

## 'UNIVERSAL' FORM STREAMLINES SUBMISSION PROCESS FOR ATS COI DISCLOSURES

As of last month, authors of manuscripts accepted for publication in the ATS journals are able to use the same conflict-of-interest (COI) disclosure form that is used for other ATS activities in which they are involved.

"The 'universal' form, which is available on the Society's secure 'COI Manager' Web site, requires authors to make a more detailed declaration of personal activities and interests that might cause a conflict," explained Shane McDermott, who is senior director of ATS Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policies. "However, it also eliminates the need to complete an entirely new form 'from scratch' for each ATS activity."

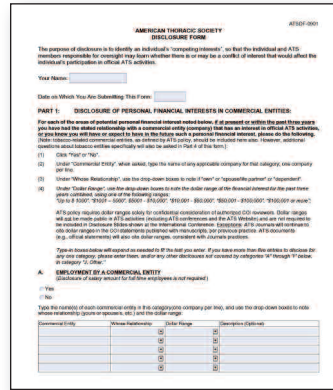
Authors and others who submit disclosures to the ATS can now file this form electronically at <http://coi.thoracic.org>, and retrieve and update it when they need to disclose for another ATS activity. The site was piloted last year by more than 400 participants in ATS assembly and committee projects, as well as ATS governance activities.

Due to data management limitations, however, International Conference presenters are still required to file disclosure information for ATS 2009 through the conference Web site at <http://conference.thoracic.org>.

"We're eager to make the disclosure process seamless throughout ATS," he continued. "For the time being, we need to work with the existing ATS data management platforms. But we hope to launch a more integrated HTML-based system when resources permit. Meanwhile, the conference site now asks the same questions as the universal form, and a conference presenter can save his or her completed faculty disclosure form as a PDF file."

If the information on the form is still up-to-date when the presenter goes to submit a disclosure for another ATS activity, he or she can simply upload it to the COI Manager site. However, because the PDFs for ATS 2009 are not rewriteable, presenters who need to update their disclosures for other ATS purposes will need to complete a new universal form.

"We know that our members are extremely busy, and we want to eliminate needless duplication and make COI disclosure as straightforward and user-friendly as possible," said Mr. McDermott, who can be reached at (212) 315-8650 or [smcdermott@thoracic.org](mailto:smcdermott@thoracic.org). ■



## SECOND EDITION OF 'CAREER TALK: THE BOOK' NOW IN DEVELOPMENT

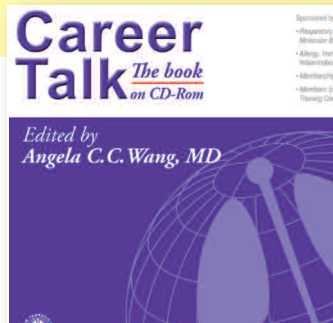
Last year, the ATS Assemblies on RCMB and BSA collaborated with the Membership Committee and the Committee for Members in Transition and Training to develop a new resource for fellows and junior professionals: "Career Talk: The Book" on CD-ROM.

Based on Angela Wang's monthly column on the ATS Web site, the book not only offered advice on professional skills, but also included essays on various career tracks available to pulmonary, critical care and sleep physicians. Published in April 2008, the book was widely distributed at the Society's 2008 International Conference in Toronto.

"Professional development does not end with fellowship, and many of these topics are useful to individuals at any stage of their career," said Dr. Wang, who edited the compilation. "Given the project's success, we have now launched a Web counterpart to provide individuals with the inspiration, tools and knowledge needed to both build and maintain a vital career."

All of the book's essays are now available on the Assembly on Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology's Web site at [www.thoracic.org/sections/about-ats/assemblies/rcmb/career-talk-book/index.html](http://www.thoracic.org/sections/about-ats/assemblies/rcmb/career-talk-book/index.html). As an updated and expanded second edition of "Career Talk: The Book" is scheduled for release in 2009, the ATS welcomes members' feedback about the first edition and its Web counterpart. Please consider completing the brief survey posted on the Assembly on RCMB's Web site.

To request a free copy of the first edition on CD-ROM, please e-mail Georgia Noyan, ATS assembly programs assistant, at [gnoyan@thoracic.org](mailto:gnoyan@thoracic.org). ■



## ATS & SISTER SOCIETIES COLLABORATE ON KEY REIMBURSEMENT & QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ISSUES (continued from page 1)

OHRP agreed with the societies that "quality improvement initiatives that implement scientifically effective therapies for the sole purpose of improving patient outcomes, do not require IRB review" and that "IRBs may waive consent in quality improvement research" if the all patients receive the standard of care. The latter situation could occur when researchers want to test the most effective way to implement the standard of care.

"The transformation of the American healthcare system will mandate unprecedented efforts in data collection, analysis and dissemination of results across the continuum of care," said Dr. Wright. "While every healthcare professional must remain vigilant so that patient privacy and safety are our foremost considerations, we must also ensure that quality improvement research, so vital to delivering the best care most effectively, is not unnecessarily impeded." ■

# NEWS BRIEFS

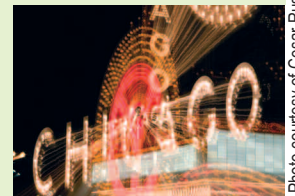
## REGISTER FOR ATS 2009 BY MARCH 24 & SAVE

Register for the 2009 ATS International Conference at a discounted rate today! Attendees who register by Tuesday, March 24, 2009, can do so at the special "early bird" rate. For more information on pricing and to register online, visit [www.thoracic.org/go/international-conference](http://www.thoracic.org/go/international-conference).



## 140+ ATTEND SOTA 2009

In early February, 145 physicians attended the 2009 State of the Art Course in Chicago, which also featured 30 faculty members, directed by Drs. Jesse Hall and Gregory Schmidt. Participants represented 11 countries and 40 U.S. states.



"This course provides a great review and update on topics in pulmonary and critical care medicine," said Rafael Santiago, M.D., a clinician from San Antonio, Texas, who attended this year's course. "It is very practical for doctors who have difficulty being away from their practice for more than a few days."

Audio and slide screen captures of the presentations given at SOTA 2009 will be available on CD-ROM by the end of March. For more information, please contact Eileen Larsson at (212) 315-8609 or [elarsson@thoracic.org](mailto:elarsson@thoracic.org).

## STAFF CONTRIBUTES \$19,000+ TO ATS



ATS staff campaign committee (from left): Antonio Orrantia, Courtney White, Elizabeth Guzman, Fran Comi, Lance Lucas, Georgia Noyan and Graham Nelan. Not pictured: Barbara Horner.

ATS staff members contributed \$19,470 to the Foundation of the ATS's 2008 *Funds for the Future* campaign, exceeding the total raised in 2007. In so doing, staff once again demonstrated its commitment to the Society's mission of preventing and curing lung disease.

The ATS staff campaign committee, led by co-chairs Graham Nelan, ATS deputy executive director, and Elizabeth Guzman, administrative assistant in the Education Programs unit (pictured above), set out to raise funds from fellow co-workers to help fight lung disease. As a result of their efforts, more than 93 percent of staff contributed.

*Funds for the Future* is the annual giving campaign of the ATS. Contributions may be targeted to one or more of four specific areas: the ATS Research Program, training and education, assembly activities and the ATS Methods in Epidemiology, Clinical and Operations Research (MECOR) course.

For more information about campaign contributors and how you may also contribute, please visit <http://foundation.thoracic.org>.