

# ATS Foundation Research Program at a Glance

Science and research are among the core values of the American Thoracic Society and its foundation. Science forms the bedrock for the care that our members provide to their patients. Science also provides essential means for understanding health and disease, discovering cures and improving the quality of life of the patients whom we serve. The ATS and its foundation support and disseminate the latest advances in pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine through the Society's three scientific journals and its annual International Conference, which brings together leading clinicians and researchers in pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine.

In late 2002, the ATS Board of Directors voted unanimously to create a new Research Program, further enhancing its strong commitment to the ideals of research. In 2004, the ATS Board also established the ATS Foundation to secure a strong funding base of support for the program. Since then, the ATS Foundation Research Program has steadily grown and continues to thrive. The program's goals are to foster new research initiatives, develop investigators' careers, enhance the visibility of the ATS in the medical research arena and establish strong collaborations between the ATS and other organizations that support respiratory, critical care and sleep research. The ATS Foundation Research Program provides "seed funding" for junior investigators early in their research careers, which supports early-stage investigators working in collaboration with more established investigators. Since its inception, ATS support of research has grown from approximately \$100,000 to more than \$1.5 million per year. Since the ATS is an international organization, ATS members from all geographic areas are eligible to apply for ATS research grants.

The Research Program operates under the critical guiding principles of partnership and collaboration. From the very beginning, the ATS realized that working with other organizations would be key to the program's success. That's why the Society sets the program's research priorities and shares responsibility for funding with other organizations and corporations working to improve the lives of patients with pulmonary, critical care and sleep disorders.

Each year the ATS identifies a number of research priorities that are not covered by partnered grants. In order to fund these proposals, the Society's Foundation Research Program also supports "unrestricted" research grants that are fully funded by the ATS Foundation.

In just a few years, the ATS Foundation Research Program has become one of the world's most prestigious non-federal research programs focused on lung research. Together with its corporate and non-profit partners, the program has funded talented junior investigators who have gone on to develop successful careers in academia and who continue to drive research in respiratory health and disease through state-of-the-art investigations. This group of

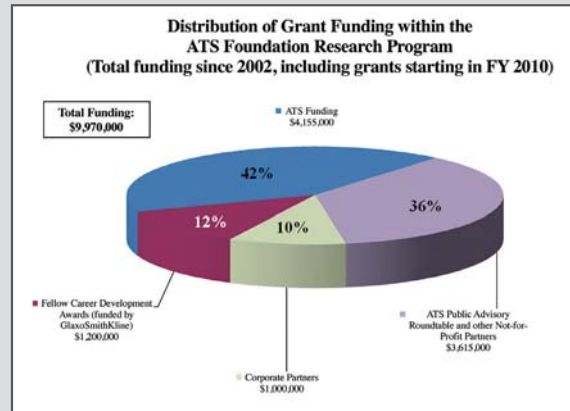


Figure 1

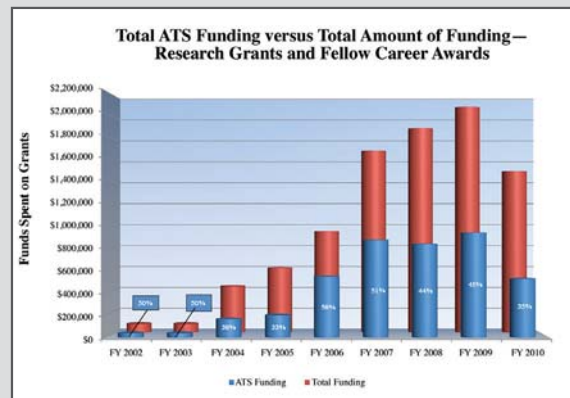


Figure 2 Administrative costs covered by the ATS are not included.

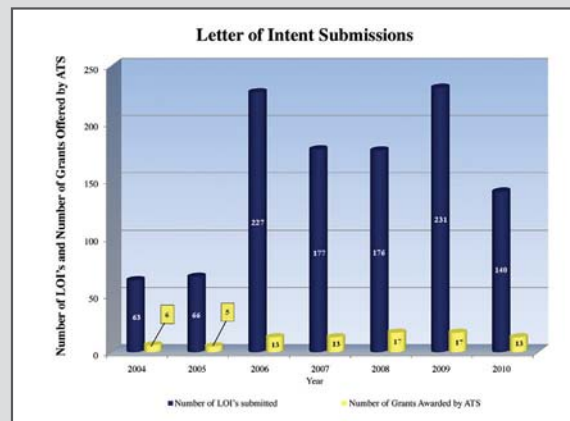


Figure 3

investigators represents the future of pulmonary medicine and the ATS is proud that this program has played a major role in their careers. But mostly, the Society is proud of the discoveries that these investigators continue to make are shaping current treatment strategies and moving us one step closer to eradicating lung diseases. It is for that reason that we cherish our relationship with our partners. They not only make this program possible, but also provide encouragement through their expectations for excellence and share hope for a time when respiratory diseases no longer afflict millions of people worldwide. ■