

American Thoracic Society  
Public Advisory Roundtable

ATS  
PAR

## About ATS PAR

The **ATS Public Advisory Roundtable (ATS PAR)** is a core component of the American Thoracic Society and a mutually beneficial partnership wherein organizations that represent persons affected by respiratory diseases, critical care illnesses, and sleep-related medical conditions collaborate with the Society to advance their shared educational, research, patient care, and advocacy goals. The ATS PAR bridges the patient's perspective to the Society and provides the Board of Directors with strategic guidance to keep patients and families as a central focus of all ATS programs and activities.

With the support of its 15 member organizations, the ATS PAR has created unparalleled synergy with the Society by involving patients in providing support, shaping policy, and stimulating research. Objectives are accomplished through ATS PAR representation on standing Society committees, and joint efforts that improve the lives of individuals affected by respiratory diseases, critical illnesses, or sleep-related disorders.

## Benefits of ATS PAR Membership

Here are some ways that your organization can benefit from participating in the ATS PAR:

- + Collaborate & exchange ideas with other organizations and individuals who share your purpose.
- + Collaborate in funding research, and take advantage of the Society's matching research grant program.
- + Have a voice at all levels of the ATS. With the chair of the ATS PAR serving on the ATS Board of Directors, take advantage of a direct line of communication with ATS leaders.
- + Participate directly in the work & activities of a number of Society-wide committees.
- + Contribute to the development of high-quality patient education materials.
- + Raise the visibility of patient-related issues to relevant stakeholders.
- + Help identify patient speakers for scientific symposia at the ATS International Conference.
- + Receive preferential exhibitor and registration rates to the ATS International Conference.
- + Participate in the "Meet the Expert" PAR patient education event at the ATS International Conference.
- + Participate in the year-round "Lung Disease Week at the ATS" and have the opportunity to attend live, local/regional patient education events.
- + Participate in advocacy initiatives to influence legislation and shape policies.
- + Meet with lawmakers and opinion leaders on Capitol Hill, in collaboration with ATS members.
- + Hold a concurrent position at the ATS Breathing Better Alliance (BBA), a coalition of stakeholders working on important initiatives with the ATS.



## Lung Disease Week at the ATS

### About Lung Disease Week

Each year, the American Thoracic Society Public Advisory Roundtable presents Lung Disease Week at the ATS, a series of weeks focused on specific lung disorders. ATS PAR member organizations provide support and guidance to patients and families with the designated conditions. Resources are available for patients and experts; these include disease definitions, clinical trial updates, support group information, ongoing legislative efforts, patient stories, testimonials, interviews, photos, videos, and more.

### Lung Disease Week Webinars and Live Events

The ATS fosters interaction between patients, clinicians, and researchers by hosting disease-specific webinars featuring lung disease experts. The ATS PAR, along with select PAR member organizations, may also host live onsite events. Leading experts host panels, and events are free of charge to all attendees.

## ATS International Conference

### + Meet-the-Expert

The ATS PAR hosts a patient education forum each year at the ATS International Conference. This "Meet-the-Expert" patient/family forum is the centerpiece of patient-related activities at the conference. The event is free and open to the general public; it is held on the Saturday morning prior to the official launch of the conference. Topics change each year. A panel of expert speakers gives patient-centered talks, and there are also a number of breakout sessions where attendees are able to meet informally with expert pulmonologists. The forum also creates an opportunity for patients to meet other individuals who share their experience with lung disease. Refreshments and oxygen are usually provided.

### + PAR Symposium

The ATS PAR participates in the scientific program of the annual ATS International Conference and submits a proposal for a scientific session. The session features a different topic each year and is chosen by PAR leaders. Traditionally, the symposium is chaired by the immediate-past president of the ATS and current ATS PAR chair.

### + Patient Speakers

Each year, the ATS PAR provides patient speakers for a number of the scientific sessions at the ATS International Conference. ATS PAR members identify speakers who can address specific topics and then work with speakers to prepare presentations. Over the past decade, the ATS PAR has provided patient speakers for an average of 15 sessions per conference. Clinicians and researchers appreciate this opportunity, which helps to put a face to various lung diseases, and interest in including more patient perspectives is growing.

### + PAR Path

ATS PAR members typically receive a complimentary Exhibit Hall booth during the conference. This offers patient interest organizations additional exposure, and it facilitates interactions with physicians, scientists, industry professionals, among other conference attendees.

### + Patient Voices

The ATS PAR plays an invaluable role in helping the organization shape policies to keep patients at the forefront of the Society. PAR facilitates patient-gear events, produces patient-friendly materials, and integrates patient speakers into the conference. The ATS PAR highlights patient stories each year in its annual publication, Patient Voices. The resource serves as an inspiration to patients with pulmonary diseases, and their families and caregivers.



## ATS Foundation Research Program Partnership Grants

The ATS Foundation Research Program provides a unique opportunity for the ATS PAR to get involved in funding research. The program provides grant review and management with the following three funding options:

- + **Partnered Grants:** The ATS Foundation grants provide \$80,000 over two years (\$40,000/year) in research support. The ATS Foundation pools its financial resources with that of its non-profit partners to maximize the number of available research grants. Specifically, the ATS Foundation provides \$20,000 towards each grant and assumes the responsibility of advertising, reviewing, and administering awards. Our partners determine the type of research we support and develop the call for applications.
- + **Combined Grants:** For non-profit groups who are unable to independently contribute \$60,000 towards a research grant, the ATS Foundation facilitates partnerships among groups with similar clinical interests to help raise the necessary funds.
- + **Grant for Hire Program:** As the ATS Foundation can only match a limited number of grants; the ATS Foundation Research Program also offers a review option. Here, grant funding is provided by the partner, while applications are reviewed and awards are administered by the ATS.

To learn more about partner grant opportunities, contact the ATS Foundation Research Program at [thoracic.org/research](http://thoracic.org/research).



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