

# INTRODUCTION

## A Word from the Scientific Committee 14th Gordon L. Snider Critical Issues Workshop

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Phenotypic similarities between the pulmonary manifestations of the rare conditions cystic fibrosis (CF) and alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency (AATD) on the one hand and common chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) on the other have long been recognized. This pertains especially to airflow obstruction and mucociliary dysfunction. However, pathogenic links did not emerge until the AATD-related protease-antiprotease imbalance and its potential role in lung destruction and secretory dysfunction was extended to common COPD and CF. Although this has not led to new therapeutic solutions for common COPD, research has identified more commonalities among CF, AATD, and common COPD and raised the prospect for finding new treatments for common COPD.

This conference was convened to explore these links in detail. We thank

the participants for their important contribution to the discussions, which have pegged several similarities among CF, AATD, and common COPD and set directions for future research mutually benefiting the three conditions. The papers included in these meeting proceedings served as basis for those discussions.

We are also grateful to the Alpha-1 Foundation for sponsoring the conference and to John Walsh, CEO of the Alpha-1 Foundation, for bringing the patient perspective to the table. ■

### Scientific Committee:

Richard Boucher  
Andre Cantin  
Steven Kelsen  
Adam Wanner

**Participants:** William Balch, Scripps Research Institute; Michael Campos, University of Miami; Andre Cantin, University of Sherbrooke; James Chmiel, Case Western Reserve University; Asger Dirksen, Copenhagen University; Scott Donaldson, University of North Carolina; James Donohue, University of North Carolina; Gregory Downey, National Jewish Health; Stuart Elborn, Queens University Belfast; Amit Gaggar, University of Alabama; Igor Gonda, Aradigm; James Hogg, University of British Columbia; Steven Kelsen, Temple University; David Lomas, University College London; Markus Mall, University of Heidelberg; Fernando Martinez, Weill Cornell Medical College; Gerry McElvaney, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland; Steve Rowe, University of Alabama; Matthias Salathe, University of Miami; Robert Sandhaus, National Jewish Health; Karina Serban, Indiana University; Robert Stockley, University Hospitals Birmingham; Robert Tarran, University of North Carolina; Bruce Trapnell, University of Cincinnati; Rubin Tuder, University of Colorado; Gerard Turino, Mount Sinai St. Luke's Hospital; Adam Wanner, University of Miami.

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Sponsored by the Alpha-1 Foundation.

The 14th Gordon L. Snider Critical Issues Workshop was held in Coral Gables, Florida, March 19–20, 2015.

Ann Am Thorac Soc Vol 13, Supplement 2, p S111, Apr 2016

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DOI: 10.1513/AnnalsATS.201504-247KV

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