

# Assembly on Pulmonary Rehabilitation (PR) Newsletter



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## Message from the Assembly Chair

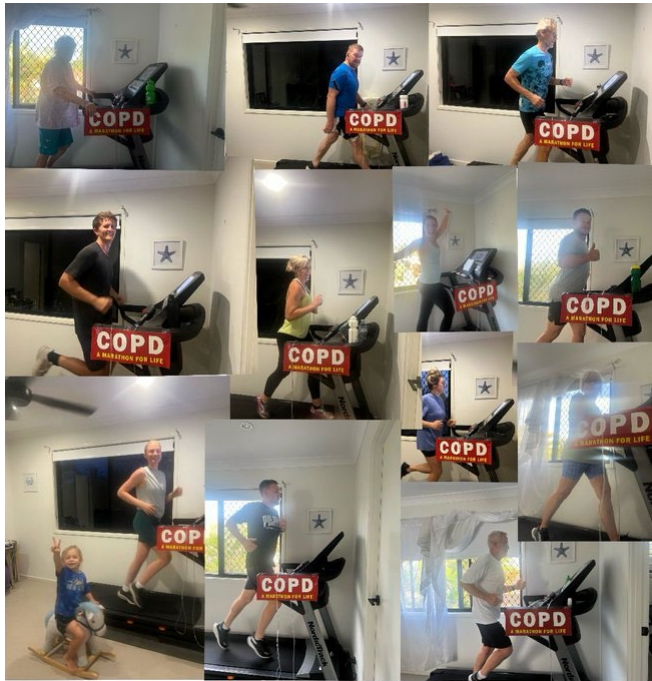
Welcome to the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Assembly's Spring newsletter. I really hope 2024 is treating you well.

The aim of our newsletter is to provide an inspiring overview of our Assembly's activity over the last year including our future plans. We want to encourage others to take part and join our friendly, industrious group. Any progress we make is due to our assembly members' hard work and dedication - we cannot thank you enough. We also thank all the people delivering Pulmonary Rehabilitation day in day out internationally – it's been tough recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, but we must keep going to provide and expand this valuable service.

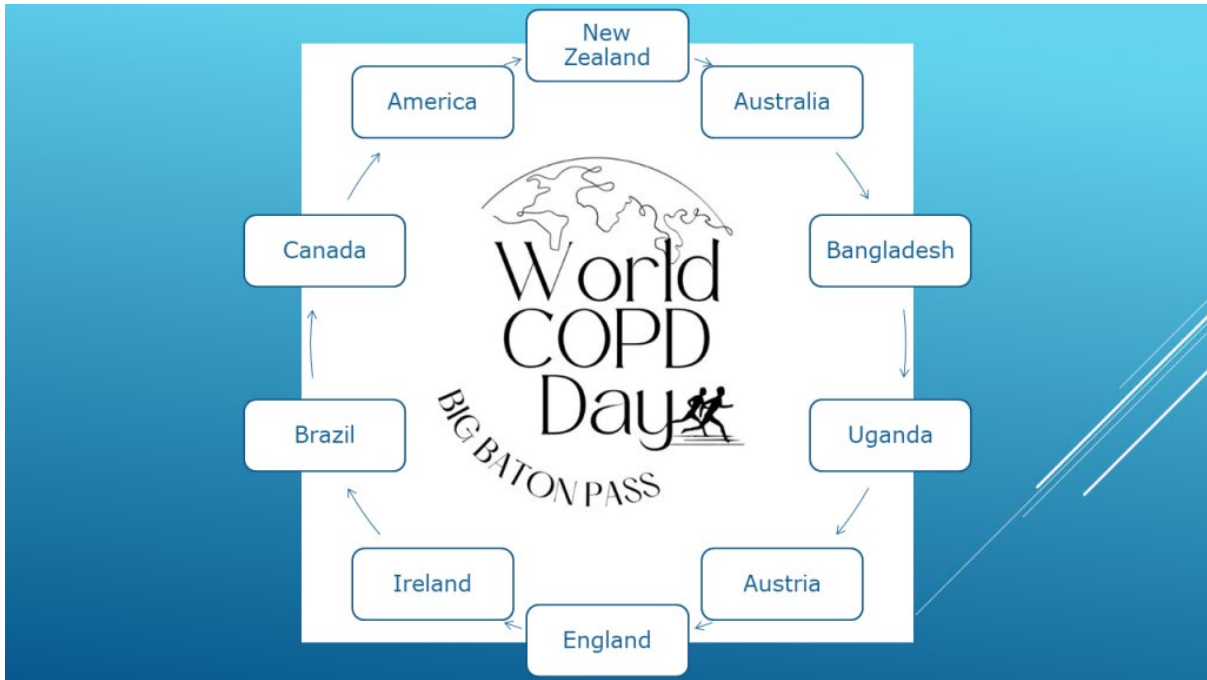
There were many highlights for our assembly in 2023 not least the publication of our ATS Pulmonary Rehabilitation Clinical Practice Guideline. The team are busy on implementation – more details within. Pulmonary rehabilitation continues to be one of the highest value therapies for people living with chronic respiratory disease, but the minority of people who might benefit have access and are referred. We need effective integrated care models to improve this. A recent tweet reminded me of the 'inverse care law' - health inequity is sadly increasing in most countries, and we must endeavour through lobbying policy makers, research, and quality improvement to enable equal access to acceptable, effective, high quality Pulmonary Rehabilitation. One of our recent podcasts discusses this important issue.

The Pulmonary Rehabilitation Executive Committee is keen to increase opportunities for members to be involved in the Assembly's activities. We are focused on supporting early career members and have worked hard again this year to encourage participation within all our committees. There are many ways to be involved highlighted throughout this newsletter. We would like to encourage you to attend our assembly meeting at ATS 2024 and meet the Executive Committee, we are a friendly, supportive, driven group of people passionate about PR. We are keen to hear all your ideas. You can also contact me directly, or any of the committee chairs below to understand opportunities for you within our assembly. Please also follow us on 'X (Twitter)' **@PR\_assembly** and our new ATS PR subgroup on Doc Matters (more below).

I personally want to take the opportunity to thank and highlight the amazing work by Ruth Barker and Russell Winn (@COPDathlete) for World COPD day 2023. The #WorldCOPDDayBatonPass highlighted PR across the world for 24 hours. **Massive thank you** and to everyone who took part internationally (see more below but here are a couple pics):



A family treadmill  
#WorldCOPDDayBatonPass for 24  
hours!  
(Hoping the horses' mileage was  
added!)



We are excited that the ATS will be back in San Diego this year, and look forward to meeting as many of you as possible including at the Assembly Membership Meeting Monday, May 20, 2024 5-7pm Marriott Marquis - Grand Ballroom Salon 11-13 (Second Floor, Lobby Level). Everyone is welcome and I look forward to seeing you there!

Rachael Evans, MBChB, MRCP (UK), AFHEA, PhD

Assembly Chair

## IN MEMORIAM : MARY GAWLICKI

We are saddened by the passing of Mary Gawlicki, a significant donor to the Society and contributor to the Pulmonary Rehabilitation (PR) Assembly Subcommittee on PR Reimbursement.

Mary had the unique combination of being warm and approachable as well as highly intelligent, mission driven, and indefatigable. She also had a keen sense of humor that made working with her a pleasure for all who had the opportunity to collaborate. When faced with heart and lung problems, her approach was straightforward and practical, first by attending a high-quality PR program, then by a doctor-approved walking program (5,000-10,000 steps!) that she maintained until her last days.

Mary's PR experience fueled her interest in solving some of the most pressing challenges regarding the implementation of PR, including awareness of and appropriate payment for the intervention, which is evidence-based (Pulmonary Rehabilitation for Adults with Chronic Respiratory Disease: An Official American Thoracic Society Clinical Practice Guideline: <https://www.atsjournals.org/doi/full/10.1164/rccm.202306-10666ST>) and is known to improve function, symptoms, quality of life (QOL) and in certain populations reduce mortality. To this end, Mary and her husband Ted, through The Gawlicki Family Foundation, funded a major ATS project to promote awareness of PR and maintain a website promoting PR which contains a unique and up-to-date directory of US PR Programs ([www.livebetter.org](http://www.livebetter.org)). Along with many other grants and programs to promote pulmonary health, these contributions have had strong resonance with the pulmonary community.

The PR assembly is especially grateful to Mary for her thoughtful and real-world contributions to many of their projects, and the impact she had on the ATS at-large. Mary's legacy will be remembered with awe, pride and gratitude.


### Assembly on Pulmonary Rehabilitation (PR) Membership Meeting

**Monday, May 27, 2024**  
**5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

**Building: Marriott Marquis San Diego**  
**Room: Grand Ballroom 11-13**  
**Floor: Second Floor, Lobby Level**

American Thoracic Society

ASSEMBLIES





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

**Would you like to get more involved?**

This is your chance! You can now register here to become more involved in the ATS Assemblies, ATS Committees or both. There are many ways to grow within ATS and the Assemblies and Committees are a great starting point.

[www.thoracic.org/go/get-involved](http://www.thoracic.org/go/get-involved)

## PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Narelle Cox, PT, PhD (Chair)

The primary responsibility of the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Assembly Planning Committee is to review grant proposals for Assembly-based projects based on the goals and priorities of the Assembly. Additional duties are to suggest updates to existing documents and/or new projects that would be of benefit to the Assembly and to review award nominations.

The last year has seen the culmination (and publication) of two large projects led by the Assembly, the Clinical Practice Guideline for pulmonary rehabilitation (<https://www.atsjournals.org/doi/full/10.1164/rccm.202306-10666ST>) and the workshop report on Rehabilitation for people with respiratory disease and frailty (<https://www.atsjournals.org/doi/full/10.1513/AnnalsATS.202302-129ST>). Congratulation to all who were involved in seeing these projects to completion.

For the 2024 project year the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Assembly submitted four ATS project proposals and one joint ATS/ERS proposal. Unfortunately, none of our ATS proposals were successful, with the joint proposal being supported for submission as an ERS only project. With feedback on the proposal received we hope to be able to use this to develop and refine relevant submissions for 2025. The next round of project submissions will likely close in July 2024. We actively encourage all Assembly members to collaborate to submit project proposals to develop and sustain the exemplary work

produced in previous projects. Please feel free to reach out to me and other members of the Planning committee if you would like to discuss a proposal.

Assembly Awards are currently under review, with awardees to be announced at ATS2024. This year a total of six nominations were received across three categories. Details on awards, and previous recipients, can be found on the Assembly webpage (<https://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/assemblies/pr/awards/>). Award nominations typically open in November/December each year. We encourage you to consider a worthy colleague and nominate them for recognition.

My thanks to the Committee, new and continuing, for their valuable contributions over the last 12 months, and a special thank you and acknowledgement of those Committee members who stepped down from the Planning Committee at ATS2023 – Sally Singh, Chris Garvey, Jose Jardim, Linzy Houchen-Wolloff, Roger Goldstein and Jean Bourbeau. For those able to make ATS2024 in person, I look forward to meeting with you there.

Planning Committee Members 2023-4: Michael Steiner, Rachael Evans, Sarah O'Bierne (apprentice), Kelsey Black, Alan Hamilton, Brian Carlin, Jennifer Alison, Tom Cascino, Linda Nici, Rachel Tappan, Rich Casaburi, Francois Faddel, Alessandra Adami.

### **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 1<sup>st</sup> 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, Narelle Cox, PT, PhD** at [narelle.cox@monash.edu](mailto:narelle.cox@monash.edu)

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

## **PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chris Burtin, PT, PhD (Chair) and Tania Janaudis-Ferreira, BSc (PT), MSc, PhD (Chair-Elect)

During the ATS 2024 International Conference (May 17 - 22 in San Diego, CA), the Assembly on Pulmonary Rehabilitation will organize two Scientific Symposia, one Postgraduate course, two Mini-Symposia, two Poster Discussion Sessions, two Thematic Poster Sessions and one Meet the Expert Session. Details can be found in the table below. Further, our Assembly is involved in several other sessions, including PG6 (COPD 2024: State of the art), PG14 (Interstitial Lung Disease: implementing guidelines for patient centered care), A4 (ICU Early Mobilization: Should we keep moving or move on?), B86 (An Inconvenient Truth: health disparities and health care inequality in respiratory medicine) and C92 (Substance Use Disorders in Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine).

## ATS 2024 International Conference Assembly on Pulmonary Rehabilitation (PR) Sessions

Session Code	Session Title	Session Type	Session Date	Session Start Time	Session End Time
PG11	STATE OF THE ART IN CARDIOPULMONARY EXERCISE TESTING: PRINCIPLES AND BEST PRACTICES	Postgraduate Course	5/18/2024	8:00 AM	4:00 PM
A67	COUGH, VENTILATORY CONSTRAINTS, AND NEURAL VENTILATORY CONTROL: IMPLICATIONS TO PULMONARY REHABILITATION	Thematic Poster Session	5/19/2024	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
A8	CHANGES IN COGNITION AND MOOD; A NEW FRONTIER FOR PULMONARY REHABILITATION	Scientific Symposium	5/19/2024	9:15 AM	10:45 AM
A98	BEST INTERVENTION ABSTRACTS IN PULMONARY REHABILITATION	Mini Symposium	5/19/2024	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
B27	PULMONARY REHABILITATION: ONLINE RESOURCES, COMPLEX PATIENTS AND PALLIATIVE CARE	RAPiD Poster Discussion Session	5/20/2024	9:15 AM	11:15 AM
B69	PULMONARY REHABILITATION: COVID-19, CRITICAL ILLNESS AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT	Thematic Poster Session	5/20/2024	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
MTE14	NON-PHARMACOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT OF PATIENTS AFTER HOSPITALIZATION WITH AN EXACERBATION OF COPD	Meet the Expert	5/20/2024	11:30 AM	12:30 PM
B86	AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH: HEALTH DISPARITIES AND HEALTH CARE INEQUALITY IN RESPIRATORY MEDICINE	Jointly-Developed Symposium	5/20/2024	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
B97	ADVANCED INSIGHTS INTO PULMONARY REHABILITATION	Mini Symposium	5/20/2024	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
C86	PULMONARY REHABILITATION - KEEPING THE WHEEL ROLLING FORWARD	Scientific Symposium	5/21/2024	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
D29	INSIGHTS INTO MECHANISMS AND EFFECTIVENESS OF DIFFERENT COMPONENTS OF PULMONARY REHABILITATION	Poster Discussion Session	5/22/2024	8:15 AM	10:15 AM

## 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

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Sally J. Singh, PhD (Chair)

Candidates have been nominated for positions on the committee and voting opened in December. To date we do not know the outcome, the results will be announced at the assembly meeting. We would like to thank our excellent candidates for standing, and we will announce results at the conference.

## WEB COMMITTEE REPORT

Linzy Houchen-Wolloff, PhD (Web Director)

The committee has continued its tradition of producing a large amount of content for assembly members as part of another successful year. The following link brings you to the Assembly's website where you can access content we have produced to date: <https://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/assemblies/pr/index.php>

We are currently in the process of updating the web pages and some of our previous content will be archived.

We have been particularly active this year in promoting our new ATS PR Clinical Practice Guidelines and how these may be implemented. For instance, we now have our own dedicated subgroup for PR on DocMatter that you can access for free here: <https://www.docmatter.com/atspr> We are reviewing each PICO question from the guidelines in turn so please join the subgroup and get involved in the conversation! Thanks to Alan Hamilton, Daniel Gildenhuys and Narelle Cox for spearheading this work.

We work closely with the other Assembly committees to promote awards, apprenticeship/ mentorship programs and any other information for dissemination via our social media platforms. Particular thanks go to Ruth Barker who leads the Early Career Professionals working group; Alessandra Adami: Basic and Translational Scientists working group lead; Sue Lareau and Clarice Tang from the Outcome Measures working group as we co-produce content with these groups.

We welcome the continued submission of any content ideas as well as volunteers to partake in webinars, podcasts, early career spotlights and/or quarterly bites to [Linzy.Houchen@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:Linzy.Houchen@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)

**Journal Club Webinars:** Since May 2023, the Web Committee have organized four online journal clubs (see table below), with a further 3 planned before the end of the term. We would like to take this opportunity to highlight that our journal clubs are available to both ATS members and non-ATS members. They are free to register for. For those who miss our Journal Club sessions, we'd like to highlight that all our journal clubs are recorded and can be accessed via the ATS PR Assembly website

at any time with any questions post-recording being discussed using the DocMatter platform.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the authors, presenters and expert panel members who have participated in our journal clubs this year. Thanks must also go to Bridget Nance and Miriam Rodriguez at ATS for providing technical support throughout.

Month	Journal Title	Author	Presenter	Expert Panel
June 23	Long-Term Telerehabilitation or Unsupervised Training at Home for Patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease: A Randomised Controlled Trial	Paolo Zanaboni	Sara Souto-Miranda	Adam Lewis  Alan Hamilton
Oct 23	Exercise-based Rehabilitation Programmes for Pulmonary Hypertension	Norman R. Morris	Lisa Wickerson	Rhea Varughese  Michael Stickland
Nov 23	Core Outcome Set for Pulmonary Rehabilitation of Patients with COPD: Results of a Modified Delphi Survey	Sara Souto-Miranda	Cassia da Luz Goulart	Rachael Evans  Clarice Tang
Feb 24	Year in Review	n/a	Sally Singh	Katie Menson

An official ATS Clinical Practice Guidelines Webinar is planned for March 24, presented by Carly Rochester, Surya Bhatt and Thomas Cascino.

**Podcasts:** Since May 2023, we have recorded five podcasts (see below) with a further three planned prior to the end of the term. They are all available to download (with the historical podcasts) from the assembly website: <https://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/assemblies/pr/podcasts.php> Thank you to everyone who contributed over the past year and to Maribel Lim at ATS Head Office for her technical support.

- Pulmonary Rehabilitation US Reimbursement Update: 2024 with *Francois Abi-Fadel & Chris Garvey*
- Exercise and Cystic Fibrosis- Katie's Story with *Enya Daynes & Katie O'Grady*
- Health Inequities in Pulmonary Rehabilitation with *Katie Menson, John Hurst & Ellen Duckers*
- Technical Aspects of Physical Activity Measurement with *Mark Orme & Astrid Blondeel*
- Rehabilitate Anywhere: Exploring the Benefits and Challenges of Telerehabilitation with *Muhammad Sameed, Carl Leochico & Meiqi Guo*

**Quarterly Bites:** We have continued the success of our quarterly bites, which capture different views about subjects of interest and highlight relevant content in both the clinical and academic settings. We have had a further six quarterly bites this year - see below. Thank you to those who have participated.

- Physical activity recommendations for patients with COPD from *Heleen Demeyer, Fien Hermans & Thierry Troosters*
- American Thoracic Society International Conference 2023: Highlights in Pulmonary Rehabilitation from *Francois Abi-Fadel & Linzy Houchen-Woloff*
- Singing as Training Modality in Pulmonary Rehabilitation? From *Mette Kaasgaard*

- Exercise and Rehabilitation in Individuals with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome and Generalized Hypermobility Spectrum Disorders (G-HSD): A Pulmonary Perspective *from Jillian Dhawan, Noor Al Kaabi & Dmitry Rozenberg*
- Pulmonary Rehabilitation for Cardiorespiratory Diseases other than COPD *from Enya Daynes & Claire M Nolan*
- Pulmonary Rehabilitation US Reimbursement Update: 2024 *from Francois Abi-Fadel & Chris Garvey*

**Early career professional spotlight:** This feature provides early career professionals with a platform to introduce themselves on a personal level and share their favourite piece of work undertaken to date. This feature can be found under the early career professional tab of our website. Since its inception, we have produced seven spotlight features (see below). Thank you to all the early career professionals who have supported this feature to date.

- Cátia Paixão
- Michele R. Schaeffer
- Antenor Rodrigues,
- Mark Orme
- Stephanie Robinson
- Sophie Collins
- Jana De Brandt

**ERS Literature Reviews:** Literature reviews on the latest published research in the field of pulmonary rehabilitation compiled by Anouk Vaes and Sarah Houben-Wilke continue to be published on a bi-monthly basis on our webpage. We would like to thank Dr. Vaes and Dr. Houben-Wilke and the Rehabilitation and Chronic Care assembly of the ERS for sharing these updates with us.

**X (formally Twitter):** We opened our Twitter account in 2015 and now have 2,457 followers. Our twitter handle is @PR\_Assembly so please do follow us if you use this platform. We tweet about @PR\_Assembly activities, relevant publication updates and re-tweet all relevant PR related tweets. These and other issues related to the Assembly are regularly communicated through this account. We hope to see this platform continue to develop as a means of communication for our multidisciplinary assembly members and patients across multiple continents.

**Membership:** Sadly, Alex Jenkins' tenure as chair ended in May 2023 and we would like to thank Dr. Jenkins for all of his contributions and dedication. Dr. Linzy Houchen-Wolloff has taken over as chair and we are delighted to have welcomed new members to the team.

Our enthusiastic, dedicated, international group of committee members all contribute to the activity described above. A huge thank you to you all for your efforts. We are very grateful to all the people who have contributed helping us make a success of the ATS PR web-committee activities described above. We encourage all assembly members to be involved, but particularly want to encourage our new or more junior faculty members to volunteer – please don't wait to be asked; we are keen to hear from you. A position to join the committee will be available for 2024-2025 through the ATS apprenticeship program for anyone who should be interested, as well as other committee roles. Please contact [Linzy.Houchen@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:Linzy.Houchen@uhl-tr.nhs.uk) if you'd like to join our team!

**Web Committee Members:** Linzy Houchen-Wolloff (Chair- UK), Hayley Lewthwaite (X lead- Australia), Enya Daynes (X lead- UK), Alan Hamilton (DocMatter lead- Canada), Dmitry Rozenberg (Canada), Francois Abi Fadel (USA), Muhammad Sameed (USA), Katie Menson (USA), Leslie Seijo (USA), Mariana Hoffman (Australia), Mark Orme (Apprentice member- UK).



**Follow Us on X (Twitter) @PR\_Assembly!**

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



## OUTCOME MEASURES ADVISORY GROUP REPORT

Suzanne C. Lareau, RN, MS, ATSF and Clarice Tang, DPT

The Pulmonary Rehabilitation Assembly Outcomes Advisory Group posts outcome measures related to PR on the website at <https://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/assemblies/pr/outcome-measures/>. The categories posted thus far are; *Body Composition, Dyspnea/Breathlessness, Health-Related Quality of Life, Learning Outcomes, Field Walking Tests and Fatigue*, with *Balance* measures soon to be uploaded. We wish to thank Sam Harrison, Kirsti Loughran, Marla Beauchamp, and Chibuzo Achugwo for developing the *Balance* measures. Each of the outcomes requires significant dedication of time to ensure accuracy. The time and commitment by those contributing are gratefully appreciated!

We are in the process of preparing the outcomes on *Depression* and *Anxiety* (developed by Abebaw Yohannes) with outcomes on *Cognition* in development by Allesandra Adami, and *Frailty* by Christian Osadnik. Any member interested in developing measures or serving as a reviewer to update the current measures would be gratefully welcomed. Working on outcome measures is a great opportunity to immerse yourself in the literature related to outcomes in PR. We would like to expand the current six outcomes to include reference to conditions other than COPD.

Please let Clarice ([Clarice.Tang@vu.edu.au](mailto:Clarice.Tang@vu.edu.au)) or Sue ([Suzanne.Lareau@Cuanschultz.edu](mailto:Suzanne.Lareau@Cuanschultz.edu)) of your interest in new categories to pursue or interest in updating a category with studies on PR in those with conditions other than COPD.

## PHD, BASIC AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENTISTS WORKING GROUP REPORT

Lindsay McDonald, PhD and James D. Londino, PhD (Members), Alessandra Adami (Pulmonary Rehabilitation Assembly Representative)

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-seven 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. Lindsay McDonald and James Londino (Assembly on RCMB). 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 as devising strategies to recruit Ph.D. scientists to the Society. We have highlighted some of the WG's efforts in the subsequent text.

1. **Equity and ATS Opportunities.** Under the co-leadership of Carolyn Cannon, M.D., Ph.D. (Assembly on PI-TB) and Jarrod Barnes, Ph.D. (Assembly on PC), among several focuses, the Equity and ATS Opportunities subcommittee is working on emphasizing a 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%.
2. **Seminar.** Under the leadership of Jarrod Barnes, Ph.D. (Assembly on PC) and Kelly Potter, Ph.D., RN (Assembly on NUR) 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 manuscript on the topic by Dr. Beth Moore.

3. **Survey.** To understand the rationale as to why Ph.D. scientists attend the ATS International Conference but do not join ATS as members, Janette Burgess, Ph.D., ATSF (Assembly on RSF) assembled a subcommittee of PBTS WG members 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.
4. **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, headed by Thomas Mariani, Ph.D. (Assembly on RCMB), 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.
5. **PBTS WG/Science and Innovation (SIC) Center Collaboration Events.** Brian Cade Ph.D. (Assembly on SRN) currently serves as the PBTS liaison with the SIC. 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.
6. **Awards.** A PBTS WG Awards subcommittee is chaired by Karen Ridge, Ph.D. (Assembly on RCMB). 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 available to aid the RSF membership on the submission of material for the nomination of PhD and basic science candidates for ATS-wide awards.
7. **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 the RSF membership 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 Lindsay McDonald ([Lindsay.McDonald3@va.gov](mailto:Lindsay.McDonald3@va.gov)) or James Londino ([james.londino@osumc.edu](mailto: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>