

THE ASSEMBLY ON

Environmental, Occupational, and Population Health

NEWSLETTER



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Volume 6 | Issue 4
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Dear EOPH Members,

We hope everyone is staying safe and healthy as we navigate and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. As you have likely heard, in consideration of the COVID-19 pandemic, ATS has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 international conference. We have also included some resources to help everyone stay informed as to the current status of the pandemic.

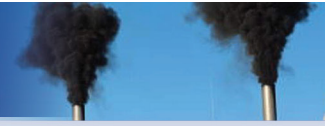
Also included in this April 2020 newsletter are some of our members' recent "epub ahead of print" articles from the month of March 2020. If you have a recent publication that you would like to share in the upcoming newsletter, please send the title and citation link to Sophia.Kwon@nyulangone.org and TID Section relevant publications to satya.achanta@duke.edu.

Are you interested in getting more involved with ATS and the EOPH assembly? Register [HERE](#) to indicate your interest!

Sincerely,

Your EOPH and TID Web Editorial Committees





Recent Publications

This section highlights some of our assembly members' exciting research that was recently "e-published" or were submitted for inclusion in this newsletter. It is possible that our search may miss your best work, so please send your recent publications to tara.nordgren@medsch.ucr.edu.

Air Pollution and Environmental Exposures

Concerns Remain Regarding Long-term Ozone Exposure and Respiratory Outcomes-Reply.

Paulin LM, Kaufman JD, Hansel NN.

JAMA Intern Med. 2020 Mar 30. doi: 10.1001/jamainternmed.2020.0577. [Epub ahead of print] No abstract available.

PMID: 32227129

Residential proximity to intensive animal agriculture and risk of lymphohematopoietic cancers in the Agricultural Health Study.

Fisher JA, Freeman LEB, Hofmann JN, Blair A, Parks CG, Thorne PS, Ward MH, Jones RR.

Epidemiology. 2020 Mar 9. doi: 10.1097/EDE.0000000000001186. [Epub ahead of print]

PMID: 32168021

The hazards of wildfire smoke exposure for children.

Hauptman M, Balmes JR, Miller MD.

Curr Probl Pediatr Adolesc Health Care. 2020 Mar 5:100756. doi: 10.1016/j.cppeds.2020.100756. [Epub ahead of print]

PMID: 32147302

Does Ambient Ozone or Other Pollutants Modify Effects of Controlled Ozone Exposure on Pulmonary Function?

Rich DQ, Thurston SW, Balmes JR, Bromberg PA, Arjomandi M, Hazucha MJ, Alexis NE, Ganz P, Zareba W, Thevenet-Morrison K, Koutrakis P, Frampton MW.

Ann Am Thorac Soc. 2020 Mar 3. doi: 10.1513/AnnalsATS.201908-597OC. [Epub ahead of print]

PMID: 32125874

The role of ambient particle radioactivity in inflammation and endothelial function in an elderly cohort.

Blomberg AJ, Nyhan MM, Bind MA, Vokonas P, Coull BA, Schwartz J, Koutrakis P.

Epidemiology. 2020 Mar 31. doi: 10.1097/EDE.0000000000001197. [Epub ahead of print]

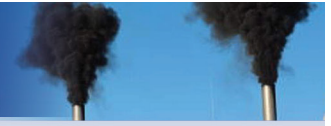
PMID: 32282436

Short-term exposure to ambient particle gamma radioactivity is associated with increased risk for all-cause non-accidental and cardiovascular mortality.

Huang S, Xiong J, Vieira CLZ, Blomberg AJ, Gold DR, Coull BA, Sarosiek K, Schwartz JD, Wolfson JM, Li J, Koutrakis P.

Sci Total Environ. 2020 Mar 7;721:137793. doi: 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2020.137793. [Epub ahead of print]

PMID: 32172126



Research Methods, Training, and Clinical Care

[Pediatric neurosurgery training during residency in the United States: a program director survey.](#)

Limoges N, D'Agostino E, Gelinne A, Maher CO, Scott RM, Grant G, Krieger MD, Limbrick DD, White M, Durham S.

J Neurosurg Pediatr. 2020 Mar 20:1-7. doi: 10.3171/2020.1.PEDS19662. [Epub ahead of print]

PMID: 32197250

[GlycoGlyph: A glycan visualizing, drawing and naming application.](#)

Mehta AY, Cummings RD.

Bioinformatics. 2020 Mar 14. pii: btaa190. doi: 10.1093/bioinformatics/btaa190. [Epub ahead of print]

PMID: 32170934

[The effects of misspecification of the mediator and outcome in mediation analysis.](#)

Lutz SM, Sordillo JE, Hokanson JE, Chen Wu A, Lange C.

Genet Epidemiol. 2020 Mar 13. doi: 10.1002/gepi.22289. [Epub ahead of print] No abstract available.

PMID: 32166765

[Identifying and evaluating school environmental health indicators.](#)

Lin S, Lu Y, Lin Z, Romeiko XX, Marks T, Zhang W, Khwaja HA, Dong G, Thurston G.

Environ Sci Pollut Res Int. 2020 Mar 4. doi: 10.1007/s11356-020-08092-w. [Epub ahead of print]

PMID: 32133611

Asthma and Allergy

[Associations of blood lead levels with asthma and blood eosinophils in U.S. children.](#)

Cornwell CR, Egan KB, Zahran HS, Mirabelli MC, Hsu J, Chew GL.

Pediatr Allergy Immunol. 2020 Mar 11. doi: 10.1111/pai.13241. [Epub ahead of print]

PMID: 32159872

[Obesity May Enhance the Adverse Effects of NO₂ Exposure in Urban Schools on Asthma Symptoms in Children.](#)

Permaul P, Gaffin JM, Petty CR, Baxi SN, Lai PS, Sheehan WJ, Camargo CA Jr, Gold DR, Phipatanakul W.

J Allergy Clin Immunol. 2020 Mar 17. pii: S0091-6749(20)30346-8. doi: 10.1016/j.jaci.2020.03.003. [Epub ahead of print]

PMID: 32197971

[Asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, and Subsequent Risk for Incident Rheumatoid Arthritis Among Women: A Prospective Cohort Study.](#)

Ford JA, Liu X, Chu SH, Lu B, Cho MH, Silverman EK, Costenbader KH, Camargo CA Jr, Sparks JA.

Arthritis Rheumatol. 2020 Mar 4. doi: 10.1002/art.41194. [Epub ahead of print]

PMID: 32129572



[Traffic-related Air Pollution, Dust Mite Allergen, and Childhood Asthma in Puerto Ricans.](#)

Stevens EL, Rosser F, Han YY, Forno E, Acosta-Pérez E, Canino G, Celedón JC.

Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 2020 Mar 20. doi: 10.1164/rccm.201912-2325LE. [Epub ahead of print] No abstract available.

PMID: 32197046

[Exposure to violence, chronic stress, asthma, and bronchodilator response in Puerto Rican children.](#)

Landeo-Gutierrez J, Marsland AL, Acosta-Pérez E, Canino G, Celedón JC.

Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol. 2020 Mar 28. pii: S1081-1206(20)30149-6. doi: 10.1016/j.anai.2020.03.005. [Epub ahead of print] No abstract available.

PMID: 32171929

[A Dose-Ranging Study of Epinephrine Hydrofluoroalkane Metered-Dose Inhaler \(Primatene® MIST\) in Subjects with Intermittent or Mild-to-Moderate Persistent Asthma.](#)

Kerwin EM, Tashkin DP, Murphy TR, Bensch GW, Marrs T, Luo MZ, Zhang JY.

J Aerosol Med Pulm Drug Deliv. 2020 Mar 6. doi: 10.1089/jamp.2019.1558. [Epub ahead of print]

PMID: 32150492

[Cigarettes, E-cigs, and other Tobacco and Cannabis Smoke Exposures](#)

[A Fulvic Acid-like Substance Participates in the Pro-inflammatory Effects of Cigarette Smoke and Wood Smoke Particles.](#)

Gonzalez DH, Soukup JM, Madden MC, Hays M, Berntsen J, Paulson SE, Ghio AJ.

Chem Res Toxicol. 2020 Mar 27. doi: 10.1021/acs.chemrestox.0c00036. [Epub ahead of print]

PMID: 32191033

[Peripheral Blood Flow Changes to Cutaneous and Muscular Beds in Response to Acute Hookah Smoking.](#)

Rezk-Hanna M, Nelson MD, Rader F, Benowitz NL, Rosenberry R, Chang LC, Li N, Tashkin DP, Elashoff RM, Victor RG.

Am J Cardiol. 2020 Mar 14. pii: S0002-9149(20)30219-8. doi: 10.1016/j.amjcard.2020.02.042. [Epub ahead of print]

PMID: 32278465

[Occupational Injuries and Exposures](#)

[Diesel Exhaust Exposure during Farming Activities: Statistical Modeling of Continuous Black Carbon Concentrations.](#)

Sauvé JF, Stapleton EM, O'Shaughnessy PT, Locke SJ, Josse PR, Altmaier RW, Silverman DT, Liu D, Albert PS, Beane Freeman LE, Hofmann JN, Thorne PS, Jones RR, Friesen MC.

Ann Work Expo Health. 2020 Mar 27. pii: wxaa032. doi: 10.1093/annweh/wxaa032. [Epub ahead of print]

PMID: 32219300

[Gender differences in respiratory health outcomes among farming cohorts around the globe: findings from the AGRICOH consortium.](#)



Fix J, Annesi-Maesano I, Baldi I, Boulanger M, Cheng S, Cortes S, Dalphin JC, Dalvie MA, Degano B, Douwes J, Eduard W, Elholm G, Ferreccio C, Harding AH, Jeebhay M, Kelly KM, Kromhout H, MacFarlane E, Maesano CN, Mitchell DC, Mwanga H, Naidoo S, Negatu B, Ngajilo D, Nordby KC, Parks CG, Schenker MB, Shin A, Sisgaard T, Sim M, Soumagne T, Thorne P, Yoo KY, Hoppin JA. *J Agromedicine*. 2020 Mar 17:1-12. doi: 10.1080/1059924X.2020.1713274. [Epub ahead of print]

PMID: 32182198

[Assessing the accuracy of the death certificate injury at work box for identifying fatal occupational injuries in Michigan.](#)

Oliveri AN, Wang L, Rosenman KD.

Am J Ind Med. 2020 Mar 7. doi: 10.1002/ajim.23100. [Epub ahead of print]

PMID: 32144950

[Associations Between Bioaerosol Exposures and Lung Function Changes Among Dairy Workers in Colorado.](#)

Martenies SE, Schaeffer J, Erlandson G, Bradford M, Poole JA, Wilson A, Weller Z, Reynolds S, Magzamen S.

J Occup Environ Med. 2020 Mar 20. doi: 10.1097/JOM.0000000000001856. [Epub ahead of print]

PMID: 32221115

[Overlooked Role of Histopathology in Evaluations for Occupational/Environmental Exposures.](#)

Sanyal S, Crawford JA, Abraham JL.

Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 2020 Mar 2. doi: 10.1164/rccm.201911-2195LE. [Epub ahead of print] No abstract available.

PMID: 32119783

[Quantitative CT Evidence of Airway Inflammation in WTC Workers and Volunteers with Low FVC Spirometric Pattern.](#)

Weber J, Reeves AP, Doucette JT, Jeon Y, Sood A, San José Estépar R, Celedón JC, de la Hoz RE. *Lung*. 2020 Apr 1. doi: 10.1007/s00408-020-00350-5. [Epub ahead of print]

PMID: 32239319

Cellular Mechanisms

[Activation of a nerve injury transcriptional signature in airway-innervating sensory neurons after Lipopolysaccharide induced lung inflammation.](#)

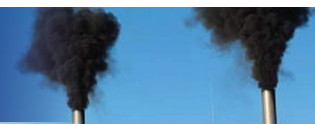
Kaelberer MM, Caceres AI, Jordt SE.

Am J Physiol Lung Cell Mol Physiol. 2020 Mar 11. doi: 10.1152/ajplung.00403.2019. [Epub ahead of print]

PMID: 32159971

HIV

[Long-Acting BMS-378806 Analogues Stabilize the State-1 Conformation of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus \(HIV-1\) Envelope Glycoproteins.](#)



Zou S, Zhang S, Gaffney A, Ding H, Lu M, Grover JR, Farrell M, Nguyen HT, Zhao C, Anang S, Zhao M, Mohammadi M, Blanchard SC, Abrams C, Madani N, Mothes W, Kappes JC, Smith AB 3rd, Sodroski J.

J Virol. 2020 Mar 11. pii: JVI.00148-20. doi: 10.1128/JVI.00148-20. [Epub ahead of print]

PMID: 32161177

Cancer

[Prediagnostic adult body mass index change and esophageal adenocarcinoma survival.](#)

Loehrer EA, Giovannucci EL, Betensky RA, Shafer A, Christiani DC.

Cancer Med. 2020 Mar 23. doi: 10.1002/cam4.3015. [Epub ahead of print]

PMID: 32202699

[Talc and mesothelioma: mineral fiber analysis of 65 cases with clinicopathological correlation.](#)

Rogli VL, Carney JM, Sporn TA, Pavlisko EN.

Ultrastruct Pathol. 2020 Mar 18:1-8. doi: 10.1080/01913123.2020.1737286. [Epub ahead of print]

PMID: 32183579

[Asbestos-related cancers: the 'Hidden Killer' remains a global threat.](#)

van Zandwijk N, Reid G, Frank AL.

Expert Rev Anticancer Ther. 2020 Mar 29:1-8. doi: 10.1080/14737140.2020.1745067. [Epub ahead of print]

PMID: 32223452

COPD, Chronic Bronchitis, and other Chronic Lung Diseases

[Clarifying the Risk of Lung Disease in SZ \$\alpha\$ 1-antitrypsin Deficiency.](#)

Franciosi AN, Hobbs BD, McElvaney OJ, Molloy K, Hersh C, Clarke L, Gunaratnam C, Silverman EK, Carroll TP, McElvaney NG.

Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 2020 Mar 20. doi: 10.1164/rccm.202002-0262OC. [Epub ahead of print]

PMID: 32197047

[Association of Nonobstructive Chronic Bronchitis With Respiratory Health Outcomes in Adults.](#)

Balte PP, Chaves PHM, Couper DJ, Enright P, Jacobs DR Jr, Kalhan R, Kronmal RA, Loehr LR, London SJ, Newman AB, O'Connor GT, Schwartz JE, Smith BM, Smith LJ, White WB, Yende S, Oelsner EC.

JAMA Intern Med. 2020 Mar 2. doi: 10.1001/jamainternmed.2020.0104. [Epub ahead of print]

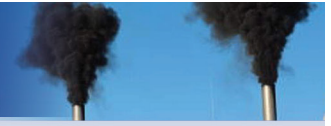
PMID: 32119036

[Endoplasmic reticulum stress and glutathione therapeutics in chronic lung diseases.](#)

Janssen-Heininger Y, Reynaert NL, van der Vliet A, Anathy V.

Redox Biol. 2020 Mar 23:101516. doi: 10.1016/j.redox.2020.101516. [Epub ahead of print] Review. No abstract available.

PMID: 32249209



SARS-CoV-2 / COVID-19

[SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Children.](#)

Lu X, Zhang L, Du H, Zhang J, Li YY, Qu J, Zhang W, Wang Y, Bao S, Li Y, Wu C, Liu H, Liu D, Shao J, Peng X, Yang Y, Liu Z, Xiang Y, Zhang F, Silva RM, Pinkerton KE, Shen K, Xiao H, Xu S, Wong GWK; Chinese Pediatric Novel Coronavirus Study Team.

N Engl J Med. 2020 Mar 18. doi: 10.1056/NEJMc2005073. [Epub ahead of print] No abstract available.

PMID: 32187458

[Multi-omics Evaluation of Gastrointestinal and Other Clinical Characteristics of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19.](#)

Du M, Cai G, Chen F, Christiani DC, Zhang Z, Wang M.

Gastroenterology. 2020 Mar 28. pii: S0016-5085(20)30399-1. doi: 10.1053/j.gastro.2020.03.045. [Epub ahead of print] No abstract available.

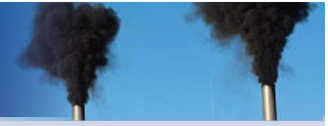
PMID: 32234303

[Triageing Spine Surgery in the COVID-19 Era.](#)

Donnally CJ 3rd, Shenoy K, Vaccaro AR, Schroeder GD, Kepler CK.

Clin Spine Surg. 2020 Mar 31. doi: 10.1097/BSD.0000000000000988. [Epub ahead of print] No abstract available.

PMID: 32235170



Updates from Terrorism and Inhalation Disasters Section



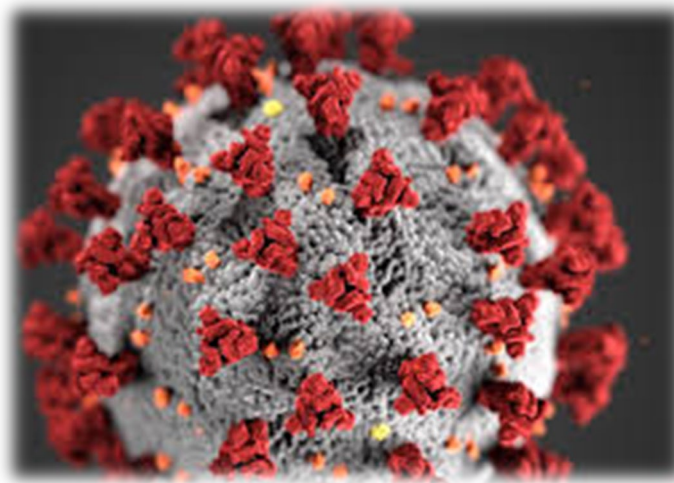
TID Section Announcements

During this COVID-19 pandemic situation, while the state and federal administrations are trying to curb the spread, please do your part by staying at home, maintaining social distancing, and washing hands frequently. It is our responsibility to flatten the curve. Please decrease your social interactions as much as possible. Use [CDC's guidelines](#) for cloth facemasks.

COVID-19 resources on our TID Section website

We have updated our TID Section website with some of the resources and hyperlinks to federal agencies such as CDC, FDA, and NIH. Please check out.

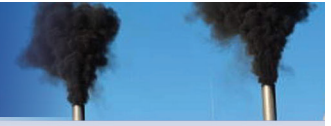
<https://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/sections/tid/covid-19.php>



**#COVID-19Crisis #FlattenTheCurve #SocialDistancing #PersonalHygiene
#KudosToAllHealthProfessionals**

CDC outlines guidelines for coping up with stress and anxiety during this pandemic situation:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/managing-stress->



[anxiety.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprepare%2Fmanaging-stress-anxiety.html](https://www.cdc.gov/2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprepare%2Fmanaging-stress-anxiety.html)

A guide to keeping your child safe and reassured as coronavirus spreads:

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/05/health/coronavirus-how-to-talk-to-children-trnd/index.html>

Ways to Support Yourself and Your Family (<https://www.dukehealth.org/blog/how-support-yourself-and-loved-ones-hospice-care-during-covid-19-isolation>)

During this pandemic time, calls to U.S poison centers about cleaner and disinfectant exposures increased by 20%. Please follow simple practices to ensure the safety of you and your family –

- Follow label directions
- Don't mix chemicals
- Wear protective gear
- Use in well-ventilated area
- Store chemicals out of reach of kids

(https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6916e1.htm?s_cid=mm6916e1_e&deliveryName=USCDC_921-DM26275)

Announcements of interest

Please see funding opportunities for COVID-19 related research BARDA

(<https://www.phe.gov/emergency/events/COVID19/Pages/default.aspx>) and NIH

(<https://grants.nih.gov/policy/natural-disasters/corona-virus.htm>)

Dr. Sven-Eric Jordt, PhD, Associate Professor of Anesthesiology, Duke University School of Medicine submitted a white paper to BARDA to treat ARDS symptoms in COVID-19 patients with TRPV4 inhibitors, in collaboration with Dr. Wolfgang Liedtke, MD, Professor of Neurobiology, Duke University.

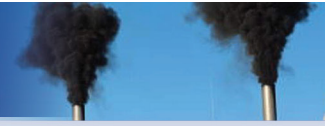
Recent publications from TID members and relevant to TID section:

1. [Environmental and Health Impacts of Air Pollution: A Review.](#)

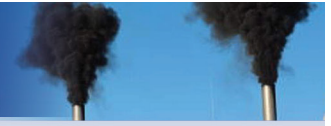
Manisalidis I, Stavropoulou E, Stavropoulos A, Bezirtzoglou E. *Front Public Health*. 2020 Feb 20;8:14. doi: 10.3389/fpubh.2020.00014. eCollection 2020. PMID: 32154200 **Free PMC article**. Review.

2. [Competence in pulmonary endoscopy emergencies.](#)

Simonassi CF, Majori M, Covesnon MG, Brianti A, Lazzari Agli L, Meoni E, Ielpo A, Corbetta L. *Panminerva Med*. 2019 Sep;61(3):386-400. doi: 10.23736/S0031-0808.18.03543-7. Epub 2018 Oct 5. PMID: 30303356 Review.



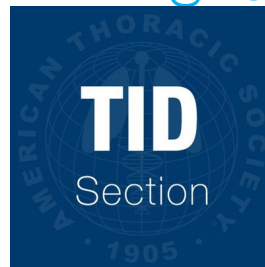
3. [Occupational exposure characteristics and health risk of PBDEs at different domestic e-waste recycling workshops in China.](#)
Zhang M, Shi J, Meng Y, Guo W, Li H, Liu X, Zhang Y, Ge H, Yao M, Hu Q. *Ecotoxicol Environ Saf.* 2019 Jun 15;174:532-539. doi: 10.1016/j.ecoenv.2019.03.010. Epub 2019 Mar 9. PMID: 30861441
4. [Estimated Thyroid Inhalation Doses Based on Body Surface Contamination Levels of Evacuees After the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant Accident.](#)
Ohba T, Hasegawa A, Suzuki G. *Health Phys.* 2019 Jul;117(1):1-12. doi: 10.1097/HP.0000000000000990. PMID: 31124832
5. [Global Characteristics of Chemical, Biological, and Radiological Poison Use in Terrorist Attacks.](#)
Aydin B. *Prehosp Disaster Med.* 2020 Apr 2:1-7. doi: 10.1017/S1049023X20000394. Online ahead of print. PMID: 32238210
6. [Application of calcium nebulization for mass exposure to an accidental hydrofluoric acid spill.](#)
Choe MSP, Lee MJ, Seo KS, Kam S, Kim KY, Je D, Kim SH, Nho WY, Park HI, Shin S, Ryoo HW. *Burns.* 2020 Mar 21:S0305-4179(19)30718-1. doi: 10.1016/j.burns.2020.02.015. Online ahead of print. PMID: 32209280
7. [Quantitative CT Evidence of Airway Inflammation in WTC Workers and Volunteers with Low FVC Spirometric Pattern.](#)
Weber J, Reeves AP, Doucette JT, Jeon Y, Sood A, San José Estépar R, Celedón JC, de la Hoz RE. *Lung.* 2020 Apr 1. doi: 10.1007/s00408-020-00350-5. Online ahead of print. PMID: 32239319
8. [Measuring acute pulmonary responses to occupational wildland fire smoke exposure using exhaled breath condensate.](#)
Wu CM, Adetona A, Song CC, Naeher L, Adetona O. *Arch Environ Occup Health.* 2020;75(2):65-69. doi: 10.1080/19338244.2018.1562413. Epub 2019 Jan 22. PMID: 30668286
9. [Firefighter's Acute Inflammatory Response to Wildfire Suppression.](#)
Main LC, Wolkow AP, Tait JL, Della Gatta P, Raines J, Snow R, Aisbett B. *J Occup Environ Med.* 2020 Feb;62(2):145-148. doi: 10.1097/JOM.0000000000001775. PMID: 31764604
10. [Increased pulmonary artery diameter is associated with reduced FEV₁ in former World Trade Center workers.](#)
de la Hoz RE, Jeon Y, Reeves AP, San José Estépar R, Liu X, Doucette JT, Celedón JC, Nolan A. *Clin Respir J.* 2019 Oct;13(10):614-623. doi: 10.1111/crj.13067. Epub 2019 Aug 19. PMID: 31347281



11. [Choking agents and chlorine gas - History, pathophysiology, clinical effects and treatment.](#)
Zellner T, Eyer F. *Toxicol Lett.* 2020 Mar 1;320:73-79. doi: 10.1016/j.toxlet.2019.12.005. Epub 2019 Dec 4. PMID: 31811912 Review.
12. [N-acetyl cysteine protects against chlorine-induced tissue damage in an ex vivo model.](#)
Ågren L, Elfsmark L, Akfur C, Hägglund L, Ekstrand-Hammarström B, Jonasson S. *Toxicol Lett.* 2020 Apr 1;322:58-65. doi: 10.1016/j.toxlet.2020.01.006. Epub 2020 Jan 18. PMID: 31962155
13. **COVID-19: Urgent Reconsideration of Lung Edema as a Preventable Outcome: Inhibition of TRPV4 As a Promising and Feasible Approach** Kuebler, Wolfgang and Jordt, Sven-Eric and Liedtke, Wolfgang, (March 22, 2020). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3558887> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3558887>



TID section is on **twitter**
Follow TID section on **@ATSTIDSection**

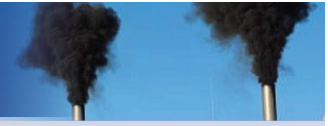


TID section is soliciting ideas for putting together **podcasts, webinars, and journal clubs**. Please contact Satya Achanta, DVM, PhD, DABT (satya.achanta@duke.edu), Web Director of TID section, if you are interested to lead any of these activities. Also, please email your publications, news articles, or presentations pertinent to TID section to include in the future EOPH newsletters.

COVID-19 RESOURCES

ATS Resources

The ATS Clinical Problems (CP) Assembly has a closed, internal Facebook page hosted by MeiLan Han that is being consistently updated with COVID-19 updates/resources for rapid dissemination among members. All ATS members may have access to this page—you will need to enter your ATS member number to join. The link to the Facebook page is [HERE](#). A major goal of this resource is to also add to knowledge by posting experiences with clinical care associated with COVID-19, as well as more general news regarding coronavirus.



Also, with information evolving as quickly as it is and responding to requests from members, ATS has created a new channel through Slack that might be useful if you wish to share information with each other and your colleagues. We are sending this to ATS leaders only, however, you are welcome to invite other ATS member colleagues to join. The ATS channel ats-covid19.slack.com can be accessed [HERE](#).

Disclaimer: Staff will be monitoring postings but will not be able to judge content, and thus, these are simply platforms for exchange, with everyone understanding that nothing posted is official, ATS-vetted information. Also, please keep in mind HIPPA regulations when sharing information.

Other Resources

The New York Times has made their very extensive, frequently updated, coronavirus coverage freely available without a subscription. You can access this information by navigating from the [New York Times homepage](#), or click the link [HERE](#) to go directly to the resources.

The Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University is providing a map of the global spread of COVID-19 that updates regularly. You can access the site [HERE](#).

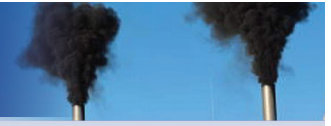
Advice for Pulmonary Function Testing

Very important PFT advice that you might have missed was issued late last month by members of the ATS Proficiency Standards for Pulmonary Function Testing Committee, called "*Advice Regarding COVID 19 For Pulmonary Function Laboratories.*" Its link is here: [HERE](#) - you have to scroll to the bottom of the page. It states that:

“Concern has been raised that pulmonary function testing could represent a potential avenue for COVID 19 transmission due to the congregation of patients with lung disease and because of the potential for coughing and droplet formation surrounding pulmonary function testing procedures.”

The Committee recommends “that pulmonary function testing be limited to tests that are only essential for immediate treatment decisions, that the type of pulmonary function testing be limited to the most essential tests when possible, and that measures to protect both the staff and individuals being tested should be put in place.”

Based on ACOEM's and CAOHC's recommendations about postponing non-essential routine spirometry and hearing tests, OSHA issued an enforcement guidance on postponing various testing and training activities during the pandemic. News release here: <https://www.osha.gov/news/newsreleases/national/04162020-0>



Enforcement memo here (with specific examples of types of testing to be postponed): <https://www.osha.gov/memos/2020-04-16/discretion-enforcement-when-considering-employers-good-faith-efforts-during>.

Also NIOSH continues to recommend that NIOSH-approved spirometry courses be suspended due to the risk of cross-contamination from asymptomatic infected students to non-infected students.

Webalogue by the Ecohealth Knowledge to Action Research Group

Check out the recorded Webalogue by the Ecohealth Knowledge to Action Research Group: **Learning for Planetary Health: Early Lessons from a Pandemic**, available [HERE](#) (link directly to video [HERE](#)). The summary of the Webalogue is as follows:

We are experiencing the greatest challenge for public health in several generations with the COVID-19 pandemic, and with this challenge will emerge unprecedented opportunity as governments and citizens prepare for a post-COVID future. This webinar will begin by exploring the origins of the outbreak with lessons from the animal-human interface. We will then learn from previous economic collapses and what these lessons teach us about the coming weeks and months as we emerge from the current wave of disease and devastated economy to become a more healthy planet. We will begin exploring the relationships and resources needed for a recovery that makes us stronger and better able to face the challenges to planetary health that are even more critical than the COVID-19 pandemic, but that appear less imminent to society. One goal is to articulate a shared vision of this future where society bounces back, but bounces back to a better place than our pre-pandemic world.

Moderator: **Chris Buse**, Centre for Environmental Assessment Research, UBC

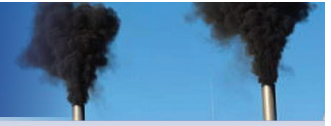
Speakers:

- **Mira Ziolo**, Consulting Veterinarian at Wildlife Rescue Association of BC, PhD Student, UBC Interdisciplinary PhD student
- **Tim Takaro**, Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University
- **Trevor Hancock**, Retired Professor and Senior Scholar, School of Public Health and Social Policy, University of Victoria

Other News

Federal World Trade Center Health Program Research Agenda; Request for Information

The World Trade Center Health Program Research Agenda published a notice (see attachment), with the purpose of soliciting public comment on the scope of upcoming research funding cycle for fiscal year 2021. Individuals interested in submitting comments are directed to this URL: <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=CDC-2020-0035>. The comment period will close at midnight on June 1, 2020.



ATS 2020 International Conference

As of **March 18, 2020**, The ATS 2020 International Conference has been canceled. See below the message from ATS Leadership regarding this decision:

A Message from ATS Leadership

March 18, 2020

To Our Colleagues in the Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Professions

We write with a heavy heart to inform you that the American Thoracic Society (ATS) Board of Directors have decided to cancel the International Conference, originally scheduled for May 15-20, 2020 in Philadelphia, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing public health crisis currently facing the global community. We understand that your current and appropriate focus is on caring for patients and conducting important research during this critical time.

This decision was made based on recent actions by various government entities, including guidance issued by the CDC and the Pennsylvania Governor and out of an abundance of caution and concern for our community, members, conference attendees, exhibitors and staff.

To help fill the void from the loss of the conference, ATS leadership is currently exploring options for providing select elements of the conference content in a web-based format that would be available later this year. Details are still being discussed, and we will announce next steps as more information becomes available.

For those of you who have registered for the meeting, we are working to make refunds for registration and hotel rooms that were booked through the ATS housing partner a seamless process and will be issuing more information soon.

ATS appreciates everyone's patience and understanding during this unprecedented public health crisis. We understand that your priorities are your patients, colleagues and families, and we want to support that mission in every way possible. We remain committed to offering opportunities for the pulmonary, critical care and sleep communities to share knowledge and collaborate to advance science and improve patient care.

Sincerely,

James M. Beck, MD, ATSF, President

Juan C. Celedón, MD, DrPH, ATSF, President-Elect

Polly E. Parsons, MD, ATSF, Immediate Past President

Lynn M. Schnapp, MD, ATSF, Vice President

Gregory P. Downey, MD, ATSF, Secretary-Treasurer

Eric S. White, MD, MS, ATSF, International Conference Committee Chair

Andrew J. Halayko, PhD, ATSF, International Conference Committee Chair Appointee

Karen J. Collishaw, MPP, CAE, Executive Director