

MICROBIOLOGY, TUBERCULOSIS & PULMONARY INFECTIONS

ASSEMBLY NEWSLETTER

EDITED BY DAVID COHN, M.D., ASSEMBLY CHAIR



Message From the Assembly Chair

David Cohn, M.D.,

Spring 2005

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Inside this issue:

Edward Livingston Trudeau Medal	2
MTPI Planning Committee	2-3
FY2006 Assembly/Committee Project Forms are Available!	3
MTPI International Tuberculosis Activities: 2005	3-5
MTPI Projects	5-6
Fungal Treatment and Diagnosis Statements Assembly on MTPI Website	6
Session Sponsored by MTPI	7-8
PAR	8-9
MTPI Membership Meeting	9

As Chair of the ATS Assembly on Microbiology, Tuberculosis, and Pulmonary Infections (MTPI), I want to acknowledge the many individuals who put forth the extra effort to make our Assembly activities a success. I also want to thank you for being a member of the Assembly on MTPI. Of the 12 ATS scientific assemblies, we rank seventh in size of primary membership. Nonetheless, we clearly achieve a high profile through our many sessions at the ATS International Conference and in our preparation and publication of guidelines and statements related to respiratory infections.

The Assembly on MTPI has a diverse membership of pulmonologists, infectious diseases specialists and public health and government officials. We currently have 695 primary members and 1,818 total members, with 71 percent of our membership coming from the United States and 29 percent from other countries. We should all continue efforts to bring in new members to our Assembly, especially junior colleagues, by mentoring and encouraging students, residents and fellows with interests in clinical microbiology, tuberculosis and pulmonary infections. This process is facilitated by travel awards we provide each year to young investigators, with recognition of the scientific value of their presentations at the International Conference. We thank Fran Du Melle, M.S., Director of ATS International Activities, and Phillip Hopewell, M.D., from the International Lung Health Committee, for supporting

this initiative. I also strongly encourage your ongoing and future involvement—whether it be volunteering to be on committees, participating on statements and papers, speaking at and attending different venues at the International Conference, serving as reviewer for ATS journals or submitting proposals for future projects.

One of our Assembly's unique features is our collaboration with other societies and organizations. We have continued to strengthen our relationship with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), by working together on revising joint statements related to tuberculosis (TB), providing critical comments on other CDC recommendations and through ATS representation on the CDC Advisory Committee for Elimination of Tuberculosis. We have also enhanced our collaborations with the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) through co-sponsorship on statements related to both TB and pneumonia (see below). The Assembly on MTPI has expanded its international representation on all of its committees, reflecting the increasing international composition of ATS membership, as well as our areas of interest and expertise. Finally, both the CDC and the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (IUATLD) participate in combined sessions at the ATS International Conference.

We should all take pride in the considerable number of high quality docu-

ments and guidelines that our Assembly has produced, as well as their dissemination through print and electronic venues. This has been accomplished through the hard work and extra efforts of many individuals. The completion of and approval of "Control of Tuberculosis in the United States" by the ATS Board of Directors this past year rounds out the revision and expansion of four TB-related statements since 2000, including: "Diagnostic Standards and Classification of Tuberculosis in Adults and Children," "Targeted Tuberculin Testing and Treatment of Latent Tuberculosis Infection," and the "ATS/CDC/IDSA Statement: Treatment of Tuberculosis." Not only do these statements provide updated recommendations, but they also serve as extraordinary state-of-the-art reference documents with levels of detail far beyond their predecessors. The same can be said for our two statements focused on pneumonia, "Guidelines for the Management of Adults with Hospital-acquired, Ventilator-associated and Healthcare-associated Pneumonia," which was published in February 2005, and "Consensus Guidelines for Community Acquired Pneumonia," which will follow this coming year. These and other important Assembly on MTPI projects are discussed below.

In addition to all the efforts in planning the ATS International Conference and working on Assembly projects, the Assembly on MTPI was involved in

(Continued on page 2)

Message From the Assembly Chair Cont'd

David Cohn, M.D.,

(Continued from page 1)

several other activities this past year. These included our input on the American Medical Association (AMA) performance measurement standards for community-acquired pneumonia (with the advice of Mike Niederman, M.D., and Rich Wunderink, M.D.), assistance with ATS communications on modified influenza vaccine recommendations brought about by the unanticipated shortage of vaccine this past fall, comments on the United States Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) guidelines for pandemic influenza plan (along with the American Lung Association), review and critique of the CDC draft of Infection Control guidelines (by Ed Nardell, M.D., and Kevin Fennelly, M.D.), and responses to queries from the ATS Office of Government Relations and many others.

I am grateful for the input and involvement of the Assembly on MTPI Executive Committee. Our monthly conference calls helped to carry out the business of the Assembly in an efficient manner. Many thanks go to Andy Limper, M.D., Chuck Daley, M.D., Anto-

nio Torres, M.D., Alison Morris, M.D., Michael Iademarco, M.D., Jim Beck, M.D., and Fred Gordin, M.D., for their valuable contributions during the past year. I would also like to thank the ATS Leadership for its continued support of Assembly on MTPI activities. Sharon Rounds, M.D., has been outstanding as ATS President, has offered encouragement and has fully supported our Assembly.

Finally, on behalf of the Assembly on MTPI, it is important that we gratefully acknowledge the hard work and sound advice by ATS staff members in assisting us in all of our activities. Elisha Malanga, Associate Director of ATS Assembly & Research Programs, Monica Simeonova, Manager of Assembly Programs and the Public Advisory Roundtable, Bridget Nance, Associate of Assembly Operations & Communications, Judy Corn, Associate Director of Patient Education & Document Facilitation, and Graham Nelan, Director of Assembly Programs & External Relations, have been terrific in "making it all happen" in the ATS Assembly Unit. Carl Booberg steers

the ship as ATS Executive Director, Cathy Carlomagno provides communication support as Director of Communications & Marketing, Fran Comi leads the International Conference Unit and Gary Ewart heads the Washington, D.C., office as Director of Government Relations, where he plays an important role in lobbying efforts that are important to our membership. We also welcome Fran Du Melle, M.S., in her new role as Director of International Activities and the opportunities this will present to the Assembly on MTPI. Please extend our thanks when you see these folks in San Diego.

Attend the Assembly on MTPI Meeting

All Assembly on MTPI members are encouraged to attend the Assembly on MTPI meeting on Monday, May 23, 2005 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel (Randle Ballroom D, Level 4), adjacent to the San Diego Convention Center. The Assembly meeting allows members to get up to date information on all Assembly activities and projects. In addition, we

will be electing a new Assembly Chair-Elect, Program Committee Chair-Elect and new members of the Nominating Committee.

As usual, we will offer snacks and beverages at the meeting.

Attend the MTPI Assembly Dinner

The Assembly on Microbiology, Tuberculosis and Pulmonary Infections (MTPI) dinner will be held Monday, May 23, 2005 at 7:00 p.m., immediately following the Assembly on MTPI meeting. This year's dinner will be held at Cafe Sevilla at 555 5th Ave. At the dinner, we will be honoring Mike Iseman, M.D., as the recipient of the Trudeau Medal (see below).

The Assembly thanks Steve Hauswirth of Pfizer, Inc., for generously supporting our annual dinner. At present, the attendance list for the dinner is full. However, Monica Simeonova at ATS is compiling a waiting list. Please contact her to be added to this list, and we will fill seats from the waiting list if they become available.

Edward Livingston Trudeau Medal

The Leadership of the MTPI Assembly is pleased to announce that Michael Iseman, MD, long-standing member of our Assembly, will be the 2005 recipient of the Edward Livingston Trudeau Medal awarded at the ATS Interna-

tional Conference in San Diego. The Trudeau Medalist is an individual with lifelong major contributions to prevention, diagnosis and treatment of lung disease through leadership in research, education, or clinical care.

This award was established in 1926 and is given in honor of Edward Livingston Trudeau, a founder and the first president of the American Lung Association. The Awards Ceremony is scheduled to be held on Sunday May

22nd from 4:30pm-6:30pm at the San Diego Convention Center, Hall H. Please join us in celebrating Dr. Iseman's many accomplishments and extraordinary career.

Assembly on Microbiology, Tuberculosis & Pulmonary Infections (MTPI) Planning Committee

By Andrew Limper, M.D., Planning Committee Chair

The Planning Committee of the Assembly on MTPI has been extremely active over this past year in oversight of the completion of ongoing Statements and the initiation of many new projects. The ATS/IDSA statement "Guidelines

for the Management of Adults with Hospital-acquired, Ventilator-associated, and Healthcare-associated Pneumonia," which was completed under the leadership of Mike Niederman, M.D., was approved

by the ATS board and appeared in the February 15, 2005 issue of the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine* (Vol. 171, pages 388-416).

Funding was also approved this year for the continuation and completion of several on-going projects. The statements "Consensus Guidelines on Community-Acquired

(Continued on page 3)

Assembly on Microbiology, Tuberculosis & Pulmonary Infections (MTPI) Planning Committee Cont'd

By Andrew Limper, M.D., Planning Committee Chair

(Continued from page 2)

Pneumonia" (which is being written under the leadership of ATS Statement Chair Rich Wunderink, M.D.) and "Diagnosis, Prevention and Treatment of Disease Caused by Nontuberculous Mycobacteria" (which is being written under the leadership of ATS Statement Chair Dave Griffith, M.D.) are both nearing completion. Final drafts are being revised and we anticipate forwarding these to the ATS Board of Directors by this spring or summer. We also anticipate submission and publication of the workshop report "Hepatotoxicity Associated with Anti-Tuberculous Therapy." In addition, the

"Statement on Treatment of Fungal Infections" was initiated and co-chaired by Andy Limper, M.D., Scott Davies, M.D., and George Sarosi, M.D. The statement is currently in initial draft form. It will be reviewed by the Assembly on MTPI membership this summer, with anticipated final submission to the ATS Board of Directors by the end of 2005.

Several new Assembly on MTPI projects were funded in 2005. These include the workshop on "Recent Advances and Future Directions in *Pneumocystis* Pneumonia," which was

chaired by Laurence Huang, M.D. This group will convene on Saturday, May 21, 2005 at the ATS International Conference in San Diego, California. Funding was also obtained for a workshop titled "Risk of Tuberculosis in Patients Receiving anti-TNF and other novel immunosuppressive therapies," which is headed by Neil Schluger, M.D., and Chuck Daley, M.D. Additionally, Sanjay Sethi, M.D., also received ATS funding to develop a work group to design a study for a randomized, placebo-controlled trial of antibiotic treatment of acute exacerbation of COPD. Finally, Andy Limper,

M.D., and the fungal workgroup will extend their efforts to prepare a publication on "The Diagnosis of Fungal Infections."

The members of the Assembly on MTPI Planning Committee for 2004-2005 are: Andy Limper, M.D. (Chair), Jim Beck, M.D., Dave Cohn, M.D., Chuck Daley, M.D., Charles Feldman, M.D., Ph.D., Robert Horsburgh, M.D., Laurence Huang, M.D., Mike Iademarco, M.D., Dick Menzies, M.D., Alison Morris, M.D., Judd Shellito, M.D., and Patricia Simone, M.D. I thank these individuals for all of their efforts.

FY2006 Assembly/Committee Project Forms are Available!

For your information, the FY2006 (January 1-December 31, 2006) application forms for Assembly/Committee projects now available on the ATS website at: <http://www.thoracic.org/assemblies/projectform.asp>

Please consider submitting an application for an Assembly/Committee project. If you have an idea for a project application and you need assistance, please contact your Assembly Planning Committee chair Andrew Limper, M.D., at Limper.andrew@mayo.edu

The timeline for the and review process follows:

March 2005: FY2006 forms are available

July 18, 2005: Assembly/Committee project applications are due to the ATS office. Late submissions or submissions without proper financial disclosures will not be accepted.

Early-mid August 2005: abridged versions of the proposals will be posted on the ATS site and emails will be sent to ATS Leadership, Assembly Planning Committee Chairs, Assembly Chairs, ATS Committee Chairs, appropriate ATS staff and the Program Review Sub-Committee (PRS), to notify them that the current, un-reviewed proposals are available. This will give everyone an opportunity to touch base with any of the applicants if they would like to get involved with a project before it goes to the PRS for review.

August 2005: Assembly Planning Committees will meet via conference call to review appropriate proposals. Any proposal that has indicated on the form that a specific ATS committee may want to become involved will be sent to the ATS committee chair and to the appropriate staff member. Committees are encouraged to work with appropriate ATS staff and review any proposals and to send recommendations to the applicant and to the PRS.

September 2, 2005: Revised proposals and all reviews from Assemblies and Committees are due to ATS office. This includes any proposal that has revisions based on a review by an Assembly Planning Committee or an ATS Committee.

Early October 2005: Program Review Sub-Committee (PRS) meeting

Early November 2005: Program & Budget Committee (P&B) meeting. Recommendations from the PRS will be provided to the P&B Committee. December: ATS Board reviews FY 2006 Budget

Please contact Elisha Malanga with any questions at tel: 212/315-8693 or email: emalanga@thoracic.org

The Assembly on MTPI International Tuberculosis Activities: 2005

Philip Hopewell, M.D., Member of the Assembly on MTPI's International Lung Health Committee

The Stop TB Partnership *The Partnership and Working Groups:* The Stop TB Partnership organized and sponsored by the World Health

Organization (WHO) of which the ATS was a founding partner) continues to flourish as a model of multi-sectoral collaboration and is viewed in the

international public health community as the best existing example of a functioning broad-based partnership with a focus on a single issue—the

global control of tuberculosis (TB). Currently, more than 350 organizations are members of the Partnership,

(Continued on page 4)

The Assembly on MTPI International Tuberculosis Activities: 2005 Cont'd

Philip Hopewell, M.D., Member of the Assembly on MTPI's International Lung Health Committee

(Continued from page 3)

which now has seven working groups and several subgroups within parent working groups. The largest working group is DOTS Expansion, which has subgroups on laboratory strengthening, public private partnerships and pediatric TB. I represent the ATS in the working group and am a member of the core group (steering committee), as well as chairing the Public Private Mix subgroup. The newest working group is on advocacy and communications on which Fran DuMelle, M.S., Director of ATS International Activities, sits (Joanne Carter of Results chairs this group). Others include a working group on TB and HIV, for which David Cohn, M.D., is the ATS representative; a working group on directly observed treatment strategy (DOTS) and multi-drug resistant (MDR) TB; a working group on Diagnostic Test Development and a working group on Vaccine Development and Drug Development. Although there is not official ATS representation on all of the working groups, a number of ATS members participate in the activities of the groups. Each of these working groups has been very active during the past year, with influential documents emanating from the TB/HIV Group on strategies for TB and HIV integration and the DOTS Plus Group with new guidelines for management of MDR TB (these are not yet published).

Developing a New "Global Plan to Stop TB: 2006-2015":

A current major Partnership activity is writing a new "Global Plan to Stop TB: 2006-2015." The current plan, under which the Partnership was developed, ran from 2000-2005. Dermot Maher of the Partnership, guided by a steering committee of which I am a member, is coordinating the development of the new plan. The steering committee will be meeting the first week of May in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at the time of the Partnership Coordinating Commit-

tee meeting. The current plan has been very influential in providing a coordinating framework for much of the activity that has resulted in major advances in global TB control during the past 5 years. It is anticipated that the new plan will be as influential, if not more so. For the new plan, information from all seven working groups is being sought systematically to provide the foundation for the activities and strategies contained within the plan.

National Stop TB Partnerships: During the past year, the Partnership has placed a strong emphasis on developing national level partnerships that have now been formed in a number of countries. It should be noted that the United States has had such a partnership, the National Coalition to Eliminate Tuberculosis, which the ATS was instrumental in founding and which has been in existence since the early 1990s.

Partnership web sites: In addition to the focus on fostering national partnerships, the Stop TB Partnership has cleaned up and expanded its website quite a bit (to visit the Stop TB Partnership online, go to www.stoptb.org/). There now is a complete listing of all the partners, as well as listings for working groups' projects. An important online resource provided by the Partnership is its image library (which can be viewed at <http://stoptb.lipserver.com/default.asp>). This library has photos of situations and conditions relevant to most aspects of TB control in developing countries that can be downloaded to provide a note of reality to any PowerPoint presentation.

The Tuberculosis Coalition for Technical Assistance (TBCTA)

The TBCTA is made up of the six original organizations that were involved in

founding the Stop TB Partnership, including the WHO, the CDC, the IUATLD, the Royal Dutch Tuberculosis Foundation (KNCV) and the ATS (the American Lung Association was one of the original partners, but has since withdrawn). The TBCTA is funded by the USAID to provide its Global Bureau and country missions with technical assistance in TB control activities. The TBCTA is managed by the KNCV, which is based in The Hague, Netherlands.

Roles of the ATS in TBCTA Task Forces:

In addition to sitting on the TBCTA Board of Directors, the ATS is participating in the two current coalition task forces: a task force on training and a task force on advocacy. Jeff Glassroth, M.D., represents the ATS on the Training Task Force, which has been very active. Workshops have been conducted in Bangkok, India, Ethiopia, and the Netherlands. The group has developed a strategic approach for training, a self-assessment guide for potential TB consultants and a modular TB curriculum. As products of the workshops, country level plans for human resource development have been written. Through the Training Task Force, two ATS activities have been funded: the Methods in Epidemiological, Clinical and Operations Research Course (MECOR, formerly the International Respiratory Epidemiology Course), and support for clinicians and investigators from developing countries to attend the ATS International Conference.

Fran DuMelle, M.S., Director of International Activities at the ATS, chairs the TBCTA Task Force on Advocacy. Fran was a member of a recent TBCTA mission to Indonesia where, in addition to meeting with the staff of the national TB program, she met with parliamentarians and other decision makers at national and provincial levels and with members of the na-

tional Stop TB Partnership. This work will provide the basis for developing a strategic plan for advocacy.

Developing International Standards for TB Care:

Within the TBCTA, the ATS is leading an exciting and potentially very important project: developing a set of international standards for TB care. The project is built on the model of collaboration that has been serving both organizations well for the past 35 years. Through this collaboration, there has been broad agreement between public and private sectors on approaches to diagnosis, treatment and control of TB in the United States.

Globally, one of the major constraints to achieving the "70-85" targets (70 percent of the estimated number of the world's TB cases detected and 85 percent of those detected and treated successfully by the end of 2005) has been the lack of collaborative involvement of the private medical sector and non-NTP components of the public sector in the implementation of DOTS. An approach to breaking down the barriers between the various sectors is to develop a set of international standards of care around which there is broad consensus. Thus, the main objective of this project is to develop international standards of care that incorporate the directly observed treatment strategy (DOTS) principles in a broader and more flexible context and to achieve a broad base of agreement to the standards.

The project is funded by the USAID and the TBCTA, who collectively provide about \$200,000 for 2 years. The goal is to develop a set of essential standards that are applicable to all providers. Mario Raviglione, M.D., M.P.H., (who serves as Director of the WHO Stop TB Department) and I co-chair the project, which is coordinated by

(Continued on page 5)

The Assembly on MTPI International Tuberculosis Activities: 2005 Cont'd

Philip Hopewell, M.D., Member of the Assembly on MTPI's International Lung Health Committee

(Continued from page 4)

the ATS. Fran DuMelle carries the major staffing responsibilities with assistance from WHO staff. We have a Steering Committee of 28 members (9 of which are ATS members) from 14 different countries. None of the members, however, represents a specific organization: all represent relevant perspectives—national TB programs, laboratories, academics, NGOs, nursing, patients, medical students, pediatrics, HIV, research, professional societies and government agencies. The standards will, insofar as possible, be evidence-based, with seven commissioned systematic reviews either completed or already well underway.

Also of potentially great importance, a patient group, stimulated by their participation on the steering committee, is developing a companion document on patient rights and responsibilities.

After completion of the project, the TBCTA Advocacy Task Force will develop a plan for dissemination and advocacy. This plan would be in place and ready to be activated when the document is made final.

The ACTION Coalition

The ACTION coalition is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to develop and implement advocacy for international TB control. ACTION Coalition members include: Results, Massive Effort, the WHO, the Stop TB Partnership, the Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH) and the ATS. The activities are

focused at two levels, donor countries and high-burden countries.

The ATS and the PATH are mainly involved in conducting analyses of advocacy needs in three targeted high-burden countries—Indonesia, India, and Kenya. The targeted donor countries are the United States., Canada, the United Kingdom and Japan. The high burden country activities are just getting underway, since the project was funded for 3 years.

The Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS)

The FIRS was developed as a project of Adam Wanner, M.D., when he was ATS President (2001-2002) and consists of the American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP), the European Respiratory Society (ERS), the Asian Pacific Society of Respiratory (APSR), the Asociación Latinoamericana del Tórax (ALAT), the Unión Latinoamericana de Sociedades de Neumología y Enfermedades Respiratorias (ULASTER) and the IUATLD. The FIRS secretariat is in Lausanne, Switzerland, at the ERS headquarters. The FIRS devotes itself to the whole range of activities spanned by its member organizations. Within FIRS, there are four working groups: the Pulmonary Effects of Biomass Fuel, the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, the Pulmonary Function testing in Low and Middle Income Countries and A Practical Approach to Lung Health (PAL). It is this last working group that

is most relevant to international TB activities.

A Practical Approach to Lung Health:

The PAL program is a program of the Stop TB Department at the WHO that is based on the usual approach to detecting TB in primary care facilities—seeking patients who have productive cough and doing sputum smear microscopy. Generally, only about 5% of patients with chronic cough are found to have TB. The PAL program is designed to address the other 95% to determine particularly if they have asthma or COPD and to provide appropriate treatment if they fall into those categories of disease. I chair the PAL working group within the FIRS. We have developed terms of reference and a work plan and budget. The main activities will be to develop generic guidelines for PAL programs and to synthesize evidence collected to date on the effectiveness of the pilot programs. In addition, the pulmonary function working group will provide input as to the appropriate testing to be done in the program and we will develop an advocacy plan for funding of the PAL program.

Closing Comments

Last year, in closing, I called your attention to Immediate Past-President Dr. Homer Boushey's "Message from the President" in the February 2004 issue of the *ATS News*. In it, Homer described several important initiatives of the Society. I noted that several of these build on the approaches and connections developed in working with

international TB activities and that, consistent with the roots of the organization, TB was proving to be the pathfinder in developing and accomplishing our Society's larger mission. This year, in the February 2005 issue of the *ATS News*, I was very pleased to note that President Sharon Rounds, M.D., also emphasized the international activities of the organization in her "Message from the President.", I would again make the point about TB being the pathfinder.

Finally (I'm almost done), I would be truly remiss if I did not congratulate Mike Iseman, M.D., for his receipt of the Trudeau Medal for 2005. Mike has made huge contributions to the science and practice of TB care and control worldwide, especially as it relates to multi-drug resistant (MDR) tuberculosis (TB). In recognition of his contributions, when I have cited any of Mike's publications in any of my writings, the citation has read "Iseman, MDR" (MD being his real initials, the R being my honorific addition. This has escaped some very sharp-eyed editors, including Mike himself). It does our field and our Assembly proud for Mike to be receiving the Society's highest honor.

"A Randomized, Placebo-Controlled Trial Of Antibiotic Treatment Of Acute Exacerbation Of COPD"

chaired by Sanjay Sethi MD

This assembly project is a collaborative project between the ATS and the IDSA. A 10 member committee with

equal representation from the two societies has been assembled to examine the question of what sort of

trials need to be done to determine the role of antibiotics and acute exacerbations of chronic bronchitis and

COPD. The committee has met once and has had several e-mail exchanges.

(Continued on page 6)

"A Randomized, Placebo-Controlled Trial Of Antibiotic Treatment Of Acute Exacerbation Of COPD"

chaired by Sanjay Sethi MD

(Continued from page 5)

The work of this committee will form the basis of a paper that will be submitted for publication in the Proceedings of the ATS later this year.

This paper will address the issues of the current evidence available for the use of antibiotics in acute exacerbations as well as recommendations for

future study design and study protocols. A draft protocol will also be created for an innovative placebo-

controlled trial of antibiotics in exacerbations in COPD.

"Recent Advances and Future Directions in *Pneumocystis* Pneumonia"

chaired by Laurence Huang, M.D., James Beck, M.D., Andrew Limper, M.D., and Alison Morris, M.D.

The ATS has funded a new Assembly on MTPI project titled "Recent Advances and Future Directions in *Pneumocystis* Pneumonia" and chaired by Laurence Huang, M.D., James Beck, M.D., Andrew Limper, M.D., and Alison Morris, M.D. This project will bring

together 22 of the leading national and international scholars, who are involved in a broad range of *Pneumocystis* and PCP-related research, for a workshop to be held on Saturday, May 21, 2005. The workshop's purpose will be to promote interaction and discus-

sion among researchers involved in *Pneumocystis* research and to highlight several recent advances in the field. Ultimately, we will summarize the presentations from the workshop in an ATS Workshop Summary, which will be submitted for publication in an

ATS journal. The Workshop Summary will provide a concise state-of-the-art review that will be available in both print and electronic formats, which we hope will facilitate dissemination of the research presented and highlight areas for future investigation.

Fungal Treatment and Diagnosis Statements

By Andrew Limper, M.D., Scott Davies, M.D., and George Sarosi, M.D. - Co Chairs

The Assembly on MTPI fungal workgroup convened at the May 2004 ATS International Conference in Orlando, Florida, to begin work on a new project called "Statement on Treatment of Fungal Infections." This group is co-chaired by Andy Limper, M.D., Scott Davies, M.D., and George Sarosi, M.D. The co-chairs are charged with the task of developing a concise statement that covers the essential components of the treatment of fungal infections of greatest concern to pulmonary, infectious diseases and critical

care practitioners. The work group also includes Chris Mody, M.D., Ken Knox, M.D., David Stevens, M.D., Neil Ampel, M.D., Tony Catanzaro, M.D., Kieran Marr, M.D., John Perfect, M.D., Jack Bennett, M.D., Bill Dismukes, M.D., and Peter Pappas, M.D. The statement will cover histoplasmosis, blastomycosis, coccidioidomycosis, aspergillus and candida infections, the cryptococcus infection, pneumocystis pneumonia and various, less common fungal infections. An initial draft has been completed and is currently being

edited. We anticipate peer review of the statement by the Assembly on MTPI membership this summer, with final submission to the ATS Board of Directors by the end of 2005.

In addition, this same fungal workgroup is also planning to convene at this year's ATS International Conference in San Diego to address "Advances in the Diagnosis of Fungal Infections." This same group will analyze the various modalities in the diagnosis of fungal infections, includ-

ing direct visualization microscopy, serological assays and the rapidly expanding armamentarium of immune and molecular based assays. The literature on these diagnostic procedures is diverse and a single resource that synthesizes the available knowledge on the diagnosis of fungal infections encountered by pulmonary and infectious diseases practitioners will be of benefit the ATS Assembly on MTPI membership.

Assembly on MTPI Website

Alison Morris, M.D., MTPI Web Director

During the past year, the ATS website featured several sections in honor of the Society's Centennial anniversary. The "I remember..." section features "vignettes," which are articles, memoirs and essays written by members that highlight memories, accomplishments and advances related to the field of pulmonary medicine. Likewise, the "Retrospectroscope" section features a series of essays (or "retrospectrosopes") written by

renowned pulmonologist Julius Comroe, M.D., which reflect on important advances in the field of respiratory science.

Of particular interest to Assembly on MTPI members this year was the online availability of PDA guidelines for tuberculosis (TB) treatment. This program is freely downloadable and provides convenient access to treatment regimens, drug dosing and side

effects and an interactive section for determining appropriate treatment based on patient characteristics. Also now available on the Assembly on MTPI website is a downloadable PDF of the statement "Guidelines for the Management of Adults with Hospital-acquired, Ventilator-associated and Healthcare-associated Pneumonia" (chaired by Michael Niederman, M.D.). Both are available at www.thoracic.org/statements/tbprogram.asp. For next

year, we hope to start work on creating a PDA version of the upcoming statement "Consensus Guidelines on Community-acquired Pneumonia" (chaired by Rich Wunderink, M.D.). Anyone with events or ideas they would like to see posted on the Assembly on MTPI website should contact Alison Morris, M.D., via e-mail at alison.morris@usc.edu.

ATS 2005 – SAN DIEGO
Session Sponsored by the Assembly on
Microbiology, Tuberculosis and Pulmonary Infections

POSTGRADUATE COURSE

Friday, May 20

PG9	LUNG INNATE IMMUNITY: THE FRONTLINES OF HOST DEFENSE	8:00 AM	4:00 PM
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SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIA

Sunday, May 22

A9	FUNGAL INFECTIONS: ENDEMIC ASPECTS AND THE NEW THERAPIES	8:15 AM	11:00 AM
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Monday, May 23

B10	PERSISTENCE: THE SECRET OF MYCOBACTERIUM TUBERCULOSIS SUCCESS	8:15 AM	10:45 AM
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B79	RESOLVING CONTROVERSIES IN PNEUMONIA MANAGEMENT: NEW GUIDELINES FOR CAP AND HAP	1:30 PM	4:15 PM
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Tuesday, May 24

C76	TB IN THE POST GENOME ERA	1:30 PM	4:15 PM
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Wednesday, May 25

D7	AIRWAY INFECTIONS: PATHOGENESIS AND CONSEQUENCES	8:15 AM	11:00 AM
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SUNRISE SEMINARS

Monday, May 23

SS113	HOST-PATHOGEN INTERACTION IN P. AERUGINOSA PNEUMONIA	7:00 AM	8:00 AM
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Tuesday, May 24

SS214	THE CHALLENGES OF MANAGING TUBERCULOSIS IN THE INNER CITY	7:00 AM	8:00 AM
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Wednesday, May 25

SS315	NEW DRUGS FOR OLD BUGS: DIVINING THE ROLE OF NEWER ANTIMICROBIAL AGENTS FOR THE TREATMENT OF CHRONIC LUNG INFECTION	7:00 AM	8:00 AM
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MEET THE PROFESSOR SEMINARS

Sunday, May 22

MP413	UPDATE ON PULMONARY INFECTION IN THE IMMUNOCOMPROMISED PATIENT	12:00 PM	1:00 PM
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Monday, May 23

MP515	THE CRITICALLY ILL PATIENT WITH HIV/AIDS: MANAGEMENT AND PROGNOSIS	12:00 PM	1:00 PM
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Wednesday, May 25

MP613	TREATMENT OF ACTIVE TUBERCULOSIS	12:00 PM	1:00 PM
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MINI SYMPOSIA

Sunday, May 22

A15	BARRIERS, OPPORTUNITIES AND TOOLS FOR TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL	8:15 AM	11:00 AM
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A85	METHODS FOR THE DIAGNOSIS OF RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS	1:30 PM	4:15 PM
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Tuesday, May 24

C15	HOST DEFENSES IN MYCOBACTERIAL INFECTIONS	8:15 AM	11:00 AM
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C86	TREATMENT AND OUTCOME OF RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS	1:30 PM	4:15 PM
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Wednesday, May 25

D85	HOST DEFENSES TO BACTERIAL PATHOGENS	1:30 PM	4:15 PM
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ATS 2005 – SAN DIEGO

Session Sponsored by the Assembly on Microbiology, Tuberculosis and Pulmonary Infections

POSTER DISCUSSION SESSIONS

Sunday, May 22			
A25	MICROBIOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT OF PNEUMONIA	8:15 AM	11:00 AM
A95	ADVANCES IN THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS AND LATENT INFECTION	1:30 PM	4:15 PM
Monday, May 23			
B96	NEW INSIGHT INTO THE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF TUBERCULOSIS	1:30 PM	4:15 PM
Tuesday, May 24			
C95	NOSOCOMIAL RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS	1:30 PM	4:15 PM
Wednesday, May 25			
D24	PNEUMOCYSTIS FROM BENCH TO BEDSIDE AND BEYOND	8:15 AM	11:00 AM
D25	NONTUBERCULOUS MYCOBACTERIAL INFECTIONS	8:15 AM	11:00 AM

THEMATIC POSTER SESSIONS

Sunday, May 22			
A51	EPIDEMIOLOGY OF RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS	8:15 AM	4:15 PM
Monday, May 23			
B54	DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS AND LATENT INFECTION	8:15 AM	4:15 PM
B55	HOST DEFENSES TO MICROBIAL INFECTIONS	8:15 AM	4:15 PM
B56	OPPORTUNISTIC INFECTIONS	8:15 AM	4:15 PM
Tuesday, May 24			
C44	EPIDEMIOLOGY OF TUBERCULOSIS	8:15 AM	4:15 PM
C45	PATHOGEN HOST CELL INTERACTIONS	8:15 AM	4:15 PM

Patients to Speak At Fourteen Designated ATS International Conference Symposia

The Public Advisory Roundtable (PAR) has selected patients to provide a patient perspective at fourteen of the 2005 ATS International Conference Symposia. This concept has worked exceptionally well within the format of the PAR Symposia for the last three years and at nine ATS symposia at the

2004 International Conference in Orlando.

This is the second year that patient speakers will participate within the Assemblies' Symposia. The patients will make a five-minute presentation at the symposia to offer insight into

their personal journeys; to address their diagnosis, treatment, and how the disease has dramatically altered their lifestyles, family, career and relationships. They will share their insight into what patients would like physicians and researchers to know about physician/patient relationships;

and the importance and relevance of the work in which investigators and researchers are engaged.

The symposia at which a patient-perspective will be presented are listed below:

ASSEMBLY	SESSION CODE	SESSION TITLE	DATE/TIME
All	B7	Severe Asthma: Advancing Our Understanding of a Distinct Phenotype	Monday, May 23 8:15 am-11:00 am

Patients to Speak At Fourteen Designated ATS International Conference Symposia Cont'd

ASSEMBLY	SESSION CODE	SESSION TITLE	DATE/TIME
BS	A6	What are the Causes of Health Disparities in Lung Diseases and What Can We do About Them?	Sunday, May 22 8:15 am-11:00 am
CP	C3	Sarcoidosis: How to Manage the Difficult Clinical Problems	Tuesday, May 24 8:15 am-11:00 am
CP	B72	The Scleroderma Lung Study: Lessons for Interstitial Lung Disease	Monday, May 23 1:30 pm-4:15 pm
CC	D74	Theory and Practice: Managing the Brain in Mechanically Ventilated Patients	Wednesday, May 25 1:30 pm-4:15 pm
EOH	A77	Sex and Gender Issues in Obstructive Lung Disease	Sunday, May 22 1:30 pm-4:15 pm
MTPI	D7	Airway Infections: Pathogenesis and Consequences	Wednesday, May 25 8:15 am-11:00 am
NRSRG	B5	Tobacco Addiction and Treatment: Current and Emerging Findings from Bench to Behavior	Monday, May 23 8:15 am-11:00 am
NRSRG	D77	Innovative Physiological Interventions in Pulmonary Rehabilitation	Wednesday, May 25 1:30 pm-4:15 pm
PED	D5	Respiratory Care of the Patient with Neuromuscular Weakness	Wednesday, May 25 8:15 am-11:00 am
PED	B9	New Developments and Advances in Pediatric Interstitial Lung Disease	Monday, May 23 8:15 am-11:00 am
PC	C10	Pro-Con Debates in Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension	Tuesday, May 24 8:15 am-11:00 am
RCMB	C8	Targeting Lung Cancer: Novel Molecular Targets and Treatment Strategies	Tuesday, May 24 8:15 am-11:00 am
RNS	A8	Moving Toward Best Practice: Where Does the Diagnosis and Treatment Of Sleep Apnea Fit in the Care of Heart Failure?	Sunday, May 22 8:15 am-11:00 am

Public Advisory Roundtable (PAR) Symposium

The Public Advisory Roundtable (PAR) is pleased to announce the fourth PAR Symposium to be presented at the ATS International Conference in San Diego on Wednesday, May 25, 2005, from 8:15-11:00 a.m. Dr. Homer Boushey and Dr. John D. Newell will Chair the PAR Symposium "Imaging the Lungs in Research and Care". The PAR is excited to present the following speakers:

Charles White, MD - "Keynote Address - New Technologies applied to an Understanding of Lung Disease"

Michael Gotway, MD - "Radiologic-Anatomic Correlations"

John Newell, MD - "Quantitative CT scanning in longitudinal studies of emphysema"

Jim Hagg, MD - "The nature of small-airway obstruction in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease"

Jonathan Goldin, MD, PhD - "Radiologic Assessment of interstitial pulmonary fibrosis"

David L. Levin MD, PhD - "MR imaging of Pulmonary Blood Flow"

Eric Hoffman, PhD - "Regional Characterization of Lung Structure and Func-

tion via Micro and Multidetector CT: New Views for New Insights"
Asgar Dirksen, MD, PhD - "Repeatability of lung density measurements with low-dose CT"

Three patients will share their experience by describing their personal journey with their specific illness. Our goal is to increase the awareness of physicians and researchers to the major life challenges and alterations faced by patients with a serious and sometimes little known disorder. PAR's Annual Poster Session will be open from Sunday, May 22 until

Wednesday, May 25, 2005 at the Center Terrace of the San Diego Convention Center. Public Interest Organizations (PIO's) concerned with lung and sleep disorders will present information about their organizations. A representative from each organization will be present at the poster session to provide additional information.

**MICROBIOLOGY, TUBERCULOSIS AND PULMONARY INFECTION
MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

MONDAY MAY 23RD 4:30-6:30 PM

**MANCHESTER GRAND HYATT
RANDLE BALLROOM D (LEVEL 4)**