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Message from the Assembly Chair

Dear Colleagues:

We hope this newsletter finds you well and that the COVID-19 pandemic is lessening its grip in your community!

There is no doubt the pandemic has affected all ATS community and activities, this past year. We did our best to adapt and maintain focus at the forefront of clinical, research, and educational missions within the field of Sleep Medicine, while supporting COVID-19 related needs. I am grateful to all who served on the Executive Committee, all our committees and to the membership, as we continued to focus on our mission of promoting sleep and sleep-respiratory health. I'd also like to express my gratitude to Miriam Rodriguez, Senior Director of Assembly Programs, and ATS staff who have been supporting us remotely, to keep us being productive through these challenging times. **Thank you, all, for your dedication and hard work!**

The Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology (SRN) Assembly continues to play a dynamic role in the ATS. I take this opportunity to recognize and **highlight some of the activities** from our committees, interest and advisory groups within the Assembly. Further details on these and other activities of these committees/groups are included in each chair(s)'s report that follows.

The International Conference has traditionally been the focal point of our activities and we thank you all for submitting programming content and abstracts for this year Virtual Meeting. While the number of abstract submissions took a nosedive across the ATS assemblies, due to the pandemic, our **Program Chair, Dr. Camilla Hoyos and Chair-Elect, Dr. Naomi Shah**, did an amazing job in organizing the content within the requirements of the International Conference Committee (ICC). This year's program includes pre-recorded (on demand) as well as live sessions. We have a balanced basic/clinical science program, including 4 major symposiums (2 independent and 2 co-sponsored with other Assemblies or Committees), 1 Mini-symposium, 1 Meet the Experts and 1 Clinical Core Curriculum session(s), and the Clinical Year in Review. All 80 abstracts have been grouped in 7 Thematic Poster Sessions, which will be available for your viewing, throughout the conference time.

In addition to the SRN developed program, please be on a look out for the program organized by the ATS-wide Science & Innovation Center (SIC), which include both scientific and career development sessions by experts in the field, of broad appeal to many members. For specific sessions, check out the Table below and the report that follows from **Dr. Indu Ayappa's**, to who I am greatly undoubted for getting us started on this committee and working diligently to increase our visibility on it.

See the Table that follows, with a summary of all aforementioned sessions, for your convenience!



Editor: Mihaela Teodorescu, MD, MS

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ASSEMBLY CHAIR MESSAGE (continued)

Assembly projects and awards: The Planning Committee, under the leadership of **Dr. Peter Cistulli**, reviews new Assembly project applications and supports ongoing projects. Thanks for their support, this year we had a 50% funding rate for new projects! The newly funded projects address important gaps in the field of both, pediatric and adult Sleep Medicine:

- 1) Clinical practice guideline on the management of persistent, post-adenotonsillectomy obstructive sleep apnea in children (Dr. Zarmina Ehsan, University of Missouri, Kansas City, MO)
- 2) Workshop report on the causes, consequences, and treatments of sleep and circadian disruption in the ICU (Dr. Melissa Knauert, Yale, University, New Haven, CT)
- 3) Workshop report on the link between obstructive sleep apnea and neurocognitive impairment (Dr. Chitra Lal, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC).

Congratulations to these recipients, we look forward to their contributions!

The committee has also overseen the successful completion of three projects this year, with findings just recently published:

- 1) [Long-Term Noninvasive Ventilation in Chronic Stable Hypercapnic Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease: An Official American Thoracic Society Clinical Practice Guideline. AJRCCM 2020, led by Dr. Madalina Macrea](#)
- 2) [The Importance of Mask Selection on CPAP Outcomes for Obstructive Sleep Apnea: An Official American Thoracic Society Workshop Report \(Workshop Report\). AnnalsATS 2020, led by Dr. Pedro Genta](#)
- 3) [Research Priorities for Patients with Heart Failure and Central Sleep Apnea: An Official American Thoracic Society Research Statement \(Research Statement\). AJRCCM 2021, led by Dr. Jeremy Orr.](#)

As we look forward to the next year, if you have thoughts on potential Assembly projects, start planning now! The anticipated submission deadline is nearing, ie, end of July! Consider contacting Dr. Cistulli too, for his expert advice. He has put together a list of tips to share with applicants, to aid them with planning and preparation of their projects.

The Planning Committee also oversees the Assembly's three prestigious awards, and we are delighted to recognize the 2020 recipients: Dr. Tetyana Kendzerska, MD, Ph.D from University of Ottawa, who was awarded the James B. Skatrud Award for rising stars, Dr. David F. Smith, MD, PhD from Cincinnati Children's Hospital who was awarded the Carole L. Marcus Award for outstanding achievement in pediatric and sleep neurobiology, and Dr. Kingman Strohl MD from Case Western Reserve University, who was awarded the distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award. Congratulations to these awardees! For the 2021 awards cycle, the application process has just ended. Awardees will be announced at our Assembly's business meeting in May. Importantly, we are looking forward to celebrate all these past years' successes at our next face-to-face gathering, hopefully next year in San Francisco!

Research Grants and SRN Assembly intramural research grant review: The ATS Research Program has been critical in supporting many young investigators within the ATS, and particularly so during these challenging times. The program supports 2-3 sleep related grants each year. We are thrilled to announce the 2020-2021 talented group of basic and clinical research grant recipients: Dr. Peng Li, from University of Michigan for his project "*Regulation of sighs and post-sigh apneas by sleep-wake states*", Dr. Rachel Jen, from Vancouver General Hospital for her project entitled "*Pilot study of antioxidant therapy in OSA patients*" and Dr. Brian Cade from Brigham and Women's Hospital for his project "*Pulmonary disease contributions to COVID-19 morbidity and mortality*". Please join me in congratulating these scientists on winning these prestigious awards! *We look forward to see their progress, both with their projects as well as careers!* If you want to contribute to the ATS Research Program to help support young investigators doing cutting edge research in our field, [please consider making a donation](#). If you are a young investigator, consider applying for one of the [ATS Research Program awards](#) for the next year. They have a higher success rate than NIH and other funding agencies.

This has been the first year to implement our newly established Assembly intramural grant review process, aimed at improving the quality of the applications prior to submission/review to the ATS Research Program. I thank **Dr. Robert Owens** for his leadership in establishing this committee, which offers two services:

- 1) An expedited review of a near final application: Two weeks before the deadline, 1-2 anonymous reviewers review the proposals. The reviewers are senior SRN members, some of whom have previously been part of the ATS Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC). They return the applications ~1 week before the final deadline. This review serves as a "fresh set of eyes" on the application and provides feedback that could be implemented before the final submission.
- 2) Remote grant development: based on the subject matter of the grant, the applicant gets paired with an external, experienced researcher in the field who provides ongoing input as the grant is being developed, through its final submission. The expectation is that the external mentor would meet virtually with the applicant every two weeks. Thus, the external mentor gives input on the aims at all stages of the proposal.

This year, eleven letters of intent were received from 10 SRN applicants and all were invited by ATS SAC to submit complete applications, within a short timeline (5 weeks). Of these 10 applicants, 7 reached out for our intramural services (3 requested final grant review and 4 remote grant development) of which 5 pairing materialized. Ultimately, among all the final submissions to ATS SAC, 6 were discussed and 2 were awarded. Bob has sought and received constructive feedback, both, from the applicants and reviewers and we will work further with the ATS leadership to incorporate it/refine the process, to increase its efficacy towards the set goal.

Early career members' activities of the COVID-19 era: This has been a challenging year for our early career members, owing to lack of in-person conference and networking opportunities. Recognizing these challenges early, to mitigate their impact, our Early Career

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ASSEMBLY CHAIR MESSAGE (continued)

Working Group (ECWG), led by **Drs. Vaishavi Kundel and Lucas Donovan**, has been very proactive at implementing new networking activities and keeping the membership informed through their quarterly newsletters. Notably, they hosted two Virtual Happy Hours, where fellows and junior faculty had the opportunity to meet with leaders in the field, and then break out in smaller groups for more individualized networking, in a relaxed atmosphere. Additionally, collaboratively with Members in Training and Transit Committee (MITT), Vaishanvi and Lucas have recently hosted a very engaging and informative Twitter Chat, focused on Career Pathways in Sleep Medicine, with a panel of representatives from many stakeholders. I was fortunate to attend all these sessions. The energy and enthusiasm from these young folks was clearly flowing and I felt much more optimistic about the future of our field! I congratulate Vaishanvi and Lucas for all their work, their efforts were praised by the ATS staff and Leadership at our most recent Assembly chair meeting! And, they are planning few more such sessions, so stay tuned!

Early career members' activities of the COVID-19 era: This has been a challenging year for our early career members, owing to lack of in-person conference and networking opportunities. Recognizing these challenges early, to mitigate their impact, our Early Career Working Group (ECWG), led by **Drs. Vaishavi Kundel and Lucas Donovan**, has been very proactive at implementing new networking activities and keeping the membership informed through their quarterly newsletters. Notably, they hosted two Virtual Happy Hours, where fellows and junior faculty had the opportunity to meet with leaders in the field, and then break out in smaller group for more individualized networking, in a relaxed atmosphere. Additionally, collaboratively with Members in Training and Transit Committee (MITT), Vaishanvi and Lucas have recently hosted a very engaging and informative Twitter Chat focused on Career Pathways in Sleep Medicine, with a panel of representatives from many stakeholders. I was fortunate to attend all these sessions. The energy and enthusiasm from these young folks was clearly flowing and I felt much more optimistic about the future of our field! I congratulate Vaishanvi and Lucas for all their work, their efforts were praised by the ATS staff and Leadership at our most recent Assembly chair meeting! And, they are planning few more such sessions, so stay tuned!

This was also the inaugural year of our Apprenticeship program that Vaishnavi and Lucas have very diligently been organizing. Apprentices serve under the mentorship of a committee member or chair, and develop skills in executing various committee projects. I congratulate Dr. Nancy Lin-Programming Committee, and Dr. Anuja Bandyopadhyay-Planning Committee Apprentices. I have interacted with some of them on the committee meetings and I was impressed by their enthusiasm, knowledgeable comments and engagement. We look forward to the new class, which is being selected at this time and will be announced at our upcoming Assembly business meeting in May.

ASPIRE Fellowship: The Academic Sleep Pulmonary Integrated Research (ASPIRE) fellowship, now administered by the ATS, continues to grow and is now accepting applications from around the world. The goal is to provide critical funding for pulmonary or sleep fellows interested in a research career related to sleep-disordered breathing. This program began in 2017 and its 12 graduates are already stars in the field! Current class includes eight fellows:

We congratulate this year's graduating class:

Jacqueline Geer, MD - Yale University
Jason Yu, MD - University of Pennsylvania
Phoebe Yu, MD - Harvard University
Courtney Quinlan, DO - University of Pennsylvania
Abigail Koch, MD - Johns Hopkins University
Christopher Schmickl, MD - Boston University
Oren Cohen, MD - Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
Syed Moin Hassan, MD - Harvard University

The 2022 graduating class includes:

Megan Acho, MD - University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
Annie Lajoie, MD - McGill University/Laval University
Brandon Nokes, MD - University of California San Diego
Neha Patel, MD - Columbia University Irving Medical Center
Moshe Prero, MD - Case Western Reserve University
Sigfus Gunnlaugsson, MD - Boston Children's Hospital
Daniel Ignatiuk, MD - Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
Toshihiro Imamura, MD - Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

We commend all of them for choosing to invest additional time in their education and congratulate them for representing the future of our field! Special thanks to **Dr. Richard Schwab** who spearheaded the creation of this program and obtained corporate sponsorships to fund the program. [Learn more](#) about this exciting program, including how to apply for the current funding cycle. Applications are **due Monday, April 19th, 2021**. Requirements include CV of the applicant, a 1-2 page statement of research goals and why they are a candidate for the ASPIRE fellowship and letter from mentor. Please contact Richard Schwab (rschwab@penntmedicine.upenn.edu) with any questions.

PhD related activities: PhDs are integral to the success of ATS activities, across all its missions. I am grateful to **Dr. Brian Cade** for representing the SRN in the ATS-wide PhD, Basic and Translational Scientists (PBTS) Working Group, for his leadership and engaging us with the activities planned by the group. Check out his detailed report below for the multiple outstanding opportunities they've been working on this past year! You can add your name to the seminar database they set up, post jobs for post-docs free of charge, and [register for the upcoming PhD Reception](#) on Monday, May 17, 2021 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM Eastern Time! As well, consider joining the group to get involved with their exciting activities in the year ahead, so let Brian know (bcade@bwh.harvard.edu)!

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ASSEMBLY CHAIR MESSAGE (continued)

The SRN Journal Club: I want to acknowledge our Journal Club Committee Chair and Co-chair, **Drs. Notch Sigua and Nancy Steward** who have kept very busy, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, with their efforts to organize both live webinars that people can dial into (5 sessions since last May), as well as podcasts (4 since last May) that can be downloaded and listened to at one's convenience. Journal Clubs topics included some recent high impact publications, including on COVID-19:

- 1) Obstructive Sleep Apnea and Incident Cancer: A Large Retrospective Multicenter Clinical Cohort Study;
- 2) Sleep Apnea and COVID-19 Mortality and Hospitalization;
- 3) Effects of Weight Loss on Obstructive Sleep Apnea Severity: 10-year Results of the Sleep AHEAD Study;
- 4) Long-Term Noninvasive Ventilation in Chronic Stable Hypercapnic Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease. An Official American Thoracic Society Clinical Practice Guideline;
- 5) Restoring Pulmonary and Sleep Services as the COVID-19 Pandemic Lessens: From an Association of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Division Directors and American Thoracic Society-coordinated Task.

Some of these sessions were co-hosted with other ATS assemblies or other professional societies in the field. Recordings of all our past Journal Clubs as well as Podcasts are available on our [website](#). I thank **Notch for her leadership** on this committee as she is moving to her new role as the incoming Assembly Web-Director this May. I **welcome Dr. Refika Ursu** in the new role as the Co-chair of the Journal Club. Please provide feedback to Nancy and Refika if you have ideas for future journal clubs or podcasts topics.

COVID-19 specific activities: Apart from maintaining focus on activities for early career members and on educational opportunities, as outlined above, we have engaged in providing guidance to clinicians, as well as initiating conversations with other stakeholders in the field on related research opportunities. In the clinical area, we have:

- 1) [Provided guidance on a phased-reopening of the sleep laboratories and clinic services, as part of a task force coordinated by Association of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Division Directors and the ATS](#) . This paper was presented/ discussed in the Journal Club forum as well.
- 2) [Patient education materials](#) on very relevant topics during the pandemic, such as **Emergency or Disaster --How to Prepare for an Emergency or Disaster When You Have Lung Disease or a Sleep Disorder, COVID-19 and Home Positive Airway Pressure (PAP) Therapy, Healthy Sleep in Children, Healthy Sleep in Adults**. These pamphlets are free to download and available in multiple languages. I am grateful to the Web Education subcommittee, led by **Drs. Helena Schotland and Iris Ambrosio-Perez** for their initiative and tireless work to produce these materials. As well, to **Drs. Robert Stansbury, Chair and Anna May, Incoming Chair** for their leadership and overseeing all the Web activities.
- 3) Perspective on the impact of the pandemic on sleep disorders and on the field, in a [podcast](#) we just released. Dr. Cleto Kushida, Professor of Psychiatry and Division Chief of Stanford Sleep Medicine at Stanford University provided his thoughts on the long-term effect of the pandemic on sleep disorders and the teaching and practice of Sleep Medicine; as well, his opinion on the innovations in sleep disorders diagnosis and treatment that can result from this worldwide pandemic.

In research, we held our first Town Hall on the Sleep-COVID-19 topic, entitled "Opportunities in Sleep-COVID-19 Research—Insights from the Evolving Pandemic", this past December. I thank **Drs. Reena Mehra and Sai Parthasarathy** for their leadership on this effort. We intended it to be part of a series of discussions on this topic that will hopefully generate collaborations, as well as funding opportunities in the field. In that spirit, we co-hosted this session with representatives from American Academy of Sleep Medicine, Sleep Research Society, World Sleep Society and American College of Chest Physicians. Published research studies on the topic were presented, as well as scientific funding opportunities at the NIH. Using the feedback we obtained this far, we are in the process to organize another session, collaboratively with the other stakeholders.

US Sleep MOC Certification:

As you may have seen in the recent communication from ABIM, the Sleep MOC longitudinal certification will be including a "focused content" assessment for diplomats with background in Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, starting 2023. Its content will encompass a mix of 30% focused and 70% breadth of the field questions, which will be developed by the ABIM Test Writing Committee. The SRN leadership and members practicing adult medicine we heard from were not in favor of this change, out of concern for confusion on patients in selecting appropriately trained providers for their specific issues and fragmentation of the field, among others. Other background specialties are following suit, see communication from the Pediatric Assembly below:

Dear Members of the Pediatric Sleep Community: We are happy to announce that Laura Sterni MD, Director of the Johns Hopkins Pediatric Sleep Center and will represent the pediatric sleep community within the Pediatrics Assembly, and we hope to partner with the Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology Assembly moving forward.

Committee representatives recently met with the leadership of the American Board of Pediatrics to clarify the upcoming changes to maintenance of certification in sleep medicine and how these changes may affect pediatric sleep specialists. The ABIM will introduce a longitudinal assessment for sleep medicine (similar to MOCA Peds) in 2022. Diplomats who are due to take the traditional proctored MOC exam in 2021 may defer until 2022 and begin the new longitudinal assessment at that time. Details of exactly how to sign up for the new longitudinal assessment are still being worked out by ABIM. This assessment will be based on the same content outline used to develop the traditional proctored MOC exam. Diplomats can still choose to take the one day proctored MOC exam if this is preferred to the new longitudinal assessment.

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ASSEMBLY CHAIR MESSAGE (continued)

Additionally, in 2023 a pilot program of a longitudinal MOC assessment will be launched by the ABIM and the ABOHNS which will offer a focused assessment experience – with 30% of the assessment taken from areas in the content outline more commonly seen in the practice of the ABOHNS diplomats. Diplomats boarded by the ABP also have the option of joining this pilot to satisfy their MOC requirements.

The ABP will be evaluating the new certification options carefully. For questions related to the new sleep medicine longitudinal assessment, please contact ABIM at request@abim.org. Please feel free to send feedback to Laura Sterni (lsterni1@jhmi.edu).

Sleep Advocacy: Working with the ATS leadership and many of you, the Assembly has been involved in advocating for greater sleep health, as follows:

The Assembly reviewed the following documents from American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM) for consideration of endorsement, with the following outcomes:

- a) “Sleep is essential to health: An American Academy of Sleep Medicine position statement” (endorsed March, 2021)
- b) “Daylight saving time: An American Academy of Sleep Medicine position statement” (not endorsed, November, 2020)

We reviewed and provided comments during the public comment periods, for the following:

- a) Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Technology Assessment on Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) Treatment for Obstructive Sleep Apnea (Response in Progress).
- b) Noridian and CGS proposed changes to the Local Coverage Determination for Oral Appliances for Obstructive Sleep Apnea, Positive Airway Pressure (PAP) Devices for the Treatment of Obstructive Sleep Apnea, and Respiratory Assist Devices (April 2021).
- c) Medicare Local Coverage Determination (LCD) for phrenic nerve stimulation for Central Sleep Apnea (March, 2021).
- d) AASM letter to State Dental Boards regarding the scope of practice of dentists in relation to the testing, diagnosis, and treatment of patients who have obstructive sleep apnea (March 2021).
- e) US Preventive Services Task Force’s (USPSTF) Draft Research Plan on Screening for Obstructive Sleep Apnea in Adults, available here (January 2021).
- f) AASM draft on Clinical Practice Guideline on the Referral of Adults with Obstructive Sleep Apnea for Surgical Consultation” (November, 2020).
- g) AHRQ Evidence-based Practice Center Systematic Review Protocol on Continuous Positive Airway Pressure Treatment for Obstructive Sleep Apnea in Medicare Eligible Patients (July 2020).
- h) 2021 World Trade Center Health Program Research Agenda, World Trade Center Health Program, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (June 2020).

I want to express my gratitude **to many of you**, who volunteered your time to review and provide very helpful comments on these documents, often on a very short timeline.

Advocacy at the NIH:

- I. Presented an overview of the assembly and its goals to the Sleep Disorders Research Advisory Board (SDRAB) (December 2020).
- II. Monthly meetings with the Trans NIH National Center on Sleep Disorders Research Director to identify/work on shared interests/opportunities (research priorities including Sleep-COVID-19, efforts at strengthening the investigators pipeline, increasing adult pulmonary representation on SDRAB).

The ATS Government Relations has been working to get engaged with the newly formed U.S. House Sleep Caucus, co-chaired by Reps. Lofgren (D-CA) and Davis (R-IL).

Moving forward, to help with the expanding advocacy opportunities, we are working towards establishing an Assembly Advocacy Committee. This committee will seek and also develop advocacy opportunities, in clinical, research and education areas, including for international members.

Social media presence: The SRN Assembly is increasingly [active on Twitter](#). Thanks to Dr. Nancy Steward and her “twitters” group, along with several very active members, the Assembly presence has grown quite robustly—we have 641 followers! Even I joined the platform this year! So, don’t forget to follow our Assembly on Twitter at [@ATSSRN](#) or me at [@MihaelaTeodore7](#), for news about the Assembly.

Assembly Virtual Business Meeting: Mark your calendar for this meeting set for **Monday, May 10, 4-6 pm EDT!** The Meeting will begin with a happy hour from 4:00 to 4:15 PM EST, followed by the membership portion of the meeting, where our panel herein will be updating the membership on the Assembly’s programs and activities, discuss plans for the upcoming year and opportunities for engaging with the Assembly activities. Our Awardees and new leadership will also be announced.

Finally, I have been honored to serve as the Assembly Chair and to represent you and our great Assembly on the ATS Board of Directors, over the past 2 years, aiming at enhancing our visibility, role and engagement with overall ATS activities. At the upcoming business meeting in May, I will be passing the baton to Dr.

Assembly on Sleep And Respiratory Neurobiology (SRN) Membership Meeting

Monday, May 10, 2021
4-6 PM EST

[Register Now](#)

 **ATS 2021**
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
MAY 14-19 #ATS2021

ASSEMBLY CHAIR MESSAGE (continued)

Reena Mehra, from Cleveland Clinic, who will serve in this role for the upcoming 2 years. I can't express enough my gratitude to the members of the Executive Committee and of all our Assembly committees who volunteer so much time to accomplish the myriad of activities that our Assembly is involved with! As well, for your input and support of our activities, when called on to serve.

The Assembly Executive Committee and I would welcome your input and involvement with the ATS. Feel free to contact me at mt3@medicine.wisc.edu or Dr. Mehra at mehrar@ccf.org if you wish to volunteer for our Assembly activities, or with any questions and ideas for what the Assembly can do, to better meet your needs! **To get involved with the overall ATS Committees, we encourage you sign up at the [Get Involved Portal](#) which the ATS has specifically created for this purpose.**

I look forward to see you, at least virtually, at the business meeting, on May 10th, 2020, and hopefully face-to-face next year, in San Francisco!

Sincerely Yours,
Mihaela Teodorescu, MD, MS
Chair, Assembly on Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology (SRN)

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

Camilla Hoyos, PhD, Chair and Neomi Shah, MD, MPH, MSC, Chair-Elect

Neomi and I want to first thank all members of the SRN Assembly, who submitted proposals for major symposia, postgraduate courses, meet the professor, sunrise seminars and scientific abstracts as well as case reports for this year's meeting. We know it was a tough year for everyone, so we appreciate your efforts. Thank you also in advance to all of those you have agreed to serve as Chairs and Moderators for the sessions. With the assistance of the SRN Program Committee and of the International Conference Committee (ICC), we believe we have put together an interesting array of sessions for the 2021 virtual meeting that will satisfy the interest of basic and clinical scientists, and practitioners, alike. These include the major symposiums: 'Sleep Disorders: The new risk factor for age-related neurodegenerative disease?' and 'Understanding sleep related hypoxemia, its impact, and clinical implications' and an exciting Meet the Expert: 'Opioid-related sleep disordered breathing: is ASV the treatment of choice? PRO/CON discussion. Please note that across all ATS assemblies there was a reduction in the number of major and mini symposia programmed. To help you with your conference planning, we have summarized our content in the Table below. This year there will be ON-DEMAND sessions (pre-recorded and available at any time) and LIVE sessions that will include Q&As.

Looking forward to seeing you all at Virtual ATS 2021

Dr. Camilla Hoyos, PhD, Chair (camilla.hoyos@sydney.edu.au)

Dr. Neomi Shah MD, MPH, MSC, Chair-Elect (neomi.shah@mssm.edu)

2021 ATS SRN and Science and Innovation Center (SIC) Virtual International Conference Content

Code	Session Title	Session Type	Session Time
Sunday, May 16, 2021			
ME2	OPIOID-RELATED SLEEP DISORDERED BREATHING: IS ASV THE TREATMENT OF CHOICE? PRO/CON DISCUSSION	Meet the Experts	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
SIC: MICROBIOME AND MEDICINE: NEW MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES TO COMPLICATED INFECTIONS IN CYSTIC FIBROSIS, OBSTRUCTIVE LUNG DISEASE, AND CRITICAL ILLNESS			1:30 PM
SIC: ENHANCING ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS WITH INDUSTRY: COLLABORATIONS, CAREERS, AND INNOVATION			3:30 PM

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2021 ATS SRN and Science and Innovation Center (SIC) Virtual International Conference Content

Code	Session Title	Session Type	Session Time
Monday, May 17, 2021			
SIC: INNOVATIONS IN AIRWAY STEM CELL USAGE FOR STUDYING CHRONIC LUNG DISEASES			10:00 AM
B14	PATHOPHYSIOLOGY, CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE, AND COVID-WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SLEEP RESEARCH RIGHT NOW	Mini Symposium	3:30 PM - 5:00 PM
Tuesday, May 18, 2021			
C11	CLOSING THE IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE GAP TO IMPROVE SYMPTOM MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH EQUITY ACROSS CRITICAL ILLNESS, PULMONARY AND SLEEP CONDITIONS	Joint Scientific Symposium	1:30 PM - 3:00 PM
SIC: SUSTAINING A RESEARCH CAREER IN THE PERI-PANDEMIC ERA: FUNDING, NETWORKING, AND GUIDANCE FOR THE EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONAL			1:30 PM
SIC: QUANTITATIVE PHYSIOLOGY: MODERN IMAGING TOOLS FOR TACKLING TIMELESS QUESTIONS			3:30 PM
Wednesday, May 19, 2021			
D5	UNDERSTANDING SLEEP RELATED HYPOXEMIA, ITS IMPACT, AND CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS	Scientific Symposium	10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
CC6	ADULT CLINICAL CORE CURRICULUM: SLEEP	Core Curriculum	1:30 PM-3:00 PM
On-Demand Content			
MAJOR SYMPOSIUM A025 Sleep Disorders: The new risk factor for age-related neurodegenerative disease? Co-SPONSORED MAJOR SYMPOSIUM (Pediatrics assembly) C027 Advances in Respiratory Disease in Down Syndrome: Bridging Bench and Bedside C021 CLINICAL YEAR IN REVIEW 3 - Sleep Medicine All thematic poster sessions: TP129 Sleep apnea and cardiometabolic disease: where is the evidence taking us next? TP130 Curious cases in sleep and respiratory medicine TP131 Novel methodologies for diagnosing sleep disordered breathing TP132 Epidemiology and genetics of sleep disorders: examine the latest advances! TP133 Stimulating new research on sleep apnea physiology and pathophysiology TP134 Improve your understanding of the treatment and management of sleep disorders TP073 Pediatric sleep TP079 Pediatric sleep case reports (Pediatrics assembly)			
Sessions of General Interest			
Code	Session Title	Session Type	Session Time (EST)
Sunday, May 16, 2021			
A1	REHABILITATION AND COVID-19: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES	Scientific Symposium	8:00 am - 9:30 am
A11	ATS PRESIDENT'S SYMPOSIUM: CAN RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES IN RESPIRATORY HEALTH BE ELIMINATED?	Scientific Symposium	3:30 pm - 5:00 pm
Monday, May 17, 2021			
B1	MIND THE GAP: ENDING GENDER DISCRIMINATION AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN CRITICAL CARE	Scientific Symposium	6:00 am - 7:30 am
B7	BREAKING NEWS: CLINICAL TRIAL RESULTS IN PULMONARY MEDICINE	Scientific Symposium	10:00 am - 11:30 am
Recorded			
K1	VACCINES ON THE HORIZON: IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE AND POLICY – Kristen Feemster, MD, MPH, MSHP	Keynote Series	On-Demand
K2	BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO RESEARCH AND PRACTICE WITH SEX AND GENDER SCIENCE – Cara Tannenbaum, MDCM, MSc	Keynote Series	On-Demand
K3	CRISIS COMMUNICATION IN A RESPIRATORY PANDEMIC: THE COMPLICATED INTERSECTION OF MEDIA, DATA, AND POLITICS – Vinay Gupta, MD, MPA, MSt	Keynote Series	On-Demand
K4	THE CLIMATE GAP: CONNECTING EQUITY AND SUSTAINABILITY TO ADVANCE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE – Rachel Morello-Frosch, PhD, MPH	Keynote Series	On-Demand

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Peter Cistulli, MD, Chair

The Planning Committee has continued to foster the development of new Assembly Projects, as well as review and support ongoing projects. During the last year, 3 projects were completed and published:

1. [Orr JE et al. Research Priorities for Patients with Heart Failure and Central Sleep Apnea: An Official American Thoracic Society Research Statement \(Research Statement\). AJRCCM 2020.](#)
2. [Genta PR et al. The Importance of Mask Selection on CPAP Outcomes for Obstructive Sleep Apnea: An Official American Thoracic Society Workshop Report \(Workshop Report\). AnnalsATS 2020.](#)
3. [Macrea M et al. Long-Term Noninvasive Ventilation in Chronic Stable Hypercapnic Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease: An Official American Thoracic Society Clinical Practice Guideline. AJRCCM 2020.](#)

This year, the Assembly had a 50% success rate with funding for new projects:

1. Clinical practice guideline on the management of persistent, post-adenotonsillectomy obstructive sleep apnea in children (Dr. Zarmina Ehsan)
2. Workshop report on the causes, consequences, and treatments of sleep and circadian disruption in the ICU (Dr. Melissa Knauert);
3. Workshop report on the link between obstructive sleep apnea and neurocognitive impairment (Dr. Chitra Lal).

A renewal was also approved for ongoing work on a Policy Statement on Moving Towards Equitable Care for Sleep Apnea in the United States: Adherence Thresholds (Dr. Martha Billings).

For any new ideas for projects, feel free to contact Dr. Peter Cistulli (peter.cistulli@sydney.edu.au).

The Assembly offers 3 prestigious awards to honour up and coming stars (James B. Skatrud Award), outstanding achievement in **pediatric sleep and respiratory neurobiology** (Carole L. Marcus Award), and distinguished achievement by senior members (Lifetime Achievement Award). In 2020, these were awarded to Dr Tetyana Kendzerska, MD, Ph.D (University of Ottawa); Dr David F. Smith, MD, PhD (Cincinnati Children's Hospital); and Dr Kingman Strohl MD (Case Western Reserve University), respectively. Unfortunately, we were unable to celebrate their success in person at the Assembly dinner, but we did manage to recognize their outstanding achievements and contributions via a virtual format (available for viewing via the Assembly website).

Thanks to all the committee members who devote their time and skills to the ATS mission.

Peter Cistulli
Chair, SRN Planning Committee

WEB COMMITTEE REPORT

Robert C. Stansbury, MD Chair, and Anna May, MD, Incoming Chair

The web committee remained very active this year despite the COVID pandemic. Highlights from the year include:

Webinars:

- [Obstructive Sleep Apnea and Incident Cancer: A Large Retrospective Multicenter Clinical Cohort Study](#)
- [Sleep Apnea and COVID-19 Mortality and Hospitalization](#)
- [Effects of Weight Loss on Obstructive Sleep Apnea Severity: 10-year Results of the Sleep AHEAD Study](#)
- [Long-Term Noninvasive Ventilation in Chronic Stable Hypercapnic Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease. An Official American Thoracic Society Clinical Practice Guideline](#)
- [Restoring Pulmonary and Sleep Services as the COVID-19 Pandemic Lessens: From an Association of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Division Directors and American Thoracic Society-coordinated Task](#)

Podcasts:

- [Sleep and the SARS CoV2 Pandemic: A Sleep Physicians Perspective \(a discussion with Dr Clete Kushida, Professor of Psychiatry at Stanford\) \(March 2021\)](#)
- [ASPIRE fellows' interview podcasts \(2 part series: awaiting release of 2nd podcast, March 23\)](#)
- [Common Sleep Problems in Adults for the Non-Sleep Provider: RLS & OSA](#)
- [American Academy of Sleep Medicine Position Paper for the Use of a Home Sleep Apnea Test for the Diagnosis of OSA in Children \(JCSM 2017\)](#)

WEB COMMITTEE REPORT (continued)

A Number of New or Updated [Patient Education Pamphlets](#):

- Upper Airway Stimulation/Hypoglossal Nerve Stimulator
- Weight Loss and Sleep Apnea
- Travel and Sleep
- Sleepiness and Driving
- Sleep-disordered Breathing in Pregnancy: Pt. 2, Prevention and Treatment
- PAP, Care and Cleaning
- Obstructive Sleep Apnea in Children
- Obesity Hypoventilation Syndrome (OHS)
- COVID-19 and Home Positive Airway Pressure (PAP) Therapy
- Breathing Problems in Neuromuscular Disease in Children
- Healthy Sleep in Adults
- Healthy Sleep in Children

Updated Funding Links: [Click here to view opportunities.](#)

Pediatric Interest Group

Collaborating with ERS on a joint Podcast/Symposium comparing and contrasting management of pediatric sleep apnea in Europe and the U.S.

Social Media:

Follow us on Twitter: ATS SRN Assembly @ATSSRN

Continue to grow social media presence

Anyone who is doing an ATS SRN related presentation include our twitter handle on introduction slide

Live tweeting during journal club and webinars.

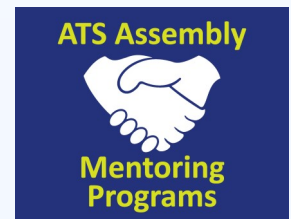
Contact Drs. Robert Stanbury (rstanbury@hsc.wvu.edu) and Anna May (drannamay@gmail.com) with any comments/ideas.

EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONALS WORKING GROUP REPORT

Vaishnavi Kundel, MD, and Lucas Donovan, MD, Co-Chairs

The goal of the SRN Early Career Working Group is to improve engagement of trainees and new members with the SRN assembly, ATS, and provide career opportunities for clinicians and researchers within the wider field of sleep. Spurred by a core group of engaged members, we have maintained a number of initiatives this year.

- 1) **Early Career Virtual Happy Hours:** The lack of an in-person conference has reduced networking opportunities that are crucial for early career professionals. This year, we hosted two Virtual Happy Hours to help fill this gap and allow fellows and junior faculty to meet with leaders in the field in a more relaxed atmosphere. Look out for the next to occur in late Spring/early Summer 2021.
- 2) **Quarterly email newsletters:** To maintain communication with fellows, we maintained quarterly early career newsletters focused on informing both pulmonary and sleep medicine fellowship program directors and trainees about ATS SRN activities, grants, and training opportunities.
- 3) **SRN Apprenticeship Program:** We maintained our apprenticeship program for fellows and new faculty to serve on the Programming, Planning, or Web Committees. Apprentices serve under the mentorship of a committee member and develop skills in executing various committee projects. Our inaugural 2020-2021 apprentices were Dr. Nancy Lin-Programming Committee, and Dr. Anuja Bandyopadhyay-Planning Committee. We will select our 2021-2022 apprentices in April 2021 for the programming, planning and web committees of the SRN.
- 4) **Twitter Chat:** In partnership with the ATS Members in Training and Transit Committee (MITT), we were able to have our second Twitter Chat focused on Career Pathways in Sleep Medicine. With discussion spurred by Ilene Rosen, Reena Mehra, Mihaela Teodorescu, Brad Edwards, Michael Grandner, Andre Zinchuk, Sanjay Patel, Bob Owens, Aneesa Das, and Cathy Goldstein, we were able to facilitate an engaging conversation. Overall, this conversation reached over a *quarter-million million twitter impressions* and is a format we are excited to continue in the future to expand outreach.
- 5) **Sleep Matters Blog:** Originally launched by Omar Mesarwi, we continued our efforts to promote content submitted by early career professionals focused on the latest in sleep research and updates in the field.
- 6) **Mentor/Mentee Pairing:** We transitioned our traditional mentorship pairings into a virtual format for 2020, which we will continue this year. Look out for sign-ups starting on March 22nd through the end of April 2021. We will pair mentors and mentees to meet for one-time or sustained interactions starting in May 2021. These relationships are great ways to network, get to know more folks in the sleep field, or simply provide career advice on grant writing, job interviews, work-life balance, etc.



If you know trainees or early career professionals (clinicians and PhDs) who might be interested in joining, please email Vaishnavi Kundel (vaishnavi.kundel@mssm.edu) and Lucas Donovan (ldonovan@uw.edu)

ASPIRE FELLOWSHIP REPORT

Richard Schwab, MD, Fellowship Program Director

Dear Pulmonary and Sleep Trainees:

Please consider applying to the **ATS ASPIRE Program**, a cross-institutional, academic sleep/pulmonary fellowship program (ASPIRE: Academic Sleep Pulmonary Integrated REsearch/Clinical). The ASPIRE fellowship is designed to generate a pipeline for the next group of pulmonary/sleep leaders. If you are interested in sleep and pulmonary research, this could be a great program for you.

Few pulmonary/critical care fellows are pursuing clinical or research training in sleep medicine, creating a serious problem with the pipeline for leadership in this field. To rectify this, the ATS and participating institutions have developed a novel program to train pulmonary/sleep physician-scientists and the next generation of pulmonary/sleep leaders.

The program is administrated through the ATS with an executive council from institutions that have strong Pulmonary/Critical Care/Sleep training programs. These include the University of Pennsylvania, Johns Hopkins University, University of Pittsburgh, Harvard University, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and UC San Diego Health System. Eligible fellows can come from any US or international institution, but the institution/department needs a T32 training grant, RO1 funded faculty, or the equivalent of such funding if an international applicant. Note that acceptance to the ATS ASPIRE fellowship is independent of acceptance into a Sleep and Pulmonary Training programs which are governed by the ACGME.

Generous financial support for this important program has been provided by ResMed, Philips Respironics, and Fisher & Paykel.

The ASPIRE program is competitive and prestigious. Accepted fellows are provided a \$10,000.00 annual grant during their research years and \$3,000.00 during their clinical years to be used for conferences, courses, or research endeavors. There will be monthly webinars on a variety of research topics. Research mentorship would be shared between the six medical centers that form the executive council. There will be monthly research webinars given by the ASPIRE fellows and a face-to-face meeting at the ATS International Conference to discuss research goals.

Any pulmonary/critical care/sleep fellow (adult or pediatric) can apply to be a 2021 ATS ASPIRE fellow assuming they are at an institution with a T32 or in a Department with RO1 funded faculty (or equivalent) and are willing to perform research on a topic related to sleep. Both international and US-based applicants with an MD are welcome to apply.

Applications are due Monday April 19, 2021:

Requirements:

- Completed application.
- CV of applicant
- 1–2-page statement from applicant of research goals and why they are a candidate for the ASPIRE fellowship
- Letter from mentor(s)

Please submit the application to aspire@thoracic.org.

If you are interested in more information about the ATS ASPIRE Fellowship (to learn more about the previous ASPIRE fellows and their research/publications/grants/abstracts), please go to our website www.aspirefellowship.com or contact **Richard Schwab** (rschwab@penmedicine.upenn.edu).

Early Career Professionals Meet and Greet on
Saturday, May 15 at 6:30 to 7 pm ET.

[Register here](#)

SCIENCE & INNOVATION CENTER (SIC) REPORT

Indu Ayappa, PhD, SRN Representative

The SIC programs will be held between 10AM and 7.30PM, from May 16th -18th 2021, at the ATS International Conference. The Conference program details are not yet final, and will be available on the ATS conference and SIC website. Additional SIC programming is also being planned, throughout the year, in the form of webinars.

SIC Programming at the ATS 2021 conference consists of exciting scientific and career development talks, by experts in the field. Scientific sessions planned for this year include “Quantitative Physiology: Modern Imaging Tools For Tackling Timeless Questions”, “Innovations in airway stem cell usage for studying chronic lung diseases” and “Microbiome and Medicine: New multidisciplinary approaches to complicated infections in cystic fibrosis”. Career development sessions include “Enhancing Academic Partnerships with Industry” and the “Landscape of Research Funding Affected by COVID-19 and Virtual Avenues to Engage Early Career Professionals in the Peri-Pandemic Era”. I encourage you to follow the committee on twitter @AtsSic!

THE PhD, BASIC, AND TRANSLATIONAL WORKING GROUP REPORT

Brian E. Cade, PhD, SRN Representative

The PTBS working group is composed of members from multiple assemblies that get together monthly to discuss issues of importance to members of ATS that are non-practicing clinicians. The PTBS working group is focused on creating a smaller community structure for support, networking and advocacy to ATS leadership. The co-chairs for the past year have been Beth Moore from the University of Michigan and Tom Mariani from the University of Rochester. Please email Brian Cade (bcade@bwh.harvard.edu) if you are interested in participating or have cross-assembly or sleep-specific ideas to help our PhD, basic and translational scientists get more from their involvement with the ATS.

Accomplishments and Ongoing Projects:

- 1) **Reception for researchers:** In 2020, we helped to host the PBTS reception as part of virtual ATS in the Science and Innovation Center (SIC). There were 225 people registered and over 70 attended. We also participated in the planning of events in the SIC. **The 2021 reception is scheduled jointly with SIC, for Monday, May 17, 2021 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM EDT, [register here](#) for it!**
- 2) **Seminar Database:** The COVID disruption created real challenges to performing research, networking and opportunities for speaking engagements for faculty. In response to this, we created a database of researchers eager to provide seminars (virtually or in person in future) on a variety of topics. Our hope was that this database would increase opportunities for institutions to include more research-oriented seminars in their weekly offerings. As of March, 2021, the database has 133 scientists. [Check out the database here.](#)
- 3) **Social Justice:** We have a subcommittee talking about ways our PTBS working group and ATS overall can better respond to issues of racism and social injustice within our society and institutions. We welcome you to join this ongoing conversation!
- 4) **Job Postings:** We advocated for the ability to advertise for post-docs and to have post-docs be able to post their CVs to the ATS job board site free of charge. Be sure to [check out this resource here.](#)
- 5) **DocMatters:** We have been working with DocMatters to determine if this platform can be useful for discussion of issues pertaining to research and non-clinical matters. We met with DocMatters executives to help map out strategies for better engagement with research-focused members of ATS.
- 6) **Technique videos:** We have a subgroup working on identifying common and important research techniques and getting quality videos made and published in an ATS venue to share that knowledge more broadly.
- 7) **Awards:** We are working to be sure that non-practicing clinicians are identified and nominated for many of the assembly-based and society based awards.
- 8) **Important Survey:** We are planning a survey of Pulmonary, Sleep and Pediatric Division Chiefs to gather data to better understand how PhD and non-practicing clinical faculty are hired and what barriers and opportunities may exist for strengthening engagement between researchers and clinicians. We hope these data will provide the foundation for an ATS project proposal that aims to address this important issue.

A promotional banner for the ATS 2021 conference. It features a blue background with a woman in a white lab coat and a surgical mask. The text "ATS 2021 May 14-19" is prominently displayed in white on a dark blue rectangular background. Below this, the text "Showcasing breakthrough research in respiratory care." is written in white. A yellow button with the text "Register Now" is located in the bottom right corner.

ATS 2021
May 14-19

Showcasing
breakthrough research
in respiratory care.

Register Now

The American Thoracic Society

is pleased to announce our new

2020 ATSF Fellows



David Itiro Kasahara
Arrowhead Pharmaceutical

Abebaw Yohannes
Azusa Pacific University

Elena Goncharova
University of California, Davis

Jose Antonio Castro Rodriguez
Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile

David Griffith
National Jewish Health

Alexander Sy
Wake Forest Health

Susmita Chowdhuri
School of Medicine,
Pulmonary/Critical Care and Sleep

Samya Nasr
University of Michigan

Adam Benjafield
ResMed

Richard Casaburi
Lundquist Institute for Biomedical Innovation
at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center

Obianuju Ozoh
Department of Medicine, College of
Medicine, University of Lagos

Lida Hariri
Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard
Medical School

Yuksel Peker
Koc University School of Medicine

Usha Raj
University of Illinois at Chicago

Basak Coruh
University of Washington

James Donohue
University of North Carolina
at Chapel Hill

Marcus Jones
Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande
do Sul

Lisa Maier
National Jewish Health

Blanca Himes
University of Pennsylvania

Yvonne Jean Huang
University of Michigan

R. Scott Stephens
Johns Hopkins University

Timothy Girard
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Motoo Yamauchi
Department of Respiratory Medicine,
Nara Medical University

Jennifer Ingram
Duke University

MeiLan Han
University of Michigan

Sanjay R. Patel
University of Pittsburgh

Marianna Sockrider
Baylor College of Medicine

Micheala Aldred
Indiana University

Max Salfinger
University of South Florida College of Public
Health & Morsani College of Medicine

Peter Calverley
University of Liverpool

Angela Rogers
Stanford University

Rodney Britt
Nationwide Children's Hospital

L. Keoki Williams
Wayne State University School of Medicine
& Center for Individualized and Genomic
Medicine Research (CIGMA), Henry Ford
Health System

Praveen Akuthota
University of California San Diego

Sunil Sharma
West Virginia University

Erin Wetherbee
University of Minnesota / Minneapolis VAHCS

Jacqueline Kagima
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine

Ammar Saadoon Alishlash
The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Nandita Nadig
Medical University of South Carolina

Daniel Obaseki
Obafemi Awolowo University

Julie A. Barta, MD
Korman Respiratory Institute at Thomas
Jefferson University

Sivaraja Subramaniam
Delta Care Hospital

Dr. Neeraj Vij
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine,
Precision Theranostics Inc
& VIJ Biotech

The ATS Fellow designation is a mark of distinction, conferring recognition on members for their accomplishments, dedication, and contributions to the Society as well as to the fields of pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine.

The ATS Fellow application period will open in May 2021. The new ATS Fellows will be announced this Fall and recognized at ATS 2022.

For more information about the ATS Fellows, visit our website:

<https://www.thoracic.org/members/membership/ats-fellows.php>