



# Pulmonary Rehabilitation Assembly Newsletter

We help the world breathe  
PULMONARY • CRITICAL CARE • SLEEP

Edited by Linda Nici, MD, Assembly Chair

SPRING 2009

## Message From the Assembly Chair

Linda Nici, MD

### Officers of the Assembly on Pulmonary Rehabilitation

Assembly Chairman

2008-2009: Linda Nici

Linda\_Nici@brown.edu

Planning Chairman

2008-2010: Roger Goldstein

rgoldstein@westpark.org

Program Chairman

2008-2009: Richard ZuWallack

rzuwalla@stfranciscare.org

Program Chair-elect

2008-2009: Richard Casaburi

casaburi@ucla.edu

Nominating Chair

2008-2009: Christine Garvey

chrisgarvey@dochs.org

Web Director

2008-2009: Brian Tiep

btiep@coh.org

Happy 2009! 2008 was a very good year for Pulmonary Rehabilitation. We saw the formation of an ATS Assembly on Pulmonary Rehabilitation and passage of legislation making pulmonary rehabilitation a CMS (Medicare) benefit. It is our hope that these important accomplishments will facilitate research, increase public awareness and help provide greater clinical availability of this important therapeutic intervention for patients with chronic respiratory diseases. The details of coverage will be forthcoming as our Assembly works with ACCP and AACVPR to formulate the policy. The bill is scheduled to go into effect in January 2010. Please see Gary Ewart's contribution on this subject later in the newsletter.

In addition to these successes, our proposal for an ATS/ERS workshop on the integrated care of the COPD patient was approved by the ATS Board of Directors and will take place during the San Diego meeting. The aims of this workshop will be to define integrated care as it applies to the treatment of COPD, identify important areas of the integrated care model in which to focus our efforts, and to develop a blueprint for implementation of strategies that will help us better serve our patients and best utilize health care resources.

The PR Assembly leadership would also like to highlight two important papers that have recently been published and congratulate the authors. Francois Maltais, Jean Bourbeau, and colleagues pub-

lished a study which evaluates the effects of home-based pulmonary rehabilitation in patients with COPD (Ann Intern Med 2008;149:869). This study finds that both home-based and hospital-based pulmonary rehabilitation produce similar improvements in dyspnea. The study is one of the largest pulmonary rehabilitation studies to date with over 250 patients in 10 centers, followed over 1 year. The ATS has also recently published a clinical policy statement on palliative care for patients with respiratory diseases and critical illnesses (Am J Respir Crit Care Med 2008; 177:912). While, not formally part of traditional PR, it is important to note how pulmonary rehabilitation and palliative care share ideology, patients, approaches and goals. We welcome and encourage collaboration with this group of clinicians and scientists.

The PR program committee, chaired by Richard L. ZuWallack had extraordinary success in programming topics of interest to our assembly for the International Conference (IC) to be held in San Diego this May (please see a full list later in the newsletter). We congratulate Richard and the entire program committee for their hard work and commitment. We invite all members to attend the International Conference and join us at our membership meeting and reception on Sunday, May 17, 2009 (details later in this newsletter). We also want to thank all of you who submitted abstracts to the Assembly (68 abstracts). Abstract submissions are extremely important in ob-

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## Message from the Assembly Chair

Linda Nici, MD

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taining programming slots, so please consider submitting your abstracts under “Pulmonary Rehabilitation” for the next IC.

Assemblies are strong because of their members and their willingness to serve on committees and projects. We welcome hearing from our as-

sembly members who are willing to become active and participate in the new Assembly on Pulmonary Rehabilitation.

## Pulmonary Rehabilitation Legislation

Gary Ewart, Senior Director, Government Relations

Medicare Coverage of Pulmonary Rehabilitation: The ATS is very pleased that our advocacy efforts to enact legislation mandating coverage pulmonary rehabilitation services under Medicare were successful. Starting January 1, 2010, all Medicare beneficiaries will be guaranteed coverage for pulmonary rehabilitation services.

While we celebrate the victory, legislative enactment is not the end, but rather, the beginning of the policy making process. ATS has been actively pursuing the next steps. We have met with staff at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) to

discuss how we think they should design the pulmonary rehabilitation benefit. As you may know, programs currently use CMS-created G-codes to bill for pulmonary rehabilitation services.

The ATS, in collaboration with our sister societies, have proposed a family of CPT codes to accurately describe the delivery of pulmonary rehabilitation services and replace the temporary G-codes. Unfortunately our proposal for pulmonary rehabilitation CPT codes was not well received by members of the CPT editorial panel, and we ultimately withdrew the proposal. It is

our hope that the concerns voiced at the CPT editorial panel can be addressed and the proposal can be reconsidered in the near future.

In the mean time, the ATS will continue to work with CMS to develop appropriate coverage policy for 2010, either using the existing G-codes or developing an alternative method for coding pulmonary rehabilitation services. The ATS will keep members of the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Assembly informed as the process moves forward.

## Membership

Primary members: 81  
 Primary members (US only): 46  
 Primary & Secondary members: 196  
 Primary & Secondary members (US only): 128

## ATS News

The ATS Education Committee is preparing for accreditation. The bar is higher than ever before. The impact on ATS members will be that those presenting at conferences may have to provide more information about their objectives. Education

Committee members will help you succeed in presenting this information.

Conflict of Interest (COI) Statements are also high on ATS' list of requirements due to the scrutiny

placed on many health organizations. As a result, ATS will require each person presenting at the International Conference, or ATS sponsored programs, to have submitted a COI in order to present.

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## ATS News

(Continued from page 2)

Communications and Marketing Committee is always interested in new ways to generate income for the Society. Feel free to contact the Chair of the committee or Sue Lareau to communicate any ideas.

Patient Education. Sue Lareau, Associate Director of Patient Education, reports she would welcome any topics for patient education documents. Currently ATS publishes a

"two page" document every other month in the blue journal. In December, the topic was on inhalers. Contact Sue if you have ideas you'd like to develop into a document.

## Journal Club

Several of the ATS assemblies have journal clubs, which present constructive, systematic peer-reviewed critiques of important articles relevant to the specialty. On a monthly basis, the ATS website will publish critiques of articles deemed impor-

tant to our membership. If you are interested in doing a critique or suggesting an article for evaluation or have any other comments about developing a journal club for the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Assembly, please contact our web director

Brian Tiep (btiep@attglobal.net) or Miriam Rodriguez (mrodriguez@thoracic.org). If you would like to see what other assemblies are doing, go to thoracic.org and click on education/journal clubs.

## Website

ATS periodically uses pictures of various assembly members to show in brochures, on the website etc. If

you have pictures of yourself at work, please send them to Brian Tiep (btiep@attglobal.net).

ATS is also looking for clinical cases to present on the web. Please contact Brian for more information

## ATS 2009 – San Diego Sessions Sponsored by the Assembly on Pulmonary Rehabilitation

### Postgraduate Course

#### Saturday, May 16, 2009

PG25	PULMONARY REHABILITATION: FROM SCIENCE TO IMPLEMENTATION	8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
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### Symposia

#### Tuesday, May 19, 2009

C6	THE EXPANDING EVENT HORIZON OF PULMONARY REHABILITATION	8:15 AM - 10:45 AM
C90	CONTROVERSIES IN THE OUTPATIENT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE	1:30 PM - 4:00 PM

### Evening Postgraduate Seminar

#### Tuesday, May 19, 2009

E5	THE COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT OF THE PATIENT WITH COPD	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
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## ATS 2009 – San Diego Sessions Sponsored by the Assembly on Pulmonary Rehabilitation

### Meet the Professor Seminar

#### Sunday, May 17, 2009

MP416	NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT IN CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE: CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS	12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
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### Sunrise Seminar

#### Monday, May 18, 2009

SS115	PULMONARY REHABILITATION FOR IPF	7:00 AM - 8:00 AM
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### Mini-Symposia

#### Sunday, May 17, 2009

A18	PULMONARY REHABILITATION: ADDING MUSCLE TO THERAPY FOR PATIENTS WITH RESPIRATORY DISEASE	8:15 AM - 10:45 AM
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#### Wednesday, May 20, 2009

D16	OUTCOMES IN PULMONARY REHABILITATION	8:15 AM - 10:45 AM
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### Poster Discussion Sessions

#### Sunday, May 17, 2009

A107	ADDING TO THE SCIENCE OF PULMONARY REHABILITATION	1:30 PM - 4:00 PM
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#### Monday, May 18, 2009

B107	FUNCTIONAL STATUS AND ACTIVITY IN PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC RESPIRATORY DISEASE	1:30 PM - 4:00 PM
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### Thematic Poster Sessions

#### Monday, May 18, 2009

B58	PULMONARY REHABILITATION	8:15 AM - 4:00 PM
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We would also like to inform you that the Assembly Chair, Linda Nici will also participate in the 4 part thematic Seminar Series titled: TSS2 CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE. Dr. Nici will discuss "Pulmonary Rehabilitation in COPD: For Whom and How?"

This is a 4-part series. Part 2 will be held on Monday, May 18, 12:00 pm-1:00 pm. Part 3 will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 7:00 am-8:00 am. Part 4 will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 12:00 pm-1:00 pm. Those registering for this seminar series will be registered for all 4 parts.

## Candidates for Office

#### Program Committee Chair-Elect

Brian W. Carlin, MD  
Francois Maltais, MD

#### Nominating Committee

Mike D. Morgan, MD  
Jane Z. Reardon, MSN

## Please consider submitting an Assembly/Committee Project Application for funding in FY2010!

This year we will once again use an **Online Application Process** using an electronic grants submission site called proposalCENTRAL. All interested applicants must submit their Assembly/Committee Project Applications online through proposalCENTRAL. To avoid being rushed at deadline time, applicants are encouraged to register and complete a professional profile at proposalCENTRAL as early as possible.

There will be a link to proposalCENTRAL on the ATS homepage at [www.thoracic.org](http://www.thoracic.org) along with comprehensive instructions that have been designed to correspond with the fields in the online application. Please consider submitting an online application for an Assembly/Committee project. If you have a suggestion for a project application and you need assistance, please contact your Assembly Planning Com-

mittee chair Richard J. Schwab at [rschwab@mail.med.upenn.edu](mailto:rschwab@mail.med.upenn.edu).

Please contact Miriam Rodriguez with any questions at tel: 212/315-8639 or email: [mrodriguez@thoracic.org](mailto:mrodriguez@thoracic.org).

## Patients to Speak at Fifteen Designated ATS International Conference Symposia

The ATS Public Advisory Roundtable (ATS PAR) has selected patients to provide a patient perspective at fifteen symposia at the 2009 ATS International Conference Symposia. This concept has worked exceptionally well within the format of the PAR Symposium for the last seven years as well as at an increasing number of sessions at ATS International Conferences from 2004 to 2008.

This is the sixth year that patient speakers will participate within the Assemblies' Symposia. The patients will make a five-minute presentation to offer insight into their personal journeys. This insight will address diagnosis, treatment, and how the disease has dramatically altered their lifestyle, family, career and relationships. They will share their perspective into what patients would like physicians and researchers to

know about physician/patient relationships and the importance and relevance of the work in which investigators and researchers are engaged.

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

ASSEMBLY	SESSION CODE	TITLE	DATE/TIME
CP/AII	A3	Controversies In Lung Transplantation: A Pro-Con Debate	Sunday, May 17 8:15 AM-10:45 AM
CP/BS/NRSG/RCMB	A82	High Impact Disease Modifying Therapies In Advanced COPD: Current Status And Future Directions	Sunday, May 17 1:30 PM-4:00 PM
PC/RCMB	A85	Selective Kinase Or Multikinase Inhibitors In Pulmonary Hypertension	Sunday, May 17 1:30 PM-4:00 PM
SRN	A87	Sleep-Disordered Breathing Beyond Obesity: The Role Of Gender, Race, And Genetics	Sunday, May 17 1:30 PM-4:00 PM
EOH/AII	B9	Fat And Flow: Implications Of Diet And Obesity For Asthma	Monday, May 18 8:15 AM-10:45 AM
CP/AII	B82	Clinical Problems In Sarcoidosis	Monday, May 18 1:30 PM-4:00 PM
PC/AII/CP	C5	Scleroderma-Related PAH: A Paradigm For Vascular Remodeling	Tuesday, May 19 8:15 AM-10:45 AM
SRN	C8	New Frontiers in the Management of Obstructive Sleep Apnea	Tuesday, May 19 8:15 AM-10:45 AM

## Patients to Speak at Fifteen Designated ATS International Conference Symposia

ASSEMBLY	SESSION CODE	TITLE	DATE/TIME
RCMB/AII/CP/CC/PC/RSF	C85	Mechanotransduction In Lung Injury, Repair And Fibrosis: May The Force Be With Us	Tuesday, May 19 1:30 PM-4:00 PM
RSF/CP/CC/NRSG/PC/RCMB	C86	Causes Of Multi-organ Failure In Critically Ill Septic Patients	Tuesday, May 19 1:30 PM-4:00 PM
CP	D2	Lung Cancer Clinic: State Of The Art	Wednesday, May 20 8:15 AM-10:45 AM
CC/CP	D4	Therapeutic Frontiers In Acute Lung Injury	Wednesday, May 20 8:15 AM-10:45 AM
BS/CP/NRSG/PED/PR	D10	Medication Availability And Access: Issues Of Value And Affordability	Wednesday, May 20 8:15 AM-10:45 AM
RCMB/AII/CP	D89	Targeting Tumor Microenvironment Interactions In Lung Cancer	Wednesday, May 20 1:30 PM-4:00 PM
CC	D93	Non-Pulmonary Problems in the ICU	Wednesday, May 20 1:30 PM-4:00 PM

### ATS PAR Symposium

The ATS Public Advisory Roundtable (PAR) is pleased to announce the eighth ATS PAR Symposium to be presented at the ATS International Conference in San Diego on Sunday, May 17, 2009 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.. The topic of the symposium is “Lung Fibrosis” and it will be jointly chaired by David H. Ingbar, M.D. and Donna J. Appell, RN. The program includes the following:

- New Molecular Targets In Pulmonary Fibrosis - P.B. Bitterman, M.D., Minneapolis, MN
- Patient's Perspective - *TBD*
- Lessons From Pulmonary Fibrosis In Hermansky Pudlak Syn-

drome NHGRI - B.R. Gochuico, M.D., Bethesda, MD

- Genomics And Pulmonary Fibrosis - J.E. Loyd, M.D., Nashville, TN
- Molecular Diagnostics And Biomarkers In IPF - N. Kaminski, M.D., Pittsburgh, PA
- Where Are We With Clinical Trials In IPF? - *TBD*
- Novel Treatments For Pulmonary Fibrosis: Stem Cells And All That Jazz - L.A. Ortiz, M.D., Pittsburgh, PA
- Wrap-Up Interactive Discussion

- D.H. Ingbar, M.D., Minneapolis, MN

The ATS PAR Annual Poster Session will be open from Sunday, May 17 – Tuesday, May 19 2009 in the Exhibit Hall of the San Diego Convention Centre. Public Interest Organizations (PIO's) concerned with lung and sleep disorders will present information about their organizations. A representative from each organization will be present at the poster session to provide additional information.

## ATS Public Advisory Roundtable's Third Annual *Breathing Better with the ATS Forum*

This is a forum at which patients will have the unique opportunity to network and learn more about their disease.

This year the panelists will focus on oxygen management and quality of life issues.

### **Panel Includes:**

Patrick Stollo, MD

Sam Giordano, MBA, RRT, FAARC

Rell Trey Schwab

If you have any patients in the San Diego area, please encourage them to attend. They will have an opportunity to hear from and network with other patients and experts in the pulmonary community.

**May 16, 2009, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

The Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel located at One Market Place, San Diego, CA

RSVP by: April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009 by emailing [cwhite@thoracic.org](mailto:cwhite@thoracic.org) or call

Courtney L. White at (212) 315-8640

## Fellows Get First Year of ATS Membership for Free!

ATS is offering a free year of ATS membership to all first-year pulmonology, critical care, sleep fellows and post-doctoral PhD fellows! This special program is intended to welcome fellows to the ATS community. The Society would like these junior entrants to the fields of respiratory medicine to take advantage of the benefits of membership and look to ATS as their professional home for post graduate and continuing medical education, networking on a global scale, and for helping them to serve the needs of patients and the public at large.

Today's fellows will be the research and clinical professionals who will achieve the next major advancement in the science and treatment of pulmonary disease, critical illness and sleep disorders critical to advancing science and practice of the fields.

To learn more about this program, send an e-mail to [fellows@thoracic.org](mailto:fellows@thoracic.org) or visit the ATS Web site at [www.thoracic.org](http://www.thoracic.org) and click "Free Year for Fellows" under the Membership drop down menu. Program directors are encouraged to share this information with their fellows and other colleagues.

## ATS Foundation to Host Inaugural Benefit Dinner for the ATS Research Program at ATS 2009 in San Diego

The Board of Trustees of the Foundation of the American Thoracic Society invites you to attend our Inaugural **Gala Dinner** benefiting the ATS Research Program on Saturday, May 16, 2009 in San Diego, California. The **evening** will begin with a **reception** at 7:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:45 PM. The **event** will be held at the Manchester Grand Hyatt on the Fourth Level in the Randle Ballroom. During the dinner, we will recognize ATS Research Program **awardees** and honor the **recipients** of the 2009 Breathing for Life Award. Please join us! **Please register early as seating is limited.**

To register for **the conference and reception/dinner** go to:

<http://foundation.thoracic.org/web/ats-research-program-dinner.html>

or call (212) 315-6822 for more information.

PULMONARY REHABILITATION  
ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

SUNDAY MAY 17<sup>TH</sup> 6:30-8:30 PM  
MANCHESTER HYATT HOTEL SAN DIEGO  
RANDLE BALLROOM C (FOURTH LEVEL)

PULMONARY REHABILITATION  
ASSEMBLY RECEPTION

SUNDAY MAY 17<sup>TH</sup> 8:30-11:00PM  
MANCHESTER HYATT HOTEL SAN DIEGO  
MADELINE A-D (THIRD LEVEL)