SEMINAR REPORT

PULMONOLOGY

January 8-14, 2023

A Global Educational Initiative by the American Austrian Foundation

Weill Cornell Medicine

Medical University of Vienna
32 fellows from 19 countries

32 fellows’ case presentations

9 faculty members from the USA and Austria

6 excellent case presentations

19 didactic lectures

2 faculty case presentation workshops

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Augustine M.K. Choi, MD served as the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine and Provost for Medical Affairs of Cornell University from 2017 to 2022. Prior to his appointment as dean, he served as the Sanford I. Weill Chairman and Professor of Medicine in the Joan and Sanford I. Weill Department of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine and as physician-in-chief of NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. Before joining NYP/WCM, Dr. Choi was the Parker B. Francis Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Chief of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital. He received his MD from the University of Louisville and completed his Internal Medicine residency at Duke University Medical Center. He then pursued his Pulmonary/Critical Care Medicine fellowship at Johns Hopkins and was a faculty member at Johns Hopkins and at Yale. Dr. Choi served as Chief, Division of Pulmonary, Allergy and Critical Care Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh and Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women’s Hospital. He has a longstanding commitment to the training of physician-scientists. His research interest has focused on the regulation and function of stress response genes in response to oxidative stress. He has translated the two decades of basic discoveries made in the signaling pathway and function of HO/CO to human patients with lung and vascular diseases. His research team has recently completed 2 NIH supported Phase II clinical trials, in the treatment for human sepsis and lung fibrosis. Dr. Choi also has interest in genomic approaches in identifying candidate genes important in the pathogenesis of lung diseases. Dr. Choi has authored more than 377 peer-reviewed manuscripts and is currently the Principal Investigator of multiple NIH RO1’s. He is a recipient of the ATS Recognition Award for Scientific Accomplishments and Amberson Lecture, the top research award in the international ATS community. He is a member of the American Society of Clinical Investigation and the Association of American Physicians. Dr. Choi was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2020.
Fernando J. Martinez, MD, MS is Chief of the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York City. Prior to this appointment, he was professor of internal medicine and associate chief for clinical research in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at the University of Michigan Health System, Ann Arbor, Michigan, as well as medical director of its Pulmonary Diagnostic Services and co-medical director of the Lung Transplantation Program. After graduating from the University of Florida School of Medicine in Gainesville, Florida, he completed a residency in internal medicine at Beth Israel Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts, and a fellowship in pulmonary medicine at the Boston University Pulmonary Center. He received a Master’s in Biostatistics and Clinical Study Design from the University of Michigan School of Public Health. Dr. Martinez’s main research interests include the biological underpinnings and therapeutic approaches to interstitial lung diseases and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). He is a member of numerous societies, including the American Thoracic Society, the European Respiratory Society, and the American College of Chest Physicians. Previously, he was a member of the American Thoracic Society Committees which generated guidelines for the management of COPD, respiratory infections, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, and cardiopulmonary exercise testing. He is the former chair of the Clinical Problems Assembly of the American Thoracic Society. Professor Martinez is a member of the GOLD Science Committee and sits on several editorial boards, including for Journal of COPD and American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine. He serves as a deputy editor for the latter.
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Marco Idzko, MD, PhD is a Professor of Pneumology at the University Hospital Vienna. He completed his residency at the University Hospital Freiburg, Germany, and became an Assistant Professor at the University of Freiburg in 2006, becoming Associate Professor at the university in 2011. He obtained German board certification for internal medicine, pneumology and sleep medicine and is also a master of pulmonary vascular disease of the European Respiratory Society Bologna (ERS) His research areas include immunology, clinical immunology, and pulmonology. His research efforts have earned the Fellowship of the Emmy-Noether-Program and the Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation, as well as several honors such as Theodor-Frerichs-Award of the DGIM, the Allergopharma Award of the EAACI, the Curt Dehner Award of the DGP. He is a member of the Austrian Society of Pulmonology (ÖGP), Southwest German Society for Pulmonology and Respiratory Medicine, American Thoracic Society, German Society for Pulmonology and Respiratory Medicine (DGP), German Society of Internal Medicine (DGIM), European Respiratory Society (ERS), and the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI). Dr. Idzko is a board member of the Long-Range Planning Committee of the ERS Assembly on Airway Diseases and was the former Head of this committee. Currently, he is the Head of Assembly 5.3 of the ERS and Head of Assembly 1 of the ÖGP. He is an associate Editor for PLOS ONE, BMC Pulmonary Medicine and Frontiers in Immunology. Professor Idzko has reviewed articles for several journals including the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, European Respiratory Journal, The Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, Journal of Immunology, and Nature, and is the author of more than 150 publications.
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Daniela Gompelmann, MD graduated from the University of Saarland, Germany in 2008. From 2008 to 2020, she worked in the Department of Pulmonology and Critical Care Medicine in the Thoraxklinik, University of Heidelberg Germany. It was there that she trained to become a consultant in internal medicine and pneumology with a sub-specialty in intensive care medicine. In 2017, she completed a residency in pulmonology. Since February 2020, she has been a professor for interventional pulmonology and a senior consultant in the Department of Pulmonology in the Medical University of Vienna, Austria. Her research interests are in the field of interventional pneumology, specifically the endoscopic therapeutic procedures for patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and emphysema. She evaluated the predictors of success and of complications of endoscopic valve therapy, as well as bronchoscopic thermal ablation. In addition to authoring numerous studies and specialist articles, she is also the associate editor of the textbook "Interventional Pulmonology, ERS Monograph" and co-editor of the specialist journal "Der Pneumologe".
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Robert J. Kaner, MD has been involved in investigative pursuits in pulmonary and critical care research throughout his career, with major translational research interests in interstitial lung disease and mechanisms of accelerated emphysema in HIV+ smokers. He was the Principal Investigator of the Weill-Cornell site of the NIH-sponsored Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF) Clinical Research Network for which he chaired the Adjudication Committee (adjudication for IPF diagnosis for enrollment and endpoints such as acute exacerbations, respiratory hospitalizations, etc). He has extensive experience in the phenotyping of subjects with lung disease and their enrollment in research studies. He leads a twice monthly multidisciplinary interstitial lung disease (ILD) conference. He directs a WCM Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation Clinical Center of Excellence, participating in their research registry, as well as unrelated multicenter clinical trials evaluating various pharmacologic interventions in IPF and other ILDs, sponsored by both NIH and pharma. Dr. Kaner has extensive experience with submitting IRB protocols, enrolling lung disease subjects and controls in research protocols, performing research bronchoscopies and collecting biological samples for acquisition of high-quality RNA and cell cultures of alveolar macrophages and airway epithelial cells, used as the basis for airway basal cell cultures, as well as endobronchial biopsies. In that regard, he has performed all the research bronchoscopies for Columbia University in the bronchoscopy sub study of the NHLBI SPIROMICS and is now leading the SPIROMICS bronchoscopy substudy. He is currently analyzing data from a network-wide analysis of all the alveolar macrophage samples by RNA-sequencing. In a separate NHLBI-funded pilot study, he carried out research bronchoscopies on subjects with HIV and COPD and/or emphysema before and after three months of doxycycline or placebo as a proof-of-concept study for BAL matrix metalloproteinase (MMP) inhibition. This was based on his previous observations of upregulated alveolar macrophage gene expression of MMPs as well as MMP proteins in BAL fluid in HIV+ individuals with early emphysema. This work has led to an NIH-funded Phase II clinical trial to test the efficacy of doxycycline in slowing emphysema progression in people living with HIV. He is also participating in pharmacologic intervention studies in COPD and emphysema sponsored by the DOD and NIH.
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Irene Marthe Lang, MD is a senior staff member at the Department of Cardiology and Deputy Chair of the Department at the Medical University of Vienna. Dr. Lang carried out her medical education and residency at the University of Vienna before taking on a five-year postdoctoral research fellowship at the University of California, which included a joint appointment with the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California. She has been a Professor of Vascular Biology at the Medical University of Vienna since 2004, where she leads a clinical and experimental group in vascular medicine focusing on pulmonary vascular biology and right ventricular function. Dr. Lang directs an outpatient unit for pulmonary vascular disease at the Medical University of Vienna and is an active interventional and structural cardiologist, recently very active as a balloon pulmonary angioplasty interventionist, and an active researcher. She was nominated by the World Medical Association as a ‘Caring Physician of the World’ in 2006, ‘Teacher of the Year’ at MUV in 2013, and is the past president of the Austrian Society of Cardiology. In April 2016, she was awarded the Großes Ehrenzeichen der Republik Österreich and an honorary doctorate from the University of Cyril and Methodius in Skopje, Macedonia. Dr. Lang is part of the International CTEPH Association (ICA) whose objectives are to increase awareness for CTEPH, foster worldwide collaboration between CTEPH centers, serve as platform for surgical centers and facilitate training of emerging CTEPH centers, as well as to advance research and education in CTEPH.
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Michael S. Niederman, MD, MACP, FCCP, FCCM, FERS is in the division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine and a Professor of Clinical Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine. Prior to this, he was a Professor in the Department of Medicine at the State University of New York at Stony Brook and Chairman of the Department of Medicine at Winthrop-University Hospital in Mineola, New York for 16 years. He obtained his medical degree from Boston University School of Medicine, and then completed his training in internal medicine at Northwestern University School of Medicine, before undertaking a pulmonary and critical care fellowship at Yale University School of Medicine. His interests lie in respiratory tract infections and include mechanisms of airway colonization, the management of community- and hospital-acquired pneumonia, the role of guidelines for pneumonia, and the impact of antibiotic resistance on the management and outcomes of respiratory tract infections. He has published over 400 peer-reviewed or review articles, and has lectured widely, both nationally and internationally. Dr Niederman served as co-chairman of the committees that created the American Thoracic Society 1993 and 2001 guidelines for the treatment of community-acquired pneumonia and the 1996 and 2005 committees that wrote guidelines for the treatment of nosocomial pneumonia. He was a member of the ATS/IDSA committee that published guidelines for community-acquired pneumonia in 2007. Recently, he was the co-lead author of the 2017 guidelines on nosocomial pneumonia, written on behalf of the European Respiratory Society and the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine, and is currently working on European guidelines for the management of Severe Community-Acquired Pneumonia. He served for six years as a member of the Board of Regents of the American College of Chest Physicians and in 2013 was elected as a Master of the American College of Physicians. He is also Editor-in-Chief of Clinical Pulmonary Medicine and is an Associate editor of Critical Care and the European Respiratory Review and serves on the editorial boards of Critical Care Medicine, and Intensive Care Medicine. He has previously served on the editorial board of The American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine and Chest.
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Helmut Prosch, MD works for the Department of Biomedical Imaging and Image-guided Therapy at the Medical University of Vienna, Austria. Helmut Prosch is an Associate Professor of Radiology and section chief of thoracic imaging at the Department of Biomedical Imaging and Image-guided Therapy at the Medical University of Vienna. He obtained his medical degree in 2000 from the University of Vienna. Helmut Prosch trained in Radiology at the Otto Wagner Hospital in Vienna, Austria. Before, he worked as a research fellow at the Children’s Cancer Research Institute in Vienna. His research focuses on the diagnosis and staging of lung cancer and deep learning for the diagnosis of diffuse parenchymal lung diseases. Helmut Prosch has published more than 200 articles, reviews, or book chapters.
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Romana Wass, MD, PhD is a pneumologist who specializes in thoracic oncology. Dr. Wass grew up in Vienna, Austria. She graduated from Paracelsus Medical University Salzburg and completed her respiratory residency at the Department of Respiratory Medicine, University Clinic Salzburg. Her clinical training was followed by a PhD in Molecular Medicine with Dr. Haitchi and Prof. Davies at the Roger Brooke Laboratory, Southampton. Dr. Wass’ research interests include molecular mechanisms of smoking induced lung diseases, the role of ADAM33 in lung cancer, and biomarker driven targeted therapies and immune checkpoint inhibitors in non-small cell and small cell lung cancer. Dr. Wass is currently vice-head of the oncology working group of the Austrian Society of Pneumology. Since 2018, she works at the department of Internal Medicine 4, Kepler University Clinic in Linz and teaches at the Medical Faculty of the Johannes Kepler University. She lives in Salzburg with her husband and son Jakob.
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"The fellows were attentive to the lectures, collectively asked many insightful questions, and the camaraderie among the fellows was very cordial and respectful."

Augustine M.K. Choi, MD
Pulmonology
OMI VOICES

Dr. Martinez beautifully summarized the GOLD 2023 guidelines. Knowing this is extremely useful for our patient care. I can’t wait to get home and discuss this update with my colleagues, as well as incorporate it into my practice.

Abraham Abeke, MD
OMI fellow from Ethiopia

I flew almost halfway around the world to attend the OMI seminar, which made my world smaller, but my worldview, knowledge, and heart expanded so much more.

Nguyen Tri Tran Ngoc, MD
OMI fellow from Vietnam

The case presentations were my favorite part of the seminar. We discussed a wide range of topics, from situations that challenge even the most experienced doctor to unusual conditions that most of us had never heard about.

Marina Boneva, MD
OMI fellow from Bulgaria
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