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Environmental and Occupational Health

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Editor: Paul Henneberger, MPH, ScD

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY CHAIR

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter from the Assembly on Environmental and Occupational Health! I look forward to seeing each of you at the 2012 ATS International Conference in San Francisco, May 18-23, 2012. As usual, this will be the premiere respiratory health conference of the year. The EOH Program Committee has assembled a great program, with sessions covering a wide range of topics of interest to EOH members. These sessions are an excellent opportunity to stay up to date on the latest findings related to environmental and occupational respiratory diseases. In addition, attending the conference this year is a chance to enjoy San Francisco.



Paul Henneberger, MPH, ScD

We are a diverse Assembly with respect to our professional training. We encompass expertise in clinical pulmonary medicine, in various types of research (including laboratory, clinical, and epidemiologic research), and in prevention science. Amidst this diversity, we share a common interest in environmental and occupational respiratory health. From interacting with members of other ATS Assemblies, I am impressed that EOH is one of only a few Assemblies that consistently emphasize public health and prevention. This role in the larger organization is important and one that EOH will continue to pursue.

Members of the EOH leadership are essential to keeping our Assembly alive and well throughout the year. Two examples illustrate how this has happened since the 2011 conference. First, Dr. Chris Carlsten has helped to attract and retain new EOH members by chairing the Trainee and Early Faculty Working Group. He brought positive attention to EOH with an article about the mentoring program in the February 2012 ATS Newsletter. As revealed in Chris's article, mentoring takes little time, benefits EOH, and is personally rewarding. I encourage EOH "old-timers" to sign up to serve as a mentor for those who are just entering the Assembly. A second example is the work of Dr. Kanta Sircar as the EOH Web Director. Through discussions in the EOH Executive Committee, we decided to create an EOH Web Committee to spearhead our communication efforts. Kanta has agreed to enlist new members to this committee and identify a new director. This committee is a great opportunity for younger members to get involved and help direct our communications with Assembly members.

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY CHAIR

(Continued from page 1)

I want to recognize and thank the other EOH leaders for their help during the past year:

- Dr. Maritta Jaakkola (Chair) and Dr. Philip Harber (Chair Elect) have directed the Program Committee's efforts to assemble the EOH portion of the ATS Conference.
- Dr. David Weissman has provided important leadership to the Planning Committee, directing the review of proposals for assembly projects.
- Dr. Rebecca Bascom has chaired the Nominating Committee and provided insight into many other issues as well.
- Dr. Christian Sandrock has provided dynamic leadership for the Section on Terrorism and Inhalational Disasters.
- Dr. David Mannino has provided important guidance as Chair of the Working Group on Epidemiology.
- Immediate Past Assembly Chair Dr. Mark Eisner has offered valuable perspective on a variety of topics.

In addition, thank you to all members of these committees, sections, and working groups, who took time from their regular jobs and private lives to enrich our Assembly.

All of our work depends on the excellent support from ATS staff. I want to express our gratitude to Miriam Rodriguez and Bridget Nance for their indispensable assistance!

The travel awards for the Environmental & Occupational Health Assembly have been provided by: The American Thoracic Society Corporate Member Program. The ATS Assembly Program Committees selected awardees based on abstracts submitted to the 2012 International Conference.

See you in San Francisco in May!

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

Maritta S. Jaakkola, MD, PhD, Chair

EOH Program Committee has been busy working to achieve a stimulating program for EOH and other members at the ATS 2012 International Conference in San Francisco. We received excellent proposals and altogether 366 abstracts and 21 late breaking abstracts (some of them jointly with other assemblies) from the members and would like to thank you for your activity, which enabled us to form interesting sessions.

The EOH Assembly is responsible for two exciting post-graduate courses: PG 7 Epigenetics of lung diseases, , will give insight into this new area studying environmental influences in the origins and mechanisms of lung diseases that are likely to revolutionize our thinking; PG19 Novel approaches to investigate occupational and environmental causes in common lung diseases, will provide clinical perspective on the role of these factors in the development of the most common lung diseases, reminding us of their importance beyond specific occupational disease diagnoses. I warmly recommend that you register for these courses. There will also be Meet the Professor and Sunrise Seminars given by recognized experts.

The scientific sessions will complement the postgraduate courses and provide a view of latest developments in a wide range of topics, such as Work-exacerbated asthma; Epigenetics at the crossroads; Idiopathic interstitial pneumonias/pulmonary fibrosis: Is idiopathic truly idiopathic?; and Inhaled exposures, genetics and airways disease: A

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PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

Maritta S. Jaakkola, MD, PhD, Chair

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view towards prevention. We are also co-sponsoring a number of sessions arranged by other assemblies that have data relevant for our members.

The EOH Assembly will have four Mini-Symposia on a variety of topics, including How bad is traffic pollution? Health effects and interventions; Hygiene hypothesis revisited; Predictors for COPD progression and outcomes; and How do dietary factors and obesity influence lung disease? In addition there will be five Poster Discussion sessions and 11 Thematic Poster Sessions, so the program will offer lots of new data and novel ideas and will provide a platform for fruitful discussions and interactions.

On behalf of the EOH program committee I would like to welcome you to San Francisco to enjoy the program and meet colleagues. If you have any inquiries concerning the program or the work done by the Program Committee, please contact me at maritta.jaakkola@oulu.fi. The Chair-Elect is in the process of inviting new members to this committee, so if you are interested, send a message to Phil Harber: philharber@gmail.com

ATS 2012 - SAN FRANCISCO Sessions Sponsored by the Assembly on Environmental and Occupational Health

Session Code	Session Title	Session Time	
Postgraduate Course			
Friday, May 18, 2012			
PG7	EPIGENETICS OF LUNG DISEASES	8:00 AM	4:15 PM
Saturday, May 19, 2012			
PG19	NOVEL APPROACHES TO INVESTIGATE OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CAUSES IN COMMON LUNG DISEASES	8:00 AM	4:15 PM
Scientific Symposium			
Sunday, May 20, 2012			
A9	EPIGENETICS AT THE CROSSROADS: THE INTERSECTION BETWEEN THE LUNG AND THE ENVIRONMENT	8:15 AM	10:45 AM
Monday, May 21, 2012			
B5	IDIOPATHIC INTERSTITIAL PNEUMONIAS/PULMONARY FIBROSIS: IS 'IDIOPATHIC' TRULY 'IDIOPATHIC'?	8:15 AM	10:45 AM
B88	WORK-EXACERBATED ASTHMA: NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN CLINICAL APPROACH, EPIDEMIOLOGY, AND PREVENTION	2:00 PM	4:30 PM
Wednesday, May 23, 2012			
D10	INHALED EXPOSURES, GENETICS AND AIRWAYS DISEASE: A VIEW TOWARDS PREVENTION	8:15 AM	10:45 AM
Meet The Professor Seminars			
Monday, May 21, 2012			
MP509	PULMONARY INFECTIONS AFTER DISASTERS	12:00 PM	1:00 PM
Tuesday, May 22, 2012			
MP610	INVESTIGATION AND MANAGEMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL ASTHMA	12:00 PM	1:00 PM

ATS 2012 - SAN FRANCISCO

Sessions Sponsored by the Assembly on Environmental and Occupational Health

Session Code	Session Title	Session Time	
Sunrise Seminars			
Monday, May 21, 2012			
SS109	REAL-WORLD SPIROMETRY: PITFALLS THAT ELEVATE (OR REDUCE) RESULTS	7:00 AM	8:00 AM
Tuesday, May 22, 2012			
SS210	HANTAVIRUS CARDIOPULMONARY SYNDROME	7:00 AM	8:00 AM
Wednesday, May 23, 2012			
SS310	ARE DISEASED AIRWAY EPITHELIAL CELLS MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO AIR POLLUTANTS?	7:00 AM	8:00 AM
Mini-Symposium			
Sunday, May 20, 2012			
A95	HYGIENE HYPOTHESIS REVISITED	2:00 PM	4:30 PM
Monday, May 21, 2012			
B17	HOW BAD IS TRAFFIC POLLUTION? HEALTH EFFECTS AND INTERVENTIONS	8:15 AM	10:45 AM
Tuesday, May 22, 2012			
C15	PREDICTORS FOR COPD PROGRESSION AND OUTCOMES	8:15 AM	10:45 AM
Wednesday, May 23, 2012			
D95	HOW DO DIETARY FACTORS AND OBESITY INFLUENCE LUNG DISEASE?	2:00 PM	4:30 PM
Poster Discussion Session			
Sunday, May 20, 2012			
A26	WORK-RELATED LUNG DISEASE: CLINICAL AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL APPROACHES	8:15 AM	10:45 AM
A27	HEALTH EFFECTS OF NANOPARTICLES	8:15 AM	10:45 AM
A103	HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH AND ADMINISTRATIVE DATABASES	2:00 PM	4:30 PM
Monday, May 21, 2012			
B106	NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN LUNG DISEASE GENETICS	2:00 PM	4:30 PM
Tuesday, May 22, 2012			
C106	DETERMINANTS OF CONTROL AND SEVERITY OF ASTHMA AND COPD	2:00 PM	4:30 PM
Thematic Poster Sessions			
Sunday, May 20, 2012			
A49	AIR POLLUTION: RESPIRATORY AND NOVEL HEALTH EFFECTS	8:15 AM	4:30 PM
A50	HEALTH EFFECTS OF INDOOR AIR POLLUTANTS	8:15 AM	4:30 PM
A51	DIET, OVERWEIGHT, DIABETES AND LUNG DISEASE	8:15 AM	4:30 PM
Monday, May 21, 2012			
B51	AIR POLLUTION AND TEMPERATURE: CARDIOVASCULAR EFFECTS	8:15 AM	4:30 PM
B52	RECOGNIZING OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL LUNG DISEASE: CLINICAL AND EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT	8:15 AM	4:30 PM
B53	ASTHMA EPIDEMIOLOGY: TRENDS AND RISK FACTORS	8:15 AM	4:30 PM
Tuesday, May 22, 2012			
C58	ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURES: MECHANISMS	8:15 AM	4:30 PM
C59	OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL LUNG DISEASE	8:15 AM	4:30 PM

ATS 2012 - SAN FRANCISCO

Sessions Sponsored by the Assembly on Environmental and Occupational Health

Session Code	Session Title	Session Time	
Thematic Poster Sessions			
Wednesday, May 23, 2012			
D59	COPD EPIDEMIOLOGY: RISK FACTORS, TRENDS, COMORBIDITIES	8:15 AM	4:30 PM
D60	HEALTH EFFECTS OF SMOKING	8:15 AM	4:30 PM
D61	RESPIRATORY CLINICAL EPIDEMIOLOGY	8:15 AM	4:30 PM

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

David N. Weissman, MD, Chair

EOH Planning Committee members for the 2011-2012 year are listed below:

David N. Weissman, MD (Planning Committee Chair)	Stefanie London, MD
Vinicius Antao, MD (Planning Committee Chair Designate, term starts May 2012)	Maria Mirabelli, PhD
Paul K. Henneberger, ScD (Assembly Chair)	Luke Naehrer, PhD
Muge Akpınar-Elci, MD, MPH	Germania Pinheiro, MD
Juan Celedon, MD, PhD	Kent Pinkerton, PhD
Kristin Cummings, MD, MPH	Carrie Redlich, MD, MPH
Rafael de la Hoz, MD, MPH, MSc	Robert Ross, MD
Howard Kipen, MD, MPH	Christian Sandrock, MD, MPH
Ware Kushner, MD	Torben Sigsgaard, MD, PhD

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. A major new statement published in 2011 was An Official American Thoracic Society Statement: Work-Exacerbated Asthma. <http://www.thoracic.org/statements/resources/eoh/an-official-ats-statement-work-exacerbated-asthma.pdf> This statement documents that work-exacerbated asthma (WEA) is a common and under-recognized adverse outcome resulting from conditions at work. The statement calls for additional research to improve the understanding of the risk factors for, and mechanisms and outcomes of, WEA, and to inform and evaluate preventive interventions.

The EOH Assembly has 3 continuing, renewed projects:

- Proceedings of the 4th Jack Pepys Workshop Document (Project Co-Chairs Susan M Tarlo and Jean-Luc Malo). The 4th Jack Pepys Workshop on Work-related Airways Disease was held in Toronto in May 2010 with about 60 international invited participants as well as trainees and allied health professionals with interest in the area. The scope included both asthma as well as discussion of other occupational airway diseases, in particular occupationally-related COPD and bronchiolitis. Clinical and public health aspects of disease were explored for: 1) outcomes after diagnosis; 2) the working environment, 3) disease surveillance; and 4) prevention activities at individual and population levels. A Workshop Proceedings document has been prepared by the co-chairs

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PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

David N. Weissman, MD, Chair

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with assistance from several of the presenters, and it has been submitted for review Feb 2012 to the ATS documents website for consideration for publication in PATS. The project was re-approved by ATS in 2012 with a budget for publication costs.

- **Spirometry in the Occupational Setting** (Project Co-Chairs – Susan Tarlo and Carrie Redlich). This project has received approval for renewal in 2012 and is nearing a final draft document. The panel members have included Mary Townsend, David Weissman, John Hankinson, Bill Eschenbacher, Susanna von Essen, Martin Miller, Holger Schunemann, Torben Sigsgaard and Robert Crapo. A formal literature search has been conducted with the aid of a medical librarian, addressing questions identified by the panel that are not addressed in other guidelines on spirometry in general. These were a) is there a difference in test performance and safety with the subject standing versus sitting?, b) what reference values or correction should be used for workers in N America of Asian background?, c) what training/retraining requirements are necessary for spirometry in the occupational setting?, and d) what are the longitudinal changes in spirometry that should lead to other action from this setting?
- **Updating the 1996 ATS Statement: Respiratory Protection Guidelines** (Project Chair – David Weissman). ATS issued guidelines on respiratory protection in 1996. The current project is necessary because, since then, much has changed. Regulations cited in the statement are now obsolete. Respiratory protection terminology and practices have changed. A new class of FDA-approved respirators for use in public emergencies, such as pandemic influenza, has been developed. This project will update the statement.

Prior to the ATS Annual Conference in May, the Planning Committee will be considering nominations for several Assembly Awards. <http://www.thoracic.org/assemblies/eoh/awards/index.php> These include the John M. Peters Award for outstanding contributions to environmental or occupational health through leadership in research, education, or public health and the Val Vallyathan Senior Faculty Award for applicants with outstanding contributions to basic and translational science in environmental or occupational respiratory diseases. Nominations for the Val Vallyathan Senior Faculty Award close on Feb 15th, 2012 and for the John M. Peters award on March 1st, 2012.

We are fortunate that Dr. Vinicius Antao has accepted a 2-year term as the new Chair, beginning with the 2012 Annual Conference. The EOH Planning Committee will also be turning over some of its membership in the coming year. If you are interested in serving on the committee, developing a new EOH Assembly Project, or revising any of the older ATS EOH Statements found at <http://www.thoracic.org/statements/>, please contact David Weissman (dqw4@cdc.gov) until the May 2012 Conference, and after the conference please contact Vinicius Antao (vfc1@cdc.gov). Assembly Project applications are usually due mid-July.

WEB DIRECTOR REPORT

Kanta Sircar, PhD, Chair

The Environmental and Occupational Health leadership would like to enhance features of the EOH web-site in order to facilitate interactions/communications among Assembly Members and provide information (including educational materials) that could be of benefit to us all. To this end we would like to establish an EOH Web Committee under the leadership of our Assembly Web Director to assist in developing the EOH web-site. No experience is necessary - just a desire to expand upon our ability to communicate with our members. This is a great opportunity for members to get involved in the activities of the EOH Assembly. Members who wish to serve and plan to attend the ATS Conference in San Francisco can meet with the Web Director to plan activities for the upcoming year. If you have an interest in participating please e-mail your interest to eoh@thoracic.org.

Patients to Speak At Seventeen Designated ATS International Conference Symposia

The ATS Public Advisory Roundtable (ATS PAR) has selected patients to provide a patient perspective at seventeen symposia at the 2012 ATS International Conference Symposia. This concept has worked exceptionally well within the format of the PAR Symposium (Session B90) for the last nine years as well as at an increasing number of sessions at ATS International Conferences from 2004 to 2011. This is the ninth 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. This insight will address 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:

ASSEMBLY	CODE	SESSION TITLE	TALK DATE/TIME
All, RCMB	A85	THE IL33/ST2 AXIS: NEW BIOLOGY AND NEW POTENTIAL TARGETS IN ASTHMA	Sunday 5/20 2:00-4:30 pm
RCMB, All, PEDS,	A86	NEONATAL ORIGINS OF ADULT PULMONARY DISEASE	Sun 5/20 2:00-4:30 pm
PC, All, CC	A88	MICROPARTICLES: SMALL WONDERS OR A BIG DEAL IN ACUTE LUNG INJURY AND PULMONARY HYPERTENSION?	Sun 5/20 2:00-4:30 pm
EOH, All, CP	B5	'IDIOPATHIC' INTERSTITIAL PNEUMONIAS/PULMONARY FIBROSIS: IS 'IDIOPATHIC' TRULY 'IDIOPATHIC'?	Mon 5/21 8:15-10:45 am
MTPI, CP, PEDS	B10	NON-TUBERCULOUS MYCOBACTERIA UPDATE: GUIDELINES PLUS 5	Mon 5/21 8:15-10:45 am
CP, EOH	B82	THE MANY FACES OF BRONCHIOLITIS OBLITERANS: NEW INSIGHTS FROM OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE TO HUMAN TRANSPLANTATION	Mon 5/21 2:00-4:30 pm
NUR, BSA, CP	B87	DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS WITH PATIENTS	Mon 5/21 2:00-4:30 pm
EOH, All, BSA	B88	WORK-EXACERBATED ASTHMA: NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN CLINICAL APPROACH, EPIDEMIOLOGY, AND PREVENTION	Mon 5/21 2:00-4:30 pm
SRN, RSF	C8	NO PAIN NO GAIN; WILL UPPER-AIRWAY EXERCISE TRAINING/ELECTRICAL STIMULATION WORK FOR SLEEP APNEA?	Tue 5/22 8:15-10:45 am
PR, BSA, NUR	C9	PULMONARY REHABILITATION ACROSS THE SPECTRUM OF ILLNESS FOR PATIENTS WITH COPD	Tue 5/22 8:15-10:45 am
BSA, CP	C10	IMPLEMENTING LUNG CANCER SCREENING: MOVING FROM RCTS TO THE REAL WORLD	Tue 5/22 8:15-10:45 am
CP, BSA, NUR	C82	PULMONARY AND NON-PULMONARY MANIFESTATIONS OF HYPERINFLATION IN COPD: PATHOGENESIS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR TREATMENT	Tue 5/22 2:00-4:30 pm
RCMB, All	C88	LUNG CANCER STEM CELLS AND THE ROLE OF THE MICROENVIRONMENT IN LUNG CARCINOGENESIS	Tue 5/22 2:00-4:30 pm
PEDS, All, CP	D9	CONTROVERSIES IN THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF SICKLE CELL LUNG DISEASE	Wed 5/23 8:15-10:45 am
All, CP, EOH	D85	HYPERSENSITIVITY PNEUMONITIS: RECENT ADVANCES, FUTURE DIRECTIONS	Wed 5/23 2:00-4:30 pm
PC, BSA, PR	D86	IMPACT OF EXERCISE ON CARDIOPULMONARY STATUS: IMPLICATIONS FOR PULMONARY HYPERTENSION	Wed 5/23 2:00-4:30 pm
PAR, CP, MTPI	B90	(PAR SYMPOSIUM) GOING FOR THE CURE: THE MYCOBACTERIA CASE	Mon 5/21 2:00-4:30 pm

ATS PAR Symposium

During ATS 2012, the Society's Public Advisory Roundtable will once again bring together clinicians, researchers and patients at its annual symposium on Monday, May 21, from 2 to 4:30 p.m.

This year, the program will focus on nontuberculous mycobacterial (NTM) diseases. A host of experts will discuss various research agendas, all of which are designed to identify a cure to control and reduce the burden of these environmental disorders.

"Faculty members will first talk more generally about what is needed for a disease or condition to progress toward a cure or control using mycobacterial diseases as an example," said Teresa Barnes, chair of ATS PAR and vice president of patient outreach and advocacy at the Coalition for Pulmonary Fibrosis, who will co-chair the symposium with ATS Immediate-Past President Dean E. Schraufnagel, MD. "Then, presenters will highlight the areas of research that are most likely to produce breakthroughs in environmental mycobacterial diseases and focus on research and its application to these disorders."

The event will begin with Ms. Barnes giving out ATS PAR's 2012 awards, which honor individuals who are committed to advancing research and clinical care in the fields of pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine. Next, Dr. Schraufnagel will introduce a patient speaker who will talk about NTM disease from the patient and family perspectives. Other faculty members will then focus on the importance of removing bacteria from the environment, the role of molecular methods in diagnosis and testing effective treatments.

For more information about this symposium, please visit <http://conference.thoracic.org> and search for session B90.

Breathing Better with the ATS

*The American Thoracic Society Public Advisory Roundtable (PAR) is pleased to invite you to our sixth annual **FREE** patient forum
"Breathing Better with the ATS."*

**SATURDAY MAY 19, 2012
FROM 1:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.
San Francisco Marriott Marquis**

**55 Fourth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
(Room Golden Gate A, Golden Gate Level B2)**

The event will be held in conjunction with the ATS International Conference. You'll have an opportunity to hear from experts in the pulmonary community and network with them afterwards. This year's discussions will focus on quality of life and the panel includes:

**Paul Wolters, MD • Jeffrey Swigris, DO • Jeffrey Golden, MD
Molly Bourne, MD • Sally McLaughlin, RN, MSN**

**PLEASE RSVP BY EMAIL TO cwhite@thoracic.org
NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2012**

For further questions please contact Mr. Courtney L. White at (212) 315-8640.

Submit an Assembly/Committee Project Application for funding in FY2013!

We are happy to announce that ATS will once again accept NEW Assembly/Committee Projects for FY2013. 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 Vinicius C. Antao, MD at vantao@cdc.gov

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

The ATS Documents Development & Implementation Committee (DDIC), which sets policies for the development of Official ATS Documents, will be holding a hands-on workshop in conjunction with the ATS International Conference

What: "Document Development: Frequently Asked Questions and Answers"

When: Friday, May 18 from 12:30-4:00 PM; lunch will be served

Where: The San Francisco Marriott

Attendance at this event is required for Chairs of writing committees which have received ATS support for their New or Renewal project in 2012.

Others with an interest in guideline development, or in official documents in general, are encouraged to attend as well.

This is an excellent opportunity to meet and talk with the ATS Methodologist, Documents Editor, and members of the ATS DDIC - we hope to see you there!

RSVP to Jessica Wisk at jwisk@thoracic.org

Meet the Assembly Leadership before the Annual EOH Assembly Membership Meeting

Do you wonder how the ATS really works? Would you like to have more networking opportunities at the International Conference in San Francisco?

This is your chance! We will hold a special orientation and welcome meeting for you. Members of the EOH Assembly Leadership will be there to welcome you at 4:30 PM on Monday May 21st, and help introduce you to the Assembly. This will take place 30 minutes before the start of the official Membership Meeting, in the same location: Hilton San Francisco Union Square Hotel, Continental Ballroom 4, Ballroom Level. We will be there to address any questions you might have regarding the EOH Assembly and how you can become more involved in assembly activities and committees. We look forward to meeting you! In addition to the orientation, we would also like to invite you to stay for the Annual EOH Assembly Membership Meeting beginning at 5:00 PM.

Assembly on Environmental And Occupational Health Membership Meeting

MONDAY, MAY 21ST

5:00PM-7:00PM

HILTON SAN FRANCISCO UNION SQUARE HOTEL

CONTINENTAL BALLROOM 4

BALLROOM LEVEL

Help Select Future ATS Leaders: Submit Your Nominations

The Society's Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for candidates to be elected ATS Secretary-Treasurer for 2013-2014. The successful candidate will advance through the leadership offices and serve as ATS President in 2016-2017.

The position of Secretary-Treasurer is critical for the ATS, as this individual spends three years learning about the Society's structure and leadership. They will then serve as President in the fourth year; and finally serve as immediate past in the final year as an officer.

When making a nomination, it is recommended that you consider an individual's organizational ability, leadership skills, reputation in the field, willingness to devote time to the ATS, contributions to the work of the Society's and diplomacy.

The Nominating Committee has improved the process for submitting nominations; please visit <http://www.thoracic.org/go/secretary-treasurer> to learn more about this position and to nominate a colleague or to submit a self nomination.

Letters of Interest are due by July 31, 2012.

About the other ATS Journals

American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine (AJRCCM) continues its new initiatives, including faster review turnaround times, concise clinical reviews, an images section, the fellows recommended reading series, the redesigned cover, as well as podcast interviews and discussions.

American Journal of Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology (AJRCMB), now an online-only journal, has dramatically reduced its publag and offers free color art to members, as well as reduced rates to non-members. As a new initiative, AJRCMB will highlight in each issue one or more stellar papers written by a junior investigator.

The American Thoracic Society is relaunching *Proceedings of the American Thoracic Society (PATS)* beginning in 2013 as a bi-monthly, online, clinician-oriented journal.

The ATS is pleased to announce that John Hansen-Flaschen, MD, is the new Editor-in-Chief of PATS. Dr. Hansen-Flaschen is Professor of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, Chief of the Pulmonary, Allergy, and Critical Care Division, and Medical Director of the Penn Lung Center.

He envisions the new PATS as “a lively scholarly journal that is fully invested in ATS values of scientific inquiry and integrity and is complementary – but not qualitatively inferior – to the two ATS established journals.” The new PATS will target clinicians with current and concise reviews, original research, commentaries, education materials, and editorials. The spectrum of content will include pulmonary, critical care, sleep medicine, pediatrics, and evidence-based nursing. PATS will retain its special issues: Aspen, Transatlantic, and the Clinical Year in Review.

Please stop by the Clinician’s Center at the ATS Conference on Tuesday, May 22, from noon to 2 pm, to meet Dr. Hansen-Flaschen.

Please join us for the Fourth Annual ATS Foundation Research Benefit on Saturday, May 19, 7:00 pm, at the Marriott Marquis San Francisco.

In response to past attendees’ requests for maximum time to socialize at the benefit, the Foundation has redesigned the format to be as interactive and fun as possible. Attendees will have the opportunity to mingle freely and network with colleagues while sampling a wide array of San Francisco’s delicious cuisines at food stations. There will be dancing to the sounds of a San Francisco DJ.

In addition to the talented early career investigators who will be honored, the benefit will pay tribute to Talmadge E. King, Jr., MD, Chief Medical Service, University of California at San Francisco. Dr. King will be the recipient of the 2012 Breathing for Life Award, the highest honor conferred by the Foundation on an individual for philanthropy.

The continuation of unrestricted and matching research partner grants will depend on the Foundation’s ability to raise funds from ATS members like you. Thanks to your past support, the Foundation will be funding three unrestricted grants, one more than last year. To register, please use this link: <https://www.xpressreg.net/register/thor052/foundation>. For more information, please visit: <http://foundation.thoracic.org>, or contact Lydia Neumann: Lneumann@thoracic.org.