

Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

Spring 2025

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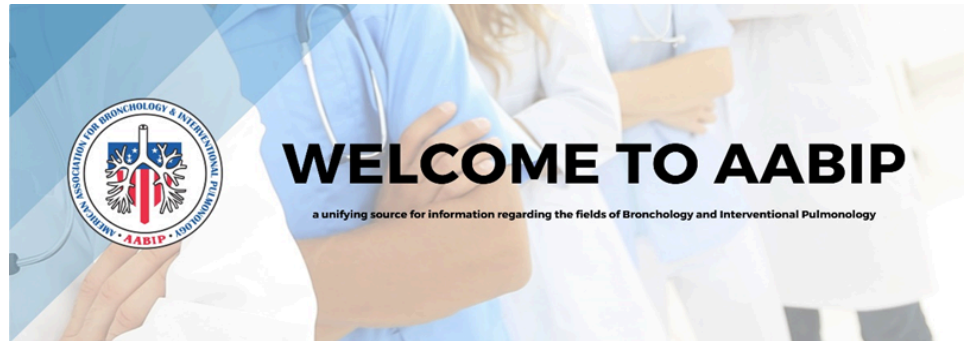
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AABIP APP & Allied Health Chapter



Chapter Mission

To empower Advanced Practice Providers and Allied Health in Interventional Pulmonology and Advanced Bronchoscopy

Chapter Update

- Successful kick-off of our Journal Club was January 15th, 2025!
- Stimulating conversations of BLVR during the Feb. 19th Common Ground.
- All are invited to our half-day CME event May 31st – spread the word!
- Start now– plan to attend our conference in Austin TX, Aug. 14-16!

Upcoming Events

- **APP & AH - Quarterly Chapter Meeting**
March 12, 2025 | 8:00 PM Eastern
Join: AABIP Members Only - Click [HERE](#) to register.
- **APP & AH Interventional Pulmonology Half-Day Virtual Conference**
May 31, 2025 | 9:45 AM to 2:30 PM Eastern
Free continuing education credits
Click [HERE](#) for more information and registration

Contact Us

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Nurse Ambassador

Open

Reach our community easily
with use of the **Telegram**
app!

Please contact a board member
to be added to the group

- **APP & AH Common Ground: A Round Table Discussion**
May 7, 2025 | 8:00 PM Eastern
Topic: To be announced.
Open access, registration required. Click [HERE](#) to register.
- **AABIP Annual Conference**
August 14-16 in Austin, TX:
Talk with your IP Team about attending the 2025 AABIP Annual Conference. Plan your trip and find more information [HERE](https://aabipconference.com/general-information/)
<https://aabipconference.com/general-information/>

Chapter Events Recap

Journal Club Discussion

January 15, 2025 | 8:00 PM Eastern [READ ARTICLE HERE.](#)

One-hour presentation and discussion regarding BLVR and pulmonary rehab for patients with severe emphysema.

Common Ground, A Roundtable Discussion

February 19, 2025 | 8:00 PM Eastern

Topic: Managing BLVR complications

Insightful presentation of the advantages and challenges of an experienced BLVR program presented by Nurse Practitioner Rebecca Priebe, followed by stimulating conversation with our IP community. Join us for the next event on May 7th!

Of 26 attendees, 11 respondents submitted the Post-Event survey:

This event was worth my time: 100%

Discussion was respectful: 100%

I felt included to participate: 100%

The event was well-run: 100%

How likely (scale 1-5) is it that you would recommend the event to a colleague? 10 answered very likely (5), and 1 answered most likely (4).

APP & AH Chapter Idea Box

[Submit ideas here](#)

Annual Healthcare Celebrations

Certified Nurses Day

3/19/2025

Pulmonary Rehab Week

3/9 - 3/15/2025

Surgical Assistant Week

4/15 - 4/19/2025

National Nurses Week

5/6 - 5/12/2025

Physician Assistant Week

10/6 - 10/12/2025

Respiratory Care Week

10/13 - 10/19/2025

Nurse Practitioner Week

11/9 - 11/15/2025

Resources

[AABIP APP & Allied Health Chapter Website](#)

[Pulmonary Wellness Foundation](#)

[Home Rehab Network Online-Interactive Pulmonary Rehab](#)

Project assistance needs

[IP-Splaining project](#)

Member Highlight - Kerstyn O'Brien



I am a PA and Clinical Instructor in the Department of Medicine, Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care, Hyperbaric and Sleep Medicine at Loma Linda University Health in Loma Linda, CA.

How long have you been an APP?

I graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology's PA program in 2021. After graduation I moved across the

country from Upstate NY to Fresno, CA to start my first APP job. I was fortunate to work with UCSF Fresno's Pulmonary and Critical Care team, primarily in IP, trach and vent management and some MICU. After around a year of working in Fresno I was fortunate to find my current position at Loma Linda. I've been at LLU for almost two and a half years now!

I've been a member of the AABIP APP and Allied Health Chapter for the past 3 years and have become more involved since attending my first AABIP conference in 2023. Our chapter leadership has helped me grow in my career, gain confidence in my clinical skills and provided support and camaraderie in navigating the challenges of working as an APP.

What is your role in IP?

My role is a bit unique in that I support both IP and hyperbaric oxygen (HBO) services in our division. My main focuses in IP are lung nodules and BLVR, although I do see the occasional pleural or airway patient. I'm currently our BLVR coordinator; and see many of the patients undergoing pre-procedure testing as well as post op after valve placement. I enjoy seeing both new nodule consults needing advanced bronchoscopy as well as those undergoing CT surveillance. When I'm not in the clinic, I supervise HBO dives and consults for both emergent inpatients and outpatients receiving therapy.

What do you enjoy about being an APP?

I most enjoy getting to know and educate my patients and their families on their health. We often meet our patients at some of the most stressful times of their lives, whether they're anxiously going through the process of nodule workup or struggling with complications from a known cancer (i.e. malignant pleural effusion, airway obstruction). As an APP I'm fortunate to be able to advocate for my patients' needs, collaborate with the rest of the healthcare team and provide them with the best care.

Working in an academic setting has also been a great experience – we have PCCM and Critical Care fellows rotating with our service regularly and engaged in research endeavors. I love learning alongside our fellows and residents; and being a support and resource for them as they're exposed to the field of IP. My supervising physician

has been very supportive in my academic interests and encouraged me to work on research projects in addition to my daily clinical practice.

Hobbies, etc.?

Outside the hospital, I enjoy exploring Southern California and take day trips to San Diego and LA on the weekends. After work you can probably find me spending time with my cat Pip (short for Piperacillin Tazobactam), working on crochet projects and baking. My family lives on the East Coast so we travel back and forth to visit as much as we can!