

Pulmonary Rehabilitation Assembly Activities in Denver May 2011

The ATS International Conference (IC) held in Denver this May was very rewarding for those who are interested in pulmonary rehabilitation. The days were filled with fabulous educational sessions, networking and new opportunities. Here are some of the highlights of activities by the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Assembly (PRA).

Educational sessions: The Program Committee was led this year by François Maltais MD. Chris Garvey FNP, MSN will succeed him as chair for 2011-2012 and Mike Morgan will be the chair for 2012-2013. Here are some of the highlights of the sessions that were held.

The following symposia were held:

- Charting the Future of Pulmonary Rehabilitation: Cutting Edge Debates, COPD: A Disease of Muscles and Translating Self-Management in COPD to Practice*
- Integrative Care in Interstitial Lung Disease*

A Meet the Professor Session:

- Pulmonary Rehabilitation for Patients with Acute Exacerbations of COPD.*

Sunrise Sessions:

- Postoperative Pulmonary Rehabilitation in Lung Cancer Patients*
- Pulmonary Rehabilitation: Science & Practice.*

A total of 91 PR abstracts were submitted and 88 accepted (98%) including two late breaking abstracts. This is a substantial increase from fifty PR abstract submissions in 2010. These were presented at the following venues:

Mini-symposium: 10 abstract presentations

Thematic Poster Session: two sessions including 51 posters

Poster Discussion Session: one session including 27 posters



Networking: There were many opportunities to meet other members interested in pulmonary rehabilitation at the business meeting, poster sessions, symposia and other sessions. The Business Meeting was preceded by an hour “Orientation”. This was the first year this Orientation hour was offered, to allow time for people interested in pulmonary rehabilitation to informally meet the leadership of the PRA. Approximately 30 members attended. The Business Meeting was conducted by Sue Lareau RN, MS who reviewed this year’s activities. Brian Carlin MD reported on the status of projects underway by the PRA. Mike Morgan MD was elected chair elect for the Program Committee in 2012-2013. Carly Rochester and Claudio Donner were elected to the Nominating Committee. Richard ZuWallack MD appointed Rich Casaburi PhD, MD to Chair the Nominating Committee, succeeding Linda Nici MD who chaired the Committee from 2009-2011. Dick ZuWallack assumed Chair of the PRA for the next two years.

Also at the Business Meeting, 7 travel awards were presented. These awards were through generous grants by several companies and consisted of a check for \$500 to each recipient. Travel awards are applied for during the submission of your abstract. Look for the box that says you wish to apply for a Travel Award. Abstracts are due this year on Wednesday, November 2 for the May 2012 meeting.

Other networking opportunities were provided by ATS via the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) reception at the Clinician’s Center as well as a new Conference Guide. IDT members include PT’s, RN’s, research staff, PA’s and RRT’s. The Guide listed Symposia, Sunrise and Meet the Professor Sessions that would be of interest to PRA and IDT professionals. The Clinician’s Center was a designated area near the exhibits where PRA members and other professionals could sit, talk, eat a light breakfast (or hors d’oeuvres and beverages in the afternoons) and enjoy free use of the internet. This was the first year for the Conference Guide (sent via email and available in hard copy at the IC). Plans are to expand the selection of sessions offered. If you had an opportunity to see this Guide, please send your comments and suggestions to Sue (suzanne.lareau@ucdenver.edu) so that we can improve the Guide for you next year.



From left to right are the following PRA members: Marc Decramer MD, PhD (current President of the European Respiratory Society), Andy Ries MD, MPH, Carly Rochester MD, Sue Lareau RN, MS (outgoing Chair of PRA 2009-2011), Martijn Spruit PhD, PT, Dick ZuWallack MD (Chair of PRA 2011-2013), Fritz Franssen MD, PhD, Lorraine ZuWallack and Linda Nici MD (first Chair of PRA from 2008-2009).

ATS Foundation Research Dinner: The Foundation Research Dinner is a means of showing our support for research grants offered by ATS. Virtually all of the money paid to attend the reception and dinner goes toward research grants.

See you Next Year! If you missed this year's Conference, you don't want to miss next year's. The IC will be held in San Francisco from May 18 to 23, 2012. Proposals for symposium can be submitted online (deadline is June 30, 2011). Also any suggestions you may have for other programming (Meet the Professor, Sunrise Sessions etc.) can be discussed with Chris Garvey at ChrisGarvey@dochs.org. But hurry, her team has been working on plans for next year already and will be meeting in September to solidify the program.