\_koenigshoff](https://twitter.com/m_koenigshoff)

## MESSAGE FROM THE INCOMING CHAIR

Patricia Sime, MD

Dear RCMB assembly,

I am very excited to join your team as assembly chair and will miss seeing you in person at the annual conference. RCMB has been my home for many years and I am excited to help champion our shared missions and passion for science. I look forward to working with each of you as we bring together MD and PhD researchers and trainees engaged in basic and translational lung biology research. A special warm welcome to all our new members. We look forward to working with you as we plan our future together and address the challenges of the past few months. We have a terrific RCMB team to lead our committees, projects and working groups and would love to hear from you as you have ideas to share or would like to become involved. A special thanks to Melanie Koenigshoff for leading our assembly for the last 2 years. Her dedication, passion and commitment to the assembly has been an inspiration to us all, and we will not let her go far! I look forward to seeing you on-line in the webinars and at the virtual annual meeting later in the year. Go RCMB!

## PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

Enid R. Neptune, MD, Chair and Jeanine M. D'Armiento, MD, PhD, Chair-Elect

The annual American Thoracic Society meeting is one of the highlights 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. The Program Committee membership now comprises 35 members from around the world who worked with tremendous enthusiasm to construct an exciting program for the initial ATS 2020 Meeting. We were also advantaged by our talented RCMB Program Committee Apprentice Stephanie Krick. From that program, we have now created the **Virtual ATS 2020 for our assembly**. Every year the Program Committee reviews, grades, collates and develops all of the Scientific Symposia, Minisymposia, Poster-discussion and Thematic poster sessions, Post-graduate courses, Meet the Professor sessions, Workshops and Sunrise Seminars.

To promote interactions and programmatic synergy across assemblies, we also work closely with colleagues in other assemblies including AII, RSF, EOPH, and PEDS. The committee's work began last summer, reviewing 31 excellent proposals for scientific symposia, sunrise seminars, and postgraduate courses. Ultimately, we were able to program 6 RCMB major symposia, with an additional 2 symposia shared jointly with other assemblies. We also contributed meaningfully to the two Top-Down Symposia that were anchored on the scientific theme of Lung Regeneration: Intersection of Biology and Technology. For the initial 2020 conference, the RCMB programmed 2 Sunrise Seminars, 1 Meet the Professor session and 2 Post Graduate Courses. Collectively, we had an incredible year with respect to content, scientific breadth and high visibility. Our virtual ATS 2020 meeting now includes RCMB-sponsored 3 Scientific Symposia (including the Scientific Breakthroughs session), 1 Joint Symposium and 2 Top-Down sessions. These were selected by the International Conference Committee and ATS staff.

This year's "Basic Science Core Topic" is **Lung Regeneration: Intersection of Biology and Technology**. The RCMB programmed Scientific Breakthroughs session is entitled "New Views of Tissue Regeneration" and will feature leaders in this field including Xin Sun, Darrell Kotton, Hal Chapman, Jennifer Ellisieff, Carla Kim with a keynote talk by Hans Clever. This is scheduled as Session C85 for August 5, 2020, 8:30 – 10:30 am.

This year RCMB received 642 abstract submissions, a number slightly lower than the tally for the 2019 conference. These abstracts were programmed into 6 Mini Symposia, 7 Poster Discussion Sessions, and 15 Thematic Poster Sessions. For the virtual ATS meeting, the presenters of these programmed abstracts will be able to submit ePosters. The ePosters will be available for viewing for 90 days starting August 5. Over 100 colleagues agreed to help in chairing sessions, serving as featured speakers or as facilitators/moderators at this year's programmed sessions. We want to emphasize our gratitude for the enthusiastic participation of our membership and colleagues. We are aware of the constraints imposed by the COVID realities which clearly limited our research spectrum in the Virtual Program. **We are planning to use webinar formats during the fall of 2020 that will feature components of our RCMB research program that we were unable to cover in the Virtual Program.** You will hear more about this in the near future.

## PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT (continued)

We look forward to a return to normal in 2021 as we maintain this high level of enthusiasm. **We encourage you to be part of shaping the RCMB Program for 2021.** The call for proposals for Scientific Symposia, PG courses, Sunrise Seminars and Meet the Professor Sessions for ATS 2021 begins in June 2020 and the **deadline for submission is July 29 at 5:00 pm eastern time.** The abstract submission deadline for 2021 is Wednesday, December 16, 2020. Now is the time to start working with your colleagues to develop ideas for the 2021 program. The Basic Science Core for next years' conference is Sex and Gender in Lung Disease, which is an exciting topic for our Assembly. The Program chairs and committee 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, and we welcome contributions from enthusiastic members. The Program committee for 2020-21 has been finalized but there are approximately 5-10 new positions available every year. We are also excited about our new RCMB Program Committee Apprentice, Jennifer Larson-Casey.

If you are interested in joining the Committee for next year, please contact the **Incoming Chair, Jeanine D'Armiento** ([jmd12@cumc.columbia.edu](mailto:jmd12@cumc.columbia.edu)), who will maintain a list of interested individuals. Lastly, we would like to thank the Program Committee Members and the ATS-IC staff. We especially appreciated the patience, expertise, experience, guidance, and dedication of ATS-IC staff! The RCMB planning committee has two primary responsibilities. First, we review **ATS Assembly/Committee project applications** in which RCMB is the primary sponsor. These projects, submitted by any Assembly member, request funds and administrative support for activities that enhance the communication and collaborative efforts of members with common interests. These projects should enhance the collection, interpretation and dissemination of information pertaining to focused areas of pulmonary disease that are of interest to the membership of the assembly. Toward this end, project proposals can be submitted to support the formation of working groups and/or the planning and execution of thematic workshops and meetings with the goal of producing and publishing a statement or report based on those activities. The planning committee reviews these proposals and provides feedback to submitting as they revise the proposal before it is reviewed again and final funding decisions made by the ATS Program-review subcommittee and the ATS finance committee. In the last fiscal year, RCMB was the sponsor of a renewed project, submitted by Dr. Darcy Wagner (Lund University), to support the publication of **"Stem Cells, Cell Therapies, and Bioengineering in Lung Biology and Diseases: Official ATS Workshop Report"**. We welcome the submission of projects by RCMB members, and if any member has an idea or questions about advancing a project proposal, please feel free to contact me in the early stages and I will be happy to work with you as the proposal comes together.

## PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Jeffrey C. Horowitz, MD, ATSF, Chair

The RCMB Planning Committee also has the privilege of reviewing applications for the RCMB Assembly Awards. In the past, these have included the **Carol Basbaum Award** to recognize outstanding scientific achievement and leadership potential in a junior investigator and the **Andy Tager Award for Excellence in Mentoring**. In the past year, the committee proposed and developed a new RCMB award meant to recognize the scientific accomplishments and contributions of investigators from the international community. Next year we will have the honor of presenting the inaugural **"RCMB Award for Research Excellence and Service by an International Member."** Notably, this inaugural award will honor of Geoff Laurent, Ph.D. and Tomoko Betsuyaku M.D., who served as the inspiration for its development. We hope that will serve as a testament to their passion for knowledge, service to our community and contributions to our understanding of the biological basis of lung disease.

As I conclude my second year as the Chair of the RCMB planning committee, I must again thank the members of the committee for all of their contributions. I missed seeing my friends in Philly and hope that we will all be together again in San Diego for ATS 2021!

## WEB COMMITTEE REPORT

Maor Sauler, MD, Co-Director, Brian D. Southern, MD, Co-Director

As members of the RCMB assembly, we are part of a global community of pulmonologists, scientists, and researchers. The ability to share ideas with colleagues around the world is critical to achieving our mission of reducing the burden of lung disease. The goal of the RCMB website committee is to **provide a virtual forum to facilitate scientific conversations and collaborations amongst RCMB members.** We have been successful in using various media forums to accomplish this goal over the past year. We are extremely grateful to Maor Sauler, outgoing website committee chair, for his leadership and active participation over the past two years. This past year we have conducted a series of **exciting journal club webinars.** The first was a joint project with the Section on Genetics/Genomics, discussing the AJRCCM manuscript by Paul Reyfman and colleagues on "Single-cell transcriptomic analysis of human lung provides insights into the pathobiology of pulmonary fibrosis". The second was a discussion of the JCI Insight manuscript "Transcriptional regulatory model of fibrosis progression in the human lung" by JE McDonough and colleagues. The third webinar was a joint presentation with the GG and AII assemblies to discuss the AJRCCM article "A genetic risk score associated with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease susceptibility and lung structure on computed tomography" by EC Oelsner and colleagues. When the COVID-19 pandemic began, we quickly assembled experts from around the world and coordinated a number of joint webinars with other assemblies with a scientific focus on the disease. Our first webinar on the **"Current Understanding of COVID-19 pathophysiology"** drew over 1500 registrants and had over 800 live viewers! Other well attended webinars included "Genomics of SARS-CoV-2", "Respiratory Patho-

## WEB COMMITTEE REPORT (continued)

physiology of Mechanically Ventilated Patients with COVID-19: A Cohort Study” and “Cellular Mechanisms of SARS-CoV2-infection.” **Look out for upcoming webinars on “COVID-19 and aging” and a special webinar from the Innovation and Entrepreneurial Working Group.**

We have continued to create **stimulating podcasts with established and rising leaders in the field of respiratory biology**. The first, conducted by Rachel Knipe, involved the discussion of the AJRCCM manuscript “Telomere length and immunosuppression in IPF” with Chad Newton, David Zhang, Justin Oldham, and Ganesh Raghu. The second podcast was a timely session conducted by Karina Serban with Irina Petrache on “Revisiting the effects of vaping on the distal lung in light of the new EVALI outbreak.” In March, Rachel Knipe and Eric Abston discussed exciting advances in “Molecular Imaging in Pulmonary Fibrosis” with Peter Caravan and Sydney Montesi. Most recently Maor Sauler presented a 3-part series called “Interview with the Editors” where five editors of major respiratory journals provided advice on the editorial review process.

All webinars and podcasts can be viewed and/or downloaded from the ATS website. ATS podcasts can also be found on iTunes. We continue to have a very active social media presence with our **twitter account @ATS\_RCMB**. With over 1300 followers our tweets have, on multiple occasions, generated over 20,000 impressions per month! Look forward in the coming months to tweets highlighting things to look for at Virtual ATS 2020.

Finally, we have made a number of improvements to the website, particularly involving our working groups and committees. This can be viewed at <https://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/assemblies/rcmb/working-groups/>. Milica Vukmirovic and Louise Hecker have done an excellent job putting together a video and links to the Innovation and Entrepreneurial Working Group and the exciting things they are doing.

The RCMB website committee is a great way to get involved in ATS, particularly for junior members, and we are always looking to add members to our committee. It’s also a great way to share your research with the ATS community. Please contact me at [southeb@ccf.org](mailto:southeb@ccf.org) if you would like to participate or have any suggestions.

## EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONALS WORKING GROUP REPORT

Clemente J. Britto-Leon, MD, Co-Chair, Jaime Hook, MD Co-Chair

The Mission of the Early Career Professionals Working Group (ECPWG) is to increase involvement of trainees, fellows, and junior faculty in the RCMB Assembly and ATS as a whole. We are a mix of MDs and PhDs from the U.S. and abroad helping other early career professionals take full advantage of the resources available through the ATS.

Every year, the ECPWG coordinates the **RCMB Mentoring Program** at the ATS International Conference. The Mentoring Program provides opportunities to exchange ideas and experiences that support scientific collaboration, career development, and networking opportunities amongst our members in a welcoming one-on-one format. Our mentors help trainees, fellows, and junior faculty explore available networking opportunities at key Conference venues including the RCMB business meeting and reception. This year, our Mentoring Program will take place virtually. Help us increase visibility and participation in this important program for ATS 2021. Your participation as mentor and or mentee is very valuable – please join us!

**This is the second year of the RCMB Apprenticeship Program**, a mechanism to provide early career Assembly members with an opportunity to be directly involved in guiding the future of the ATS. Apprentices may serve in either the Program or Planning Committee. Under the mentorship of a Committee member, Apprentices get a ‘behind the scenes’ look at the operations of the Assembly while developing skills for evaluation of Committee applications and development of Committee projects. The selected participants for the upcoming year will be announced at the RCMB Virtual Membership Meeting.

We hope you will join us for this year’s **RCMB Virtual Membership Meeting and Breakout Sessions on Thursday June 25th from 6:00 - 8:00 pm EST** via Zoom. The Meeting provides an invaluable opportunity for young investigators to learn about RCMB initiatives and the RCMB community. The Meeting will be followed by short sessions in three separate breakout rooms that will feature conversations with RCMB committees and working groups, including ours! Register for these breakout room sessions [here!](#)

As part of our mission to support the advancement of early career professionals, we are thrilled to announce the **Third Class of the Recognition for Early Academic Achievement (REAAch) Award**. This Award highlights the academic achievement and increases the recognition of members of the Assembly at the Instructor and Assistant Professor level. The awardees will be announced during the RCMB Assembly Virtual Membership Meeting.

The ECPWG strives to ensure that junior members make the most of their experience as members of the Assembly. We work with the

## EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONALS WORKING GROUP REPORT (continued)

organizers of the Science and Innovation Center (SIC) and Members in Training and Transition Committee (MITT) to develop programming relevant to our members. We include our **RCMB picks** in the MITT roadmap to highlight seminars and events of interest to early career professionals within RCMB, and we provide our **RCMB Roadmap and New Member (RCMB Organelles) cards** to guide trainees, fellows, and junior faculty through ATS.

We are always looking to add qualified individuals to enrich our group. Please contact us if you are interested in participating at [jaime.hook@mssm.edu](mailto:jaime.hook@mssm.edu). We look forward to welcoming you to the first ever Virtual ATS in 2020 and hope to see you at the Membership Meeting and Breakout Sessions!

## LUNG AGING RESEARCH WORKING GROUP REPORT

**Co-Chairs:** Irfan Rahman, PhD, ATSF, GR Scott Budinger, MD, Louise Hecker, Ph.D, Co-Chair,

**ECP Representative:** Benjamin D. Singer, MD,

**Postdoctoral Representative:** Mareike Lehmann, PhD

The Lung Aging Research Working Group continued its core activities throughout 2020. With the evolving COVID-19 pandemic's disproportionate impact on older patients, our group's goals have taken on even more importance. Our main goal is to increase awareness and disseminate knowledge of the pathophysiological mechanisms/**hallmarks** of aging in the lungs with interests in terms of basic biology of aging in debilitating lung diseases including critical care. Our group brings together lung researchers who are interested in understanding the cellular and molecular mechanisms of aging and age-related lung diseases and forms a forum for discussion on hallmarks of lung aging and associated diseases.

Our main activities have included a well-attended lunch meeting at ATS 2019, coordination of scientific symposia and abstract submissions with the Critical Care assembly, and planning an exciting webinar for the summer of 2020 in **hot and timely topics of interests to our members**. We continue to do our activities in the forthcoming year, and expect to organize regular zoom/webex meetings with our members.

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

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[benjamin-singer@northwestern.edu](mailto:benjamin-singer@northwestern.edu)

[lhecker@email.arizona.edu](mailto:lhecker@email.arizona.edu)

## RCMB SCIENCE AND INNOVATION CENTER REPORT

David Lagares, PhD & Tom Mariani, PhD, Co-Chairs

The **Science and Innovation Center (SIC)** is a venue for basic scientists and physicians-scientists to network and learn more about emerging new technologies advancing research in respiratory, critical care and sleep medicine. The principles of the Center are Networking, Career Assistance, Education and Social Opportunities.

For ATS 2020, RCMB SIC liasons (David Lagares and Tom Mariani) helped to create the NEW SIC website . This website will house Virtual SIC content, featuring many elements of the traditional in-person SIC events in the form of live seminars, webinars and podcasts. We would like to highlight some special virtual content where we would love to see a big presence of RCMB members:

- **Rising Star and SIC Abstract Awards.** RCMB recipients will be awarded this coming Thursday, June 25, 2020 at the virtual RCMB membership meeting. This is a great opportunity to support our Rising Stars!
- **PhD and Basic Science Reception.** This is a perfect opportunity to meet and mingle with other. The virtual reception is currently being developed and should be held sometime in July.
- **Seminars discussing exciting new technologies** in respiratory research such as artificial intelligence, non-invasive molecular imaging and big data analysis.
- **Basic science** talks on lung regeneration, aging and lung organoids.
- **Sessions on professional and career development**
- **The Bear Cage** (hosted by DDDD). A science competition that promotes productive discussion of novel translational research ideas in the setting of a fun, yet competitive, forum.

The SIC 2020 virtual program and registration links can be found at: [https://www.thoracic.org/professionals/career-development/ats-](https://www.thoracic.org/professionals/career-development/ats-assembly-on-rcmb)

# RCMB SCIENCE AND INNOVATION CENTER REPORT (continued)

[virtual-network/portal-access/sic/index.php](https://www.thoracic.org/professionals/career-development/ats-virtual-network/portal-access/sic/index.php)

Our virtual content is free and open to audience members.

Stay tuned for detailed information on each coming SIC seminar, webinar and podcasts!

[dlagares@mgh.harvard.edu](mailto:dlagares@mgh.harvard.edu)

[Tom\\_Mariani@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:Tom_Mariani@urmc.rochester.edu)

SIC page - <https://www.thoracic.org/professionals/career-development/ats-virtual-network/portal-access/sic/index.php>

Twitter page - [@AtsSic](https://twitter.com/AtsSic)

## PhD and BASIC and TRANSLATIONAL WORKING GROUP REPORT

Scott Randell, PhD, Co-Chair, Elizabeth Redente, PhD, Co-Chair

**The PhD and Basic and Translational Scientists Working Group (PBTS WG)** is an inclusive and growing community of ATS representatives appointed by each Assembly Chair as well as members with a long-standing history of interest in matters of special concern to PhDs and other basic and translational scientists. The goals of the working group are to support, facilitate, and empower ATS members to achieve their full professional potential as researchers by active participation in ATS as well as to advocate for scientists who perform basic and early translational research and non-physician allied health professionals within ATS. By serving and supporting the professional interest and growth of a critical and large sector of the ATS membership constituted by PhDs, scientists, and non-physician health professionals, the PBTS WG has been instrumental for advancing research in respiratory disease, critical illness, sleep disorders and health worldwide.

### **A Virtual Reception for PhDs & Other Basic Science Researchers is Being Planned!**

The annual PhD Reception, usually held at the **Science and Innovation Center (SIC)**, is a highlight of the annual meeting. This year a virtual meeting is in the planning stages, and further information will be forthcoming. Trainees and early career stage investigators are especially welcome and encouraged to virtually attend to meet and network with other scientists and to engage ATS and Assembly leaders.

The PBTS WG works closely with the **Science and Innovation Center (SIC)**. Be sure to check out the virtual SIC content that is currently being posted on the **SIC website**:

<https://www.thoracic.org/professionals/career-development/ats-virtual-network/portal-access/sic/index.php>

Coming in August: **Podcast Benefits of participating in ATS - a PhD perspective** featuring Scott Randell, PhD, Melanie Königshoff, MD, PhD and Samantha Yeligar, PhD

### **Submit an Assembly/Committee Project Application for funding in FY2021!**

We are happy to announce that ATS will once again accept NEW Assembly/Committee Projects for FY2021. All interested applicants should begin developing their ideas for Assembly/Committee Project Applications. Applications will be available on the ATS website at <https://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/about/project-application.php> on August 1st with a deadline of August 31st.

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, Jeffrey C. Horowitz, MD at [jef-frey.horowitz@osumc.edu](mailto:jef-frey.horowitz@osumc.edu)

Please contact Miriam Rodriguez with any questions at tel: 212/315-8639 or email: [mrodriguez@thoracic.org](mailto:mrodriguez@thoracic.org).

### **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](http://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](mailto:jcorn@thoracic.org)

## ATS Assembly Members Give Generously to the ATS Foundation

Thank you for participating in the [2019 ATS Assembly Challenge](#)!

The annual challenge taps into the grassroots community — and competitive spirit — of the ATS assemblies in support of the ATS Foundation.

The results are: the Assembly on **Allergy Immunology & Inflammation** raised the most dollars with \$69,188; **Nursing** had the highest member participation with 20.34 percent; **Respiratory Cell & Molecular Biology** had the highest number of first-time givers in December with 22 new donors.



**Melanie Koenigshoff, MD, PhD, ATSF**, chair for the Assembly on Respiratory Cell & Molecular Biology, receives RCMB's 2019 ATS Assembly Challenge award from James Beck, MD, ATSF, ATS President

Many members made gifts supporting the [Research Program](#) and other core programs in the final days of 2019. There was tremendous energy around the Challenge this year, with assembly chairs crafting special messages to their members. Most chairs sent two or more personal emails to their members during the Challenge.

Congratulations to the Allergy Immunology & Inflammation, Nursing, and Respiratory Cell & Molecular Biology assemblies! They will receive special recognition in ATS communications, at ATS 2020, and within their own assemblies.

The ATS would like to thank all ATS assemblies for their outreach and [generosity during the Challenge](#). You provided a big boost to our year-end giving campaigns—and a boost to our upcoming grant-making capacity for talented investigators. Thank you for your enthusiastic support!

Truly, your energy, creativity, and participation were outstanding. Thank you for everything you do for the ATS, young investigators, patients, and respiratory health worldwide.

To learn more about the ATS Research Program or to make a gift, visit [research.thoracic.org](http://research.thoracic.org).



**Linda L. Chlan, PhD, RN, ATSF**, chair for the Assembly on Nursing, receives Nursing's 2019 ATS Assembly Challenge award from James Beck, MD, ATSF, ATS President



**Jay K. Kolls, MD**, chair for the Assembly on Allergy Immunology & Inflammation, receives All's 2019 ATS Assembly Challenge award from James Beck, MD, ATSF, ATS President

## Upcoming Science and Innovation Webinars

**Register Now:** <https://thoracic.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUlcumvpjorEtGoPuuksKJS6dr93F1znO0J>

Topic: Improving the Quality and Reproducibility of Flow Cytometry in the Lung

When: Wednesday, June 24, 12 p.m. ET

For: PhDs, MDs, Nurses, Early Career Professionals

Moderator: Anne Sperling, PhD, ATSF (University of Chicago) and John Alcorn, PhD (Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh)

Discussants:

- Elizabeth Redente, PhD (National Jewish Health)
- Benjamin Singer, MD, ATSF (Northwestern University)
- Robert M. Tighe, MD (Duke University)

**Register now:** <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8664255388339304719>

Topic: Beyond Alum and Capsular Polysaccharides

When: Tuesday, Jun 30, 2020 5:00 p.m. ET

For: PhDs, MDs, Nurses, Early Career Professionals

Moderator: Alexa Pragman, MD, PhD (Minneapolis VA Medical Center)

Discussants:

- Elizabeth Norton, PhD (Tulane School of Medicine)
- Jay Kolls, MD, ATSF (Tulane School of Medicine)



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IS AUGUST 5-10



## ATS Research Program

### Spread the word: Apply for a Research Grant

- Last year, ATS awarded 25 grants totaling over \$1.2 million
- Annual Grant Portfolio opens June 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Letter of Intent Deadline August 25<sup>th</sup>
  - Full Application Deadline December 1<sup>st</sup>

Visit [research.thoracic.org](https://research.thoracic.org)



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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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