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SLEEP AND RESPIRATORY NEUROBIOLOGY ASSEMBLY NEWSLETTER

EDITED BY ATUL MALHOTRA, MD

SPRING 2011



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Message from the Assembly Chair Atul Malhotra, MD

The Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology (SRN) Assembly (<http://www.thoracic.org/assemblies/srn/index.php>) of the American Thoracic Society has had a really exciting year. The sleep field provides an exciting arena for scientists, clinicians and teachers and, as a young field we provide outstanding opportunities for junior people. The SRN leadership has been working diligently to address a number of challenges to our field, just some of which are detailed here:

- 1) There were funding cuts from Medicare for coverage of polysomnographic testing. These cuts are being implemented gradually in the coming years, but will represent a considerable threat to our field. The SRN assembly worked closely with members of the RUC who advise Medicare to minimize these cuts, by explaining the importance of the diseases we treat. We have also been working to expand some of the existing codes (such as for actigraphy and for auto-titration equipment) which should offset some of the cuts on the sleep studies themselves. We anticipate that similar cuts will occur in many areas of health care, but believe that our efforts (in collaboration with other professional societies) helped to minimize this loss of revenue.
- 2) The development of ACGME-accredited fellowships in sleep medicine was a step forward for the sleep field as we were recognized as an independent discipline. However, the high quality applications in many programs have been coming from individuals outside of respiratory medicine, likely due to the requirement for further sleep training after 3-4 year fellowships. We have therefore been continuing to work with a number of national organizations to suggest alternative training pathways which will facilitate respiratory applicants. Ultimately we would support combined training of sleep medicine along with pulmonary/critical care medicine or the possibility of pulmonary/sleep. We further support emphasis on research training during the course of clinical fellowships to keep investigation in sleep disordered breathing alive and well. We had a major article in an ATS Newsletter to raise awareness regarding these issues.
- 3) Richard Schwab in Philadelphia and Atul Malhotra in Boston have continued the Sleep SOTA (State of the Art Course) in March 2011 in San Diego,

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Message from the Assembly Chair

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- California. This course follows a tradition that was started one year prior in Miami, in which leading experts in our field provided clinical and basic lectures regarding the spectrum of sleep medicine. We strongly encourage senior and junior people to attend this annual course, based on strong feedback from all participants.
- 4) Under the leadership of Amy Jordan, PhD and Indu Ayappa, PhD, the SRN Program of the ATS 2011 in Denver promises to be one of our best ever. We have considerable scientific content spanning the range from basic to translational to clinical. Our abstracts remain strong both in terms of quantity as well as quality. Therefore, we eagerly await Denver.
 - 5) Under the leadership of Susheel Patil, MD and Malcolm Kohler, MD, we continue our considerable online content. The ATS website (www.thoracic.org) has been revamped but continues to feature prominently our popular Sleep Fragments and other SRN content. We are in the early stages of combining these Fragments into a book which would be an excellent summary for trainees as well as faculty. The development of these fragments represents an excellent opportunity for junior people to get involved since we are always looking for good tracings and for people interested/willing to review the content.
 - 6) We have been actively encouraging our support of junior trainees. This support comes in the form of travel prizes and research awards to attend the ATS 2011 meeting. In addition, we have initiated a remote mentoring program such that junior people in smaller programs can acquire mentoring expertise to facilitate their research. A number of young people have already taken advantage of this program. We have also included junior people in our academic program and have prominently included several young people on our major committees. The annual Skatrud award for outstanding young scientists continues to attract outstanding applications from around the world (<http://www.thoracic.org/assemblies/srn/index.php>). The award is one of the highlights of the SRN Assembly dinner on the Monday night of ATS. We encourage junior members to attend all of the sessions including the Post-Graduate courses and the Business Meetings. We will have an informal gathering 30 minutes prior to the Monday SRN Business Meeting to help orient junior people to the ATS and to get to know various people.
 - 7) We continue to make major efforts to encourage international ATS participation. Under the leadership of Mary Morrell, PhD, we have solicited SRN abstracts from around the world and have included participants in various sessions from multiple countries outside the US. The recipient of our international training award will be featured prominently at the ATS 2011.
 - 8) Given the downturn in the economy and the changing rules regarding interactions with industry, the breadth of available ATS research grants was reduced in 2010 as compared with prior years. We were pleased that the ATS again offered unrestricted research grants this year which were open to applicants from the fields of pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine. These funding challenges have reinvigorated our efforts to find industry and other partners in support of our field and our trainees. We encourage all SRN members to provide potential industry sponsors/contacts to ATS staff (mturenne@thoracic.org) to facilitate communication. We emphasize that ATS staff must be heavily involved in this process to allow coordination of efforts as well as our keeping within the rules. Throughout the years, the ATS has remained a strong supporter of research, including for the Sleep field, through advocacy at NHLBI and lobbying on Capitol Hill, among other efforts. SRN leadership has regular calls with leaders at NHLBI to understand challenges and how they might be addressed.

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Message from the Assembly Chair

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9) In addition, we encourage all to support the ATS Foundation including the Saturday night fund raising dinner (<http://foundation.thoracic.org/>) in Denver. Registration for this dinner will provide an excellent opportunity to spend time with colleagues, network with leaders in the field and to support a worthy cause. The SRN has a friendly competition with other assemblies to have the highest per capita representation at this dinner compared to any other assembly.

10) We have recently secured funding for our Assembly dinner on Monday night in Denver immediately following the SRN Business Meeting. We are delighted that John West from San Diego will be our featured guest speaker who will discuss control of breathing at altitude.

Finally as my chairmanship of the SRN Assembly ends I leave the SRN Assembly in the capable hands of James Rowley, MD of Detroit"

We welcome feedback from all as we tackle new hurdles in the coming year. We have had an exciting year which will culminate in our international conference in Denver which promises to be outstanding, as there will be something for everyone. See you all there.

Atul Malhotra, MD (amalhotra1@partners.org)

Planning Committee

Vsevolod Polotsky, MD, PhD, MD

The Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology Planning Committee is charged with developing long range plans for the Assembly and serving as an "executive body" to the Assembly chair and Assembly members. The 2010-11SRN Planning Committee includes 15 members. The primary responsibility of the SRN Planning Committee is to review and prioritize Assembly Projects. Planning for project submission begins during the official Planning Committee Meeting at the ATS International Conference. Submission of new Assembly/Committee projects occurs in June. Information on submitting a new Assembly/Committee Project Applications can be found on the ATS website. The current Assembly/Committee projects submitted through the SRN Assembly members and approved are as follows:

Dr. Richard Schwab. CPAP Monitoring - What is the Ideal Strategy and Outcome Measure?.

Dr. Susheel Patil. Sleep Fragments – An Educational Resource for Physicians and Trainees

Dr. Ann C. Halbower. Pediatric Sleep Disordered Breathing, an Unrecognized Public Health Problem.
(in collaboration with the Pediatrics Assembly and the American Academy of Pediatrics)

Dr. Jerry Krishnan. Comparative Effectiveness Research in Pulmonary, Sleep, and Critical Care Medicine (Behavioral Science is the Primary Assembly; SRN is one the Secondary Assemblies)

If you are interested in Submitting an Assembly/Committee Project or just have a great idea for one send the planning committee chair an email at: vpolots1@jhmi.edu

If you would like to learn the specifics of developing ATS society documents the ATS Documents Development and Implementation Committee will hold a meeting/workshop for all project chairs and interested individuals at the upcoming meeting in Denver. The meeting will provide key information about docu-

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Planning Committee

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ment development from leading experts in the field, and key document personnel within the Society.

What: "Document Development: Frequently Asked Questions and Answers"

When: Friday, May 13 from 12:30-4:00 PM; lunch will be served

Where: The Sheraton Hotel in Denver

Program Committee

Amy S. Jordan, PhD

As programming for the ATS 2011 scientific meeting is nearing completion, Indu Ayappa (Program Chair -elect) and I are delighted to report on the diverse Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology topics that will be covered this year. We believe the program will be equally appealing to basic scientists and clinicians, with topics ranging from clinical management of sleep disorders through to basic respiratory and sleep science.

This year's program will begin with 2 outstanding post-graduate courses with *A Comprehensive Update on Polysomnography* on Friday and *The Physiology of Intermittent Hypoxia* on Saturday. The opening of the main meeting on Saturday afternoon proves to be very interesting with a presentation from Peter Hackett, MD who is an expert in altitude medicine and has successfully climbed Mt Everest.

The major symposia for 2011 include "*Endothelial dysfunction, vascular disease and sleep disordered breathing*" which will cover basic vascular biology through endothelial dysfunction in patients with OSA. In the session "*Sleep in Chronic Lung Disease: Challenges of Sleep and Breathing*" the challenges of managing patients with various lung diseases will be considered. The importance of understanding the pathophysiology of OSA when treating the disorder will be discussed in "*It serves a purpose! Clinical impact of pathophysiology on treatment of OSAS*". The session "*Susceptibility to cardiovascular consequences of Obstructive Sleep Apnea*" will cover epidemiological, genetic and physiologic aspects of cardiovascular function in OSA. Clinicians and attendees involved in the management of sleep disorders will likely find the sessions "*Obesity: Implications for the clinical practice of the pulmonary, critical care and sleep physician*" and "*Understanding and identifying non-adherence to better treat asthma, COPD and OSA*" particularly interesting.

In addition to these major symposia, we have an exciting series of abstract sessions which will showcase the new and outstanding research that is being conducted in our field. These include mini-symposia sessions on "*Sleep apnea treatment trials*", "*Anatomic and neuromuscular influences on airway collapse*" and "*consequences of intermittent hypoxia*". The poster discussion sessions will include "*Treatment of sleep disordered breathing*", "*Dyspnea*", "*Hypoxia*" and "*Diagnosis and management of sleep disorders*".

Indu Ayappa and I would like to thank the SRN Program Committee, the International Conference Committee and Marc Moss, the ICC Chair for their help and support in preparation of this exciting Program. We believe this year's meeting will enthuse and invigorate Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology scientists and clinicians. We look forward to seeing you in Denver!

Nominating Committee

Samuel Kuna, MD

The SRN Nominating Committee (Dr. John Kimoff, Dr. Sam Kuna, Dr. Mary Morrell) have communicated by phone and email. The committee's charge was to select candidates for the upcoming 2011-2012 available SRN leadership positions and elections at ATS. The committee was pleased by the enthusiasm of the talented individuals willing to serve and give freely of their time to enhance the work of the SRN Assembly.

The following were chosen as candidates:

Program Committee Chair-Elect:

Dr. Malcolm Kohler

Dr. Susheel Patil

Nominating Committee:

Dr. Geraldo Lorenzi-Filho

Dr. Grace Pien

Dr. Alan Schwartz

The final vote for one Program Committee Chair-Elect and two Nominating Committee members will take place online beginning April 1st. The results will be revealed at the Assembly Membership Meeting in Denver. In support of the excellent candidates and their ongoing work for the Assembly, we encourage as many members as possible attend the meeting and vote online. Your participation is important.

Website Update

Susheel Patil, MD

Malcolm Kohler, MD

We are pleased to provide an update regarding web-related activities of the Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology (SRN) assembly and the American Thoracic Society (ATS).

Our major effort continues to be the Sleep Fragment series. The series are image-based short case presentations with a question to the image followed by a brief discussion. The series are meant to highlight teaching points relevant to the practice of Sleep Medicine. In 2010, visits to the Sleep Fragments website (www.thoracic.org/clinical/sleep/sleep-fragment/index.php) have reached >9000 per year, suggesting that it is a frequently used and popular education resource. Thanks to the numerous unsolicited submissions of cases, we have been able to increase the total number of Sleep Fragments published to >50, and hope to have 2 Sleep Fragments published per month on a regular basis. At this point we would like to thank all authors for their outstanding contributions and the reviewers for their important work as referees.

Should you be interested to contribute an educational Sleep Fragment, formal instructions for submission can be found at www.thoracic.org/clinical/sleep/sleep-fragment/submission-guidelines.php. All Sleep Fragments are subject to peer-review and an excellent venue for medical students, residents, and fellows to partner with faculty members and submit cases for eventual publication. The Sleep Fragments are also an excellent opportunity for young people to get involved with the ATS and to complete the requirement of scholarly activity required of ACGME fellowships, as Sleep Fragments can be added to the CV as peer-reviewed publication. We are happy to have authors contact us (spatil@jhmi.edu or [*\(Continued on page 6\)*](mailto:mal-</p>
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Website Update

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colm.k@bluewin.ch) prior to submissions of cases to help develop and refine cases.

In addition to the Sleep Fragments, our assembly featured a case on Prader-Willi syndrome and OSA (<http://www.thoracic.org/clinical/ats-clinical-cases/pages/a-5-year-old-girl-with-prader-willi-syndrome-and-worsening-snoring-during-growth-hormone-therapy.php>) courtesy of Camilla K.B. Matthews, MD, and Mihaela Teodorescu, MD, MS.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that Mihaela Teodorescu, University of Wisconsin and Renaud Tamisier, Grenoble University Hospital, France, will take over from us as new Website Directors of the SRN assembly as of May 2011.

If you have any suggestions regarding the SRN website please do not hesitate to contact us (spatil@jhmi.edu or malcolm.k@bluewin.ch) or the new Website Directors (mt3@medicine.wisc.edu or rtamisier@chu-grenoble.fr).

Sincerely,
Susheel Patil and Malcolm Kohler

Submit an Assembly/Committee Project Application for funding in FY2012!

We are happy to announce that ATS will once again accept NEW Assembly/Committee Projects for FY2012. 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 beginning in June. 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 Vsevolod Polotsky at vpolots1@jhmi.edu

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



SLEEP AND RESPIRATORY NEUROBIOLOGY
ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MONDAY MAY 16TH 5:00PM-7:00PM
HYATT REGENCY
THIRD LEVEL
MINERAL HALL A,B,C



SLEEP AND RESPIRATORY NEUROBIOLOGY
ASSEMBLY RECEPTION

MONDAY MAY 16TH 7:00-10:00PM
HYATT REGENCY
THIRD LEVEL
CENTENNIAL BALLROOM F,G,H

ATS 2011—DENVER

Sessions Sponsored by the Assembly on Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology

Session Code	Session Title	Sess Time Begin	Sess Time End
Scientific Symposium			
Sunday, May 15, 2011			
A88	IT SERVES A PURPOSE! CLINICAL IMPACT OF PATHOPHYSIOLOGY ON TREATMENT OF OBSTRUCTIVE SLEEP APNEA/HYPOPNEA SYNDROME	2:00 PM	4:25 PM
Monday, May 16, 2011			
B8	ENDOTHELIAL DYSFUNCTION, VASCULAR DISEASE AND SLEEP DISORDERED BREATHING	8:15 AM	10:45 AM
B89	OBESITY: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CLINICAL PRACTICE OF THE PULMONARY, CRITICAL CARE AND SLEEP PHYSICIAN	2:00 PM	4:30 PM
Tuesday, May 17, 2011			
C86	SLEEP IN CHRONIC LUNG DISEASE: CHALLENGES OF SLEEPING AND BREATHING	2:00 PM	4:30 PM
Wednesday, May 18, 2011			
D9	SUSCEPTIBILITY TO CARDIOVASCULAR CONSEQUENCES OF OBSTRUCTIVE SLEEP APNEA	8:15 AM	10:45 AM
Meet The Professor Seminars			
Sunday, May 15, 2011			
MP418	THE GENETICS OF SLEEP AND SLEEP APNEA	12:00 PM	1:00 PM
Monday, May 16, 2011			
MP519	SHOULD RESIDENT AND FELLOW WORK HOURS BE LIMITED? A PRO-CON DEBATE	12:00 PM	1:00 PM
Tuesday, May 17, 2011			
MP617	MULTI CENTER SLEEP TRIALS: ADVANTAGES, CHALLENGES AND KEY QUESTIONS	12:00 PM	1:00 PM
Sunrise Seminar			
Monday, May 16, 2011			
SS116	SLEEP DISORDERED BREATHING AND CARDIAC ARRHYTHMIAS	7:00 AM	8:00 AM
Tuesday, May 17, 2011			
SS216	WHAT THE SLEEP PHYSICIAN NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT ORAL APPLIANCES: A DENTIST'S PERSPECTIVE	7:00 AM	8:00 AM
Wednesday, May 18, 2011			
SS317	SIMPLIFIED MODELS OF CARE FOR OSA	7:00 AM	8:00 AM
Workshop			
Wednesday, May 18, 2011			
WS7	POSITIVE PRESSURE MANAGEMENT OF SLEEP DISORDERED BREATHING IN SPECIAL POPULATIONS	11:30 AM	1:00 PM
Mini-Symposium			
Sunday, May 15, 2011			
A19	SLEEP APNEA TREATMENT TRIALS	8:15 AM	10:45 AM
Tuesday, May 17, 2011			
C98	CONSEQUENCES OF INTERMITTENT HYPOXIA	2:00 PM	4:30 PM
Wednesday, May 18, 2011			
D100	ANATOMIC AND NEUROMUSCULAR INFLUENCES ON AIRWAY COLLAPSE	2:00 PM	4:30 PM

ATS 2011—DENVER

Sessions Sponsored by the Assembly on Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology

Session Code	Session Title	Sess Time Begin	Sess Time End
<i>Poster Discussion Session</i>			
Sunday, May 15, 2011			
A109	HYPOXIA	2:00 PM	4:30 PM
Monday, May 16, 2011			
B29	TREATMENT OF SLEEP DISORDERED BREATHING	8:15 AM	10:45 AM
Wednesday, May 18, 2011			
D108	DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT OF SLEEP DISORDERS	2:00 PM	4:30 PM
D29	DYSPNEA	8:15 AM	10:45 AM
<i>Thematic Poster Sessions</i>			
Sunday, May 15, 2011			
A73	SLEEP DISORDERED BREATHING AND CARDIOVASCULAR IMPAIRMENT	8:15 AM	4:30 PM
A74	LABORATORY AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES FOR SLEEP DISORDERS	8:15 AM	4:30 PM
Monday, May 16, 2011			
B72	DETERMINANTS OF UPPER AIRWAY SIZE AND FUNCTION	8:15 AM	4:30 PM
B73	PEDIATRIC SLEEP	8:15 AM	4:30 PM
Tuesday, May 17, 2011			
C75	OTHER SLEEP ISSUES	8:15 AM	4:30 PM
C76	CONTROL OF VENTILATION AND RESPIRATORY MUSCLES	8:15 AM	4:30 PM
Wednesday, May 18, 2011			
D40	SLEEP DISORDERED BREATHING OUTCOMES	8:15 AM	4:30 PM
<i>Postgraduate Course</i>			
Friday, May 13, 2011			
PG15	COMPREHENSIVE UPDATE ON POLYSOMNOGRAPHY: INTERACTIVE STATE OF THE ART REVIEW AND CASE DISCUSSIONS	8:00 AM	4:00 PM
Saturday, May 14, 2011			
PG29	PHYSIOLOGY OF INTERMITTENT HYPOXIA	8:00 AM	4:00 PM



**Please join us for
the Third Annual ATS Foundation Research Dinner
on Saturday, May 14, 7:00 pm, at the Hyatt Regency Denver.**

This year's exciting dinner includes a video paying tribute to the Colorado scientists and clinicians whose groundbreaking discoveries and revolutionary treatments have shaped how pulmonary medicine is practiced today. The evening also honors Louis S. Libby, MD, executive vice president and chief medical officer of The Oregon Clinic, and this year's recipient of the "Breathing for Life" award. The dinner also features entertainment.

For the foreseeable future, the continuation of unrestricted and research partner grants will depend largely on the Foundation's ability to raise funds from ATS members like you. Our dinner goal in 2011 is to raise \$200,000 for two unrestricted research grants. Please help us achieve that goal by joining us in Denver. To register, please use this link: <https://www.xpressreg.net/register/thor051/foundation/start.asp>. Or, you may also visit the Foundation Web site: <http://foundation.thoracic.org>. For more information, contact Lydia Neumann: Lneumann@thoracic.org.



**The *American Journal of Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology* has
become an electronic-only publication and will no longer appear in print.**

The ATS came to this decision as part of its efforts to extend the reach of the *AJRCMB*, take advantage of opportunities for the use of four-color and creative presentation and become more electronically interactive and environmentally responsible. This change, the ATS believes, can also enhance the journal's national and international exposure.

Becoming an electronic-only journal does not change anything related to article submissions or reviews. All editorial policies, processes and content remains unchanged.

The March 2011 issue of the *AJRCMB* is now posted online at <http://ajrcmb.atsjournals.org>. Subsequent issues of the journal will be posted by the beginning of each month and can be found at this same address.

You may also choose to have an electronic table of contents emailed to you each month. To sign up, please visit www.thoracic.org/journals/index.php and click on "e-TOC" under the journal.