

Edited by David B. Badesch, MD, Assembly Chair

PULMONARY CIRCULATION ASSEMBLY NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2007

Officers of the PC Assembly

Assembly Chairman
2005-2007: David B. Badesch
david.badesch@uchsc.edu

Planning Chairman
2006-2008: Mark N. Gillespie
mgillesp@jaguar1.usouthal.edu

Program Chairman
2006-2007: Jason Xiao-Jian Yuan
xiyuan@ucsd.edu

Program Chair-elect
2006-2007: Deborah A. Quinn
dquinn1@partners.org

Nominating Chairman
2006-2007: Ivan M. Robbins
ivan.robbins@mcmail.vanderbilt.edu

Web Director
2006-2007: William A. Altemeier
billa@u.washington.edu

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MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY CHAIR DAVID B. BADESCH, MD

It has been another exciting year in the field of pulmonary vascular disease. This newsletter provides summaries of a few of the highlights for the Pulmonary Circulation Assembly – I am sure that many others are not mentioned here. The PC Assembly's program at the ATS International Conference held in San Diego May 20-24, developed by Troy Stevens and members of our Program Committee, was absolutely terrific! This was followed by the Pulmonary Hypertension Association's Biennial International Conference held in Minneapolis June 22-25, 2006, with Medical Sessions led by Ron Oudiz and Scientific Sessions organized by Greg Elliott. The meeting at-

tracted a record 1100 attendees, and became a truly international conference. Next, the 2006 Grover Conference was held at the Lost Valley Ranch in Deckers, Colorado on September 5th through the 10th, 2006. Organized by Karen Fagan, this remarkably successful meeting was entitled "Rho Family GTPases in Pulmonary Vascular Pathophysiology". In December 2006, the NIH held a unique conference led by Roberto Machado and Mark Gladwin on "Evolution of Pulmonary Hypertension: Emerging Diseases and Novel Therapeutics". There have been many other meetings and symposia involving members of our Assembly during the

past year, all contributing to the general feel of excitement in the field.

Looking forward, we are anticipating a great International Conference in San Francisco. This year's PC program has been organized by Jason Yuan and Deborah Quinn. Paul Hassoun is already organizing the 2nd Conference on the Pulmonary Circulation, and discussions have begun in preparation for the 2008 World Symposium on Pulmonary Hypertension, the 2008 PHA International Conference, and 2008 Grover Conference.

Hope to see you at ATS International Conference in San Francisco!

Best regards,
David Badesch

PLANNING COMMITTEE

MARK N. GILLESPIE, PhD, PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Planning Committee has implemented a process for selecting the topic/organizers for forthcoming Grover Conferences on the pulmonary circulation. Grover

Conferences, the most frequent and regularly held international meeting devoted exclusively to subjects pertaining to the pulmonary circulation, are held in the Fall

of each even-numbered year. In even-numbered years, during the period between the annual ATS International Conference and the last day of the

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PLANNING COMMITTEE

MARK N. GILLESPIE, PhD, PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIR

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year, the planning committee will accept proposals from individuals interested in organizing the Conference. Proposals should include a title, a general description of the Conference objective(s) and a tentative outline of the meeting, includ-

ing, if possible, potential speakers. The merits of each proposal, including prospects for obtaining extramural support for the Conference, are assessed by the Planning Committee and by the PC Assembly Leadership Committee. A decision

is rendered early in each odd-numbered year, thus allowing about 18 months for Conference planning and preparation.

NIH MEETING ON "EVOLUTION OF PULMONARY HYPERTENSION: EMERGING DISEASES AND NOVEL THERAPEUTICS"

DAVID B. BADESCH, MD, AND JAHAR BHATTACHARYA, MD

This unique meeting consisted of two days of five plenary sessions featuring 33 distinguished speakers from basic and clinical research, as well as patient advocacy. NHLBI director Dr. Elizabeth Nabel and Congressional Representatives Tom Lantos and Kevin Brady, long-time supporters of PH research, provided valuable perspectives. The content of the meeting was broad in scope. Investigators in pathobiology and pathogenesis highlighted the roles of inflammatory mediators, angiogenesis, and genetic

susceptibility in the development of PH and right heart failure. Associated conditions, such as sickle cell disease, other hemolytic disorders, HIV, and respiratory disorders such as COPD and idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, were addressed. Therapeutics topics included the latest information on current and potential novel therapies, including antioxidants, nitric oxide donors, vasodilators with pleiotropic effects, and antiproliferative agents. An examination of future research

opportunities and future strategies for managing pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) rounded out the plenary sessions. Registration for this exciting meeting exceeded expectations, with a total of 543.

THE 2006 GROVER CONFERENCE: RHO FAMILY GTPASES IN PULMONARY VASCULAR PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

KAREN A. FAGAN, MD

The 2006 Biennial Grover Conference was held at the Lost Valley Ranch near Deckers Colorado in September 2006. This was the 13th Grover Conference, named in honor of Robert Grover, a leader in the study of the Pulmonary Circulation. The topic was "Rho-Family GTPases in Pulmonary Vascular Pathophysiology." Over 80 attendees participated in the

scientific program including many new faces to the PC Community. The meeting was chaired by Karen Fagan, MD and Ivan McMurtry, PhD and sponsored by the ATS, NIH, AHA, APS, and members of the Pharmaceutical Roundtable (Myogen, Actelion, CoTherix, and Asahi). In addition to internationally recognized experts in cell and vascular biology,

physiology, and PH, 25 abstracts were also presented at the meeting highlighting new investigations in this area. Overall the meeting was a tremendous success. The 14th Bi-Annual meeting is scheduled for 2008.

THE 2007 CONFERENCE ON THE PULMONARY CIRCULATION

PAUL M. HASSOUN, MD

The first ERS-ATS Conference on the Pulmonary Circulation was held on December 7-8, 2005 at the "Carré des Sciences" in Paris, France. The scientific training program was directed by a faculty of international specialists who presented the most recent developments and technologies in the field of pulmonary vascular biology and remodeling, with a special emphasis on pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH). The focus of the second conference will be on scleroderma-related PAH. PAH is the leading cause of mortality in patients with scleroderma. With a prevalence of scleroderma of 240 patients/million, and a conservative estimate that 10% of patients will develop PAH, scleroderma-related PAH (PAH-SSc) is likely a leading cause of pulmonary hypertension within the WHO category of PAH-related diseases. Therapeutic trials indicate that PAH-SSc has a significantly poorer response to therapy compared to idiopathic PAH. Most current studies indicate less than a 50% survival at two years despite modern therapy for PAH. This disappointing response to therapy is likely related to a poor understanding of the pathophysiology of the disease, a limited progress in diagnosis and

management of PAH-SSc including lack of specific outcome measures (that factor in the components of the cardiovascular response) and limited knowledge on phenotypic, genomic and genetic characteristics that predict the development of PAH, response to therapy, and survival.

The second conference will provide a forum for experts from Europe and North America specialized in the various fields of pulmonary vasculature, angiogenesis, pulmonary hypertension, rheumatology and connective tissue diseases, and genetics, and build on the extraordinary success of the first ERS-ATS Joint Conference on the Pulmonary Circulation. Similar to the previous seminar, in the second conference, equal time will be given to presentation and discussion to optimize scientific interchange among experts in the field. The date and location of the 2nd conference will soon be announced.

The main goals of the conference are to explore molecular and genetic mechanisms involved in the development of vascular remodelling in scleroderma-related pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) and right ventricular (RV)

failure. At the conclusion of the program, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the pathologic changes involving the pulmonary vessels and the heart in scleroderma-related PAH;
2. Understand the major demographic and phenotypic characteristics of patients with scleroderma-related PAH as compared to patients with other forms of PAH;
3. Be familiar with specific imaging tools (such as echocardiography and MRI) that can be used in scleroderma-related PAH;
4. Understand signalling pathways, genomics and genetic changes involved in remodelling and angiogenesis affecting the pulmonary vasculature as well as the heart in scleroderma-related pulmonary hypertension; and
5. Consider novel therapeutic targets for scleroderma-related PAH and RV failure.

The meeting will offer continuing medical education credits for physicians.

SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS OF THE PULMONARY HYPERTENSION ASSOCIATION

C. GREGORY ELLIOTT, MD

The 7th International Pulmonary Hypertension Conference and Scientific Sessions were held June 23rd through June 25th 2006 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The scientific ses-

sions focused upon three major interrelated themes: the importance of inflammation, the importance of genetics, and new and evolving imaging modalities for the diagno-

sis and monitoring of patients with pulmonary arterial hypertension. Paul M. Ridker, M.D., Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical

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SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS OF THE PULMONARY HYPERTENSION ASSOCIATION

C. GREGORY ELLIOTT, MD

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School reviewed the abundant research over the past decade that implicates inflammation in systemic vascular diseases. Dr. Ridker discussed the relationship between elevated levels of cytokines and C-reactive protein and the development of coronary and cerebrovascular disease. Knowledge continues to advance with respect to the role of inflammatory mediators and pulmonary arterial hypertension. Dr. Norbert Voelkel, Professor of Medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, reviewed the evidence linking inflammation and the development of pulmonary arterial hypertension. Dr. Voelkel emphasized the importance of furthering our understanding of whether or not inflammation is the cause or the consequence of pulmonary arterial hypertension. Dr. John Newman, Professor of Medicine at Vanderbilt University

School of Medicine, provided an update on our current understanding of genes and pulmonary hypertension. Dr. Newman pointed out that mutations in the gene that codes for bone morphogenetic protein receptor type 2 have been identified in more than 50% of familial pulmonary arterial hypertension patients and 15-20% of apparently sporadic idiopathic pulmonary arterial hypertension patients. Dr. Newman provided a link to the discussion regarding inflammation when he pointed out that only 20% of patients with BMPR2 mutations develop pulmonary arterial hypertension, thereby suggesting that other environmental factors or modifying genes confer either protection or risk for the development of this disease. Dr. Valentin Fuster, Professor of Cardiology at Mt. Sinai Medical Center reviewed the emergence of magnetic resonance imag-

ing as a modality with enormous potential for the non-invasive evaluation of pulmonary hypertension. Dr. Fuster pointed out that contrast enhanced Magnetic Resonance Angiography can be used to visualize the complete pulmonary arterial tree. Dr. Fuster's presentation was followed by a presentation by Dr. Ekkehard Grunig, M.D., which described the role of echocardiography and exercise echocardiography in the early detection of pulmonary arterial hypertension.

The presentations of the scientific session of the 7th International Pulmonary Hypertension Conference offered a starting point for continued discussion by more than 300 clinicians and scientists who attended the meeting and presented their scientific work in an interactive poster session.

MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIR

JASON X.-J. YUAN, MD, PHD

Dear Colleagues:

It is time to prepare to attend the 2007 ATS International Conference in San Francisco on May 18-23, 2007.

As many of you know, the Assembly on Pulmonary Circulation (PC) Program Committee has once again been hard at work to ensure we present the latest and best topics at the 2007 ATS International Conference in San Francisco, May 18 to 23.

As Program Committee Chair, I'd like to encourage you to attend this

year's meeting, which will be more interactive and comprehensive than ever before. In total, the Assembly on PC is sponsoring two Postgraduate Courses, four Evening Postgraduate Seminars, three Sunrise Seminars, three Meet the Professor Seminars, and more than nineteen scientific sessions focusing on topics ranging from molecular mechanisms to clinical management of pulmonary vascular diseases and acute lung injury. Needless to say, the vast breadth of our assembly's interests will be well represented at ATS 2007.

The clinical and scientific areas involved would include, among others, the following fields:

- Hemodynamics of the pulmonary circulation and cor pulmonale
- Pathology of the pulmonary circulation
- Relation to vasoactive humoral agents
- Pulmonary capillary physiology and edema
- Vascular smooth muscle
- Endothelial cells and lung metabolic functions

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MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIR

JASON X.-J. YUAN, MD, PHD

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- Thrombo-embolism, clinical and experimental
- Relations between central nervous and autonomic nervous systems and the pulmonary circulation
- Inter-relations between respiration and pulmonary circulation

Although you should have already received the Advance Program by mail, the sessions sponsored by our assembly are also highlighted in

this newsletter. Remember, the program is also available on the ATS Web site at www.thoracic.org/go/international-conference, where you can register electronically if you prefer.

Don't forget to attend the PC Assembly membership meeting, which will be held on Monday, May 21, 2007 from 4:30-6:30 pm at the Hilton San Francisco located at 333 O'Farrel Street (approximately 10 min from the Moscone Center)

If you have any questions about the conference, please contact me (xiyuan@ucsd.edu) or Ms. Francine Comi (fcomi@thoracic.org), Director, Scientific Meetings & Conferences of ATS.

I look forward to seeing you all in San Francisco.

Sincerely,

Jason X.-J. Yuan, M.D., Ph.D.

Program Committee Chair, Assembly on Pulmonary Circulation

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 Mark Gillespie at mgillesp@jaguar1.usouthal.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 PULMONARY CIRCULATION

Postgraduate Courses			
<u>Friday, May 18</u>			
PG9	Pulmonary Embolism Diagnosis And Treatment: State Of The Art 2007	8:00 am	3:00 pm
<u>Saturday, May 19</u>			
PG24	How To Manage Patients With Pulmonary Hypertension: A Course For Clinicians	8:00 am	4:00 pm
Scientific Symposia			
<u>Sunday, May 20</u>			
A89	Protective Strategies In Ali-Associated Pulmonary Vascular Dysfunction	1:30 pm	4:15 pm
<u>Monday, May 21</u>			
B10	Molecular Basis Of Right Ventricular Hypertrophy And Failure	8:15 am	11:00 am
<u>Tuesday, May 22</u>			
C86	Pulmonary Hypertension In Patients With COPD	1:30 pm	4:15 pm
<u>Wednesday, May 23</u>			
D7	Circulating Stem Cells For The Lung: Therapeutic Implications For Chronic Lung Diseases	8:15 am	11:00 am
Evening Postgraduate Seminars			
<u>Sunday, May 20</u>			
E2	New Frontiers In PAH Therapy	7:00 pm	9:00 pm
E3	Evidence For Long Term Survival Outcomes In Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension	7:00 pm	9:00 pm
<u>Monday, May 21</u>			
E8	Diagnosis And Evaluation Of Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension: What Data Are We Interested In And What Do We Really Need To Know?	7:00 pm	9:00 pm
<u>Tuesday, May 22</u>			
E10	Pulmonary Hypertension: A Look To The Future	7:00 pm	9:00 pm
Meet The Professor Seminars			
<u>Sunday, May 20</u>			
MP417	Treatment Of Pulmonary Hypertension: From The Past To The Future	12:00 pm	1:00 pm
<u>Monday, May 21</u>			
MP517	Pitfalls In The Diagnosis Of Pulmonary Hypertension	12:00 pm	1:00 pm
<u>Tuesday, May 22</u>			
MP615	Portopulmonary Hypertension	12:00 pm	1:00 pm
Sunrise Seminars			
<u>Monday, May 21</u>			
SS115	Diastolic Heart Failure And Pulmonary Hypertension: The Pulmonologist's New Mitral Stenosis	7:00 am	8:00 am
<u>Tuesday, May 22</u>			
SS217	Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension: Diagnosis And Treatment Strategies	7:00 am	8:00 am

ATS 2007 – SAN FRANCISCO
SESSIONS SPONSORED BY THE
ASSEMBLY ON PULMONARY CIRCULATION

Sunrise Seminars			
<u>Wednesday, May 23</u>			
SS317	Management Of Pulmonary Hypertension Secondary To Diastolic Dysfunction	7:00 am	8:00 am
Mini-Symposia			
<u>Sunday, May 20</u>			
A19	Pulmonary Edema, Acute Lung Injury And Endothelial Barrier Function	8:15 am	11:00 am
<u>Monday, May 21</u>			
B15	Therapeutic Advances In Pulmonary Vascular Disease	8:15 am	11:00 am
B93	Cellular And Molecular Mechanisms Of Pulmonary Hypertension: New Insights	1:30 pm	4:15 pm
<u>Tuesday, May 22</u>			
C14	Biomarkers, Risk Factors, And Genetic Determinants Of Pulmonary Hypertension	8:15 am	11:00 am
Poster Discussions			
<u>Sunday, May 20</u>			
A24	Hypoxic Regulation Of Pulmonary Vasomotor And Vascular Remodeling	8:15 am	11:00 am
A109	Cellular And Molecular Events In Pulmonary Hypertension	1:30 pm	4:15 pm
<u>Monday, May 21</u>			
B106	Pulmonary Vascular Endothelium And Lung Injury	1:30 Pm	4:15 Pm
<u>Wednesday, May 23</u>			
D109	Clinical Management And Etiological Mechanims Of Pulmonary Embolism And Pulmonary Hypertension	1:30 Pm	4:15 Pm
Thematic Posters			
<u>Sunday, May 20</u>			
A80-A	Lung Vascular Permeability And Pulmonary Edema	8:15 Am	4:15 Pm
<u>Monday, May 21</u>			
B48	Clinical Treatment Of Pulmonary Hypertension	8:15 Am	4:15 Pm
B49	Right Heart Dysfunction And Hemodynamics In Pulmonary Hypertension	8:15 Am	4:15 Pm
B50	Cell Signaling And Regulation Of Apoptosis And Proliferation In The Pulmonary Vasculature	8:15 Am	4:15 Pm
<u>Tuesday, May 22</u>			
C58	Pulmonary Hypertension: Diagnosis And Outcomes	8:15 Am	4:15 Pm
<u>Wednesday, May 23</u>			
D39	Deep Vein Thrombosis, Pulmonary Embolism And Chronic Thromboembolic Pulmonary Hypertension	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 investigators and researchers are engaged.

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

ASSEMBLY	SESSION CODE	TITLE	DATE/TIME
NRS	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

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ATS PAR SYMPOSIUM

(Continued from page 8)

- 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.

ASSEMBLY ON PULMONARY CIRCULATION MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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

SAN FRANCISCO HILTON

CONTINENTAL 7-9

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED THROUGH

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