

Sickle cell lung disease in the COVID-19 Era

This webinar will detail the recent experience of Dr. Elizabeth Klings treating COVID-19 in patients with sickle cell lung disease and the existing registry for sickle cell patients with COVID-19 with available data. Dr. Klings will also review currently available guidelines for the care of sickle cell patients with COVID-19. Dr. Ruhl will moderate submitted questions collected from ATS members and hematologists in the second half of the webinar.

This webinar is sponsored by the ATS Sickle Cell Lung Disease Interest Group, led by Parker Ruhl (National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Bethesda, MD), Tasso Koumbourlis (Children's National Medical Center, Washington, DC), and Jennifer Knight-Madden (University of West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica). This webinar is also sponsored by the Metropolitan DC Thoracic Society (local ATS chapter), led by President Alicia Thomas (Howard University, Washington, DC).



Elizabeth S. Klings, MD

Dr. Elizabeth Klings is an Associate Professor of Medicine, Director of the Pulmonary Hypertension (PH) Center and the Center for Excellence in Sickle Cell Disease (SCD), caring for over 500 adult and pediatric patients, at Boston University School of Medicine/Boston Medical Center. She completed her training in Internal Medicine, Pulmonary and Critical Care at Boston University School of Medicine. She led the American Thoracic Society sponsored Clinical Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Treatment of PH in SCD (AJRCCM 2014) and Workshop for Defining Clinical and Research Priorities in Sickle Cell Lung Disease (Annals of ATS 2019). Her current research interests include the roles of sleep-disordered breathing and venous thromboembolism in PH of SCD. She is a member of the Medical and Research Advisory Council of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America's International Task Force that meets weekly to update recommendations for patients with sickle cell disease infected with COVID-19.

Parker Ruhl, MD, MHS

Dr. Ruhl is an Associate Research Physician in the Division of Intramural Research, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the NIH. She has a clinical and research focus on the pulmonary complications of sickle cell disease. She was a Co-Chair for the Workshop for Defining Clinical and Research Priorities in Sickle Cell Lung Disease (Annals of ATS 2019). She completed her training in Internal Medicine at the Johns Hopkins Hospital and she completed a combined fellowship in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at Johns Hopkins Hospital and the NIH Clinical Center. Dr. Ruhl received a master's of health sciences from the Duke University School of Medicine. Dr. Ruhl is engaged in population health studies to evaluate potential impacts of alpha globin gene variants on several health outcome measures, including renal, cardiovascular, and pulmonary end-organ effects, in large regional and national cohort studies. Dr. Ruhl serves on the NIH Pulmonary Consult Service and routinely sees patients in the NIH Sickle Cell Program.

