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Pulmonary Rehabilitation

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MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY CHAIR

Dear Assembly Colleagues,

I took on the task of assembling this Newsletter with some trepidation. I shouldn't have worried. You'll see below that the committees of the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Assembly are all working hard, are moving forward and have much to report.

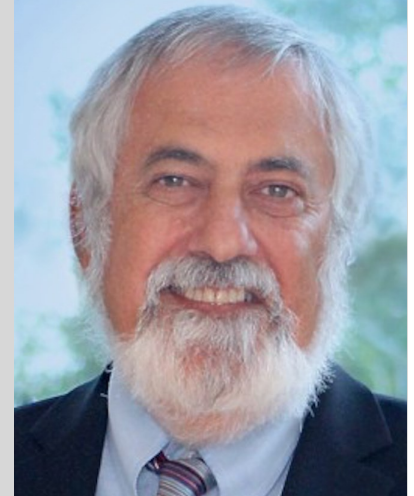
There are two special features of this Newsletter that are certain to be of special interest. In the United States, pulmonary rehabilitation funding cuts are having their inevitable effects on availability. Chris Garvey provides an analysis of the situation and provides a way forward. Dick ZuWallack presents a report of a wonderful initiative, funded by the Gawlicki Foundation, designed to raise the profile of pulmonary rehabilitation and, hopefully, increase patient referrals.

I've just returned from the ATS Board of Directors meeting in San Diego (Assembly Chairs are automatically Board members). I can report that the ATS is strong, both financially and spiritually. I'll carry a message to the Assembly. There was extensive discussion of whether the Assembly structure should be modified. Part of the criticism is that only about a third of ATS members feel they have a strong connection to an Assembly. To be honest, I'm not sure that only a third are involved is particularly bad news. All organizations have a contingent of people who decline to be involved. But this should serve as a reminder for all of us to seek opportunities for participation. Particularly young Assembly members (but everyone, really) are welcome.

A final note that occurred to me after taking part in a Board of Director discussion. An ATS goal is to become an international society. Within our Assembly, I'm sure you'll agree, this is already a reality. A large fraction of the Assembly committee members (and overall membership) are from outside of the United States. One interesting manifestation is that Assembly Executive Committee conference calls take place across 13 time zones.

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 San Diego! We've very much like to see you at **our annual Pulmonary Rehabilitation Assembly Membership Meeting on Monday, May 21st from 4:30-7PM. It will be held at the Manchester Grand Hyatt, San Diego in Seaport Ballroom AB, on the Second Level – Seaport Tower.**



Richard Casaburi, MD, PhD

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

William Man, MD, PhD, Chair and Brian W. Carlin, MD, Chair-Elect

Each year, the Assembly Program Committee reviews, grades and ranks all sessions submitted for consideration, including Scientific symposia, post-graduate courses, mini-symposia, poster discussion, workshops, meet the professor sessions, sunrise seminars, and thematic poster sessions. With a process starting in May 2018, involving meetings at three US cities and one tropical storm (not easy for a London-based Chair!), 438 (and counting) emails from ATS colleagues, we are finally looking forward to seeing the fruits of our labour in San Diego!

We have assembled an exciting program (outlined below) that should be of wide interest to members of this Assembly and others. This would not have been possible without all the input and enthusiasm from Assembly members. In particular, we received many exciting Scientific Symposia proposals – unfortunately we are limited to just two scientific symposium slots, but we had sufficient material for many more.

In total, we received 88 abstract submissions and 8 late-breaking abstracts – almost exactly the same as last year. Quality was again exceptionally high. The Assembly continues to be allocated only one mini-symposium and one poster discussion. This year, we went for a purely meritocratic (rather than thematic approach) and the highest-scoring 25 abstracts reviewed by the Program Committee were automatically allocated to the mini-symposium and poster discussion sessions.

The high quality of the Assembly sessions is very much down to a robust review process. Brian and I would like to particularly thank all the members of the Program Committee for their invaluable time, expertise and good grace.

Program Committee Members:

William Man (Chair), Brian Carlin (Chair-elect), Esther Barreiro, Surya Bhatt, Felicity Blackstock, Christine Garvey, Neil Greening, Theresa Harvey-Dunstan, Ellen Hillegass, Daniel Langer, Francois Maltais, Marilyn Moy, Claire Nolan, Richard Novitch, Fabio Pitta, Harry Rossiter, Neil Schachter, Annemie Schols, Xavier Soler, Martijn Spruit, Thierry Troosters, Lowie Vanfleteren

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Melissa Bednarek, PT, DPT, PhD, Chair

I am finishing my third year as Chair of the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Assembly Planning Committee. Our 14-member Committee typically meets face-to-face each May at the ATS Annual Meeting with an additional two conference calls per year.

The Planning Committee has three main responsibilities. First, our task is to review current ATS documents relevant to pulmonary rehabilitation and provide suggestions for documents that might need to be updated or do not currently exist. Second, the Planning Committee reviews grant proposals and renewals submitted each summer that request primary or secondary support from the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Assembly. And third, we also review the nominees each spring for the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Assembly Early Career Research Award.

Some updates:

Based on the work initiated by Carly Rochester and colleagues in their 2015 publication¹ related to the implementation, use, delivery and pulmonary rehabilitation, Mick Steiner has been approved to lead a working group to support pulmonary rehabilitation standards. We look forward to hearing more on this exciting work for the field of pulmonary rehabilitation!

This past year the Planning Committee reviewed 5 new proposals and 1 renewal. I am happy to report that Susan Jacob's project pertaining to a creation of an ATS Clinical Practice Guideline on supplemental oxygen therapy for adults with chronic lung disease was successfully funded. Furthermore, Felicity Blackstock's COPD Education in Pulmonary Rehabilitation Programs was successfully renewed. We look forward to the results of these projects and welcome any new ideas!

Last year, we reviewed two very qualified candidates for the Early Career Research Award and I am pleased to announce that William Man, MD, PhD received the award at the ATS Annual Meeting in May. Congratulations Dr. Man!

A special thank you to the members of the Planning Committee: Jenny Alison, Jean Bourbeau, Brian Carlin, Rich Casaburi, Rebecca Crouch, Chris Garvey, Roger Goldstein, Jose Jardim, Linda Nici, Carly Rochester, Mick Steiner, Thierry Troosters and our newest member, Rachel Tappan.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the ATS Annual Meeting in May! Safe travels to San Diego!

References:

Rochester CL, Vogiatzis I, Holland AE, et al. An Official American Thoracic Society/European Respiratory Society Policy Statement: Enhancing Implementation, Use, and Delivery of Pulmonary Rehabilitation. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med* 2015; 192(11): 1373-86.

WEB COMMITTEE REPORT

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

We have had a successful year with a further increase in the activity and scope of the web-committee. If you have not had chance to visit the site recently, please use the link here: <https://www.thoracic.org/members/assemblies/assemblies/pr/index.php>

We are always looking for suggestions for all our activities and are keen to involve all members of the assembly. Please feel free to volunteer to contribute to any activity by contacting Rachael Evans on re66@le.ac.uk.

Journal Club

Since ATS 2017, the Web Committee have organised five online Journal Clubs.

Date	Paper	Presenter	Author Present	Expert Panel
Sept 27 th 2017	Physical Activity Coaching <i>Thorax</i> . 2017; 72(5):415-423.	Dr Chris Burtin	Dr Heleen Demeyers	Dr Benjamin Waschki Prof Roger Goldstein
Oct 24 th 2017	Vibration Training <i>Respir Med</i> . 2017 May;126:17-24.	Dr Daniel Langer	Dr Rainer Gloeckl	Prof Roger Goldstein Dr Guto Camillo
Nov 29 th 2017	Eccentric Cycling Front Physiol . 2017 Mar 3;8:114	Dr Harry Rossiter	Dr Tanya Taivassalo	Prof Michael Steiner Dr Guto Camillo
Jan 30 th 2018	LOTT study <i>N Engl J Med</i> 2016; 375:1617-1627	Dr Neil Greening	Prof Richard Casaburi	Prof Linda Nici Dr Sarah Rourke
Feb 28 th 2018	Pedometers and PR <i>AJRCCM</i> 2017;195(10)	Dr Rafael Mesquita	Dr Claire Nolan	Prof Fabio Pitta

Please note that webinars are also available for non-ATS members and are a rich source of education material. All historical webinars can be accessed at any time via the PR website under the 'Journal Club' header on the left hand side of the screen. We have two further journal clubs planned. The first is on Tues April 24th in which Prof. Sally Singh's paper on a feasibility study of PR using a web-based platform at home will be presented and discussed. The second will be on Weds June 27th. Further details will follow with the usual announcements.

Podcasts

Since ATS 2017, we have recorded a further five podcasts. They are all available to download (with the historical podcasts) from the ATS PR website under the heading 'Podcasts':

1. [Pulmonary rehabilitation with minimal resources](#): Dr Annemarie Lee, La Trobe University, Australia interviews Professor Jenny Alison and Dr Zoe McKeough, University of Sydney, Australia.
2. [Lung Transplant Rehabilitation](#): Dr Dimity Rozenburg interviews Dr Lisa Wickerson and Dr Sunita Murther, University of Toronto, Canada

3. [ATS 2017 - Highlights of the assembly on Pulmonary Rehabilitation](#): Dr. Carlos Augusto Camillo (State University of Londrina, Brazil) interviews the chair of the PR Assembly Program Committee in 2016-2017 (Dr. Marilyn Moy, Harvard Medical School, USA).
4. [An introduction to genomics in COPD and pulmonary rehabilitation](#): Dr. Emily Wan from Brigham and Women's Hospital, Veterans Affairs Boston Healthcare System and Harvard Medical School, USA and Claire Nolan from the Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Foundation Trust, UK discuss genomics in COPD and the potential role in pulmonary rehabilitation.

Dr. Emily Wan from Brigham and Women's Hospital, Veterans Affairs Boston Healthcare System and Harvard Medical School, USA and Claire Nolan from the Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Foundation Trust, UK discuss genomics in COPD and the potential role in pulmonary rehabilitation.

1. [Exercise training in individuals with lung cancer](#): Dr Vinicius Cavalheri, Curtin University, Australia interviews Dr Catherine Granger, The University of Melbourne/Royal Melbourne Hospital, Australia.

Quarterly Bites

We have introduced this new section in 2017/18 with the aim of asking experts to write an opinion blog about a topic they are passionate about. The aim is to capture different views about subjects of interest and highlight ongoing international work around Pulmonary Rehabilitation in both the clinical and academic arena.

We are delighted with our first two 'quarterly bites' and are very grateful to the contributors, Dr. Mick Steiner and Drs. Dina Brooks and Samantha Harrison:

1. [Lessons from the UK national audit of Pulmonary Rehabilitation -- Michael Steiner](#)
2. [Balance in individuals with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease -- Brooks D.and Harrison S.L.](#)

Please forward any ideas or material to us for future quarterly bites.

Videos

We have put together a series of videos about how to perform certain outcome measures and different types of training techniques from one-legged cycling to Tai-Chi to water-based training. Please see under the 'Video' link on the website. We are keen to continue adding to these to provide a helpful resource for clinicians and researchers so please forward any ideas to us.

Twitter

Our Twitter handle is [@PR_Assembly](#), and in 2015 we had about 150 followers. We now have nearly 700 followers. Several members of the Web Committee actively feed on this Twitter page. Relevant publication updates, news, Journal Club announcements, events, and other issues related to the Assembly are regularly communicated through this account. We hope to see this platform continue to develop as a means of communication for our multi-disciplinary assembly members across multiple continents.

Web Committee Members

We have an enthusiastic international group of committee members who all contribute to the activities above: Dr Rachael Evans (UK, Chair), Dr Claire Nolan (UK), Dr Guto Camillo (Brazil), Dr Annemarie Lee (Australia), Prof Roger Goldstein (Canada) and our two newest members are Dr Rebecca Crouch (USA) and Sarah Roarke (USA).

Message to the PR assembly

We are very grateful to all the people who have contributed and helped us make a success of all the ATS PR web-committee activities. We encourage all assembly members to be involved, but particularly want to encourage our new or more junior faculty members to volunteer – please don't wait to be asked. We are keen to hear from you. Please e-mail us with your ideas and/or what you would like to be involved with.

ATS 2018 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY ON PULMONARY REHABILITATION SESSIONS

Session Code	Session Title	Session Time	
Scientific Symposium			
Monday, May 21, 2018			
B6	PRINCIPLES TO PRACTICE IN PULMONARY REHABILITATION: A PRO/CON DEBATE	9:15 AM	11:15 AM
Tuesday, May 22, 2018			
C10	NOVEL STRATEGIES TO COMPLEMENT PULMONARY REHABILITATION IN COPD	9:15 AM	11:15 AM
Workshop Sessions			
Wednesday, May 23, 2018			
WS7	DELIVERING PULMONARY REHABILITATION ACROSS THE SPECTRUM OF CARE FROM HOSPITAL TO COMMUNITY	11:45 AM	1:15 PM
Meet The Professor Seminars			
Tuesday, May 22, 2018			
MP611	PULMONARY REHABILITATION IN THE MOST SEVERE COPD PATIENTS	12:15 PM	1:15 PM
Mini-Symposium			
Sunday, May 20, 2018			
A95	LATEST ADVANCES IN PULMONARY REHABILITATION, COPD, AND IPF	2:15PM	4:15 PM
Poster Discussion Sessions			
Monday, May 21, 2018			
B106	PULMONARY REHABILITATION: OUTCOMES AND EXTRA-PULMONARY MANIFESTATIONS	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
Thematic Poster Sessions			
Sunday, May 20, 2018			
A66	PULMONARY REHABILITATION: CLINICAL STUDIES IN COPD	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
A67	PULMONARY REHABILITATION IN NON-COPD AND LUNG TRANSPLANTATION	9:15 AM	4:15 PM
Wednesday, May 23, 2018			
D51	PHYSIOLOGY AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IN PULMONARY REHABILITATION	9:15 AM	3:30 PM
ADDITIONAL SESSIONS OF INTEREST TO PR ASSEMBLY			
Postgraduate Courses			
Friday, May 18, 2018			
PG3	ADVANCED PAP THERAPY: TREATMENT OF SLEEP DISORDERED BREATHING BEYOND OSA	8:00 AM	4:00 PM
Saturday, May 19, 2018			
PG19	INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE: UPDATE AND EVOLVING TRENDS IN DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT	8:00 AM	4:00 PM
Scientific Symposium			
Tuesday, May 22, 2018			
C82	SHIFTING FOCUS: HOW TO STUDY LUNG HEALTH INSTEAD OF DISEASE	2:15 PM	4:15 PM
C93	ATS CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES: CLINICAL PRACTICE ON THE CUTTING EDGE	2:15 PM	4:15 PM

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Carolyn L. Rochester, MD, Chair

The Nominating Committee is responsible for nominating individuals to serve as candidates for various leadership positions within the ATS PR Assembly. This year, our Assembly held elections for Assembly Chair-Elect, Assembly Program-Chair-Elect, and for members of the Nominating Committee itself.

We (Dina Brooks, Daniel Langer and I), and our Assembly membership identified several superb candidates for these positions. Potential candidates are provided with details regarding the roles and responsibilities of the relevant Assembly leadership position. The election results will be announced at the PR Assembly Membership Meeting at the ATS International Conference in May (and will be posted thereafter on the Assembly Website).

The Nominating Committee strongly encourages membership participation in the various Assembly Committees. The obligations and time commitments vary with the different positions, but the responsibilities are overall straightforward and fun! The best way to work towards a leadership position on one of the Assembly Committees is to gain experience by serving as a member of one or more of these groups. Please do let us know if you have potential interest in serving on one of the PR Assembly Committees.

EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONALS WORKING GROUP

Narelle Cox, PhD, PT, Chair

The Early Career Professional (ECP) Working Group for the PR Assembly came into official existence at the 2017 ATS Conference. Aply supported by the wisdom and enthusiasm of Carly Rochester, we held our first meeting in Washington DC to create an initial plan for our first year.

While this first period has involved getting our head around both the remit of the group and the operating channels of the ATS, we are pleased to report a number of activities designed to encourage attendance at the conference by new members, and the field of pulmonary rehabilitation in general.

ATS Assembly Mentoring Program

The PR Assembly is participating in the ATS Mentoring Program for the first time - and we need your help to make it a success! The goals of the Mentoring Program are to provide an avenue for junior faculty/clinicians and trainee participation and networking in the PR Assembly; and to help with navigating the ATS meeting. So if you have ever worked in pulmonary rehabilitation, written a paper, applied for a grant...*or want to*, then this is the program for you!

For more information and to register for the program please go to the [PR Mentoring Program](#) page on the Assembly website.



ATS Conference 2018

The ECP Working Group has a number of activities planned to coincide with the annual conference in May.

- Working with local area schools- starting with Medical, Nursing and Physical/Exercise Therapy- we are hoping to increase awareness of the Assembly and encourage students to participate in the conference through the [ATS Student Scholars Program](#).
- A new member/ECP 'Meet and Greet' session will be held at 4.30pm on Monday May 21st prior to the PR Assembly Meeting. This session will serve as a welcome to the Assembly and an opportunity to highlight conference activities and resources for new members (eg. MITT Roadmap; ATS101). Please come along.

Early Career Research Achievement Award

This award, initiated in 2015, is given annually to an individual who has made outstanding scientific contribution to the understanding and advancement of pulmonary rehabilitation. Nominations for the award are called for annually in February with applications submitted via the ATS Assembly Awards site. Nominees must be within 10 years of their first faculty appointment and applications require a letter of support from a primary PR Assembly Member. Previous recipients of the award include Xavier Soler, Frits Franssen and Will Man. Keep an eye out in 2019 and consider nominating a worthy colleague.

Committee Members: Chair: Dr Narelle Cox (Chair, Australia) (n.cox@latrobe.edu.au); Dr Claire Nolan (UK); Dr Heleen Demeyer (Belgium); Dr Sarah Roark (US), Dr Alessandra Adami (US), Dr Aimee Layton (US); Dr Emily Wan (US); Dr Gregory Moulléc (Canada)

GAWLICKI FOUNDATION NEWS

Richard ZuWallack, MD

The ATS Pulmonary Rehabilitation Assembly is delighted to announce a joint project with the Gawlicki Family Foundation to develop and implement a pulmonary rehabilitation awareness campaign, the cornerstone of which is a novel website on pulmonary rehabilitation. The Gawlicki Family Foundation, dedicated to promoting to health and well-being, will fund this project. Carly Rochester, MD, Richard ZuWallack, MD, and other members from the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Assembly, Judy Corn from the ATS, and Mary and Ted Gawlicki, founders of the Foundation, are leading this endeavor. A professional company has been contracted to create the website.

Pulmonary rehabilitation, despite strong evidence supporting its clinical effectiveness across several important outcome areas, remains grossly under-utilized in most health care systems. To help mitigate this, the new website represents a grass-roots approach to encourage individuals with chronic respiratory disease to participate in pulmonary rehabilitation. Information will be provided on what participation in pulmonary rehabilitation intervention entails and what its potential benefits are. Importantly, it will provide information on available programs (including coordinators and contact information) within the individual's geographic area. Metrics are being developed to determine this initiative's effectiveness in getting patients into local rehabilitation programs.

Please join us at the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Assembly Business Meeting at the International Conference in San Diego to personally thank Mary and Ted for their generous support of this project.

US PULMONARY REHABILITATION REIMBURSEMENT

Chris Garvey, FNP, MSN, MPA

The evidence of clinical effectiveness of Pulmonary Rehabilitation (PR) continues to grow, yet inadequate reimbursement and limited availability challenge effective PR delivery in the US.(1) A recent analysis indicates that in 2012, only 3.7% of Medicare-eligible COPD patients received PR (2). Low reimbursement undeniably influences availability of what is now the standard of care in chronic lung disease.

Decline in PR reimbursement in the US is complex. It is at least in part tied to a Medicare change in PR reimbursement in 2010, when a new 'bundled' payment code 'G0424' for COPD was introduced. This code pays for one hour of PR including all costs of staff, medical director, gym, etc. Initially in 2010, Medicare arbitrarily established a payment rate of \$50 for one unit of G0424. Medicare acknowledged in 2011 that "failure to carefully construct the charge for G0424 that reports a combination of services previously reported separately under-represents the cost of providing the service described by G0424 and can have significant adverse impact on future payments" [*Federal Register 11/30/11*].

Historically, PR had been paid for in 15 minute increments for most services. The majority of PR providers and hospitals have never adequately modified PR charges to reflect the increase in time and resources used for the 'bundled' G0424 billing code. The impact on reimbursement is due to Medicare's use of PR charges (as well as information from the hospital cost report) to calculate annual changes in PR reimbursement. A recent review of charges for PR for COPD patients submitted to Medicare in 2015 from claims billed by 1350 US hospitals indicates that lower charges for the PR bundled code continue to persist. This practice has likely contributed to the reality that cardiac rehabilitation reimbursement is now double that of PR.

CMS Final CY 2017 Outpatient Services Payment Rates

HCPCS Code	Short Descriptor	APC	Payment Rate
93798	Monitored Cardiac rehabilitation	5771	\$110.18
G0424	Pulmonary rehab w/ exercise	5733	\$54.53

It is possible that PR clinicians are not aware that the amount actually paid for services is often a small fraction of submitted charges. Below is an example of amount charged for services vs. paid.

(Continued on page 8)

Summary for Medicare Outpatient Prospective Payment System Hospitals for 2015

Ambulatory Payment Classifications (APC)	Average Estimated Submitted Charges	Average Total Payments
0269 - Level I Echocardiogram Without Contrast	\$2,386.36	\$409.22
0369 - Level II Pulmonary Function Test	\$1,354.23	\$229.25

<https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/Medicare-Provider-Charge-Data/Outpatient2015.html>

What can be done? Hospital administrators set charge rates for all their services, including PR services. These administrators need to be aware of the concerns regarding G0424 billing and the impact of undervalued charges on Medicare payment. A Pulmonary Rehabilitation Toolkit is available that details resources for PR billing at <https://www.aacvpr.org/Advocacy/Pulmonary-Rehabilitation-Toolkit>. It is time for the pulmonary medicine and scientific community to bring these concerns to hospital administration. It is also time for practitioners and scientists to partner with PR clinicians and administrators to determine if charges for their PR program reasonably represent the complexity of the intervention and the acuity of the target population, and the value of this evidence based intervention.

1. Rochester C, Vogiatzis I, Holland A, et al. An Official American Thoracic Society/European Respiratory Society Policy Statement: Enhancing Implementation, Use, and Delivery of Pulmonary Rehabilitation. Vol. 192, No. 11 | Dec 01, 2015
2. Nishi S, Zhang W, Kuo Y, et al. Pulmonary Rehabilitation Utilization in Older Adults With Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, 2003 to 2012. Journal of Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation and Prevention: September/October 2016 - Volume 36 - Issue 5 - p 375–382

Assembly on Pulmonary Rehabilitation Membership Meeting

***Monday, May 21st
4:30pm — 7:00pm***

Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego

***Seaport Ballroom AB
Second Level - Seaport Tower***



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

Assembly Mentoring Programs' Meeting Spot

Struggling to find a quiet location to meet with your mentor? Look no further! This year at the 2018 ATS International Conference in San Diego, CA, 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 at the Manchester Grand Hyatt in the Balboa A room on the Second Level in the Seaport Tower. The room will be available:
Sunday May 20th – Tuesday May 22nd, 2018 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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 FY2019!

We are happy to announce that ATS will once again accept NEW Assembly/Committee Projects for FY2019. 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: <https://www.thoracic.org/professionals/clinical-resources/video-lecture-series/index.php>

2nd Annual ATS Walking Challenge

Walk for a good cause! Track steps and stay active with the Second Annual ATS Walking Challenge. For every participant who walks 30,000 steps TEVA Respiratory will make a donation of \$100 to the ATS Foundation, for a total maximum donation of \$50,000. Remember – 100% of all donations to the ATS Foundation fund new research awards. [Click here](#) for more details.

Invitation to Join ATS Signature Global Health Program: Methods in Epidemiologic, Clinical and Operations Research (MECOR)

Loyal to its tagline, the American Thoracic Society helps the world breathe; the ATS has been working to build research capacity in low- and middle-income countries through its Methods in Epidemiologic, Clinical, and Operations Research (MECOR) program for 25 years. This intensive course for physicians and related health care professionals increases capacity and leadership in pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine research beyond its US borders and US membership.

This spring, the ATS launched MECOR 2.0, which includes a ground-up redesign of the curriculum, course organization, and faculty/mentorship offerings. The updated program capitalizes and builds upon the program's extensive experience and expertise. The curriculum utilizes a "flipped classroom" teaching model with seminar style classroom sessions and a focus on one to one instruction with a learning management system for students, faculty, and alumni (CANVAS).

Since its initiation in 1994, the scope of the ATS MECOR program has grown tremendously. Today, its footprint is truly global with more than 1800 graduates from its global network of courses. Courses and partners include in **Africa**, the Pan African Thoracic, in **China**, the Chinese Thoracic Society, in **India**, the US Centers for Disease Control and the Indian Council for Medical Research, in **Indonesia**, the Indonesian Society for Respiriology, in the **Mediterranean**, the Turkish Thoracic Society, in **Latin American** the Latin American Thoracic Society, and in **Southeast Asia**, the Vietnamese National TB Program and the University of Sydney.

To join the ATS MECOR program as a faculty member or mentor, please use the link below to complete an application. For more information on the ATS MECOR Program, please go to the ATS website at:

[ATS MECOR Program](#)

[ATS MECOR Faculty Application](#)

Official ATS Documents: Informational Opportunities at the 2018 ATS International Conference in San Diego

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

- **Documents Development & Implementation Committee (DDIC) Workshop/Meeting:** Friday, May 18th from 6-9 PM, Manchester Grand Hyatt, Golden Hill AB (Seaport Tower, 3rd Level). This session is required for all Guideline Panel Chairs and Chairs of new non-guideline projects. It is also recommended for Chairs of ongoing non-guideline projects. Anyone who is interested in Official ATS Documents is welcome to attend. Please RSVP to John Harmon at jharmon@thoracic.org if you have not already done so. A light dinner will be served.
 - ⇒ 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)
 - ⇒ 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 to discuss your idea 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 21st from 7-8:30 PM, Manchester Grand Hyatt, Hillcrest AB (Seaport Tower, 3rd Level). The guideline methodology training program provides mentored training in the skills necessary to serve as a lead methodologist for a clinical practice guideline project. Anyone who is interested in learning more about the 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 22nd from 12:15-1:15pm. Registration is available through the Conference Registration Website.

Physicians planning to take the ABIM critical care MOC assessment have a new resource to prepare for the exam: the ATS Review for the Critical Care Boards

The ATS Review for the Critical Care Boards and Questions Book provide an in-depth review of critical care topics that will be on the American Board of Internal Medicine Critical Care Medicine Certification examination. Chapters include:

- Renal, Endocrine and Metabolic Disorders
- Infectious Diseases
- Pharmacology and Toxicology
- Pulmonary Diseases
- Gastrointestinal Disorders
- Surgery, Trauma, and Transplantation
- Cardiovascular Disorders
- Neurologic Disorders
- Hematologic and Oncologic Disorders
- Ethics, Research and Administration

Learn more, order, and begin studying by [visiting](#) the ATS Store

Education Committee to offer Educational Consulting Office Hours during the 2018 International Conference

- Are you planning to submit a proposal for programming at the 2019 International Conference, but don't know where to start?
- Do you want to maximize your chances of having your Postgraduate Course Proposal programmed in 2019?
- Would you like to review feedback you received on a 2018 proposal that wasn't programmed?
- Would you like feedback on a presentation you're giving at this year's International Conference?

If you answered 'yes' to any of the above, stop by the Science and Innovation Center, where members of the Education Committee will be available to answer questions, no appointment necessary. Consulting will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis on:

Monday 5/21 from 10-11AM, 12-1 PM, and 3-4 PM
Tuesday 5/22 from 10-11AM, 12-1PM, and 3-4PM
Wednesday 5/23 from 10-11AM, and 12-1PM

Restoring Joy in Health Care Booth

What does burnout look like and how can we change things personally and professionally for the better?

Explore the **Restoring Joy in Health Care booth (#904)** to crowd source ways to improve the professional environment, get a chair massage or visit with a therapy dog to bring you back to center. Therapy dogs are in the booth from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day.

Interactive booth in the Exhibit Hall (with puppies)
San Diego Convention Center
Hall C (Ground Level), Booth 904
May 20-22, 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

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.

Help Available for Assembly Members on Clinical and Research Ethics and Conflict Management

The ATS Ethics and Conflict of Interest Committee is a society-wide committee appointed by the ATS President to be a resource and contribute to ATS education on biomedical and organizational ethics. Its seventeen members are from many ATS assemblies and sections, and many have leadership roles in their institution's ethics committees, advanced degrees in medical or nursing ethics, and have published on related issues.

Assembly members are encouraged to use the committee for advice and help in developing programs, statements, and conference sessions relevant to clinical or research ethics or managing conflicts of interest (COI), as well as in dealing with the ethical issues you face in the workplace. In recent years, the committee developed ATS statements on Managing Conscientious Objections and Responding to Requests for Potentially Inappropriate Therapies, and produced podcasts on other topics that are available within the ATS Breathe Easy podcasts on the ATS website. It also oversees ATS management of COI. The Committee is chaired by David Chooljian, MD, JD. Questions and requests for help can go through the committee's staff member, Shane McDermott, at smcdermott@thoracic.org or 212-315-8650.

American Thoracic Society

ASSEMBLIES



Want to know how the ATS Assemblies and Committees really work?

Would you like to get more involved?

This is your chance! You can now register here to become more involved in the ATS Assemblies, ATS Committees or both. There are many ways to grow within ATS and the Assemblies and Committees are a great starting point.

www.thoracic.org/go/get-involved



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PULMONARY • CRITICAL CARE • SLEEP

