



Integrating Aging into Your Specialty's Professional Society: 10 Keys to Success

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Building an aging presence at the ATS: our story



2015: Discussed idea with our Assembly Chair

2016: ATS approves the Aging & Geriatrics Working Group (11 members!)

2018: Approved as an Interest Group (ATS-wide)

2024: >300 members with subgroups in Critical Care, Pulmonary, Palliative Care, and Lung Aging Biology & told that year that we “transformed the ATS”

Aging-focused Critical Care Programming at ATS 2024 (& much more in Pulm & Aging Biology)



- “Integrating Geriatric Principles and Practices into Critical Care and ICU Recovery” – scientific symposium (CC)
- “Mind, Body, and Aging after the ICU: a CC/BSHSR Collaborative Session” – poster discussion session (CC/BSHSR)
- “State of the Science on ICU Delirium” – scientific symposium (CC/BSHSR)
- Aging-focused abstracts across ATS assemblies
- Clin-STAR Distinguished Visiting Professor
Dr. Ken Covinsky!



Keys to Success

1. Work on securing buy-in from leadership before submitting a formal application for a new group
2. **Visibility is critical** – ensure programming at every international conference
3. Get a seat at the table if you can. In the ATS, WG/IG leaders are on that assembly's executive committee, which helps keep our priorities on their minds (society-specific)

Keys to Success



4. Leverage the annual in-person conference to increase excitement about your group and gain new members
 - Business meeting
 - Promoting programming, abstracts
 - Social event
5. Remember to have fun!

Keys to Success

6. Be a resource/home for informal mentoring throughout the year for trainees and early career folks
7. As you grow, evolve to meet the needs of your new members

Subgroup	Co-Chairs
Critical Care	Lauren Ferrante and Nathan Brummel
Lung Aging Biology	Mareike Lehman, Beata Kosminder, Irfan Rahman
Clinical Pulmonary	Lauren Pollack, Angela Suen, and Anand Iyer
Palliative Care	Anand Iyer and Donald Sullivan

Keys to Success

8. Learn to navigate the red tape of your professional society - each one is unique



ATS

American
Thoracic
Society

Society of
Critical Care Medicine



The Intensive Care Professionals

Keys to Success

9. Publications, including white papers and guidelines, are important, as are educational resources

AMERICAN THORACIC SOCIETY DOCUMENTS

Palliative Care Early in the Care Continuum among Patients with Serious Respiratory Illness

An Official ATS/AAHPM/HPNA/SWHPN Policy Statement

Donald R. Sullivan, Anand S. Iyer, Susan Enguidanos, Christopher E. Cox, Morag Farquhar, Daisy J. A. Janssen, Kathleen O. Lindell, Richard A. Mularski, Natasha Smallwood, Alison E. Turnbull, Anne M. Wilkinson, Katherine R. Courtright, Matthew Maddocks, Mary L. Patricia M. Fogelman, Larry C. Elliot Rabinowitz, Cynda H. American Thoracic Society, Association, and Social Wo

ATS Toolkit for Age-Friendly Pulmonary/Critical Care Best Practices

Authors: C. Adrian Austin, MD, MSCR, Lauren R. Pollack, MD, and Leah Witt, MD

Table of Content

Critical Care

1. Key Points
2. Websites/ Tools
3. Functional Disability
4. Delirium and Cognition
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Pulmonary

1. Key Points
2. Websites
3. Aging Physiology
4. Lung Transplant
5. General/Dyspnea NOS
6. Interstitial Lung Disease
7. COPD
8. Palliative Care/Advance Care Planning in COPD
9. Lung Cancer Screening

SCCM Caring for Older Adults in ICU

Cochair: Lauren Ferrante, MD, MHS
Cochair: Bram Rochweg, MD, MSc(Epi), FRCP
Cochair: Nathan Brummel, MD, MSCI
Co Vice-Chair: Snigdha Jain, MD
Co Vice-Chair: Judith Tate, PhD, RN

Society of
Critical Care Medicine
Right Care
Right Now.

Forthcoming new SCCM guideline on
Caring for Older Adults in the ICU

Summary and the 10th Key to Success

- Buy-in about the importance of aging from others in your specialty is essential
- You can help secure that buy-in by building and maintaining a presence in your professional society using the tips in this talk and this session
- 10th key to success: Ensure this is a two-way dialogue – i.e., be part of initiatives in aging that include or are geared towards specialists (AGS MSSS, Clin-STAR, etc.)!