



# SPRING 2019 PULMONARY UPDATES

## **New Tools to Improve the Diagnosis of IPF vs Other ILDs**

### **Mary Beth Scholand, MD**

There's been a lot of work around improving our ability to diagnose IPF and separating it from the other interstitial lung diseases. So for example, there's been a lot of work on IPATH, this idiopathic pneumonia with autoimmune features. And there's been a lot of debate in the field about how good this designation is. And there's been a lot of research and posters, looking at the significance of auto antibodies in the diagnosis of IPF and differentiating it from other interstitial lung diseases. In addition to that, there's been a lot of work on the hypersensitivity and being able to look at environmental risk factors related to interstitial lung diseases, and really a cry from most of our researchers to do better at finding these exposures that patients have had throughout their lifetime and deciding whether they're relevant to their now known diagnosis of ILD. One of the interesting new developments in the field of interstitial lung diseases is the availability of a genomic classifier. This genomic classifier has about an 88% specificity in differentiating UIP from non-UIP diagnoses. So this has the potential to be a very helpful tool in the clinic that's an alternative to the surgical biopsy. So we can imagine that it has a place in patients that can't get a surgical biopsy. And in the multidisciplinary discussions that we all undertake when we think about patients with interstitial lung disease.

### **Luca Richeldi, MD**

In interstitial lung disease in particular to identify a patient with IPF we have at least two important messages. The new message is that a molecular classifier can help us to identify a patient with the UIP pattern with high specificity up to 90% and reasonable sensitivity up to 70%. And there is a new test approved by the FDA now, which on transbronchial biopsy, simple transbronchial biopsy will provide that important information based on a complex and sophisticated molecular classifier. The other information that we had recently from studies published in the blue journal is that probably transbronchial lung cryobiopsy is not ready yet, for prime time because there is a high discordance with surgical lung biopsy once performed in the same patient so that's an area that we need more studies and more understanding before getting into clinical practice.