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MICROBIOLOGY, TUBERCULOSIS & PULMONARY INFECTION

ASSEMBLY NEWSLETTER

EDITED BY ANDY LIMPER, ASSEMBLY CHAIRMAN

SPRING 2008



Officers of the Assembly on Microbiology, Tuberculosis and Pulmonary Infections

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Message From the Assembly Chairman

Andy Limper, M.D.

It has been an absolute pleasure to have the opportunity to serve as the MTPI assembly chair over the past two years. We have a great assembly that has significant impact on the society and works tirelessly. As Chair of the ATS Assembly on Microbiology, Tuberculosis, and Pulmonary Infections (MTPI), I must 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 738 primary members and 1829 secondary members, with 68% of our membership coming from the United States and 32% from other countries. We will continue efforts to bring in new members to our Assembly, especially international members and junior colleagues, by mentoring and encouraging students, residents, and fellows with interests in clinical microbiology, tuberculosis, and pulmonary infections. This process is facilitated international travel award to young investigators to attend the annual meeting, with special recognition of the scientific value of their presentations. I strongly encourage all of the members of MTPI to become involved by volunteering to serve on our committees, participating on statements and writing groups, speaking at and attending different venues at the Annual meeting, serving as re-

viewer for ATS journals, and submitting proposals for future projects. This is our assembly and it is a great way to participate in the ATS. As we are fond of saying, although we are a medium size group, we have a huge impact on the national meeting, our statements are among the most read and quoted documents of the organization, and our members are some of the most engaged folks in the entire society. Thanks for your efforts.

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. 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.

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. First, we formalized our leadership structure in which we continue our practice of rotating all major chair positions at the Assembly Chair, Program Chair, and Planning Chair positions between MTPI members with focus on tuberculosis and other respiratory infections. This

Message From the Assembly Chairman

Andy Limper, M.D.

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leadership structure received endorsement of our assembly membership, and overall ATS leadership, because it allows broad participation and balanced representation of the two major portions of our great assembly. We have also worked hard on other issues including ATS communications and responses to queries related to XDR resistant tuberculosis, study trail design in community acquired pneumonia, ATS policies on conflict of interest, as well as continued advocacy for the CDC and NIH for increased funding for tuberculosis and other infection related research.

I am grateful for the ongoing support and efforts of the MTPI Executive Committee. Our monthly conference calls have been absolutely essential to con-

tinue the business of the Assembly in an efficient manner. Many thanks go to the executive committee of Chuck Daley, Shawn Skerrett, Laurence Huang, Chad Steele, Phil LaBue, Charles Thomas and our senior statesmen of the MTPI Dave Cohn and Fred Gordin, for their many valuable contributions over the past year. I am particularly indebted to Chuck Daley the Chair Elect of MTPI for his tireless service and counsel. As I finish my tenure as MTPI chair, the Assembly will continue to be in the capable hands of Chuck and the MTPI leadership team, as we move forward. I would also like to express my appreciation to the ATS Leadership for its continued support of MTPI activities. David Ingbar has been an incredibly effective ATS President, and often offered encouragement and

fully supported the MTPI 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 Miriam Rodriguez, Bridget Nance, Lance Lucas, 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 very fortunate to have Dr Stephen Crane join us in his role as Executive Director. We are truly blessed to have such talented staff working on our behalf.

Program Committee Notes

Shawn Skerrett, M.D., Chair

Phil LaBue and I have just finished the MTPI programming for the 2008 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. 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 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 submitted - 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 Committee for their hard work. This year, 377 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 Toronto this year, please note that MTPI is presenting Major Symposia, Mini Symposia, and Poster Discussion throughout the entire meeting. All of these sessions are 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 Toronto.

ATS 2008 – Toronto Sessions Sponsored by the Assembly on Microbiology, Tuberculosis & Pulmonary Infections

Postgraduate Courses

Friday, May 16, 2008

PG9	CONTROVERSIES IN THE MANAGEMENT OF RESPIRATORY TRACT INFECTIONS	8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
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Saturday, May 17, 2008

PG22	HOST DEFENSE MECHANISMS IN PULMONARY INFECTION	8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
PG23	INTERNATIONAL TB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: BECOMING A CONSULTANT	8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Symposia

Sunday, May 18, 2008

A10	ACUTE PNEUMONIA IN THE IMMUNOCOMPROMISED HOST: FROM TRANSPLANT TO THE ELDERLY	8:15 AM – 11:00 AM
A86	NON-TUBERCULOUS MYOBACTERIAL (NTM) LUNG DISEASE UPDATE	1:30 PM – 4:15 PM

Monday, May 19, 2008

B6	EXTENSIVELY DRUG-RESISTANT (XDR) TUBERCULOSIS: EMERGENCE OF A GLOBAL HEALTH THREAT	8:15 AM – 11:00 AM
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Tuesday, May 20, 2008

C8	HIV-ASSOCIATED LUNG DISEASES EVOLVE: NEW INSIGHTS AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO HAART	8:15 AM – 11:00 AM
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Meet the Professor Seminars

Sunday, May 18, 2008

MP414	MANAGEMENT OF BRONCHIECTASIS	12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
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Monday, May 19, 2008

MP513	OPTIMAL TREATMENT OF SEVERE COMMUNITY-ACQUIRED PNEUMONIA	12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
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Tuesday, May 20, 2008

MP613	WAYS TO MANAGE VAP EFFECTIVELY WITHOUT PROMOTING ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE	12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
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Sunrise Seminars

Monday, May 19, 2008

SS114	LUNG COMPLICATIONS OF CHRONIC HIV INFECTION	7:00 AM – 8:00 AM
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Tuesday, May 20, 2008

SS214	ROLE OF INFECTION AND INFLAMMATION IN COPD	7:00 AM – 8:00 AM
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Wednesday, May 21, 2008

SS314	DRUG RESISTANT TUBERCULOSIS: TOOLS FOR RAPID DIAGNOSIS	7:00 AM – 8:00 AM
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Mini-Symposia

Sunday, May 18, 2008

A15	MACROPHAGE SIGNALING IN HOST DEFENSE AGAINST INFECTION	8:15 AM – 11:00 AM
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ATS 2008 – Toronto Sessions Sponsored by the Assembly on Microbiology, Tuberculosis & Pulmonary Infections

Mini-Symposia cont'd

Monday, May 19, 2008

B15	MRSA: THE PERSISTENT PATHOGEN	8:15 AM – 11:00 AM
B94	IMMUNOLOGICALLY BASED TESTS FOR THE DIAGNOSIS OF TUBERCULOSIS AND LATENT TUBERCULOSIS INFECTION	1:30 PM – 4:15 PM

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

C96	IMPROVING OUTCOMES IN COMMUNITY-ACQUIRED PNEUMONIA	1:30 PM – 4:15 PM
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Wednesday, May 21, 2008

D16	DRUG-RESISTANT TUBERCULOSIS	8:15 AM – 11:00 AM
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Poster Discussions

Monday, May 19, 2008

B105	ADVANCES IN VENTILATOR-ASSOCIATED PNEUMONIA	1:30 PM – 4:15 PM
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Tuesday, May 20, 2008

C25	EPIDEMIOLOGY OF MYCOBACTERIAL DISEASES	8:15 AM – 11:00 AM
C26	HOST-PATHOGEN INTERACTIONS IN INNATE IMMUNITY	8:15 AM – 11:00 AM
C104	DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT OF MYCOBACTERIAL INFECTIONS	1:30 PM – 4:15 PM

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

D24	NEW INSIGHTS INTO PNEUMOCYSTIS PNEUMONIA	8:15 AM – 11:00 AM
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Thematic Posters

Sunday, May 18, 2008

A60	TUBERCULOSIS: DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT	8:15 AM – 4:15 PM
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Monday, May 19, 2008

B56	MICROBIAL PATHOGENESIS AND HOST DEFENSE AGAINST INFECTION	8:15 AM – 4:15 PM
B57	TUBERCULOSIS: EPIDEMIOLOGY AND BEHAVIORAL STUDIES	8:15 AM – 4:15 PM
B58	HIV-RELATED LUNG DISEASE	8:15 AM – 4:15 PM

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

C49	COMMUNITY-ACQUIRED AND HEALTH CARE-ACQUIRED PNEUMONIA	8:15 AM – 4:15 PM
C50	NON-CF BRONCHIECTASIS	8:15 AM – 4:15 PM
C51	DIAGNOSIS OF RESPIRATORY TRACT INFECTIONS	8:15 AM – 4:15 PM
C52	FUNGAL INFECTIONS	8:15 AM – 4:15 PM
C53	TREATMENT OF RESPIRATORY TRACT INFECTIONS	8:15 AM – 4:15 PM
C54	HOST DEFENSE AGAINST MYCOBACTERIA	8:15 AM – 4:15 PM
C55	NOSOCOMIAL INFECTIONS	8:15 AM – 4:15 PM
C56	EPIDEMIOLOGY OF PULMONARY INFECTIONS	8:15 AM – 4:15 PM

Please Attend Your MTPI Assembly Meeting

All MTPI Assembly members are most strongly encouraged to attend the annual MTPI Assembly Membership Meeting on Monday, May 19th from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. The meeting will be held at the Dominion Ballroom South (Second Floor) of the Sheraton Centre Toronto

Hotel, close to the convention center. The Assembly Meeting permits members to get up-to-date information on all Assembly activities and projects. In addition, we will elect the 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 the MTPI Assembly Dinner

The Assembly on Microbiology, Tuberculosis and Pulmonary Infections (MTPI) dinner will be held Monday, May 22 at 7:00 pm, immediately following the MTPI Assembly Meeting. For more information on the dinner location please visit the MTPI website at www.thoracic.org. Please plan on joining

us for an enjoyable 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 the

MTPI Mailbox at 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. Georgia Noyan will maintain a waiting list after the main list has filled.

Planning Committee Report

Laurence Huang, M.D., Chair

The MTPI assembly continues its rich tradition of outstanding assembly projects that reflect the broad spectrum of our assembly's expertise and our successful collaborations with other professional societies. In 2007, two assembly projects were published: "An Official ATS/IDSA Statement: Diagnosis, Treatment, and Prevention of Nontuberculous Mycobacterial Diseases" (<http://www.thoracic.org/sections/publications/statements/pages/mtpi/nontuberculous-mycobacterial-diseases.html>) and "Infectious Diseases Society of America/

American Thoracic Society Consensus Guidelines on the Management of Community Acquired Pneumonia in Adults" (<http://www.thoracic.org/sections/publications/statements/pages/mtpi/idsaats-cap.html>). In 2008, we will have two new assembly projects, in addition to four projects already underway (summarized below). I have enjoyed my first year as Planning Committee Chair, and it has been a pleasure to work with a dynamic committee and with the tremendous ATS staff. I thank them for their enthusiasm and hard work in developing

new projects, and I look forward to another excellent year. The 07-08 Planning Committee members were: Andrew Limper (Assembly Chair), Chuck Daley (prior Planning Committee Chair), Shawn Skerrett (Program Chair), Chad Steele (Web Director), Roberto Accinelli, Marcus Conde, Henry Koziel, Mark Metersky, Alison Morris, Sanjay Sethi, Timothy Sterling, Rachel Thomson, Andrew Vernon, and Rich Wunderink. I encourage all assembly members to submit project proposals for 2009.

Emerging Issues and Current Controversies in HIV-Associated Pulmonary Disease (New)

Chair: Alison Morris; co-Chairs: Kristina Crothers and Laurence Huang

HIV-associated pulmonary diseases are a major cause of morbidity and death worldwide. The availability of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) has turned HIV into a chronic disease that is associated with a changing spectrum of pulmonary disorders such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and lung cancer. Opportunistic infec-

tions still plague those without access to HAART and those who fail to respond to the therapy. During the 2008 ATS, we will convene a day-long workshop with a group of international experts to discuss emerging issues and current controversies in HIV-associated pulmonary disease. This workshop will allow both clinical researchers and basic scientists to

present a "State of the Art" discussion on important aspects of this topic. We plan to summarize the presentations for publication as a workshop summary in the Proceedings of the American Thoracic Society next year.

Updated Guidelines for Diagnosis and Treatment of HAP, HCAP and VAP (New)

Michael Niederman – Chair

Reported by Richard Wunderink, MD. Funding for preliminary work on the updated HAP, HCAP and VAP guidelines has been approved. The ATS and its partner, the Infections Diseases Society of America (IDSA), had previously

committed to regular updates of the combined guidelines. The preliminary work will include defining the scope of the updates, choice of ATS committee co-chair and selection of committee members, as well as ATS staff negotiation

with the IDSA and possibly other professional organizations regarding parameters of participation in the guidelines committee.

Infections in Patients Receiving Tumor Necrosis-Alpha Antagonists (Renewal)

Co-Chairs – Neil Schluger, MD/Charles Daley, MD

This statement is a collaborative effort involving ATS, IDSA, Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America, and the American College of Rheumatology. The writing committee has commissioned a systematic review of the literature to assist with the development of this state-

ment. Once the review has been completed, the GRADE approach will be used to rank the evidence and provide recommendations for the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mycobacterial and fungal infections in persons taking TNF-alpha antagonists. It is expected

that the statement will be finished by the end of this year.

Fungal Diagnosis Statements (Renewal)

Co-Chairs – Kenneth Knox/Andrew Limper/George Sarosi

The ATS-MTPI Fungal work group has completed and submitted the Fungal Diagnosis Statement which is under review. They will reconvene at this year's ATS meeting in Toronto 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.

Diagnosis and Management of Bronchiectasis: An International Perspective

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

This writing committee includes members from seven countries and thus provides a broad view of bronchiectasis. The writing committee met at the ATS meeting in San Diego and decided to re-

organize and use the GRADE approach to develop the statement. In this regard, the committee has commissioned a systematic review of the literature as a first step. In addition, the committee has en-

gaged a methodologist to assist with using the GRADE system. With the reorganization, it is expected that the statement will be finished by the end of 2008.

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

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

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, ad-

vances in molecular biology and immunology have dramatically changed the

(Continued on page 7)

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

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

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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 re-

vised 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). The diag-

nostics and Standards group met in San Francisco last May, created an outline, and anticipate having a working draft before our meeting in Toronto.

Please consider submitting an Assembly/Committee Project Application for funding in FY2009!

Please consider submitting an Assembly/Committee Project Application for funding in FY2009!

This year for the first time there will be an **Online Application Process** using an electronic grants submission process called proposalCENTRAL. All interested applicants must submit their Assembly/Committee Project Applications online through proposalCENTRAL. To avoid being rushed at deadline time, applicants

are encouraged to register and complete a professional profile at proposalCENTRAL as early as possible.

There will be a link to proposalCENTRAL on the ATS homepage at www.thoracic.org along with new comprehensive instructions that have been designed to correspond with the numbered fields within the online application. Please consider submitting an online application for an Assembly/

Committee project. If you have a suggestion for a project application and you need assistance, please contact your Assembly Planning Committee chair Laurence Huang at lhuang@php.ucsf.edu.

Please contact Miriam Rodriguez with any questions at tel: 212/315-8639 or email: mrodriguez@thoracic.org.

Update on MTPI Website

Chad Steele, Ph.D., MTPI Web Director

During the past year, the ATS website has continued to undergo 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.

Finally, several new sections of the MTPI Assembly website are currently in development. The first new section will be dedicated to highlighting MTPI-sponsored events at previous ATS International Conferences (2005 – 2007).

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 weblog ("blog"), where members could freely post journal articles (in bibliogra-

phy 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 chadsteele@uab.edu.

Patients to Speak at Fourteen Designated ATS International Conference Symposia

The ATS Public Advisory Roundtable (ATS PAR) has selected patients to provide a patient perspective at fourteen symposia at the 2008 ATS International Conference Symposia. This concept has worked exceptionally well within the format of the PAR Symposium for the last six years and at an increasing number of sessions at the 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 International Conferences.

This is the fifth year that patient speakers will participate within the Assemblies' Symposia. The patients will make a five-minute presentation to offer insight into their personal journeys; to address their diagnosis, treatment, and how the disease has dramatically altered their lifestyle, family, career and relationships. They will share their perspective 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	TITLE	DATE/TIME
BS	A7	Obesity and it's Impact on Lung Health Across the Lifespan	Sunday, May18 8:15-11:00 am
CP	A82	COPD Exacerbations: Epidemiology, Prevention and Treatment	Sunday, May 18 1:30-4:15 pm
RNS	A85	Sleep Medicine Grand Rounds	Sunday, May 18 1:30-4:15 pm
Joint CP-RCMB-RSF	A90	Lung Cancer Translational Research: Integrating Innovations for Diagnosis and Treatment	Sunday, May 18 1:30-4:15 pm
CP	B2	IPF: Issues in Management from Diagnosis to Transplant	Monday, May 19 8:15-11:00 am
NRSG	B9	Pulmonary Rehabilitation: Different Settings for Different Needs	Monday, May 19 8:15-11:00 am
PC	B88	Novel Therapeutic Targets for Reverse Remodeling Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension: From Bench to Bedside	Monday, May 19 1:30-4:15 pm
Joint BS-AII-CC	B89	Status Asthmaticus	Monday, May 19 1:30-4:15 pm
RNS	C10	Sleep Apnea as a Mechanism of Atherosclerosis: From Bench to Bedside	Tuesday, May 20 8:15-11:00 am
EOH	C86	Candidate Interactions for Asthma and COPD	Tuesday, May 20 1:30-4:15 pm
RNS	D6	Finding a Home for Portable Monitor Testing in Sleep Apnea	Wednesday, May 21 8:15-11:00 am
PED	D7	Personalized Medicine: The Future of Asthma Care	Wednesday, May 21 8:15-11:00 am
CP	D82	Living to Adulthood with Cystic Fibrosis: Current Concepts in Disease Management	Wednesday, May 21 1:30-4:15 pm
BS	D85	Asthma Severity vs. Asthma Control: What Should we Use in Clinical Practice? A Pro/Con Debate	Wednesday, May 21 1:30-4:15 pm

ATS PAR Symposium

The ATS Public Advisory Roundtable (PAR) is pleased to announce the seventh ATS PAR Symposium to be presented at the ATS International Conference in Toronto on Tuesday, May 20th from 8:15-11:00 a.m. The topic will be "Rebuilding the Pulmonary Patient – From Laboratory to Lifestyle" chaired by John E. Heffner, MD and Donna J. Appell, RN. The program includes the following:

- ◆ Reevaluation, Rehabilitation and Resiliency: An Alpha-1 Patient's Journey from Diagnosis and Lung Transplant to Today -Len Geiger, Jacksonville, FL
- ◆ Cellular and Molecular Strategies for Rebuilding the Lungs of the Pulmonary Patient - Dan Weiss, MD, Burlington, VT
- ◆ The Role of Inflammation as a Limiting Factor in Pulmonary Rehabilitation - Annemie Schols, MD, Maastricht, The Netherlands
- ◆ Targeting Skeletal Muscles in Pulmonary Rehabilitation" - Francois Maltais, MD, Ancienne-Lorette, QC Canada
- ◆ Strategies for Post-Hospital Rehabilitation After Critical Illness - Margaret Herridge, MD Toronto, ON Canada
- ◆ Benefits of Pulmonary Rehabilitation on the Critical Care Patient: My Top 10 List" - Dee Storey, Saginaw, MI
- ◆ The New Evidence Base for Rehabilitation in Chronic Respiratory Disease - Andrew Ries, MD, San Diego, CA
- ◆ Putting the Patient in Charge: the Benefits of Self-Management Education- Jean Bourbeau, MD, Montreal, QC Canada
- ◆ Disease Modification Strategies in Chronic Lung Disease: Implications for Pulmonary Rehabilitation - Bartolome Celli, MD, Wellesley, MA

The ATS PAR Annual Poster Session will be open from Sunday, May 18 until Tuesday, May 20, 2008 in the Exhibit Hall of the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. 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 Second Annual

Breathing Better with the ATS Forum

This is a forum at which patients will have the unique opportunity to network and learn more about their disease. This year the panelists will focus on pulmonary rehabilitation and its benefits.

Panel Includes:

Roger S. Goldstein, MD
Richard ZuWallack, MD
Suzanne C. Lareau, RN, MS, FAAN
Len Geiger

If you have any patients in the Toronto 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.

May 17th, 2008, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel located at 123 Queen Street West Toronto, Canada

RSVP by: March 31st, 2008 by emailing par@thoracic.org or call

Karen Belgiovine at (212) 315-8640

Fellows Get First Year of ATS Membership for Free!

ATS is offering a free year of ATS membership to all first-year pulmonology, critical care, sleep fellows and post-doctoral PhD fellows! This special program is intended to welcome fellows to the ATS community. The Society would like these junior entrants to the fields of respiratory medicine to take advantage of the benefits of membership and look to ATS as their professional home for post graduate and continuing medical education, networking on a global scale, and for helping them to serve the needs of patients and the public at large.

Today's fellows will be the research and clinical professionals who will achieve the next major advancement in the science and treatment of pulmonary disease, critical illness and sleep disorders critical to advancing science and practice of the fields.

To learn more about this newly launched program, send an e-mail to fellows@thoracic.org or visit the ATS Web site at www.thoracic.org and click "Free Year for Fellows" under the Membership drop down menu. Program directors are encouraged to share this information with their fellows and other colleagues.

MICROBIOLOGY, TUBERCULOSIS & PULMONARY INFECTIONS ASSEMBLY DINNER

MONDAY MAY 19TH 7:00 PM
RENAISSANCE TORONTO HOTEL DOWNTOWN
1 Blue Jays Way,
M5V 1J4 Toronto,
Ontario, Canada.

The dinner is supported by a grant from **Pfizer**



MICROBIOLOGY, TUBERCULOSIS &
PULMONARY INFECTIONS
ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MONDAY MAY 19TH 4:30-6:30 PM
SHERATON CENTRE TORONTO HOTEL
DOMINION BALLROOM S (LEVEL 2)