

Assembly on Environmental, Occupational, and Population Health (EOPH) Newsletter



Assembly Chair:
Alison K. Bauer, PhD, ATSF
[\[alison.bauer@cuanschutz.edu\]](mailto:alison.bauer@cuanschutz.edu)

Assembly Officers

Meghan E. Rebuli, PhD, ATSF
Planning Chair
[\[meradfor@email.unc.edu\]](mailto:meradfor@email.unc.edu)

Peggy S. Lai, MPH, MD, ATSF
Program Chair
[\[plai@mgh.harvard.edu\]](mailto:plai@mgh.harvard.edu)

Ilona Jaspers, PhD
Nominating Chair
[\[ilona_jaspers@med.unc.edu\]](mailto:ilona_jaspers@med.unc.edu)

Anna Nolan, MD, MS
Web Director
[\[Anna.Nolan@nyulangone.org\]](mailto:Anna.Nolan@nyulangone.org)

Assembly Contact

Website
<https://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/assemblies/eoph/>
Email: eoph@thoracic.org

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Message from the Assembly Chair

Welcome to the Environmental, Occupational, and Population Health Assembly and our Spring Newsletter! We are thrilled to see you all in San Diego for our assembly meeting in May. This year has brought our assembly together to work on many challenging issues. From wildfires throughout the world to heat impacts to many other disasters and exposures that impact us both occupationally and environmentally, we are seeing the world change around us and our EOPH members are working to improve pulmonary health through our efforts in the clinics, classrooms, labs, and advocating for improved public policies. We have a terrific group of professionals in our EOPH assembly who are exceptionally committed and have worked hard to make this year’s annual meeting a success. These committees and workgroups include the Program Committee, Planning Committee, Nominating Committee, Early Career Professionals Working Group, PhD and Basic and Translational Working Group, Web Committee, as well as working with the Science and Innovation Center. In addition, the Terrorism and Inhalation Disasters Section has been busy running workshops on burn pits and providing information on the East Palestine Ohio disaster as well as others such as the “Mass Poisonings Suspected in Mysterious Illness Amongst Thousands of Iranian School Girls” (see our Fall newsletter for more details).

Volunteering to serve in these EOPH activities is a great way to get involved, learn how to take advantage of all that EOPH and ATS have to offer you, and make new friends and lifelong colleagues. For early career members, the Web Committee and the Early Career Professionals Working Group are ideal points of entry. It is also not too early to think about nominating your colleagues for either ATS-wide awards or EOPH awards for next year.

It is a privilege to serve as your EOPH Assembly Chair and I especially want to thank all EOPH members for serving on the EOPH Executive Committee as well as all the wonderful ATS staff and the ATS Executive Committee that are committed to the success of the ATS. Lastly, I look forward to working with our incoming Chair-elect for EOPH. Here’s to another year full of successes and new discoveries for EOPH.


Alison Bauer, PhD, ATSF

Assembly on Environmental, Occupational, & Population Health (EOPH) Membership Meeting

Sunday, May 19, 2024
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Building: Marriott Marquis
Room: Pacific Ballroom 18-19
Floor: First Floor, Ground Level, North Tower



American Thoracic Society
ASSEMBLIES



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

Peggy S. Lai, MPH, MD, ATSF (Chair) and Silpa Dhoma Krefft, MD, MPH (Chair-Elect)

Dear colleagues,

Looking forward to seeing you all at ATS 2024! Below are all the sessions primarily sponsored by EOPH this year. Please remember that excellent programming starts with you. Symposia proposals for ATS 2025 will be due in June, so start brainstorming with colleagues in San Diego for next year’s conference!

ATS 2024 International Conference Assembly on Environmental, Occupational, and Population Health (EOPH) Sessions

Session Code	Session Title	Session Type	Session Date	Session Start Time	Session End Time
A54	EXPLORING ASTHMA AND COPD: DIVERSE INSIGHTS FROM GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES	Thematic Poster Session	5/19/2024	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
A55	MEDICAL MAYHEM: CASE REPORTS OF LUNG INJURY IN VAPING, MARIJUANA, AND COCAINE USE	Thematic Poster Session	5/19/2024	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
A7	WE'RE REALLY COOKING NOW! PRO-CON DEBATE ON GAS STOVE RISKS TO LUNG HEALTH	Scientific Symposium	5/19/2024	9:15 AM	10:45 AM
MTE7	CELLULAR ALTERATIONS OF AGED LUNGS AND PULMONARY DISEASES CAUSED BY ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS	Meet the Expert	5/19/2024	11:30 AM	12:30 PM
A105	RAPID: SICK ON THE JOB - OCCUPATIONAL LUNG DISEASE	RAPiD Poster Discussion Session	5/19/2024	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
A95	CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH DISPARITIES IN LUNG DISEASE	Mini Symposium	5/19/2024	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
B19	OMICS TO ENDOTYPE EXPOSURE-RELATED LUNG DISEASE	Mini Symposium	5/20/2024	9:15 AM	11:15 AM
B22	NEW FRONTIERS IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL LUNG DISEASE RESEARCH	Poster Discussion Session	5/20/2024	9:15 AM	11:15 AM
B55	EXPLORING LUNG HEALTH ACROSS POPULATIONS	Thematic Poster Session	5/20/2024	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
B56	VGDF: HAZARDS, EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT, AND HEALTH EFFECTS FROM WILDFIRES, BURN PITS, AIR POLLUTION	Thematic Poster Session	5/20/2024	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
B57	MECHANISTIC INSIGHTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES	Thematic Poster Session	5/20/2024	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
MTE13	SMALL AIRWAYS DISEASE: WHEN IT'S NOT ASTHMA	Meet the Expert	5/20/2024	11:30 AM	12:30 PM

MTE23	BRIDGING THE NETWORKING GAP FOR WOMEN FACULTY USING THE SCIENCE OF NETWORKING	Meet the Expert	5/20/2024	11:30 AM	12:30 PM
B89	INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON TOBACCO/VAPING PRODUCT/HEATED TOBACCO PRODUCT DEPENDENCE AND CONTROL	Jointly-Developed Symposium	5/20/2024	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
B105	BREATHING AMIDST ADVERSITY: EXPLORING THE IMPACT OF AIR POLLUTION ON RESPIRATORY HEALTH AND BEYOND	Poster Discussion Session	5/20/2024	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
C10	BEYOND TOBACCO: NON-SMOKING CAUSES OF COPD	Scientific Symposium	5/21/2024	9:15 AM	10:45 AM
C56	NAVIGATING OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS: CASE REPORTS IN WORK-RELATED LUNG DISEASE	Thematic Poster Session	5/21/2024	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
C57	MEDICAL MYSTERIES UNVEILED: CASE REPORTS HIGHLIGHTING RARE RESPIRATORY CONDITIONS	Thematic Poster Session	5/21/2024	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
MTE25	MILITARY PULMONARY TOXIC EXPOSURES	Meet the Expert	5/21/2024	10:30 AM	11:30 AM
C84	NOVEL AND NEGLECTED ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURES AND LUNG HEALTH	Jointly-Developed Symposium	5/21/2024	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
C105	RESPIRATORY REVELATIONS: EPIDEMIOLOGIC STUDIES IN ASTHMA, COPD, AND LUNG FUNCTION	Poster Discussion Session	5/21/2024	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
C97	TOBACCO, E-CIGARETTES, AND AIR POLLUTION: MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS TO LUNG HEALTH	Mini Symposium	5/21/2024	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
D15	MACHINE LEARNING AND LARGE COHORT STUDIES TO UNDERSTAND EXPOSURE-RELATED LUNG DISEASE	Mini Symposium	5/22/2024	8:15 AM	10:15 AM
D26	UNVEILING CONNECTIONS: TOBACCO, CANNABIS, E-CIGARETTES, AND RESPIRATORY HEALTH INSIGHTS	Poster Discussion Session	5/22/2024	8:15 AM	10:15 AM
D83	RESPIRATORY HEALTH IMPACTS OF HUMAN MADE DISASTERS AND NATURAL DISEASTERS, WILDFIRES, EARTHQUAKES, AND VOLCANOES.	Scientific Symposium	5/22/2024	11:00 AM	12:30 PM

ATS 2024 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ADDITIONAL SESSIONS OF INTEREST

Session Code	Session Title	Session Type	Session Date	Start Time	End Time
C88	HEALTH EQUITY ACROSS PEDIATRIC PULMONARY DISEASES	Scientific Symposium	5/21/2024	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
C89	HIV-RELATED LUNG DISEASE: UPDATES IN PATHOPHYSIOLOGY, CLINICAL TRIALS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS	Scientific Symposium	5/21/2024	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
C86	PULMONARY REHABILITATION - KEEPING THE WHEEL ROLLING FORWARD	Scientific Symposium	5/21/2024	2:15 PM	3:45 PM
D11	ON THE HORIZON: NEW, NOVEL, AND CUTTING EDGE FOR NONTUBERCULOUS MYOBACTERIA (NTM)	Scientific Symposium	5/22/2024	8:15 AM	9:45 AM
D6	WHAT CAUSES SARCOIDOSIS?	Scientific Symposium	5/22/2024	8:15 AM	9:45 AM
D5	TIME-LIMITED TRIALS IN CRITICAL CARE	Scientific Symposium	5/22/2024	8:15 AM	9:45 AM
D7	WHERE CHILDREN LEARN AND BREATHE: THE IMPACT OF SCHOOL-BASED EXPOSURES ON CHILDHOOD RESPIRATORY HEALTH	Scientific Symposium	5/22/2024	8:15 AM	9:45 AM
D8	GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES OF PULMONARY HYPERTENSION BIOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT? AN ATS/ERS JOINT SYMPOSIUM	Scientific Symposium	5/22/2024	8:15 AM	9:45 AM

D9	LINKING NOVEL MULTI-OMICS WITH MACHINE LEARNING TO UNLOCK LUNG PATHOPHYSIOLOGY	Scientific Symposium	5/22/2024	8:15 AM	9:45 AM
D10	TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK: MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES FOR HIGH-QUALITY LUNG CANCER SCREENING	Scientific Symposium	5/22/2024	8:15 AM	9:45 AM
CS1	CHAIR SYMPOSIUM	Scientific Symposium	5/22/2024	8:15 AM	9:45 AM
D83	RESPIRATORY HEALTH IMPACTS OF HUMAN MADE DISASTERS AND NATURAL DISEASTERS, WILDFIRES, EARTHQUAKES, AND VOLCANOES.	Scientific Symposium	5/22/2024	11:00 AM	12:30 PM
D84	EMERGENT RESISTANCE TO NEW DRUGS FOR MDR-TB TREATMENT	Scientific Symposium	5/22/2024	11:00 AM	12:30 PM
D85	ONE TO RULE THEM ALL? IMMUNE CELLS CONTROL STEM CELL CAPACITY IN THE LUNG	Scientific Symposium	5/22/2024	11:00 AM	12:30 PM
D86	AMBULATORY CRITICAL CARE: A BENCH TO BEDSIDE UNDERSTANDING OF CHRONIC RESPIRATORY FAILURE	Scientific Symposium	5/22/2024	11:00 AM	12:30 PM

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Meghan E. Rebuli, PhD, ATSF (Chair) and Daniel Croft, MD, MPH, ATSF (Co-Chair)

The Planning Committee is primarily charged with conducting EOPH Award Reviews and guiding members through the process of ATS Project Submissions. In 2023, three individuals were selected for EOPH Awards by the Planning Committee: Alexandra Noël (Early Career Achievement Award), Kevin Cromar (Mid-Career Achievement Award), and Stephanie London (John Peters Award). 2024 Award nomination reviews have recently been completed and awardees will be officially announced at the EOPH Assembly Business Meeting in San Diego at the ATS annual meeting. The Planning Committee highly encourages individuals who are interested in nominating individuals for awards or individuals interested in being nominated for awards to reach out to the committee, which can help with guidance on the review process and facilitate connections with individuals interested in helping with nominations.

EOPH members had 6 total ATS projects approved for funding as new or renewal submissions in 2024. Renewed projects included a Research Statement led by Peggy Lai, entitled “Household Air Pollution Interventions to Improve Health in LMICs: How Does Research Translate into Real-World Decisions”, which is soon slated to be published in AJRCCM; a Workshop Report led by Meredith McCormack, entitled “Health Consequences and the Relative Contribution of Indoor Versus Outdoor Pollutants”, which was recently published in the Annals of ATS: <https://www.atsjournals.org/doi/full/10.1513/AnnalsATS.202312-1067ST>; and a Workshop Report led by Daniel Croft, entitled “Climate Change and Respiratory Health: Opportunities for Environmental Justice”, which is currently being finalized for submission. New projects for this year include a Research Statement led by Franziska Rosser and Kevin Cromar, entitled “US Air Quality Index and Respiratory Health Outcomes: Background, Knowledge Gaps, and Research Prioritization”; a Workshop Report led by Jared Radbel, Emily Brigham, and Hasan Bayram, entitled “Lives in the Balance: Strategies to Meaningfully Reduce Healthcare Sector Emissions”, and a Workshop Report led by Maeve MacMurdo, Coralynn Sack, and Lisa Maier, entitled “Occupational Air Pollution Exposure: At Risk Worker Groups, Regulatory and Research Needs”. Assembly project applications for the upcoming year will be due in late July/early August. To provide guidance to members who are thinking about submitting a project proposal for this year, please reach out to the Planning Chair and Chair-Elect, who can coordinate a pre-review with committee members and provide feedback.

The Planning Committee was lucky to work with an early career Apprentice this year, Maggie Connolly, and is looking forward to working with our newly appointed Apprentice, Gabrielle Liu. Apprenticeships are coordinated by the EOPH Early Career Working Group, so if you are interested in applying, please reach out to the working groups' co-chairs.

Submit an Assembly/Committee Project Application for Funding in FY2025!

We are happy to announce that ATS will once again accept **NEW Assembly/Committee Projects for FY2025**. All interested applicants should begin developing their ideas for Assembly/Committee Project Applications. **Applications will be available July 1st on the ATS website at 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, Meghan Rebuli, PhD, ATSF at meradfor@email.unc.edu**

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

WEB COMMITTEE

Anna Nolan, MS, MD, ATSF (Web Director)

The Web Committee has continued the EOPH newsletter which includes up to date information on webinars, and the latest publications from EOPH&TID assembly members. Not all assemblies put out a newsletter and it takes effort. So, when you get the monthly newsletter email, please check it out and provide feedback to Anna Nolan regarding what you would like to see less or more of. Please participate in a 5-minute survey regarding your experience with the newsletter, and contribute to a word cloud to be published in the next edition of the newsletter. You can find the survey link at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CVYGJ8G>.

The Web Committee maintains the active EOPH Twitter account (@ATS_EOPH); follow EOPH to find out what your colleagues are doing and thinking and share your own thoughts and accomplishments. If you prefer to have someone tweet for you, or you have something you would like to share via the Newsletter, email Chris Rider, Nuria Camina Garcia or Sophia Kwon. For Twitter postings relevant to TID (@ATSTIDSection) please contact Satya Achanta. You can find email addresses for all of the Web Committee members by clicking on link to the most recent EOPH Newsletter on the EOPH webpage. Additional members include Xin Hu, Emma House, Sheiphali Gandhi and Ruchika Sangani. We would also like to welcome our new apprentice Ye Sun.

 **Follow Us on X (Twitter) @ATS_EOPH!**

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

EARLY CAREER WORKING GROUP

Crystal North, MD, MPH (Chair) and Christina Eckhardt (Chair-Elect)

The ECP Working Group has continued to provide EOPH's early career members with a way to become involved in our Assembly and in ATS. Similar to years prior, we continued our two-pronged mission focused on career development and on facilitating members' contributions to the scientific programming at the annual ATS conference.

In terms of career development, we held two working group meetings. Our Fall meeting in September was an overview of the organizational structure of ATS and a conversation about strategic ways that early career professionals can engage with potential future collaborators and mentors across the organization. We also used this opportunity to hear from working group members about ways that the ECP WG can be supportive in the upcoming year. Based on that conversation, our Winter meeting in December was a conversation with Dr. Colin Cooke, titled "How editorial decisions are made: A conversation with the editor-in-chief of *Annals ATS*," where we learned how Dr. Cooke and journal editors think about submitted manuscripts, which provided a great deal of insight as we think about our own scientific work. We were fortunate to have 8 applicants to the EOPH Apprenticeship program, an opportunity for early career professionals to see the 'inner workings' of the various EOPH committees. We were able to nominate 5 applicants to EOPH committees – the Executive Committee, Programming Committee, Planning Committee, Web Committee, and Environmental Health Policy Committee. We also had several applicants to the mentor and mentee program, and are in the process of pairing applicants for the upcoming conference.

In terms of ECP WG contributions to ATS conference programming, we also made significant progress. We began in the Summer with providing support to working group members as they finalized scientific symposium submissions for ATS 2024. This month, our Spring working group meeting will be a true work-in-progress, where we will hear from Drs. Peggy Lai and Dan Croft about successful (and not-so-successful) conference scientific symposium submissions as we begin to craft symposium submissions from the ECP WG for ATS 2025. We will also participate in the ATS ECP-wide "*How to Get Involved in ATS*" webinar, scheduled for later this month, during which attendees will hear from assembly ECP leadership about ways to get the most out of the in-person 2024 conference in San Diego. Over the course of the year, we have also updated the ECP WG roster, which includes details on members' clinical and scientific interests. This allows the Program Committee to provide ECP WG members with opportunities to participate in conference programming that aligns with their interests, again further increasing ECP members' participation in the annual conference and facilitating important networking opportunities. We are also thrilled to share that, for the 2nd year in a row, we've had ECP WG members enroll in the ATS Teaching Competition! In fact, this year, we are one of only six assemblies with representation in the competition. Be sure to watch the Teaching Competition at ATS 2024 to cheer on our EOPH applicant.

New this year, the ECP WG has been co-led by the Chair and Chair-Elect, a strategic modification to the leadership structure of the working group that allows for a seamless transition from year to year that preserves the mission and the ongoing work of the ECP WG. We are eager to continue this leadership structure, with the announcement of the next Chair-Elect at the ATS 2024 conference, so be sure to attend the EOPH Assembly Meeting!

If you or anyone you know is interested in joining the ECP WG, please feel free to reach out to the Chair or Chair-Elect for further details.

Assembly Mentoring Programs' Meeting Spot

Struggling to find a quiet location to meet with your mentor? The Assembly Mentoring Programs is offering a meeting spot exclusively for mentors and mentee to meet.

Marriott Marquis

Vista, Level 1, South

Sunday, May 19th – Monday, May 20 from 6 am to 6 pm

Please note, this space is exclusively for Mentoring Program participants

ATS Contact- Tiana Lino at tlino@thoracic.org

SECTION ON TERRORISM AND INHALATION DISASTERS (TID)

Jessica Patience Castner, PhD, RN, (Chair) and George L. Anesi, MD, MSCE (Co-Chair)

Section Committee

Section Past Chair	Stella E. Hines, MD, MSPH	Morgantown, WV
Section Chair	Jessica Patience Castner, PhD, RN	Grand Island, NY
Section Co-Chair	George L Anesi, MD, MSCE, MBE	Philadelphia, PA
Representative	Carrie A. Redlich, MD, MPH	New Haven, CT
Representative	Rafael E. De La Hoz, MD, MPH, MSc	New York, NY
Representative	Ruben Manuel Luciano Colunga Biancatelli, MD	Norfolk, VA
Representative	Satya Achanta, DVM, PhD, DABT	Durham, NC
Representative	Sven Eric Jordt, PhD	Durham, NC
Committee Member	Anays M. Sotolongo, MD	East Orange, NJ
Committee Member	Muge Akpınar-Elci, MD, MPH, ATSF	Reno, NV

The Section on Terrorism and Inhalation Disasters (TID) is a multidisciplinary group who share a common interest in inhalation disaster preparedness, response, and research. The major goals of this section are the advancement of current research efforts to improve our understanding of the pathophysiology and management of inhalational injuries, severe outbreaks of infectious disease, and their impact on respiratory and critical care management, and to maximize disaster preparedness.

We welcome you to get involved in this Section by attending our Section meetings at the ATS annual conference, attend any of our sponsored sessions at the ATS annual conference and throughout the rest of the year, follow our various types of web and social media postings, or by contacting any of our TID executive committee members. We encourage all members to submit topic proposals for ATS educational sessions, new ideas for projects, or educational content for our web site or social media postings. Unfortunately, the issues which we address are growing in prominence worldwide. Join us in our efforts to prepare for the unthinkable, using our clinical and research skills to protect our nation and world from the inhalation disaster threats of today.

Event highlight from this year:

TID Webinar: “A burning question: Identifying and understanding Burn-pit Syndrome” held on February 8, 2024

This session discussed deployment-related respiratory disease in general and burn-pit syndrome in particular, taking a broad approach from clinical evaluation and management to cutting edge translational science and animal models. Speakers included national experts on airborne hazards, war-related illness, and animal models of particulate matter and related stress, joining us from leading academic and VA clinical and research centers. Over 100 attendees listened to 3 talks and engaged in prolonged scientific and policy discussions.

Annual Section Meeting:

Please join us for our annual TID Section Meeting at the ATS International Conference on Sunday, May 19 at 7:15pm immediately following the EOPH Assembly Meeting at the Marriott Marquis. The meeting will feature annual TID Section business and a panel discussion with representatives from multiple federal agencies discussing research challenges during inhalation disasters and public health emergencies.

Reception for PhDs & Other Basic Science Researchers

**Sunday, May 19th from 3 - 5 p.m.
San Diego Convention Center
Sails Pavilion Terrace (Upper Level)**

The ATS Science and Innovation Center (SIC) working group and the PhD working group, would like to invite PhDs and other Basic Science Researchers to a special reception event. The reception will provide an intimate setting for networking while also allowing guests to mingle. Cocktails will be provided.

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

IN MEMORIAM : JOSEPH D. BRAIN

The EOPH assembly has lost a member this year, Dr. Joseph D. Brain, who passed away on Jan. 29, 2024. He was the Cecil K. and Philip Drinker Professor of Environmental Physiology and former chair of the Department of Environmental Health at the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health. Dr. Brain joined the Department at Harvard in 1962 researching the body's response to inhaled gases, particulates, and microbes and taught and mentored countless students, engaging in ground-breaking research, and leading his colleagues with fervor and foresight. He was the founding chair of our formerly named assembly “environmental and occupational health” from 1975-1976 and served in many other leadership roles for the ATS in his career. Members are encouraged to read Dr. Brain's tribute found at <https://countway.harvard.edu/news/memory-joe-brain>.