



# Lambda Beta Newsletter

Spring 2024

The National Honor Society for the Profession of Respiratory Care

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## A Message from the President

*by Nancy Latimer, PhD, RRT*

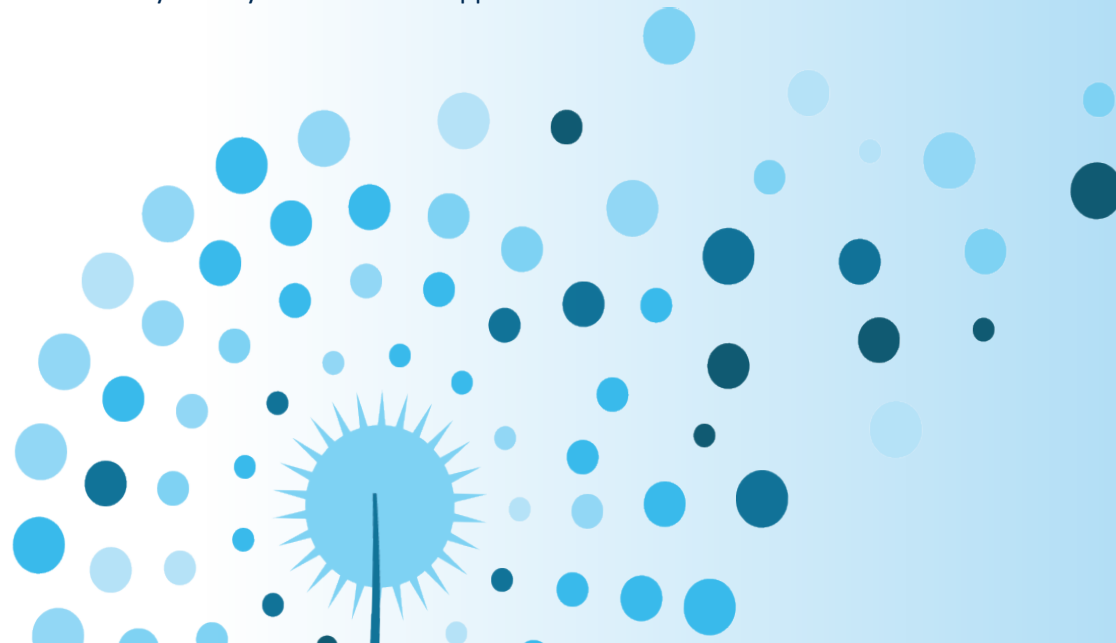


The Lambda Beta Society had a productive 2023 and I am very excited to see what 2024 brings. As we celebrate our 38th year, we added nine new chapters bringing us to a total of 167 chapters now. Congratulations to the 523 new Lambda Beta Society members. You all should be proud of the diligence, studiousness 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 Helmholtz, 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](mailto: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.





# APPLY NOW!

## *Lambda Beta Scholarships*

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.

- Frederic Helmholtz, 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



For more information or questions, please email our Executive Secretary, Debbie Farrow, at [debbie.farrow@nbrc.org](mailto:debbie.farrow@nbrc.org). More information about our scholarships and awards can be found online at [lambdabeta.org](http://lambdabeta.org).



# Lambda Beta Society

## Scholarship Winner Interview

### Where Are They Now?



By Amanda Dexter, MS, RRT, RCP, CHSE

## 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 physiological 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?*



**Melody Kloepfer, BS, BSRT, RRT**

Melody Kloepfer began her academic journey earning a BS degree in biology/ecology with a minor in community health. Her eclectic work with the U.S. Peace Corps, Florida Department of Agriculture, and as a registered yoga instructor along with her son's life-threatening food allergies led her to the field of respiratory care.

Melody recently earned her bachelor's degree in cardiopulmonary sciences from Nova Southeastern University. Following graduation, she was offered a respiratory therapy assistant position at Mayo Clinic Health System in La Crosse, Wisconsin. She transitioned to working as a licensed RRT in early Fall 2023.

*What was your experience like as a 2023 scholarship winner?*

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.





# AARC Specialty Section: Respiratory Diagnostics

by Susan Blonshine, BS, RRT, RPFT, AE-C, FAARC

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:

- **Electronic Health Records and Pulmonary Function Data: Developing an Interoperability Roadmap: An Official American Thoracic Society Workshop Report (2021)**
  - Full-Text
  - Executive Summary
- **Standardization of Spirometry 2019 Update: An Official ATS and ERS Technical Statement**
  - Full-Text
  - Executive Summary
  - Online Supplement
- **Preschool Multiple-Breath Washout Testing: A Technical Statement (2018)**
- **Standardized Pulmonary Function Reporting: An Official ATS Technical Statement (2017)**
- **Single-Breath Carbon Monoxide Uptake in the Lung: An Official ATS/ERS Technical Statement (2017)**
- **Single-Breath Carbon Monoxide Uptake in the Lung: An Official ATS/ERS Technical Statement Executive Summary (2017)**
- **Field Walking Tests in Chronic Respiratory Disease: Official ATS/ERS Technical Standards (2014)**
- **Measurement Properties of Field Walking Tests in Chronic Respiratory Disease: An Official ATS/ERS Systematic Review (2014)**
  - Online Supplement



## AARC Specialty Section: Respiratory Diagnostics (Cont.)

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

Juliette Tedora

Keith Terry

Matthew Thomasson

Nathaniel Tolentino

Mariana Torres

Veruska Torres

Katrina Ugale

Lydia Umin

Kyndall Underkoffler

Robert Vallery

Maria Valverde

Maribel Vargas

Kelsey Wade

Ashlynn 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.

<b>Monroe County Community College Respiratory Therapy Program</b>	<i>Monroe, MI</i>
<b>Ivy Tech Community College - Lafayette</b>	<i>Lafayette, IN</i>
<b>Rowan University Respiratory Therapy Program</b>	<i>Sewell, NJ</i>
<b>Mountwest Community &amp; Technical College</b>	<i>Huntington, WV</i>
<b>Coastal Alabama Community College</b>	<i>Bay Minette, AL</i>



*Want to start your own chapter?  
Click here for more information.*



*Palm Beach State College 2024 Lambda Beta Inductees*



*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.*



# Lambda Beta Society Board Members

## PRESIDENT

*Nancy Latimer, PhD, RRT*  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL

## SECRETARY/TREASURER/MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM/ PR COMMITTEE

*Amanda M. Dexter, MS, RRT, RCP, CHSE*  
Jacksonville, FL

## PRESIDENT-ELECT/NBRC REPRESENTATIVE

*Amanda Leightner, PhD, RRT, RRT-SDS, RPSGT, RST, CCSH, FAARC*  
Youngstown, OH

## PAST-PRESIDENT/ASSOCIATE PROGRAM

*Susan B. Blonshine, BS, RRT, RPFT, AE-C, FAARC*  
Mason, MI

## COARC REPRESENTATIVE

*Thomas Smalling, PhD, RRT, RPFT, RPSGT, FAARC*  
Telford, TN

## AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR RESPIRATORY CARE

*John W. Lindsey, Jr., MEd, RRT-NPS, FAARC, LRCP*  
Lynchburg, VA

## AMERICAN RESPIRATORY CARE FOUNDATION

TBD

## BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM

*Nicholas Henry, PhD, RRT-ACCS, RRT-NPS, AE-C*  
Round Rock, TX

## ASSOCIATE PROGRAM

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

## MEMBER AT LARGE

*Sherry Whiteman, EdD, RRT*  
Neosho, MO

## MEMBER AT LARGE

*Max Eskelson, RRT, BSBA, MSHCA, FCCP*  
Murray, UT

## MEMBER AT LARGE

*Nicholas Prush, MHA, RRT, RRT-ACCS*  
Carleton, MI

## LAMBDA BETA EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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## THANK YOU SPONSORS!

