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Thoracic Society Chapters: Nurturing Local Collaboration
Welcome to the ATS community!

The American Thoracic Society is an international community made up of people like you—physicians, biomedical scientists, allied health professionals and others who want to make a difference in patients’ lives.

Today, one third of ATS members live and work outside of the United States, representing 120 countries around the world.

Our goal is to discover better ways to treat and prevent respiratory diseases, critical illnesses and sleep disorders, and to disseminate that knowledge worldwide.

The Society fosters discussions among members, crossing national and international boundaries to bring to the table the most knowledgeable and dedicated scientists and clinicians to write an important clinical guideline, or to plan an ATS International Conference symposium.

The ATS traces its roots to 1905, when a group of physicians and scientists formalized the collegial partnerships they had developed around the treatment of a seemingly incurable disease—tuberculosis. These founders knew that they had to share their knowledge with their colleagues if they were to provide any hope to their patients.

While the Society has grown in size and scope over the last century, that philosophy still guides us today. Members, who today represent more than a hundred countries, prize the interactions made possible within a society that has integrated the perspectives of basic scientists, translational and clinical researchers, clinicians, and, most recently, patients, into virtually everything it does.

We hope you will consider joining our community.
The ATS is committed to helping its members professionally. We do this by publishing the best medical science in the fields of pulmonary, critical care and sleep; sponsoring symposia, lectures, and workshops by world-renowned experts; and providing opportunities to participate in the diverse projects that the Society undertakes.

As members become engaged in the life of the ATS, they typically form a professional network that they rely upon in many ways. Some find colleagues with whom they collaborate on research. Others rely on their fellow members to help them diagnose a difficult case or treat an intractable illness. And still others find mentors, practice partners and new faculty members.

The ATS is especially committed to helping build the careers of its younger members. The Society offers opportunities for members in training and transition to learn about career pathways in the fields of pulmonary, critical care and sleep; receive grants to support their research; and contribute to the dissemination of the latest relevant scientific and medical information.
Practice at the forefront of medicine

The ATS is the preeminent respiratory society for healthcare professionals. Many of its members are recognized nationally and internationally as leaders in their respective fields. The *American Journal of Respiratory Medicine and Critical Care* has the highest impact factor in the field of respiratory medicine. And the ATS International Conference is widely regarded as a forum where the “best” science in pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine is presented.

The ATS excels because its members want to improve patients’ lives. They encourage excellence in all the Society does, because they know, firsthand, what is at stake.

Our members want to know not only what are the most effective diagnostic methods and therapies for their patients, but why they are recommended. They want to learn from—and question—the researchers themselves who are responsible for translating scientific breakthroughs into clinical advances. And they want to know about more fundamental discoveries that may change the future of medicine.

The majority of ATS members are clinicians, but the Society also attracts a large contingent of researchers. These individuals value the interactions the Society fosters among clinicians, basic scientists, and translational and clinical researchers —interactions that may lead to new areas or applications of their research and stronger grant applications.
Since 2001, patients and their advocates have been an integral part of the American Thoracic Society through the Public Advisory Roundtable (PAR), the arm of the ATS that incorporates the patient and family perspectives into all of the Society’s activities. The roundtable comprises a rotating group of 15 public interest organizations that are involved in the Society’s International Conference, its clinical guidelines and its Board of Directors and other governing entities.

The ATS recognizes that a patient’s health is increasingly determined by the health of the larger community in which he or she lives. This is one reason why the ATS advocates on issues ranging from clean air, tuberculosis control, smoking cessation, patient access to effective medical interventions and fair reimbursement for physician services.

These public health efforts, whether undertaken in Washington, Geneva or Jakarta, carry special weight with policymakers because of the Society’s reputation for arriving at its positions after a careful review of the most credible scientific studies.

Patients and public health are central to the ATS
The benefits of membership

ATS members are physicians, biomedical scientists, advanced practice nurses, behavioral scientists, respiratory therapists and other healthcare professionals who work in academic institutions, private practices, hospitals and scientific research settings around the globe. The ATS is continuously working to make ATS membership valuable by meeting members’ professional needs through education, research and advocacy.

High-impact journals, clinical guidelines and practice information

- Print and/or online subscriptions to the three ATS journals*: the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine (AJRCCM), American Journal of Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology (AJRCMB) and Annals of the ATS.
- Discounts on page and color art fees for those publishing in the Society’s journals;
- Subscriptions to the ATS Morning Minute, a daily digest of news important to the respiratory community; the ATS News, the Society’s monthly newsletter; ATS Stat weekly; the weekly Washington Letter; as well as the ATS Coding and Billing Quarterly;
- Access to more than 80 ATS Patient Education Series flyers;
- Access to over 150 clinical statements and guidelines.

International Conference & educational programs/products

- Members pay reduced rates when attending the ATS International Conference and the Methods in Epidemiologic, Clinical and Operations Research (MECOR) course.
- Receive discounts when submitting an abstract or when purchasing online “Best of ATS Conferences” and other continuing medical education (CME) and maintenance of certification (MOC) offerings.

ATS Assemblies

- Membership in ATS Assemblies (interest groups) within the broad fields of respiratory disease and critical care medicine.

* AJRCMB and Annals are online only, AJRCCM is printed for US members and online for international members.
Global- and U.S.-based advocacy efforts

- The ATS advocates for cleaner air, smoking cessation and tuberculosis control, among other public health issues in the United States and around the world.
- In the United States, the ATS champions legislation that assures patients access to care and fair reimbursement for physicians.
- Membership in ATS Assemblies (interest groups) within the broad fields of respiratory disease and critical care medicine

Society leadership rights and privileges

- Right to hold ATS-wide office (Full members).
- Right to vote for ATS leaders, or serve as an ATS committee chair (Full and Trainee members).
- Right to belong to an ATS assembly and to vote for assembly leaders, serve as an ATS-wide committee member, and to be recognized/to receive ATS-wide awards.

The ATS Foundation Research Program and Career Development Opportunities

- The ATS Foundation Research Program - celebrating 10 years of success! - has aided more than 180 young investigators by providing over $11 million in grants.
- ATS offers opportunities for early career professionals including the Fellows Track Symposium and Resident Boot Camp at the International Conference, and the Fellows Toolkit and other resources throughout the year.
- The Job Board and related National Healthcare Career Network serve as great resources for those seeking new positions, or offering them.

One of the ATS’s most important international programs is the MECOR—Methods in Epidemiologic, Clinical and Operations Research—program. Begun in Latin America in 1994, the program has expanded to Africa and Asia, where physicians and others are learning how to conduct research that will improve respiratory health in their countries.
Membership categories

UNITED STATES

**Full member – domestic** $375
For individuals living in the United States who are directly interested in the fields of pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine.

**Affiliate – domestic** $200
For individuals living in the United States who are not practicing or conducting research primarily in pulmonary, critical care or sleep-related medicine.

**Trainee – domestic** (free for first year) $100
For individuals living in the United States and who are enrolled in any level of training in any accredited degree program or discipline.

INTERNATIONAL

**Full member – international high income** $300
For individuals residing in countries with a gross national product (GNP) per capita of more than $10,000.

**Full member – international intermediate income** $100
For individuals residing in countries with a gross national product (GNP) per capita between $3,000 and $10,000.

**Full member – international low income** $40
For individuals residing in countries with a gross national product (GNP) per capital of less than $3,000.

**Trainee – international** (free for first year) $40
For individuals residing outside of the U.S. and enrolled in any level of training in any accredited degree program or discipline.

**First-time trainee members join free**
First-time domestic and international trainee members are eligible to join the ATS free for one year. After this first year, trainee membership continues at a reduced cost and includes most of the benefits and value of full membership.

**International members pay reduced rates**
Members outside the US pay dues rates based on per capita gross national product (GNP) for their country of residence. Refer to thoracic.org for a country list.

**Join today at www.thoracic.org**

Questions? Please send an e-mail to membership@thoracic.org

US and international members who are fully retired or have an income limiting disability may apply for Senior membership. Members who are 75 years of age or older may apply for Emeritus membership. Individuals cannot join the ATS as Senior or Emeritus members.
Assemblies and Sections: the heart of the ATS

The assemblies and sections are at the heart of the Society’s mission. Through these groups, ATS members review, analyze and disseminate the latest basic science and clinical information. This “meeting of the minds” often leads, directly or indirectly, to better patient care, scientific advances and initiatives to reduce the prevalence of disease.

One of the more important functions of the assemblies and sections is programming the ATS International Conference.

ATS members can join one “primary” and up to two “secondary” assemblies at no extra cost. They may join as many sections as they like. One of the easiest ways to get involved is to attend the annual meeting of the assembly or assemblies that you feel best fit your clinical and research interests. Assemblies also offer newsletters, webinars, journal clubs and other activities throughout the year.

Assemblies

Allergy, Immunology and Inflammation (AII)
Behavioral Science and Health Services Research (BSSH)
Critical Care (CC)
Clinical Problems (CP)
Environmental, Occupational and Population Health (EOPH)
Microbiology, Tuberculosis and Pulmonary Infections (MTPI)
Nursing (NUR)
Pediatrics (PEDS)
Pulmonary Circulation (PC)
Pulmonary Rehabilitation (PR)

Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology (RCMB)
Respiratory Structure and Function (RSF)
Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology (SRN)
Thoracic Oncology (TO)

Sections

Genetics and Genomics
Medical Education
Terrorism and Inhalation Disasters
The Thoracic Society Chapters strive to strengthen the knowledge and skills of medical professionals while providing a local forum to their constituents to exchange ideas and improve the respiratory health, critical care and sleep of their patients. Participation in chapter activities provides a valuable opportunity to get to know others in your local medical community. Chapters offer education including many programs that offer continuing medical education (CME) credit, advocacy, and some provide newsletters and an online medical journal.

Chapter involvement can serve as a path to leadership within the chapter, or to the Council of Chapter Representatives (CCR), a body that includes a representative from each chapter and has representation on the ATS Board of Directors. The CCR provides an annual Outstanding Clinician Award program that recognizes exemplary clinicians at the chapter and national (ATS) level. The CCR also presents the popular Great Cases Symposium held each year at the ATS International Conference.

Chapter membership is separate from ATS membership; interested individuals may join a chapter, and may also participate as nonmembers in chapter programs.

Alabama
Arizona
California
Colorado
Metro DC
Hawaii
Louisiana
Michigan
Mississippi
New Jersey
New Mexico
New York State
Ohio
Oklahoma
Oregon
Rhode Island
Washington