A Message from the President

by Nancy Latimer, PhD, RRT

The Lambda Beta Society had a productive 2023 and I am very excited to see what 2024 brings. As we celebrate our 38th year, we added nine new chapters bringing us to a total of 167 chapters now. Congratulations to the 523 new Lambda Beta Society members. You all should be proud of the diligence, studiousness and perseverance that it takes to be at the top of your class. The numerous benefits of belonging to this organization are highlighted in our website’s testimonial videos presented by educators and student members.

In this edition of the Lambda Beta Newsletter, you will find information for our 2024 scholarship opportunities: Frederic Helmholz, MD Scholarship, CoARC Stephen P. Mikles, EdD, RRT, FAARC Media Award, NBRC Leadership Award and our newest Brad Leidich Memorial Scholarship. You can also find a wonderful article from a past scholarship winner written by our Board Secretary/Treasurer Amanda Dexter and a submission on changes in technical standards for pulmonary function testing by Past President Susan Blonshine.

As I wrap up, please be on the lookout for this year’s scholarship poster for display with the QR code for easy application. I would also like to invite program directors to apply for chapter membership for their programs. If you have any questions, please reach out to any of the Board Members or Debbie.Farrow@nbrc.org. On behalf of the Board, I would like to express our appreciation to our scholarship sponsors and each of you for your continued support.
We take pride in supporting respiratory care students’ and practitioners’ educational journeys and continuing to promote and advance the profession with our contributions. Below are all of the available scholarships and awards with a QR code to scan to learn more about each opportunity. All recipients will be announced at the annual AARC International Congress.

For more information or questions, please email our Executive Secretary, Debbie Farrow, at debbie.farrow@nbrc.org. More information about our scholarships and awards can be found online at lambdabeta.org.

- Frederic Helmholz, MD Scholarship - Up to $2,500
- Brad Leidich Memorial Scholarship - Up to $1,500
- CoARC Stephen P. Mikles, EdD, RRT, FAARC Media Award - $2,000
- NBRC Leadership Award - Up to $2,000
Melody Kloepfer, BS, BSRT, RRT
2023 NBRC/Hill Leadership Award Winner

Winner Spotlight Q&A

Why did you choose a respiratory therapy education/educational program?

As a registered yoga instructor, I became interested in the cardiopulmonary system because the practice of yoga includes breathing exercises (pranayama) which helps rid the body of toxins and relax the nervous system. Yoga also has a belief that we all have a dharma (calling) and this calling gives us purpose. Once I began learning more about the cardiopulmonary system, I knew I had found my calling. The cardiopulmonary system, for me, symbolizes love (heart) and breath of life (lungs). As a yoga instructor, I had the privilege of teaching students with a multitude of different diseases and disorders. Teaching yoga helped me realize that I loved helping people with chronic diseases and psychological disorders. Respiratory therapy permits me the opportunity to combine my soft skills with my love of the cardiopulmonary system, science and biology to help others.

What piece of advice would you give to current respiratory therapy students?

Stay connected to your humanity and make sure to take care of yourself so you can help others. Additionally, stay involved in your professional associations and don’t stop learning and growing! Our professional organizations provide many benefits and allow us to connect with other RTs around the world.

What was most memorable to you about your experiences in a respiratory therapy education program?

I had the honor of being involved in patient-family engaged care research with Nannette Nicholson, Elise Bloch and Italia Folleco at Nova Southeastern University. The project involved listening to patient and caregiver experiences in the healthcare setting and observing how important their voices were to a patient’s healthcare plan. We were fortunate to present our research at the Nexus Summit in fall 2023.

How has your education impacted your professional life?

I consider myself a lifelong learner and believe continuing education and training will help me be the most informed RT. Staying up to date with the most current research and knowledge in our field improves the lives of those I have the privilege to help.
Where Are They Now? (Cont.)

What is the most valuable information you learned while you were in respiratory therapy school?

Pay attention to detail and never let your guard down. Our profession requires a high degree of vigilance because we are responsible for people’s lives. Lastly, and most importantly, listen to the patient and their caregivers!

What do you enjoy the most about the respiratory therapy field?

I love helping patients and doing my best to ensure they have the most positive outcomes and experiences in my care. Additionally, I work with an amazing department of exceptional RTs who support and humble me.

Tell us your favorite story about respiratory therapy, either a past professional experience or fond educational memory.

Most of my positive memories involve patients. I had a severe ARDS patient on a ventilator for several months who many did not think would recover. After some healing and rehabilitation, she walked out of the hospital with her family. It was like watching a miracle happen!

Where has your job taken you? Describe your career path.

I currently work as a respiratory therapist for Mayo Clinic Health System in La Crosse, Wisconsin and it is where the first RRT, Sister Mary Yvonne Jenn, worked. In the future, I hope to do more research and would love to publish my findings. Another professional interest of mine is disease management. The Mayo Clinic believes the future is in preventative medicine and I agree! Helping to improve quality of life through prevention, diagnosis and proper management feels rewarding.

How did you hear about the Lambda Beta Society? In your opinion, what are the benefits of a Lambda Beta Society membership?

I discovered the Lambda Beta Society by searching online. Being a member of the Lambda Beta Society is about being the best respiratory therapist I can be for my patients. It recognizes individuals who are performing at the top of their licensure. The membership also offers several scholarships, which is always helpful!

I am proud to be a respiratory therapist because...

The breath (life) and heart (compassion) are what living is all about.
The National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) has provided specialty examinations and credentials for pulmonary function technologists since 1984. Two credentials are offered: the Certified Pulmonary Function Technologist (CPFT) and Registered Pulmonary Function Technologist (RPFT). The examination is designed to measure the essential tasks required of individuals working as pulmonary function technologists. A detailed content outline covers these essential tasks over three major content areas and the cognitive levels tested: recall, application and analysis.

Individuals working in the pulmonary diagnostic area have significant resources through the AARC Respiratory Diagnostics specialty section, American Thoracic Society, European Respiratory Society and CHEST. This specialty does require specialized training beyond the RRT credential.

Global standards for calibration, quality control, testing, reporting results and interpretations have been developed, updated and expanded over the past ten years. Standards updated and released since 2014 include the following:

  • Full-Text
  • Executive Summary

• Standardization of Spirometry 2019 Update: An Official ATS and ERS Technical Statement
  • Full-Text
  • Executive Summary
  • Online Supplement


• Field Walking Tests in Chronic Respiratory Disease: Official ATS/ERS Technical Standards (2014)
    • Online Supplement
In 2023, the American Thoracic Society published a statement; Official Statement on Race, Ethnicity and Pulmonary Function Test Interpretation addressing race and ethnicity in the interpretation process.

The American Thoracic Society developed a Management and Procedure Manual for Pulmonary Function Laboratories several years ago authored by pulmonary function technologists. It is in its 3rd edition and is undergoing another update to incorporate information from the latest standards and updates. This manual incorporates procedures for all the primary pulmonary function tests such as spirometry, single-breath diffusing capacity, lung volumes and exercise testing.

This is an exciting and gratifying specialty area for those who enjoy intertwining technology, physiology and pathology. It takes a very skilled therapist to get the results required from each patient to understand their disease process better.

Lambda Beta Memorabilia

We offer two ways to proudly display your membership in the Lambda Beta Society.

Gold Plated Honor Pin (Lambda Beta Logo) - $20

Honor Cords (Lambda Beta Colors) - $20

Prices do not include shipping charges.

To order, Click Here to go to Lambdabeta.org

Individuals must be a member to purchase memorabilia.
Welcome New Board Member, George Kopp, BS, RRT-NPS,

George Kopp, BS, RRT-NPS, is the Associate Professor/Director of Clinical Education Respiratory Program at Palm Beach State College in Palm Beach Gardens, FL. He is a graduate of one of the first BS Respiratory Programs from the University of Hartford in 1985 with 39 years of clinical experience in small and large hospitals, as well as helicopter transport, adult, pediatric and neonatal critical care. George has experience with management and supervisory roles at Hartford Healthcare, VA Medical Center and St. Mary’s Medical Center. He also has experience in faculty and clinical training positions at the University of Hartford, Manchester Community College, Goodwin College and Palm Beach State College. He has presented nationally at Respiratory, Nursing, Anesthesia and EMS conferences while also serving as a Clinical Specialist and various sales positions for the Medical Device Industry. George is a patient safety advocate with a focus on staff and student education.

Outgoing Board Members

We would like to thank the following outgoing board members for their service. Your involvement and commitment to the Lambda Beta Society has been invaluable to our success as an organization.

Lynda T. Goodfellow, EdD, RRT, AE-C, FAARC
March 2022-December 2023

Henry Oh, PhD, RRT-NPS, MT(AMT), FACSc, FRSB
July 2009-December 2023
Secretary/Treasurer 2016-2018
President 2019-2020
Welcome New Members 2024

Narjis Abdawani
Jeremiah Agyemang
Aya Akiyama
Zinah Al Harbi
Ahmed Alkhlaqi
Mohammed Almutairi
Abdullah Alnahkli
Shallan Anderson
Brian Andreade
Zoe Armstrong
Simi Awegbemila
Glenda Baer Cordero
Tyler Baker
Adrian Banda
Bridget Barnes
Melany Bazan
Jamila Benigno Pangan
Aubrynn Bertke
Danielle Bickar
Josue Bonilla
Kayleigh Bowden
Megan Bramble
Millie Brantley
KYLEE BRIGGS
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Katherine Burgess
Jenna Butz
Sarrahbelle Cadiz
Mario Camacho
Patrick Caramat
Lauren Carew
Dylan Carper
Clinton Carr
Kylee Carr
Megan Carreon
Shadell Carter
Chu Yun Chen
Sandeep Chima
Frank Clark
Cole Cmejla
Elizabeth Conover
Rachel Crockett
Adrian Cruz
Liana David
Erika Davies
Jackie Davis
Jazmine De La Torre
Serena De Luna
Harkeet Deol
Brooke Dill
Hannah Diller
Emma DiYanni
Cara Dougherty
Carter Drake
Weston Duke
Julie Duncan
Anthony Dunham
Erynn Dunnigan
Robert Duran
Eleonora Duran
Emmalee Eaton
Samuel Eichner
Melissa Ennis
Ariana Escalera
Rylie Farr
Jiao Feng
Jennilyn Ferguson
Hailey Fleming
Ruby Flores
Emily Fox
Christina Franco
Tyler Freeman
Mikhail Frolov
Bonnie Fuentes
Matthew Gallego
Dushanka Ganepola
Brittany Garcia
Janelle Garza
Sirhan Gautreaux
Afrodite Georgakopoulos
Kyla Gomez
Lauren Good
Jordan Goodner
Charmita Gordon
Shanice Grady
Casey Graf
Daria Griggs
Mary Grogan
Danielle Guadez
Luis Guzman
Janna Hammock
Chelsey Hannisick
Tammra Hardiman
Jade Haro
Allison Harwood
Elizabeth Hayden
Sarah Helbig
Christopher Henderson
Miriam Hernandez
Mayra Herrera
Jessica Hewitt
Courtney Hieronimus
Amanda Hohlt
Jared Husing
Emily Huynh
Cheyanne Ibarra
Emmie Johnson
Matthew Johnson
Jagmohan Kaur
Kyasia Kelly Lyon
Alana Kennedy
Antonina Khokhlova
Yookyung Kim
Bryan Kincaid
Alexia Kirkpatrick
Emily Knight
Evan Kureth
Sonya Lakes
Melissa Lander
Jonathan Lansang
Glenn Lawson
Cristina Leco
Meng Lee
Lucas Lee
Lisa Leib
Jack Lenz
Aaron Liaw
Clifton Liew
Roman Linnik
Sabrina Lopez
Zephyr Loverre
Hassan Maghfuri
Aric Marcille
Megan Martin
Katiana Mastin
Aimee Matarangolo
Matthew Matimon
Aayla Mayle
Kaylee Maylett
Ashley McAdory
Korinne McCorrie
Alyssa McGinley
Marc McNamee
April McPherson
Kelsie McVeigh
Marissa Meade
Kenneth Miller
Maria Miller
Paden Mitchell
Brison Monroe
Jake Montgomery
Sidney Morataya
Joan Moreto
Romeire Morgan
Kayla Mosier
Sierra Mutz
Catherine Neverson
Riley Newman
Andrew Nguyen
Aaliyah Nowlin
Rosa Ortuno
Luis Pacheco
Nancy Palermo
Xhime Palmer
Joel Ponce
Julia Posternatsky
Jessica Pozos
Moncerrat Preciado
Ashleigh Propes
Angela Prush
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Yvette Rameriz
Frida Ramirez
Nathan Ramos
Jenna Marie Ramos
Ashlyn Reese
Chelsea Reid
Mia Rendon
Jessica Robinson
Maria Rosas
Wisdom Ryan
Halle Samaniego
Emily Sami
Patrick Sanchez
Tara Sandoval
Jason Semple
Timothy Sentov
Noah Serrano
Welcome New Members 2024 (cont.)

Amirah Shareef
Jason Shim
Ana Sigarrillo
Ashley Silva
Brittany Smith
Amber Sopczak
Sarah Spring
Ryan Spurlock
Margaret Stansfield
Morgan Stebbins
Masyn Steinhaus
Courtney Stephenson
Valerie Stiles
Kayleigh Story
Kristen Streed
Madison Strickland
Helen Stripling
Mya Strope
Kaitlin Sturgill
Natalie Tacher
Ashley Tanner
Luzolo Tapir Dienda
Paula Tavares
JulietteTedora
Keith Terry
Matthew Thomasson
Nathaniel Tolentino
Marina Torres
Veruska Torres
Katrina Ugale
Lydia Umin
Kyndall Underkoffler
Robert Vallery
Maria Valverde
Maribel Vargas
Kelsey Wade
Ashlynne Waters
Charity Webb
Jessica Whitehead
Skylar Wiezorek
Shannon Wilbanks
Raul Wilshire
Taylor Wilson
Alaina Woock
Jeremy Worth
Stephanie Wright
Samantha Wyman
Rian Carlo Yu
Dominic Chung Yu
Michelle Zaczeniuk
Arvene Zapanta
William Zinckgraf
Charles Zuhars
Welcome New Chapters

Welcome to all of our new chapters! Thank you for forming a new chapter at your institution and joining us.

Monroe County Community College Respiratory Therapy Program  
Monroe, MI

Ivy Tech Community College - Lafayette  
Lafayette, IN

Rowan University Respiratory Therapy Program  
Sewell, NJ

Mountwest Community & Technical College  
Huntington, WV

Coastal Alabama Community College  
Bay Minette, AL

The Lambda Beta Society would love to pay tribute to chapters and inform the membership of ongoing programs and achievements by highlighting one or more noteworthy items from our chapters and its members. Please send us your news items, pictures, and accomplishments so we may recognize you.

Want to start your own chapter?  
Click here for more information.
Lambda Beta Society Board Members

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Palm Beach Gardens, FL

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Lynchburg, VA

**AMERICAN RESPIRATORY CARE FOUNDATION**
TBD

**BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM**
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Round Rock, TX

**ASSOCIATE PROGRAM**
George W. Kopp, BS, RRT-NPS
Jupiter, FL

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**MEMBER AT LARGE**
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