MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY CHAIR

Dear Assembly Colleagues,

This has been an exciting year for the Behavioral Science Health Services Research (BSHSR) Assembly. At the 2014 Membership Meeting, we approved a new mission statement that clarifies the expertise of our membership and goals of our assembly (BSHSR Mission Statement). This year also saw the establishment of the mentoring working group and the return of our mentorship program, under the leadership of Dr. Graham Carlos. Please sign up to be a mentee and/or mentor—it’s a great way to network, learn about the ATS, get advice, and share wisdom. Sign up here BSHSR mentoring program.

A major accomplishment this year was the establishment of the Section on Medical Education. At the Fall Leadership Summit in October, the ATS Board of Directors unanimously approved the BSHSR Medical Education Working Group’s request to be a Section of the BSHSR. A big thank you to Drs. Tao Le and David Roberts and the rest of the MEWG for their excellent work in advocating for the needs of medical educators in the ATS. Thank you to Dr. Patricia Kritek for serving as the inaugural section chair. I am very proud that the BSHSR Assembly will be the section’s home.

A thank you to all BSHSR members who donated to ATS Foundation during the ATS Assembly Challenge in December. The BSHSR assembly won 2 of the 4 competitions: Highest member participation and largest average gift per member! For this accomplishment, we received… two plaques. Seriously though, donations to the Foundation help support MECOR, a program near and dear to many BSHSR members. What fewer people realize is that the Foundation also supports research grants. The ATS leadership and ATS Foundation have continued to increase the number of research grants available. Unfortunately, not many members apply. For example, last year, there were only 9 applicants for 7 early career investigator awards. Across all grants, only 3 BSHSR members submitted a letter of intent (all 3 were invited to submit a full grant) and only 1 person submitted a grant and it was funded. With these favorable odds, I highly encourage BSHSR member to apply! For more information, see ATS Foundation Research Funding.
I always say that the BSHSR may be small, but we are mighty! The accomplishments of the assembly this past year are a testament to this.

Hope to see you at our Assembly Membership Meeting on Sunday, May 17, 2015, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM at the Sheraton Hotel in the Plaza Ballroom AB. It is a great opportunity to connect with colleagues and meet new ones! We will also get updates from the ATS leadership, Editors of ATS Journals, and members of the BSHSR Executive Committee.

If you are new to ATS or to our Assembly, I encourage you to attend the Assembly meeting 30 minutes early (6:00 PM) to meet with me and the BSHSR leadership. We would happy to answer questions you may have about our Assembly, including opportunities to join committees (Program, Planning, Web, Nominating) or working groups (Patient Centered Outcomes Research, Evidence Synthesis Methodology, Mentoring Working Group).

See you in Denver!

The BSHSR Program Committee just completed scheduling of programs for the 2015 ATS International Conference in Denver. Thank you to the committee members for all of the hard work and attention to detail in review of abstracts submitted and your suggestions for programming.

The impact of BSHSR Assembly will be felt throughout the conference. This year we begin with a Post Graduate Course offering on Saturday, May 16th. The course focuses on Implementation Science with a focus on applications to quality improvement, guidelines implementation and research. This course was planned and submitted by Drs. Andrea Apter and Sandra Wilson.

We have three major scientific symposia that are sure to resonate with the ATS membership. The first focuses on the use and integration of digital health tools to address disparities in lung health care. A second is a presentation of the end-of-life principles for the critically ill and a third symposium focuses on the implementation and dissemination of evidence in care settings. Additional symposia sessions are planned with other assemblies that will also be of interest.

We also have four Mini-Symposia, five Poster Discussion Sessions, and three Thematic Poster Sessions. We also have two Meet the Professor Sessions (e-cigarettes and pediatric asthma) and two Sunrise Seminars (outcomes and social media).

BSHSR Assembly continues to take the lead in the programming of quality improvement studies for the International Conference. In addition, with collaboration with the Medical Education Section, we have also focused on programming medical education for the 2015 program, resulting in daily noon seminars Sunday-Tuesday.

We hope you will not only attend, but engage in discussions at the outstanding BSHSR programming at this year’s conference! Thank you to our Program Committee Members for their time reviewing and suggestions for programming. We also thank those who submitted abstracts and program proposals. It is not too early to begin thinking of ideas for 2016, particularly in reference to Post-Graduate course offerings. The upcoming International Conference is a great time to meet with others and begin to solidify the ideas into concrete proposals for submission in early Summer 2015.
The 2015-2016 BSHSR Program Committee will be chaired by Renda Wiener, MD. The next BSHSR Program Committee meeting will be held early on Tuesday morning, at 6:30 AM on May 19, 2015 at the Sheraton Hotel–Plaza Bldg, Denver (Governor Square 10, Concourse Level). We hope you will be able to join us in shaping future programs.

If you have questions about this year’s Program Committee, please contact Dr. Renda Soylemez Wiener at (renda.wiener@gmail.com ). See you in Denver!

### ATS 2015 - Denver

**Sessions Sponsored by the Assembly on Behavioral Science and Health Services Research**

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<td>PG17</td>
<td>IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE: APPLICATIONS TO QUALITY IMPROVEMENT, GUIDELINES IMPLEMENTATION, AND RESEARCH</td>
<td>8:00 AM – 4:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>WS1</td>
<td>TEACHING ON THE FLY: A WORKSHOP FOR INTENSIVE CARE EDUCATORS</td>
<td>11:45 AM – 1:15 PM</td>
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<td><strong>Scientific Symposium</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>B7</td>
<td>THE USE OF DIGITAL HEALTH TOOLS TO ADDRESS DISPARITIES IN LUNG HEALTH CARE</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday, May 19, 2015</strong></td>
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<td>C10</td>
<td>TRAINING, IMPLEMENTATION AND DISSEMINATION OF EVIDENCE: INTEGRATING RESPIRATORY PROGRAMS IN PRIMARY CARE SETTINGS</td>
<td>9:30 AM – 11:30 AM</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday, May 20, 2015</strong></td>
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<td>D8</td>
<td>THE WELPICUS STUDY: WORLDWIDE CONSENSUS AROUND END OF LIFE PRINCIPLES FOR THE CRITICALLY ILL</td>
<td>9:30 AM – 11:30 AM</td>
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<td>SS203</td>
<td>SOCIAL MEDIA AND THE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER: THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF DIGITAL MEDIA</td>
<td>7:00 AM - 8:00 AM</td>
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<td>SS302</td>
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<td>MP502</td>
<td>THE ROLE OF YOUTH AND CAREGIVER ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION IN PEDIATRIC ASTHMA CONTROL</td>
<td>12:15 PM - 1:15 PM</td>
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<td>MP602</td>
<td>ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES: POTENTIAL HARMS AND BENEFITS</td>
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<td>A13</td>
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<td>ACCOUNTING FOR COSTS AND RESOURCE UTILIZATION IN RESPIRATORY HEALTH</td>
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<td>D15</td>
<td>TOBACCO CESSATION: IDENTIFYING EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES AND EMERGING NEEDS</td>
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<td>A101</td>
<td>EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVEMENT OF PATIENT CARE</td>
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<tr>
<td>B102</td>
<td>NOVEL APPROACHES TO UNDERSTAND AND IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES</td>
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<td>C102</td>
<td>DEVELOPING AND VALIDATING METRICS AND TOOLS TO MEASURE AND IMPROVE RESPIRATORY HEALTH</td>
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<tr>
<td>D103</td>
<td>COPD: FOCUS ON RESEARCH AND PATIENT CARE</td>
<td>1:30 PM - 3:30 PM</td>
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*Sunrise Seminars*
*Meet The Professor Seminars*
*Mini-Symposium*
*Poster Discussion Sessions*
BSHSR Planning Committee celebrates another successful year with our Assembly members advancing the mission of the ATS with many funded and completed projects. As a small assembly, we maintain our excellent representation and continue to uniquely contribute to the Society through ATS Project applications and completed projects – for FY2015 we received support on 2 new and 6 renewal projects as displayed in the following bar graph:

The new projects include: An Official American Thoracic Society Research Statement: Implementation Science in Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine led by Curtis Weiss and involving Clinical Problems, Critical Care and Nursing Assemblies among others. This ambitious project follows from a partnership with NHLBI on the topic and will inform the ATS community on its definition, framework, and facilitation of the science of implementation research. A second project spearheaded by the Assembly on Environmental, Occupational and Population Health, An Official ATS/NHLBI Workshop Report: Respiratory Health Disparities, led by Juan Celedon, acts on the recommendations of the Health Equality Sub-Committee to the ATS Leadership and supports the organization of a workshop on respiratory health disparities.

(Continued on Page 6)
Six out of six projects submitted for renewal through the BSHSR were approved: Preparing for Implementation of Lung Cancer Screening in the US led by Renda Wiener; Patient Centered Outcomes Research in Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine led by Erin Kross; CC joint project Organizational Factors associated with ICU Outcomes: A Systematic Review led by Meeta Kerlin; A Strategic Framework for Addressing Multiple Chronic Conditions in Clinical Practice Guidelines led by Kevin Wilson; An Official ATS/ERS Research Statement: Gaps in Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Research led by Kevin Wilson; and CP joint project Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis - Evidence Based, ATS-ERS-JRS-ALAT Guideline for Diagnosis and clinical management - 'A living document with periodical updates' led by Ganesh Raghu.

Finally, 3 projects from FY2014 successfully completed there work and have manuscripts in various stages of review and approval – all are due out in print by end of this year: ATS Research Statement on Recent Advances Tobacco Addiction and Smoking Cessation led by Frank Leone and Alex White; Evaluation of Pulmonary Nodules: An Agenda for Research and Implementation in Practice led by Chris Slatore; and the Statement on Futility and Goal Conflict in End-of-life Care in ICUs led by Gabe Bosslet and Doug White, the latter being a collaboration with the Critical Care and Nursing Assemblies as well as an interprofessional, multi-society (ATS, AACN, ACCP, ESICM, SCCM) effort.

The small but mighty BSHSR continues to help lead the ATS through its successful projects – congratulations and here’s to future highly productive work together identifying and developing ideas for new projects. ATS Project applications and instructions are generally available in early July on the ATS website, with deadline for submission in mid-August. Topic ideas can be brought to the Planning Committee at its annual in-person meeting at the International Conference in May 2015. If you have questions about the Planning Committee or have ideas for a project, please contact Dr. Richard Mularski at Richard.mularski@kpchr.org or the new chair, Erin Kross at ekross@uw.edu.

WEB COMMITTEE REPORT
Michelle Eakin, MD, Chair

This year the Behavioral Science and Health Services Research (BSHSR) Assembly Web Committee launched online journal clubs as an opportunity for BSHSR members to discuss current research. To date we have hosted two events and the feedback has been very positive. In September we focused on a clinical intervention to reduce secondhand smoke exposure and in January we discussed hospital penalties for COPD readmissions. For both events we had lively discussion and interaction about these important topics in respiratory health. We will continue to schedule these events on a quarterly basis. We are looking for nominations on important articles that should be highlighted as well as potential presenters or discussants. As part of the ATS new website, we updated the assembly page content and created additional links to valuable web-based resources. Our future plans include completing a podcast to highlight tobacco control in conjunction with the plenary presentations at the International Conference. We will also work on submitting a proposal to create a sustainable Quality of Life instrument database. If you have questions or would like to join this committee, please contact Dr. Michelle Eakin at meakin@jhmi.edu.
The mission of the Evidence Synthesis Methodology Working Group (ESM-WG) is to provide a venue for ATS members who are interested in systematic reviews and/or clinical practice guideline methodology to collaborate, troubleshoot methodological challenges, and discuss cutting-edge developments in evidence appraisal and guideline development.

Clinical Practice Guideline Methodology Training Program

The ESM-WG is home to the ATS’ Clinical Practice Guideline Methodology Training Program, which is looking for young individuals who want to learn how to perform a systematic review, appraise evidence, and/or formulate and grade recommendations using the GRADE approach. The ATS has a need to identify, train, and retain such individuals, in order to increase the society's methodological capacity to support the development of ATS clinical practice guidelines.

Individuals who are selected to participate in the program begin by attending a two-day workshop, which introduces the trainees to the steps of guideline development. Following the workshop, the trainees are assigned to an actual ATS clinical practice guideline committee. They work under the mentorship of the ATS methodologist or the Senior Director of Documents and Medical Affairs to provide methodological support to the committee. The trainees are authors on the guidelines that they support and are able to publish systematic reviews performed in the context of guideline development as first authors. After participating in one or two guidelines, most trainees are ready to venture out as independent methodologists.

Participation in the program is competitive. To apply, complete the application that is available at http://www.thoracic.org/statements/document-development/index.php. For questions, please contact Kevin Wilson, MD at kwilson@thoracic.org.

Framework for Considering Multiple Chronic Co-morbidities in ATS Guidelines Workshop

Current guidelines tend to be written for a single chronic condition, even though most individuals with a medical condition have multiple co-existing chronic conditions. A workshop was held in conjunction with the ATS Assembly/Committee Summit on Thursday, October 17, 2014 in Orlando, FL. The workshop was part of an initiative of the Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health to develop a "Strategic Framework on Multiple Chronic Conditions". During the workshop, a framework for addressing multiple chronic conditions in ATS clinical practice guidelines was developed. An Official ATS Workshop Report has been written and is undergoing review. The plan is to pilot the framework using a future ATS clinical practice guideline project.

Methodology evidence

Rigorous guideline methodology is effort and time-intensive. It is unknown which steps are vital and which are expendable, although such knowledge could prompt changes that improve the efficiency of clinical practice guidelines without sacrificing quality. The ESM-WG is interested in facilitating original research into the methodology of clinical practice guidelines, particular that which aims to improve efficiency while maintaining quality. If you have a research idea for which you are seeking feedback or collaborators, please contact Kevin Wilson, MD at kwilson@thoracic.org.
The Board of Directors of the American Thoracic Society recently voted unanimously to approve the creation of a new Section on Medical Education. This new section allows educators from throughout the society to come together, share innovations and create collaborations for future investigation into novel educational strategies. Moreover, this group will be a driving force for creation and dissemination of educational resources to support the development of teaching skills of all members of the society. As all healthcare providers act as teachers to our patients and their families and researchers need to be able to effectively disseminate their knowledge, strong teaching skills are essential to all members of the society.

Efforts of the Section on Medical Education will include, but not be limited to:
1) Development of collaborations focused on creation of novel curricular approaches and assessment of the impact of these curricula
2) Medical education research with an emphasis on inter-institutional and interdisciplinary studies
3) Development of novel teaching techniques and the study of their impact
4) Creation of teaching resources (in person education, on-line resources, in print) including those focused on:
   - Small group teaching skills
   - Large group teaching skills
   - Bedside teaching skills
   - Teaching of patients and families
   - Feedback and evaluation
   - Incorporation of simulation into educational efforts
   - Interdisciplinary engagement in teaching
   - Novel use of technology in teaching
   - Teaching across generations and cultures
5) Mentorship and career development of junior clinician-educators with a focus on scholarly work and promotion

Keeping up with the ever evolving field of pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine requires continuous innovation in how we teach students, residents and fellows. The Section on Medical Education welcomes new members and encourages all teachers to join!

If you are interested in joining the Section of Medical Education, please update your member profile and designate the Section on Medical Education as your section. As a member of ATS you may join an unlimited number of sections. You may access the form by

Mentorship Program Working Group
Graham Carlos, MD , Chair

The Behavioral Sciences and Health Services Research Assembly is pleased to announce the establishment of our own Mentoring Program and Working Group! Formatted based on the offerings of other assemblies with successful programs we aim to pair mentors with mentees utilizing an online survey available on our homepage. Our Mentoring Working Group analyzes respondents to generate pairings in advance of the International Conference. Participants will be encouraged to share contact information and bios to facilitate discussion leading up to the Conference. At the Conference we will advertise opportunities for mentors and mentees to meet in person. The benefits of a formal mentorship program extend beyond our assembly. Many of our members including our clinical educators are located in assemblies through ATS and mentorship will increase their connectedness. Please consider...
Meet Your Mentor HERE!

Struggling to find a quiet location to meet with your mentor? Look no further! This year at the 2015 ATS International Conference in Denver, the Assembly Mentoring Programs is offering a meeting spot exclusively for mentors and mentees to meet.

The Assembly Mentoring Programs’ Meeting Spot will be located in the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel in room Plaza Court 5 (Concourse Level). The room will be available:

Friday May 15th – Tuesday May 19th, 2015 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Wednesday May 20th from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Light snacks and beverages will be offered throughout the day. Also in the room there will be laptops and printers available for use. You can also pick up your Assembly Mentoring Program ribbon and pin!

We hope you can join us at the Assembly Mentoring Programs’ Meeting Spot!

Other opportunities to meet:

1) New Member Meet and Greet – this occurs 30 minutes prior each Assembly Membership Meeting

2) Early Career Professionals’ Corner
   Science and Innovation Center (Denver Convention Center)
   Tuesday, May 19th, 2015
   7:00– 8:00 a.m.
   Light breakfast will be served

For more information on the Mentorship Programs, contact Breana Portelli at bportelli@thoracic.org.
Official ATS Documents: Informational Opportunities at the 2015 ATS International Conference in Denver

If you’re developing or interested in developing an Official ATS Document (Policy Statement, Research Statement, Clinical Practice Guideline, Workshop Report, or Technical Standards), please consider attending one or more of these free opportunities while you are in Denver at the ATS International Conference:

- Documents Development & Implementation Committee (DDIC) Workshop: Friday, May 15th from 6-9 PM, Governor’s 14, Concourse Level, Plaza Building, Sheraton Denver Downtown. This session is required for both current and new guideline panel chairs, as well as the chairs of new document projects. The session is recommended for the chairs of ongoing non-guideline projects. Please RSVP to Katrina Gorres at kgorres@thoracic.org if you have not already done so. The schedule is as follows:
  - 6-7 PM – Presentations by DDIC members about the Official Document types, methodological requirements for each, and other practical issues (e.g., conflict of interest management, review, and approval); a light dinner will be served.
  - 7-9 PM – Current guideline chairs (or their designees) will give progress reports and then troubleshoot informally with DDIC members and ATS staff. New guideline chairs will have the opportunity to listen to these reports and learn about the “trials and tribulations” of guideline development from experienced peers.

- Guideline methodology training program: All ATS clinical practice guidelines require the support of an experienced methodologist; however, there is a shortage of methodologists from which to derive the support. The ATS has a guideline methodology training program that provides on-the-job training to individuals who are interested in becoming a methodologist. Applications for the training program are available at http://www.thoracic.org/statements/document-development/index.php. An informational session is being held on Monday, May 18th from 7 pm until 8:30 pm at the ATS International Conference for anyone who is interested in learning more about the program. A light dinner will be served. Please RSVP to Kevin C. Wilson, MD, ATS Senior Director of Documents and Medical Affairs at kwilson@thoracic.org. Space is limited.

- Ad Hoc meetings: If your project committee is having a full day, half day, or meal meeting in Denver, you have the opportunity to schedule an appointment for Dr. Kevin Wilson (ATS Documents Editor and ATS Senior Director of Documents and Medical Affairs) or Dr. Jan Brozek (ATS Methodologist) to stop by your committee meeting to discuss and answer questions about Official ATS Documents. To schedule a meeting, email Kevin Wilson at kwilson@thoracic.org or Jan Brozek at brozekj@mcmaster.ca. Please indicate the name of your panel and a range of time that would be appropriate for their visit.

- Office Hours: Stop by our second annual “Office Hours” to meet and talk with Dr. Kevin Wilson and/or Dr. Jan Brozek about any Official ATS Document related matters. Contact John Harmon at jharmon@thoracic.org for dates and times.

ATS Patient Education Resources

- ATS continues to expand its patient education resources - there are currently more than 70 high quality patient oriented fact sheets on a range of pulmonary, critical care, and sleep topics including both common and rare diseases such as COPD, VCD, and HPS; common procedures and diagnostic tests such as sleep studies, lung function studies, and bronchoscopy; and special focus topics including palliative care and lung cancer prevention. These fact sheets are available at no cost via the ATS website at www.thoracic.org under the Patients Tab. See pieces that you like? Feel free to use them in your practice and share them with others! Have new topics you’d like to propose? Contact Judy Corn at jcorn@thoracic.org with your ideas and feedback.
ATS Assembly Members Give Generously to the ATS Foundation

At the 2014 Leadership Summit, assembly leaders voted to establish an ATS Assembly Challenge in support of the ATS Foundation. The Challenge kicked off on #GivingTuesday, on December 2, 2014, a special day worldwide dedicated to the joy of giving, and ran all month long.

Gifts both large and small were received and much appreciated. December giving from assembly members rose from $121,970 in 2013 to $170,974 in 2014—an increase of $49,000! These gifts are greatly meaningful to young investigators at risk of terminating their careers in pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine. Your generous gifts to the ATS Foundation help launch careers dedicated to scientific discovery and better patient care.

Naftali Kaminski, MD, chair for the Assembly on Respiratory Cell & Molecular Biology; Gregory P. Downey, MD, chair for the Assembly on Allergy Immunology & Inflammation; and Kristin A. Riekert, PhD, chair for the Assembly on Behavioral Science and Health Services Research, proudly display their 2014 ATS Assembly Challenge awards

Personal outreach from assembly chairs especially helped drive giving to the ATS Foundation.

“Without member support, amazing programs such as MECOR and young investigator research grants wouldn’t exist. If every ATS member gave even a small donation, even more ground-breaking research and training could be supported,” said Kristin A. Riekert, PhD, chair for the Assembly on Behavioral Science and Health Services Research.

Dr. Riekert sent personal messages to her fellow BSHR members to encourage them to give, and capitalized on the momentum of #GivingTuesday to encourage giving. That outreach made a tremendous difference.

Naftali Kaminski, MD, chair for the Assembly on Respiratory Cell & Molecular Biology, also sent messages to his fellow RCMB members and spurred giving through #GivingTuesday.

“For me the participation of RCMB members in the assembly challenge was very, very meaningful,” said Dr. Kaminski. “The fact that they made the effort and donated (and many did) demonstrated their commitment to our community and to the future of respiratory research.”

There were three ways to win the Challenge: be the assembly with the most dollars raised in 2014, be the assembly with the highest member participation rate, and be the assembly with the largest average gift per member.
Allergy Immunology & Inflammation raised the most dollars in the ATS Assembly Challenge with $63,549. Behavioral Science and Health Services Research had the highest member participation with 20.86%, and the largest average gift per member with $98.27. Respiratory Cell & Molecular Biology’s outstanding outreach efforts led to the creation of a brand new award in recognition of having the most first-time givers. Their outreach efforts inspired 26 members to give to the Foundation for the very first time during December alone!

Congratulations to the Allergy Immunology & Inflammation, Behavioral Science and Health Services Research, and Respiratory Cell & Molecular Biology assemblies! They will receive special recognition in a number of ATS communications, at ATS 2015, and within their own assemblies.

The ATS Foundation would like to thank all ATS assemblies for their generous support and for rising to the challenge. Your giving is life-changing for young investigators, patients, and communities worldwide. To learn more about the ATS Foundation or to make a gift, visit foundation.thoracic.org.

Assembly on
Behavioral Science and Health Services Research
Membership Meeting

Sunday, May 17th
6:30pm-8:30pm
Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel
PLAZA BALLROOM AB
Concourse Level

Help Us Help You!

Have you:
• moved,
• changed your title,
• added a new specialty, credential or other information?

Or perhaps we just do not have a complete profile for you!

Please take a minute to update your contact information, assembly affiliations, and demographic profile today. And now you can also upload your PHOTO to your member profile! Log in HERE. [ link is: https://www.thoracic.org/login/ats-member-login.php ]

By keeping your profile current, you help us provide programs and services that are targeted to you, and it also ensures accuracy when you register for the International Conference.
Submit an Assembly/Committee Project Application for funding in FY2016!

We are happy to announce that ATS will once again accept NEW Assembly/Committee Projects for FY2016. All interested applicants should begin developing their ideas for Assembly/Committee Project Applications. Applications will be available on the ATS website at www.thoracic.org.

Please consider submitting an application for an Assembly/Committee project. If you have a suggestion for a project application and you need assistance, please contact your Assembly Planning Committee Chair Erin K. Kross, MD at ekross@uw.edu

Please contact Miriam Rodriguez with any questions at tel: 212/315-8639 or email: mrodriguez@thoracic.org.

Connect with your ATS assembly on social networks for the latest on journal clubs, webinars, ATS International Conference activities, and much more!

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<td>ATS Environmental, Occupational and Population Health Early Faculty/Fellows</td>
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<td>ATS Nursing Assembly</td>
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Also look for the main ATS social media accounts:

Twitter: @atscommunity Instagram: @atscommunity LinkedIn: American Thoracic Society

Enter the BEAR Cage

Hosted by the ATS Drug Device Discovery and Development (DDDDD) Committee, the BEAR Cage (Building Education to Advance Research) competition was open to all ATS members who are early career investigators. Applicants were asked to submit an innovative clinical or translational research proposal for consideration and the opportunity to participate in the live BEAR Cage at ATS 2015. You are invited to join us at the Science and Innovation Center to see the selected top three finalists competitively “pitch” their highly innovative research proposals to a panel of translational science experts representing academia, industry, and governmental sectors in front of a live audience. The panel, with audience participation, will vet the proposals with each presenter and ultimately award a grand prize winner a $5,000 prize as well as two runner-up proposals, each receiving $2,500. The goal of this unique event is to promote productive discussion of these innovative research ideas in the setting of a fun, yet competitive, forum promoting opportunities for collaboration, mentorship, and improvement of the research proposal. To build on this concept, a DDDD committee-sponsored “project advisory team” will provide feedback and distance mentorship to the awardees over the ensuing year.
Refer a Fellow to the ATS!

Do you know a Fellow who could benefit from ATS membership? Nearly 20 per cent of ATS members are currently in training, and many ATS leaders joined as Fellows too. And there’s a BONUS! ATS Trainee Members receive their first year of membership for FREE! After the first year, trainee member dues are just $100 per year for US members, and $40 per year for international members, as long as the member is still in training. Read what Trainee members say about the value of membership:

ATS membership helps you to keep up-to-date with innovations in pulmonary medicine with access to journals, publications, guidelines and the Fellows corner.
   Ajay Kasi, California

The ATS membership is the best option to participate in the world’s biggest thoracic society, be an important part of scientific exchange and access the best scientific publications.
   Adrian Ceccato, Argentina

My membership gives me the opportunity to expand my knowledge on pulmonary diseases in general and in interstitial lung diseases in particular through news, e-mails, journals, special learning opportunities (like the ILD video series) and the annual meeting.
   Sandra Chartrand, Canada