ATS MECOR Program

Fran Du Melle, Senior Director
International Activities
American Thoracic Society
“Improving global lung health through development of local, country and regional lung disease research capacity”
ATS International Agenda

- **ATS MECOR Program** lies within Goal 3 of the ATS Strategic Plan, Disseminate Knowledge, and is a key activity within the ATS Global Health Agenda of the International Health Committee.

“Optimize conference and course portfolios including the **ATS MECOR Program** collaborating in Latin America, Africa, the Mediterranean, Southeast Asia, the subcontinent of India and China; partners with thoracic societies and national/international government agencies to sponsor the courses.”

- 20 Latin American MECOR Courses/800 graduates
- 7 Pan African MECOR Courses/90 graduates
- 6 Turkish Thoracic Society Courses/90 graduates
- 3 MECOR India Courses/75 graduates
- 3 MECOR Vietnam Courses/65 graduates
- 2 MECOR Indonesia Courses/45 graduates
- 1 MECOR China Course/25 graduates

- 15 MECOR Graduate Travel Awards at the ATS IC
- 4 ATS MECOR Research Awards annually
What are the Goals of MECOR?

- To build the capacity to do basic clinical, epidemiologic and operations research in middle and low income countries;
- To develop working and effective networks of clinicians, researchers and academicians working in lung disease in middle and low income countries;
- To quantify the burden of respiratory disease in middle and low income countries; and
- To provide the science base for changing health, or public health policy including development of clinical guidelines.
What are the individual’s goals in the ATS MECOR Program

**Clinician:** to be able to use data from the literature to improve clinical practice in pulmonary medicine;

**Investigator:** to develop the skills needed to study local, country, or international pulmonary disease problems; and develop and evaluate interventions;

**Leader:** to use data to inform policy or clinical practices and improve teaching programs related to pulmonary disease.
ATS MECOR Program History

- **International Respiratory Epidemiology Course**
  - IRE began in 1994 with a Basic course and continued through 1996
  - Advanced 1 course began in 1997
  - Advanced 2 course began in 2002
  - Advanced 3 course began in 2003

- **Methods in Epidemiologic, Clinical and Operations Research Course**
  - MECOR began in 2004
  - Courses renamed Levels with a “branching” or tree-like concept
  - All clinicians should have Levels 1 & 2, while researchers/academicians should advance to Level 3
  - Level 3 B (Advanced Data Analysis) piloted in 2006
  - Structure simplified and renamed Levels 1, 2, 3 and “the Global Course”
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<th>Year</th>
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<td>1994</td>
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<td>2014</td>
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ATS MECOR Program
The ATS MECOR Program

MECOR Country Partners

Latin American Thoracic Society
20 years, 800 students

Pan African Thoracic Society
8 years, 120 students

Turkish Thoracic Society
6 years, 90 students

US CDC/NIE, Indian Chest Society
3 years, 75 students

Unv. of Sydney/National TB Program of Vietnam
3 years, 70 students

George Institute for Intl Health, Beijing/NHLBI
1 year/25 students

Indonesian Society of Respirology
2 years/45 students
Who attends the ATS MECOR Program

- Clinicians and public health professionals who primarily practice pulmonary medicine and would like to increase their skills in research, and

- Academic clinicians and public health professionals who primarily practice pulmonary medicine and have not had formal training in research methods.
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Level 1: Introduction to Clinical Research

- Fundamentals of posing a research question
- Review of the various study design options for generating and testing hypotheses and basic analytic skills
- Overview of statistics to enable collaboration with statistical co-investigators
Level 2: Advanced Clinical Research Methods

Building on Level 1 skills,

- Learn advanced concepts of bias, confounding and chance as applied to clinical research
- Develop research idea into research protocol
- Apply epidemiologic concepts to critical review of clinical research studies
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Level 3: Advanced Clinical Research Methods

Building on Levels 1 and 2 skills,

- Learn advantages and disadvantages of alternative study designs for answering specific research questions
- Develop and refine a research protocol and Manual of procedures
- Critique and defend one’s own and others research protocols
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- The program model is highly interactive with majority of time in small group work
- All students are expected to fully participate and make a presentation at the conclusion of the course
- Faculty to student ratio is 1:4/5 in Level 1 and 1:1 by Level 4
- Faculty are ATS members from N. America and the sponsoring country
The ATS MECOR Program

Post Course Activities:

- Students receive mentoring following the course
- Incentives to ensure students continue with research projects developed during the course
  - Writing prizes, Small research awards, Travel awards to ATS International Conference
  - Editorial assistance for completed manuscripts
The ATS MECOR Program—Our Students

Nos vemos el año que viene en Pelotas!
The ATS MECOR Program—Our Students

Asante Sana
The ATS MECOR Program—Our Students

Gelecek yıl görüşmek üzere!
The ATS MECOR Program—Our Students

आप अगले साल देखने के लिए
The ATS MECOR Program—Our Students

Gặp bạn vào năm tới
The ATS MECOR Program—
Our Students

明年再见

MECOR China
The ATS MECOR Program—
Our Students

“Sampai jumpa tahun depan”
Acknowledgements

This course has been developed and implemented by the American Thoracic Society (ATS)

The ATS MECOR Program is supported financially and in kind by the

- American Thoracic Society
- Asociación Lationamericana de Tórax
- Pan African Thoracic Society/London School of Tropical Medicine
- Türk Toraks Derneği
- US Centers for Disease Control
- Univ. of Sydney/National TB Program of Vietnam
- Indonesian Society of Respirology
- US National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute

Additional funding was provided by international/national partners and sponsors.

The American Thoracic Society acknowledges and thanks
Dr. A. Sonia Buist, MD, Director, ATS MECOR Program
The ATS MECOR Country Course Leaders and Faculty