



Microbiology, Tuberculosis and Pulmonary Infections Assembly Newsletter

We help the world breathe
PULMONARY • CRITICAL CARE • SLEEP

Edited by Charles L. Daley, M.D., Assembly Chair

SPRING 2009

Officers of the Assembly on Microbiology, Tuberculosis and Pulmonary Infections

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Message From the Assembly Chairperson

Charles L. Daley, M.D.

As my first year as Chair of the Microbiology, Tuberculosis, and Pulmonary Infections (MTPI) Assembly comes to a close, I can truthfully say that it has been a wonderful experience. I continue to be amazed at the dedication and work of our Assembly members. Similarly, ATS staff members have been incredibly supportive of our Assembly and their work has contributed immeasurably to the success of our projects and committee work. Although we rank 7th in size out of the 13 Assemblies, we continue to be one of the most productive groups because of our significant presence at the annual meeting, high quality workshops, statements, and guidelines.

One of the strengths of our Assembly is the diverse membership that includes pulmonologists, infectious diseases specialists, and public health practitioners and officials. In addition, approximately one third of our members come from countries outside of North of America. As evidenced by our name, our members have a broad interest in many different infections including bacterial, mycobacterial and fungal infections. This diversity of membership and broad interests can produce many opportunities for important projects in the future. By reaching out to other organizations we can increase our productivity and reach even larger audiences with our outstanding and important work. In order to achieve some balance and fairness in the leadership of our Assembly, we have traditionally alternated leadership positions between individuals whose primary focus is on mycobacterial infections and those whose focus is on nonmycobacterial infections. This approach has worked very well over the past few years and for now we plan to continue that process.

Current financial crises have shaken all institutions and ATS is not an exception. At the Board meeting in December, Dr. Jo Rae Wright and Dr. Stephen Crane and his staff reported on the financial situation of ATS. Through their leadership ATS has begun some re-organization, which should make the organization more efficient and cost-effective. I was impressed by the proposed changes and how well ATS is handling the impact of the current global financial crisis. Although none of us can predict the future, under our current leadership, ATS is weathering the storm well. One of the most important income streams for ATS is our annual meeting. One thing we can all do to make sure that ATS maintains its position of strength and influence is to ensure that we all attend the upcoming annual meeting in San Diego. I look forward to seeing all of you there!

I would like to thank our executive committee members who have helped me throughout the year by providing me with sage advice. Our Immediate Past Assembly Chair Andy Limper, M.D., has been very helpful to me and made my transition to seamless. Phil LoBue, M.D., Program Committee Chair, and Chair-elect Henry Koziel, M.D., have worked tirelessly to put together an outstanding program for this year's annual

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Message From the Assembly Chairperson

Charles L. Daley, M.D.

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meeting. Laurence Huang, M.D., Chair of the Planning Committee has overseen the many Assembly Projects and led the review of new projects for the Assembly. Chad Steele, Ph.D., our Web Director, continues to provide our Assembly with opportunities on the ATS website including the coordination of our Assembly's clinical cases. Dick Menzies chaired the Nomination Committee this year and he and the other members of the committee (Christina Crothers, M.D. and Max Salfinger, M.D.) have continued the great tradition of providing us with outstanding leadership. Fred Gordin, M.D., the ATS representative to ACET, keeps us informed on issues related to tuberculosis control at the national level and David Cohn, M.D., is always able to provide us with an historical context which is very important given the ever changing leadership. Finally, thanks to all of the ATS staff, Miriam Rodriguez, Bridget Nance, Nancy Guerrero, Lance Lucas, and Graham Nelan, who have been so helpful to us. Without them, we would be unable to maintain our high level of productivity.

Program Committee Notes

Philip A. LoBue, M.D., Chair

Henry Koziel and I have finished the MTPI programming for the 2009 International Conference. We are very enthusiastic about the program and believe it is very diverse in terms of both topics and disciplines, offering sessions that provide cutting-edge science and clinically useful information. Please see the attached table for a complete listing of sessions sponsored or cosponsored by MTPI.

For those unfamiliar with the programming of the International Conference, one of the remarkable features is that for a meeting of such size and scope, it is genuinely a meeting that is programmed directly by the ATS membership. The process starts with a call for input (typically due in June) through the Scientific Assemblies, where suggestions for Major Symposia, Post Graduate Courses, Evening Courses, Sunrise Seminars, and Meet the Professors sessions can be submitted. These session proposals are evaluated and ranked by the Program Committee and then programmed in September. The selections are a direct reflection of the rankings of the committee and represent an even balance between sessions covering Mycobacterial and Non-Mycobacterial infections. MTPI is allotted Major Symposia sessions (currently four) based on the number of abstracts submitted. This year MTPI, in conjunction with AII and RCMB, successfully competed for one of the joint symposium slots so there will be fifth Major Symposium (B86 Acute Respiratory Infection: an Urgent Challenge With Long Term Repercussions and Widespread Impact). It is important to note that these sessions are initially programmed without knowledge of the specific day, which is only revealed at the conclusion of the process.

After abstracts have been submitted, these are graded by the Program Committee. Mini-symposia, Poster Discussions and Thematic Poster Sessions are developed based both on the strength of the abstracts as reflected in the grades assigned by the Program Committee and common themes. During this process, we continued to strive for balance between sessions covering Mycobacterial and Non-Mycobacterial infections. This included incorporation of two cross-cutting sessions that address themes relevant to Mycobacterial and Non-Mycobacterial infections (C93 Host Defenses Against Lung Infections: Advances and Mechanistic Insights and B24 Diagnosing Respiratory Tract Infections: In Search of the Holy Grail).

Henry and I would like to thank the members of the Program Committee for their hard work. This year 367 abstracts were submitted with MTPI listed as the primary assembly, and grading had to be completed in a very short time-frame.

In planning your travel to San Diego this year, please note that MTPI is presenting Major Symposia, Mini-Symposia, and Poster Discussions 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 attend these sessions. We look forward to seeing you in San Diego.

ATS 2009 – San Diego Sessions Sponsored by the Assembly on Microbiology, Tuberculosis and Pulmonary Infections

Postgraduate Courses

Friday, May 15, 2009

PG7 LUNG INNATE IMMUNITY: AT THE FRONT LINES OF HOST DEFENSE 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Saturday, May 16, 2009

PG22 NON-TUBERCULOUS MYCOBACTERIAL DISEASE 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Symposia

Sunday, May 17, 2009

A88 EMERGENCE OF RESISTANT PATHOGENS IN THE LUNG AND INTENSIVE CARE UNIT 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Monday, May 18, 2009

B85 EXTENSIVELY DRUG RESISTANT TUBERCULOSIS (XDR TB): TAKING ON THE GROWING GLOBAL CHALLENGE 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM

B86 ACUTE RESPIRATORY INFECTION: AN URGENT CHALLENGE WITH LONG TERM REPERCUSSIONS AND WIDESPREAD IMPACT 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

C9 ADVANCES IN THE MANAGEMENT OF FUNGAL INFECTIONS: RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE OFFICIAL ATS STATEMENT 8:15 AM - 10:45 AM

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

D6 BENCH TO BEDSIDE TO BUSH: PUTTING BASIC ADVANCES IN TUBERCULOSIS IMMUNOLOGY AND MICROBIOLOGY INTO CLINICAL PRACTICE 8:15 AM - 10:45 AM

Meet the Professor Seminars

Sunday, May 17, 2009

MP413 UPDATE ON AVIAN INFLUENZA 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

MP613 FROM BENCH TO BEDSIDE: HOW SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES ARE SHAPING TB DIAGNOSIS, PREVENTION, AND TREATMENT 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

MP617 FIVE CONTROVERSIES IN THE MANAGEMENT OF PNEUMONIA 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Sunrise Seminars

Monday, May 18, 2009

SS111 VENTILATOR ASSOCIATED TRACHEOBRONCHITIS AND PNEUMONIA 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

SS211 INNATE IMMUNITY AND LUNG INFECTIONS 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

SS313 SEVERE ADENOVIRAL PULMONARY DISEASE 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM

Mini-Symposia

Sunday, May 17, 2009

A14 ADVANCES IN THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF LATENT TUBERCULOSIS INFECTION 8:15 AM - 10:45 AM

ATS 2009 – San Diego Sessions Sponsored by the Assembly on Microbiology, Tuberculosis and Pulmonary Infections

Mini-Symposia

Sunday, May 17, 2009

A15	PULMONARY INFECTIONS: MODULATING HOST DEFENSES	8:15 AM - 10:45 AM
A96	TUBERCULOSIS: ASSESSING TRANSMISSION AND RISK	1:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

C93	HOST DEFENSES AGAINST LUNG INFECTIONS: ADVANCES AND MECHANISTIC INSIGHTS	1:30 PM - 4:00 PM
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Wednesday, May 20, 2009

D95	UPDATE ON SEVERE COMMUNITY ACQUIRED PNEUMONIA: GUIDELINES, BIO-MARKERS AND STEROIDS	1:30 PM - 4:00 PM
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Poster Discussion Sessions

Sunday, May 17, 2009

A103	NEW INSIGHTS INTO HIV-RELATED PULMONARY COMPLICATIONS	1:30 PM - 4:00 PM
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Monday, May 18, 2009

B24	DIAGNOSING RESPIRATORY TRACT INFECTIONS: IN SEARCH OF THE HOLY GRAIL	8:15 AM - 10:45 AM
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Tuesday, May 19, 2009

C25	DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF MYCOBACTERIAL INFECTIONS	8:15 AM - 10:45 AM
C106	EPIDEMIOLOGY OF MYCOBACTERIAL DISEASE	1:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

D26	PNEUMOCYSTIS PNEUMONIA: UPDATES TO DETECTION, DEFENSES AND LUNG DAMAGE	8:15 AM - 10:45 AM
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Thematic Poster Sessions

Sunday, May 17, 2009

A46	TREATMENT OF MYCOBACTERIAL INFECTIONS	8:15 AM - 4:00 PM
A47	COMMUNITY ACQUIRED PNEUMONIA AND HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATED PNEUMONIA	8:15 AM - 4:00 PM
A48	VENTILATOR-ASSOCIATED AND NOSOCOMIAL PNEUMONIA	8:15 AM - 4:00 PM

Monday, May 18, 2009

B48	DIAGNOSIS OF MYCOBACTERIAL DISEASE	8:15 AM - 4:00 PM
B49	NON-CYSTIC FIBROSIS BRONCHIECTASIS: EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT	8:15 AM - 4:00 PM
B50	LUNG HOST DEFENSES TO INFECTION AND HOST CELL PATHOGEN INTERACTION	8:15 AM - 4:00 PM
B51	PATHOGENIC MECHANISMS OF INFECTIONS	8:15 AM - 4:00 PM

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

C59	EPIDEMIOLOGY OF TUBERCULOSIS	8:15 AM - 4:00 PM
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Wednesday, May 20, 2009

D43	HOST DEFENSE AGAINST MYCOBACTERIA	8:15 AM - 4:00 PM
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ATS 2009 – San Diego Sessions Sponsored by the Assembly on Microbiology, Tuberculosis and Pulmonary Infections

Thematic Poster Sessions

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

D44	DIAGNOSIS OF LATENT TUBERCULOSIS INFECTION	8:15 AM - 4:00 PM
D45	FUNGAL RESPIRATORY TRACT INFECTIONS	8:15 AM - 4:00 PM
D46	TREATMENT OF RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS	8:15 AM - 4:00 PM

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. Two assembly projects were published in 2007: "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>). A third project, "Statement on Treatment of Fungal Infection" is in the final stages prior to publication. In 2009, we will have one new assembly project, in addition to six projects already underway (summarized below). I have enjoyed my two years as Planning Committee Chair, and it has been a pleasure to work with a dynamic committee and with the tremendous ATS staff, with Miriam Rodriguez meriting special recognition. I thank them for their enthusiasm and hard work in developing new projects, and I look forward to assisting David Lewinsohn, the incoming Planning Committee Chair. The 08-09 Planning Committee members were: Chuck Daley (Assembly Chair and prior Planning Committee Chair), Andrew Limper (past Assembly Chair), Philip LoBue (Program Chair), Chad Steele (Web Director), Roberto Accinelli, Marcus Conde, Kashef Ijaz, Henry Koziel, Mark Metersky, Robert Miller, Alison Morris, Timothy Sterling, Rachel Thomson, and Rich Wunderink. I encourage all assembly members to submit project proposals for 2010.

Community-Acquired Pneumonia Guidelines: A Living Document (New)

Richard Wunderink, M.D., Chair

The major thrust of this new project is to update the CAP guidelines using a different format than previous versions. Rather than review and update the entire guideline every few years, a section of the current guideline will be updated or a new section will be added utilizing the ATS standard GRADE system of evaluation as the need is identified. The hope is that this becomes a regular process and that the CAP guidelines statement then becomes a "living document" with the most current information and recommendations. If successful, this model may be extended to other guidelines statements. The ATS will continue to partner with the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) for these yearly reviews. However, addressing a section or specific question allows greater participation from other societies regarding areas pertinent to them, such as Emergency Medicine societies for the section on the decision to admit to the hospital. A memorandum of understanding with the IDSA is being initiated and the initial meeting to decide a topic for review will occur in San Diego. Assembly members may be polled electronically for recommendations regarding possible topics.

Fungal Diagnosis Statements (Renewal)

Kenneth Know, M.D., Andrew Limper, M.D., and George Sarosi, M.D., Co-Chairs

The ATS-MTPI Fungal work group has continued to be quite busy this past year. The Fungal Treatment Statement is currently with the ATS documents editor for final processing and publication. The ATS-MTPI Fungal work group has initiated a draft document of the next statement entitled “Advances in the Diagnosis of Fungal Infections.” This group is analyzing 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. The ATS-MTPI Fungal work group will reconvene in San Diego to edit and finalize this document for submission this summer.

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

Neil Schluger, M.D., and Charles L. Daley, M.D., Co-Chairs

This statement is a collaborative effort involving ATS, Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of America, and the American College of Rheumatology. Over the past few months a systematic review has been performed and the results of the review will be sent to the writing committee in order to develop and answer specific questions regarding management of patients receiving or about to receive tumor necrosis-alpha antagonists. The committee is using the GRADE approach to rank the evidence supporting each recommendation. The statement is expected to be completed by the end of 2009.

Diagnosis and Management of Bronchiectasis (Renewal)

Charles L. Daley, M.D., Charles Feldman, M.D., Grant Waterer, M.B.B.S., Ph.D., Co-Chair

Over the past few months a systematic review has been carried out and the results of this review will be sent to each writing committee member to develop and answer specific questions related to the management of bronchiectasis. As with other statements, the GRADE approach will be used to rank the evidence supporting each recommendation. The statement is expected to be completed by the end of 2009.

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

Dave Lewinsohn, M.D.,(ATS), Phil LoBue, M.D.,(CDC) and Michael Leonard, M.D.,(IDSA), Co-Chairs

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 molecular 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 Diseases Society of America (IDSA) will jointly develop a revised statement. Additionally, the American Association of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) will serve as statement co-sponsors. Our committee has now met twice, and we have worked closely with Holger Schunemann (Documents Development and Implementation Committee) to develop a GRADE based approach to these recommendations. Draft guidelines have been developed with a goal of ATS board submission in 2009.

Emerging Issues and Current Controversies in HIV-associated Pulmonary Disease

Alison Morris, M.D., Kristina Crothers, M.D., James Beck, M.D., and Laurence Huang, M.D., Co-Chairs

HIV-associated pulmonary diseases are a major cause of morbidity and death worldwide. The availability of antiretroviral therapy has turned HIV into a chronic disease, potentially with a changing spectrum of associated pulmonary disorders such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and lung cancer. Opportunistic infections still plague those without access to antiretroviral therapy or who do not tolerate or respond to the therapy. We convened a day-long workshop with a group of international experts to discuss emerging issues and current controversies in HIV-associated pulmonary disease at the ATS meeting in Toronto. This workshop allowed both clinical and translational researchers and basic scientists to present a "State of the Art" discussion on important aspects of this topic. We are currently summarizing the presentations for publication in the Proceedings of the American Thoracic Society.

Updated Guidelines for Diagnosis and Treatment of HAP, HCAP and VAP

Michael Niederman, M.D., Chair

In May of 2008, an organizational meeting of members from ATS and the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) met to begin planning for an update of nosocomial pneumonia guidelines. Following the meeting, an application was submitted to ATS, jointly with IDSA, to request funding and support for a meeting to revise the 2005 guidelines. This funding was approved, and a committee formed that will continue the successful collaborations of the past between ATS and IDSA for the purpose of preparing guidelines for pneumonia management. The committee will have representatives from both societies, and will meet in 2009, with a plan to publish their document in 2010. The update will focus on new advances in antibiotic therapy, pneumonia prevention, and definitions of HCAP.

Please Attend Your MTPI Assembly Meeting

All MTPI Assembly members are strongly encouraged to attend the annual MTPI Assembly Membership Meeting on Monday, May 18th from 4:30-6:30 PM. The meeting will be held at the Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego in the Elizabeth Ballroom H (Second Level). The Assembly Meeting permits members to get up-to-date information on all Assembly activities and projects. In addition, we will elect the Assembly Chair-elect, Program Committee Chair-elect, and new members of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee has generated a fantastic slate of candidates but we encourage nominations from the floor as well. As usual, we will offer snacks and beverages at the meeting.

Attend the MTPI Assembly Dinner

The Assembly dinner will be held Monday, May 18th at 6:30 PM at the Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego in the Americas Cup Room - (Fourth Level), immediately following the MTPI Assembly Meeting. Please plan on joining us for a great evening of camaraderie, good food, and beverages. We particularly encourage the attendance of junior members because this is a great way to meet and interact with your colleagues and become involved in Assembly activities. Because space is limited, please RSVP to the MTPI mailbox at mtpi@thoracic.org as soon as possible. As in previous years, there will be many more people interested in attending the dinner than we can accommodate. For more information on the dinner location please visit the MTPI website at www.thoracic.org.

Please consider submitting an Assembly/Committee Project Application for funding in FY2010!

This year we will once again use an **Online Application Process** using an electronic grants submission site 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 comprehensive instructions that have been designed to correspond with the fields in 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 David M. Lewinsohn at lewinsod@ohsu.edu

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

Patients to Speak at Fifteen Designated ATS International Conference Symposia

The ATS Public Advisory Roundtable (ATS PAR) has selected patients to provide a patient perspective at fifteen symposia at the 2009 ATS International Conference Symposia. This concept has worked exceptionally well within the format of the PAR Symposium for the last seven years as well as at an increasing number of sessions at ATS International Conferences from 2004 to 2008.

This is the sixth 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. This insight will address 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
CP/AII	A3	Controversies In Lung Transplantation: A Pro-Con Debate	Sunday, May 17 8:15 AM-10:45 AM
CP/BS/ NRSB/ RCMB	A82	High Impact Disease Modifying Therapies In Advanced COPD: Current Status And Future Directions	Sunday, May 17 1:30 PM-4:00 PM
PC/RCMB	A85	Selective Kinase Or Multikinase Inhibitors In Pulmonary Hypertension	Sunday, May 17 1:30 PM-4:00 PM
SRN	A87	Sleep-Disordered Breathing Beyond Obesity: The Role Of Gender, Race, And Genetics	Sunday, May 17 1:30 PM-4:00 PM
EOH/AII	B9	Fat And Flow: Implications Of Diet And Obesity For Asthma	Monday, May 18 8:15 AM-10:45 AM
CP/AII	B82	Clinical Problems In Sarcoidosis	Monday, May 18 1:30 PM-4:00 PM
PC/AII/CP	C5	Scleroderma-Related PAH: A Paradigm For Vascular Remodeling	Tuesday, May 19 8:15 AM-10:45 AM

Patients to Speak at Fifteen Designated ATS International Conference Symposia

ASSEMBLY	SESSION CODE	TITLE	DATE/TIME
SRN	C8	New Frontiers in the Management of Obstructive Sleep Apnea	Tuesday, May 19 8:15 AM-10:45 AM
RCMB/AII/ CP/CC/PC/ RSF	C85	Mechanotransduction In Lung Injury, Repair And Fibrosis: May The Force Be With Us	Tuesday, May 19 1:30 PM-4:00 PM
RSF/CP/ CC/NRSG/ PC/RCMB	C86	Causes Of Multi-organ Failure In Critically Ill Septic Patients	Tuesday, May 19 1:30 PM-4:00 PM
CP	D2	Lung Cancer Clinic: State Of The Art	Wednesday, May 20 8:15 AM-10:45 AM
CC/CP	D4	Therapeutic Frontiers In Acute Lung Injury	Wednesday, May 20 8:15 AM-10:45 AM
BS/CP/ NRSG/ PED/PR	D10	Medication Availability And Access: Issues Of Value And Affordability	Wednesday, May 20 8:15 AM-10:45 AM
RCMB/AII/ CP	D89	Targeting Tumor Microenvironment Interactions In Lung Cancer	Wednesday, May 20 1:30 PM-4:00 PM
CC	D93	Non-Pulmonary Problems in the ICU	Wednesday, May 20 1:30 PM-4:00 PM

ATS PAR Symposium

The ATS Public Advisory Roundtable (PAR) is pleased to announce the eighth ATS PAR Symposium to be presented at the ATS International Conference in San Diego on Sunday, May 17, 2009 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.. The topic of the symposium is “Lung Fibrosis” and it will be jointly chaired by David H. Ingbar, M.D. and Donna J. Appell, RN. The program includes the following:

- New Molecular Targets In Pulmonary Fibrosis - P.B. Bitterman, M.D., Minneapolis, MN
- Patient's Perspective - *TBD*
- Lessons From Pulmonary Fibrosis In Hermansky Pudlak Syndrome NHGRI - B.R. Gochuico, M.D., Bethesda, MD
- Genomics And Pulmonary Fibrosis - J.E. Loyd, M.D., Nashville, TN
- Molecular Diagnostics And Biomarkers In IPF - N. Kaminski, M.D., Pittsburgh, PA
- Where Are We With Clinical Trials In IPF? - *TBD*
- Novel Treatments For Pulmonary Fibrosis: Stem Cells And All That Jazz - L.A. Ortiz, M.D., Pittsburgh, PA
- Wrap-Up Interactive Discussion - D.H. Ingbar, M.D., Minneapolis, MN

The ATS PAR Annual Poster Session will be open from Sunday, May 17 – Tuesday, May 19 2009 in the Exhibit Hall of the San Diego 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 Third 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 oxygen management and quality of life issues.

Panel Includes:

Patrick Strollo, MD
Sam Giordano, MBA, RRT, FAARC
Rell Trey Schwab

If you have any patients in the San Diego 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 16, 2009, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel located at One Market Place, San Diego, CA
RSVP by: April 30th, 2009 by emailing cwhite@thoracic.org or call
Courtney L. White at (212) 315-8640

ATS Foundation to Host Inaugural Benefit Dinner for the ATS Research Program at ATS 2009 in San Diego

The Board of Trustees of the Foundation of the American Thoracic Society invites you to attend our Inaugural **Gala** Dinner benefiting the ATS Research Program on Saturday, May 16, 2009 in San Diego, California. The **evening** will begin with a **reception** at 7:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:45 PM. The **event** will be held at the Manchester Grand Hyatt on the Fourth Level in the Randle Ballroom. During the dinner, we will recognize ATS Research Program **awardees** and honor the **recipients** of the 2009 Breathing for Life Award. Please join us! **Please register early as seating is limited.**

To register for **the conference and reception/dinner** go to:

<http://foundation.thoracic.org/web/ats-research-program-dinner.html>

or call (212) 315-6822 for more information.

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 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
AND PULMONARY INFECTION
ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MONDAY MAY 18TH 4:30-6:30 PM
MANCHESTER GRAND HYATT SAN DIEGO
ELIZABETH BALLROOM H (SECOND LEVEL)

MICROBIOLOGY, TUBERCULOSIS
AND PULMONARY INFECTION
ASSEMBLY DINNER

MONDAY MAY 18TH 6:30-10:30 PM
MANCHESTER GRAND HYATT SAN DIEGO
AMERICAS CUP ROOM (FOURTH LEVEL)

The Dinner is supported by a generous grant from Cellestis, Inc.