



We help the world breathe
PULMONARY • CRITICAL CARE • SLEEP

Nursing Assembly Newsletter

Edited by Kathleen O. Lindell, PhD, RN Assembly Chair

SPRING 2009

Officers of the Assembly on Nursing

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Message From the Assembly Chairperson

Kathleen O. Lindell, PhD, RN

Message from Assembly Chairman

When we last met in Toronto, I asked for volunteers to step forward to help create a Rapid Action Task Force that would create a survey to assess how the Nursing Assembly could best meet your individual needs. Several volunteers stepped forward and worked with the Task Force chair, Dr. Lynn Reinke to create this survey. The ATS office emailed the survey to each of you (more than once), and a content analysis was done on the findings. More information can be found on page 6.

In essence, you've asked for a shorter, more inclusive business meeting with increased opportunities for networking. To that effect, this newsletter will provide an update of what's happened since that last meeting in Toronto, and hopefully provide you with more information so that we can shorten the business meeting and get on with the networking! Of course, we will still have reports, and if you have information that you want to share at the business meeting, we welcome your input.

When I think of the needs of the Nursing Assembly, my first concern is our membership numbers. At present, we have 135 primary members, and 76 secondary members. Some of our members switched their primary membership to the newly created Pulmonary Rehabilitation Assembly last spring reducing the size of our Assembly. Many of us became members

“entrenched” in ATS during our years as graduate students in our pulmonary nursing curriculums 15 – 20 - 25 (maybe more) years ago. It was an expectation, as well as a privilege. But as nursing and healthcare have changed, many of original graduate programs have also changed, and we are faced with a shortage of pulmonary trained advanced practice nurses. How can we compensate for this change? We need to recruit additional nurses to join our Nursing Assembly. Where do they come from? How do we entice them? What should their level of training be? When we look ahead 15 – 20 – 25 years, where will the Nursing Assembly be? I welcome your ideas and input as we struggle with this question.

One potential solution is to create a Mentoring Program within our assembly, take advantage of the wealth of expertise and experience of our senior nursing members, and recruit additional members to join our Assembly. I encourage our group to submit this as a Project to the ATS this summer. We are not the only Assembly with small numbers, and other Assemblies may also benefit from this project. There's a wealth of knowledge within our Assembly, and when we meet in San Diego, I would love to see this project take fruition and move forward. Please feel free to email me with your ideas: lindellko@upmc.edu.

Sincerely,

Kathy Lindell

Nursing Assembly Program Committee

Eileen Collins, PhD, RN and Margaret-Ann Carno, PhD, RN

The Nursing Assembly received 62 abstracts this year. This is a decrease from last year's submissions (103 from last year) when Pulmonary Rehab was part of our Assembly. As Assembly Chair and Program Chair-Elect, Margaret and I would like to thank the following members of our committee for their outstanding work this year: Gerene Bauldoff, Arlene Butz, Donna Caruthers, DorAnne Cuenco, Amy Davis, Monica Fletcher, Lynn Fukushima, Wanda Gibson-Scipio, Carme Hernandez, Mary Kapella, Janet Larson, Kathy Lindell, Huong Nguyen, George Rodway, and Mary Pat Wall. Without our program committee members, the work of the committee would remain undone. We are delighted to report that Dr. Karen Huss, Program Officer for the National Institute of Nursing Research, NIH will be speaking on Sunday,

May 17th from 12pm to 1pm on "National Institute of Nursing Research: Funding Opportunities and Priorities". The Nursing Year in Review (NYIR) will be on Monday from 1:30-4:15pm. The NYIR will review literature across four specialty areas of pulmonary nursing (dyspnea, fatigue, complementary and alternative therapies and terminal dyspnea at end-of-life). Nursing programs this year include a scientific symposium on Adaptive Breathing Strategies in Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease: The Right Tool for the Job? (D7: Wednesday 5/20 8:15-11:00 am), a mini-symposium on Asthma Management/ Monitoring COPD (A16 Sunday 5/17 8:15-10:45 am) and poster discussion session on Issues in COPD/Respiratory Failure (A104 Sunday 5/17 1:30-4:00 pm). We worked closely with the Behavioral Science As-

sembly this year and have a co-sponsored mini symposium, Smoking Cessation (C17 Tuesday 5/19 8:15-10:45 am), and poster discussion session on Smoking and Smoking Cessation (B25 Monday 5/18 8:15-10:45 am). All of the Assemblies worked hard this year to group abstracts thematically regardless of what Assembly the abstract was submitted to. Thus, some members may find that their abstracts were programmed with Clinical Problems or Critical Care. Likewise, Nursing also received abstracts for programming in our sessions. We hope you enjoy the program we developed—it should provide great new information for nurse scientists and clinicians alike. We look forward to your attendance!

ATS 2009 – San Diego Sessions Sponsored by the Assembly on Nursing

Postgraduate Courses

Friday, May 15, 2009

PG8	INTEGRATED CARE: METHODS TO APPLY EVIDENCE TO PRACTICE IN CARING FOR PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC LUNG DISEASE	8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
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Symposia

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

D7	ADAPTIVE BREATHING STRATEGIES IN CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE: THE RIGHT TOOL FOR THE JOB?	8:15 AM - 10:45 AM
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ATS 2009 – San Diego Sessions Sponsored by the Assembly on Nursing

Meet the Professor Seminars

Monday, May 18, 2009

MP513 ARE EXTENSIVE USE OF SPIROMETRY COMPATIBLE WITH QUALITY 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

MP614 CO-MORBIDITIES IN COPD: EVIDENCE FOR INTEGRATED CARE MANAGEMENT 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Sunrise Seminars

Monday, May 18, 2009

SS112 GENETICS OF RESPIRATORY CARE 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

SS212 LESSONS LEARNED DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE eHEALTH INTERVENTIONS FOR PATIENTS WITH PULMONARY DISEASE 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM

Year in Review

Monday, May 18, 2009

B81 NURSING YEAR IN REVIEW 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Mini-Symposia

Sunday, May 17, 2009

A16 ASTHMA MANAGEMENT/MONITORING CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE 8:15 AM - 10:45 AM

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

C17 SMOKING CESSATION 8:15 AM - 10:45 AM

Poster Discussion Sessions

Sunday, May 17, 2009

A104 ISSUES IN CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE/ RESPIRATORY FAILURE 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Monday, May 18, 2009

B25 SMOKING AND SMOKING CESSATION 8:15 AM - 10:45 AM

Nursing Assembly Program Committee for the 2010 ATS

Margaret-Ann Carno, RN, PNP, PhD, Incoming Chair

While this year has been fruitful in submissions for the ATS International Conference, it is not too early to begin thinking for the 2010 ATS in New Orleans. I would like to ask all members of the assembly to start thinking about ideas for potential

symposia, post graduate courses, workshops, sunrise seminars, and meet the professor sessions. The submission deadline is in June and the website for program submission will go live in April. Now is the time to plan and put the session together.

Any questions please feel free to contact me at Margaret_carno@urmc.rochester.edu. I look forward (as does the rest of the committee) to reviewing your submission.

Pay-for-Performance Working Group

Lynda Mackin, PhD, ANP-BC, CNS

Brief Review of the:

Pay-for-Performance in Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep medicine: an official ATS policy statement

Jeremy M. Kahn MD MSc,
Damon C. Scales MD PhD,
David H. Au MD MSc,
Shannon S. Carson MD,
J. Randall Curtis MD MPH,
Theodore J. Iwashyna MD PhD,
Jerry A. Krishnan MD PhD,
Janet R. Maurer MD,
Richard Mularski MD MSHS MCR,
John Popovich, Jr. MD,
Gordon D. Rubenfeld MD MSc,
Tasnim Sinuff MD PhD, and
John E. Heffner MD

on behalf of the American Thoracic Society Pay-for-Performance working group

by Lynda Mackin, PhD, ANP-BC, CNS

As a member of the ATS Assembly on Nursing, I was pleased to have been asked to review and comment on the recently developed ATS Pay for Performance (P4P) Policy Statement.

In brief, this statement seeks to address how the issue of pay for performance applies to pulmonary medicine and care. Despite tremendous efforts to apply evidence to practice, health professionals as a whole do not consistently apply evidence-based guidelines. This not only short-changes care but also raises serious quality issues. To stimulate increased application of evidence based knowledge, both private insurers as well as CMS have instituted financial incentive programs designed to encourage providers to achieve population-based specified goals of care.

This is a very well written and reasoned document. I think it more than adequately covers all of the salient issues and appropriately acknowledges the contribution of non-physician providers in providing care that is unquestionably interdependent. The document also directly addresses the sticky issues of possibly creating greater health disparities or cherry picking. I agree that further research is needed particularly addressing the cost-

effectiveness of this incentive program as well as determining which outcomes or measures are appropriate to ATS membership providers. Additionally, I support the idea that an individual's performance improvement should be considered rather than an across the board comparison with other providers that determines eligibility for payment. Finally, given the dependence on IT and EMRs to provide the data, we should partner with EMR designers to assure capture and retrieval of the data is as easy and efficient as possible.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this important policy statement.

Lynda A. Mackin, PhD, ANP-BC, CNS
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Report from Gereene Bauldoff, PhD, RN

Nursing Assembly Representative - (CONCERT)

COPD Outcomes-based Network for Clinical Effectiveness & Research Translation (CONCERT) is a collaboration of investigators with interest in COPD. The goal of CONCERT is to employ effectiveness and translational re-

search methodologies to improve the care and outcomes of patients with COPD. Translational science, clinical evaluation, quality measurement, and implementation methodologies will be used to develop innovative strategies

to optimize, implement, and monitor COPD care effectiveness. CONCERT is funded by AHRQ and NHLBI. This multi-site collaboration includes the following investigators at the following sites:

Center Principal Investigator

1. David Au, MD, MS
2. Shannon Carson, MD
3. Jerry Krishnan, MD, PhD

Clinical Centers

VA Puget Sound Health Care Sys/Univ of Wash.
Univ of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of Chicago

Report from Gerene Bauldoff, PhD, RN Nursing Assembly Representative - (CONCERT)

Center Principal Investigator

4. Todd Lee, PharmD, PhD
5. Peter Lindenauer, MD, MSc
6. Richard Mularski, MD, MSHS, MCR

Clinical Centers

Hines VA/Northwestern Univ
Baystate Med Ctr/ Tufts Univ School of Med
Kaiser Perm. NW/Oregon Health & Science Univ

CONCERT plans to conduct consensus conferences in 2009 and 2010 at the American Thoracic Society International Conference. The Assembly on Nursing has been asked to participate in the CONCERT conference planning/organizing committee as one of the interested stakeholders, and I have been asked to represent the Assembly on Nursing. Other stakeholders include the Respiratory Health Association, American Col-

lege of Chest Physicians, American Lung Association, American College of Emergency Physicians, American College of Physicians, Society of Hospital Medicine, Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research, and the Oregon Evidence-based Practice Center for Health Research.

The first consensus conference will focus on Chronic Care/Care Coordi-

nator in COPD and the second consensus conference will focus on Acute Care/Transitions in COPD Care. For more information, the CONCERT website is: <https://www.kpchr.org/concert/public/index.aspx?pageid=1>.

ATS Member News

Leslie Hoffman, Ph.D., R.N.

Dr. Leslie Hoffman will receive the ATS Outstanding Educator Award on Sunday, May 17th at the Awards Ceremony at 5:00 PM in the San Diego Convention Center, Hall A (Ground Level). Leslie has been a member of ATS for 30 years, and held several positions within ATS, including the chair of the Nursing Assembly in 1985.

Leslie has graduated 77 master's students as clinical nurse specialists and 22 PhD students. She has chaired 50 master's theses and 22 doctoral dissertations. Most importantly she has provided the highest quality of education for graduate students and this is most evident by their accomplishments in terms of grant funding. Five of her doctoral students received F31 NRSA Predoctoral Fellowships from the National Institute

of Nursing Research and her students received a total of 20 grants from other sources during their graduate programs.

We are honored to announce that Leslie is the first nurse in the Nursing Assembly to receive this award and we invite you to participate in a group photograph at 4:45P outside the assembly hall prior to the Awards Ceremony.

Cynthia French, N.P., M.S.

In mid November, Cynthia French, N.P., M.S., a nurse practitioner and coordinator for critical care operations at the U Mass Memorial Medical Center's Lung and Allergy Center in Worcester, Massachusetts, was the recipient of the prestigious Schwartz Center Compassionate

Caregiver Award, given by the Boston-based Kenneth B. Schwartz Center. The award, now in its tenth year, recognizes the caregiver in Massachusetts who best personifies the mission of the Schwartz Center to "advance compassionate healthcare in which care-givers, patients and their families relate to one another in a way that provides hope to the patient, support to caregivers and sustenance to the healing process." This year, more than 112 social workers, physicians and nurses were nominated for the annual award, which is sponsored by AstraZeneca. Since joining the ATS in 1989, Ms. French has been active in the Society's Assembly on Nursing. She is currently a member of Assembly's Planning Committee and Special Interest Group on Pulmonary Education.

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ATS Member News

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Respiratory Nursing - A Core Curriculum

This year for the first time Nursing Assembly Members will have the opportunity to purchase the Respiratory Nursing - A Core Curriculum text. We will have a limited number of text books available for purchase

at a 25% off discounted price . You may purchase the text book at a discounted rate by attending the Nursing Assembly Membership Meeting on Monday, May 18th from 4:30-6:30 PM. Acceptable forms of payment include check, cash or credit card.

The RNS Core Curriculum was published last year after several years of contribution from many members from the ATS Nursing Assembly.

Advice to a New President—Promoting Preventive Care In The U.S.

Kathleen O. Lindell, PhD, RN, Clinical Nurse Specialist, University of Pittsburgh

The cover of the December 1 Time magazine read “The Sorry State of American Healthcare,” revealing that the United States spends more money/resources on healthcare than any other nation, and yet Americans are not healthier. Obesity is on the rise, resulting in more health problems; smoking rates are down, but not as much as desired; and inactivity is a major problem for many Americans, including children. Preventive health care as addressed in Healthy 2010, therefore, should be a major goal for the new administration. Patients need to become the “quarterback” of their health care team and assume responsibility for engaging in activities to promote

their well-being. To put patients in charge of their health will require a partnership between patients (and, if the patient is a child, parents), health care providers, insurance companies and all three branches of government. It will also require some new partners. For instance, the restaurant industry, especially fast food chains, must serve healthier meals and in appropriate proportions. Schools must rededicate themselves to health education by making prevention a part of the curriculum from pre-K to graduation, so that good health habits are a learned behavior. School districts should also be encouraged and funded! To provide the same curriculum, but specific to the adult

learner. Employers and insurers should receive tax credits for providing preventive health courses at reduced costs, along with other incentives to attend. As important as making sure every American is insured and has access to care is, it is equally important that everyone has the knowledge, motivation and support that he or she needs to lead a healthier life. Otherwise, health disparities will continue in our country. The benefits of a prevention strategy far outweigh the costs, but to work, all the “stakeholders” must take an active role in putting the patient in charge of his or her health.

Rapid Action Task Force

Lynn F. Reinke, PhD

ATS Task Force Survey Summary:

The Rapid Action Task Force assembled shortly after the assembly business meeting last May. Members who participated in this task force include:

Lynn Reinke, Chair, Puget Sound VA, Health Service R& D

Elise Austegard, ERS Nursing Representative from Norway

Janet Byrne, Medical University of South Carolina

Lynda Mackin, UCSF

Patricia Minton, Vanderbilt

Mark Parshall, University of New Mexico

Mary Fran Tracey, Fairview Hospital

This group created a survey to assess the needs of the Nursing Assembly, and the survey was administered

from 10/9/08 to 12/08/08. Response rate 69/225 = 31%.

Main points:

1. Members' main goals for participating in Nursing Assembly: Professional networking and to receive clinical updates on pulmonary topics
2. News needs to be delivered pro-

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Rapid Action Task Force

Lynn F. Reinke, PhD

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- actively (electronic newsletter) vs. website access alone.
3. Website needs to include the following: updates on Patient Education topics/resources, highlight interdisciplinary or inter-assembly projects, updates on members' research/grants, projects from other assemblies that may have interest to nursing.
 4. Development of assembly project/programs were prioritized with education being the most important. Examples of education issues identified were: Clinical updates, self-education including evidence based re-

views on pulmonary topics. Listing of other pulmonary related professional groups hosting workshops/learning opportunities.

Proposed Action Plan:

1. Improve networking by conducting the business meeting more efficiently. This will allow the opportunity for informal and formal networks to develop and promote collaboration for future projects/ ATS symposia proposals and research.
2. Streamline Business Meeting: Reports from internal commit-

tees/work groups will be published in the newsletter prior to the annual business meeting to improve the efficiency of the reporting format.

3. Identify potential mentors for junior/new members and have "meet and greets" during or after the Business meeting.
4. Provide clinical updates via e-newsletter. Will check if it is feasible to incorporate nursing specific topics in ATS morning minutes on a regular basis e.g. 1x/month.
5. Develop and distribute quarterly automatic e-newsletter.

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 con-

tact your Assembly Planning Committee chair Lynn F. Reinke at reinkl@u.washington.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 exception-

ally 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

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Patients to Speak at Fifteen Designated ATS International Conference Symposia

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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/NRSG/ 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
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. Gochoico, 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 Stollo, 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

NURSING ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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

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.

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.