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The focus of our research is to better understand the pathogenesis of immune dysfunction and lung disease that in turn, fosters improved strategies to prevent or resolve lung injury. As a testament to this, our laboratory was the first to discover the zinc transporter ZIP8 as a critical target of cellular injury. In our translational approach we apply our discoveries involving zinc homeostasis to cell, animal and human studies whereby we have revealed novel insight into zinc coordination over the host response against environmental exposures and bacterial infections. I am a proud and contributing member of ISZB (since 2009) and appreciate having the opportunity to potentially serve as a board member.