Lambda Beta Newsletter

Fall 2025

The National Honor Society for the Profession of Respiratory Care

Contents

A Message from the President

by Amanda Leightner, PhD, RRT, RRT-SDS, RPSGT, RST, CCSH, FAARC, FNAP

Dear Lambda Beta Members, Faculty Advisors, and Future Respiratory Care Leaders,

It is with great enthusiasm and pride that I welcome you to the Fall 2025 term of the Lambda Beta Society. As we gather to celebrate the achievements of new inductees and the ongoing excellence of our members, I am reminded of the remarkable dedication and compassion that define the field of respiratory care. Your commitment to learning, leadership, and service continues to advance our profession and enrich the communities we serve.

Lambda Beta is more than an honor society; it is a movement built on scholarship, integrity, and professional growth. Every member represents the pursuit of excellence and the drive to make a difference in patients' lives through clinical skill, innovation, and empathy. Together, we form a network of professionals united by a shared mission: to elevate the standards of respiratory care and inspire the next generation of practitioners.

This year, our focus is on connection and collaboration—strengthening communication among chapters, celebrating student accomplishments, and fostering mentorship between seasoned professionals and emerging leaders. Through these efforts, we not only honor the traditions of Lambda Beta but also continue to shape the future of our field.

To our new members, congratulations on your well-deserved recognition. You join a distinguished society that values curiosity, compassion, and the relentless pursuit of knowledge. To our faculty and professional members, thank you for your continued dedication and mentorship that empower our students to excel.

As we move forward together, let us continue to uphold the ideals of Lambda Beta: excellence, leadership, and service and remain steadfast in our commitment to improving respiratory health for all.

With appreciation and anticipation for the year ahead,

Dr. Amanda L. Leightner
PhD, RRT, RRT-SDS, RPSGT, CCSH, FAARC, FNAP
Merrick Family Endowed Professor
Associate Clinical Professor

Beyond the Classroom: 5 Reasons Why RT Students Should Get Involved in Professional Organizations

By Amanda Dexter, MS, RRT, FCCP, CHSE

Active participation in professional organizations is one of the most valuable—and often underutilized—opportunities for respiratory therapy (RT) students. Whether it's through the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC), honor societies like the Lambda Beta Society, state societies, or specialty groups within CHEST, SCCM, or ATS, involvement provides experiences that extend far beyond the classroom. Here are five reasons why engagement in professional organizations is essential for both student development and the advancement of our profession.

1. Professional Identity and Advocacy

Joining a professional organization helps students begin to see themselves as part of something larger—a national community of respiratory care professionals united by shared goals and values. Participation builds professional identity early and exposes students to advocacy initiatives that shape the future of healthcare policy, the scope of practice, and patient care standards. Educators can reinforce this by connecting coursework with current issues championed by these organizations.

2. Mentorship and Networking

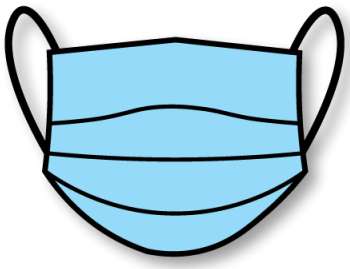
Professional meetings and conferences offer direct access to leaders, educators, and clinicians who are eager to mentor the next generation of RTs. Networking fosters professional growth, opens doors to clinical experiences and employment opportunities, and provides insight into career advancement paths such as management, education, and research. Faculty support and encouragement often serve as the bridge that motivates students to take that first step toward engagement.

3. Leadership and Professional Skills Development

Serving on committees, volunteering at conferences, or holding student leadership roles cultivates communication, teamwork, and time management skills that translate seamlessly into clinical practice. These experiences also nurture confidence and professionalism—key attributes of effective healthcare providers. Educators who integrate professional involvement into program activities help students translate theory into meaningful professional practice.

4. Staying Current with Evidence-Based Practice

Professional organizations provide access to the latest research, clinical guidelines, and educational resources. By participating, students gain early exposure to evidence-based trends and innovations that shape modern respiratory care. Encouraging students to read journals, attend webinars, or present posters fosters lifelong learning and keeps them aligned with the rapidly evolving standards of care.



5. Contribution to the Future of the Profession

When students engage early, they develop a sense of ownership and responsibility for the profession's future. Their involvement ensures a pipeline of enthusiastic, informed advocates who will continue advancing the science and practice of respiratory care. Educators play a vital role in cultivating this mindset—demonstrating that being a respiratory therapist means not only caring for patients but also shaping the profession itself.

American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC)

- **Join as a Student Member** – Gain access to journals, webinars, continuing education opportunities, and discounted conference rates.
- **Attend the AARC Congress** – Participate in national presentations, student sessions, and networking events.
- **Apply for AARC Specialty Sections** – Join focused groups such as Neonatal/Pediatric, Education, Management, or Adult Acute Care to explore niche interests.
- **Submit to the Open Forum** – Present a research poster or case report at AARC Congress—an excellent résumé builder and professional exposure opportunity.
- **Volunteer or Advocate** – Participate in legislative initiatives like PACT (Political Action Contact Team) or student outreach committees.

State Societies

- **Join Your State Society** – Engage at the local level where policies, education, and networking start.
- **Attend or Volunteer at State Conferences** – Help organize sessions, manage registration tables, or moderate student events.
- **Participate in the Student Sputum Bowl** – Build team camaraderie, enhance clinical knowledge, and represent your program at state or national competitions.
- **Serve on a Committee** – Many state societies have student or early-career committees focused on outreach, education, or public awareness.
- **Submit Articles or Social Media Features** – Contribute to newsletters or social platforms highlighting student perspectives and advocacy.

Lambda Beta Society (National Honor Society for Respiratory Care)

- **Strive for Academic Excellence** – Eligibility is typically based on GPA and class rank; aim to be in the top 25% of your class.
- **Participate in Induction Ceremonies** – Celebrate academic achievement and professional growth alongside peers and faculty.
- **Engage in Service Projects** – Support community outreach, health fairs, or mentoring of junior students.
- **Highlight Your Membership** – Use your Lambda Beta membership to pursue scholarships, leadership positions, and professional recognition.

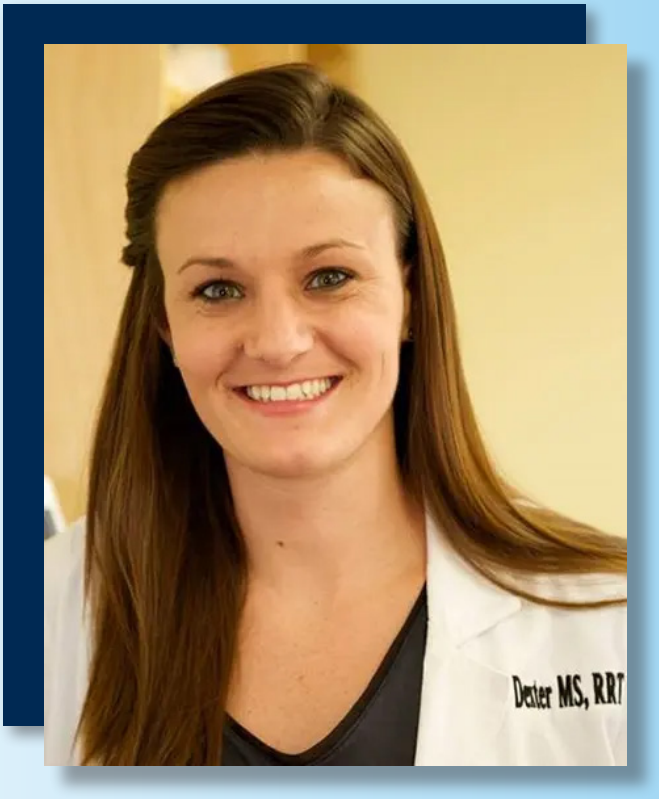
CHEST, SCCM, and ATS (Interdisciplinary Opportunities)

- **Join as a Student Affiliate** – Membership often includes free or discounted rates for students interested in critical care, pulmonary, or sleep medicine.
- **Submit Abstracts or Case Studies** – Presenting at a national or international conference boosts academic credibility and networking potential.
- **Participate in Committees or Interest Groups** – Engage in topics like mechanical ventilation, interprofessional education, or global health.
- **Attend Webinars and Journal Clubs** – Stay informed about emerging research and best practices in respiratory and critical care.
- **Apply for Mentorship Programs** – Many of these organizations connect students with leaders in medicine, research, and education.

For Educators: Encouragement Strategies

- Incorporate **professional involvement assignments** (e.g., reflective papers, advocacy projects, or conference attendance reflections).
- Invite **guest speakers** from AARC or state societies to discuss their career paths.
- Recognize and celebrate **student participation** during advisory board meetings or award ceremonies.
- Offer **faculty sponsorship** for poster presentations, Sputum Bowl teams, or travel to conferences.

Student involvement in professional organizations bridges the gap between education and professional practice. It equips future respiratory therapists with the confidence, connections, and competence to lead with purpose. By fostering this engagement early, educators help ensure that the next generation of RTs enters the field not only ready to practice but also ready to make a difference.



Author Bio

Professor Amanda Dexter began her respiratory therapy career in 2011 in Chicago and later served as BS and MS RT Program Director at UNC Charlotte and Jacksonville University. Her professional journey has included international simulation education, clinical research in mechanical ventilation, and interprofessional simulation. She now serves as Director of Respiratory Therapy at the University of West Florida, where she continues to advance RT research and global health initiatives.

Welcome New Members 2025

Abigail Heidemann
Abraham Heil
Adam Hennemann
Aditya Wibowo
Adrian Barker
Adrian Stransky
Adrienne Skitch
Alexa Parks
Alexander Gilhousen
Alexandra Siez
Alexis Staley
Alexis Machado
Alicea Rolon
Alicia Burgos
Alicia Housley
Alison Fox
Allexis Solomon
Alondra Perez
Alvin Villota
Alyssa LaTorre
Alyssa Guariglia
Amanda Lucio
Amber Brandt
Amber McVeigh
Amity Eldreth
Andrew Kane
Andrey Savchenko
Angel Camacho
Angeli Martin
Anna White
Anthony Benincasa
April Nopper
Argelia Fagre Rivas
Ashley Edgar
Ashley Kamien
Athena Beasinger
Athuyla Ajayan Ratheesh
Autumn Lipscomb
Autumn Smith

Avery Knauss
Avneet Sandhu
Ayat Almahdi
Bailey Murdock
Bauer Haynes
Belanna Bryant
Bethany Brown
Bhupinder Singh
Brandon Iwamura
Braxton Guttshall
Brianna Luebbers
Brianna Sutphin
Britney Garza
Brittany Hogan
Bryce Binder
Bukola Adenuga
Butsaraphorn Sunprahat
Caleb Blank
Camryn Bookwalter
Caneshiya Hodges
Casey Duggan
Chad Wiescinski
Chana Mahn
Chelsea Dacosta
Cheyene Rutherford
Chloe Murillos
Choua Xiong
Cloe Tindall
Colby Cargill
Cristina Ramirez
Crystal Coleman
Daisy Mancilla
Daisy Quero
Dalliya Conway
Damaris Ochoa
Daniel Saavedra
Danita Hunt
Darren Diep
Darryl Pirmal

David Timms
Dean Anderson
Destiny Golden
Dhai Jabbari
Dominic Donio
Dominique Accettola
Dylan Blough
Dylan Brown
Dylan McDowell
Elaine Manczuk
Eleanor Shank
Elizabeth Barba
Emily Rushing
Emily Walrath
Emma Maynard
Erica Kinser
Erika Diaz
Erin Masciangioli
Erin Vogt
Fernando Muro Camacho
Floriane Assogba
Frank Torrez
Frederick Jenkins
Fujuan Browe
George Velasquez
Giovanna Sanin
Gracy Calvert
Grant White
Greg Recksiedler
Hailey Schmeling
Hailey Timm
Haley Petrie
Hannah Plaisance
Hannah Sparks
Hayden Carmean
Haylee Murrill
Heather Moulder
Hind Saleh
Humberto Sauceda Regalado

Hunter Bishop
Ibraheem Al Garad
Imrana Sharif
Isabella Garrido
Isabelle Mandel
Ivan Ramirez
Ivon Torres
Jacob Lawrence
Jake Bogaczyk
Jalissa Baker
Jami Johnson
Jasmine Hamilton
Jasmyn Bell
Jason Greco
Jenari Lopez
Jenna Kendall
Jennifer Pinhasov
Jenny Alvarez
Jesus Ceniceros
Jillian Emerson
Jonathan Castro
Jonessa Harless
Joseph Remmert
Judith Mendoza
Kaleen Carlson
Kalen Carey
Kameron Harrison
Kameron Spencer
Kara Graybill
Kateri Kosar
Katherine Narvaez
Kayla Gibson
Kayla Singley
Khatoon Alkhalaf
Kirsten Marie Haggins
Kristen Tanks
Kristi Haynes
Krystal Ivey
Lacey Lewis

Landon Paugh
Lara Nguyen Biggs
Laura Barrera
Lauren Baxa
Lauren Jordan
Laurin Brown
Leidy Correa Pabon
Leina Elfil
LeShe Maxwell
Levi Gueydan
Liliia Matviichuk
Lillien Smith
Lily Nguyen
Liudmila Dimova
Louie Cordero
Lourdes Lockhart
Lucas Matas
Luisa Morales
Luisa Ortiz
Lydia Keller
Madeline Culp
Madison Orlando
Madison Pirri
Malinda Bickett
Manuel Garcia
Maranda Robinson
Margaret O'Connor
Mark Slinker
Marko Susak
Mason Thomas
Matthania Louisy
Meagan Bush
Meghan Kintner
Meghan Watson
Melanie Howell
Melanie McDonough
Melissa Knight
Melissa Lees
Melissa Swanson

Welcome New Members 2025 (cont.)

Michael Aguilar
Michael Lee
Michael Mordovtsev
Michael Papaianni
Michael Roberts
Miranda Strassel
Misty Carlson
Misun Gillespie
Nadia Flores
Nagila Avanci
Nancy Guyse
Natalie Bolainez
Nhi Phan
Nhung Bui
Niah Quiroz
Nicholas Eulberg
Nicole Gehring
Nicole Hanna
Noah Henderson
Noha Alawad
Olga Dimova
Olivia Himmerich
Omaymah Albadani
Orlane Ineza
Oscar Pena
Patricia Lipke
Paulina Chavez
Petra Rosas
Rachel Hatcher
Rachel Jenkins
Rebecca Smith
Rebekah Ornstein
Roberto Duarte Charles
Rochelle Roland
Rodrigo Perez
Roslyn Garza
Ross Evans
Rudy Encarnacion
Sabrina Moya
Sadie Krohn
Samantha Castaneda
Samantha Tipton
Samantha Wise
Samuel Woody
Sana Bilal
Sara Alsalahi
Sara Lidsky
Sarah Rydzewski
SeanDre McRae
Sebastian Warren
Shane Gibson
Shannan Wilson
Shannon Carroll
Sharon Cottrell
Sharon Stephenson
Shawn Levitt
Shayna Moorer
Shirllen Altamirano
Stephanie Parlamento
Sukhvir Sager
Sunday Adeagbo
Svitlana Reviakina
Tania Lopez
Tennile Allen
Teresa Miller
Tessa Vrees
Thomas Paulson
Tori Thompson
Trista Kendell
Tyler Cox
Tyler Lapicola
Tyra Williams
Virginia Vo
Yaira Moon
Ysmael Corpuz
Yudit Solis
Yvette Garcia
Zachary Zedella
Zeida Sanchez
Zoe Hill

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 Chapters

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

Berkshire Community College	*Pittsfield, MA*
Seminole State College Of Florida	*Sanford, FL*
Community College Of Baltimore County	*Rosedale, MD*
South College - Pittsburgh	*Cranberry Township, PA*

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

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.

2025 Scholarship Winners

$2,000 CoARC Stephen P. Mikles, EdD, RRT, FAARC Media Award

Casey Cagle
Locust, NC
Cabarrus College

I am deeply thankful to CoARC for choosing me as the recipient of this award, in honor of Stephen P. Mikles, EdD, RRT, FAARC. When I first started respiratory school, a therapist shared something with me: as a therapist, you are trusted with someone's airway. This deeply resonated with me, as I realized the ability to bring comfort to those who are struggling. This award brings me one step closer to graduating and starting my career. Thank you for your generosity.

Andres Hernandez
Oakdale, CA
Modesto Junior College

I am truly honored to be recognized as a 2025 Lambda Beta Society award recipient. This achievement would not have been possible without the unwavering support and guidance of my professors at Modesto Junior College, my clinical instructors, and everyone I have had the privilege to learn from along the way. Their dedication and knowledge have shaped me into the student and future respiratory care professional I am today. I am deeply grateful for this recognition and look forward to continuing to grow and give back to the field of respiratory care. Thank you.

$1,500 Brad Leidich Memorial Scholarship

Marlean Pellon
Pownal, VT
Berkshire Community College

I am deeply honored to be selected as the recipient of the 2025 Brad Leidich Memorial Scholarship. As a first-generation college student pursuing an associate degree in respiratory therapy, this recognition is a meaningful milestone. It affirms both my academic dedication and professional aspirations, while also reminding me of the encouragement I have received from those who champion future respiratory therapists.

This generous award will significantly ease the financial pressures that often accompany rigorous study, allowing me to focus more fully on my coursework and preparation for board examinations. Your support brings both relief and renewed motivation as I continue to grow in this field and make meaningful contributions to patient care and community health.

Thank you again for this incredible honor and for your continued commitment to advancing excellence in respiratory care.

$2,500 H. Frederic Helmholz, Jr., MD Scholarship

Alexandra Ko
Melissa, TX
Collin College

I am incredibly grateful to be selected as a recipient of this scholarship. Your generous support has lightened my financial burden, allowing me to focus more on my studies and clinical training. This scholarship brings me one step closer to completing my Associate of Applied Science in Respiratory Care and then pursuing higher education. All of these make it possible for me to pursue my goal of becoming a skilled and compassionate respiratory therapist. Your investment in my education inspires me to work even harder and give back to my community in the future. Thank you for believing in students like me and making a meaningful difference in our lives.

$5,000 NBRC Leadership Award

Justin Garcia
San Antonio, TX
University of Texas - San Antonio

I am thrilled and deeply honored to be named as the recipient of the 2025 NBRC Leadership Award. To be recognized in this way by the National Board for Respiratory Care is an incredible privilege, and I am immensely grateful for your support and confidence in me as a respiratory care professional.

This award represents a significant milestone in my journey as a student and as a respiratory therapist, and I am humbled to be acknowledged for my dedication to leadership, scholarship, and service in our profession. It is a reminder that each day is an opportunity to strive for excellence in respiratory care, to innovate in our clinical practice, and to mentor and inspire the next generation of students and respiratory therapists.

As a U.S. Army veteran, student leader, and now a respiratory therapist, I have learned that leadership is not about position or status, but about service to our patients, to our colleagues, and to the advancement of our field. With this award, I am even more inspired to continue bringing compassionate, evidence-based care to every patient I encounter and to contribute to the growth and future of respiratory care.

Thank you once again for this incredible honor. I will carry it with me always and let it remind me to continue to seek growth, collaboration, and positive change in our profession.

Denise Marasigan
Fairfield, CA
Texas State University

I am deeply honored to be named the 2025 recipient of the NBRC Leadership Award. Receiving this recognition from the Lambda Beta Society leaves me both humbled and grateful. Walking in excellence has always been my personal standard, and this award is a profound affirmation of the work, commitment, and passion I bring to respiratory care.

This past year and a half of graduate school has been a life-changing journey, reshaping how I view my work and inspiring me to pursue new ways to improve, grow, and achieve more with the knowledge and skills I have gained. I am deeply grateful to each of my professors and faculty at Texas State University, Dr. Nick Henry, Dr. Lynda Harkins, Tiara Flores, Dr. Arzu Ari, and Dr. Chris Russian, for their encouragement and guidance. Each has played a meaningful part in this story.

Today, I am proud to be helping build a new graduate residency program for the University of California, San Francisco Health with my team and colleagues, while also serving as a leader and mentor to my community at both the local and state levels. I look forward with ambition, always reaching higher, and I am ready to step into what comes next.

This recognition motivates me to continue striving for growth, innovation, and leadership within the profession. I am honored to have the support of such a distinguished community and encouraged by the recognition of my contributions. Thank you to the Lambda Beta Society, the NBRC, and all those who have guided, mentored, and supported me along the way. I am thankful for this honor and will continue to walk in excellence, leadership, and commitment to the field of respiratory care.

Using Electrical Impedance Tomography to Understand Tracheostomy Collar Trials

By Brian J. Ring, PhD, MSc, RRT

Tracheostomy tubes (TT) are frequently placed in critically ill patients to facilitate liberation from mechanical ventilation (MV), either as a planned intervention or after prolonged ventilatory support. One of the most common approaches to assess readiness for ventilator discontinuation in these patients is the tracheostomy collar trial (TCT), a spontaneous breathing trial in which the patient breathes unassisted through the tracheostomy tube. Clinicians typically judge trial success based on physiological stability or time thresholds, but these criteria remain highly variable and often fail to predict long-term outcomes.

Enter electrical impedance tomography (EIT), a noninvasive imaging technology that provides real-time visualization of regional ventilation and perfusion at the bedside. EIT has gained international attention for its ability to support individualized ventilation strategies. While most EIT research focuses on acute respiratory failure and mechanical ventilation optimization, emerging studies are exploring how EIT can inform transitions to spontaneous breathing and extubation. Despite this progress, there remains a significant knowledge gap regarding how EIT might enhance the understanding of respiratory physiology during TCTs. Patients who have a tracheostomy tube differ markedly from those undergoing endotracheal spontaneous breathing trials, not only due to their unique pathophysiologic trajectories but also because of their prolonged exposure to mechanical ventilation. Although I am currently investigating the aforementioned topic, tools such as EIT raise the question of necessity, or of the pragmatic qualities of such technologies for the bedside clinician. In this article, I will provide a glimpse into translating complex outputs associated with EIT in the context of a failed TCT.

What Exactly Is EIT?

Glad you asked. The monitoring of mechanically ventilated patients has evolved dramatically since the era of manually operated bellows. Over recent decades, technological innovation has transitioned respiratory care from simple analog gauges to sophisticated, data-rich systems capable of measuring diaphragmatic electrical activity and dynamic lung inflation. Figure 1 illustrates this progression, culminating in the modern paradigm of physiological monitoring represented by EIT.

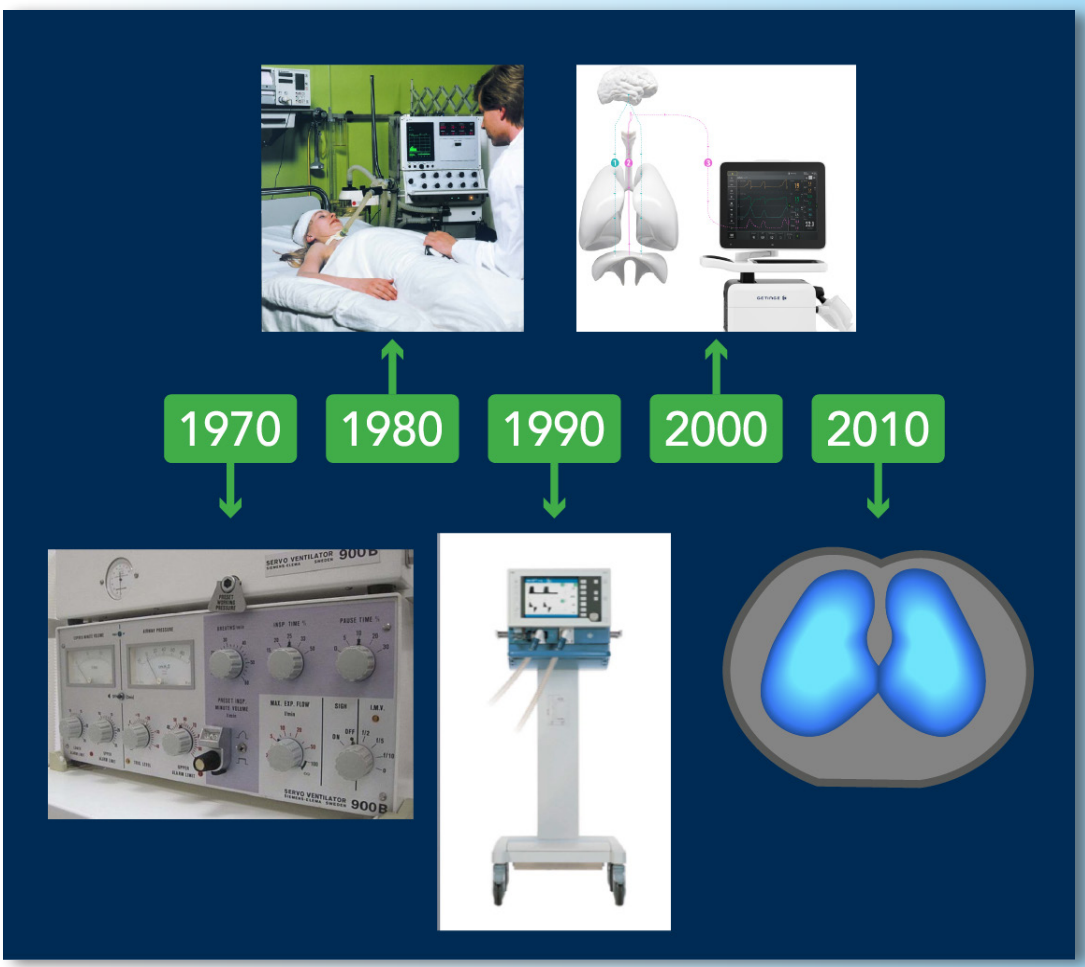


Fig. 1. Timeline of monitoring technology during mechanical ventilation. Images retrieved from: https://museum.aarc.org/galleries/

EIT capitalizes on the physics of electricity as applied to human physiology. In EIT, an array of electrodes wrapped around the chest emits small electrical currents and measures the resulting voltage changes. These voltage differences, or impedance shifts, correspond to variations in air content within lung regions: higher impedance indicates greater aeration, while lower impedance reflects collapse or reduced ventilation. The resulting images, which I affectionally call “blue blobs”, provide a radiation-free, real-time view of regional lung function (Fig. 2). The technique generates vast datasets that can be analyzed to reveal subtle changes in lung mechanics across the breath cycle, offering scientists and clinicians unprecedented insight into pulmonary behavior during disease, recovery, and mechanical ventilation.

Fig. 2. Application of EIT on an intubated patient. Image courtesy of Timpel Medical, personal correspondence

Why It Matters for Respiratory Therapists

As bedside decision-making grows increasingly data-driven, EIT represents a powerful tool for respiratory therapists seeking to personalize ventilator liberation strategies. However, when described in technical terms (e.g., statistical indices, image matrices, or research endpoints), EIT can seem abstract or inaccessible to many frontline clinicians. To make it tangible, let’s turn to a real-world example from one of my ongoing studies examining the use of EIT during tracheostomy collar trials.

As an example of this, below are EIT-derived values from one study subject, including the Global Inhomogeneity Index (GI) and Center of Ventilation (CoVy) metrics, alongside a one-hour TCT time series (Fig. 3). The baseline represents ten minutes before ventilator disconnection.

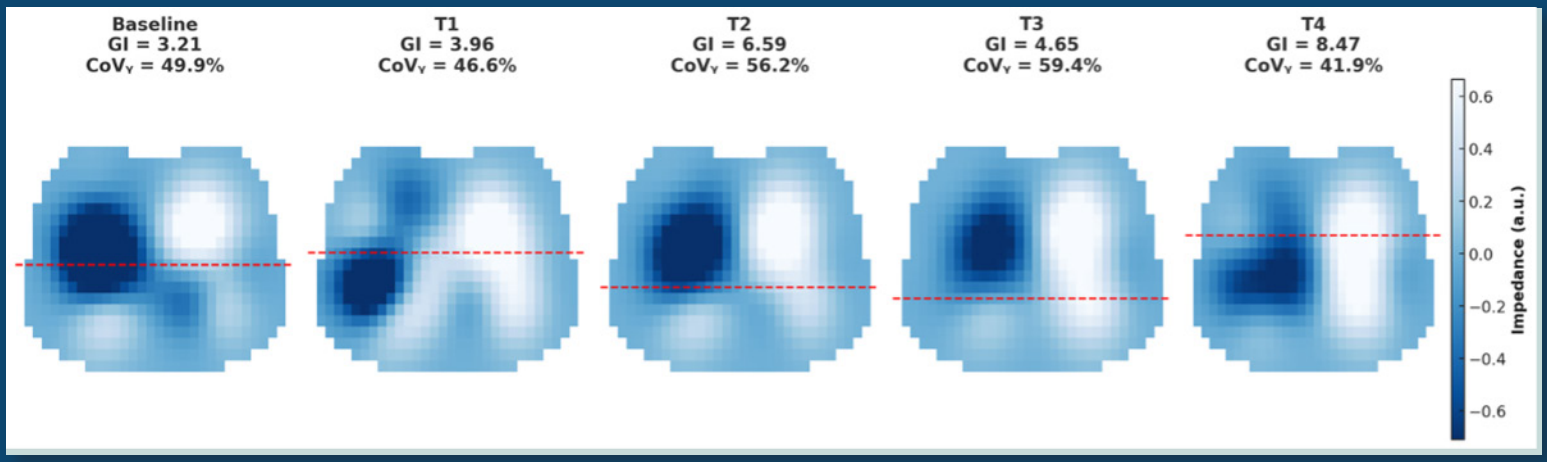


Fig. 3. Time-series EIT data during a 1-hour TCT. Author-generated figure.

Pretty neat, right? Well, let’s say your department purchased a shiny new “EIT-machine”, how will you translate this information into your practice? Where is the GI and CoVy? These values aren’t generally displayed or entirely meaningful at the bedside.

That said, you can already interpret the basics: lighter regions indicate greater ventilation, darker regions less. But how do you move from “interesting picture” to “clinical decision”? Let’s take a closer look.

Figure 4 shows a static capture of the same patient's regional ventilation map as generally presented on many EIT devices, with right (R) and left (L) lung fields labeled, and anterior (A) to posterior (P) orientation noted.

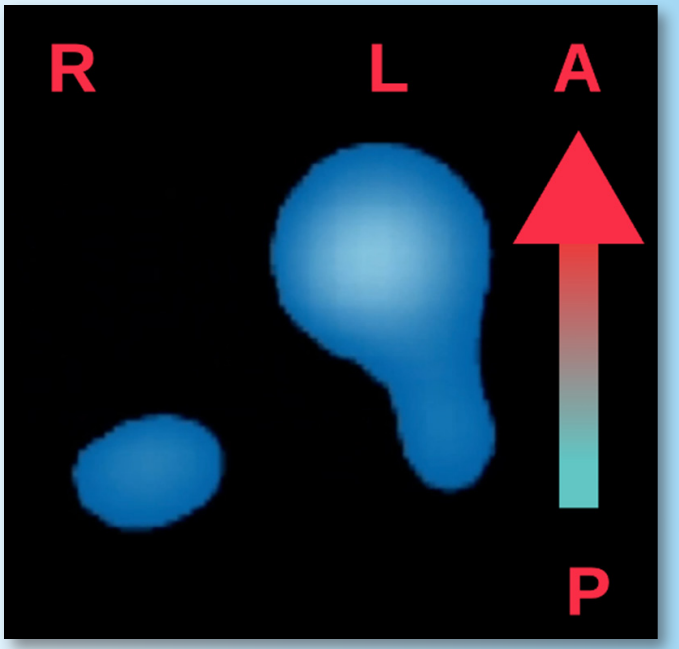


Fig. 4. Regional ventilation during TCT. Author-generated figure.

At first glance, even non-specialists might say, "That doesn't look good", and they'd be right. The patient exhibited persistent TCT failure. Interestingly, their difficulty was attributed not to gas exchange instability but to anxiety-driven respiratory pattern changes. Before incorporating EIT, the care team relied solely on arbitrary time-based goals, pushing through repeated, stressful TCTs that consistently failed. EIT imaging, however, provided an objective physiological explanation for what had previously seemed purely behavioral, reshaping both the approach and the patient's care plan.

The Bigger Picture

The opening of this article was meant to introduce a clinical problem that I am currently investigating — how to leverage EIT to support ventilator liberation success in the acute care population with a tracheostomy. However, such novel techniques and technologies often usurp the art and pragmatic nature of bedside care. So how do we reconcile technological sophistication with clinical pragmatism?

In my experience, it comes down to a simple mantra: follow the blue blobs. My ongoing investigations continue to explore how these vivid EIT images translate into measurable improvements in patient outcomes, interdisciplinary collaboration, and respiratory therapist empowerment. From the growing dataset I have analyzed, and with much more yet to come, one message already stands out: EIT allows us to pause and appreciate the paradoxical simplicity that modern physiological monitoring brings to critical care. Behind every pixel and every "blue blob" lies the story of a patient's breath and the evolving role of our profession in utilizing these data to improve patient care.

Author Bio

Brian J. Ring, PhD, MSc, RRT, is the Director of Clinical Education for the Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy program at the University of West Florida and a clinical scientist specializing in mechanical ventilation, electrical impedance tomography, and respiratory care innovation. His research focuses on technology integration, ventilator liberation, and interdisciplinary approaches to advancing respiratory therapy practice.

Teresa A. Volsko, MBA, MHHS, RRT, CMTE, FAARC, Receives National Honorary Membership Nomination

By Dr. Amanda L. Leightner, PhD, RRT, RRT-SDS, RPSGT, CCSH, FAARC, FNAP

It is with the highest level of enthusiasm and respect that I nominate Teresa A. Volsko, MBA, MHHS, RRT, CMTE, FAARC for the 2025 Lambda Beta Society National Honorary Membership. Teresa exemplifies the very essence of this distinction, having made extraordinary and sustained national contributions to the advancement of respiratory care through education, clinical innovation, scientific literature, leadership, and public engagement.

With over four decades of professional experience, Teresa's impact on the art and science of respiratory care is unmatched. She has authored and co-authored an extensive body of peer-reviewed publications, textbooks, and clinical practice guidelines that have shaped evidence-based respiratory care across neonatal, pediatric, and adult populations. Her works—such as her editorial leadership in Respiratory Care Equipment and Foundations in Neonatal and Pediatric Respiratory Care—are widely recognized as essential references for clinicians, educators, and students.

Teresa's influence extends beyond scholarship to direct national leadership. She has served as a member of the Board of Trustees for the National Board for Respiratory Care for two decades, including in key executive and committee chair roles, where she has guided credentialing, clinical simulation, continuing competency, and specialty examination development. Her tenure on the Lambda Beta Society National Board of Directors (2018–2021), including service as Secretary/Treasurer, reflects her commitment to fostering academic excellence and professional recognition for respiratory care students nationwide.

A Fellow of the American Association for Respiratory Care (FAARC) and recipient of the profession's most prestigious honors—including the Jimmy A. Young Medal, the Forrest M. Bird Scientific Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Robert H. Miller, RRT Award—Teresa is celebrated for her leadership, mentorship, and visionary contributions. Her national and international presentations, spanning topics from airway safety to leadership development, have advanced the knowledge and capabilities of respiratory therapists around the world.

Importantly, Teresa's dedication to public understanding of respiratory care is evident in her work to develop community health programs, patient education materials, and public health initiatives. Her initiatives in pediatric asthma education, cystic fibrosis care, and transport safety have directly improved patient outcomes and influenced standards of care.

Teresa's career reflects a rare combination of scholarly excellence, clinical expertise, and a steadfast commitment to elevating the respiratory care profession. She has inspired countless students, clinicians, and educators to pursue excellence in their practice and scholarship. It is for these reasons—and many more—that I cannot imagine a more deserving candidate for the Lambda Beta Society's highest honor.

Join me in congratulating Teresa as the 2025 National Honorary Member in recognition of her extraordinary, national-level contributions to respiratory care.

Lambda Beta Society Board Members

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

SECRETARY/TREASURER/MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM/PR COMMITTEE
Amanda M. Dexter, MS, RRT, RCP, CHSE
Jacksonville, FL

PRESIDENT-ELECT
Sherry Whiteman, EdD, RRT
Neosho, MO

PAST-PRESIDENT
Nancy Latimer, PhD, RRT
Palm Beach Gardens, FL

COARC REPRESENTATIVE
Tammy Alsup, MSHI
Telford, TN

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR RESPIRATORY CARE
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Debbie Farrow, Executive Secretary
Debbie.Farrow@nbrc.org
10801 Mastin Street, Ste. 300
Overland Park, KS 66210
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