Message From the Assembly Chairman

Kent E. Pinkerton, PhD

We look forward to seeing you all at the 2008 ATS International Conference in Toronto, Canada May 16-21. An exciting scientific program has been planned by our Assembly consisting of 4 symposia, 5 mini-symposia, 5 poster discussions and 12 thematic poster sessions. Our “Meet the Professor” series will touch on such timely topics as the importance of the astute clinician in the recognition of the old, clues for detecting the causes of sarcoidosis, and spirometry in the workplace. Our symposia for the international conference cover topics ranging from noninvasive assessment in the evaluation of occupational lung diseases to new therapeutic interventions for disease in minimizing the risks of engineered nanomaterials. Discussions on genetics and occupational/environmental lung disease to inform dose-response relationships, risk modification, and associated regulatory approaches and candidate interactions for the treatment of asthma and COPD will also be covered. Each of these symposia will provide for stimulating dialogue and the acquisition of new knowledge. Please review in this newsletter the official listing for each of these sessions.

Mini-symposia will explore today’s thoughts on the mechanisms and epidemiology of beryllium sensitization, sarcoidosis, what constitutes true cases of COPD, and concerns of combustion from biomass to wood smoke to diesel exhaust. New topics on solution interventions to reduce individual and population risk and as well as mechanisms and consequences of nasal exposures and disease will complete a probing series of sessions that will be of interest to many.

Thematic poster sessions are perhaps at the heart of all our efforts in environmental and occupational medicine. Airways disease due to both occupational and environmental factors will be addressed. Topics on mechanisms and epidemiology of air pollution, hypersensitivity pneumonitis, risk factors and epidemiology of adult asthma, tobacco smoke and gene-environment interactions will highlight new developments in each of these fields. Medical monitoring, screening and surveillance, along with occupational and environmental diseases of the pleura and lung along with poster abstracts on pulmonary toxicology will all provide forums for lively discussion and solutions.

Less we forget those who are early risers, we have a stimulating set of sunrise seminars on adipokines and asthma, air pollution and cardiopulmonary disease and an evolving occupational/environmental Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD): it’s not just asbestos.

I wish to express my appreciation for the hard work this year of the Program Committee, directed by Dr. Rebecca Bascom and Dr. Paul Henneberger, and composed of 23 devoted assembly members who have worked many

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Message From the Assembly Chairman  
Kent E. Pinkerton, PhD

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long hours to organize more than 400 abstracts into an exciting set of sessions over the 4-day period of the conference.

Our Assembly in Environmental and Occupational Health continues to lead the way in the publication of new documents with new projects in preparation as highlighted by our Planning Committee which has been ably headed by Dr. Carrie Redlich. Welcome to our new Planning Committee Chair, Dr. Stephanie London, who will begin her duties this year with an enthusiastic group of committee members. The EOH Website Committee is headed by Dr. Kanta Devi Surcar and Dr. Philip Harber, who with the assistance of their committee, continue to expand the scope and number of clinical case studies on the website. Thanks also to the EOH International Committee, headed by Dr. Bill Beckett and Dr. Marc Schenker, and the Section on Terrorism and Inhalational Disasters, directed by Dr. Christopher Lettieri; both groups continue to make an impact both in and out the American Thoracic Society with exciting programs and timely topics. Thanks also go out to the Nominating Committee and Dr. Susan Tarlo for their efforts this year. Please see the nominations for offices that we will be selecting at this year’s annual business meeting.

Finally, I wish to encourage you to consider making a financial contribution designated to our EOH Assembly through online submission at https://foundation.thoracic.org/web/make-a-gift/contribute-online/index. These contributions are always greatly appreciated and will be used to support our Assembly’s travel award (David Bates Travel Award) as well as special projects and Assembly activities. Once again, I look forward to seeing you all in Toronto!

ATS 2008 – Toronto Sessions Sponsored by the Assembly on Environmental and Occupational Health

Symposia

Sunday, May 18, 2008

A88  NONINVASIVE ASSESSMENT IN THE EVALUATION OF OCCUPATIONAL LUNG DISEASES  1:30 PM – 4:15 PM

Monday, May 19, 2008

B7  GENETICS AND OCCUPATIONAL/ENVIRONMENTAL LUNG DISEASE: INFORMING DOSE-RESPONSE RELATIONSHIPS, RISK MODIFICATION, AND ASSOCIATED REGULATORY APPROACHES  8:15 AM – 11:00 AM

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

C86  CANDIDATE INTERACTIONS FOR ASTHMA AND COPD  1:30 PM – 4:15 PM

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

D9  NEW THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTIONS FOR DISEASE: MINIMIZING THE RISKS OF ENGINEERED NANOMATERIALS  8:15 AM – 11:00 AM

Meet the Professor Seminars

Sunday, May 18, 2008

MP413  THE CRITICAL ROLE OF THE ASTUTE CLINICIAN IN THE RECOGNITION OF OLD  12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Monday, May 19, 2008

MP512  CLINICAL CLUES FOR DETECTING THE CAUSES OF SARCOIDOSIS  12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

MP612  SPIROMETRY IN THE WORKPLACE: AVOIDING TECHNICAL PITFALLS AND CHOOSING AN INTERPRETATION ALGORITHM  12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
# ATS 2008 – Toronto Sessions Sponsored by the Assembly on Environmental and Occupational Health

## Sunrise Seminars

**Monday, May 19, 2008**

| SS113 | ADIPOKINES AND ASTHMA: A TALE OF MICE AND MEN | 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM |

**Tuesday, May 20, 2008**

| SS213 | A BREATH OF NOT-SO-FRESH AIR: WHAT THE CLINICIAN SHOULD KNOW ABOUT AIR POLLUTION AND CARDIOPULMONARY DISEASE | 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM |

**Wednesday, May 21, 2008**

| SS313 | OCCUPATIONAL/ENVIRONMENTAL ILD: IT’S NOT JUST ASBESTOS ANYMORE | 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM |

## Mini-Symposia

**Sunday, May 18, 2008**

| A14 | IDENTIFICATION, MECHANISMS AND EPIDEMIOLOGY OF BERYLLIUM SENSITIZATION/DISEASE AND SARCOIDOSIS | 8:15 AM – 11:00 AM |
| A94 | IDENTIFYING "TRUE" CASES OF COPD | 1:30 PM – 4:15 PM |

**Monday, May 19, 2008**

| B93 | WORLDWIDE COMBUSTION: BIOMASS TO WOOD SMOKE TO DIESEL | 1:30 PM – 4:15 PM |

**Tuesday, May 20, 2008**

| C14 | PARTS OF THE SOLUTION: INTERVENTIONS WHICH REDUCE INDIVIDUAL OR POPULATION RISK | 8:15 AM – 11:00 AM |

**Wednesday, May 21, 2008**

| D94 | MECHANISMS AND CONSEQUENCES OF NASAL EXPOSURES AND DISEASE | 1:30 PM – 4:15 PM |

## Poster Discussions

**Sunday, May 18, 2008**

| A26 | NANOSCIENCE: UPTAKE, PROCESSING AND ENDPOINTS | 8:15 AM – 11:00 AM |

**Monday, May 19, 2008**

| B26 | INHALATIONAL DISASTERS FROM CHERNOBYL TO THE CAROLINAS | 8:15 AM – 11:00 AM |
| B104 | UPDATE ON WORK-RELATED ASTHMA: FROM RISK FACTORS TO CONSEQUENCES | 1:30 PM – 4:15 PM |

**Tuesday, May 20, 2008**

| C103 | AIR POLLUTION: CHALLENGING SUSCEPTIBILITIES AND NOVEL OUTCOMES | 1:30 PM – 4:15 PM |

**Wednesday, May 21, 2008**

| D23 | SUPERSIZING KNOWLEDGE OF DIET, OBESITY, AND RESPIRATORY DISEASES | 8:15 AM – 11:00 AM |

## Thematic Posters

**Sunday, May 18, 2008**

| A56 | OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL AIRWAYS DISEASES | 8:15 AM – 4:15 PM |
| A57 | HYPERSENSITIVITY PNEUMONITIS | 8:15 AM – 4:15 PM |
| A58 | MEDICAL MONITORING AND SCREENING AND SURVEILLANCE | 8:15 AM – 4:15 PM |
ATS 2008 – Toronto Sessions Sponsored by the Assembly on Environmental and Occupational Health

Thematic Posters cont’d

Sunday, May 18, 2008
A59 OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PLEURAL AND LUNG DISEASE 8:15 AM – 4:15 PM

Monday, May 19, 2008
B54 AIR POLLUTION EPIDEMIOLOGY 8:15 AM – 4:15 PM
B55 AIR POLLUTION MECHANISMS 8:15 AM – 4:15 PM

Tuesday, May 20, 2008
C47 EPIDEMIOLOGY OF ADULT ASTHMA 8:15 AM – 4:15 PM
C48 ADULT ASTHMA RISK FACTORS 8:15 AM – 4:15 PM

Wednesday, May 21, 2008
D41 TOBACCO SMOKE: SPECTRUM OF EXPOSURES AND EFFECTS 8:15 AM – 4:15 PM
D42 EPIDEMIOLOGY 8:15 AM – 4:15 PM
D43 GENE-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTIONS 8:15 AM – 4:15 PM
D44 PULMONARY TOXICOLOGY 8:15 AM – 4:15 PM

The ATS EOH Planning Committee
Carrie A. Redlich, MD, MPH, Chair

EOH Planning Committee members for the past year (2007-2008) are listed below:
Carrie Redlich, MD, MPH (Planning Committee Chair)
Mark Eisner, MD
Terry Gordon, PhD
Amund Gulsvik, MD, PhD
Phil Harber, MD, MPH
Paul Henneberger, ScD
Catherine Lemiere, MD
Stephanie London, MD
Amy Nuernberg, MD
Kent Pinkerton, PhD (EOH Assembly Chair)
Debra Romberger, MD
Torben Sigsgaard, MD, PhD
Kanta Sircar, MDH, PhD
Akshay Sood, MD, MPH
Susan Tarlo, MD, BS
David N. Weissman, MD
The ATS EOH Planning Committee had a productive year. A key function of the Planning Committee’s is to help develop ATS EOH Assembly Statements and Position Papers, which typically ensue from ATS-funded Assembly projects. Five proposals for ATS EOH Assembly projects were submitted this past year (1 proposal for a new EOH Project and 4 Renewal Project proposals). These projects were evaluated by the EOH Planning Committee, and revised proposals (incorporating committee suggestions) were resubmitted for final review by the ATS. All five EOH proposed projects were funded by the ATS this year, a highly successful year!

ATS EOH Projects

New ATS EOH Projects 2008

Spirometry in the Occupational Setting
(Project Chair – Mary Townsend). The goals of this newly funded project is to develop an ATS Statement of recommendations for PFTs in the occupational setting. The committee, comprised of experts in the field, will address specific discrepancies between the recommendations of the 2005 ATS / ERS PFT Statements and current practice in the occupational setting and make best practice recommendations. The committee will have its first face-to-face meeting in conjunction with the ATS 2008 International Conference in Toronto. If inter-

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ATS EOH Projects cont’d

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continued in more information, please contact Mary Townsend at mary.townsend4@verizon.net.

Renewed ATS-EOH Projects 2008

Work-Exacerbated Asthma (Project Chair - Paul Henneberger)
The goal of this ATS Project, supported by the ATS and the CDC / NIOSH, is to review and synthesize the literature on work-exacerbated asthma (WEA), identify research and clinical needs, and increase awareness of WEA. An ATS Public Policy Statement addressing these issues is being finalized for submission to the ATS for review. If interested in more information or serving as a reviewer for this statement, please contact Paul Henneberger at pkh0@cdc.gov.

Diagnosis and Management of Beryllium Sensitization and Chronic Beryllium Disease (Project Chairs - John Balmes and Milton Rossman).
This project of this goal, jointly supported by the ATS, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and the CDC / NIOSH, is to establish consensus among a panel of international experts regarding criteria for the diagnosis, clinical evaluation, management and prevention of beryllium sensitization (BeS) and chronic beryllium disease (CBD). The consensus findings and recommendations will be published as an ATS Policy statement. A working meeting is planned in conjunction with the 2008 ATS Conference to finalize this statement. If interested in more information or serving as a reviewer for this statement, please contact John Balmes (jbalmes@medsfgh.ucsf.edu) or Milton Rossman (rossmann@mail.med.upenn.edu).

3rd Jack Pepys Workshop on Asthma in the Workplace (Project Chairs - Susan Tarlo and Jean-Luc Malo). This International Symposium on Asthma in the Workplace, funded jointly by the ATS, WSIB, CSST, IRSST, and CIHR, was held in Montreal, May 2007. The Workshop was attended by over 100 international invited experts and other participants. A document summarizing highlights from this 3rd Jack Pepys Workshop is being finalized and will be submitted for publication in Proceedings of the ATS (PATS).

Novel Risk Factors and the Global Burden of Non-smoking COPD (Project Chair – Mark Eisner). The goal of this project is to develop an ATS statement that will evaluate the contribution of non-traditional risk factors (other than smoking) to the development of COPD, including environmental tobacco smoke, occupation, biomass fuel combustion, air pollution, and genetic and dietary factors. The committee, comprised of an international panel of experts in these areas, met at ATS 2007. A systematic review of the relevant epidemiologic literature has been completed and the first draft of the ATS statement is in progress. The committee will meet in conjunction with the ATS 2008 International Conference in Toronto to review and finalize conclusions. For further information please contact Mark Eisner at Mark.Eisner@ucsf.edu.

Additional ATS-EOH Projects

The ATS Statement on Health Effects of Tremolite (Project Chair - Marc Schenker). The Statement draft is in development. For more information please contact Marc Schenker at mbschenker@ucdavis.edu.

2) Standardizing Low Molecular Weight (LWM) Occupational Allergens (Project Chair - Adam Wisnewski). An ATS Workshop addressing theoretical and technical aspects regarding assays for LWM occupational allergens was held. A document summarizing the findings and recommendations of this workshop is being finalized.

We are fortunate that Stephanie London has agreed to serve as the next chair of the EOH Planning Committee. If you are interested in serving on the EOH Planning Committee, developing a new EOH Assembly Project, or revising any of the older ATS EOH Statements please contact Stephanie London (london2@niehs.nih.gov). Assembly Project applications are usually due mid-July.
Please consider submitting an Assembly/Committee Project Application for funding in FY2009!

This year for the first time there will be an Online Application Process using an electronic grants submission process called proposalCENTRAL. All interested applicants must submit their Assembly/Committee Project Applications online through proposalCENTRAL. To avoid being rushed at deadline time, applicants are encouraged to register and complete a professional profile at proposalCENTRAL as early as possible.

There will be a link to proposalCENTRAL on the ATS homepage at www.thoracic.org along with new comprehensive instructions that have been designed to correspond with the numbered fields within the online application. Please consider submitting an online 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 Stephanie London at london2@niehs.nih.gov.

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

Section on Terrorism and Inhalational Disasters

There are two fundamental facts regarding disaster medicine: disaster will occur and disasters are unpredictable. The medical community must be prepared for these events in order to minimize the threat and mitigate their effects.

The ATS section on Terrorism and Inhalational Disasters (TID) was formed in 2003 to serve as resource for the leadership and membership of ATS. The focus of this section has continued to expand and incorporates all aspects of disaster medicine, including terrorist events, natural disasters, emerging infectious diseases, industrial accidents and disaster preparedness. The goal of our section is to serve as a resource for the ATS, its members and the ATS leadership by providing education and subject matter expertise and by acting in an advisory capacity to the ATS leadership in response to disasters. We believe that the TID Section can best serve the ATS Leadership and the ATS membership by playing to the 3 strengths of ATS; research, education, and clinical outreach.

The section will be hosting a poster discussion session at the 2008 international conference in Toronto entitled “Inhalation Disasters from Chernobyl to the Carolinas” on Monday, May 19 from 8:15AM-11AM.

If you are interested in learning about or becoming active within the section, you are invited to attend our business meeting on Sunday, May 19th at 12:00. We will be discussing the past year and future plans for our section. We will also be conducting elections for new leadership positions. More information regarding the section is available on our recently launched website which features updates related to the section, educational materials and links to disaster medicine resources. New section leadership positions are available. Positions include:

- Section Co-chair elect
- Planning Committee Co-chair
- Program Committee Co-chair
- Steering Committee members
  - Aerosol biologist
  - Bioethicist
  - Clinical disaster expert
  - Veterinarian with expertise in biodefense and/or emerging infectious diseases
  - Physician with expertise in biodefense and/or emerging infectious diseases
  - Toxicologist
  - Health physicist
  - Environmental health expert
  - Epidemiologist

If interested, send bio to christopher.lettieri@us.army.mil

Patients to Speak at Fourteen Designated ATS International Conference Symposia

The ATS Public Advisory Roundtable (ATS PAR) has selected patients to provide a patient perspective at fourteen symposia at the 2008 ATS International Conference Symposia. This concept has worked exceptionally well within the format of the PAR Symposium for the last six years and at an increasing number of sessions at the 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 International Conferences.

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Patients to Speak at Fourteen Designated ATS International Conference Symposia

This is the fifth year that patient speakers will participate within the Assemblies’ Symposia. The patients will make a five-minute presentation to offer insight into their personal journeys; to address their diagnosis, treatment, and how the disease has dramatically altered their lifestyle, family, career and relationships. They will share their perspective into what patients would like physicians and researchers to know about physician/patient relationships; and the importance and relevance of the work in which investigators and researchers are engaged.

The symposia at which a patient-perspective will be presented are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSEMBLY</th>
<th>SESSION CODE</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>DATE/TIME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BS</td>
<td>A7</td>
<td>Obesity and it’s Impact on Lung Health Across the Lifespan</td>
<td>Sunday, May 18 8:15-11:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>CP</td>
<td>A82</td>
<td>COPD Exacerbations: Epidemiology, Prevention and Treatment</td>
<td>Sunday, May 18 1:30-4:15 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>RNS</td>
<td>A85</td>
<td>Sleep Medicine Grand Rounds</td>
<td>Sunday, May 18 1:30-4:15 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joint CP-RCMS-RSF</td>
<td>A90</td>
<td>Lung Cancer Translational Research: Integrating Innovations for Diagnosis and Treatment</td>
<td>Sunday, May 18 1:30-4:15 pm</td>
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ATS PAR Symposium

The ATS Public Advisory Roundtable (PAR) is pleased to announce the seventh ATS PAR Symposium to be presented at the ATS International Conference in Toronto on Tuesday, May 20th from 8:15-11:00 a.m. The topic will be “Rebuilding the Pulmonary Patient – From Laboratory to Lifestyle” chaired by John E. Heffner, MD and Donna J. Appell, RN. The program includes the following:

♦ Reevaluation, Rehabilitation and Resiliency: An Alpha-1 Patient’s Journey from Diagnosis and Lung Transplant to Today – Len Geiger, Jacksonville, FL  
♦ Cellular and Molecular Strategies for Rebuilding the Lungs of the Pulmonary Patient – Dan Weiss, MD, Burlington, VT  
♦ The Role of Inflammation as a Limiting Factor in Pulmonary Rehabilitation – Anemie Schols, MD, Maastricht, The Netherlands  
♦ Targeting Skeletal Muscles in Pulmonary Rehabilitation – Francois Maltais, MD, Ancienne-Lorette, QC Canada  
♦ Strategies for Post-Hospital Rehabilitation After Critical Illness – Margaret Herridge, MD Toronto, ON Canada  
♦ Benefits of Pulmonary Rehabilitation on the Critical Care Patient: My Top 10 List” – Dee Storey, Saginaw,  
♦ The New Evidence Base for Rehabilitation in Chronic Respiratory Disease – Andrew Ries, MD, San Diego, CA  
♦ Putting the Patient in Charge: the Benefits of Self-Management Education– Jean Bourbeau, MD, Montreal, QC Canada  
♦ Disease Modification Strategies in Chronic Lung Disease: Implications for Pulmonary Rehabilitation – Bartolome Celli, MD, Wellesley, MA

The ATS PAR Annual Poster Session will be open from Sunday, May 18 until Tuesday, May 20, 2008 in the Exhibit Hall of the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. Public Interest Organizations (PIO’s) concerned with lung and sleep disorders will present information about their organizations. A representative from each organization will be present at the poster session to provide additional information.

ATS Public Advisory Roundtable’s Second Annual

Breathing Better with the ATS Forum

This is a forum at which patients will have the unique opportunity to network and learn more about their disease. This year the panelists will focus on pulmonary rehabilitation and its benefits.

Panel Includes:
Roger S. Goldstein, MD  
Richard ZuWallack, MD  
Suzanne C. Lareau, RN, MS, FAAN  
Len Geiger

If you have any patients in the Toronto area, please encourage them to attend. They will have an opportunity to hear from and network with other patients and experts in the pulmonary community.

May 17th, 2008, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
The Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel located at 123 Queen Street West Toronto, Canada  
RSVP by: April 30th, 2008 by emailing par@thoracic.org or call Karen Belgiovine at (212) 315-8640
Fellows Get First Year of ATS Membership for Free!

ATS is offering a free year of ATS membership to all first-year pulmonology, critical care, sleep fellows and post-doctoral PhD fellows! This special program is intended to welcome fellows to the ATS community. The Society would like these junior entrants to the fields of respiratory medicine to take advantage of the benefits of membership and look to ATS as their professional home for post graduate and continuing medical education, networking on a global scale, and for helping them to serve the needs of patients and the public at large.

Today’s fellows will be the research and clinical professionals who will achieve the next major advancement in the science and treatment of pulmonary disease, critical illness and sleep disorders critical to advancing science and practice of the fields.

To learn more about this newly launched program, send an e-mail to fellows@thoracic.org or visit the ATS Web site at www.thoracic.org and click “Free Year for Fellows” under the Membership drop down menu. Program directors are encouraged to share this information with their fellows and other colleagues.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MONDAY MAY 19TH 4:30-6:30 PM
SHERATON CENTRE TORONTO HOTEL
BALLROOM WEST (LOWER CONCOURSE)