

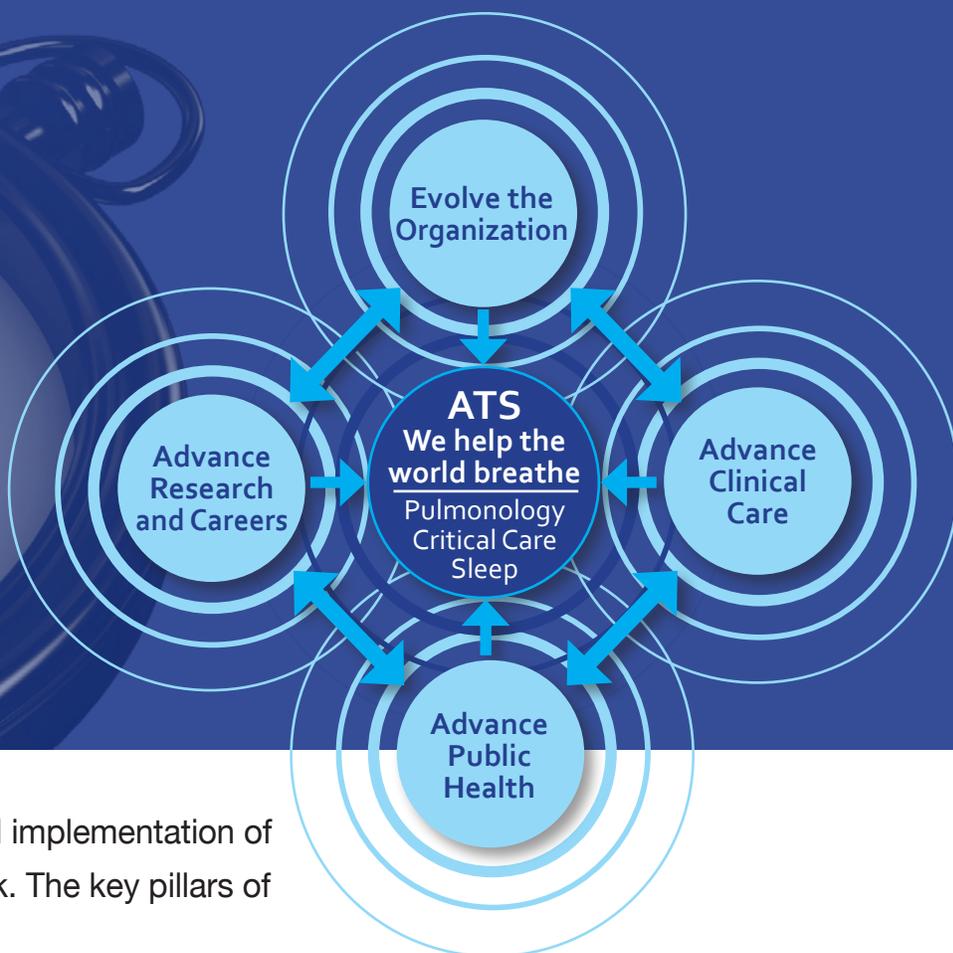


**AMERICAN THORACIC SOCIETY**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2019**

# 2019 – FIRST YEAR IMPLEMENTING OUR NEW STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK



## A New Strategic Framework for Success



In 2019, the Society saw full implementation of the new strategic framework. The key pillars of the framework are:

**ADVANCE RESEARCH AND CAREERS** by stimulating development and dissemination of basic, translational, and clinical knowledge.

**ADVANCE CLINICAL CARE** by translating new discoveries into clinical care.

**ADVANCE PUBLIC HEALTH** by advocating for policies that will improve respiratory health and patient care.

**EVOLVE THE ORGANIZATION** to maximize the opportunities for, and engagement of, ATS members.

Together, these pillars will help prioritize the Society's activities to fulfill its mission of helping the world breathe.

# ADVANCE RESEARCH AND CAREERS

The focus of the **Advance Research and Careers** category is to catalyze development and dissemination of basic, translational, and clinical knowledge. Related activities include the International Conference, the three peer-reviewed ATS journals and fundraising to support the ATS Research Program.

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The 115<sup>th</sup> conference was held in Dallas, Texas, from May 17–22, 2019. Key metrics from the conference include:

- Total attendance: 14,244
- Scientific abstracts and case reports: 6,862
- Sessions: 535
- Exhibitors: 240

## JOURNALS

The three established journals remain leaders in their respective fields, and their strong reputation has allowed ATS to launch a fourth journal, ATS Scholar, in early 2020 (see “A Look Ahead” section below).

- **American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine**
  - Publication frequency: Twice monthly
  - Impact factor: 17.45
- **American Journal of Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology**
  - Publication frequency: Monthly
  - Impact factor: 5.73
- **Annals of the ATS**
  - Publication frequency: Monthly
  - Impact factor: 4.84

## ATS RESEARCH PROGRAM

The ATS Research Program supports young investigators in respiratory health with grants that enable them to launch their research and ultimately their careers. Since its inception, the Research Program has awarded \$19.3 million to 263 investigators who have gone on to secure \$330 million in federal funding—a return on investment of \$17 per dollar awarded!

- This past funding cycle, ATS awarded 25 research grants— 17 unrestricted grants, seven partner grants and one MECOR grant—totaling \$1,255,000.

## ATS FOUNDATION

In December 2019, the ATS Board of Directors voted unanimously to unify the operations of the Foundation and the ATS. This merger will improve efficiencies and amplify the Society’s overall fundraising abilities by more directly tapping into the resources of the ATS. All funds previously donated to support research will continue to be used as originally intended. Members of the former Board of Trustees now serve on the Funds for the Future Committee, created within the existing ATS committee structure. This committee remains completely separate from the Scientific Advisory Committee, which oversees the grant application and award process.



## A LOOK AHEAD

The ATS is committed to reducing the carbon footprint of our International Conference. Its 2020 initiatives to “green the conference” include: no longer offering a printed Final Program, using recyclable papers and inks for those items that are printed and offering attendees the opportunity to offset their carbon footprint through a donation.

In February 2020, ATS launched its fourth journal, ATS Scholar, with Editor-in-Chief Nitin Seam, MD. This open-access journal is focused on medical education and will cover a wide range of content: from the training of the next generation of scientists to the rapid growth of interprofessional teaching education and learning education technology. The journal will also address issues related to the culture of medicine, such as wellness and bias.

# ADVANCE CLINICAL CARE

The focus of the **Advance Clinical Care** category is to translate new discoveries into clinical care. In this area the Society includes education programming, clinical guidelines and clinical care resources.

## EDUCATION

In the education space, the Society is continuing to diversify its product portfolio, offering more resources to help members keep abreast of the latest developments in their field. These include webinars, podcasts, and board review materials. ATS continues its close association with ABMS, ABIM and ABP to ensure that all those who need to maintain their professional certification can do so through the Society. The ATS also launched a four-module program on severe asthma in collaboration with the American Academy of Family Physicians.

## CHAPTERS

ATS is continuing to grow its chapters program, with 27 on board at the end of 2019 and another four being formed.

## PUBLIC ADVISORY ROUNDTABLE (PAR) AND PATIENT RESOURCES

For over a decade the Society has been known for its high-quality Patient Information Series, available online and often printed in the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine. In recent years, a Public Health Information series and a 20 Facts About series were added to meet the changing needs of the patient/family community. All these materials are peer reviewed and available on the ATS website. Especially noteworthy are materials produced in 2019 on the following topics:

- Cardiopulmonary Exercise Testing
- Coronavirus
- COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
- Pulmonary Embolism, Long Term Treatment and Prevention
- Vaping Associated Pulmonary Illness (VAPI) (clinician and patient versions)

The ATS PAR continues to be an incredibly important resource for the Society, providing the patient perspective on many ATS activities, including the International Conference. PAR's 12-part Lung Disease Week series is popular with patients, their caregivers, and clinicians alike.

## CLINICAL GUIDELINES

Guidelines continue to be a crucial area of work for the ATS. In 2019, the Society completed 20 official documents, including eight guidelines. Both represent record highs for ATS.



## A LOOK AHEAD

The ATS will continue its efforts to expand educational opportunities beyond those that currently exist at the International Conference. These include a variety of virtual formats.

The Society will be focusing new attention on developing products and tools to help the pulmonary, critical care and sleep community better implement the standards of care represented by the new guidelines.

# ADVANCE PUBLIC HEALTH

The focus of the **Advance Public Health** category is on advocating for policies both in the United States and globally that will improve respiratory health and patient care. The ATS collaborates closely with peer societies on many of these initiatives, encompassing meetings, guidelines, advocacy and more.

## ADVOCACY

This remains a key focus of Society activities. The Washington, D.C. office represents the Society on critical issues, such as increasing federal research and tuberculosis control funding and improving patient access to care and clean air. Tobacco use, e-cigarettes and vaping also are key priorities. The D.C. office also focuses its efforts on building relationships—on Capitol Hill and at the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Environmental Protection Agency, and other federal agencies.

## TOBACCO-21

The ATS urged Congress to raise the federal purchase age for all tobacco products to 21. Raising the purchase age is just one of the many policy actions the ATS is supporting to combat nicotine addiction.

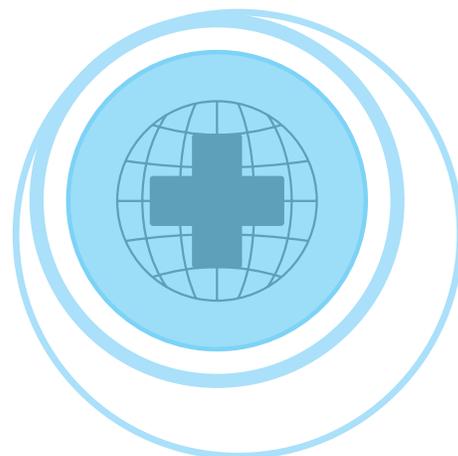
## FIRS

The Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS), made up of nine organizations including ATS, is focusing its efforts on policy at the World Health Organization, to give respiratory diseases the attention commensurate with the burden they impose on global health.

## MECOR

In 2019, the ATS Methods in Epidemiologic, Clinical, and Operations Research (MECOR) program, which strives to build research capacity in low- and middle-income countries, ran six programs in the following locations:

- Chennai, India = 28 attendees
- Shanghai, China = 38 attendees
- Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania = 39 attendees
- Jakarta, Indonesia = 18 attendees
- Monterrey, Mexico = 64 attendees
- Cyprus-Kyrenia, Turkey = 29 attendees



## A LOOK AHEAD

At the end of 2019, the ATS was in the midst of a comprehensive review of its global health activities. The ATS Ad Hoc Task Force on International Activities commenced its work in mid-2019 and expects to report its recommendations to the Executive Committee and full Board of Directors in mid-2020.

# EVOLVE THE ORGANIZATION

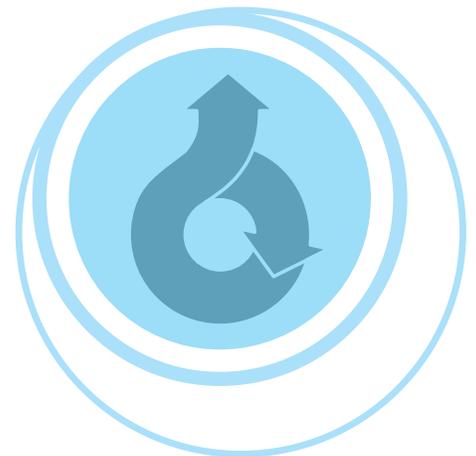
The focus of the **Evolve the Organization** category is to undertake initiatives that help ensure that ATS is a dynamic organization that maximizes the engagement of its members to ensure that the Society remains at the forefront in advancing research, clinical care and public health in respiratory disease, critical illness and sleep disorders.

## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Building on the December 2018 action by the Board of Directors to establish an organizational Diversity and Inclusion Policy, ATS now has 15 female and 12 male committee chairs and 13 female and 14 male vice-chairs. In addition, five under-represented minority members serve as chairs or vice-chairs.

## INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

ATS is in the midst of making a number of significant improvements to our financial, communication and technical infrastructure, all with the aim of making the Society more transparent, effective, and nimble.



**The improvements of today ensure that the ATS remains at the forefront in advancing respiratory research, clinical care, and public health.**

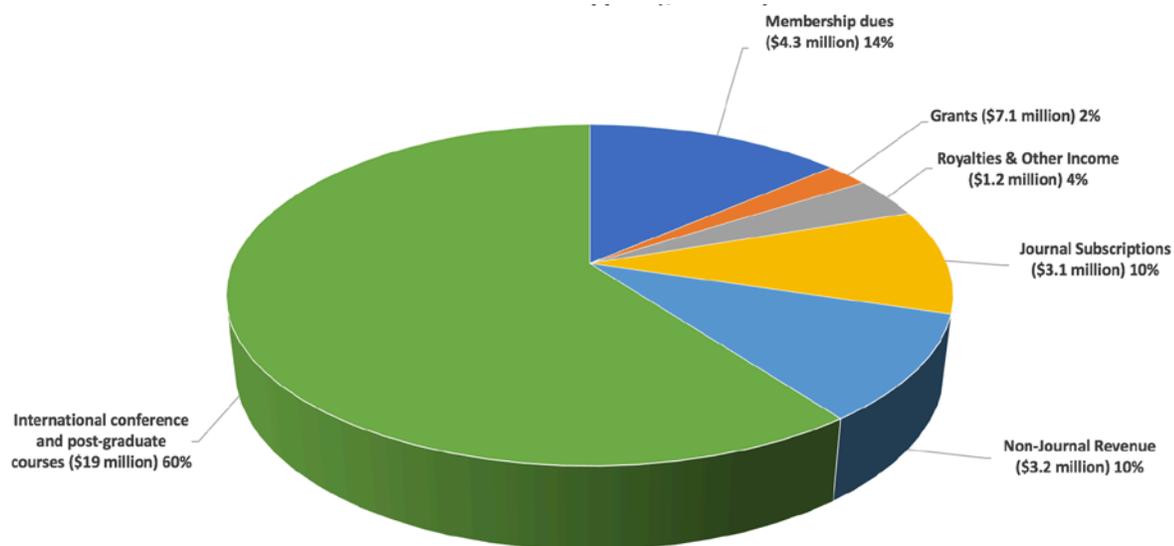
## A LOOK AHEAD

The ATS Ad Hoc Task Force on ATS Governance is completing its work, and the Society looks forward to their recommendations. Similarly, an ATS Ad Hoc Task Force on International Activities, chaired by former ATS president Tom Martin, will be reporting later in 2020.

# FINANCIALS

Functional Expenses (\$30.1 million)				
	2019	%	2018	%
International Conference	\$10,041,657	29%	\$11,345,697	32%
AJRCCM	2,751,089	8	2,874,325	8
AJRCMB	803,866	2	845,251	2
AnnalsATS	865,334	3	836,872	2
Membership	531,359	2	810,944	2
Assemblies	1,518,504	4	1,465,407	4
International	1,348,056	4	1,653,343	5
Education	3,782,259	11	3,549,814	10
Research Administration	953,144	3	1,613,557	5
Management	10,518,087	30	9,316,910	26
Fundraising	1,392,055	4	1,247,939	4
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$34,505,410</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$35,560,059</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Revenue and Support (\$31 million)



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