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Pulmonary Rehabilitation

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MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY CHAIR

Dear Assembly colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that I present our Spring 2017 PR Assembly newsletter to you. I would like to thank all our colleagues who have contributed to it. Our goal is to update you regarding the recent activities of the Assembly on Pulmonary Rehabilitation and to inform you about some additional activities going on within the ATS as a whole. Our Executive Committee members would be pleased to receive further input from you as short comments on the newsletter or points of information that may be of interest to our members. Please send any contributions to us via our Assembly mailbox at PR@thoracic.org.



Carolyn L. Rochester, MD

Currently, now in its 8th year, the ATS Assembly on Pulmonary Rehabilitation has a total of 674 members. Of these, 223 are primary members, and 451 list the PR Assembly as their secondary Assembly membership. Although our total membership has increased by ~ 2.5 fold since the time the Assembly was established in 2010, we remain one of the three smallest Assemblies within ATS. Our members represent multiple countries and multiple healthcare disciplines. Currently, only 82 of our primary members are from the United States; we have 360 international members. An estimated 88 % are MDs, 8% are physiotherapists or exercise physiologists, 2% are nurses (RN and/or APRN), and 2% are respiratory therapists.

This newsletter comes just before the Annual ATS International conference in May, and the program this year is as varied and engaging as ever. We hope to see many of you in Washington DC! **Please feel welcome to attend our annual PR Assembly Membership Meeting on Monday, May 22nd from 5-7PM. It will be held in the Renaissance Washington Downtown Hotel, in the Renaissance Ballroom West A (Ballroom level).** This meeting is an opportunity for you to meet the Assembly Executive Committee and to network with international colleagues representing many healthcare disciplines. Members of the Executive Committee will be present at 4:30 pm to meet, greet and speak with anyone who has ideas for and who would like to become more involved with Assembly activities. We especially welcome new members or potential members to this meeting!

If you are unable to attend our membership meeting in Washington, DC, please use our Assembly Website and newsletter as a way of staying in touch! This is an exciting time for the field of pulmonary rehabilitation, given ongoing developments regarding its science, delivery and importance in the overall integrated care of patients with chronic respiratory diseases. There are several exciting initiatives ongoing within our Assembly and within ATS. Please read on to learn about these recent activities!

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PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

Marilyn Moy, M.D, PhD, Chair and William Man, MD, PhD, Chair-Elect

This year, the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Assembly received 87 abstract submissions plus 9 late-breaking abstract submissions. This is similar to, but slightly less than, the number of abstracts submitted over the past couple of years. The quality of submissions continues to be very high. Notably, this year was the second year wherein new abstract submission categories and subcategories were piloted for the ATS International Conference. This new category system allows for a greater amount of discussion and collaboration across Assemblies for programming of abstracts wherein the subject is of interest to more than one Assembly. It is too soon to know whether and how the new abstract categories may impact the total number of abstracts submitted for which our Assembly has primary programming opportunity. The new abstract category system will be discussed further at the PR Assembly membership meeting. Please feel free to contact the Program Committee Chair if you have any questions or comments regarding the process for abstract submissions or the new abstract categories. **We are particularly interested in learning your reasons for choosing to submit abstracts to the PR Assembly as compared to other Assemblies, and in understanding how the PR Assembly can best meet your membership needs!**

The Assembly on Pulmonary Rehabilitation Sessions for the ATS 2017 International Conference are shown below: Additional conference sessions of potential interest to you can be found on the ATS website: www.thoracic.org on the ATS Conferences tab.

ATS 2017 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY ON PULMONARY REHABILITATION SESSIONS

Session Code	Session Title	Session Time	
Postgraduate Courses			
Friday, May 19, 2017			
PG8	PRACTICAL OUTCOME TOOLS IN COPD: FROM CLINICAL CARE TO CLINICAL TRIALS	8:00 AM	4:00 PM
Scientific Symposia			
Sunday, May 21, 2017			
A7	HOT TOPICS IN PULMONARY REHABILITATION: A PRO/CON DEBATE	9:15 AM	11:15 AM
Tuesday, May 23, 2017			
C90	PULMONARY REHABILITATION ACROSS HEALTH CARE SETTINGS	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
Jointly-Developed Symposia			
Monday, May 22, 2017			
B91	IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE IN PULMONARY, CRITICAL CARE, SLEEP AND PEDIATRIC MEDICINE: HOW SOON IS NOW?	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
Sunrise Seminars			
Monday, May 22, 2017			
SS115	ASSESSING AND TREATING SLEEP DISORDERS IN CHRONIC LUNG DISEASE AND THE ROLE OF PULMONARY REHABILITATION	7:00 AM	8:00 AM
Meet The Professor Seminars			
Sunday, May 21, 2017			
MP414	ROLE OF E-TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING TELEREHABILITATION, IN THE MANAGEMENT OF CHRONIC LUNG DISEASE	12:15 PM	1:15 PM

<i>Mini-Symposia</i>			
Tuesday, May 23, 2017			
C17	ADVANCES IN PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, PULMONARY REHABILITATION, AND EXERCISE TRAINING	9:15 AM	11:15 AM
<i>Poster Discussion Sessions</i>			
Sunday, May 21, 2017			
A109	HIGHLIGHTS IN PULMONARY REHABILITATION: ILD, ADJUNCTS, AND INSPIRATORY MUSCLE TRAINING	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
<i>Thematic Poster Sessions</i>			
Sunday, May 21, 2017			
A70	PULMONARY REHABILITATION IN LUNG TRANSPLANTATION AND THE ACUTE SETTING	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
Monday, May 22, 2017			
B73	PULMONARY REHABILITATION IN COPD	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
B74	PULMONARY REHABILITATION FOR NON-COPD DIAGNOSES	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
Tuesday, May 23, 2017			
C72	PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND EXERCISE CAPACITY	9:15 AM	4:15 PM

PROGRAM PLANNING FOR NEXT YEAR

We encourage all members of the PR Assembly to get involved in the planning for next year's ATS meeting! The first discussions regarding possible session topics will take place at the **PR Assembly Membership Meeting on Monday, May 22nd from 5-7PM. It will be held in the Renaissance Washington Downtown Hotel, in the Renaissance Ballroom West A (Ballroom level).** Please do plan to attend if you are able! These initial ideas will be discussed further at the Program Committee Meeting at the ATS International Conference. Ideas for symposia and other sessions can also be discussed with Marilyn Moy, Program Committee Chair, William Man, Program Chair-elect, or with other members of the Program Committee of the PR Assembly Leadership (listed on the PR Assembly Website).

Session proposals are developed and then uploaded onto the ATS website for submission in early June. Note that the processes and submission requirements for the various types of session proposals (including major symposia, mini-symposia, workshops, meet the professor sessions, sunrise seminars, poster presentation sessions and ideas for postgraduate courses) are available on the ATS Website. Please check this information as it is both necessary and helpful in developing session proposals for next year's International Conference. Any member of the Assembly may develop and submit a proposal!!

Each year, the Assembly Program Committee reviews, grades and ranks all sessions submitted for consideration. **Robust submission of abstracts and proposals for symposia and other sessions is essential to achieving presentation of state-of-the-art science in pulmonary rehabilitation at the International Conference !**

Currently, the PR Assembly is allocated two major symposia, one mini-symposium, one poster discussion session and two thematic poster sessions for presentation at the annual International Conference. Additional symposia sessions can occasionally be obtained and programmed if accepted to the program as a joint proposal between the PR Assembly and one or more other ATS Assemblies. The actual dates and times for each Assembly's sessions are determined at the International Conference Committee meetings each Fall. Day and time slots for the major symposia for each of the ATS Assemblies are determined by drawing "out of a hat" in effort to maintain fairness across Assemblies.

We encourage everyone to get involved, by submitting abstracts, ideas and proposals for all the various types of sessions!! We particularly encourage involvement by new Assembly members, those in training, and those from countries where pulmonary rehabilitation is a new and emerging field. We look forward to hearing from you!

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Melissa Bednarek, PT, DPT, PhD, Chair

The primary responsibility of the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Assembly Planning Committee is to review grant proposals for Assembly-based projects based on the goals and priorities of the Assembly. Additional duties are to suggest updates to existing documents and/or new projects that would be of benefit to the Assembly. The Planning Committee also reviews and votes on nominations received annually for recipients of the Early Career Achievement Research Award (see further information below).

This past year, one project was successfully renewed. Dr. Felicity Blackstock received continued funding for her project “COPD Education in Pulmonary Rehabilitation Programs”. We look forward to the results of this project! Proposals for two other new projects--one for a Statement on self-management in COPD, and another submitted in collaboration with the Clinical Problems Assembly for a Clinical Guideline on Management of Comorbidities of COPD were unfortunately not funded by ATS this past year, due to a highly competitive submissions cycle.

The Planning Committee meets face-to-face each year at the ATS Meeting in May and reviews submitted proposals over the summer. Please bring ideas for new projects to the PR Assembly membership meeting! The 2017 ATS Pulmonary Rehabilitation Planning Committee will hold a meeting during the ATS Conference to discuss ideas presented at the PR Assembly Membership Meeting. The proposal submission date comes soon after the ATS conference. Please contact Melissa Bednarek with your ideas and suggestions for future projects for the Assembly.

Early Career Research Award

This award, initiated in 2015, is given annually to an individual who has made outstanding scientific contributions relevant to the understanding of pulmonary rehabilitation, including but not limited to: program structure, program content, outcomes or outcome measures, adjuncts to exercise training, education, self-management, health-enhancing behavior change, social or psychological support, knowledge translation and program accreditation. This year's awardee will be announced at the Assembly Membership meeting at the International Conference. Please submit your suggestions for future awardees or questions regarding this award to the PR Assembly Chair, Melissa Bednarek, or other members of the PR Assembly Executive Committee.

WEB COMMITTEE REPORT

Rachel Evans, MBChB, MRCP (UK), PhD, Chair

The PR Assembly Web Committee has been very active this past year, developing and implementing a variety of Web-based collaborative and educational activities!

Importantly, these web-based activities enable and foster participation in multidisciplinary collaborative interactions across programs and continents, and can reach parts of the world where PR is thus far less available.

Journal Clubs

Since ATS 2016, the Web Committee organized four online Journal Clubs that took place via webinar. The PR Assembly Journal Clubs have covered a range of topics, and in keeping with the profile of our Assembly membership, have been presented by multidisciplinary experts from many countries.

In September 2016, the manuscript by Benzo R et al., entitled “Health coaching and COPD re-hospitalization: a randomized study” was presented by Dr. Paula Meek, with Dr. Rachel Evans as Moderator, and Dr. Fabio Pitta as Panelist.

In November 2016, the manuscript by Louvaris, Z et al., entitled “Interval training induces clinically meaningful effects in daily activity levels in COPD” was presented by Dr. Heleen Demeyer, with Dr. Rachel Evans as Moderator, and Dr. Rafael Mesquita as Panelist.

In February 2017, the webinar covered the study of Drs. Anne Holland and Zoe McKeough entitled “Home-based rehabilitation for COPD using minimal resources: a randomized, controlled equivalence trial”. This was presented by Dr. Veronique Pepin, with Dr. Annemarie Lee as Moderator, and Dr. Rachel Evans as a discussion Panelist. The most recent journal club webinar earlier this month (April 2017) covered the study of Guell R. et al., entitled “Benefits of long-term pulmonary rehabilitation maintenance program in severe COPD patients: a 3-year follow-up”. The paper was presented by Associate Professor Pat Camp. The session was moderated by Claire Nolan, and Drs. Marilyn Moy and Pilar Cejudo. The next journal Club covering the topic of the relationship between the serum ACE gene and pulmonary rehabilitation is anticipated to take place in June 2017.

Keep an eye out for the announcements of the Journal Club webinars for the coming year! These sessions have been well-attended and well-received to date! Please send us your feedback as to how we can optimize these Journal Club Sessions! We also welcome your ideas regarding manuscripts that you would be particularly be interested in hearing presented as a Journal Club webinar in the future!

Twitter

The official Twitter account of the PR Assembly ([@PR_Assembly](https://twitter.com/PR_Assembly)) currently has 501 followers, nearly triple the number of followers noted back in 2015. Several members of the web committee actively feed on this Twitter page. Literature updates, news, Journal Club announcements, notices about PR-related content at the ATS International Conference, and other issues related to the Assembly are regularly communicated through this account. Twitter provides a platform which we hope will continue to develop as a means of communication for our multi-disciplinary Assembly Members across multiple continents. For those not yet connected to Twitter, a “How to tweet” guide is now available on the PR Assembly website! We encourage you to get involved!

Podcasts

Since the time of the ATS International Conference in May 2016, two new podcasts have been developed and are available on the PR Assembly website. Dr. Fabio Pitta interviewed Dr. Sally Singh and Dr. Carolyn Rochester, who provided a review of the PR-related content from the May 2016 International Conference. Professor Jennifer Alison spoke with Professor Martijn Spruit on the topic of measuring outcomes of pulmonary rehabilitation. Other podcasts available on the Assembly website are “Simple physical performance measures in patients with COPD”, “Advancing our understanding of COPD: A Conversation with Dr. Augustine Choi”, “Self-management in COPD and chronic lung disease”, and “Pulmonary rehabilitation in non-obstructive lung disease”. Podcasts anticipated to come in the near future include “The ATS/ERS Official Policy Statement: Enhancing Implementation, Use and Delivery of Pulmonary Rehabilitation” and “Providing pulmonary rehabilitation with minimal resources”. Another update of the content from the 2017 ATS International Conference will also be forthcoming.

Instagram

In addition to its Twitter account, the Web Committee started an Instagram page for the PR Assembly. Content and activity should be increased in near future. Please follow us: https://www.instagram.com/pr_assembly/

Video content

A 10-minute documentary on the organization of Pulmonary Rehabilitation in the Netherlands is posted on the PR Assembly website. New videos are also available on how to perform measures of physical performance, and strategies for exercise training in pulmonary rehabilitation. Additional video materials will be posted on the website in the near future. Suggestions for additional video content of the website are very welcome!

Additional Web Committee Projects

Additional content has been updated on the PR Assembly Website, including links to the recent PR-related ATS/ERS Statements. An updated list of other key publications in PR is also planned. In addition, the Web Committee regularly updates the “What’s new” section on the Assembly Website.

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WEB COMMITTEE REPORT (Cont'd)

A trial of new, brief quarterly “opinion pieces”—sound bites of important information in Pulmonary Rehabilitation—are planned in the coming year. Links to other Respiratory Disease Societies PR Websites are also being considered as a means of fostering and enhancing collaborations for trainees and research. Please send us your feedback regarding what types of web-based materials would be most useful and helpful for you!

Members of the Web Committee

Currently, the Web Committee is comprised of 4 individuals—Rachel Evans, a respiratory consultant physician from the UK, Carlos Camillo, a research physiotherapist from Brazil, Annemarie Lee, a research physiotherapist from Australia, and Claire Nolan, a research physiotherapist also from the UK. The Web Committee is now seeking one or two PR Assembly Members from the United States to join the Committee, as the two previous members from the US had to resign their posts during this past year. Please let Rachel Evans know if you are interested in being part of the Web Committee. The Web Committee will meet again during ATS in Washington DC this May, and plans for the next year will be discussed.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Martijn A. Spruit, PT, PhD

The Nominating Committee is responsible for nominating individuals to the various positions within the ATS PR Assembly leadership. This year we held elections for the Assembly Program Chair-elect, and for new members of the Nominating Committee. We (Rebecca Crouch, Francois Maltais and I) and our Assembly Membership identified several wonderful candidates for these positions. The election results will be announced at the PR Assembly membership meeting (and will be posted thereafter on the Assembly Website).

For the 2017-2018 year ahead, we will be seeking to identify new potential candidates to run for the position of Assembly Chair. We welcome and encourage your suggestions regarding individuals you believe would make outstanding contributions to our Assembly in these leadership positions. The Nominating Committee also strongly encourages membership participation in the various Assembly Committees. The obligations and time commitments vary with the different positions, but the responsibilities are overall very straightforward and fun! Please do let us know if you have potential interest in serving on one of the PR Assembly Committees.

ATS/ERS TASKFORCE ON POLICY IN PULMONARY REHABILITATION

Carolyn L. Rochester, MD & Ioannis Vogiatzis, Ph.D

The joint ATS/ERS Task Force on Policy in Pulmonary Rehabilitation, Co-chaired by Carolyn L. Rochester, M.D. and Ioannis Vogiatzis, Ph.D. worked between May 2013 and the Fall of 2015 to develop a Policy Statement to address the existing gap between the well-established evidence documenting benefits of PR for patients with chronic respiratory diseases and the actual delivery of PR services world-wide. The document developed by this Task Force, “**An Official American Thoracic Society/European Respiratory Society Policy Statement: Enhancing Implementation, Use and Delivery of Pulmonary Rehabilitation**” was published in December 2015: *Am J Respir Crit Care Med* 2015;192(11)1373-86. This document articulates policy recommendations and provides actionable items for advancing healthcare professionals’, payers’ patients’ and general public’s awareness and knowledge of PR, increasing patient access to PR, ensuring quality of PR programs, and recommends areas of future research to inform future healthcare funding and reimbursement policy regarding PR.

Efforts are still underway in ATS and ERS to enhance dissemination of this document and its messages to patients, the public, healthcare professionals, healthcare policy makers, and payers. Some of the new Assembly Initiatives from this past year relate to some of the “Actionable Items” articulated in the Policy Statement (see below).

Realization of the goals of the Policy Statement will take time and will require a multifaceted approach. Additional collaborative work is needed to promote the individual recommendations from within the Policy Statement. Please contact the Task Force Co-chairs, PR Assembly Chair or other members of the PR Assembly Executive Committee if you have any ideas or comments related to this document or suggestions for strategies for promotion of the recommendations within it.

EUROPEAN RESPIRATORY SOCIETY

Ioannis Vogiatzis, PhD

Ioannis Vogiatzis, PhD is the current chair of the ERS Scientific Rehabilitation and Chronic Care Group 01.02. Dr. Vogiatzis has been a strong supporter and active member of our ATS PR Assembly and served as ERS Co-chair of the ATS/ERS Task Force on Policy in Pulmonary Rehabilitation. The ERS Group 01.02 is the ERS group most similar to our PR Assembly, and we share interests and experiences on an ongoing basis.

Our collaboration with the ERS Rehabilitation and Chronic Care Group broadens our international platform and embraces interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary discussions on rehabilitation and chronic care. Many of our members also attend the annual ERS International Congress, which will be held this year from September 9th-13th, 2017 in Milan, Italy. In addition to all the aspects of rehabilitation, the chronic care aspect of the ERS group includes palliative care, advance life directives, end-of-life communication, home care, e-health, self-management, care of patients with tracheostomies and those requiring home-mechanical ventilation, and more. The ERS Rehabilitation and Chronic Care Group kindly shares their quarterly literature updates with us, which many of us read with interest.

Recent past joint ATS/ERS projects have included the ATS/ERS Task Force on Policy in Pulmonary Rehabilitation (see section above), the Statement on Skeletal Muscle Dysfunction in COPD (2014), the Official Systematic Review of “Measurement Properties of Field Walking Tests (2014) and the Technical Standard: Field Walking Tests in Chronic Respiratory Disease (2014). Discussions between the ATS PR Assembly and the ERS Rehabilitation and Chronic Care Group regarding future collaborative projects are underway. Future projects under consideration include development of quality standards for pulmonary rehabilitation to enable international benchmarking in PR, and development of standardized educational curricula in pulmonary rehabilitation for physicians and other healthcare disciplines. Please send us your ideas for possible additional collaborative projects.

NEW PR ASSEMBLY INITIATIVES 2016-2017

Early Career Working Group Established

Increasing engagement of healthcare professionals in the early stages of their careers is an important goal of the ATS, and most other Assemblies within ATS have established Early Career Working Groups to address the needs and concerns of members early in their careers. **This past year, we developed and implemented an Early Career Working Group within the PR Assembly.** This Working Group, currently comprised of 5 PR Assembly members, is being led by Narelle Cox, PhD, from Melbourne, Australia. Additional members of the Working Group are actively being sought. The goal is that this Working Group will be comprised of multidisciplinary members from several countries, who collectively can represent the interests of our US-based and International early career Assembly members. Indeed, early career healthcare professionals are the future lifeblood of the PR Assembly! The purposes and activities of the Assembly Early Career Working Group include (but are not limited to): providing orientation to the PR Assembly for new Assembly members or for those considering membership, communicating with authors of PR abstracts, new attendees and early career members regarding new initiatives and activities ongoing in the PR Assembly and ways to become involved, as well as meeting and greeting early career and new members at the PR Assembly Membership meeting. Importantly, implementation of a PR Assembly mentorship (mentor-mentee partnership) program relevant to career development is planned in the coming year. Please contact Dr. Narelle Cox if you are interested in joining the PR Assembly Early Career Professionals' Working Group. If not in the early stages of your career, please also let Dr. Cox know if you would be willing to participate as a PR Assembly mentor for any early career professionals within any healthcare discipline!

Please do send us your feedback and any additional ideas regarding this Working Group to our Assembly Mailbox at PR@thoracic.org.

Representation of Pulmonary Rehabilitation Assembly Within ATS Committees

The Assemblies within ATS are one key mechanism by which ATS members can interact and collaborate with others with like-minded interests. However, in addition to the Assemblies, the ATS also has many formal Committees (comprised of ATS members from multiple Assemblies, appointed by the ATS President) who undertake a variety of activities essential to the overall missions of ATS.

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The PR Assembly now has representatives on several of the ATS Committees, including The Research Advocacy Committee, Clinicians' Advisory Committee, Council of Chapter Representatives, Documents Development and Implementation Committee, International Conference Committee, Planning and Evaluation Committee, Program Review Subcommittee, Publications Policy Committee, Scientific Advisory Committee and Web Editorial Committee. Please visit the ATS Website (www.thoracic.org) and visit the Committees link under the Assemblies and Sections tab to learn more about the ATS Committees and identify your PR Assembly representatives. Feel free to contact the PR Assembly Committee Member representatives if you would like to raise an issue or topic for consideration in one or more of the Committees.

Efforts to Foster Interactions between PR Assembly and other ATS Committees

There are many ATS Committee-based initiatives with a high degree of overlapping relevance and interest to the PR Assembly. For example, Committees with ongoing activities of particular importance to our Assembly include (but are not limited to) the Quality Improvement and Implementation Committee, Education Committee, the Training Committee, the Membership Committee, the International Health Committee, the Health Policy Committee, Patient and Family Education Committee and others.

The PR Assembly leadership hopes to partner more with the leaders of those Committees to foster joint collaborative initiatives in the years ahead. Examples include ideas and goals to foster PR Assembly membership, update the key literature references for pulmonary rehabilitation on the ATS Website, develop collaborations to develop standardized educational curricula for pulmonary rehabilitation, and collaborate regarding global outreach to support and foster development and implementation of pulmonary rehabilitation in regions/countries where it is lacking. We are interested in hearing any ideas you have regarding additional ways we could work collaboratively with any of the other ATS Committees. Please go to the ATS Website at www.thoracic.org to learn more about the ATS Committees.

Pulmonary Rehabilitation Assembly Input Into National Action Plan for COPD

A National Action Plan for Diagnosis and Management of COPD has been under development at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) over the past couple of years, following a Town Hall Meeting held in Washington, DC with widespread input from a wide variety of stakeholders (including NIH leaders, researchers, healthcare professionals, patients and others) in 2015. Pulmonary rehabilitation was featured in that Town Hall Meeting as a key component of the integrated care of individuals with COPD. This past year, the Assembly on Pulmonary Rehabilitation provided input into the COPD National Action Plan, via our ATS Liaison Gary Ewart. We look forward to further updates regarding this Action Plan in the year to come.

Development of a National Quality Metric for Pulmonary Rehabilitation Referrals

One of the recommendations made in the **ATS/ERS Official Policy Statement: Enhancing Implementation, Use and Delivery of Pulmonary Rehabilitation** to foster increased healthcare professionals' awareness of and patient referrals to pulmonary rehabilitation (PR) was to consider development of a National Quality Metric to link healthcare professionals' "pay for performance" to referrals of suitable patients for PR. During this past year, the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Assembly Leadership collaborated with the ATS Quality Improvement and Implementation Committee, Gary Ewart, and a consultant to ATS with expertise in healthcare quality metrics to develop a proposal for a new, National Quality Metric that would require healthcare professionals in the US to refer suitable patients with COPD to PR as a routine component of their care. Development of new National Quality Metrics is at least a three-year process, and it is not certain that our efforts will succeed. Nevertheless, if ultimately successful, a National Center for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) Metric requiring physicians to refer suitable COPD patients for PR would go a long way to foster patient referrals to PR, increase knowledge and awareness of PR. Ultimately, it would likely also drive increased access to PR in regions of the US where it is currently less available or lacking. Stay tuned for further updates as this process unfolds!

Planning for a Public Awareness Campaign for Pulmonary Rehabilitation

Another item recommended within the ATS/ERS Policy Statement on Pulmonary Rehabilitation was to increase patients' and the general public's knowledge and awareness of PR through public awareness campaigns. Members of the PR Assembly are currently collaborating with The ATS Committee on Patient and Family Education and a private Foundation with interest in fostering knowledge and delivery of PR on developing a plan for such a public awareness campaign. Increased patient and public awareness of the processes and benefits of PR is likely to encourage patients and their families to knowledgeably seek access to it. Further updates on this effort will be forthcoming!

Other Pulmonary Rehabilitation Assembly Awards

At the 2016 ATS meeting, we presented 15 ATS Scholarship Abstract Awards. During the International Conference itself, we had the pleasure of hearing presentations and reading posters authored by this bright group of individuals from various healthcare specialties. These Awards celebrate the outstanding scientific contributions to the field of Pulmonary Rehabilitation made by our Assembly Members. This year's Scholarship Abstract Awardees will be announced at the PR Assembly Membership Meeting in Washington, DC in May.

In addition, at the PR Assembly Membership Meeting in 2016, we presented our 3 annual Pulmonary Rehabilitation Recognition Awards. These Awards celebrate outstanding contributions of individuals to the field of pulmonary rehabilitation and to the ATS Pulmonary Rehabilitation Assembly. The 2016 Awardees were:

From The Americas: Roger S. Goldstein, M.D.

From Europe and Other Continents: Anne E. Holland, PhD

In Memoriam or Emeritus: Karlman Wasserman, M.D.

This year's awardees will also be announced at the PR Assembly Membership Meeting in Washington, DC.

Efforts to Foster Growth of PR Assembly Membership

The PR Assembly remains one of the smallest Assemblies within ATS. We aim to increase our membership further over time, to continue to further the science of PR, foster mentor-mentee relationships and career development in the discipline of PR, increase representation of the discipline of PR at the ATS International Conferences, enhance knowledge and awareness of healthcare professionals regarding PR, increase collaborations among our members (as well as between ATS, ERS and other international respiratory and primary care societies and patient advocacy groups), enhance representation of members from regions/countries where PR services are currently minimal or lacking altogether, and ultimately to foster increased delivery and use of PR for suitable patients worldwide.

To this end, we would like to solicit feedback from all of you, our PR Assembly members, regarding your goals and desires from being a member. Specifically, we would like to know what aspects of ATS PR Assembly membership you feel are of greatest value, as well as what you feel are any barriers to achieving your goals and challenges that you face regarding your membership. Please send us your input and feedback at PR@thoracic.org.

ATS PATIENT EDUCATION RESOURCES

Suzanne C. Lareau, RN, MS, FAAN and Judy Corn, ATS Staff

ATS has a wealth of patient education resources on its website at <http://www.thoracic.org/patients/patient-resources/fact-sheets-az.php>. There are currently more than 70 high quality patient-oriented fact sheets on a range of pulmonary, critical care and sleep topics, including both common and rare conditions. Fact sheets regarding common procedures and diagnostic tests include: sleep studies, lung function studies and bronchoscopy. Special focus topics of interest to pulmonary rehabilitation include: oxygen therapy, inhaled medications and inhaler technique, exacerbations of COPD, palliative care, and lung cancer, among others.

These documents are available at no cost to download and print. If you have an idea for a topic or a question about obtaining copies of the patient resources, please contact Judy Corn at jcorn@thoracic.org. Guidelines are available for submissions that are brief (600 words), such as the one on *Alternative Tobacco Products* (2010) or longer versions (< 1400 words). The brief documents (one page, one side) are loaded onto the ATS website. The longer versions are often published in the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*.

ATS FOUNDATION

The ATS Foundation is a key organization within ATS that raises funds for ATS members' research and several additional key research-related activities within ATS. Dr. Dean Schraufnagel, former ATS President, is the current Chair of the ATS Foundation. Lydia Neumann is director of the Foundation and worked with the immediate past ATS Foundation Chair Dr. James Donohue and the Board of Trustees on the Tenth Anniversary Campaign, an initiative to raise \$3 million over three years for research. Dr. Schraufnagel, Dr. Donohue, Lydia Neumann and many others have worked tirelessly on behalf of the Foundation and ATS members and we thank them heartily for their efforts and leadership.

The Foundation of the American Thoracic Society was established 10 years ago and the amount of funding for research has increased each year. The Foundation has been a leader amongst all professional medical associations in the number and size of grants that have been awarded to early stage investigators in pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine. Many of the funds are raised from the members themselves of the ATS. Overall, over 1000 or 12% are contributing to our young investigators. Thanks to ATS members' support in 2016, the ATS Foundation awarded a total of \$1.3 million in grants to 25 outstanding young investigators in pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine. The Foundation is increasing the number of unrestricted grants for each of the ATS 3 pillars: Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine.

The 2016-2017 awards include:

- Unrestricted grants (9) to outstanding early-stage investigators in pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine
- Recognition awards (2) to promising young investigators who submitted excellent grant applications that just missed the NIH pay line
- Recognition awards (2) for outstanding established investigators to continue their research during vulnerable periods between funded R-level grants
- Disease-specific grants (8) awarded in partnership with the ATS Foundation Research Program partners
- MECOR research awards (4) to exceptional ATS MECOR Program alumni—improving global health through research and education in middle and low income countries

Assembly Challenge

The third annual Assembly Challenge for the “Funds for the Future Campaign” in support of the ATS Foundation was held in the Fall of 2016. The Challenge kicked off on #GivingTuesday on Tuesday November 29th, a special day dedicated to the joy of giving worldwide, and ran throughout the month of December.

A total of \$550,000 was raised this year across all Assemblies by this Challenge. The PR Assembly raised \$9,292; our Assembly had 5 first-time donors and our member participation rate was 11.74%. Each of these represented a slight increase compared to the prior year.

Awards were given to the Assemblies who raised the greatest amount of money (RCMB), had the greatest percentage of first time donors (Allergy, Immunology and inflammation) and who had the highest Assembly member participation rate (Nursing).

We look forward to continued and enhanced participation of our PR Assembly Members in the ATS Foundation Assembly Challenge in 2016! **Please note that the ATS Foundation is an important source of research funding for a variety of types of scientific investigation for members of all ATS Assemblies. Submissions of grant applications to the ATS Foundation from members of the PR Assembly is strongly encouraged!!!!**

QUESTIONS FOR THE ATS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & ATS JOURNAL EDITORS

ATS Executive Committee welcomes questions from ATS Members

The ATS Executive Committee would like to answer questions posed by you in the time allotted for their visit to each Assembly at the ATS International Conference. The current Executive Committee includes President David Gozal, President-elect Marc Moss, Vice President Polly Parsons, Secretary-Treasurer James Beck, and immediate past President Atul Malhotra. Now is your chance to have the EC representative address your specific questions or concerns about the Society.

The ATS Assembly on Pulmonary Rehabilitation Membership Meeting will take place on **Monday, May 22nd, 2017, from 5-7PM in the Renaissance Washington Downtown Hotel, in the Renaissance Ballroom West A (Ballroom level). Please join us!**

ATS Journal Editors welcome questions from ATS members

The ATS Journal Editors are also willing to entertain specific questions rather than making a formal presentation. Current ATS Journal Editors include Jadwiga A. Wedzicha, MD (AJRCCM), Paul T. Schumacker, PhD (AJRCMB) and David Lederer, MD (Annals of ATS). If you have ever wondered about the inner workings of the journals or how you can get more involved, this would be the time and place to ask. The editors will do their best to answer these questions during the Assembly Membership Meetings at the International Conference.

Please email all questions to PR@thoracic.org.

ATS Center at the ATS International Conference

A room designated as the ATS Center will be available in the Exhibit Hall at the 2017 ATS International Conference in Washington, DC. This is intended as a place where members can go to relax, meet, greet and interact with ATS members from other assemblies, and can serve as a place where mentor-mentee partners can meet. Feel free to stop by the ATS Center during the meeting! Please go to the ATS Website www.thoracic.org to learn more about the ATS Center.

ADDITIONAL REFLECTIONS & CONCLUDING REMARKS FROM THE ASSEMBLY ON PULMONARY REHABILITATION CHAIR

Carolyn L. Rochester, M.D., Chair, PR Assembly 2015-2017

As I prepare to step down from the position of Chair of the Assembly on Pulmonary Rehabilitation at the ATS International Conference in May, I have been reflecting on my past two years in the PR Assembly Leadership.

First, it has been a very exciting time in the field of pulmonary rehabilitation! The science of PR has continued to advance in multifaceted ways. Also, PR has become more widely recognized as a cornerstone of care of patients with chronic respiratory diseases—not only those with COPD, but also those with other respiratory disorders including pulmonary hypertension, interstitial lung disease, lung cancer, asthma, and cystic fibrosis. Pulmonary rehabilitation has also been increasingly recognized as an important aspect of care across the disease spectrum and across healthcare venues. The benefits of early mobilization for critically ill patients are now well documented, and continued research is underway regarding the roles for rehabilitation as patients transition from ICUs to medical wards and from hospitalizations back to their homes and daily lives. Novel models of PR are being studied that should make PR more accessible to patients worldwide. I have no doubt that the field of PR will continue to advance exponentially in the years to come!

Second, I am very excited to be turning over the leadership of our Assembly to Dr. Richard Casaburi, M.D., PhD, from UCLA. Richard is indeed one of the founding members of our Assembly. He is a world-renowned exercise physiologist and expert in COPD and pulmonary rehabilitation. He has conducted some of the landmark studies demonstrating the scientific basis of the benefits of exercise training in PR for patients with chronic respiratory diseases. He has been extensively involved with and dedicated to the activities of the ATS PR Assembly since its inception, and I am certain he will be a tremendous leader our Assembly in the two years ahead! As such, while it is bitter-sweet to step down as Assembly Chair, I do so knowing the Assembly is in tremendous hands!!!

Third, our Assembly continues to thrive and grow, as evidenced by our many activities, growing multidisciplinary and international membership, and enthusiastic attendance of our annual Assembly Membership Meeting in recent years. Nevertheless, we do face some challenges, including a worldwide overall shortage of PR scientists and PR Providers, as well as an insufficient number of PR programs to meet patients' needs. Pulmonary rehabilitation remains under-resourced overall, and suboptimal professional training opportunities exist for those interested in careers in PR in many countries, including in the US.

Costs of travel and attendance of the ATS International Conference are also challenging for many of our Assembly members. I have no doubt that our enthusiastic, spirited members can work together to collaborate to take on these challenges in the coming years. The professional and international diversity of our PR Assembly membership is one of our biggest strengths!

The ATS Assembly on Pulmonary Rehabilitation strives to foster continued growth in the science of PR and to promote access and delivery of PR to patients who can benefit from it.

To this end, please encourage colleagues and friends to join our Assembly!!! You may choose to make the PR Assembly your Primary Assembly, or to join our Assembly as a Secondary Assembly Either can be accomplished by sending your request to <http://thoracic.org/membership/index.php>. If you live outside the US, membership fees are considerably less, e.g., \$300 for full membership. See <http://www.thoracic.org/membership/categories-and-fees.php> for an outline of fees and categories. The strength and clinical messages of the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Assembly are best reflected in the abstracts and presentations at the upcoming Spring ATS International Conference in Washington, DC in May 2017. We welcome your visit to our Assembly Website at <https://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/assemblies/pr/>.

Finally, I would like you all to know that it has been one of the biggest honors and privileges of my career to have had the opportunity to serve as the Chair of the ATS Assembly on Pulmonary Rehabilitation! The past two years has provided me with many opportunities to talk and collaborate closely with many of you, and to work closely with the other ATS Assembly Chairs, ATS Committee Chairs and members, and the Leadership of ATS, members of the ATS Staff. It has been an absolute privilege to work with such an incredibly talented, dedicated, enthusiastic, thoughtful, forward-looking, optimistic and scientifically rigorous group of people! I am deeply grateful to you all, for all the collaborations, ideas, discussions, reflections, and opportunities to participate on the various projects and other activities that we have undertaken in the past two years. I remain dedicated to helping the PR Assembly and the field of PR continue to grow in any ways that I can.

I hope to see you in Washington, DC, and I look forward to continuing to work with you all in the years to come!!

With kindest regards to all,

Carolyn L. Rochester, M.D.
Chair, Assembly on Pulmonary Rehabilitation

Assembly on Pulmonary Rehabilitation Membership Meeting

***Monday, May 22nd
5:00pm — 7:00pm***

Renaissance Washington Downtown

***Renaissance Ballroom West A
Ballroom Level***

Be sure to follow us at [@ATS_Assemblies](https://twitter.com/ATS_Assemblies) for news on webinars, deadlines, and other things you might have missed in your inbox!



Meet Your Mentor HERE!



Struggling to find a quiet location to meet with your mentor? Look no further! This year at the 2017 ATS International Conference in Washington, DC, the Assembly Mentoring Programs is offering a meeting spot exclusively for mentors and mentee to meet.

The Assembly Mentoring Programs' Meeting spot will be located in the Renaissance, Washington DC Hotel in the Carnegie room on the (Ballroom Level). The room will be available from:

Friday May 19th to Tuesday May 23rd between 7AM. to 7PM

Light snacks and beverages will be offered throughout the day. Laptops and printers will be made available for use and don't forget to pick up your Assembly Mentoring Program Ribbon and Pin!

We hope you can join us at the Assembly Mentoring Program's Meeting spot!

Interested in joining a mentoring program? Visit our Assemblies homepage and click on ATS Mentoring Program to learn more or contact Melinda Garcia at mgarcia@thoracic.org

Submit an Assembly/Committee Project Application for funding in FY2018!

We are happy to announce that ATS will once again accept NEW Assembly/Committee Projects for FY2018. All interested applicants should begin developing their ideas for Assembly/Committee Project Applications. Applications will be available on the ATS website at www.thoracic.org.

Please consider submitting an 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 Melissa Bednarek, PT, DPT, PhD at mbednarek@chatham.edu.

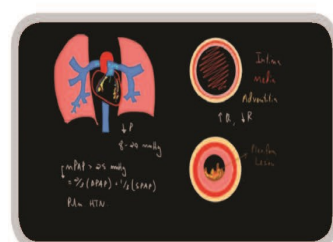
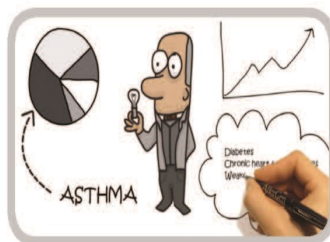
For questions regarding submissions please contact Miriam Rodriguez at tel: 212/315-8639 or email: mrodriguez@thoracic.org.

Best of ATS Video Lecture Series (BAVLS)

Do you have an amazing teaching video that you want to share with the world?
Then consider submitting to the Best of ATS Video Lecture Series (BAVLS).

For more information, please visit

<http://www.thoracic.org/professionals/clinical-resources/video-lecture-series/>



PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS FOR EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONALS

Networking Exchange For Early Career Professionals

Saturday, May 20, 2017; 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Marriott Marquis • Washington D.C. University of DC/Catholic University (Level M1)

Free to all conference attendees

Attend a Workshop in the Center for Career (CCD)

Sunday, May 21 –Tuesday, May 23, 2017; 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Walter E. Washington Convention Center Hall D, (Middle Building, Level 2)

VISIT THE CCD TO PICK UP A ROAD MAP TODAY!



Washington, DC
May 19-May 24
conference.thoracic.org

ANNOUNCING ATS FOUNDATION RESEARCH PROGRAM 2017-2018 GRANT CYCLE

The Research Program is excited to announce that it is now accepting letters of intent! In 2017, the Research Program has increased the number of available Unrestricted Grants for early career investigators. In addition to 15 Unrestricted Grants, the portfolio offers grants with Alpha-1 Foundation, American Lung Association of the Mountain Pacific, Hermansky-Pudlak Syndrome Network, ResMed, PCD Foundation, Pulmonary Hypertension Association, and the ATS Foundation Tobacco-Dependence Research Fund, and 4 MECOR Awards. The deadline for letters of intent is June 6, 2017.

For more information on the current opportunities, please visit thoracic.org/go/researchgrants.

ATS Membership Matters



Tell us!

As an ATS Assembly member your experience is central to inspiring others to join or renew their membership. **Tell us why ATS membership matters to you! What is its value to you?**

Send a sentence or two, or even a punchy quote, to MemberValue@Thoracic.org. We appreciate hearing from you within three weeks of the date of this newsletter. Be sure to provide your name, the name of your institution, city and state/country. We may use your quote in a future membership promotion!

Did you know that as an ATS member you:

- Receive a discount of **20%** (average) on education products at the ATS Store?
- Benefit from **FREE** ABIM and ABP MOC self-assessment products?
- Have access to **NEW member benefits** that include:
 - Significant discounts on Springer respiratory books (print copies), and FREE online access to this book series,
 - Copies of our new ATS pocket guidelines.

Save \$1,200 – or more – per year on ATS products and services over nonmember rates.

See why [members love the ATS!](#)

Assembly Members: Help Us to Help You!

Have you:

- ◇ Moved?
- ◇ Changed your title?
- ◇ Added a new specialty, credential or other information?
- ◇ Or perhaps we just do not have a complete profile for you!

Please take a minute to update your contact information, assembly affiliations, and demographic profile today. And now you can also upload your PHOTO to your member profile!

Log in: <https://www.thoracic.org/login/ats-member-login.php>

By keeping your profile current, you help us provide programs and services that are most targeted to you.

ATS 2017 Exhibitors Doing Fundraisers for ATS Foundation

Actelion Pharmaceuticals US, Inc. in Booth 525

Actelion Pharmaceuticals, Inc. will donate \$25 for each attendee who takes part in their “Join the Conversation” digital graffiti activity. They have pledged a maximum donation of \$25,000.

AstraZeneca in Booth 637

AstraZeneca will donate \$5 for each attendee who completes their activity. They have pledged a maximum donation of \$7,500.

Vitalograph, Inc. in Booth 1630

Vitalograph, Inc. will donate \$1 for each attendee who completes their respiratory quiz. They have pledged a maximum donation of \$100



ATS BEAR Cage

(Building Education to Advance Research)

Sunday, May 21, 2017

2pm – 4pm

Center for Career Development

Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Hall D, (Middle Building, Level 2)

Hosted by the ATS Drug Device Discovery and Development (DDDD) Committee, the 3rd Annual BEAR Cage (Building Education to Advance Research) competition encouraged early career investigators to submit an innovative clinical or translational research proposal for the opportunity to participate in the live event at ATS 2017. Join us to see the top three finalists competitively “pitch” their proposals to a panel of translational science experts representing academia, industry, and governmental sectors. Come support and cheer on the finalists as they compete for the \$5,000 grand prize! All are encouraged and welcome to attend. For more information, please contact DDDD@thoracic.org.

2017 BEAR Cage Finalists

Marcus Y. Chen, MD

National Heart, Lung, and
Blood Institute (NHLBI)

Chest CT at Chest X-ray Radiation Dose

Sanghyuk Shin, PhD

UCLA Fielding School of Public Health

Unmasking Resistance: Impact of Low-frequency Drug-Resistance on Molecular Diagnosis of Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis

Prema R. Menon, MD, PhD

University of Vermont Medical Center

Communicating with Mechanically Ventilated Patients

Cough

When air passes out through our voice box with force, a sound is made that we all recognize as a "cough". The act of coughing usually begins with a deep breath in, followed by air leaving the mouth with force. A cough is your body's way of preventing material from entering your breathing tubes (airways) and clearing mucus or foreign material from your airways. Cough is the most common complaint for which patients seek medical care.



A cough is not a disease, but can be a common symptom of different upper and lower respiratory tract diseases. Even if you do not have a lung disease, you may cough.

What causes a cough?

A cough can happen when something irritates your nerve endings. Labeled cough receptors. These nerve endings are in many areas inside your body, from your head and neck area, to just above your navel (belly button). Inhaling particles, vapors, smoke, fumes, dust, or cold air may irritate these receptors and may make you cough.

Can a cough spread infection?

Cough can be a way of spreading infection to others. Infection (the flu) and tuberculosis (TB) are examples of infections that can be spread by coughing infected droplets into the air. While a cold virus (the common cold) can be passed on to others by coughing, cold viruses are much more likely to be spread to others by hand-to-hand contact. Hand-to-hand contact is when you shake hands with someone who has the infection or touch something that has the cold virus on it and then your touch your nose or eyes.

To help decrease the spread of infection, you should:

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. You don't want to spread germs to others.
- When a tissue is not available, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow, not your hands.
- Dispose of used tissues into a waste basket.
- Avoid spitting as it can cause a risk that may infect others.
- Ask for and wear a facemask when visiting a healthcare facility if you are coughing or have cold symptoms.
- Wash your hands often and for at least 20 seconds using soap and water.
- Use an alcohol-based hand rub (sanitizer) when soap and water are not available.

Is there anything special that I should know about my cough? If you have a cough, keep track of how long you have been

that provides vomiting is called pertussis (whooping cough). Such a cough-whoop syndrome, according to the CDC, should alert one to the possibility of pertussis. For more information on whooping cough, see the ATS patient information series piece "Pertussis" at www.thoracic.org/patient.

Acute, Sub-acute and Chronic Cough

There are three time periods to use as you describe how long you have had your cough: acute (lasts less than 3 weeks), sub-acute (lasts 3 to 8 weeks) or chronic (lasts more than 8 weeks and does not let up).

● An acute cough is most often caused by the common cold. This cough usually starts to improve by the third to fifth day. Cough from the common cold usually is not a serious threat to health and usually does not last longer than 14 days.

People with a cold typically also complain of nasal stuffiness, runny nose, throat clearing, and a sore or scratchy throat. They also may feel like they have mucus dripping down the back of their throat. Acute cough can also be due to inhaling irritants such as pollen or strong fumes. Cough may be the first symptom of inadequate control of asthma. Less commonly, an acute cough can be due to more serious conditions such as pneumonia or heart failure.

● A sub-acute cough most commonly happens after a respiratory infection (often from a virus). Other common reasons for a sub-acute cough are whooping cough (pertussis) and flare-ups of conditions such as asthma, chronic bronchitis, sinusitis or bronchiectasis. When a cough starts to get better but then worsens, you should see your healthcare provider.

● A chronic cough can happen to you for many reasons. Often, it is a combination of reasons that explain why you are coughing. Chronic cough can happen from upper airway conditions such as inflammation (swelling) of the membranes inside the nose (rhinitis) and sinuses (sinusitis) as a result of allergies or infections or from poorly controlled asthma. Cigarette smoking can cause chronic bronchitis and result

Patient Education Materials Available at the 2017 International Conference

The ATS now maintains over 100 patient education handouts as part of its Patient Information Series. The Series includes a wide variety of pulmonary/critical care/sleep and public health topics including: Bronchoscopy, Pneumonia, Mechanical Ventilation, Oxygen Therapy, Asthma, COPD, PFTs, Sleep Testing, Lung Cancer, VCD, TB, Emergency/Disaster, and Palliative Care. All pieces are available in English and many available in other languages, such as Spanish and Portuguese.

In addition to the Patient Information Series, a new Lung Cancer Screening Decision Aid is now available for free on the ATS Website, with bulk copies available for purchase.

All are encouraged to use these free-access materials, which are published in the ARJCCM, posted on the ATS Website at www.thoracic.org/patients and can be provided upon request in alternative formats for EMR systems. Stop by the ATS Center in Washington, D.C. to view copies of these materials. Contact Judy Corn, ATS Staff, at jcorn@thoracic.org for additional information or to suggest new topics.

Official ATS Documents: Informational Opportunities at the 2017 ATS International Conference in Washington, D.C.

If you're developing or interested in developing an Official ATS Document (Statements, Clinical Practice Guidelines, Workshop Reports, or Technical Standards), please consider attending one or more of these opportunities while you are in Washington, D.C. at the ATS International Conference:

- Documents Development & Implementation Committee (DDIC) Workshop/Meeting: Friday, May 19th from 6-9 PM, Renaissance Washington Downtown, Meeting Room 8-9. This session is **required** for all Guideline Panel Chairs and Chairs of new non-guideline projects. The session is **recommended** for Chairs of ongoing non-guideline projects. Please RSVP to John Harmon at jharmon@thoracic.org if you have not already done so. Note: CPG Chairs are required to provide a brief verbal update at this session.
 - ⇒ 6-7 PM – Presentations by DDIC members about the Official Document types, methodological requirements for each, and other practical issues (e.g., conflict of interest management, review, and approval); a light dinner will be served.
 - ⇒ 7-9 PM – Current Guideline Chairs (or their designees) will give progress reports and then troubleshoot informally with DDIC members and ATS staff. New Guideline Chairs will have the opportunity to listen to these reports and learn about the "trials and tribulations" of guideline development from experienced peers.
- Ad Hoc meetings: Whether you are developing or want to develop an official ATS document, you can schedule an appointment with Dr. Kevin Wilson (ATS Documents Editor) or Dr. Jan Brozek (ATS Methodologist). To schedule a meeting, email Kevin Wilson at kwilson@thoracic.org or Jan Brozek at brozekj@mcmaster.ca.
- Documents Meeting Space: Meeting space will be available to document developers from Sunday-Wednesday; contact Kimberly Lawrence at klawrence@thoracic.org for additional details.
- Guideline Methodology Training Program Information Session: Monday, May 22nd from 7-8:30 PM, Renaissance Washington Downtown, Meeting Rooms 12-13-14. Anyone who is interested in learning more about this new training program is welcome to attend. A brief description of the program will be provided, followed by time for questions and answers. A light dinner will be served. RSVP to kwilson@thoracic.org is required. Space is limited.
- Meet the Professors: A Meet the Professors Session entitled "Official ATS Documents: How to Get Involved" is being hosted by Dr. Raed Dweik (Chair of the Documents Development and Implementation Committee) and Dr. Kevin Wilson (ATS Documents Editor) on Tuesday, May 23rd from 12:15 until 1:15 pm. Registration is available through the Conference Registration Website.

ATS Assembly Members Give Generously to the ATS Foundation

Thank you for participating in the [2016 ATS Assembly Challenge!](#)

The annual challenge taps into the grassroots community — and competitive spirit — of the ATS assemblies in support of the ATS Foundation. This was the closest Challenge yet!



Irina Petrache, MD, chair for the Assembly on Respiratory Cell & Molecular Biology, receives RCMB's Assembly Challenge award from Dean Schraufnagel, MD, ATS Foundation Chair

The results are: the Assembly on **Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology** raised the most dollars with \$94,718; **Nursing** had the highest member participation with 20.49 percent; **Allergy Immunology & Inflammation** had the highest number of first-time givers in December with seven new donors.

Many members made gifts supporting the [Research Program](#) and other core programs in the final days of 2016. There was tremendous energy around the Challenge this year, with assembly chairs crafting special messages to their members. Most chairs sent two or more personal emails to their members during the Challenge.

Congratulations to the Respiratory Cell & Molecular Biology, Nursing, and Allergy Immunology & Inflammation assemblies! They will receive special recognition in ATS communications, at ATS 2017, and within their own assemblies.

The ATS Foundation would like to thank all ATS assemblies for their outreach and generosity during the Challenge. You provided a big boost to Foundation year-end giving campaigns—and a boost to our upcoming grant-making capacity for talented investigators. Thank you for your enthusiastic support!

Truly, your energy, creativity, and participation were outstanding. Thank you for everything you do for the ATS, the Foundation, young investigators, patients, and respiratory health worldwide.

To learn more about the ATS Foundation or to make a gift, visit foundation.thoracic.org.



Eileen G. Collins, PhD, chair for the Assembly on Nursing, receives Nursing's Assembly Challenge award from Dean Schraufnagel, MD, ATS Foundation Chair



Mitchell A. Olman, MD, chair for the Assembly on Allergy Immunology & Inflammation, receives All's Assembly Challenge award from Dean Schraufnagel, MD, ATS Foundation Chair