OVERVIEW AND INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN

The ATS Fellows Track Symposium provided 120 pulmonary, critical care and sleep fellows who were enrolled in an ACGME-accredited, U.S. training program with an orientation to the sessions most relevant to them at the ATS International Conference.

The program was led by course director Deborah Shure, MD, who focused on the Society’s three pillars—pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine—to provide fellows with a comprehensive introduction to the ATS 2013 International Conference. Dr. Shure identified three topic chairs: Carolyn Welsh, MD (pulmonary topics), Neil MacIntyre, MD (critical care topics), Barbara Phillips, MD, MSPH (sleep topics).

The program content provided fellows with a rigorous foundation that supported and incorporated critical learning and self-reflective educational pathways to enhance their ability to undertake practice improvement and strive for better patient outcomes.

The program included 18 faculty presentations and 4 break out sessions on clinical issues related to the diagnosis and treatment of a variety of pulmonary, critical care and sleep disorders, including sepsis, lung cancer, cystic fibrosis, and sleep.

FTS participants had the opportunity to interact with faculty speakers and other leading experts in pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine in informal settings during meals and breaks, allowing fellows to ask questions about the lectures they attended, as well as to obtain guidance and advice.

Through an educational grant from underwriting supporter Genentech, FTS provided 120 travel scholarships to pulmonary, critical care and sleep fellows who were enrolled in an ACGME-accredited, U.S. training program. Additional educational support was provided by Actelion Pharmaceuticals, US, Inc.; AstraZeneca LP; Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. & Sunovion Pharmaceuticals, Inc. In-kind support was provided by SonoSite Inc.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The 2013 FTS allowed 120 travel scholarships recipients to:

• Maximize their educational experience of pulmonary, critical care and sleep at ATS 2013;
• Synthesize and discuss current and emerging trends in the pathogenesis, diagnosis, and treatment of pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine;
• Integrate up-to-date, cutting-edge information into the diagnosis and management of clinical care pathways in pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine;
• Interpret clinical implications of case studies reviewed during expert panel discussions;
• Utilize enhanced core competencies in pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine to improve patient care;
• Apply new skills, standard-of-care clinical behaviors and evidence based best practices in their daily medical practice.
**FTS QUICK FACTS**

- 120 scholarship pulmonary, critical care and sleep fellows
- 18 faculty members
- Representation from 96 ACGME-accredited, U.S.-based training programs
- Fellows from 35 U.S. states

**PROGRAM MARKETING**

- *ATS News* April 2013 profile
- *ATS 2013 Daily Bulletin* while onsite in Philadelphia
- Postings on ATS Facebook and Twitter pages, as well as e-mail messages to all members and conference attendees
- Banners and signage throughout the Pennsylvania Convention Center

**PROGRAM OUTCOMES**

- 96% of fellow participants ranked the content of the FTS as “excellent or good”
- 96% of fellow participants ranked adherence to meeting objectives as “excellent or good”

**PRE/POST TEST HIGHLIGHTS**

- The ATS utilized a pre and post test to establish the baseline understanding of the learners as well as any improvements in knowledge as a result of the FTS course.
- Based on the results of the pre test vs. post test, it was demonstrated that significant improvements in knowledge were seen across the various topics covered by the course. For example:
  - Dr. Barbara Phillips talk entitled “Sleep in Women” resulted in an 18% increase in knowledge among the learners;
  - Dr. Pierre Kory’s talk entitled “Critical Care Ultrasonography” resulted in an 18% increase in knowledge among learners;
  - Dr. Neil Freedman’s talk entitled “CPAP and Obstructive Sleep Apnea – How and Why?” resulted in a 17% increase in knowledge among the learners.
FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2013

Tuberculosis
Carolyn Welsh, MD
University of Colorado

Lung Cancer
Patricia Rivera, MD
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Sleep in Women
Barbara Phillips, MD, MSPH, FCCP
University of Kentucky

Asthma
James Donohue, MD
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Break Out Sessions:
Agitation, Delirium and Sedation in the ICU
Thomas Bleck, MD
Rush University Medical Center

Difficult Ventilator Problems
Neil MacIntyre, MD
Duke University

Managing the Chronically Critically Ill: Best Practices and Venues of Care
Shannon Carson, MD
UNC Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine

COPD Treatment Update
Bartolome Celli, MD
Brigham and Women’s Hospital

Interstitial Lung Disease
Ganesh Raghun, MD
University of Washington

Management Issues in Sepsis
Mitchell Levy, MD
Brown University

Cystic Fibrosis – Pediatrics to Adult
Stanley Fiel, MD
Morristown Hospital

Critical Care Ultrasonography
Pierre Kory, MD, MPA
Beth Israel Medical Center
SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2013

Welcome from the Members In Transition and Training Committee
Prema Menon, MD
University of Vermont

Mechanical Ventilation Updates
Neil MacIntyre, MD
Duke University

Sleep in Children
Catherine Kier, MD
State University of New York at Stony Brook

Break Out Sessions:
Sleep Trends in Diagnosis and Treatment
Barbara Phillips, MD, MSPH, FCCP
University of Kentucky

Exercise and COPD
Bartolome Celli, MD
Brigham and Women’s Hospital

Neurological Emergencies in the ICU
Thomas Bleck, MD
Rush University Medical Center

CPAP and Obstructive Sleep Apnea – How and Why?
Neil Freedman, MD
Northshore University

Non-Pulmonary Sleep Disorders
James Rowley, MD
Detroit Medical Center

Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension
Paul Hassoun, MD
Johns Hopkins University

Issues in Clinical Trial Design
Deborah Shure, MD

If Not CPAP, What? Non CPAP Sleep Devices
Alan Schwartz, MD
Johns Hopkins University
“Of special note, Dr. Bart Celli’s dynamic lecture and palpable passion on his topics of COPD and exercise in COPD were phenomenal. This is something I will without doubt be able to use in my clinical practice and patient care, and this lecture I have found myself looking back on several times already since the conference.”

– Avani Mehta, MD; UMASS Memorial Medical Center

“One of the highlights for me was the lecture on pulmonary arterial hypertension by Dr. Hassoun. At my institution we do not have a lot of exposure to patients with pulmonary hypertension so this was very helpful especially for when I end up practicing pulmonary medicine elsewhere. I really enjoyed the neurocritical lecture as well because this is another area where I feel we have less exposure to these patients at my institution.”

– Keren Bakal, MD; New York University
The highlights of the FTS for me were the ventilator strategy sessions given by Dr. MacIntyre. These sessions were creative, interactive, and extremely informative. I have already applied strategies I learned in those sessions to challenging ventilatory cases in my ICU. Another stand out session was "Issues in Clinical Trial Design" given by Dr. Shure. Through this session and her carefully chosen study examples, I learned what to consider before, during, and after designing a study. This session helped me look at existing literature more critically and to consider additional factors in my own study designs."

– Laurie Eldredge, MD, PhD; University of Washington
– Seattle Children’s

"Of all the speakers, I would say the highlight for myself was Dr. Bleck and his discussion of neurocritical care in the ICU. As the incoming chief, I am currently trying to integrate a short lecture series on this topic into the education of the incoming fellows and residents because of this perceived delinquency. Hopefully, this will not only improve my knowledge and career, but will help to educate those that follow me”.

– Derik M Falk, MD; University of Iowa
“I learned a lot about several important areas. One is sleep disorders. Since I am doing two separate fellowships in pulmonary (in University of Pittsburgh) and critical care medicine (in National Institute of Health), I have spent most of my clinical time on the inpatient pulmonary floors and in the intensive care unit. As such, I have had little exposure to sleep diseases except sleep apnea and/or obesity hypoventilation syndrome which has led to acute respiratory failure. I learned a lot about the epidemiology and pathophysiology of sleep disorders in women and children, and expect that this knowledge will benefit my outpatient practice.”

– SeungHye Han, MD, MPH; National Institutes of Health

“I particularly enjoyed the "sleep in women" session. The information from this talk only highlighted further that women present differently than men regarding disease processes. I have begun screening my female patients with fatigue more aggressively for sleep apnea with polysomnogram and found many to be in need of treatment.”

– Kelly Newton, MD; Georgetown University Hospital
“I am extremely thankful to the American Thoracic Society and my fellowship program for giving me the opportunity to be part of the 2013 Fellows Track Symposium in Philadelphia, it was an amazing experience, I met fellows from all around the country and most important, got to listen to very well known experts in different fields.

Overall I felt that that the topics were very well chosen and just at my level—not too simple and not too complicated—they were relevant to my current and future practice. Each of the speakers answered questions I had, but most importantly, left questions in my head for me to go research and answer.”

– Maria Velez, MD; The University of Texas Health Science Center

“It was overwhelming at first. Listening to lectures given by “THE EXPERTS”, I felt somewhat star struck as well! These are the very same names I only get to read on journals, guidelines or book chapters! I am very grateful to have been a part of the Fellow Track Symposium. I have attended the previous ATS meeting last year and I felt lost in the huge ocean of activities and lectures, I didn’t know what fish I should focus on. But this time, having attended the FTS for the first two days of the conference helped me strategize for the rest of the week efficiently.”

– Sherryl Soriano, MD; Southern Illinois University
Ultrasound Hands-On Demonstration

The Friday night keynote dinner talk was presented by Pierre Kory, MD, MPA, Director of Simulation Training and Assistant Professor at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, who discussed ultrasonography techniques and their use in critical care.

“The true highlight of the FTS was Dr Kory’s Session on critical care ultrasonography. I had been planning to attend a formal ultrasound course for critical care doctors and this provided a strong starting point for me. I have started practicing my techniques and plan to continue doing so to improve my assessment of my patients and their volume status. It is my intent that the ultrasound probe should become my ‘second stethoscope’.”

– Denyse Luthmansingh, MD; State University of New York, Upstate

“My project for the upcoming year is to expand on this ultrasound education of residents to include cardiac ultrasound and develop a formalized curriculum for such. As my previous exposure was minimal with just obtain for different view of the heart, I found the more in depth presentation by Dr. Pierre Kory to be very helpful. This presentation jumped started my interest in critical care ultrasound as I have been working on practicing obtaining images and reading more in depth into critical care ultrasound.”

– Stephanie Clough, MD; MetroHealth Medical Center
“My experience at my first Fellows Track Symposium and ATS International Conference was one that has influenced my career as a pediatric pulmonologist; I was filled with an abundance of newly gained knowledge, an accumulation of ideas for research, and a great deal of motivation as each day ended, and excited to wake up the next morning for more…The major highlights for me at the ATS International Conference were 1) the Pediatrics Assembly Meeting and 2) Pediatric Year in Review. The Pediatrics Assembly Meeting was held on the first night of the conference and was a great way to kick off the event. It was a great privilege to be in the same room as those who are world-renowned for their expertise in pediatric pulmonary medicine. The Pediatric Year in Review was held on the last day of the conference and was a good way to end the conference with overview and updates on the current care in pediatric pulmonary medicine: CF, child asthma, ARDS, and pulmonary arterial hypertension. I left the conference with a smile and a good feeling, with my notebook filled with notes and ideas for the future of pulmonary medicine. I thank you for the privilege of being a part of this year’s Fellows Track and ATS International Conference.”

– Diana Chen, MD; Children’s Hospital and Research Center

What impact did the FTS have on a Pediatric Fellow?
How did attending the FTS improve patient care?

“In particular, I found Dr. Levy’s session on the updated Surviving Sepsis Guidelines helpful and since returning to my practice in Minnesota, I am no longer checking random Cortisol’s on my newly septic patients and going ahead with stress dose steroids alone. I have also gone through some of his powerpoint slides, dealing with the mechanistic aspect of sepsis, while teaching medical students and found that they appreciate a review of the cellular mechanisms of sepsis.”

– Sakina Naqvi, MD; University of Minnesota

“I have already taken some of the updates back to my program and discussed them with my attending. I have all the slides and notes from the Symposium that I am planning on reviewing and incorporating that knowledge into discussions with my co-fellows. I know that the disclaimer of the Symposium was that was not to take place as a “board review”, however, I feel that some of what I learned will be incorporated into board review in the coming months.”

– Leslie Wilke, DO; Scott & White Memorial Center
How did attending the FTS improve your overall conference experience?

“This was my first ATS International Conference, and as a participant in the Fellows Track Symposium, it was especially beneficial. The opportunity to participate in this program was a wonderful gift, not only because it made it possible financially for me to attend ATS, but also because of the additional knowledge and training I gained from the lectures themselves...Overall, my experience at ATS and particularly the Fellows Track Symposium were academically stimulating, professional helpful, and generally interesting. I appreciate the opportunity that the American Thoracic Society and the sponsors of this event afforded me. It is definitely a program worth attending and worth making available to fellows in the years to come.”

– Travis Greer, MD; Medical University of South Carolina

“The two day fellow course was simply the best fellow’s educational course I have ever attended. I have attended other fellow courses provided by other organizations. My prior experience has been that these educational courses are a mix of board review and expert opinion. This is not a bad starting point but as a third year fellow completing pulmonary/critical care, I am looking for something more. The sessions were presented by experts in their field, were evidence based and imminently practical. Instead of rehearsing clinical knowledge that most of us are comfortable with, the speakers took common topics to a new level. My favorite aspect of the fellow course was the time/ability to have lunch/coffee with other fellows and the access to the speakers. A huge benefit of conferences like this is the opportunity to network with other fellows, learn about their programs and exchange ideas. The conference was so excellent, I sincerely hope the ATS is able to secure funding for continued courses and potentially include more fellows.”

– Kelly Newton, MD; Georgetown University Hospital

“I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the opportunity to attend and participate in the 2013 Fellows Track Symposium in Philadelphia. Without the support from ATS, the support staff and the sponsors, I would not have been able to experience the ATS International Conference. Being immersed in such an energizing environment truly allowed me to evaluate my learning needs and gave me confidence in areas that I was more familiar with.”

– Gretchen Yandle, MD; Louisiana State University Health Science Center
Thank you to the FTS supporters

“I would like to sincerely thank the ATS and its sponsors for the opportunity to attend the Fellows Track Symposium (FTS) at the ATS 2013 International Conference in Philadelphia. This was my first time at the ATS conference and the FTS was an excellent introduction to the meeting. I enjoyed the opportunity to meet other fellows from around the country and felt fortunate to hear from so many experts. I especially appreciated the opportunity to chat with speakers during breaks. It felt like an intimate group despite our size, and I made some friends that I hope to continue to see at future ATS meetings.”

– Basak Coruh, MD; University of Washington

“This is an amazing avenue for fellows and experienced, world renowned physicians to share their experiences and empower the next generation of scholars. I am grateful to ATS and the respective sponsors for making this happen. I am currently finishing up my sleep medicine training after completing a pulmonary & critical care fellowship. It served as a two-fold benefit to me: firstly, as a much needed refresher in pulmonary and critical care medicine after being out of touch during this 1 year of sleep fellowship; secondly, it created new thought streams and ideas in clinical practice.”

– Avinesh Bhar, MD; Washington University of St. Louis

“I would like to thank the ATS and sponsoring organizations for the opportunity to participate in the Fellows Track Symposium this year. The thoughtfully organized agenda surpassed my expectations and successfully augmented my knowledge and clinical management skills. This experience also fostered new relationships with fellows from institutions across the nation who shared their personal experiences with me. The session given by Dr. Prema Menon of the Members in Transition and Training Committee was an excellent resource for navigating the seemingly infinite learning opportunities offered at the ATS Meeting. During her opening remarks, I reflected upon the overwhelming feelings I had during ATS 2012 as it was the first international conference I had ever attended. Dr. Menon provided an overview of the conference and available tools that enabled me to approach the 2013 conference in a more focused and purposeful manner.”

– Tina Catanzaro, DO; Children’s National Medical Center
The ATS gratefully acknowledges the FTS Underwriting Supporter Genentech.

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For more information on ATS Fellow Programs, please contact:
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