

# Assembly on Respiratory Structure and Function (RSF) Newsletter



Assembly Chair:  
**Connie C. Hsia, MD, ATSF, FCCP**

**Assembly Officers**  
**Janette K. Burgess, BSc, PhD, ATSF**  
Assembly Chair-Elect  
[j.k.burgess@umcg.nl]

**Amir A. Zeki, MD**  
Planning Chair  
[aazeki@ucdavis.edu]

**Jason C. Woods, PhD**  
Program Chair  
[jason.woods@cchmc.org]

**Matthew Georgenson Drake, MD**  
Program Chair-Elect  
[drakem@ohsu.edu]

**Gwen S. Skloot, MD, ATSF**  
Nominating Chair  
[gwen.skloot@chiesi.com]

**Johanna Uthoff, PhD**  
Web Director  
[j.uthoff@sheffield.ac.uk]

**Assembly Contact**  
Website:  
[<https://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/assemblies/rsf/index.php>]  
Email: [rsf@thoracic.org]

## IN THIS ISSUE

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| <b>Message from the Assembly Chair</b> .....                                | 1-2   |
| <b>Program Committee Report</b> .....                                       | 3-7   |
| <b>Planning Committee Report</b> .....                                      | 8     |
| <b>Early Career Professionals</b> .....                                     | 8     |
| <b>Nominating Report</b> .....  | 9     |
| <b>PhD, Basic &amp; Translational Scientists Working Group Report</b> ..... | 9-10  |
| <b>Basic Science Core</b> .....   | 11    |
| <b>SIC Summary of Proceedings for RSF</b> .....                             | 11-12 |

## Message from the Assembly Chair

Dear Members:

One year ago in the last Spring Assembly Newsletter, I wrote to you full of anticipation for the return to normalcy as the number of COVID-19 cases declined and a new dawn beckoned. Alas the Omicron variant raised its beastly head soon after and continued to subjugate the world under siege. Our optimism was subdued and our forbearance tested but never faltered. Following another weary winter of pandemic restraints, spring returns as it always does. Mother Nature's unceasing cycle of repair, revitalization and regeneration unfolds all around us, fueling our own hope and yearning for rejuvenation of body, mind and spirit and re-affirming our collective resolution to prevail over adversity, natural or man-made.

As we welcome a return to face-to-face ATS International Conference (May 13-18, 2022) and the RSF Assembly Membership Meeting (Sun, May 15, 2022) in San Francisco, it is appropriate to take stock of the changes wrought by the pandemic. The membership and abstract submissions for the Assembly and the ATS remain reduced compared to that before the pandemic. Consequently, the 2022 International Conference will be smaller in scale. Despite ongoing challenges, we continue to take pride in the creativity, diversity and inclusiveness of our assembly. The [ATS-RSF-Assembly](#) brings together a broad spectrum of basic and applied scientists, translational and clinical investigators, and clinicians with shared passion for scientific discovery in respiratory physiology, disease pathogenesis and therapy as well as patient care. We are fortunate to maintain a large representation of international members, women and minority groups, and young professionals and trainees, covering wide expertise areas in basic and translational biology, clinical sciences, medical practice, allied health, industry and community sectors.

Thanks to the diligence of our Program Committee Chairs Jason Woods, PhD and Matthew Drake, MD, an outstanding panel of twenty-seven members and one apprentice member, the RSF Assembly has put together another strong scientific program consisting of four Scientific Symposia, two Joint Symposia, five Mini-symposia, two Meet the Expert sessions, six Poster Discussions, one Postgraduate Course, thirty-six Case Reports, and multiple Thematic Poster Sessions.

The Planning Committee, led by Amir Zeki, MD, evaluated three new Assembly Project applications of which one was approved for funding, along with two renewal proposals. This month the Committee will select the awardees for four prestigious RSF Assembly Awards.

Our Nominating Committee, led by Gwen Skloot, MD, gathered a strong slate of nominees for the Program Committee Chair and Nominating Committee positions. Results will be announced at the Assembly Membership Meeting.

Our Early Career Professionals Working Group (ECP WG), chaired by Sana Siddiqui, PhD, featured several junior members in the online "ECP Highlights", sponsored podcasts and webinars, and assisted in the selection of apprentices to serve on several Committees. The apprentices gain first-hand experience with Assembly activities and are prepared for continued involvement with ATS. The ECP WG participates in the ATS-wide Mentorship Program that matches junior members with

experienced mentors who provide career guidance and advice. Sana joined me in the inaugural ATS-wide Diversity, Equity and Inclusiveness Roundtable to affirm the commitment of the ECP WG and our Assembly towards achieving the mission and goals of this initiative.

Our Web Director, Johanna Uthoff, PhD and her team has maintained an active social media presence of the Assembly on Twitter and DocMatter. Special thanks go to Suhani Patel, PhD and David Mummy, PhD for their invaluable assistance with web and social media activities.

Our Science and Innovation Center (SIC) co-chairs Tillie-Louise Hackett, PhD and Sonali Bose, MD helped program scientific sessions at the International Conference and sponsor the Rising Star Award to recognize outstanding young investigators. The SIC works closely with the PhD and Basic and Translational Scientists Working Group (PBTS WG), represented by Richard Johnston, PhD and Natalie Bauer, PhD. Both the SIC and the PBTS WG focus on advancing the career goals of basic and translational scientists (PhD, MD and MD, PhD) by providing opportunities for scientific exchange and networking. This year the PBTS WG spearheads a new Assembly Project to identify barriers and opportunities for PhD members working in clinical departments, and has produced a brochure highlighting the benefits of ATS membership to PhD scientists.

Our representatives in the Basic Science Core, Anurag Agrawal, MD, PhD and Janette Burgess, PhD, helped plan sessions on the "Senescence" theme at the 2022 International Conference.

I am also pleased to report that the webinar series entitled "Technology Development: Translating Innovation from Bench to Bedside" continues with a third installment on April 6, 2022. Co-chaired by Heidi Mansour, PhD and myself, this series is a collaborative effort between the RSF Assembly and the Drug and Device Discovery and Development (DDDD) Committee. We gratefully acknowledge RSF members David Kaczka, MD, PhD, Reynold Panettieri, MD, and Amir Zeki, MD, along with several distinguished guest speakers, for sharing their experiences and insights.

At the 2022 International Conference my tenure as your "Pandemic Assembly Chair" will draw to a close. It has been a tremendous honor to serve and represent the best interests of RSF members. I could not have made it through the past two years without the support of our Executive Committee leaders who persevered in monthly virtual meetings to discuss and promote Assembly activities. I offer my sincere gratitude to all the Executive Committee Co-chairs mentioned above, and to their committee members whose tireless efforts made possible the accomplishments of the past two years. Special shout-outs go to Blanca Camoretti-Mercado, PhD and Reynold Panettieri, MD, for their sage advice. I truly appreciate all of your dedication, expertise and insight.

Please join me in expressing appreciation to our outgoing RSF officers: Gwen Skloot, MD (Nominating Committee Chair), Geoffrey Maksym, PhD and Jill Johnson, PhD (Nominating Committee members), Amir Zeki, MD (Planning Committee Chair), Jason Woods, PhD (Program Committee Chair), Johanna Uthoff, PhD (Web Director), Sana Siddiqui, PhD (ECP WG Chair), and Anurag Agrawal, MD, PhD (Basic Science Core representative). It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with you; thank you for offering your services to RSF members.

Looking ahead we extend a hearty welcome to the incoming Program Committee Chair Matthew Drake, MD, and the incoming committee members, apprentices and mentees. We also congratulate the recipients of the 2022 RSF Assembly Awards, the Abstract Scholarship Awards, the Rising Star Award, and the Stuart J. Hirst Abstract Excellence Award. These awardees will be announced at the in-person RSF Membership Meeting on **Sunday, May 15, 2022**.

As I pass the baton please congratulate and welcome our next Assembly Chair, Janette Burgess, PhD, a stellar member and seasoned Assembly Officer who will undoubtedly be a superb leader guiding our Assembly forward.

On behalf of the entire Executive Committee I gratefully acknowledge the invaluable assistance of Miriam Rodriguez, Senior Director of Assembly Programs and Program Review Subcommittee, and the many dedicated ATS staff, for their support and guidance in ensuring the smooth progress of Assembly activities.

I hope to see many of you in person at the International Conference and the Assembly Membership Meeting. Please feel free to contact me ([Connie.Hsia@utsouthwestern.edu](mailto:Connie.Hsia@utsouthwestern.edu)) with any question or to discuss an idea or initiative. Questions can also be directed to our Assembly Officers listed on the website ([RSF-Officers-Committees](#)).

**Connie C. Hsia, MD, ATSF, FCCP**  
Assembly Chair

**RSF Membership Meeting**

**Sunday, May 15, 2022**  
**5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**  
**Building: Moscone Center West**  
**Room: 3020/3022/3024**  
**Floor: Level 3**




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## PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

Jason Woods, PhD

Matt Drake, MD

This year was a return to the (new) normal for our RSF Program Committee, as planning has been underway for our return to an in-person International Conference this May. While abstract submission to RSF remain below 2019 levels, they have risen and continue to be consistent with trends across other Assemblies. In total, we received a total of 259 Scientific Abstracts and 36 Case Reports for ATS2022. An additional 20 abstracts were received as Late Breaking. Many thanks to the committee members for their invaluable input in generating the exciting sessions programmed for this year's Conference.

### Joint Symposium:

- The Past, Present, and Future of E-Cigarette or Vaping Associated Lung Illness (EVALI), jointly developed with EOPH, All, BSHSR, RCMB, and TO.
- Myths or Truths: Controversies in Respiratory Medicine, jointly developed with SRN, CC, and PC.

### Scientific Symposia:

- The Functional Impact of Cellular Senescence on Lung Disease Overarching Pathological Processes—Fighting a Common Enemy
- Precision Cut Lung Slices – Use and Applications of an Ex Vivo Technique for Pulmonary Research
- Can Old Cells Learn New Tricks: Senescence and Lung Disease
- Growing Up Old: Evidence for Premature Lung Aging in Early Life

### Postgraduate Course:

- Breathing Easier: PFT Clinical Updates and Best Practices

### Meet the Expert:

- Artificial Intelligence 101
- Interstitial Lung Disease Radiology – Interpreting Images to Narrow Your Differential Diagnosis

### Five Mini-Symposia:

- Improvements in PFTs and New Applications
- Look at That! New Findings From Lung Imaging
- What's New in Airway Biology
- COPD: Who, Why, and How
- Targeting the Scar: Mechanisms and Treatments for Fibrotic Lung Disease

### Poster Discussion Sessions:

- Clinical and Translational Studies of Asthma
- See for Yourself: Evaluating Lung Function with CT and MRI
- Origins and Outcomes of COPD
- Life and Lungs after COVID: Functional Recovery SIC Awards Session – a key event in the SIC program. Everyone is welcome to attend. We will be revealing the RSFs choice for the “Rising Stars in Lung Research Award” as well as the most Innovative Abstract Award by an Early Career Professional (ECP). So please come and join us to celebrate the best of the junior faculty and trainees within the ATS. and Outcomes Following SARS-CoV2 Infection
- The Injured Lung: Mechanisms and Therapeutic Targets
- Airways of Interest: Epithelial and Smooth Muscle Function in Health and Disease.

#### Thematic Poster Sessions:

- Mechanisms and Support for the Dysfunctional Lung
- Physiologic Studies of Lung Function
- Pulmonary Clinical Cases 1 and 2
- From Airways to Alveoli: Mechanistic and Clinical Studies
- New Insights into Lung Imaging
- New Studies of Lung Fibrosis
- Cardiopulmonary Interactions in PH and OSA

#### Abstract Awards

The top 30 RSF trainee/student abstracts will receive ATS Scholarship Awards, and the Stuart J. Hirst Award for the top abstract in the area of airway biology and physiology has been selected; winners will be announced at the RSF membership meeting at the International Conference in May.

### ATS 2022 International Conference Assembly on Respiratory Structure and Function (RSF) Sessions

| Session Code | Session Title  | Session Type                                    | Session Date | Session Start Time | Session End Time |
|--------------|--|---|--------------|--------------------|------------------|
| PG18         | BREATHING EASIER: PFT CLINICAL UPDATES AND BEST PRACTICES  | Postgraduate Course                             | 5/14/2022    | 8:00 AM            | 4:00 PM          |
| A18          | IMPROVEMENTS IN PFTs AND NEW APPLICATIONS                  | Mini Symposium                                  | 5/15/2022    | 9:30 AM            | 11:00 AM         |
| A29          | CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL STUDIES OF ASTHMA               | RAPiD: Rapid Abstract Poster Discussion Session | 5/15/2022    | 9:30 AM            | 11:00 AM         |
| A63          | MECHANISMS AND SUPPORT FOR THE DYSFUNCTIONAL LUNG          | Thematic Poster Session                         | 5/15/2022    | 9:30 AM            | 3:45 PM          |
| A64          | PULMONARY CLINICAL CASES I                                 | Thematic Poster Session                         | 5/15/2022    | 9:30 AM            | 3:45 PM          |
| A65          | PULMONARY CLINICAL CASES II                                | Thematic Poster Session                         | 5/15/2022    | 9:30 AM            | 3:45 PM          |
| A66          | PHYSIOLOGIC STUDIES OF LUNG FUNCTION                       | Thematic Poster Session                         | 5/15/2022    | 9:30 AM            | 3:45 PM          |
| A99          | LOOK AT THAT! NEW FINDINGS FROM LUNG IMAGING               | Mini Symposium                                  | 5/15/2022    | 2:15 PM            | 3:45 PM          |
| B28          | SEE FOR YOURSELF: EVALUATING LUNG FUNCTION WITH CT AND MRI | Poster Discussion Session                       | 5/16/2022    | 9:30 AM            | 11:00 AM         |
| B63          | FROM AIRWAYS TO ALVEOLI: MECHANISTIC AND CLINICAL STUDIES  | Thematic Poster Session                         | 5/16/2022    | 9:30 AM            | 3:45 PM          |
| B64          | NEW INSIGHTS FROM LUNG IMAGING                             | Thematic Poster Session                         | 5/16/2022    | 9:30 AM            | 3:45 PM          |
| B99          | WHAT'S NEW IN AIRWAY BIOLOGY                               | Mini Symposium                                  | 5/16/2022    | 2:15 PM            | 3:45 PM          |

|      |   |                           |           |          |          |
|------|---|---------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| B108 | ORIGINS AND OUTCOMES OF COPD  | Poster Discussion Session | 5/16/2022 | 2:15 PM  | 3:45 PM  |
| B85  | CAN OLD CELLS LEARN NEW TRICKS: SENESENCE AND LUNG DISEASE  | Scientific Symposium      | 5/16/2022 | 2:15 PM  | 3:45 PM  |
| C18  | COPD: WHO, WHY, AND HOW   | Mini Symposium            | 5/17/2022 | 9:30 AM  | 11:00 AM |
| C30  | LIFE AND LUNGS AFTER COVID: FUNCTIONAL RECOVERY AND OUTCOMES FOLLOWING SARS-CoV2 INFECTION                              | Poster Discussion Session | 5/17/2022 | 9:30 AM  | 11:00 AM |
| C6   | GROWING UP OLD: EVIDENCE FOR PREMATURE LUNG AGING IN EARLY LIFE   | Scientific Symposium      | 5/17/2022 | 9:30 AM  | 11:00 AM |
| C70  | NEW STUDIES OF LUNG FIBROSIS  | Thematic Poster Session   | 5/17/2022 | 9:30 AM  | 3:45 PM  |
| C71  | CARDIOPULMONARY INTERACTIONS IN PH AND OSA  | Thematic Poster Session   | 5/17/2022 | 9:30 AM  | 3:45 PM  |
| ME37 | ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE 101   | Meet the Expert           | 5/17/2022 | 10:45 AM | 11:45 AM |
| C91  | THE FUNCTIONAL IMPACT OF CELLULAR SENESENCE ON LUNG DISEASE OVERARCHING PATHOLOGICAL PROCESSES: FIGHTING A COMMON ENEMY | Scientific Symposium      | 5/17/2022 | 2:15 PM  | 3:45 PM  |
| D30  | THE INJURED LUNG: MECHANISMS AND THERAPEUTIC TARGETS  | Poster Discussion Session | 5/18/2022 | 8:15 AM  | 9:45 AM  |
| D9   | PRECISION CUT LUNG SLICES: USE AND APPLICATIONS OF AN EX VIVO TECHNIQUE FOR PULMONARY RESEARCH                          | Scientific Symposium      | 5/18/2022 | 8:15 AM  | 9:45 AM  |
| ME51 | INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE RADIOLOGY: INTERPRETING IMAGES TO NARROW YOUR DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS                          | Meet the Expert           | 5/18/2022 | 10:00 AM | 11:00 AM |
| D98  | TARGETING THE SCAR: MECHANISMS AND TREATMENTS FOR FIBROTIC LUNG DISEASE   | Mini Symposium            | 5/18/2022 | 12:45 PM | 2:15 PM  |
| D109 | AIRWAY OF INTEREST: EPITHELIAL AND SMOOTH MUSCLE FUNCTION IN HEALTH AND DISEASE   | Poster Discussion Session | 5/18/2022 | 12:45 PM | 2:15 PM  |

**ATS 2022 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ADDITIONAL SESSIONS OF INTEREST**

| Session Code | Session Title  | Session Type         | Session Date | Session Start | Session End |
|--------------|--|----------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|
| A1           | CLINICAL YEAR IN REVIEW 1  | Scientific Symposium | 5/15/2022    | 9:30 AM       | 11:00 AM    |
| A11          | TACKLING HEALTH DISPARITIES: HOW DO WE TALK AND TEACH ABOUT THEM?  | Scientific Symposium | 5/15/2022    | 9:30 AM       | 11:00 AM    |
| A2           | JAMA AND THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE. DISCUSSION ON THE EDGE: REPORTS OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED PULMONARY RESEARCH | Scientific Symposium | 5/15/2022    | 9:30 AM       | 11:00 AM    |
| A3           | FELLOWS CASE CONFERENCE  | Scientific Symposium | 5/15/2022    | 9:30 AM       | 11:00 AM    |
| A5           | CROSSTALK OF SENESENCE CELLS WITH THE MICROENVIRONMENT: IT TAKES TWO TO TELL A STORY                                   | Scientific Symposium | 5/15/2022    | 9:30 AM       | 11:00 AM    |
| CC1          | CRITICAL CARE CLINICAL CORE CURRICULUM   | Scientific Symposium | 5/15/2022    | 11:30 AM      | 1:00 PM     |

|      |  |                      |           |          |          |
|------|--|----------------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| PCC1 | PEDIATRIC CLINICAL CORE CURRICULUM   | Scientific Symposium | 5/15/2022 | 12:00 PM | 1:00 PM  |
| A83  | GREAT CASES: CLINICAL, RADIOLOGIC, AND PATHOLOGIC CORRELATIONS BY MASTER CLINICIANS  | Scientific Symposium | 5/15/2022 | 2:15 PM  | 3:45 PM  |
| A84  | THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE AND JAMA. DISCUSSION ON THE EDGE: REPORTS OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED CRITICAL CARE RESEARCH | Scientific Symposium | 5/15/2022 | 2:15 PM  | 3:45 PM  |
| A85  | DEVELOPMENT AND WOUND HEALING: WHERE SENESCENCE IS THE SILVER LINING   | Scientific Symposium | 5/15/2022 | 2:15 PM  | 3:45 PM  |
| A90  | RECENT ATS CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES  | Scientific Symposium | 5/15/2022 | 2:15 PM  | 3:45 PM  |
| B1   | CLINICAL YEAR IN REVIEW 2  | Scientific Symposium | 5/16/2022 | 9:30 AM  | 11:00 AM |
| B12  | CLINICAL TRIALS SESSION  | Scientific Symposium | 5/16/2022 | 9:30 AM  | 11:00 AM |
| B13  | INSIGHTS INTO MECHANISMS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS OF HIV ASSOCIATED LUNG DISEASE  | Scientific Symposium | 5/16/2022 | 9:30 AM  | 11:00 AM |
| CC2  | PULMONARY CLINICAL CORE CURRICULUM   | Scientific Symposium | 5/16/2022 | 11:30 AM | 1:00 PM  |
| PCC2 | PEDIATRIC CLINICAL CORE CURRICULUM   | Scientific Symposium | 5/16/2022 | 12:00 PM | 1:00 PM  |
| B88  | INCLUDING ALL FOR RESPIRATORY HEALTH   | Scientific Symposium | 5/16/2022 | 2:15 PM  | 3:45 PM  |
| B91  | PUBLISHING THE BEST SCIENCE: THE COMPREHENSIVE SPECTRUM PROVIDED BY THE ATS FAMILY OF JOURNALS                             | Scientific Symposium | 5/16/2022 | 2:15 PM  | 3:45 PM  |
| CC3  | CRITICAL CARE CLINICAL CORE CURRICULUM   | Scientific Symposium | 5/16/2022 | 2:15 PM  | 3:45 PM  |
| C1   | CLINICAL YEAR IN REVIEW 3  | Scientific Symposium | 5/17/2022 | 9:30 AM  | 11:00 AM |
| C11  | USE OF NOVEL TECHNOLOGIES TO IMPROVE CLINICAL TRAINING AND ENHANCE PATIENT SAFETY  | Scientific Symposium | 5/17/2022 | 9:30 AM  | 11:00 AM |
| PCC3 | PEDIATRIC CLINICAL CORE CURRICULUM   | Scientific Symposium | 5/17/2022 | 12:00 PM | 1:00 PM  |
| C90  | MORE THAN MAKING UP FOR LOST TIME: CAREER DEVELOPMENT AFTER COVID-19   | Scientific Symposium | 5/17/2022 | 2:15 PM  | 3:45 PM  |
| CC4  | PULMONARY CLINICAL CORE CURRICULUM   | Scientific Symposium | 5/17/2022 | 2:15 PM  | 3:45 PM  |
| D1   | CLINICAL YEAR IN REVIEW 4  | Scientific Symposium | 5/18/2022 | 8:15 AM  | 9:45 AM  |
| D5   | THE IMPACT OF FLAVORED NICOTINE PRODUCTS: BIOLOGY, BEHAVIOR AND THE "BAN"  | Scientific Symposium | 5/18/2022 | 8:15 AM  | 9:45 AM  |
| CC5  | SLEEP CLINICAL CORE CURRICULUM   | Scientific Symposium | 5/18/2022 | 10:45 AM | 12:15 PM |
| CC6  | SLEEP CLINICAL CORE CURRICULUM   | Scientific Symposium | 5/18/2022 | 12:45 PM | 2:15 PM  |

# PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Amir A. Zeki, MD, Chair

**The RSF Planning Committee** is responsible for developing and evaluating Project proposals that produce various ATS official documents, selecting awardees for the annual Assembly Awards, and actively participates in the ATS-wide Apprenticeship Program.

**1. RSF Assembly Projects** have been responsible for some of the landmark projects leading to important documents on topics such as technical standards for pulmonary function tests, innovative respiratory physiological assessment, quantitative assessment of lung structure, management of asthma in the elderly, and advancing airway remodeling as a therapeutic target, to name a few. The five types of ATS documents are: clinical practice guidelines, policy statements, research statements, technical statements, and workshop reports. Projects can involve joint submissions with other assemblies or societies and are evaluated in a competitive process.

In FY2022, a new workshop ("Identifying barriers and solutions for PhD faculty working in clinical divisions", proposed by Bethany Moore, PhD, along with two continuing renewal proposals, have been approved.

Proposals can cover any topic area that reflects the interests and needs of our members. Joint proposals with the ERS are also encouraged. It is highly recommended that prospective applicants discuss their ideas with Planning Committee members to obtain feedback prior to submitting a full application online. See [Assembly-Project-Resource-Center](#) for additional information and instructions.

**2. Assembly Awards.** RSF offers four prestigious Assembly Awards:

i) The Ann Woolcock Memorial Award is for an accomplished young investigator working on any area of airway disease. Runner-up will receive the Rising Stars Award for Basic Scientific or Translational Research sponsored by the Science and Innovation Center.

ii) The Joseph R. Rodarte Award for Scientific Distinction is for an established investigator who has made distinguished contributions in the fields of respiratory medicine or physiology.

iii) The Robert Crapo Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award in Pulmonary Diagnostics is for recognition of lifetime dedication and accomplishment in the study of pulmonary diagnostic testing.

iv) The Solbert Permutt Trailblazer Award in Pulmonary Physiology and Medicine is for an established investigator who has done pioneering research in the area of respiratory structure and function and has guided and inspired others in the field.

These awards span the full career trajectory of our members. The deadline for application is typically in March. The Committee meets in April to consider the applications and the awardees will be announced at the RSF Assembly Business Meeting. A list of past RSF awardees is available at [RSF-Assembly-Awards](#).

**3. The Apprenticeship Program** encourages motivated junior members to join RSF and gain knowledge of leadership roles. The applications deadline is usually in March. The successful applicants will be active members of the Planning or Program committees and involved in all of their activities.

Please do not hesitate to contact myself ([aazeki@ucdavis.edu](mailto:aazeki@ucdavis.edu)) or members of the Planning Committee ([RSF-Officers-Committees](#)) for assistance and with any questions.

**Submit an Assembly/Committee Project Application for Funding in FY2023!**

We are happy to announce that ATS will once again accept **NEW Assembly/Committee Projects for FY2023**. All interested applicants should begin developing their ideas for Assembly/Committee Project Applications.

**Applications will be available on the ATS website at [www.thoracic.org](http://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 Amir Zeki, MD at Amir A Zeki [aazeki@ucdavis.edu](mailto:aazeki@ucdavis.edu)**

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

## EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONALS WORKING GROUP REPORT

Sana Siddiqui, PhD

Chair, RSF Early Career Professionals Working Group

The Early Career Professionals Working Group of the Respiratory Structure and Function Assembly (RSF) is a great resource to help advance the careers of graduate students, postdocs, clinical fellows and junior faculty and professionals. Furthermore, ECP WG offers apprenticeship opportunities, a mentoring program, and other resources to maximize exposure at ATS and in the scientific community.

Applications are now open for the apprentice and mentor-mentee opportunities for the upcoming year (2022-2023). For 2021-2022, there were 4 successfully matched pairs of mentor-mentees. For 2021-2022, we held meetings, on average, every 2 months, with about 7-9 attendees at each meeting. When we began planning activities for the 2021-22 year, one of our immediate priorities was to update the abstract guidelines and submission tips. This document was revised by Sergey Gutor and may be found on the RSF website.

For the first time this year, RSF intends to partake in the ATS Assemblies Teaching Competition scheduled to be held at ATS 2022. The applications are now open for those who may be interested in being considered to represent RSF. The aim of this competition is to highlight the best teachers amongst the Assemblies.

In 2021-2022, we have continued to work closely with the Web Committee. Collectively, we have discussed ideas for podcasts and released a podcast in January of 2022 entitled "The Landscape of Funding offered by CIHR; The Past, The Present, and the Future". The podcast is available on the RSF website. Furthermore, we utilized social media to promote RSF activities. A big shout out to David Mummy who has been the avid RSF Tweeter.

We are excited to report that we released 5 ECP Highlights since ATS 2021. We encourage ECP members to take advantage of this platform as it highlights the achievements of the young professionals within RSF! The ECP highlights may be found on the RSF website ([RSF-ECP-Highlights](#)). To learn more, please contact Katrina Tonga ([Katrina.tonga@sydney.edu.au](mailto:Katrina.tonga@sydney.edu.au)). She has done a fabulous job at ensuring the continuity of the ECP highlights program.

As my term as Chair of the RSF ECP WG comes to a close, I would like to acknowledge the guidance of Connie Hsia, the RSF executive team, the entire RSF ECP WG team over the last two years as well as all the help we have received from Nicole Feijoo from ATS.

I am delighted to announce that Sergey Gutor ([sergey.gutor@vumc.org](mailto:sergey.gutor@vumc.org)) will be the next Chair of the RSF ECP WG, effective post-ATS 2022. He has been actively involved with the ECP WG and has contributed positively in numerous ways.

If you would like to learn more or get involved in the ECP WG in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me, Sana Siddiqui ([sanathemcgillian@gmail.com](mailto:sanathemcgillian@gmail.com)).

 Follow us on Twitter @ATS\_RSF



### 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 and two receptions.

**Moscone Center West**

**(Room: Overlook 3018, Floor: Level 3)**

Sunday, May 15 – Monday, May 16, 2022, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**Join us at the Mentoring Receptions:**

Sunday, May 15 – Monday, May 16, 2022, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

**Please note, this space is exclusively for Mentoring Program participants\***

ATS Contact- Nicole Feijoo at [NFeijoo@thoracic.org](mailto:NFeijoo@thoracic.org)

## Nominating Committee Report

Gwen Skloot, MD, ATSF

We have the results of what was a very close election. The new Program Committee Chair-Elect and the Nominating Committee members will be announced during the RSF membership meeting on May 15, 2021 from 5-7 PM Pacific Daylight Time. We thank our colleagues who accepted the nomination to run for these important assembly positions especially during uncertain times. I am also grateful for the dedication and service of my committee members, Drs. Robert Brown and Jane Bourke, who made a difficult task seamless. My tenure as Nominating Committee Chair comes to a close this May. It has been my pleasure to serve RSF in this capacity.

## Ph.D. and Basic and Translational Scientist Working Group Report

Richard A. Johnston, Ph.D., ATSF

Natalie N. Bauer, Ph.D.

The Ph.D. and Basic and Translational Scientist Working Group (PBTS WG) has been in existence since January 1, 2019 and is charged with enhancing the value of ATS membership for basic and translational scientists, specifically Ph.D. scientists. The PBTS WG consists of thirty-six members that are drawn from each of the fourteen ATS Assemblies. The WG meets monthly via Zoom to discuss issues of importance to (1) non-clinical ATS members (i.e., Ph.D. scientists) and (2) research-intensive physician-scientists. The current co-chairs of the PBTS WG are Drs. Natalie Bauer (Assembly on PC) and Richard Johnston (Assembly on RSF). Despite consisting of members from all fourteen ATS Assemblies, the Assembly on RSF is the administrative home for the PBTS WG, and we are very thankful to the Assembly on RSF for their strong and continuing support of our efforts.

During the past year, the PBTS WG has been extraordinarily active in developing programs for its constituency as well devising strategies to recruit Ph.D. scientists to the Society.

We have highlighted some of the WG's efforts in the subsequent text.

1. **Assembly Project.** On behalf of the PBTS WG, Bethany Moore, Ph.D., ATSF spearheaded the development and submission of an Assembly Project through the Assembly on RSF entitled "Ph.D.s in Clinical Departments: Barriers, Opportunities and ATS Membership". This project will address the perception that many Ph.D. scientists contribute

to the mission of subspecialty clinical divisions within Departments of Medicine and of Pediatrics, yet barriers exist for them to attain tenure-track faculty status. By convening a virtual meeting in 2022 of Medical School Deans, Department Chairs, Division Directors, NIH Administrators, and Ph.D. scientists with a vested interest in adult and pediatric pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine, the organizers of this project hope to demonstrate to Division Directors the importance of including Ph.D. scientists in their hiring plan and providing the necessary support for their ultimate success.

2. **PBTS WG/Science and Innovation (SIC) Center Virtual Networking Event.** On February 8, 2022, PBTS WG members, Natalie Bauer, Ph.D. (Assembly on PC) and Samantha Yeligar, Ph.D. (Assembly on PI-TB), co-chaired a networking event along with the SIC entitled "Successful Collaborations". At this event, two U.S.- and two European (U.K.)-based M.D. and Ph.D. scientific collaborators discussed how their professional scientific relationship evolved and became successful. Afterwards, participants went into separate breakout rooms for an in-depth discussion on the formation and endurance of these collaborations with either the U.S.- or European (U.K.)-based collaborators. The PBTS WG/SIC hope to provide more Ph.D.-centric events in the upcoming year.
3. **Brochure.** Along with graphic designers at the ATS, a PBTS WG subcommittee headed by James Londino, Ph.D. (Assembly on RCMB) has put together a two-sided brochure highlighting the advantages of ATS membership for Ph.D. scientists. This brochure specifically targets Ph.D. scientists who attend the ATS International Conference but who are not currently ATS members. A hard copy of this brochure will be available at various locales at the 2022 ATS International Conference in San Francisco. In addition, view the digital version [here](#).
4. **T32:** This subcommittee is chaired by Indu Ayappa, Ph.D. (Assembly on SRN) and was formed following discussions at the Virtual Ph.D./Science and Innovation Center (SIC) Reception in May of 2021. The objectives of this subcommittee include: (1) increasing the pipeline of Ph.D. scientists in pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine by advocating for additional slots in T32 applications for pre-doctoral students and post-doctoral fellows, (2) increasing the number of Ph.D. scientists as principal investigators of T32 applications, and (3) providing resources for Ph.D. scientists interested in submitting T32 applications. On behalf of this subcommittee, Natalie Bauer, Ph.D. (Assembly on PC) submitted a proposal entitled "So, You Want to Write a T32?" for presentation at the 2022 SIC. This proposal was programmed in the SIC for Tuesday, May 17, 2022 from 10 – 11 AM PDT and will include a question and answer session with panelists with expertise in the initial submission and renewal of T32 applications.
5. **Survey.** To understand the rationale as to why Ph.D. scientists attend the ATS International Conference but are not ATS members, Janette Burgess, Ph.D., ATSF (Assembly on RSF) has assembled a subcommittee of PBTS WG members to design a survey to answer this question. This survey will be distributed to all 2022 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 PBTS WG hopes to use the survey data to understand how the ATS and PBTS WG can be best equipped to address their needs.
6. **Awards.** A PBTS WG Awards subcommittee was established in the past year and is chaired by Scott Randell, Ph.D. (Assembly on RCMB). The purpose of this subcommittee is to identify and nominate worthy basic and translational scientists (i.e., Ph.D.'s) for the annual ATS Respiratory Health Awards (i.e., Recognition Award for Scientific Accomplishment, etc.).

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 Richard Johnston ([rfj1@cdc.gov](mailto:rfj1@cdc.gov)) or Natalie Bauer ([nbauer@southalabama.edu](mailto:nbauer@southalabama.edu)).

### Third Reception for PhDs & Other Basic Science Researchers

**Sunday, May 15 from 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. The reception will be held in the Science and Innovation Center (SIC) at the Moscone Convention Center (Room: 155, South, Upper Mezzanine).** There will be food provided and activities during the event will include an opportunity to get to meet and network with other scientists, to engage with leaders from the ATS and assemblies and to provide feedback regarding activities or programs that ATS could offer to benefit the basic and translational science members, especially those who are not also clinicians.

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

## Basic Science Core

Janette K. Burgess, BSc, PhD, ATSF

Anurag Agrawal, MD, PhD, ATSF

The Basic Science Core theme for 2022 is “Senescence and its Emerging Role in Lung Disease”. The RSF representatives had a central role in developing the top down programmed session for the Annual meeting within this theme; These include session A5: CROSSTALK OF SENESCENT CELLS WITH THE MICROENVIRONMENT: IT TAKES TWO TO TELL A STORY and A85: DEVELOPMENT AND WOUND HEALING: WHERE SENESCENCE IS THE SILVER LINING. Programming from RSF, following proposals submitted by members also contribute to the Basic Science Core theme including B85: CAN OLD CELLS LEARN NEW TRICKS: SENESCENCE AND LUNG DISEASE and C91: THE FUNCTIONAL IMPACT OF CELLULAR SENESCENCE ON LUNG DISEASE OVERARCHING PATHOLOGICAL PROCESSES: FIGHTING A COMMON ENEMY.

## SIC Summary of Proceedings for RSF

Since its inception in 2012, the Science and Innovation Center (SIC) has become a space for ATS members to network and learn the latest innovations in science. The SIC also has a strong focus on mentoring junior investigators involved in basic science research.

The current RSF SIC-leads, Tillie Hackett PhD and Sonali Bose MD/MPH have been collaborating with members from the ATS assemblies Allergy, Immunology and Inflammation (All), Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology (RCMB), Pulmonary Infections and Tuberculosis (PI-TB), Pediatrics (PEDS), Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology (SRN) and Pulmonary Circulation (PC) assemblies, as well as with members from the PhD and Basic Translational Scientists working groups. This diverse group has worked hard to program exciting content on cutting-edge technologies in all fields of basic lung research, mentorship strategies, and early-career professional development tools. Over the last two years, this content has been virtual at the conference and over the course of the year through webinars and podcasts. In 2022, we are excited to be back in person! The full program will soon be published in the ATS app. For now, here’s a sneak-peek at some of the content that will be presented this May at the ATS conference:

**SIC Awards Session** – a key event in the SIC program. Everyone is welcome to attend. We will be revealing the RSFs choice for the “Rising Stars in Lung Research Award” as well as the most Innovative Abstract Award by an Early Career Professional (ECP). So please come and join us to celebrate the best of the junior faculty and trainees within the ATS.

**Reception for PhDs & Other Basic and Translational Science Researchers** – this popular session is back to in-person again and provides an opportunity to connect with colleagues and friends alike.

**Research and Discovery Presentations** – our diverse committee has programmed an exciting lineup of cutting-edge scientific symposia to attend. This year’s sessions include:

- Leveraging Lung-MAP as a resource for biological discovery
- Metabolomic measures of pulmonary measures from large population-based studies: obstructive sleep apnea as a case study
- Integration of omics into COPD Subtypes: welcome to precision medicine
- Measures of acute lung injury in animal models (based on 2022 workshop report)
- Next Generation In Vitro Models to Study Chronic Pulmonary Diseases
- Repair and Regeneration of the Lung: Targeting Stem Cells in CF
- Measures of acute lung injury in animal models (based on 2022 workshop report)
- Developing Industry-Academia (finding and Industry Position)
- Tips from Successful Industries

**Career Development** – a key goal of the SIC is to provide junior investigators with a series of seminars geared towards topics in career development. This year's sessions include:

- Grant mechanisms for Early Career Professionals: Where should I start?
- Funding during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Career Topic: How to get involved in ATS
- "So you want to write a T32?"
- Career: How to negotiate
- Career Topic: How to build a strong research team
- Career: Networking Strategies - Virtual Networking

We look forward to seeing you in May. To keep up-to-date with the latest SIC news, please follow @AtsSic on Twitter for updates and live tweets. For any questions please contact Tillie or Mike ([tillie.hackett@hli.ubc.ca](mailto:tillie.hackett@hli.ubc.ca); [sonasona99@gmail.com](mailto:sonasona99@gmail.com))

If you are PhD, Basic Scientist, post-doc, or early career professional, come on down to the Science and Innovations Center for this networking hour! There will be lots of opportunity to meet new people, make new connections, establish new collaborations, and share career development experiences and advice. Plus, there will be free appetizers and drinks!

