2023 Road Map for Global Health and International Participants



Global Health Track at the ATS International Conference



Discover the Pulse of Global Respiratory Health with the Experts at ATS 2023!

The Global Health Track at the ATS International Conference includes a variety of sessions that highlight important issues in respiratory health around the world. The track includes poster discussion sessions, mini symposiums, and scientific symposiums that focus on topics such as tuberculosis, asthma, environmental health, critical care, and pediatric global health. The sessions take place on various days throughout the conference and cover a range of relevant topics, from the effects of air pollutants on tuberculosis, to the long-term sequelae of infections beyond COVID. With a focus on health equity, environmental interventions, and best practices for diagnosing and managing respiratory diseases in low- and middle-income countries, the Global Health Track provides a comprehensive overview of the current challenges and opportunities in respiratory health around the world.

ATS International Boot Camp

The American Thoracic Society (ATS) is committed to preparing the next generation of leaders in the respiratory field through its International Resident Boot Camp program. The Boot Camp is designed to provide young doctors with hands-on training and education in respiratory medicine. Participation is limited to individuals who are members of ATS international peer society partners, as the goal of the program is to support national societies in creating their own Boot Camps that address their specific local needs. By working with young doctors, ATS is helping to ensure that the next generation of respiratory professionals are well-equipped to provide high-quality patient care.

International Poster Colloquium

Join us on Saturday, May 20th, 2023, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Room 103 A-B (Street Level), in Washington, DC for the ATS 2023 International Scholars Poster Colloquium. From 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM PT, you will have the opportunity to witness the exceptional work of talented trainees from 24 countries and 13 assemblies. These trainees have earned recognition through the highly prestigious International Trainee Scholarship and are the brightest and most promising investigators in the field of respiratory health. Don't miss this unique chance to connect and engage with these young researchers. Be a part of this celebration of excellence and come see the best international abstracts!

International Participants Center and Global Health Community

The International Participants Center (IPC) aims to provide a welcoming environment for international and U.S based participants with interests in global health. The IPC will be located at the Hall 'D' of the Walter E. Washington Convention Center and will be open from May 21-23, from 9 am to 5 pm. It offers a unique opportunity for distinguished professionals to network and connect with colleagues while providing an ideal space to relax and wait for the next session. Studio talks, organized specifically for the IPC, will allow attendees to hear different perspectives on global health issues.

Additionally, the Global Respiratory Community, located next to the IPC, will bring together international peer societies who share common goals and objectives with ATS to improve respiratory health globally. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for attendees to engage with their peers from different countries and make meaningful connections. We invite you to come to the IPC and the Global Respiratory Community, as you won't want to miss the chance to connect and network with international leaders in respiratory health.

In addition to the IPC, ATS is also investing in exclusive events for international members and partners. One of these events is the Respiratory Society of Americas session, where ATS will be collaborating with prestigious organizations to further its mission of promoting lung health globally. This year, the topic of discussion will be "COPD: the challenges of access to medicines and the impact of public and private health policies in the Americas." All respiratory societies in the Americas were invited, including the Canadian Thoracic Society and CHEST. This session will take place on Saturday, May 20th, from 1:30 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. at the International Participants Center in Hall D at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC. Although this session is by invitation only, it highlights the efforts of ATS in promoting global health and working with international partners to improve respiratory health worldwide.

African Interest Group

The American Thoracic Society (ATS) African Interest Group is a subgroup within the ATS dedicated to promoting respiratory health and education in Africa. The group is comprised of ATS members who are passionate about advancing respiratory health and medical research in Africa. The African Interest Group works to raise awareness about respiratory health issues in Africa, provide educational opportunities and resources to African respiratory professionals, and support the development of respiratory programs and initiatives in the region. Through its efforts, the African Interest Group aims to help improve respiratory health outcomes and promote the advancement of respiratory medicine in Africa.

If you're interested in connecting with the ATS African Interest Group, join them for their session on Sunday at 6:00 p.m. at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center - Room 103 A-B (Street Level). This is a great opportunity to engage with and network with members who are passionate about advancing respiratory health in Africa. The session will provide a platform for attendees to share ideas, collaborate on projects, and build meaningful connections with like-minded individuals. Whether you're a respiratory professional, researcher, or simply interested in promoting respiratory health in Africa, don't miss this chance to be a part of the conversation. Join the ATS African Interest Group on Sunday at 6:00 p.m. at the Convention Center - Room 103 A-B (Street Level).

ATS MECOR Program

Are you passionate about improving global lung health? The ATS Methods in Epidemiologic, Clinical, and Operations Research (MECOR) Program is a unique opportunity for clinicians, investigators, academicians, and public health professionals who primarily work with pulmonary diseases.

For more than 29 years, the ATS has been dedicated to building research capacity in low- and middle-income countries through the MECOR Program. This multi-level research methods training course is designed to prepare current or aspiring investigators, academicians, clinicians, and public health practitioners to design and conduct research that is relevant to the needs of the settings in which they work.

The MECOR Program's objective is to aid the improvement of global lung health by developing local, country, and regional lung disease research capacity in low- and middle-income countries. By participating in this program, you'll gain the skills and knowledge necessary to make a positive impact on respiratory health outcomes worldwide.

Don't miss your chance to get involved! The MECOR Courses are currently being offered in Africa, Latin America, China, India, Southeast Asia (Indonesia), and Turkiye. Join us in our mission to improve global lung health by visiting the International Pulmonary Conference (IPC) and learn more about this exciting opportunity.



The Global Asthma Report: Lessons learn from a global survey

Date: Sunday, May 21, 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Spanel Discussion on asthma with perspectives from a diverse group of global organizations on asthma epidemiology, management, and asthma care. The discussion will highlight the findings of the recently published Global Asthma Report 2022 and some important papers published in the last year on global asthma epidemiology, risk factors and asthma management from the Global Asthma Network in children, adolescents, and adults. Key aspect covered will also include the positioning of asthma treatment globally in relation to the Global Initiative of Asthma strategy in low to middle income countries and research and unmet needs in asthma management and research.

Asthma is the most common non-communicable disease in children and second most common in adults and yet asthma morbidity and even mortality still occurs in marginalized communities in high income countries and also in low to middle income countries. An understanding of the research priorities, our current understanding of asthma as a priority disease is the focus of this symposium and future strategies to improve asthma care.

Learning outcomes: An understanding of the global asthma epidemiology, current gaps in asthma research from epidemiology, risk factors and management. Participants will also get a perspective on the current strategies by multiple global asthma groups to improve asthma care, particularly in communities with lower resources in high and low to middle income countries.

Panel Discussion Program:

Chairs: Samya Z. Nasr, MD, ATSF; Richard N. Van Zyl Smit, MBChB, PhD, ATSF

Title: The Global Asthma Report 2022: What are the key lessons

Duration (minutes): 20 minutes

Speaker: Professor Refiloe Masekela (co-Chair GAN: South Africa)

Description: This talk will cover some of the key messages from the GAR 2022 and policy implications for the report and implementation plans to improve global asthma care.

Title: GINA and applicability to lower resources settings

Duration (minutes): 20 minutes

Speaker: Professor Helen Reddel (Chair GINA: New Zealand)

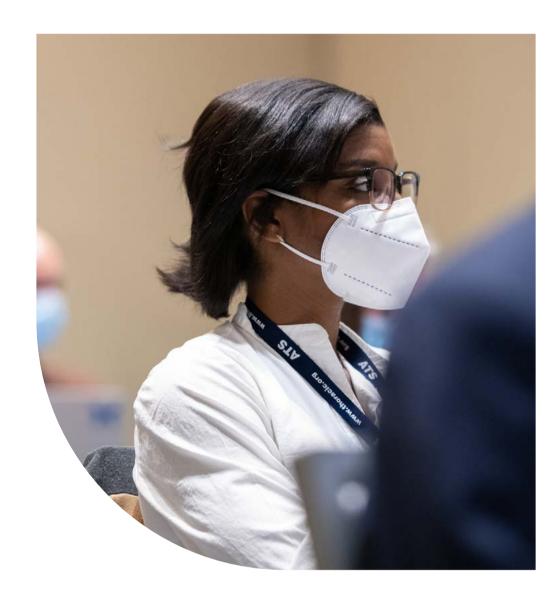
Description: This talk will cover the positioning of GINA strategy on asthma management in low resourced settings and research gaps with regards to asthma care in these settings and the GINA view of ensuring equitable access to asthma care globally

Title: Asthma Roadmap to 2030: GARD perspective

Duration (minutes): 20 minutes

Speaker: Professor Arzu Yorgancioglu (Chair GARD: Turkey)

Description: This talk will cover the key priorities for the WHO on asthma care in low to middle income countries for the SGD 2030 deadline and current implementation plans of the Global Alliance Against Chronic Respiratory Diseases (GARD) to achieve better asthma care globally.



ALAT/SEPAR Session: Challenges to access spirometry in post covid-19 era*

Sunday, May 21, Time: 1:15 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.

The session will showcase the latest data on access to spirometry in Latin America and Spain after the COVID-19 pandemic. It aims to evaluate potential areas for improvement and suggest strategies to enhance access to spirometry, thus improving the diagnosis of respiratory illnesses. The presentation will highlight the obstacles in conducting lung function tests, such as shortage of supplies, equipment, trained personnel, and low provider knowledge of spirometry interpretation. It will also broaden the scope to encompass lung function measurements in Latin America.

Spirometry is a fundamental pulmonary function test in respiratory medicine and crucial for diagnosing asthma, COPD (the two most common conditions), and interstitial lung diseases. Given the limitations in access to spirometry for the population and healthcare providers in Latin America and Spain, it is important to implement corrective measures. This session will compare and contrast access to spirometry in Latin America and Spain and its impact on underdiagnosis of respiratory diseases. The objective is to identify opportunities for collaboration to enhance access to spirometry in the regions.

Panel Discussion Program:

Chair: Francisco Arancibia, MD

Title: Diagnosis COPD and Asthma in settings with limited resources: the big picture in LA

Duration (minutes): 15

Speaker: Adrián Rendon, Mexico

Talk: Description: This talk focuses on the challenges in diagnosing COPD and asthma in resource-constrained settings in Latin America. The discussion will highlight the barriers to access spirometry, a key pulmonary function test in respiratory medicine, and its impact on underdiagnosis of these respiratory diseases. The goal is to provide a comprehensive understanding of the issue and identify opportunities for improvement.

Proposed Talk and Speaker:

Title: Reality of the use of spirometry during pandemic.

Duration (minutes): 15

Speaker: Patricia Schonffeldt, Chile

Description: This talk explores the current situation of spirometry usage during the COVID-19 pandemic. The presentation will highlight the challenges faced in conducting lung function tests, such as shortages of supplies, equipment, and trained personnel, as well as the impact on diagnosis and treatment of respiratory illnesses. The discussion will provide insights into the realities of spirometry usage during these difficult times and offer solutions for improving access to this crucial test.

Proposed Talk and Speaker:

Title: Challenges for performing post-pandemic spirometry

Duration (minutes): 15

Speaker: Francisco García Rio, Spain

Description: This talk focuses on the difficulties in conducting spirometry post-COVID-19 pandemic. The discussion will outline the challenges faced, such as availability of equipment, supplies, and trained technicians, as well as the impact on the diagnosis and treatment of respiratory illnesses. The goal of the talk is to provide a comprehensive understanding of the challenges in performing spirometry after the pandemic and offer solutions for overcoming them.

Panel Discussion and QA (15 minutes)

* This panel discussion is organized in partnership with the Asociación Latinoamericana de Tórax (ALAT) and Sociedad Española de Neumología y Cirugía Torácica (SEPAR).



Leadership skills for early career researchers in LMICs – tips from the MECOR program leaders

Date: Monday, May 22, 11:15 a.m. to 12:10 p.m.

This session will address important leadership skills that are need for succeeding in academic careers with a focus on the particularities of Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs), where lack of resources and structured career paths require an individualized approach and where leadership training is rarely available. The chairs and speakers are faculty of the ATS MECOR program and will bring their experience in building research capacity in LMICs to the discussion.

Learning outcomes: At the end of this session, attendees will:

- 1. Learn about the value of developing a personalized strategic plan to advance their academic success
- 2. Recognize the importance of developing negotiation strategies to advance as research leaders in their countries
- 3. Develop strategies to say no and manage their time to advance their academic careers

Panel Discussion Program:

Chairs: Thomas Bice, MD, MSc; Juliana C. Ferreira, MD, PhD, ATSF

Title: Developing and Executing Your Personal Strategic Plan

Duration (minutes): 15

Speaker: Juliana Ferreira, MD., MECOR Latin America

Description: This talk will focus on the importance of Identifying and defining personal values, purpose, developing measurable goals and implement a personalized strategic plan to advance research careers in LMICs

Title: Negotiation Skills and Strategies for Career Success

Duration (minutes): 15

Speaker: Joaquin Maritano Furcada, MD, MECOR Latin America

Description: This talk will address the importance of developing negotiation skills to become a leader in research and discuss a strategies and resources to become a better negotiator in LMICs

Title: Time Management for Early Career researchers in LMICs

Duration (minutes): 15

Speaker: Ozge Yilmaz, MD., MECOR Turkey

Description: This talk will discuss the importance of setting priorities, learn to say no and

manage your time to become successful in academic careers



Rethinking Infectious Disease Transmission:

Aerobiology and its Impact on TB and Covid-19 Airborne Transmission and Environmental Controls

Date: Monday, May 22, 1:15 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.

Recent advances in Aerobiology have dramatically altered our understanding of Infectious Disease transmission. This session will focus on airborne transmission of serious infectious diseases. Major advances in aero biology and air disinfection technology, the impact of climate change on transmission of infectious diseases such as TB and COVID-19, and the key recommendations form the new airborne isolation guidelines will be discussed. Understanding COVID-19 transmission has been instrumental in designing public health policies and interventions. This session is designed to impart the state-of-the-art in Aerobiology.

Learning outcomes:

- 1. Describe new advances in the understanding of factors that lead to airborne transmission of TB and COVID-19
- 2. Describe the effects of global warming on the transmission of airborne infectious diseases
- 3. Describe the key recommendations from the new airborne isolation guidelines for tuberculosis

Panel Discussion Program:

Chair (s): Sundari R. Mase, MD; David M. Lewinsohn, MD, PhD, ATSF

Title: Major advances in the understanding of airborne transmission and its implications for air disinfection technology

Duration (minutes): 15 mins

Speaker: Kevin Fennelly, MD, NIH NHLBI, Bethesda, MD

Description: Advances in the understanding of airborne transmission of and air disinfection technology for infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and COVID-19 will be presented.

Title: The effect of global warming on airborne transmission of infectious diseases

Duration (minutes): 15 mins

Speaker: Ed Nardell, MD, Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

Description: A presentation on the effects of climate change on the transmission of serious airborne infectious diseases

Title: Update on airborne isolation guidelines for tuberculosis

Duration (minutes): 15 mins

Speaker: Joe Burzynski MD, President-elect, National Tuberculosis Controllers Association.

Description: An update will be presented on the new National TB Controller's Association "Guidelines for Airborne Isolation for Tuberculosis"

Panel Discussion and QA (15 minutes)



Creating high-value care for pulmonary and critical care in low- and middle-income country settings

Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The burden of lung disease and critical illness in low- and middle-income countries is high, and resources—both diagnostic and therapeutic—are limited. Among many competing priorities, it is difficult to identify which resources represent the best value in terms of achieving meaningful outcomes on an individual and population level. This session will present a framework for evaluating high-value care in pulmonary and critical care medicine generally, and then will examine high-value care in specific circumstances: critical care, asthma, and the training of subspecialists. Finally, the session will examine lessons learned regarding deployment of resources during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Many clinical practice guidelines are developed in high resource settings and are not applicable to resource limited settings due to lack of or affordability of medications, consumables, equipment, or training. Developing a framework for how to choose when resources are limited and identifying how to translate guidelines to these settings is crucial.

Learning outcomes:

- 1. Describe frameworks for defining high value care
- 2. Provide country-specific examples in specific disease contexts

Panel Discussion Program:

Chairs: Neil W. Schluger, MD; Deborah A Haisch, MD, Aschalew Worku, MD

Title: High-value care for chronic lung disease—maximizing asthma care with limited resources

Speaker: Dr. Obianuju Ozoh, MBBS, FMCP, MSc, ATSF University of Lagos and the Lagos University Teaching Hospital, Lagos, Nigeria

Duration (minutes): 15 mins

Talk Description: This talk will describe the burden of asthma in Nigeria and other African countries, and propose value-based interventions that can be implemented immediately.

Title: High-value care in the intensive care unit in a limited resource setting—what makes sense?

Speaker: Elisabeth Riviello, MD, MPH, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Theogene Twagirumugabe, MD, PhD, University of Rwanda · College of Medicine and Health Sciences Duration (minutes): 15 mins

Talk Description: This talk will describe the spectrum of critical illness in low- and middle-income countries and identify interventions that can improve outcomes in areas of limited resources

Title: Amplifying the impact of a small subspecialist workforce to improve lung health

Duration (minutes): 15 mins

Speaker: Dawit Kebede Addis Ababa, Tikur Anbessa (Black Lion) Specialized Hospital/Addis Ababa University College of Health Sciences, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Description: This talk will describe the impact of training a relatively small group of subspecialists in pulmonary and critical care medicine on overall delivery of specialty services in Ethiopia

Panel Discussion and QA (15 minutes)



Global airborne hazards abound: Exploring neglected environmental and occupational exposures on human health and climate change Date: Tuesday, May 23, 3:00 p.m.to 4:00 p.m.

Airborne hazards pose a global threat to the environment, to lung health, and risk worsening climate change. Some of these airborne hazards are man-made and include brick kiln pollutants and burn pit emissions in war zones. Others are naturally occurring, like wildfire smoke. Occupational exposures to these airborne hazards pose a major health threat to workers, may it be kiln workers, fire fighters or military personnel. This session aims to provide an overview of these three major airborne hazards, discuss the epidemiology and identify potential approaches to mitigate these exposures from a health perspective.

Objectives:

- 1. Raise awareness of global airborne hazards that affect the environment and lung health.
- 2. Provide a state-of-the-art summary of the epidemiology of brick kiln, wildfire and burn pit pollution.
- 3. Identify potential strategies to protect worker health and mitigate environmental impacts.
- 4. A discussion from panelists on challenges and future directions to address global airborne hazards.

Panel Discussion Program:

Chairs: Laura Nicolaou, PhD; William Checkley, MD, PhD, Richard Van Zyl – Smit, MD, PhD, ATSF

Title: Overview of global airborne hazards that affect the air we breathe

Duration (minutes): 5 min

Speaker: Dr. William Checkley

Description: This talk will provide an overview of the burden of brick kiln, wildfire and burn pit pollution and introduce the three speakers.

Title: Brick kiln pollution as a threat to the environment and worker health in South Asia

Duration (minutes): 15 min Speaker: Dr. Laura Nicolaou

Description: South Asia is undergoing rapid urbanization, and construction is ranked as its third largest economic sector. This has created a demand for cheap labor and a reduction in incentives for clean and socially responsible brick production. Unskilled workers, many of whom are children, work in unhealthy and unsafe conditions in poorly regulated brick kilns. Communities in the 150,000 brick kilns in South Asia have an estimated 4.4-5.2 million workers who are not only exposed to high concentrations of respirable silica, but also other hazardous pollutants generated by combustion of solid fuels to fire the bricks. Brick kilns are also a leading cause of ambient air pollution in many parts of South Asia. This talk will aim to provide a summary of both the environmental and health threats of brick kiln pollution to kiln workers and the larger community.

Title: Wildfires and their effects on lung health and climate change

Duration: 15 min

Speaker: Prof. John Balmes

Description:

Wildfires are a major environmental threat throughout the western United States, and in the southern regions of Canada, Europe, and Australia. Wildfires are naturally occurring phenomena that when they become uncontrolled cause significant increases in community exposure to particulate matter, noxious gases, and other complex hydrocarbons. They are also an important source of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. In turn, Wildfires are expected to worsen with climate change creating a vicious cycle. Wildland firefighters are significantly exposed to wildfire pollution, which is known to affect lung function and increase the risk of respiratory and cardiovascular disease, yet many workers lack or do not use adequate personal protection. This talk will put the dangers wildfires to the environment and the health workers and the community at large into context and discuss the role of climate change on the wildfire season.

Title: Burn pit exposures as an underrecognized airborne hazard

Duration: 15 min

Speaker: Prof. Cecile Rose

Description: More than 3.7 million US military personnel have participated in operations in the Middle East and Afghanistan since 1990. Individuals who served in this region were likely to have been exposed to several airborne hazards, including emissions from open burn pits. Burn pits have been widely used in combat zones to dispose of waste including trash, plastics, wood, metal, paints, solvents, munitions, and medical and human waste. Burn pit emissions can include harmful particulates and chemicals including dioxins, furans, lead, mercury, volatile organic compounds, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. Exposure to emissions from burn pits has been a cause for concern because of the potential for respiratory health conditions and other chronic health conditions. Epidemiologic evidence of adverse health effects from burn pits exposure has been lacking until recently. This talk will provide the most recent evidence linking burn pit pollution to health and discuss future policy implications.

Title: Questions and answers

Duration: 10 min

Speaker: Panel discussion (Dr. Nicolaou, Dr. Checkley, Prof. Balmes, Prof. Rose)

Description: Open question and answer forum and allow the panel to share their perspectives on fielded questions.

Highlights from the Scientific Program



The American Thoracic Society's International Health Committee has curated a lineup of sessions specifically for members with a passion for Global Health. These sessions aim to educate and engage attendees in the latest developments and best practices in the field. If you're a member with a focus on global health, don't miss out on this opportunity to expand your knowledge and connect with like-minded individuals. The following are the sessions selected by the International Health Committee for those with a global health interest:

Туре	Session Code	Session Title	Session Type	Sponsoring Assembly	Session Time
Sunday					
Symposia	A4	ACHIEVING HEALTH EQUITY IN GLOBAL CRITICAL CARE: CHALLENGES AND INNOVATIONS	Critical Care Track	Critical Care	9:00 a.m 10:30 a.m.
Abstract	A27	WHITE PLAGUE (TUBERCULOSIS) RESEARCH	Poster Discussion Session	Pulmonary Infections and Tuberculosis	9:00 a.m11:00 a.m.
Abstract	A31	GLOBAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFLUENCES IN ASTHMA	Thematic Poster Session	Allergy, Immunology and Inflammation	9:00 a.m4:15 p.m.
Abstract	A61	TUBERCULOSIS	Thematic Poster Session	Pulmonary Infections and Tuberculosis	9:00 a.m4:15 p.m.
Symposia	A89	CAN ENVIRONMENTAL INTERVENTIONS CHANGE THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH?	Scientific Symposium	Environmental, Occupational and Population Health	2:15 p.m 3:45 p.m.
Monday					
Symposia	B11	GLOBAL INSIGHTS ON THE LONG-TERM SEQUELAE OF INFECTIONS: BEYOND COVID	Scientific Symposium	Pulmonary Infections and Tuberculosis	9:00 a.m 10:30 a.m.
Abstract	B18	TIME TO ACT: INTERVENTIONS TO REDUCE RESPIRATORY HEALTH EFFECTS OF POLLUTANTS	Mini Symposium	Environmental, Occupational and Population Health	9:00 a.m11:00 a.m.
Tuesday					
Abstract	C17	IN THIS TOGETHER: CONFRONTING ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES AROUND THE WORLD	Mini Symposium	Environmental, Occupational and Population Health	9:00 a.m11:00 a.m.
Abstract	C25	OPPORTUNITIES AND ADVANCES IN PEDIATRIC GLOBAL HEALTH	Poster Discussion Session	Pediatrics	9:00 a.m11:00 a.m.
Abstract	C56	TRENDS AND PREDICTORS OF RESPIRATORY HEALTH AROUND THE WORLD	Thematic Poster Session	Environmental, Occupational and Population Health	9:00 a.m4:15 p.m.
Symposia	C90	DOUBLE TROUBLE: AIR POLLUTANTS AND TUBERCULOSIS	Scientific Symposium	Environmental, Occupational and Population Health	2:15 p.m 3:45 p.m.
Wednesday					
Symposia	D5	REVISITING BEST BUY INTERVENTIONS FOR THE DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT OF CHRONIC RESPIRATORY DISEASES IN LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES	Scientific Symposium	International Health Committee	8:00 a.m 9:30 a.m.
Symposia	D87	THE UN HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON TB 2023: A CHANCE TO BEAT THIS PARTICULAR PANDEMIC	Scientific Symposium	Pulmonary Infections and Tuberculosis	12:00 p.m 1:30 p.m.