

Virtual Meeting



From Mechanisms to Interventions: Paving the Way for Transformative Therapies in Non-Cystic Fibrosis Bronchiectasis

March 9-10, 2026



National Heart, Lung,
and Blood Institute

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Agenda

All times are shown in Eastern Time.

Day 1: March 9, 2026

- 9:00 a.m.–9:15 a.m. Welcome and Introduction**
- Workshop Overview and Objectives:
Gustavo Matute-Bello, M.D., NHLBI
- NHLBI Co-Chairs:
Qing Lu, Ph.D., NHLBI
Marrah Lachowicz-Scroggins, Ph.D., NHLBI
- NHLBI Planning Committee:
Joy Liu, M.D., NHLBI
Tom Hu, Ph.D., M.B.A., NHLBI
- 9:15 a.m.–9:45 a.m. Academic Co-Chairs Introduction: Disease, Etiology, Treatments, Gaps, and a Big-Picture Overview**
- We Need to Set Up the Clinical Infrastructure—Collaboratives
Pamela J. (PJ) McShane, M.D., NHLBI
- “Be the Bridge”: The Essential Role of Clinical and Translational Research
Jerry Nick, M.D., National Jewish Health
- “We Need to Ask the Questions”: The Basic Science Perspective
George “Marty” Solomon, M.D., University of Alabama at Birmingham
- 9:45 a.m.–10:00 a.m. Break**
- 10:00 a.m.–11:40 a.m. Session 1: Clinical Presentation, Phenotyping, Comorbidities and Treatments in NCFB**
- Co-Chairs:
Alan F. Barker, M.D., Oregon Health and Science University
Qing Lu, Ph.D., NHLBI
- Topic #1: Disease Presentations, Phenotyping, Comorbidities, and Overlap with and Distinction from Other Diseases (e.g., COPD)**
- Timothy R. Aksamit, M.D., Mayo Clinic, U.S. Bronchiectasis Research Registry*
- Topic #2: Genetics in Bronchiectasis (CFTR, PCD, STAT3, AAT)**
- Presentation Title: Genetic Associations with Bronchiectasis
Kenneth N. Olivier, M.D., M.P.H., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Topic #3: Histopathology and Endotypes of NCFB

Presentation Title: Neutrophilic Inflammation as a Bronchiectasis Endotype: The Multiomics Perspective

Theodoros Kapellos, Ph.D., Institute of Lung Health and Immunity, Helmholtz Munich

Topic #4: Early Bronchiectasis/Pre-Bronchiectasis (Radiographic, Subclinical, Mild Disease in Adults and Children)

Presentation Title: Out of the Airways of Babes and Sucklings: Lessons from Pediatric Bronchiectasis

Andrew Bush, M.D., Imperial College London

Topic #5: NCFB and Aging (The Role of Hormones, Sex Disparities, the Prevalence with Women, Comorbid with Aging-Associated Conditions—e.g., Alzheimer’s Disease and Obstructive Sleep Apnea)

Presentation Title: Bronchiectasis in Older Adults: From Age-Related Vulnerability to Patient-Centered Management

Lauren Pollack, M.D., M.S., University of Washington School of Medicine

11:40 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Session 1 Q&A/Discussion Panel

12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m. Lunch Break

1:00 p.m.–2:40 p.m. Session 2: Infectious Etiology, Immunology, and Mucus Pathogenesis in NCFB

Co-Chairs:

James D. Chalmers, M.B.Ch.D., Ph.D., University of Dundee

Joy Liu, M.D., NHLBI

Topic #1: Pathophysiology of Muco-Obstructive Lung Diseases

Presentation Title: Mucus Hyperconcentration and Airway Obstruction in the Pathogenesis of NCFB

Richard C. Boucher, M.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Topic #2: Infectious Etiology in NCFB and the Spectrum of Pathogens (Fungal, Nontuberculous Mycobacterial, Bacterial, Viral), as Well as the Impact of Antibiotic Treatment

Presentation Title: Airway Infection and Inflammation with Bronchiectasis

Wei-Jie Guan, Ph.D., National Clinical Research Center for Respiratory Disease, China

Topic #3: The Role of the Neutrophil in Disease Pathogenesis

Presentation Title: The Role of the Neutrophil in Disease Pathogenesis

James D. Chalmers, M.B.Ch.D., Ph.D., University of Dundee

Topic #4: The Microbiome's Role in NCFB

Presentation Title: The Role of the Microbiome in Bronchiectasis
Sanjay H. Chotirmall, M.B.B.S., Ph.D., Nanyang Technological University

**Topic #5: Resident Immune Cells and Inflammatory Dynamics Between
Pulmonary Exacerbations (Bronchiectasis and Eosinophils)**

Jin-Fu Xu, M.D., School of Medicine, Tongji University

2:40 p.m.–3:00 p.m. Session 2 Q&A/Discussion Panel

3:00 p.m.–3:15 p.m. Break

3:15 p.m.–4:35 p.m. Session 3: Imaging, Biomarkers, and Disease Tracking in NCFB

Co-Chairs:

Tom Hu, Ph.D., M.B.A., NHLBI

Peter J. Niedbalski, Ph.D., University of Kansas Medical Center

**Topic #1: Anatomical and Functional Outcomes of Lateral Head Coverage
(MRI and CT)**

Presentation Title: Learning Bronchiectasis Through Imaging
Alejandro A. Diaz, M.D., M.P.H., Harvard Medical School

Topic #2: Xenon MRI for Pulmonary Function

Presentation Title: Functional MRI Using Hyperpolarized Xenon
Jason Woods, Ph.D., Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

Topic #3: AI/Machine Learning Imaging and EMR

Presentation Title: Emerging Directions in Bronchiectasis Imaging with AI/ML
Raúl San José Estépar, Ph.D., Harvard Medical School

Topic #4: Electrical Impedance Tomography

Presentation Title: Electrical Impedance Tomography in NCFB: Defining
Opportunities, Knowledge Gaps, and Future Applications
Lorenzo Berra, M.D., Massachusetts General Hospital

4:35 p.m.–4:55 p.m. Session 3 Q&A/Discussion Panel

5:00 p.m. Adjourn Day 1

Day 2: March 10, 2026

9:00 a.m.–9:15 a.m. Welcome and Recap of Day 1

9:15 a.m.–10:35 a.m. Session 4: Emerging Therapeutics and Clinical Trials

Co-Chairs:

Marrah Lachowicz-Scroggins, Ph.D., NHLBI

Marty Solomon, M.D., University of Alabama at Birmingham

Topic #1: Patient-Reported Outcomes, Patient-Centered Research, and Patient-Managed Interventions in Bronchiectasis Management and Community-Based Participatory Research in Pulmonary Medicine

Arietta Spinou, Ph.D., M.Sc., King's College London

Topic #2: The Landscape of Clinical Interventions

Charles L. Daley, M.D., National Jewish Health

Topic #3: New Therapeutics on the Market

Marty Solomon, M.D., University of Alabama at Birmingham

Topic #4: Clinical Trial Design for Heterogeneous Populations

PJ McShane, M.D., NHLBI

10:35 a.m.–10:55 a.m. Session 4 Q&A/Discussion Panel

10:55 a.m.–12:15 p.m. Lunch Break

12:15 p.m.–1:15 p.m. Advocacy Panel

Facilitators:

Michele Manion, PCD Foundation

JP Clancy, M.D., Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

Panelists:

Marrah Lachowicz-Scroggins, Ph.D., NHLBI

Delia Oliver, M.S.Ed., COPD Foundation

David Nichols, M.D., Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

Jean Wright, M.D., M.P.A., COPD Foundation

1:15 p.m.–1:25 p.m. Break and Transition to Breakouts

1:25 p.m.– 2:25 p.m. Breakout Sessions

Breakout A: Mechanistic Insights and Disease Heterogeneity

Facilitator:

Qing Lu, Ph.D., NHLBI

Breakout B: Immunopathology and Pathogen–Host Interactions

Facilitators:

Joy Liu, M.D., NHLBI

Scott Sagel, M.D., Ph.D., University of Colorado Cystic Fibrosis Center

Breakout C: The Intramural–Extramural Clinical Research Collaborative

Facilitators:

PJ McShane, M.D., NHLBI

Marrah Lachowicz-Scroggins, Ph.D., NHLBI

2:25 p.m.–2:30 p.m. Break and Transition to Breakout Sessions

2:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m. Breakout Sessions

Breakout D: Diagnostic Technologies and Biomarker Integration

Facilitators:

Tom Hu, Ph.D., M.B.A., NHLBI

Peter J. Niedbalski, Ph.D., University of Kansas Medical Center

Breakout E: Clinical Trials, Patient Engagement and Advocacy

Facilitators:

Marrah Lachowicz-Scroggins, Ph.D., NHLBI

Marty Solomon, M.D., University of Alabama at Birmingham

3:30 p.m.–3:45 p.m. Break

3:45 p.m.–5:00 p.m. Breakout Report-outs and Synthesis

Facilitators:

PJ McShane, M.D., NHLBI

Jerry Nick, M.D., National Jewish Health

Marty Solomon, M.D., University of Alabama at Birmingham

5:00 p.m. Adjourn Day 2

Workshop Organizers

NHLBI Leadership



Gustavo Matute-Bello, M.D.
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
National Institutes of Health

Dr. Matute-Bello is acting director of the Division of Lung Diseases at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI). Dr. Matute-Bello earned his M.D. from the Central University of Venezuela. He then completed an internal medicine internship and residency at Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia, PA, and a pulmonary and critical care fellowship at the University of Washington (UW) in Seattle, WA. Prior to joining NHLBI in November 2022, Dr. Matute-Bello was professor of medicine at UW, investigator at the UW Center for Lung Biology, and staff physician at the Veterans Administration Puget Sound Health Care System. Dr. Matute-Bello is the author or coauthor of more than 100 scientific publications and abstracts. He has served as a reviewer for multiple scientific journals.

NHLBI Workshop Planning Committee Co-Chairs



Marrah Lachowicz-Scroggins, Ph.D.
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
National Institutes of Health

Dr. Lachowicz-Scroggins is the branch chief for the Lung Development and Pediatric Diseases Branch and a program director at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), Division of Lung Diseases at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Since joining NHLBI in 2018, she has directed a scientific portfolio focused on respiratory medicine, pulmonary physiology, immunology, and rare airway diseases, with an emphasis on non-cystic fibrosis bronchiectasis and disorders of mucociliary clearance.

Her academic background includes a Ph.D. in comparative pathology from the University of California, Davis and a graduate certificate in clinical pathology from the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Prior to joining NHLBI, she was an assistant research professor at the University of California, San Francisco in the Airway Clinical Research Center, where her work centered on clinical and translational research in airway diseases.

At NIH, she serves as a project scientist in the Rare Diseases Clinical Research Network on studies jointly funded by NHLBI and the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences Office of Rare Diseases Research. She oversees grants and cooperative agreements supporting research on non-cystic fibrosis bronchiectasis, primary ciliary dyskinesia, and related conditions, promoting the development of novel diagnostics, therapeutics, and mechanistic understanding of these diseases. Her expertise includes mucociliary clearance, mucosal immunology, and epithelial cell biology, as well as the application of translational and systems biology approaches to rare lung diseases.

Through her stewardship of federally funded research, she is committed to advancing our understanding and treatment of non-cystic fibrosis bronchiectasis, fostering collaborations across the research community, and supporting the next generation of scientific discoveries in this important area.



Qing Lu, Ph.D.
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
National Institutes of Health

Dr. Lu is a program director in the Division of Lung Diseases at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI). Her scientific portfolio is focused on basic, translational, clinical, and implementation science of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. She is also engaged in research efforts related to nutrition and diet in lung health and diseases, women’s health research, and research training. Before joining NHLBI in 2020, Dr. Lu has been a faculty member of the Department of Medicine at Brown University for 18 years. Her lab investigated cigarette smoke–induced lung injury and underlying mechanisms, which were funded by NHLBI R01 and other grant mechanisms. Dr. Lu has published over 60 manuscripts and mentored trainees ranging from undergraduates, graduate and medical students to pulmonary fellows, postdoctoral fellows and junior faculty. Dr. Lu received a Ph.D. from the Chinese Academy of Science and completed her postdoctoral trainings at the University of Michigan and Brown University. She also obtained a D.V.M. and worked as a veterinarian at a zoo prior to pursuing a research career.

NHLBI Workshop Planning Committee



Tom C. Hu, Ph.D., M.B.A.
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
National Institutes of Health

Dr. Hu is a program officer in the Division of Lung Diseases at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute in the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Dr. Hu joined NIH in December 2024 following his position as an associate professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Colorado. Previously, he had 14 years of federal service as a project officer in the Division of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Countermeasures at the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Dr. Hu is interested in establishing noninvasive biomarkers with various imaging methodologies following inhalation injuries.

Dr. Hu received a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh in 1996. He went on to earn his M.S. and Ph.D. in chemistry from Carnegie Mellon University in 1999 and 2001, respectively. Following his doctoral work, Dr. Hu moved to NIH as an intramural research training award fellow. Subsequently, he went on to GlaxoSmithKline PLC as a principal scientist. During this period, he also earned an M.B.A. at Villanova University. Dr. Hu then established the Small Animal Imaging Program at the Medical College of Georgia. During his time as a project officer, Dr. Hu was responsible for overseeing technical progress for CBRN Countermeasures. He has managed more than 20 company contracts for the federal government, developing medical countermeasures in the chemical, radiological/nuclear, biodosimetry, and thermal burn areas, where total contract values exceeded \$186 million. Currently, he serves as an associate editor and ad hoc reviewer for more than 20 peer-reviewed journals, has published 29 peer-reviewed articles, and has made presentations at more than 60 national and international conference presentations. He has also chaired several meeting sessions at various scientific conferences. Dr. Hu has five U.S. patents and has been certified as a diplomate by the American Board of Medical Physics in magnetic resonance imaging physics.



Qian (Joy) Liu, Ph.D.
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
National Institutes of Health

Dr. Liu is a program officer in the Division of Lung Diseases at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), where she manages a basic and translational research portfolio in asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. She also serves as a program scientist for the pathobiology task force within the NHLBI Researching COVID to Enhance Recovery program, overseeing a research portfolio on mechanisms underlying long COVID. Her expertise spans immunology, immunodeficiency, autoimmunity, and infectious diseases. Before joining NHLBI, Dr. Liu was a program officer at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), managing extramural grant portfolios in immunology, inflammation, infectious diseases, hematopoiesis, and animal models of human immunity. She also served as a contracting officer's representative for an SBIR antibody development program that generated and validated monoclonal antibodies for non-rodent animal models. Dr. Liu has contributed to multiple National Institutes of Health funding initiatives, organized workshops and webinars, and coauthored workshop reports in *Nature Immunology*, *Journal of Immunology*, and *Radiation Research*. Previously, she conducted translational and clinical research on immunodeficiency diseases at NIAID and held a faculty position studying immune responses post- and immunomodulation of autoimmune diseases by helminth infection at New Jersey Medical School. Dr. Liu has authored over 50 publications.

Dr. Liu earned her M.D. in China and completed postdoctoral training in immunology in the United States.

Academic Workshop Co-Chairs



Pamela J. (PJ) McShane, M.D.
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
National Institutes of Health

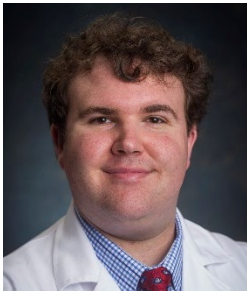
Dr. McShane is a senior staff clinician at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. She is a Chicago native who attended Loyola University for both her undergraduate and medical doctorate degrees. She received the Health Professions Scholarship from the U.S. military for medical school. After completing an internal medicine residency, Dr. McShane entered the U.S. Air Force as a staff physician. During her 4 years of active-duty service, she deployed twice to Iraq, where she served as a critical care physician in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Following her military service, Dr. McShane returned to Chicago, IL, where she completed her pulmonary and critical care medicine fellowship at the University of Chicago. During her fellowship training and subsequent faculty years at the University of Chicago, she developed a regional research database and clinic in bronchiectasis and nontuberculous mycobacterial (NTM) lung disease.

Dr. McShane went on to work in the field of NTM lung disease at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Tyler, TX, a nationally renowned acid-fast bacilli lab and clinical referral center. She was principal investigator there for approximately a dozen clinical trials in bronchiectasis and pulmonary NTM disease. Dr. McShane served as associate editor for *CHEST* and the *Journal of Clinical Tuberculosis and Other Mycobacterial Diseases*. She served as chair of the U.S. National Bronchiectasis Research Registry Consortium from 2023 until 2025.



Jerry A. Nick, M.D.
National Jewish Health

Dr. Nick graduated from the University of Washington School of Medicine in 1989. He completed a residency in internal medicine at the University of Washington in 1992, and a fellowship in pulmonary and critical care medicine at the University of Colorado in 1997. He is board certified in internal medicine, pulmonary medicine, and critical care. He has been on the faculty of National Jewish Health and the University of Colorado since 1997, and is currently professor of medicine at both institutions. Dr. Nick is co-director of the Adult Cystic Fibrosis (CF) Program and co-director of the Colorado CF Center. He is also director of the CF Foundation NTM National Resource Centers and chair of the CFF Center Committee. His clinical interests center upon issues relevant to adults with bronchiectasis, including infection with mycobacteria and the spectrum of CFTR-related disease. Dr. Nick's primary research interest includes the mechanisms of the innate immune response to bacterial infections in the lung, and the response of bacteria to the neutrophil-rich environment. Other interests include developing an evidence-based approach to the diagnosis of NTM infection, guideline-based treatment protocols, identification of markers for NTM infection, and early-stage trials of novel therapeutics.



George "Marty" Solomon, Ph.D.
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Dr. Solomon is a physician-scientist studying muco-inflammation and new therapies for cystic fibrosis (CF) and bronchiectasis. He completed his medical education at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), followed by internal medicine training at UAB Hospital, and then completed his pulmonary fellowship training at National Jewish Health/University of Colorado. Dr. Solomon joined the faculty at UAB's Division of Pulmonary, Allergy and Critical Care in 2015. Dr. Solomon is the associate director for clinical research at the Gregory Fleming James Cystic Fibrosis Research Center at UAB and lead principal investigator for the UAB Therapeutics Development Center. He is the chairman of the U.S. Bronchiectasis and NTM Research Registry.

Presenter Information

Session 1: Clinical Presentation, Phenotyping, Comorbidities and Treatments in NCFB



Alan Barker, M.D.
Oregon Health and Science University

Dr. Barker is professor of medicine, pulmonary, allergy, and critical care at Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU), in Portland, OR. His clinical research focus includes rare lung diseases that yield insights to common entities. His work has been funded by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; Foundations; and industry. With Dr. Barker as principal investigator (or co-principal investigator), the OHSU is a Center of Excellence for the Alpha-1 Foundation, The LAM Foundation, and the Bronchiectasis and NTM Association. Dr. Barker's 2002 New England Journal of Medicine Medical Progress publication on bronchiectasis was widely cited and contributed to a renewed and vigorous interest in bronchiectasis, which is now no longer a rare disease. He helped develop and validate the Quality-of-Life for Bronchiectasis questionnaire, which is now used as a PRO in many bronchiectasis studies. He has been involved in many therapeutic trials of inhaled antibiotics and mucokinetic agent studies for bronchiectasis.



Qing Lu, Ph.D.
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
National Institutes of Health

Dr. Lu is a program director in the Division of Lung Diseases at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI). Her scientific portfolio is focused on basic, translational, clinical, and implementation science of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. She is also engaged in research efforts related to nutrition and diet in lung health and diseases, women's health research, and research training. Before joining NHLBI in 2020, Dr. Lu has been a faculty member of the Department of Medicine at Brown University for 18 years. Her lab investigated cigarette smoke-induced lung injury and underlying mechanisms, which were funded by NHLBI R01 and other grant mechanisms. Dr. Lu has published over 60 manuscripts and mentored trainees ranging from undergraduates, graduate and medical students to pulmonary fellows, postdoctoral fellows and junior faculty. Dr. Lu received a Ph.D. from the Chinese Academy of Science and completed her postdoctoral trainings at the University of Michigan and Brown University. She also obtained a D.V.M. and worked as a veterinarian at a zoo prior to pursuing a research career.



Kenneth Olivier, M.D., M.P.H.
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Bronchiectasis/NTM Care and Research Center

Dr. Olivier is the Michael E. Hatcher distinguished professor of medicine, microbiology, and immunology at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. He is the research director of the UNC Bronchiectasis/NTM Care and Research Center and co-director of the PCD Foundation Network for Clinical Trials Leadership Center. Dr. Olivier was a site investigator and project lead for the National Institutes of Health-funded Genetic Disorders of Mucociliary Clearance for almost 20 years and is the current co-lead of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute-funded Rare Bronchiectatic Diseases Consortium. His research focuses on

host susceptibility, pathogenesis, and population characteristics of bronchiectasis and chronic airway infection such as the nontuberculous mycobacteria. Dr. Olivier has been actively engaged in preclinical and clinical therapeutics development in these areas. He has authored and coauthored more than 200 peer-reviewed research papers, review articles, and book chapters pertaining to these topics.



Theodoros Kapellos, M.D.
Institute of Lung Health and Immunity, Munich, Germany

Dr. Kapellos is a junior group leader at the Comprehensive Pneumology Center in Munich and the German Center for Lung Research. Since 2022, he has led the research group “Immunoregulation in Obstructive Airway Diseases.” His work focuses on how immune cells, particularly neutrophils and monocytes/macrophages, shape the progression of chronic respiratory diseases, such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, bronchiectasis, and asthma. He integrates single-cell transcriptomics, computational analysis, and multiplexed imaging with human ex vivo lung models to identify molecular pathways that can be targeted to attenuate inflammation and develop novel biomarkers for disease monitoring and outcome prediction. Dr. Kapellos obtained his bachelor’s degree in biology from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece), an M.Sc. in immunology from the Imperial College London, and a D.Phil. in pathology from the University of Oxford (UK), followed by postdoctoral training in systems immunology at the University of Bonn (Germany). His work has been recognized with several awards from the European Respiratory Society and the American Thoracic Society.



Andrew Bush, M.D.
Imperial College London

Dr. Bush is professor of pediatrics and pediatric respirology at the National Heart and Lung Institute as well as the Centre for Paediatrics and Child Health at Imperial College in London, UK. His research interests include the invasive and non-invasive measurement of airway inflammation in children (particularly the use of endobronchial biopsy in managing severe asthma) and clinical physiology (especially respiratory mass spectrometry). He has supervised more than 50 M.D. and Ph.D. degrees, coauthored more than 800 papers in peer review journals, and written more than 150 chapters in books and monographs. Dr. Bush is deputy editor of the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine. He has served as guidelines director of the European Respiratory Society (ERS) and chair of the Publications Committee. Additionally, Dr. Bush is an emeritus National Institute for Health and Care Research senior investigator. Dr. Bush’s major recent awards include the British Thoracic Society medal (2022, the first pediatrician to be so honored); the 2024 James Spence Medal and an Honorary Life Fellowship, the highest honor of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health; and the 2024 ERS Presidential Award. Most important, Dr. Bush has the nine greatest grandchildren in the world: Dylan and Jack in South Africa, Oscar and his twin siblings Aya and Fletcher, Lydia and Dominic, and Ilyas and Amina, all in London, UK.



Lauren Pollack, M.D., M.S.
University of Washington School of Medicine

Dr. Pollack is an early career physician-scientist in the Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine at the University of Washington (UW). Her research and clinical interests lie at the intersection of pulmonary and critical care medicine and geriatrics. She sees patients seeking specialized care in the non-cystic fibrosis

bronchiectasis clinic at the UW Medical Center—Montlake. Dr. Pollack is passionate about promoting age-friendly care practices for older adults with chronic lung disease.

Session 2: Infectious Etiology, Immunology, and Mucus Pathogenesis in NCFB



James D. Chalmers, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Dundee, UK

Dr. Chalmers is Rhodes chair of experimental therapeutics at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom. He leads a research group focusing on the development of novel therapies for people with complex chronic lung diseases with a particular focus on bronchiectasis. He is chief editor of the European Respiratory Journal (ERS) and chairs the Standards of Care Committee of the British Thoracic Society. He has published more than 550 peer-reviewed papers with an H index >100. He chaired the

2017 and 2025 ERS bronchiectasis guidelines. He chairs the EMBARC registry, which has made a major contribution to raising awareness of bronchiectasis, and his lab has been a major contributor to developing programmes for DPP1 inhibitors, resulting in the first licensed treatment for bronchiectasis.



Qian (Joy) Liu, Ph.D.
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
National Institutes of Health

Dr. Liu is a program officer in the Division of Lung Diseases at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), where she manages a basic and translational research portfolio in asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. She also serves as a program scientist for the pathobiology task force within the NHLBI Researching COVID to Enhance Recovery program, overseeing a research portfolio on mechanisms

underlying long COVID. Her expertise spans immunology, immunodeficiency, autoimmunity, and infectious diseases. Before joining NHLBI, Dr. Liu was a program officer at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), managing extramural grant portfolios in immunology, inflammation, infectious diseases, hematopoiesis, and animal models of human immunity. She also served as a contracting officer's representative for an SBIR antibody development program that generated and validated monoclonal antibodies for non-rodent animal models. Dr. Liu has contributed to multiple National Institutes of Health funding initiatives, organized workshops and webinars, and coauthored workshop reports in *Nature Immunology*, *Journal of Immunology*, and *Radiation Research*. Previously, she conducted translational and clinical research on immunodeficiency diseases at NIAID and held a faculty position studying immune responses post- and immunomodulation of autoimmune diseases by helminth infection at New Jersey Medical School. Dr. Liu has authored over 50 publications.

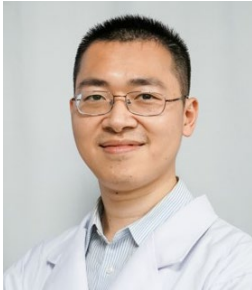
Dr. Liu earned her M.D. in China and completed postdoctoral training in immunology in the United States.



Richard C. Boucher, M.D.
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Dr. Boucher grew up in Merced, CA. He attended Yale University for his undergraduate education and the Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons for medical school. Following a 2-year internship/residency at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, he joined the Indian Health Service and was a family medicine physician in Eagle Butte, SD, and San Ildefonso, NM. Dr. Boucher performed his respiratory training at McGill, notably

under the tutelage of Dr. James Hogg in the Meakins-Christie Laboratories. After 3 years of training in Montreal, Québec, Canada, he joined the faculty of the Adult Pulmonary Medicine Division at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine in Chapel Hill, NC. He has remained there for 48 years, studying the pathogenesis of cystic fibrosis and, more recently, the broad spectrum of muco-obstructive lung diseases. He is presently director of the Marsico Lung Institute.



Wei-jie Guan, Ph.D.
National Clinical Research Center in Respiratory Disease, China

Dr. Guan serves as deputy director of the National Clinical Research Center for Respiratory Disease in China, and is a leading scientist dedicated to advancing the mechanisms, diagnosis, and treatment of chronic respiratory diseases, including bronchiectasis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

He leads major national research initiatives, serving as a leading scientist for the Noncommunicable Chronic Diseases—National Science and Technology Major Project and the Major Project of Guangzhou National Laboratory. His work has significantly shaped the understanding and clinical management of respiratory illnesses at both national and global levels.

Dr. Guan has published extensively in premier medical journals, including The New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM), The Lancet, The Lancet Respiratory Medicine, and Nature Medicine. His COVID-19 research article was recognized as the top 1 cited paper in NEJM, underscoring its global impact during the pandemic.

In recognition of his scientific contributions, he was named to Elsevier World’s Top 2% Scientists list (career-long impact, 2021–2023) and has been honored as an Elsevier Highly Cited Chinese Scholar from 2020–2023.



Sanjay H. Chotirmall, Ph.D., M.D.
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Dr. Chotirmall is an internationally recognized clinician-scientist with an established translational respiratory research group at the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, Nanyang Technological University (NTU) Singapore. To date, he has performed key work on endo-phenotyping pulmonary infection, including the use of next generation sequencing approaches, in the context of chronic inflammatory respiratory diseases that have led to more than 200 publications including those in Nature Medicine, the

New England Journal of Medicine, Cell Host & Microbe, Nature Microbiology, the European Respiratory Journal, and the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine (AJRCCM). He continues clinical practice at Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Singapore, and currently serves as vice dean (research) at the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, NTU Singapore. Dr. Chotirmall is also the deputy editor at AJRCCM.

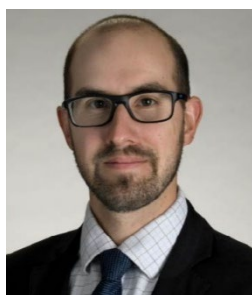
Session 3: Imaging, Biomarkers, and Disease Tracking in NCFB



Tom C. Hu, Ph.D., M.B.A.
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
National Institutes of Health

Dr. Hu is a program officer in the Division of Lung Diseases at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute in the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Dr. Hu joined NIH in December 2024 following his position as an associate professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Colorado. Previously, he had 14 years of federal service as a project officer in the Division of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Countermeasures at the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Dr. Hu is interested in establishing noninvasive biomarkers with various imaging methodologies following inhalation injuries.

Dr. Hu received a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh in 1996. He went on to earn his M.S. and Ph.D. in chemistry from Carnegie Mellon University in 1999 and 2001, respectively. Following his doctoral work, Dr. Hu moved to NIH as an intramural research training award fellow. Subsequently, he went on to GlaxoSmithKline PLC as a principal scientist. During this period, he also earned an M.B.A. at Villanova University. Dr. Hu then established the Small Animal Imaging Program at the Medical College of Georgia. During his time as a project officer, Dr. Hu was responsible for overseeing technical progress for CBRN Countermeasures. He has managed more than 20 company contracts for the federal government, developing medical countermeasures in the chemical, radiological/nuclear, biodosimetry, and thermal burn areas, where total contract values exceeded \$186 million. Currently, he serves as an associate editor and ad hoc reviewer for more than 20 peer-reviewed journals, has published 29 peer-reviewed articles, and has made presentations at more than 60 national and international conference presentations. He has also chaired several meeting sessions at various scientific conferences. Dr. Hu has five U.S. patents and has been certified as a diplomate by the American Board of Medical Physics in magnetic resonance imaging physics.



Peter J. Niedbalski, Ph.D.
University of Kansas Medical Center

Dr. Niedbalski is an assistant professor in the Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine at the University of Kansas Medical Center. During the course of his career, Dr. Niedbalski has transitioned from basic science research in physical chemistry to translational magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). He received his Ph.D. in physics from the University of Texas at Dallas, where he researched mechanisms of ^{13}C dynamic nuclear polarization. He then transitioned into the field of lung MRI during his postdoctoral fellowship at the Center for Pulmonary Imaging Research at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. As faculty at the University of Kansas Medical Center, Dr. Niedbalski's research is focused on the development and application of novel lung imaging, particularly Xenon MRI.



Alejandro A. Diaz, M.D., M.P.H.
Harvard Medical School

Dr. Diaz is an associate professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and lead scientist at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, where he is focused on lung imaging. He works in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine Applied Chest Imaging Laboratory. Dr. Diaz is interested in using lung imaging to characterize airway diseases better, including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and bronchiectasis.

He is a principal investigator of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) awards for his research programs, where visual and engineering-based methodologies are applied to computed tomography scans from various cohorts, including COPDGene, Evaluation of COPD Longitudinally to Identify Predictive Surrogate Endpoints, Detection of Early Lung Cancer in Active Military Personnel Study, Framingham Heart Study, and the Coronary Artery Risk Development in Young Adults Study. Additionally, he serves as a member of an NHLBI data safety and monitoring board for a COPD clinical trial. He has over 180 publications in his research field.

Beyond his scientific contributions, Dr. Diaz is also a dedicated mentor, guiding and inspiring the next generation of early career investigators.



Jason C. Woods, Ph.D.
Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center

Dr. Woods is the Luther Foundation Research Chair and professor of pediatrics (pulmonary medicine), radiology, and biomedical engineering at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center and the University of Cincinnati. He is the director of research in pulmonary medicine and co-director of the Cincinnati Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia Center. Dr. Woods received his Ph.D. in physics from Washington University, where he also completed a postdoctoral fellowship in radiology and pulmonary

physiology. His early career was split between faculty and university administration at Washington University, where he was an assistant dean of arts and sciences, before moving to Cincinnati, OH, in 2013. His research career has been focused on translational imaging with CT and hyperpolarized-gas magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), outcomes improvement, and clinical trials in both obstructive and restrictive lung diseases in pediatrics and adults, with an emphasis on multidisciplinary and imaging. His group pioneered Xe MRI in pediatrics and performed the first clinical Xe MRI in North America. His current research involves imaging and modeling of lung ventilation, alveolar structure, and gas exchange with xenon, with over 220 research-journal publications in a combination of technical, physiology, and clinically oriented lung journals.



Raúl San José Estépar, Ph.D.
Harvard Medical School

Dr. Estépar is director of the Applied Chest Imaging Laboratory at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and is an associate professor of radiology at Harvard Medical School. His research centers on computational imaging and artificial intelligence (AI) to develop CT-based biomarkers that enable precision phenotyping, support epidemiologic and genetic studies, and accelerate drug development and clinical trial design. His group serves as an imaging analytics core for major federal and industry-

sponsored studies, including COPDGene, the Framingham Heart Study Pulmonary Research Center, the CARDIA Lung Study, the American Lung Association Lung Health Cohort, and RECOVER. He is the original

developer and chief architect of the open-source Chest Imaging Platform for quantitative lung phenotyping. His contributions span quantitative airway disease assessment, pulmonary vascular remodeling, and imaging-based subtyping and modeling of parenchymal lung injury. Current interests include AI methods for mucus plugging and bronchiectasis characterization, deep learning for multiscale integration of imaging and molecular data, synthetic functional lung imaging from CT, and prognostic modeling in chronic lung diseases.

Dr. Estépar earned his Ph.D. in telecommunications engineering from the University of Valladolid, completed postdoctoral training at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, and has been on the Harvard Medical School faculty since 2006. He has coauthored more than 350 peer-reviewed manuscripts and leads multiple National Institutes of Health and industry-sponsored projects.



Lorenzo Berra, M.D.
Massachusetts General Hospital

Dr. Berra works in anesthesiology and critical care at Massachusetts General Hospital and contributes to the academic mission of Harvard Medical School. He serves as medical director of respiratory care and director of clinical research for the Department of Anesthesiology across Mass General Brigham, and holds the Reginald Jenney endowed Chair in Anaesthesia at Harvard Medical School. His efforts are centered on translational respiratory physiology, individualized mechanical ventilation, and the development of gas-based therapeutics and advanced monitoring technologies. He leads multidisciplinary programs that bring together preclinical investigation, device development, and clinical studies to improve the care of patients with acute lung injury, pneumonia, and perioperative respiratory failure. He has mentored physician-scientists from many countries and collaborates with engineers and clinicians to advance bedside physiologic monitoring and innovative respiratory therapies.

Session 4: Emerging Therapeutics and Clinical Trials



Marrah Lachowicz-Scroggins, Ph.D.
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
National Institutes of Health

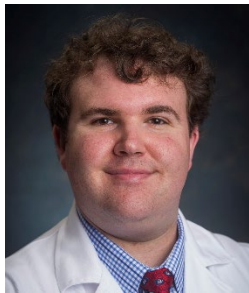
Dr. Lachowicz-Scroggins is the branch chief for the Lung Development and Pediatric Diseases Branch and a program director at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), Division of Lung Diseases at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Since joining NHLBI in 2018, she has directed a scientific portfolio focused on respiratory medicine, pulmonary physiology, immunology, and rare airway diseases, with an emphasis on non-cystic fibrosis bronchiectasis and disorders of mucociliary clearance.

Her academic background includes a Ph.D. in comparative pathology from the University of California, Davis and a graduate certificate in clinical pathology from the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Prior to joining NHLBI, she was an assistant research professor at the University of California, San Francisco in the Airway Clinical Research Center, where her work centered on clinical and translational research in airway diseases.

At NIH, she serves as a project scientist in the Rare Diseases Clinical Research Network on studies jointly funded by NHLBI and the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences Office of Rare Diseases Research. She oversees grants and cooperative agreements supporting research on non-cystic fibrosis bronchiectasis, primary ciliary dyskinesia, and related conditions, promoting the development of novel

diagnostics, therapeutics, and mechanistic understanding of these diseases. Her expertise includes mucociliary clearance, mucosal immunology, and epithelial cell biology, as well as the application of translational and systems biology approaches to rare lung diseases.

Through her stewardship of federally funded research, she is committed to advancing our understanding and treatment of non-cystic fibrosis bronchiectasis, fostering collaborations across the research community, and supporting the next generation of scientific discoveries in this important area.



George “Marty” Solomon, Ph.D.
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Dr. Solomon is a physician-scientist studying muco-inflammation and new therapies for cystic fibrosis (CF) and bronchiectasis. He completed his medical education at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), followed by internal medicine training at UAB Hospital, and then completed his pulmonary fellowship training at National Jewish Health/University of Colorado. Dr. Solomon joined the faculty at UAB’s Division of Pulmonary, Allergy and Critical Care in 2015. Dr. Solomon is the associate director for

clinical research at the Gregory Fleming James Cystic Fibrosis Research Center at UAB and lead principal investigator for the UAB Therapeutics Development Center. He is the chairman of the U.S. Bronchiectasis and NTM Research Registry.



Pamela J. (PJ) McShane, M.D.
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

Dr. McShane is a senior staff clinician at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. She is a Chicago native who attended Loyola University for both her undergraduate and medical doctorate degrees. She received the Health Professions Scholarship from the U.S. military for medical school. After completing an internal medicine residency, Dr. McShane entered the U.S. Air Force as a staff physician. During her 4 years of active-duty service, she deployed twice to Iraq, where she served as a critical care

physician in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Following her military service, Dr. McShane returned to Chicago, IL, where she completed her pulmonary and critical care medicine fellowship at the University of Chicago. During her fellowship training and subsequent faculty years at the University of Chicago, she developed a regional research database and clinic in bronchiectasis and nontuberculous mycobacterial (NTM) lung disease.

Dr. McShane went on to work in the field of NTM lung disease at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Tyler, TX, a nationally renowned acid-fast bacilli lab and clinical referral center. She was principal investigator there for approximately a dozen clinical trials in bronchiectasis and pulmonary NTM disease. Dr. McShane served as associate editor for CHEST and the Journal of Clinical Tuberculosis and Other Mycobacterial Diseases. She served as chair of the U.S. National Bronchiectasis Research Registry Consortium from 2023 until 2025.

Advocacy Panel



Michele Manion
PCD Foundation

Michele Manion is the president and executive director of the PCD Foundation, which she founded in 2002. Since then, she has led national and international efforts to advance policy development, accelerate research, and expand access to care for individuals living with rare lung disorders. She chaired the Coalition of Patient Advocacy Groups (CPAG) within the Office of Rare Diseases Research at the National Institutes of Health for eight years and currently serves on the Public Advisory

Roundtable of the American Thoracic Society.

Through strategic collaboration with leading pulmonary researchers worldwide, Manion has helped position the PCD Foundation as a key partner in establishing and sustaining major primary ciliary dyskinesia (PCD) research networks across North America and Europe. These productive collaborations have strengthened global research coordination, improved standards of care, and expanded clinical trial readiness. They also laid the groundwork for the PCD Foundation Clinical & Research Centers Network, which continues to drive innovation, improve patient outcomes, and accelerate progress toward better treatments and, ultimately, a cure.



J.P. Clancy, M.D.
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

Dr. Clancy is a pediatric pulmonologist and the senior vice president of clinical research for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF). Previously, he served as the division director of pediatric pulmonology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (2003–2010) and the director of research for pulmonary medicine at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center (2011–2018). His CFF roles include oversight of multicenter clinical research conducted by the Therapeutics Development Network, CFF support

of global clinical research networks, investigator-initiated research programs, physician-scientist training and career development, and clinical research resources. His research interests include clinical research outcome measures and airway epithelial biology.



Marrah Lachowicz-Scroggins, Ph.D.
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
National Institutes of Health

Dr. Lachowicz-Scroggins is the branch chief for the Lung Development and Pediatric Diseases Branch and a program director at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), Division of Lung Diseases at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Since joining NHLBI in 2018, she has directed a scientific portfolio focused on respiratory medicine, pulmonary physiology, immunology, and rare airway diseases,

with an emphasis on non-cystic fibrosis bronchiectasis and disorders of mucociliary clearance.

Her academic background includes a Ph.D. in comparative pathology from the University of California, Davis and a graduate certificate in clinical pathology from the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Prior to joining NHLBI, she was an assistant research professor at the University of California, San Francisco in the Airway Clinical Research Center, where her work centered on clinical and translational research in airway diseases.

At NIH, she serves as a project scientist in the Rare Diseases Clinical Research Network on studies jointly funded by NHLBI and the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences Office of Rare Diseases Research. She oversees grants and cooperative agreements supporting research on non-cystic fibrosis bronchiectasis, primary ciliary dyskinesia, and related conditions, promoting the development of novel diagnostics, therapeutics, and mechanistic understanding of these diseases. Her expertise includes mucociliary clearance, mucosal immunology, and epithelial cell biology, as well as the application of translational and systems biology approaches to rare lung diseases.

Through her stewardship of federally funded research, she is committed to advancing our understanding and treatment of non-cystic fibrosis bronchiectasis, fostering collaborations across the research community, and supporting the next generation of scientific discoveries in this important area.



Delia Oliver, M.S.Ed.
Bronchiectasis and NTM Association

Ms. Oliver serves as the vice president of operations for the Bronchiectasis and NTM Association, a division of the COPD Foundation. She has over 16 years of experience working in the patient advocacy sector, where she focuses primarily on bronchiectasis and nontuberculous mycobacteria (NTM) lung disease. She has extensive experience managing patient registries and research consortia, and is experienced in all phases of research administration, including study design and implementation, participant recruitment, data collection, and reporting. Ms. Oliver serves a critical role in connecting patients, healthcare providers, researchers, and industry partners to work collaboratively with the goal of advancing disease awareness, increasing community education, improving delivery of care, and advancing research in the field. She lends her expertise by serving in an advisory capacity on panels for clinical trials, research studies, and Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute-funded contracts.



David Nichols, M.D.
University of Washington School of Medicine

Dr. Nichols is the senior director of clinical research development for the Cystic Fibrosis (CF) Foundation and an affiliate professor of pediatrics at the University of Washington School of Medicine. He is board certified in pediatrics, internal medicine, and pediatric pulmonary medicine. Before joining the CF Foundation, he held academic positions at National Jewish Health and the Colorado Adult CF Program followed by the Pediatric CF Program at Seattle Children’s Hospital. He was fortunate to work with colleagues in leading multiple national clinical trials in CF while serving as the medical director for the CF Therapeutics Development Network Coordinating Center in Seattle, WA. At the CF Foundation, Dr. Nichols co-leads efforts to develop new pulmonary and antimicrobial therapies for people with CF while supporting academic research projects that help to establish best care practices and the use of approved therapies.



Jean Wright, M.D., M.B.A.
COPD Foundation

Dr. Wright is the chief executive officer of the COPD Foundation. The COPD Foundation is a patient advocacy organization that serves over 16 million people with diagnosed chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), bronchiectasis, and NTM. We believe, in addition to those diagnosed, that there is a large population of people with chronic lung conditions who have yet to be diagnosed. Dr. Wright is a graduate of the University of Michigan, Wayne State School of Medicine, and Emory School of Business. She has additional post-graduate training in innovation from Harvard and MIT. She has been involved in health services research, including a \$15.9 million grant from the ONC/HIT using clinical informatics to find patients with chronic lung conditions. She brings knowledge of analytics and innovation to the field of chronic lung diseases.