

Microbiology, Tuberculosis & Pulmonary Infections Assembly Newsletter

Edited by Andy Limper, MD, Assembly Chair



Message from the MTPI Assembly Chair

Andy Limper, MD

As Chair of the ATS Assembly on Microbiology, Tuberculosis, and Pulmonary Infections (MTPI), I want to acknowledge the many individuals who devote tireless effort to make our Assembly activities a success, and to thank you for being a member of MTPI. Of the 12 ATS assemblies we rank 7th in the size of our membership. However, we clearly achieve a high profile through our many sessions at the International Conference, and in our preparation and publication of several guidelines, workshop reports, and statements related to respiratory infections. MTPI currently has a diverse membership of pulmonologists, infectious diseases specialists, and public health and government officials.

We currently have 681 primary members and 1813 secondary members, with 70% of

our membership coming from the United States and 30% from other countries. We will 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 the scholarships provided each year to young investigators to attend the annual meeting, with recognition of the scientific value of their presentations. I strongly encourage the members of MTPI to be involved, by volunteering to be on committees, participating on statements and papers, speaking at and attending different venues at the Annual meeting, serving as reviewer for ATS journals, and submitting proposals for future projects.

One of our Assembly's

unique features is our desire and ability to work cooperatively 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 and through ATS representation on the CDC Advisory Committee for Elimination of Tuberculosis. We have also enhanced our relationship with the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), through co-sponsorship on statements related to both tuberculosis and pneumonia (see below). MTPI has expanded international representation on all of our committees, reflecting the increasing international composition of ATS membership as well as our areas of interest and expertise.

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Spring 2007

OFFICERS OF THE MTPI ASSEMBLY

Assembly Chairman
2006-2008: Andrew H. Limper
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Planning Chairman
2005-2007: Charles Daley
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Message from the MTPI Assembly Chair

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Because of the hard work of our members, we should all be pleased by the large number of high quality documents and guidelines that our assembly has produced this past year. The Statement on Hepatotoxicity Associated with Anti-Tuberculosis Treatment under the direction of Jussi Saukkonen received board approval and was published in *the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine* in October 2006. In addition, the workshop report on Recent Advances and Future Directions in Pneumocystis Pneumonia was completed and published in the *Proceedings of the ATS* in November 2006. This document was co-chaired by Laurence Huang, Alison Morris, James Beck and Andrew Limper. Further, the greatly anticipated Community Acquired Pneumonia Consensus Guidelines has also been completed. This comprehensive effort was co-chaired by Richard Wunderink from ATS and Lionel Mandell from IDSA. These guidelines received both ATS and IDSA board approval this fall and were published in March of 2007 in *Clinical Infectious Disease*. Finally, under the direction of

David Griffith, the guideline on the Diagnosis, Treatment and Prevention of Nontuberculous Mycobacterial Diseases has been completed and published in the *AJRCCM*.

In addition to all the efforts in planning the International Conference and working on Assembly projects, MTPI was involved in several other activities this past year. These included assistance with ATS communications and responses to queries related to influenza and XDR resistant tuberculosis, advocacy for the Division of TB Elimination at CDC and for increased funding for tuberculosis research at CDC and NIH, and responses to queries from the ATS Office of Government Relations.

I am grateful for the ongoing support and efforts of the MTPI Executive Committee. Our monthly conference calls helped to continue the business of the Assembly in an efficient manner. Many thanks go to Chuck Daley, David Lewinsohn, Shawn Skerrett, Chad Steele, Phil LaBue, Fred Gordin, and of course our emeritus Assembly Chair – David

Cohn for their many valuable contributions over the past year. I am particularly indebted to Dave Cohn who has been a constant source of quick advice over my first year as Chair. I would also like to express my appreciation to the ATS Leadership for its continued support of MTPI activities. John Hefner has been superb as our ATS President, and often offered encouragement and fully supported our Assembly in every way possible.

Of course, none of our assembly efforts would move forward without the ongoing support and assistance of the many talented staff members at ATS. Special thanks go to Monica Simeonova, Elisha Malanga, Bridget Nance, Judy Corn, Karen Belgiovine, and Graham Nelan. Year after year these folks have been terrific in getting things accomplished, and they always are there with a ready smile and a word of encouragement. We all owe them a great deal of thanks. The ATS is also very fortunate to have Carl Booberg who has served as Executive Director for many years. We wish Carl the very best in his retirement.

Program Committee Notes

David Lewinsohn, MD, MTPI Program Chair

Shawn Skerrett and I have just finished the MTPI programming for the 2007 International Conference. We are both very excited about the program, and hope that it offers a nice balance of information that is both scientifically

valid, and clinically useful. Please see the attached table for a complete listing of those sessions that are sponsored or co-sponsored by MTPI.

For those unfamiliar with the

programming of the International Conference, one of the remarkable features is that for a meeting of the size and scope of the ATS meeting, it is genuinely a meeting in which the programming is

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Program Committee Notes

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accomplished directly by the ATS membership. The process starts with a call for input (typically due in mid June) through the Scientific Assemblies, where suggestions for Major Symposia, Post Graduate Courses, Evening Courses, Sunrise Seminars, and Meet the Professor sessions can be submitted. These sessions are evaluated by the Program Committee, and then arranged in September. These allotments are a direct reflection of the rankings of the committee, and represent an even balance between Mycobacterial and Non-Mycobacterial infections. MTPI is allotted Major Symposia sessions based upon the number of abstracts submit-

ted – in this case four. It is important to note that these sessions are programmed without knowledge of the specific day.

After abstracts have been submitted, these are graded by the Program Committee, and mini symposia, poster discussions, and thematic poster sessions are developed based both on the strength of the abstracts, and along programmatic themes. For this year, we have emphasized areas that might bring together areas of basic science with direct relevance to clinical care.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Program Com-

mittee for their hard work. This year, 388 abstracts were submitted with MTPI having been listed as the primary assembly, and evaluations due in a very compressed fashion.

In planning your travel to San Francisco this year, please note that MTPI is presenting Major Symposia, Mini Symposia, and Poster Discussion sessions on Wednesday, May 23. These are sessions of exceptionally high quality, and we hope that as you plan your travel you make time to attend these sessions. I look forward to seeing you in San Francisco.

Please Attend Your MTPI Assembly Meeting

All MTPI Assembly members are encouraged to attend the MTPI Assembly Meeting on Monday, May 21 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. The meeting will be held at the Continental 1-3 Room of the Hilton San Francisco Hotel, close to the convention center. The As-

sembly Meeting permits members to get up-to-date information on all Assembly activities and projects. In addition, we will be electing a new Assembly Chair, Program Committee Chair-Elect, and new members of the Nominating Committee. The nominat-

ing committee has generated a fantastic slate of candidates, but we also strongly encourage nominations from the floor. As usual, we will offer snacks and beverages at the meeting.

Attend Your MTPI Assembly Dinner

The Assembly on Microbiology, Tuberculosis and Pulmonary Infections (MTPI) dinner will be held Monday, May 21 at 7:00 pm, immediately following the MTPI Assembly Meeting. This year, our dinner will be held at Le Colonial (Vietnamese Food!!!!) which is located at 20 Cosmo Place, San Francisco. Please plan on joining us for an enjoy-

able evening of camaraderie, good food, and beverages. The MTPI Executive Committee particularly encourages junior members of the assembly to attend – this is a great way to interact with your colleagues and to become involved in MTPI activities. Because space is limited, please RSVP to Debby Feuerman at the ATS Office in New York

(mtpi@thoracic.org) as soon as possible. As in previous years, there are many more people interested in attending the dinner than we can accommodate. Debby will maintain a waiting list after the main list has filled.

Planning Committee Report

Charles L. Daley, MD, MTPI Planning Chair

This has been another year of great activity in our Assembly with numerous projects in various stages of development. Below I will summarize the status of these projects including one newly funded Assembly project. However, I would first like to thank this year's committee members for their work, ideas,

and enthusiasm. The Planning Committee members included, Andy Limper as Assembly Chair, Marcus Conde, Mark Fitzgerald, Rom Koppaka, Henry Koziel, Mark Metersky, Sanjay Sethi, Chad Steele, Rachel Thomson, Andy Vernon, Rich Wunderink, and Laurence Huang. I would also like to thank the MTPI As-

sembly membership at large for their ideas and proposals. As we move closer to the next ATS meeting, please begin to think of additional assembly projects for next year.

Fungal Treatment and Diagnosis Statements (Renewal)

Co-Chairs- Andrew Limper, MD/Scott Davies, MD/George Sarosi, MD

The MTPI Fungal work group is finalizing a new statement entitled "Treatment of Fungal Infections." The project is charged with developing a concise statement covering the essential components of treatment of the fungal infections of greatest concern to pulmonary and critical care practitioners. The statement will cover histoplasmosis, blastomycosis, coccidioidomycosis, cryptococcosis, Aspergillus and Candida infections, Pneumocystis pneumonia, and various less common fungal infections. A mature draft has been completed and is cur-

rently being edited. We anticipate submission to the ATS Board shortly.

In addition, this same fungal work group will reconvene at this year's ATS meeting in San Diego to address "Advances in the Diagnosis of Fungal Infections." This group will analyze the various modalities in the diagnosis of fungal infections, including 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 practitioners will be of benefit to the ATS membership.

Infections in Patients Receiving Tumor Necrosis Alpha Antagonists and Other Novel Immunosuppressive Therapies (Renewal)

Co-Chairs - Neil Schluger, MD/Charles Daley, MD/Michael Iademarco, MD

This project has received funding and the co-chairs were charged with identifying additional funding through other organizations. The Infectious Diseases Society of American, American College of

Rheumatology, and the Crohn's Foundation have pledged substantial support for this important new statement. A face-to-face meeting of the Writing committee was held at the ATS meet-

ing last year in San Diego with a second meeting planned this year. The statement should be published later this year.

Diagnosis and Management of Bronchiectasis: An International Perspective (Renewal)

Co-Chairs - Charles Daley, MD/Charles Feldman, MD/Grant Waterer, MD

Bronchiectasis is a very common condition globally and most pulmonary physicians are charged with managing these challenging cases. An international group of

experts in the management of bronchiectasis in patients with and without cystic fibrosis had their first face-to-face meeting last year in San Diego with a sec-

ond meeting planned for San Francisco. The goal of the project is to develop a set of evidence-based guidelines that will be completed by the end of 2007.

Diagnostic Standards and Classification of Tuberculosis in Adults and Children (New)

Co-Chairs – David Lewinsohn, MD/Philip LaBue, MD/Michael Leonard, MD

The ATS statement Diagnostic Standards and Classification of Tuberculosis in Adults and Children was last published in 1999. Since that time, considerable progress has been made in the diagnosis of active and latent TB. Specifically, advances in molecu-

lar biology and immunology have dramatically changed the approach to the diagnosis of infection with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. As a result, the American Thoracic Society (ATS), Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and Infectious Disease Society

(IDSA) propose to jointly develop a revised statement. In addition to sponsorship from ATS, CDC, and IDSA, endorsement will be sought from the American Association of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL).

Update on MTPI Website

Chad Steele, PhD, MTPI Web Director

During the past year, the ATS website has undergone extensive expansion in many areas. I would like to first highlight e-mail distribution of the monthly ATS Website Bulletin. These Web Bulletins are comprised of updates associated with the Best of the Web series, Palm Tips, current issues of the ATS Journals as well as deadline announcements for meeting abstracts, nominations and grants and awards, and serve as a valuable resource for keeping up-to-date on ATS website happenings. Also made available on the website this past year in the Palm Program section were two MTPI Statements: the ATS-CDC-IDSA Tuberculosis Treatment Guidelines and the

ATS-IDSA Guidelines for Management of HAP, VAP, HCAP. Plans are currently underway to develop a PDA document for the Consensus Guidelines for Community Acquired Pneumonia statement.

Finally, several new sections of the MTPI Assembly website are currently in development and if accepted, will hopefully be available in the summer of 2007. The first new section will be dedicated to highlighting MTPI-sponsored events at previous ATS International Conferences (2004 – 2006). Specifically, this will include annual lists of MTPI-sponsored Post-Graduate Courses, Scientific

Symposia and Mini-Symposia, Evening Post-Graduate Courses, Meet the Professor and Sunrise Seminars and Poster Discussion and Thematic Poster Sessions. In the future, once the Advance Program has been finalized (usually 3-4 months prior to the meeting), we anticipate listing all MTPI-sponsored sessions for the upcoming meeting on the MTPI website to provide a "quick reference guide" to what MTPI members can look forward to at the upcoming International Conference. Another new section in development will be a MTPI membership-supported area of the website, perhaps in the format of a

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Update on MTPI Website

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weblog (“blog”), where members could freely post journal articles (in bibliography format) that would broadly appeal to the MTPI readership. An additional

similar section would be an area to post web links to other lung pathogen-associated meetings that would also appeal to the MTPI membership. Please feel

free to contact me with feedback and ideas regarding the MTPI website at chad.steele@chp.edu.

International Tuberculosis Activities

Philip Hopewell, MD

Tuberculosis Coalition for Technical Assistance (TBCTA)
The ATS continues to be an active participant in the TBCTA. As described previously, in addition to ATS, the TBCTA members consist of the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases (The Union), the Dutch Tuberculosis Foundation (KNCV), the Japan Antituberculosis Association (JATA), and two US based NGOs, Family Health International (FHI), and Management Sciences for Health (MSH). The Coalition is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to provide them with technical assistance for tuberculosis control at global, regional, and country levels. To add to the acronym confusion USAID’s tuberculosis program is known as TB CAP. The TBCTA is managed by the KNCV based in The Hague. The funding ceiling for TB CAP is \$150 million. This means that during the 5 years of the contract the funding for projects can total up to \$150 million. The bulk of this money will be spent at country level for any of a variety of activities. However,

there is also core money that will be directed toward projects in five main areas of activity, advocacy, DOTS expansion, public-private partnerships, TB/HIV, and human resources development. We are currently in our second year of funding and planning for year 3 which will begin on October 1.

I represent ATS on the TBCTA Board of Directors and, together with Mukund Uplekar of WHO, am responsible for the public-private partnership activities one of TB CAP’s 5 core areas. Fran DuMelle, ATS Director of International Activities, is the TBCTA’s Washington liaison with USAID and also is the coordinator for advocacy activities. Jeff Glassroth is the ATS representative on the Task Force on Human Resource Development. One of the TBCTA projects is developing standardized approaches to quality control, interpretation, and applications of chest radiography in TB control. Chuck Daley represents ATS in this project, being led by JATA.

The major project that ATS has been coordinating is the development of the *International Standards for Tuberculosis Care (ISTC)* and the exploration of various uses of the *ISTC* in a se-

ries of “pilot countries”. As described in last year’s report, the *ISTC* is intended to facilitate the effective engagement of all care providers in delivering high-quality TB care for patients of all ages and all forms of TB including drug-resistant TB and TB combined with HIV infection. The focus is mainly on private providers and the approach has been to develop a broad consensus that will then be given credibility through endorsements by professional societies and other organizations that can influence provider behavior. To date the *ISTC* has been endorsed by more than 35 national and international organizations and agencies, including our sister international pulmonology societies and the document has been translated into Spanish, French, Russian, Chinese, Indonesian and Vietnamese.

We are working in 5 countries, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Kenya, and Tanzania, to demonstrate and document the possible uses of the *ISTC*. The product of this activity will be a “Guidance Document” that will be distributed globally. Within several of the pilot countries we are working with professional societies and

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International Tuberculosis Activities

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national tuberculosis control programs to unify approaches between the public and private sectors. We will be using the opportunity provided by the International Conference in San Francisco to bring together representatives of the professional societies and the NTP directors for a workshop, the goal of which is to consolidate the country experiences and lessons learned. A second reason for bringing this group together is to use it as a nucleus for a project that we have proposed for the coming year in TB CAP, mobilizing professional societies in support of TB control.

In addition to the pilot studies in *ISTC* implementation, we are developing training materials based on the individual standards. The plan has 15 separate modules, consisting of a set of locally adaptable PowerPoint slides, written materials, clinical vignettes, and facilitators guides. We anticipate having this done by the end of September.

As I commented last year, ATS members should take note of the fact that, within the TBCTA, ATS is functioning as a technical agency. This is a different way for the Society to operate. Personally, I think that given the strength of our organization, which owes to the breadth and depth of expertise of our members, the ATS has much to offer in this regard. Our experience in TBCTA could offer important lessons that could help guide other efforts along this line. However steps need to be taken to ensure that we have sufficient staff and the proper structure to operate in

this manner. This means having appropriate administrative structures to guarantee that activities are completed on time and that there are the required accounting procedures in place. I think that even with the necessary changes providing technical assistance is well within the scope of what ATS should be doing to meet the needs and interests of our members and be of use to society (with a little "s").

The Stop TB Partnership

The Stop TB partnership continues to thrive and is held up as the model of an international disease-focused partnership. Most of the action within the partnership takes place in the working groups and sub-working groups. ATS is officially represented in the working groups by David Cohn, TB/HIV Working Group, Chuck Daley, DOTS Plus (MDR TB), David Lewinsohn, Vaccines, Eric Neuremberger, Drug Development, Madhu Pai, Diagnostics, Fran DuMelle, Advocacy, Communications and Social Mobilization at Country Level, (Fran is also a member of the working group's "core group"), and me, DOTS Expansion (as well as being a member of its "core group"). I also chair a subgroup of DOTS Expansion, the Public Private Mix Subgroup. These groups meet annually, have a work plan and budget and contribute in many ways to the operations of the Partnership. Again, as with our participation in the TBCTA discussed above, our involvement with the Stop TB Partnership can serve as a model for the Society's involvement in other international initiatives.

Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS)

In last years' report I described the "PAL" program. This program grew from the WHO Stop TB Department and is intended to provide a programmatic approach to the common respiratory diseases of low and middle-income countries (hence the name, "Practical Approach to Lung Health"). FIRS has a working group on PAL that I chair. During the past year FIRS funded John Murray to work with Salah Ottmani, the coordinator of PAL at WHO to write a synthesis of the results of PAL pilot projects to date and from this synthesis to develop a set of generic guidelines for PAL. In addition, John collaborated with Antonio Pio and Salah Ottmani in writing an editorial that was published in the *IJTLD*. The document synthesizing the PAL experience has been edited by John and is being finalized by WHO.

In addition to John Murray's activities, ATS and FIRS supported a meeting of Latin American and Caribbean countries to develop work plans for Pal implementation. Nine countries were represented at the meeting held in San Jose, Costa Rica in December. Many of the attendees were pulmonologists who also worked with National TB programs. Technical assistance was provided to each of the countries in small group sessions and the end result was a group of plans that are feasible to implement in each of the countries.

PAL merges into another interna-

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International Tuberculosis Activities

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tional partnership in which ATS is involved, the Global Alliance Against Respiratory Disease (GARD) being developed by the Chronic Respiratory Disease section at WHO. Within GARD PAL is seen as the management com-

ponent to go along with components on surveillance and prevention. GARD is an example of where our experience in the Stop TB Partnership is providing important guidance for ATS involvement in an international initia-

tive. Eric Bateman, South Africa, represents ATS on the GARD governing body.

Please consider submitting an Assembly/Committee Project Application for funding in FY2008!

For your information, the FY2008 (January 1-December 31, 2008) project application forms for Assembly/Committee projects will be available on the ATS website (www.thoracic.org) on May 1, 2007. There will be a link to the project submission forms on the ATS homepage.

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 Laurence Huang at luhuang@php.ucsf.edu.

The timeline for the application and review process follows:

- ◆ May 2007: FY2008 forms are available
- ◆ July 23, 2007: Assembly/Committee project applications are due to the ATS office. Late submissions will not be accepted.
- ◆ Early-mid August 2007: 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 PRS committee, 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 1-17, 2007: 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 4, 2007: 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 2007: Program Review Sub-Committee (PRS) meeting.
- ◆ Early November 2007: Program & Budget Committee (P&B) meeting. Recommendations from the PRS will be provided to the P&B Committee. At the discretion of the P&B Committee, specific projects will be added to the FY2007 budget as new items.
- ◆ December 2007: ATS Board reviews FY 2008 Budget.

Please contact Monica Simeonova with any questions at tel: 212/315-8696 or email: msimeonova@thoracic.org.

ATS 2007 – SAN FRANCISCO

Sessions Sponsored by the Assembly on Microbiology, Tuberculosis and Pulmonary Infection

Postgraduate Course			
<u>Saturday, May 19</u>			
PG22	Lung Innate Immunity: The Frontlines Of Host Defense	8:00 AM	4:00 PM
Scientific Symposia			
<u>Sunday, May 20</u>			
A86	New Tools And New Challenges: Interferon Gamma Release Assays In The Diagnosis Of TB Infection And Disease	1:30 PM	4:15 PM
<u>Monday, May 21</u>			
B6	Risky Hosts And Risky Bugs: Bench To Bedside In Tuberculosis	8:15 AM	11:00 AM
<u>Tuesday, May 22</u>			
C9	Fungal Disease: An Update Including The New ATS Guidelines For Management	8:15 AM	11:00 AM
<u>Wednesday, May 23</u>			
D88	Diagnosis Of Respiratory Infections: Consensus Guidelines And Controversies For The Clinician	1:30 PM	4:15 PM
Meet The Professor Seminars			
<u>Sunday, May 20</u>			
MP414	Management Of Bronchiectasis	12:00 PM	1:00 PM
<u>Monday, May 21</u>			
MP514	The Critically Ill Patient With HIV/AIDS: Management And Prognosis	12:00 PM	1:00 PM
<u>Tuesday, May 22</u>			
MP612	Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Infection In The Vulnerable Host	12:00 PM	1:00 PM
Sunrise Seminars			
<u>Monday, May 21</u>			
SS113	Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia: Pathogen Barriers To Effective Treatment	7:00 AM	8:00 AM
<u>Tuesday, May 22</u>			
SS214	Pulmonary Infiltrates In Patients With HIV On HAART	7:00 AM	8:00 AM
<u>Wednesday, May 23</u>			
SS314	Advances In The Diagnosis And Treatment Of Tuberculosis	7:00 AM	8:00 AM
Mini-Symposia			
<u>Sunday, May 20</u>			
A16	Pneumococcal Infections: From Bench To Bedside	8:15 AM	11:00 AM

ATS 2007 – SAN FRANCISCO

Sessions Sponsored by the Assembly on Microbiology, Tuberculosis and Pulmonary Infection

Mini-Symposia			
<u>Sunday, May 20</u>			
A17	TB Control In Foreign-Born And Other Populations: Challenges And Recent Advances	8:15 AM	10:45 AM
A96	Pulmonary Complications Of HIV Infection	1:30 PM	4:15 PM
<u>Monday, May 21</u>			
B98	Finding Solutions To XDR TB	1:30 PM	3:45 PM
<u>Wednesday, May 23</u>			
D18	Microbial Pathogenesis And Pulmonary Host Defense	8:15 AM	11:00 AM
D19	The Host Defense Against Mycobacterial Infection	8:15 AM	11:00 AM
Poster Discussions			
<u>Tuesday, May 22</u>			
C103	The Epidemiology Of Tuberculosis: From The Genome To Contact Investigation	1:30 PM	4:15 PM
<u>Wednesday, May 23</u>			
D29	Pneumocystis And Pneumocystis Pneumonia	8:15 AM	11:00 AM
D101	Managing Mycobacterial Infection	1:30 PM	4:15 PM
Thematic Posters			
<u>Sunday, May 20</u>			
A39	Bronchiectasis: Chronic Airway Infection	8:15 AM	4:15 PM
A40	Mycobacterial Basic Science	8:15 AM	4:15 PM
A41	Opportunistic Infections	8:15 AM	4:15 PM
A42	Nosocomial Infections	8:15 AM	4:15 PM
A42-A	Community Acquired Pneumonia	8:15 AM	4:15 PM
<u>Monday, May 21</u>			
B52	TB Epidemiology	8:15 AM	4:15 PM
B53	Diagnosis Of Active And Latent Tuberculosis	8:15 AM	4:15 PM
B54	Diagnosis And Management Of Respiratory Infections	8:15 AM	4:15 PM
B55	Viral Respiratory Infections	8:15 AM	4:15 PM
<u>Tuesday, May 22</u>			
C48	Host-Pathogen Interactions	8:15 AM	4:15 PM
C49	Management Of Mycobacterial Infection	8:15 AM	4:15 PM

Patients to Speak At Eleven Designated ATS International Conference Symposia

The ATS Public Advisory Roundtable (ATS PAR) has selected patients to provide a patient perspective at eleven of the 2007 ATS International Conference Symposia. This concept has worked exceptionally well within the format of the PAR Symposia for the last five years and at an increasing number of sessions at the 2004, 2005 and 2006 International Conferences.

This is the fourth 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 inves-

tigators and researchers are engaged.

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

ASSEMBLY	SESSION CODE	TITLE	DATE/TIME
NRSG	A7	Controversies in Pulmonary Rehabilitation	Sunday, May 20 8:15-11:00 am
PED	A85	State of the Art Update: Prevention and Management of Neonatal Chronic Lung Disease (Parent's Perspective on BPD)	Sunday, May 20 1:30-4:15 pm
MTPI	A86	New Tools and New Challenges: Interferon Gamma Release Assays in the Diagnosis of TB Infection and Disease	Sunday, May 20 8:15-11:00 am
AII	A87	Improving Outcomes after Human Lung Transplantation: Insights Gained Through Translational Proteomics, Genetics and Genomics Studies	Sunday, May 20 1:30-4:15 pm
EOH	A88	The Upper Airway and the Environment	Sunday, May 20 1:30-4:15 pm
RNS	A9	Vascular Homeostasis in Obstructive Sleep Apnea	Sunday, May 20 8:15-11:00 am
AII	B8	Challenging the Current Paradigm for Treating Asthma	Monday, May 21 8:15-11:00 am
PED	B9	Pathophysiology of OSAS in Children: New Questions, New Answers	Monday, May 21 8:15-11:00 am
CC	D4	Update on the Diagnosis and Treatment of Severe Sepsis	Wednesday, May 23 8:15-11:00 am
PED	D90	Current and Emerging Treatments For Cystic Fibrosis	Wednesday, May 23 1:30-4:15 pm
PC	PG9	Pulmonary Embolism Diagnosis and Treatment: State of the Art 2007	Friday, May 18 8:00-4:00 pm

ATS PAR Symposium

The ATS Public Advisory Roundtable (PAR) is pleased to announce the sixth ATS PAR Symposium to be presented at the ATS International Conference in San Francisco on Tuesday, May 22nd from 8:15-11:00 a.m. The topic will be “Pulmonary Hypertension—Basic, Translational and Clinical” chaired by Peter D. Wagner, M.D. and Judith Simpson, RN, EdS. The program includes the following:

- Classification of Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension – D. B. Badesch, M.D., Denver, CO
- Genetics of Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension – C. G. Elliott, MD, Salt Lake City, UT
- Pathogenesis of Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension – L.

Rubin, M.D., San Diego, CA

- Fueled By Hope: Living with Pulmonary Hypertension – C. S. Tillman Dick Baltimore, MD
- Current Therapies: Prostanoids, Endothelin Receptor Antagonist and Phosphodiesterase Inhibitors – R.J. Barst, MD, New York, NY
- Stem Cell Therapy – D.J. Stewart, M.D., Toronto, Canada
- Future Therapies: Antiproliferatives and Others – J.H. Newman, M.D., Nashville, TN
- Our Meghan’s Fight to Breathe – C. Hicks, Gig Harbor, WA

The ATS PAR Annual Poster Session will be open from Sunday, May 20 until Tuesday, May 22, 2007 in the Exhibit Hall of the

San Francisco Moscone 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.

ATS Public Advisory Roundtable’s First Annual

Breathing Better with the ATS Forum

May 19th, 2007, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

PARC 55 Hotel located at 55 Cyril Magnin St., San Francisco
 RSVP by: March 30th, 2007 by emailing par@thoracic.org or call
 Karen Belgiovine at (212) 315-8640

If you have any patients in the San Francisco area, please encourage them to attend. They will have an opportunity to hear from and network with other patients and experts in the pulmonary community.

MICROBIOLOGY, TUBERCULOSIS AND PULMONARY INFECTION MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 21ST
4:30PM-6:30PM

HILTON SAN FRANCISCO
CONTINENTAL 1-3

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED THROUGH A GENEROUS GRANT FROM
GILEAD SCIENCES, INC.

MICROBIOLOGY, TUBERCULOSIS AND PULMONARY INFECTION DINNER

PLEASE REMEMBER TO REGISTER FOR THE
MTPI ASSEMBLY DINNER
TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 21ST AT 7:00 PM,
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL MTPI MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT PLEASE FILL IN THE ATTACHED REGISTRATION FORM
AND SEND THE FORM TO THE ATS OFFICE