



# OPEN MEDICAL INSTITUTE

## SEMINAR REPORT

### PULMONOLOGY

January 7-13, 2024

A Global Educational Initiative by the  
American Austrian Foundation



**Weill Cornell**  
**Medicine**



MEDICAL UNIVERSITY  
OF VIENNA

# F A C T S



**34** fellows  
from **27** countries



**32** fellows' case  
presentations



**10** faculty  
members  
from the USA and  
Austria



**8** excellent case  
presentations



**20** didactic lectures



**203** applications

# GROUP PHOTO







		Sunday 07.01.2024	Monday 08.01.2024	Tuesday 09.01.2024	Wednesday 10.01.2024	Thursday 11.01.2024	Friday 12.01.2024	Saturday 13.01.2024
07:00	08:00		BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	DEPARTURES
08:00	09:00		Introductions Pre-Seminar Test	Radiology Non-ILD  Helmut Prosch, MD	Management of COPD Exacerbation  Fernando J. Martinez, MD, MS	Overview of Pleural Disease and Surgical Management  Clemens Aigner, MD	Lung Cancer Screening and Diagnostic  Daniela Gompelmann, MD	
09:00	10:00		Common Lung Symptom  Fernando J. Martinez, MD, MS	Radiology ILD  Helmut Prosch, MD	ILD Diagnosis  Robert J. Kaner, MD	Surgical Airway Procedures: Tracheomalacia, Tumor Fulguration, Tracheal Stenosis  Clemens Aigner, MD	Pulmonary Hypertension  Irene Marthe Lang, MD	
10:00	10:30		COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	
10:30	11:30		Sepsis  Augustine M.K. Choi, MD	ARDS  Augustine M.K. Choi, MD	ILD Treatment  Robert J. Kaner, MD	Infections in Bronchiectasis/ CF  Michael S. Niederman, MD, MACP, FCCP, FCCM, FERS	Lung Cancer  Maximilian J. Hochmair, MD	
11:30	12:30		Asthma  Marco Idzko, MD, PhD	Management of Stable COPD  Fernando J. Martinez, MD, MS	Tuberculosis  Michael S. Niederman, MD, MACP, FCCP, FCCM, FERS	Outpatient CAP and Other Advances in CAP  Michael S. Niederman, MD, MACP, FCCP, FCCM, FERS	Surgical Therapy of Lung Cancer  Clemens Aigner, MD	
12:30	14:00		LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	
14:00	15:00		Severe Asthma  Marco Idzko, MD, PhD	Workshop Fellows' Case Presentations  Robert J. Kaner, MD Michael S. Niederman, MD, MACP, FCCP, FCCM, FERS	Free Afternoon	Workshop Fellows' Case Presentations  Robert J. Kaner, MD Fernando J. Martinez, MD, MS	Post-Seminar Test Evaluation & Discussion	
15:00	16:00		Workshop How to Present a Case  Michael S. Niederman, MD, MACP, FCCP, FCCM, FERS					
16:00	17:00							
17:00	18:00		<u>17:00 - 17:15</u> OMI Presentation					
18:00	19:00	FACULTY MEETING TO REVIEW THE WEEK					FAREWELL RECEPTION	
19:00	20:00	WELCOME RECEPTION & DINNER	DINNER	DINNER	DINNER	DINNER	GRADUATION DINNER Certificates Awarded	
20:00	21:00					<u>20:30 - 21:30</u> CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT		





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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  
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**Fernando J. Martinez, MD, MS** is Chief of the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College, New York. 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, 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. Professor Martinez's main research interests include the biological underpinnings and therapeutic approaches to interstitial lung diseases (ILD) and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). He is a member of numerous societies, including the American Thoracic Society (ATS), the European Respiratory Society (ERS), the American College of Chest Physicians, and in the past the Fleischner Society. Previously, he was a member of the ATS 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 ATS. Professor Martinez is a member of the GOLD Science Committee and sits on a number of editorial boards, including for *Journal of COPD* and *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*. He serves as the Editor-in-Chief 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.





## **Clemens Aigner, MD, MBA, FETCS**

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**Clemens Aigner, MD, MBA, FETCS** is Professor of Thoracic Surgery and head of the Department of Thoracic Surgery at the Medical University of Vienna. He graduated from Medical School in Vienna, where he also underwent his training with a clinical and scientific focus on lung transplantation and advanced thoracic surgery and worked as consultant. He graduated in Health Care Management at the Vienna University of Economics and Business in 2012. After visits to UZ Leuven, TGH Toronto, and RH Copenhagen he was appointed as full professor and head of the department of thoracic surgery at University Medicine Essen in Germany in 2015. His focus on translational and clinical research in thoracic oncology, particularly lung cancer and mesothelioma led to the successful completion of several prospective randomized multicentre trials. Additionally functional thoracic surgery including LVRS, airway surgery and lung transplantation were strong focus areas. In July of 2023, he returned to the Medical University of Vienna in his current position. He has authored more than 200 PubMed indexed papers, won multiple national and international awards, and is active in several scientific societies.



## **Daniela Gompelmann, MD**

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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".



## **Maximilian J. Hochmair, MD**

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**Maximilian J. Hochmair, MD** leads the Respiratory Oncology Unit in the Department of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine at Klinik Floridsdorf, Karl Landsteiner Institute of Lung Research and Pulmonary Oncology in Vienna, Austria. Together with his team, he treats and consults around 700-800 newly diagnosed lung cancer patients per year. Dr. Hochmair is a specialist in respiratory medicine and an experienced investigator, co- and sub-investigator in various clinical trials in lung cancer. He is the author or co-author of more than 300 published articles, book chapters, and reviews in journals involving cancer prevention and therapeutics with chemotherapy, immunotherapy, and targeted agents (h-index 37, 14537 citations, 286 research items, 27th of July 2023). Dr. Hochmair has contributed numerous publications and abstracts to domestic and international congresses and is a speaker at multiple domestic and international oncology conferences.





## **Robert J. Kaner, MD**

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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. He participates in the NHLBI SPIROMICS and SOURCE observational studies and is now leading the bronchoscopy sub-study. 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.

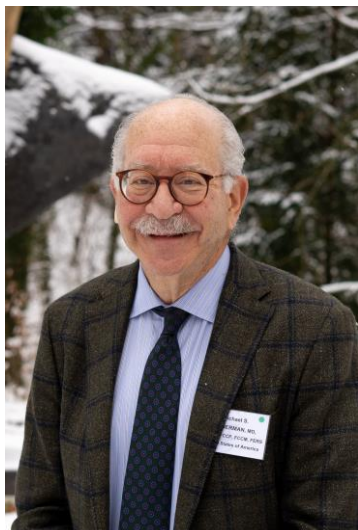


## **Irene Marthe Lang, MD**

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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 has worked on European guidelines for the management of Severe Community-Acquired Pneumonia, published in 2023. 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 was 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.





## **Helmut Prosch, MD**

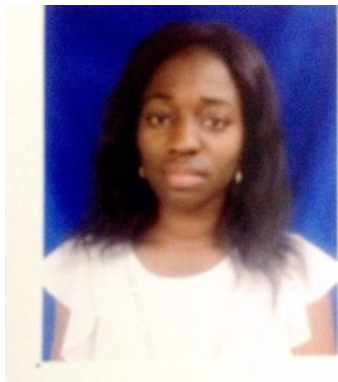
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**Helmut Prosch, MD** works for the Department of Biomedical Imaging and Image-guided Therapy at the Medical University of Vienna, Austria. Helmut Prosch is an Associate Professor of Radiology and section chief of thoracic imaging at the Department 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.

# FELLOWS



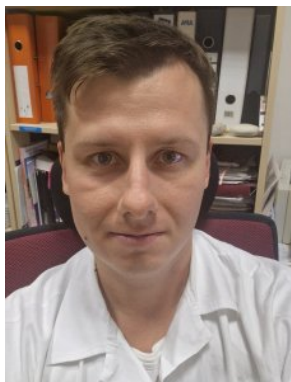
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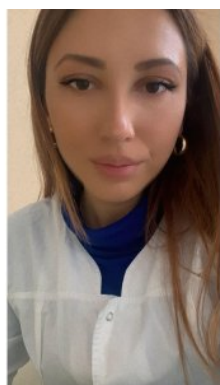
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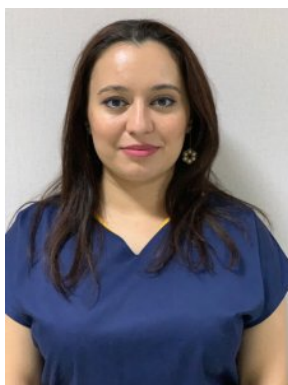
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# OMI VOICES

## Faculty Feedback

"I have always felt that it is our responsibility to teach and train pulmonologists from lesser developed countries. The OMI, with its seminars, workshops, and observerships, has the perfect set up to efficiently train the future leaders in medicine. It is always a highlight to come to Salzburg and contribute to the OMI's aims (stop the brain drain!) and achievements."

**Marco Idzko, MD, PhD**

*Pulmonology*



MEDICAL UNIVERSITY  
OF VIENNA



# OMI VOICES



**“ This seminar was more than just a learning journey; it served as a springboard for personal growth, cooperative endeavors, and profound inspiration.**

Anh Nguyen Tuan, MD  
OMI fellow from Vietnam



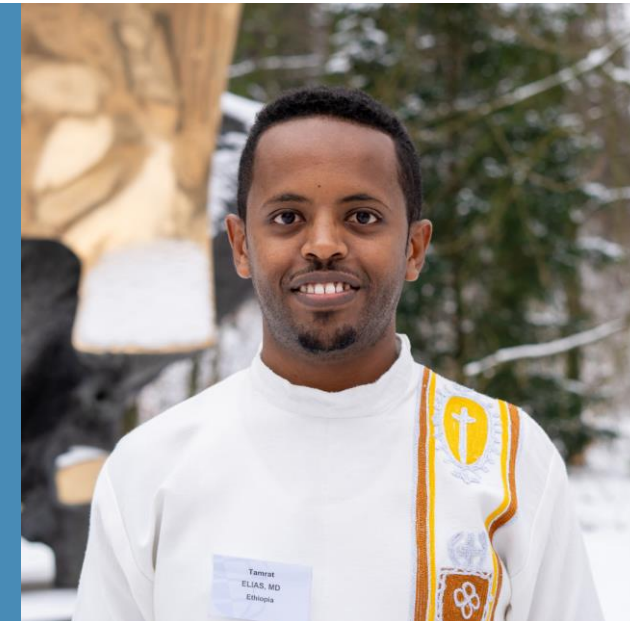
**“ The extent of what the seminars and the OMI are doing for young doctors from different parts of the world is incredible.**

Nani Gonjilashvili, MD  
OMI fellow from Georgia



**“ As I bid farewell to Salzburg, I carry with me a renewed sense of purpose and a commitment to implementing and sharing the knowledge and insights gained during this seminar.**

Tamrat Elias, MD  
OMI fellow from Ethiopia



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