

The Dance for Balance

I work with our patients and family members every day. As much as half of our members—clinicians or clinician-hybrids in academia also work with patients and families every day.

Member researchers and scientists, however, have less face time with patients. Some days, they may not interact with patients at all.

There are some things the patient will always know better than us. There are some things only a patient and family members will know.

We need patients to remind us—to help us know what it's like to live with asthma, COPD, or a sleep disorder. Or understand what life's like after sepsis, lung cancer, or a lung transplant.

The ATS Public Advisory Roundtable (PAR) has made patient understanding possible since the earliest stages of our organization.

Our doors remain open. From the advocacy groups who are members of the roundtable, and also to the patients and advocacy groups beyond our walls. Beyond our conference symposia, or board meetings, or congressional visits, where patients accompany ATS members to lobby for increased medical research funding.

In PAR's annual Lung Disease Week series, for instance, we recognize many rare lung disorders and spotlight patient issues. In collaboration with PAR partners and experts, the ATS develops resources and hosts live webinars with disease-specific content. The broader public is most welcome in this ongoing discourse concerning patient needs.

We look to the patient, the family, and community for their perspectives and guidance. For it is not in a select few, but a symphony of voices, in which we place our hopes.



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