

# Assembly on Pulmonary Infections and Tuberculosis (PI-TB) Newsletter



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**Rachel Thomson, MBBS, PhD, FRACP**

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## Message from the Assembly Chair

Another year has passed with a pulmonary infection ruling the world as our professional and personal lives continue to be eroded by the COVID pandemic.

Much has been learned in these last 2 years, that will continue to have an impact in many ways.

Hopefully, we will be able to meet face to face in San Francisco to appreciate the immense scientific progress that has been made and translate the rapid expansion of COVID research into other areas of pulmonary infection.

The ATS and our assembly members have continued to contribute podcasts, webinars, guidelines and other resources to the COVID Real Time Learning network (<https://www.idsociety.org/covid-19-real-time-learning-network/>), which in turn shares with our members, the resources from other societies. This collaboration between major societies has been quite a useful activity and will hopefully prove beneficial in ways beyond the website itself and this pandemic.

I am very proud of the initiatives of our fabulous executive committee over the past year. Our PINE (Pulmonary Infection Network of Experts) series has entered a second year and has been a resounding success. A big thank you and farewell to Keira Cohen who has led the PI-TB Early Career Working Group (PI-TB ECWG) over the last few years and wish her well for an exciting future. A big welcome to Ashley Losier, who will take over as Chair, ably supported by Co-chair, Kelly Pennington.

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Message from the Assembly Chair .....1**
- Planning Committee Report.....2**
- Program Committee Report .....3-6**
- Web Committee Report.....7**
- Early Career Professionals .....8**
- PhD and Basic and Translational Scientist Working Group Report .....-9**
- Science and Innovation Center Working Group.....10**
- Vaccine Working Group.....11**
- Pneumonia Working Group .....12**

Scott Evans has taken the reigns of the Planning Committee, and 6 new project proposals were reviewed, with 3 successfully approved. Congratulations to Jussi Saukkonen, our outgoing Planning Committee Chair, who completed his term organizing 2 very successful full day workshops (pre-clinical and clinical) with the NIAID on **Therapeutics for Pulmonary Nontuberculous Mycobacterial Infections**. These workshops provided excellent discussion and if you missed them, I encourage you to reach out for a link to the recordings.

Scott and Charles de la Cruz have led a very active Pneumonia Working Group since its inception in 2015, and hope to continue this more permanently as an advisory group to the PI-TB Executive Committee.

As the ATS rebranding process continues, our website is undergoing a major overhaul. Colin Swenson, who leads the Web Committee has been instrumental in keeping our assembly informed of relevant events and updates.

Our Program Committee, led by Chadi Hage and Shannon Kasperbauer,

have put together what we hope will be a stimulating and broad series of sessions for the ATS 2022 International Conference in San Francisco. I look forward to seeing as many as possible face to face for my final meeting as Assembly Chair, where we will present our annual abstract awards and our Rising Star, Junior, Mid-Career, and Senior awards.

Rachel Thomson, MBBS, PhD, FRACP  
**Assembly Chair**

### PI-TB Membership Meeting

**Sunday, May 15, 2022**  
**5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**  
**Building: Moscone Center West**  
**Room: 3000-3004**  
**Floor: Level 3**



American Thoracic Society  
 ASSEMBLIES

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## Planning Committee Report

Scott E. Evans, MD, ATSF (Chair)

The PI-TB Assembly Planning Committee fosters the development of Assembly projects, notably clinical practice guidelines and other reference documents, arising from the deep clinical and scientific expertise residing in the Assembly. The Planning Committee encourages and solicits proposals for such documents from the Assembly membership and reviews and evaluates submitted proposals and progress reports for projects already underway.

The PI-TB Assembly was again highly successful in achieving Society support for project proposals this year. 2021 saw the approval of three new Assembly projects, all clinical practice guidelines. Including “*Guidelines on the treatment of select fungal infections in immune compromised and critically ill patients,*” “*Updates to the Treatment of Drug-Susceptible and Drug-resistant Tuberculosis,*” and “*Clinical Practice Guidelines Update - Diagnosis and Management of Community-Acquired Pneumonia.*” One PI-TB project from 2020 was also renewed for a workshop on “*Immunocompromised Host Pneumonia: Definitions and Diagnostic Criteria*”.

The Planning Committee strongly encourages Assembly members to start early to discuss and work together to submit proposals for Guidelines, Policy or Research Statements, Workshop Reports, and Technical Statements. It is recommended that new projects be specific and try to address two to three PICO questions in the GRADE methodology to complete the guideline process in a timely manner. To improve the chances of preparing an application that is successful in the highly competitive ATS selection process, advance preparation and discussion with interested parties is highly recommended. This may include soliciting input and/or participation from the Planning Committee, ATS methodologists and topic experts in the Assembly or elsewhere, as appropriate.

Information on submitting proposals is available on the Project Application Resource Center. The application portal usually opens on August 1 and the online applications usually must be submitted by August 31. However, the Planning Committee recommends working on such projects well in advance.

In addition to supporting project proposals, the Planning Committee also reviews and votes on nominations for the annual Assembly Awards. In 2021, Mark Metersky, MD, was honored with the PI-TB Senior Peer Recognition Award, the Midcareer Award was awarded to James Chalmers, MD, PhD, and the Junior Peer Recognition Award went to Jennifer Honda, PhD. The Rising Star Awards for Basic Scientific and/or Translational Research went to Priya Shete, MD, MPH, and Georgios Kitsios, MD, PhD.

Thank you to the members of the Planning Committee and to those who submitted project proposals and award nominations. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

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

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

**Applications will be available on the ATS website at [www.thoracic.org](http://www.thoracic.org)**

Please consider submitting an application for an Assembly/Committee project. If you have a suggestion for a project application and you need assistance, please contact your **Assembly Planning Committee Chair Scott Evans, MD, ATSF at [seevans@mdanderson.org](mailto:seevans@mdanderson.org)**

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

## Program Committee

Chadi A. Hage, MD, ATSF (Chair)

After two years of virtual meetings, we are thrilled to be able to program an in-person conference in San Francisco this May. This year, we bring back some of the classic themes and new offerings inspired by the COVID pandemic.

PI-TB had a very productive year working toward ATS 2022. We saw an increase in abstract submissions with more than 450 abstracts and a number of high-quality session proposals.

This year, we are able to bring back two of the most favored Post Graduate Courses to the conference. Both are scheduled on SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2022, 8:00 AM-4:00 PM

In addition, seven Major Symposia are programmed covering a variety of topics ranging from TB diagnostics, the contrast between NTM and TB, immune recovery following lung infections, novel therapies using bacteriophages for complex pulmonary infections, pneumonia in the immune compromised, polymicrobial infections of the lungs and respiratory vaccines of today and the future.

We are able to bring back more Meet the Expert Sessions highlighting topics of great interest to our attendee by ATS experts

Three mini-symposia with top rated scientific abstracts are scheduled for PI-TB this year.

See full schedule below.

PI-TB received 454 abstract submissions for review and we are very grateful to the members of the Program Committee who scored them and provided valuable comments and programming suggestions. These included 274 scientific abstracts and 179 case reports spanning over various topics of infectious diseases. As a result, we were able to program three mini-symposia, six poster discussions, and eight thematic poster sessions covering an exciting array of studies across all areas of pulmonary infections.

As a committee, we can only program sessions that are submitted by our assembly membership, so we would like to encourage all members to start thinking about what they would like on the program and submit proposals for ATS 2023. The number of allowed sessions is proportionate to the assembly membership and the number of submitted abstracts.

We would like to thank the members of the PI-TB Program Committee for their hard work over the year

<u>Chadi A. Hage, MD, ATSE (Chair) and Shannon H. Kasperbauer, MD (Chair elect)</u>	
<u>Antonio Torres, MD, ATSE</u>	<u>Katherine B. Hisert, MD, PhD</u>
<u>Barbara Ellen Jones, MD, MSc</u>	<u>Katrina Traber, MD, PhD</u>
<u>Bashar Samih Staitieh, MD</u>	<u>Keira A. Cohen, MD</u>
<u>Carlos M. Luna, MD, PhD</u>	<u>Kelly Pennington, MD</u>
<u>Charles Dela Cruz, MD, PhD, ATSE</u>	<u>Maha Reda Farhat, CM, MD, MSc</u>
<u>Charles Feldman, MD, PhD, DSc, ATSE</u>	<u>Marc C. I. Lipman, MD</u>
<u>David J. Horne, MD, MPH</u>	<u>Marcos I. Restrepo, MD, MSc, PhD</u>
<u>Elham Karamooz, MD</u>	<u>Max R. O'Donnell, MD, MPH</u>
<u>Eva Maria Carmona Porquera, MD, PhD</u>	<u>Mehdi Mirsaeidi, MD</u>
<u>James D Chalmers, MD, PhD</u>	<u>Nathan C. Dean, MD</u>
<u>Jennifer R. Honda</u>	<u>Payam Nahid, MD, MPH</u>
<u>Jerry Simbarashe Zifodya, MD, MPH</u>	<u>Robert Pickett Dickson, MD</u>
<u>Joseph Keane, MD</u>	<u>Shanjana Awasthi, PhD</u>
<u>Joseph P. Mizgerd, ScD, ATSE</u>	<u>Timothy R. Aksamit, MD</u>
<u>Joshua Malo, MD</u>	<u>Joseph Keane, MD</u>
<u>Jussi J. Saukkonen, MD</u>	<u>Joseph P. Mizgerd, ScD, ATSE</u>
<u>Georgios Kitsios, MD, PhD (PI-TB 2021-2022 Apprentice)</u>	

### ATS 2022 International Conference Assembly on Pulmonary Infections and Tuberculosis (PITB) Sessions

Session Code	Session Title	Session Type	Session Date	Session Time Start	Session Time End
PG14	LUNG IMMUNITY AND RESPIRATORY INFECTION	Postgraduate Course	5/14/2022	8:00 AM	4:00 PM
PG15	DIFFICULT CLINICAL QUESTIONS IN PULMONARY AND CRITICAL CARE INFECTIONS	Postgraduate Course	5/14/2022	8:00 AM	4:00 PM
A28	THE HOST DELIVERS	Poster Discussion Session	5/15/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM

A10	THE AFTERMATH OF LUNG INFECTION: RECOVERED LUNGS ARE DIFFERENT LUNGS	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
A7	NEXT-GENERATION TESTS FOR TUBERCULOSIS: HOLD MY SMEAR	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
A58	BACTERIAL INFECTIONS	Thematic Poster Session	5/15/2022	9:30 AM	3:45 PM
A59	TUBERCULOSIS	Thematic Poster Session	5/15/2022	9:30 AM	3:45 PM
A97	RESEARCH OUTSIDE OF THE NTM BOX	Mini Symposium	5/15/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
A106	A DEEP DIVE INTO THE MICROBIOME	Poster Discussion Session	5/15/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
ME18	NEW DIAGNOSTICS AND THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTIONS IN LATENT, INCipient, AND SUBCLINICAL TB INFECTIONS	Meet the Expert	5/16/2022	7:00 AM	8:00 AM
B11	BACTERIOPHAGE THERAPY OF COMPLEX PULMONARY INFECTIONS	Scientific Symposium	5/16/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
B55	NONTUBERCULOUS MYCOBACTERIA	Thematic Poster Session	5/16/2022	9:30 AM	3:45 PM
B56	WHAT'S UP IN THE PNEUMONIA WORLD?	Thematic Poster Session	5/16/2022	9:30 AM	3:45 PM
B57	CUTTING EDGE COVID RESEARCH	Thematic Poster Session	5/16/2022	9:30 AM	3:45 PM
B97	WHAT'S NEW IN PNEUMONIA	Mini Symposium	5/16/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
B86	DEBUNKING MYCOBACTERIAL MYTHS: NONTUBERCULOUS MEANS NOT TUBERCULOSIS	Scientific Symposium	5/16/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
C62	EXPANDING OUR INSIGHT INTO COVID-19	Thematic Poster Session	5/17/2022	9:30 AM	3:45 PM
C28	LET'S TALK NTM	Poster Discussion Session	5/17/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
C5	PNEUMONIA IN THE IMMUNOCOMPROMISED HOST	Scientific Symposium	5/17/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
C60	ZEBRAS V. HORSES: UNUSUAL LUNG INFECTIONS	Thematic Poster Session	5/17/2022	9:30 AM	3:45 PM
C61	BREAKING THE MOLD	Thematic Poster Session	5/17/2022	9:30 AM	3:45 PM
ME36	WHAT IS NEW IN PNEUMONIA AND IN PLEURAL DISEASE	Meet the Expert	5/17/2022	10:45 AM	11:45 AM
C107	IMMUNOCOMPROMISED LUNG DISEASE, HIV, AND BEYOND	Poster Discussion Session	5/17/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
C106	FIRE TB LIVES ON	RAPiD: Rapid Abstract Poster Discussion Session	5/17/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
C88	MICROBIAL CO-INFECTIONS IN THE LUNG AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM	Scientific Symposium	5/17/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
D17	TOP KNOWLEDGE IN COVID	Mini Symposium	5/18/2022	8:15 AM	9:45 AM
D107	SHOW US WHAT YOU'VE GOT: INTERESTING CASE REPORTS	Poster Discussion Session	5/18/2022	12:45 PM	2:15 PM
D87	THE PRESENT AND FUTURE OF VACCINATION IN RESPIRATORY MEDICINE	Scientific Symposium	5/18/2022	12:45 PM	2:15 PM


<b>ATS 2022 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ADDITIONAL SESSIONS OF INTEREST</b>					
<b>Session Code</b>	<b>Session Title</b>	<b>Session Type</b>	<b>Session Date</b>	<b>Session Start</b>	<b>Session End</b>
A1	CLINICAL YEAR IN REVIEW 1	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
A11	TACKLING HEALTH DISPARITIES: HOW DO WE TALK AND TEACH ABOUT THEM?	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
A2	JAMA AND THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE. DISCUSSION ON THE EDGE: REPORTS OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED PULMONARY RESEARCH	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
A3	FELLOWS CASE CONFERENCE	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
A5	CROSSTALK OF SENESCENT CELLS WITH THE MICROENVIRONMENT: IT TAKES TWO TO TELL A STORY	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
CC1	CRITICAL CARE CLINICAL CORE CURRICULUM	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	11:30 AM	1:00 PM
PCC1	PEDIATRIC CLINICAL CORE CURRICULUM	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	12:00 PM	1:00 PM
A83	GREAT CASES: CLINICAL, RADIOLOGIC, AND PATHOLOGIC CORRELATIONS BY MASTER CLINICIANS	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
A84	THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE AND JAMA. DISCUSSION ON THE EDGE: REPORTS OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED CRITICAL CARE RESEARCH	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
A85	DEVELOPMENT AND WOUND HEALING: WHERE SENESCENCE IS THE SILVER LINING	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
A90	RECENT ATS CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES	Scientific Symposium	5/15/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
B1	CLINICAL YEAR IN REVIEW 2	Scientific Symposium	5/16/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
B12	CLINICAL TRIALS SESSION	Scientific Symposium	5/16/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
B13	INSIGHTS INTO MECHANISMS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS OF HIV ASSOCIATED LUNG DISEASE	Scientific Symposium	5/16/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
CC2	PULMONARY CLINICAL CORE CURRICULUM	Scientific Symposium	5/16/2022	11:30 AM	1:00 PM
PCC2	PEDIATRIC CLINICAL CORE CURRICULUM	Scientific Symposium	5/16/2022	12:00 PM	1:00 PM
B88	INCLUDING ALL FOR RESPIRATORY HEALTH	Scientific Symposium	5/16/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
B91	PUBLISHING THE BEST SCIENCE: THE COMPREHENSIVE SPECTRUM PROVIDED BY THE ATS FAMILY OF JOURNALS	Scientific Symposium	5/16/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
CC3	CRITICAL CARE CLINICAL CORE CURRICULUM	Scientific Symposium	5/16/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
C1	CLINICAL YEAR IN REVIEW 3	Scientific Symposium	5/17/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM

C11	USE OF NOVEL TECHNOLOGIES TO IMPROVE CLINICAL TRAINING AND ENHANCE PATIENT SAFETY	Scientific Symposium	5/17/2022	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
PCC3	PEDIATRIC CLINICAL CORE CURRICULUM	Scientific Symposium	5/17/2022	12:00 PM	1:00 PM
C90	MORE THAN MAKING UP FOR LOST TIME: CAREER DEVELOPMENT AFTER COVID-19	Scientific Symposium	5/17/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
CC4	PULMONARY CLINICAL CORE CURRICULUM	Scientific Symposium	5/17/2022	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
D1	CLINICAL YEAR IN REVIEW 4	Scientific Symposium	5/18/2022	8:15 AM	9:45 AM
D5	THE IMPACT OF FLAVORED NICOTINE PRODUCTS: BIOLOGY, BEHAVIOR AND THE "BAN"	Scientific Symposium	5/18/2022	8:15 AM	9:45 AM
CC5	SLEEP CLINICAL CORE CURRICULUM	Scientific Symposium	5/18/2022	10:45 AM	12:15 PM
CC6	SLEEP CLINICAL CORE CURRICULUM	Scientific Symposium	5/18/2022	12:45 PM	2:15 PM

## Web Committee

Colin Swenson, MD (Web Director)

The Web Committee has been working to post more recorded media, such as the PINE presentations and Webinars, as well as links to events of interest to our assembly. Social media has played a more central role in this process, and our goal is to disseminate information quickly and consistently. A special thanks to our Web Apprentice, Amjad Kanj, for managing our Twitter presence. We look forward to future online growth, particularly in the areas of networking and social media, as well as more frequent journal clubs and podcast offerings.

 Follow Us! @ATS\_PITB



## Early Career Working Group

Ashley Jane Losier, MD (Chair)

The PI-TB Early Career Working Group has a mission to engage, support and create opportunities for junior members within our assembly. Here are some of the highlights of our working group's activities from this past year:

**Pulmonary Infection Network of Experts (PINE):** Since its beginning in February 2021, the virtual event series known as PINE has continued monthly with events highlighting different pulmonary infections. These popular events often feature interactive case-based formats, helps bring together junior presenters, senior expert discussants and engage audience members through polls, interactive questions, and discussions at the end of each session. Sessions have highlighted various pulmonary infections including NTM, TB and fungal infections. There were also events held for World Pneumonia Day and World HIV Day. These sessions will continue through 2022 with plans for our PINE committee to maintain this initiative as a permanent feature of our working group and assembly.

**Mentoring Program:** The PI-TB Mentoring Program matches junior and senior assembly members with shared professional interests. Over the past two years, the COVID-19 pandemic has limited many networking opportunities for early career professionals and virtual formats of the PI-TB Mentoring Program has helped alleviate some of these challenges. We are looking forward to the Mentoring Program resuming as part of the ATS conference, including the Meeting Space and Receptions conveniently located at the convention center. We appreciate the many volunteers for mentors who are generous with their time, advice and guidance.

**Apprenticeship Program:** The Apprenticeship Program allows junior assembly members the opportunity to apprentice and observe the standing committees of PI-TB assembly. This program provides insight into the Program, Planning and Web committees. Following a successful apprentice year, the selected delegates may earn their own seat on these committees. Interested early career members should submit applications in the winter.

**Teaching Competition:** Since the initial teaching competition was launched in 2019 with the PI-TB assembly, the teaching competition has grown to a multi assembly-wide event. At Last year's event, PI-TB's very own Krishna Desai, MD (Emory University) won first place. Stay tuned for this year's competition at the conference. We appreciate all the judges who have volunteered their time and teaching expertise.

**Current ECWG members:** This year's roster of PI-TB ECWG members include: Ashley Losier (Chair), Kelly Pennington (Co-Chair), Sara Auld, Layla Barkal, Dan Belz, Rebecca Davidson, Jane Gross, Katie Hisert, Holly Keir, John McGinniss, Masfique Mehedi, Shivani Singh, Bashar Statieh, Divvy Reddy, Ben Wu, Sarah Voth, Samantha Yeligar, Greg Wigger, and Prasla Zohra. A special thanks to recent members who have rotated off the early career working group including; Keira Cohen (past Chair), Jenn Honda, Chad Marion, Alexa Pragman, Elly Karamooz, and Colin Swenson

For more details, visit [PI-TB ECWG](#).

Our standing ECWG meetings are held every other month at noon on the first Wednesday of the month. If you are interested in joining us, please send an e-mail to Ashley Losier at [ashley.losier@yale.edu](mailto:ashley.losier@yale.edu).

Thank you so very much to Nicole Feijoo and Miriam Rodriguez of the Assemblies Dep. and the rest of the ATS staff for all of their help!



# PhD and Basic and Translational Scientist Working Group Report

Richard A. Johnston, PhD, ATSF & Natalie R. Bauer, PhD

The PhD 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 PhD scientists. The PBTS WG consists of thirty-six members that are drawn from each of the fourteen ATS Assemblies. The WG meets monthly *via Zoom* to discuss issues of importance to (1) non-clinical ATS members (i.e., PhD scientists) and (2) research-intensive physician-scientists. The current co-chairs of the PBTS WG are Drs. Natalie Bauer (Assembly on PC) and Richard Johnston (Assembly on RSF). Despite consisting of members from all fourteen ATS Assemblies, the Assembly on RSF is the administrative home for the PBTS WG, and we are very thankful to the Assembly on RSF for their strong and continuing support of our efforts. During the past year, the PBTS WG has been extraordinarily active in developing programs for its constituency as well devising strategies to recruit PhD scientists to the Society. We have highlighted some of the WG's efforts in the subsequent text.

1. **Assembly Project:** On behalf of the PBTS WG, Bethany Moore, PhD, ATSF spearheaded the development and submission of an Assembly Project through the Assembly on RSF entitled "PhDs in Clinical Departments: Barriers, Opportunities and ATS Membership". This project will address the perception that many PhD scientists contribute to the mission of subspecialty clinical divisions within Departments of Medicine and of Pediatrics, yet barriers exist for them to attain tenure-track faculty status. By convening a virtual meeting in 2022 of Medical School Deans, Department Chairs, Division Directors, NIH Administrators, and PhD scientists with a vested interest in adult and pediatric pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine, the organizers of this project hope to demonstrate to Division Directors the importance of including PhD scientists in their hiring plan and providing the necessary support for their ultimate success.
2. **PBTS WG/Science and Innovation (SIC) Center Virtual Networking Event:** On February 8, 2022, PBTS WG members, Natalie Bauer, PhD (Assembly on PC) and Samantha Yeligar, PhD (Assembly on PI-TB), co-chaired a networking event along with the SIC entitled "Successful Collaborations". At this event, two U.S.- and two European (U.K.)-based MD and PhD scientific collaborators discussed how their professional scientific relationship evolved and became successful. Afterwards, participants went into separate breakout rooms for an in-depth discussion on the formation and endurance of these collaborations with either the U.S.- or European (U.K.)-based collaborators. The PBTS WG/SIC hope to provide more PhD-centric events in the upcoming year.
3. **Brochure:** Along with graphic designers at the ATS, a PBTS WG subcommittee headed by James Londino, PhD (Assembly on RCMB) has put together a two-sided brochure highlighting the advantages of ATS membership for PhD scientists. This brochure specifically targets PhD scientists who attend the ATS International Conference but who are not currently ATS members. A hard copy of this brochure will be available at various locales at the ATS International Conference in San Francisco. View the electronic version [here](#).
4. **T32:** This subcommittee is chaired by Indu Ayappa, PhD (Assembly on SRN) and was formed following discussions at the Virtual PhD/Science and Innovation Center (SIC) Reception in May of 2021. The objectives of this subcommittee include: (1) increasing the pipeline of PhD scientists in pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine by advocating for additional slots in T32 applications for pre-doctoral students and post-doctoral fellows, (2) increasing the number of PhD scientists as principal investigators of T32 applications, and (3) providing resources for PhD scientists interested in submitting T32 applications. On behalf of this subcommittee, Natalie Bauer, PhD (Assembly on PC) submitted a proposal entitled "So, You Want to Write a T32?" for presentation at the 2022 SIC. As this newsletter is being prepared, the outcome of this proposal's programming is pending.
5. **Survey:** To understand the rationale as to why PhD scientists attend the ATS International Conference but are not ATS members, Janette Burgess, PhD, ATSF (Assembly on RSF) has assembled a subcommittee of PBTS WG members

to design a survey to answer this question. This survey will be distributed to all 2022 ATS International Conference attendees who hold a PhD or equivalent and spend 50% or more of their time in research yet are not currently ATS members. The PBTS WG hopes to use the survey data to understand how the ATS and PBTS WG can be best equipped to address their needs.

6. **Awards:** A PBTS WG Awards subcommittee was established in the past year and is chaired by Scott Randell, PhD (Assembly on RCMB). The purpose of this subcommittee is to identify and nominate worthy basic and translational scientists (i.e., PhDs) for the annual ATS Respiratory Health Awards (i.e., Recognition Award for Scientific Accomplishment, etc.)

Finally, if you would like to become involved with the PBTS WG or have any issues you feel that WG could effectively address, please feel free to e-mail either Richard Johnston ([rfj1@cdc.gov](mailto:rfj1@cdc.gov)) or Natalie Bauer ([nbauer@southalabama.edu](mailto:nbauer@southalabama.edu)).

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

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

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

## Science and Innovation Center Working Group

Jennifer Honda, PhD, Chair & Ben Wu (Co- Chair)

The Science and Innovation Center (SIC) is a venue for basic and translational scientists to network and learn about emerging technologies to advance their research in respiratory medicine. The SIC offers sessions on professional and career development and an opportunity to meet with NIH program officers and industry leaders. The SIC program for the 2022 conference is being developed by chairs and co-chairs from our Assembly as well as Respiratory Structure and Function (RSF), Allergy, Immunology and Inflammation (AII), and Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology (RCMB). Learn more about SIC [here](#).

## Vaccine Working Group

Justin R. Ortiz, MD, MS (Chair)

The PI-TB Vaccines and Immunization Working Group began in 2021. Its goal is to assemble a multidisciplinary group of healthcare providers and scientists to promote and raise the profile of vaccines and immunization through identification of unmet needs, education, research, advocacy, health equity, and interaction with policy developers. Its 37 members include 13 US-members, 13 international members, and 11 international observers from partner national and regional professional societies. The 2022 ATS International Conference has accepted a Working Group proposal for a symposium titled “The Present and Future of Vaccination in Respiratory Medicine.” The goal of the 90-minute symposium is to highlight the critical need for global vaccination strategies in combating a variety of respiratory illnesses and to emphasize the impact vaccines have on improving overall respiratory health. Symposium speakers include global vaccine and immunization experts from within and outside ATS.

The Working Group has reviewed all ATS patient education materials and is currently working with ATS to incorporate appropriate immunization guidance in instances where it is missing. The Working Group has begun a systematic review of respiratory care guidelines to assess inclusion of guidance for immunization which will describe the baseline integration of immunization recommendations in guidelines globally. The Working Group has begun a virtual seminar series on vaccines and immunization, with Dr. Kathy Neuzil, WHO Advisor and Co-Principal Investigator in Vaccines for the US government COVID-19 Prevention Trials Network giving the inaugural presentation, [view here](#) at your convenience. Finally, members of the Working Group, including its co-chairs, are collaborating with ATS staff and partner medical specialty societies to implement a quality improvement project aimed at improving vaccine coverage among high-risk adults in the United States funded by a CDC Cooperative Agreement to the Council of Medical Specialty Societies (CMSS) in collaboration with ATS and six other societies.

## Pneumonia Working Group

Scott E. Evans, MD, ATSF & Charles Dela Cruz, MD, PhD, ATSF (Co-Chairs)

The PI-TB Working Group on Acute Pneumonia was established in 2015. The multidisciplinary panel represents domestic and international ATS members, including early career members, who are interested in topics related to the pathogenesis, diagnosis and management of acute pneumonia, as well as structural means to reduce patient risks for acute pneumonia. The working group has been successful in promoting and producing workshops to bring together thought leaders in pneumonia. The past year witnessed the publication of two initiatives from this group: a clinical practice guideline entitled “*Nucleic Acid-based Testing for Noninfluenza Viral Pathogens in Adults with Suspected Community-acquired Pneumonia*”, an official American Thoracic Society Clinical Practice Guideline” and a workshop report entitled “*Understanding the Host in the Management of Pneumonia*”, an Official American Thoracic Society Workshop Report.” In May 2021, working group members are also sponsored the first-ever workshop on Pneumonia in the Immunocompromised Host: definitions and diagnoses. The related workshop report is expected in 2022.

This PI-TB Acute Pneumonia Working Group’s overarching goal remains working to enhance the voice of ATS and the PI-TB Assembly as advocates for improved research and clinical outcomes for patients with acute pneumonia. The current goals of the working group following the latest renewal are:

- 1) To improve understanding of pneumonia in the immunocompromised host;
- 2) To enhance awareness of pneumonia and pneumonia complications by establishing connection with ATS communications/marketing, ATS patient education unit and ATS patient organization (PAR);
- 3) To develop a policy brief on pneumonia (including antibiotic resistance) for internal and external advocacy purposes;
- 4) To enhance opportunities for early career investigators to address acute pneumonia as their research focus and, secondarily, to encour-age researchers to find a home in PI-TB.

The working group continues to update the Top 20 fact sheet on pneumonia. These facts will be made into single panel infographics to be sent out to the ATS, the pulmonary and critical care community and the public at large through social media such as Twitter. The goal of this initiative is to raise awareness of the importance of pneumonia. We have partnered with Just Actions and Save the Children to enhance pneumonia advocacy efforts. Our group has participated in the initiatives of the Pneumo-Strategy, an international nonprofit group of experts focused on the knowledge and experience of countries most affected with pneumonia. The working group also works with the NHLBI and NIAID on research priorities and strategy related pneumonia.

Because of the many ongoing activities of the working group, we have petitioned the ATS to change the status of the group to a standing Advisory Group in 2022. This will allow us to continue our efforts without needing to be annually renewed.