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Microbiology, Tuberculosis and Pulmonary Infections

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MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY CHAIR

As I conclude my 2-year term as Chair of the Microbiology, Tuberculosis, and Pulmonary Infections (MTPI) Assembly, I want to acknowledge the many individuals who devote their time and effort into making our Assembly one of the most active and productive Assemblies of the ATS. It has been a true honor and a privilege to work with these dedicated and talented individuals for the past 2 years. Our MTPI-led statements and guidelines are highly cited and have helped to establish and to improve practice in the diagnosis and treatment of bacterial, mycobacterial, and fungal infections as well as hospital-acquired and ventilator-associated pneumonias. Our sessions at the ATS continue to be outstanding – both scientifically and clinically and offer an unparalleled opportunity for attendees to learn about the latest advances in our field. Finally, our offerings on the website attract among the highest numbers of “hits” and increase the visibility of our Assembly and the ATS throughout the entire medical community and beyond!



Laurence Huang, MD

I want to thank the members of the MTPI Executive Committee for their leadership of our Assembly and its committees, their passion for the MTPI and its mission, and their wisdom in guiding me. Henry Koziel has chaired our Planning Committee for the past year, and he has presided during an important time for our Assembly as we embarked on updates of some of our most important statements and guidelines. He and the Planning Committee also worked at a time when ATS finances limited the funding of projects and yet they have shepherded several projects along. Kristina Crothers has chaired our Program Committee this year and concludes her 2-year leadership term on the committee. Joseph Keane has been Chair-Elect of the Program Committee and will preside over the Program Committee for the 2013 ATS. Kristina, Joe and their Program Committee have deftly handled the increased numbers of abstracts resulting from the acceptance of case report submissions and late-breaker abstracts. All who attend the 2012 ATS benefit from their hard work, advocacy for our Assembly, and ingenuity in maximizing MTPI’s Scientific Symposia, Mini-Symposia, Poster Discussion and Thematic Poster Sessions, Meet the Professor and Sunrise Seminars, and Postgraduate Courses. Given our Assembly’s relatively small numbers but diverse clinical interests and scientific breadth, it is an annual challenge to craft a program that represents the latest in our field, across our wide clinical

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MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY CHAIR

and scientific spectrum. Judd Shellito has chaired the Nominating Committee this year and, along with Antoni Torres, has worked to identify international members of our Assembly who are willing to serve in various leadership roles. He and the Nominating Committee have provided an excellent slate of candidates for MTPI leadership positions (please vote using the online ballot). Patty George has served as our Web Master and has worked tirelessly to represent our Assembly's web activities and to recruit individuals to submit clinical cases for the ATS website. Phil LoBue has served as the representative from the CDC, a critical position given our assembly's close working relationship with the CDC on many levels, including co-leadership of several of our guidelines and statements. This year, Charles Dela Cruz (Junior Faculty Representative) and Robert Blount (In-Training Representative) joined my Executive Committee and were charged with increasing MTPI membership among junior faculty and members in-training and with organizing the annual MTPI Welcome/Orientation meeting to be held on Monday, May 21st, immediately preceding our annual MTPI Membership meeting. Chuck Daley, the past MTPI Assembly Chair, and David Lewinsohn, past MTPI Planning Chair and incoming MTPI Assembly Chair, have shared their insights and considerable wisdom with me. Finally, the ATS benefits from the incredible work of its staff. In particular, I have had the real pleasure of working with Stephen Crane, the ATS Executive Director; Graham Nelan, Deputy Executive Director, Program and Development; Judy Corn, Director, Documents, Ad Hoc Projects; Shane McDermott, Senior Director, Ethics & Conflict of Interest Management; Nicola Black, Associate Director, Governance Activities & External Relations; Bridget Nance, Assembly Programs Coordinator and Miriam Rodriguez, ATS Director of Assembly Programs and my direct contact. All of them are GREAT and are the heart and soul of the ATS. Miriam is – simply put – the BEST. Everything that our assembly does is a result of Miriam's hard work and good humor.

Upon becoming the Chair of the MTPI in May 2010, I set out 4 goals for my term:

1) Attract new MTPI members and retain current members. From December 2010 to January 2012, we increased our primary members from 624 to 696, a 12% increase. All Assembly Chairs worked under Miriam's leadership to produce an electronic and paper document titled "All about ATS Assemblies" that described the ATS Assembly structure and the benefits of joining an Assembly. We have also sent e-mails and letters to in-training and junior members encouraging them to join the MTPI Assembly and to become involved in the ATS. We started a formal "MTPI Sign-Up" form for interested members and have worked to include these interested individuals in MTPI committees and at the annual ATS International Conference.

2) Increase the number of MTPI-based abstracts submitted to the ATS and increase opportunities for junior MTPI members to be involved in the annual ATS International Conference. In 2011, we had 500 abstracts and case reports submitted; this number declined slightly in 2012 to 480 submitted abstracts and case reports. Yet, despite this decline, more MTPI members are actively involved in the 2012 ATS – as poster facilitators, poster discussion moderators, presenters, and invited speakers.

3) Continue progress on current MTPI projects, develop a time line for revision of our major "signature" guidelines and statements, and poll MTPI members for new Assembly projects. Currently, MTPI is updating 3 of its "signature" guidelines and statements and plans to submit proposals to update 2 additional "signature" guidelines and statements in 2012. The process for developing these documents has become significantly more complex over the years and yet we have continued to adapt and produce high-quality and critically important documents.

4) Recognize MTPI member achievements and contributions. At last year's MTPI Membership Meeting, I asked individuals to stand up so that they could be recognized but most people were too shy! This year, I have a different plan (☺)! Please attend this year's Membership Meeting and Dinner and help me to recognize many of the individuals who have contributed to the success of the MTPI and its activities over the years.

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MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY CHAIR

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In closing, I strongly encourage all MTPI members to take an active role in our Assembly: Recruit new members to our Assembly; submit abstracts and case reports to ATS 2013 and plan to attend the ATS; volunteer to serve on our committees; develop new Assembly projects and suggest Scientific Symposia, Postgraduate Courses, Meet the Professor and Sunrise Seminars for 2013; and develop new web content and submit your best clinical cases to the website. I hope to see you all in San Francisco and at our annual Assembly Membership Meeting and Dinner on Monday, May 21st.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

Kristina Crothers, MD, Chair, Joseph Keane, MD, Chair-Elect

News from MTPI ICC Program Committee

The second of two face-to-face International Conference Committee planning committee meetings took place in December, where Kristina Crothers, Chair of the Program Committee, and Joe Keane, Chair-Elect, represented MTPI with the goal to organize and program the >400 submitted abstracts into interesting and dynamic presentations. The scientific abstracts were programmed into 4 Mini Symposia (some with “featured speakers”), 6 Poster Discussions, and 14 Thematic Poster sessions. Thematic Poster sessions will have teams of 2 or more facilitators viewing each poster to allow increased interaction between facilitators and presenters, a strategy that has been positively received over the last 2 years. For Thematic Poster and Poster Discussion sessions, experienced facilitators have been paired with more junior facilitators to provide junior members the opportunity for greater involvement and to learn from more senior mentors. The abstract sessions present exciting results of cutting-edge research on mycobacterial and non-mycobacterial topics, including results of clinical trials, epidemiologic studies, and novel insights into mechanisms of host defense. One Poster Discussion and one Thematic Poster session are dedicated to case reports of unusual manifestations of pulmonary infections. In addition to the scientific abstract sessions, MTPI has programmed 4 major Scientific Symposia, 3 Meet the Professor Seminars, one Sunrise Seminar, one Workshop, and 2 Post-Graduate Courses. MTPI is also co-sponsoring a number of other sessions with other assemblies, including 2 jointly sponsored Scientific Symposia. Additionally, the PAR session this year is on mycobacterial disease, and the Clinical Year in Review will include HIV-associated lung disease and tuberculosis. Overall, it looks like a very exciting program for 2012, with many sessions over the 4-day conference to interest MTPI members that will provide insight into scientific advances and updates on clinical care. Finally, we would like to acknowledge and thank each of the committee members for their service, hard work and input into the programming during the past year.

The committee members for 2011-2012 are: Timothy Aksamit, Robert Belknap, Adithya Cattamanchi, Edward Chan, J. Lucian (Luke) Davis, Nathan Dean, Charles Dela Cruz, Scott Evans, Charles Feldman, Kevin Fennelly, Stephen Gordon, Chadi Hage, Carol Hamilton, Samithamby Jeyaseelan, Theodore Marras, Patrick Moonan, Alison Morris, Eric Mortensen, Samuel Moskowitz, John Oeltmann, Michal Olszewski, Adrian Rendon, Marcos Restrepo, Max Salfinger, Jussi Saukkonen, Sarita Shah, Grant Waterer, and Timothy (Eoin) West.

See you all in San Francisco May 2012! - Kristina Crothers and Joe Keane

MTPI members who are interested in participating on the program committee in the future should contact Joe Keane at: JKeane@STJAMES.IE.

ATS 2012 - SAN FRANCISCO

Sessions Sponsored by the Assembly on Microbiology, Tuberculosis and Pulmonary Infections

Session Code	Session Title	Session Time	
Postgraduate Course			
Friday, May 18, 2012			
PG8	DIFFICULT CLINICAL PROBLEMS IN PULMONARY INFECTIONS	8:00 AM	4:00 PM
Saturday, May 19, 2012			
PG20	HOST DEFENSE MECHANISMS IN PULMONARY INFECTION	8:00 AM	4:00 PM
Scientific Symposium			
Sunday, May 20, 2012			
A10	HIV-ASSOCIATED PULMONARY COMPLICATIONS IN THE ERA OF ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY	8:15 AM	10:45 AM
Monday, May 21, 2012			
B10	NON-TUBERCULOUS MYCOBACTERIA UPDATE: GUIDELINES PLUS 5	8:15 AM	10:45 AM
Tuesday, May 22, 2012			
C5	REVISITING THE IDSA-ATS COMMUNITY-ACQUIRED PNEUMONIA GUIDELINES: 5 YEARS OLDER, BUT ANY WISER?	8:15 AM	10:45 AM
C89	EVIDENCE-BASED INNOVATIONS IN TUBERCULOSIS DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT	2:00 PM	4:30 PM
Meet The Professor Seminars			
Sunday, May 20, 2012			
MP411	TUBERCULOSIS AND THE TNF-ALPHA INHIBITORS	12:00 PM	1:00 PM
Tuesday, May 22, 2012			
MP611	MANAGEMENT OF VENTILATOR ASSOCIATED PNEUMONIA: STATE OF THE ART FROM EXPERTS	12:00 PM	1:00 PM
MP618	UPDATES IN FUNGAL INFECTIONS, FROM BENCH TO BEDSIDE	12:00 PM	1:00 PM
Sunrise Seminar			
Monday, May 21, 2012			
SS110	INFECTIOUS ETIOLOGIES OF ASTHMA AND ASTHMA EXACERBATION	7:00 AM	8:00 AM
Workshop			
Sunday, May 20, 2012			
WS2	MYCOBACTERIAL AND FUNGAL DIAGNOSTICS	11:30 AM	1:00 PM
Mini-Symposium			
Sunday, May 20, 2012			
A14	TUBERCULOSIS HOST DEFENSE	8:15 AM	10:45 AM
Monday, May 21, 2012			
B95	BENCH TO BEDSIDE ADVANCES IN BRONCHIECTASIS	2:00 PM	4:30 PM
Tuesday, May 22, 2012			
C95	NOVEL INSIGHTS INTO INFLUENZA PATHOGENESIS	2:00 PM	4:30 PM
Wednesday, May 23, 2012			
D96	WHAT'S NEW IN TUBERCULOSIS DIAGNOSTICS	2:00 PM	4:30 PM
Poster Discussion Session			
Sunday, May 20, 2012			
A104	TUBERCULOSIS IN VULNERABLE POPULATIONS	2:00 PM	4:30 PM
Monday, May 21, 2012			
B24	PROCESS IMPROVEMENT: IMPACT ON OUTCOMES OF PATIENTS WITH PNEUMONIA	8:15 AM	10:45 AM

ATS 2012 - SAN FRANCISCO

Sessions Sponsored by the Assembly on Microbiology, Tuberculosis and Pulmonary Infections

Session Code	Session Title	Session Time	
Poster Discussion Session			
Tuesday, May 22, 2012			
C25	ADVANCES IN NON-TUBERCULOUS MYCOBACTERIA: NON-TUBERCULOUS MYCOBACTERIA DISEASE	8:15 AM	10:45 AM
C26	FROM PCP TO COPD: PULMONARY COMPLICATIONS OF HIV INFECTION	8:15 AM	10:45 AM
C107	PROGRESS IN BIOMARKERS AND DIAGNOSTICS FOR RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS	2:00 PM	4:30 PM
Wednesday, May 23, 2012			
D25	PULMONARY INFECTIONS AND TUBERCULOSIS: CASE REPORTS OF NOTE	8:15 AM	10:45 AM
Thematic Poster Sessions			
Sunday, May 20, 2012			
A52	DIFFERENTIATING HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATED PNEUMONIA FROM COMMUNITY ACQUIRED PNEUMONIA	8:15 AM	4:30 PM
A53	EPIDEMIOLOGY, RISK FACTORS, AND OUTCOMES OF RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS	8:15 AM	4:30 PM
A54	ASSESSING SEVERITY OF DISEASE IN PATIENTS WITH COMMUNITY ACQUIRED PNEUMONIA	8:15 AM	4:30 PM
Monday, May 21, 2012			
B54	TUBERCULOSIS IN SPECIAL POPULATIONS	8:15 AM	4:30 PM
B55	HOST DEFENSE IN PULMONARY INFECTION AND TUBERCULOSIS	8:15 AM	4:30 PM
B56	PATHOGENESIS AND HOST RESPONSE TO FUNGAL LUNG INFECTIONS	8:15 AM	4:30 PM
B57	IMPROVING OUTCOME IN TUBERCULOSIS	8:15 AM	4:30 PM
B58	TUBERCULOSIS EDUCATION AND SURVEILLANCE	8:15 AM	4:30 PM
Tuesday, May 22, 2012			
C60	ADVANCES IN DIAGNOSIS OF ACTIVE TUBERCULOSIS DISEASE	8:15 AM	4:30 PM
C61	IMMUNODIAGNOSTICS FOR LATENT TUBERCULOSIS INFECTION AND TUBERCULOSIS	8:15 AM	4:30 PM
Wednesday, May 23, 2012			
D62	NOSOCOMIAL INFECTIONS: BACTERIOLOGY, DRUG RESISTANCE, AND OUTCOMES	8:15 AM	4:30 PM
D63	ADVANCES IN TREATMENT OF RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS	8:15 AM	4:30 PM
D64	NEW INSIGHTS INTO MECHANISMS, COMPLICATIONS AND OUTCOMES OF BRONCHIECTASIS	8:15 AM	4:30 PM
D65	CASE REPORTS OF UNUSUAL PULMONARY INFECTIONS	8:15 AM	4:30 PM

Other Sessions That Might Be Of Interest To You

Mini-Symposium

Monday, May 21, 2012

B20	"EMERGING APPROACHES TO RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS: LATE BREAKING ABSTRACTS"	8:15 AM	10:45AM
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Scientific Symposium

Monday, May 21, 2012

B11	PROBING THE LUNG MICROBIOME IN HEALTH AND DISEASE	8:15 AM	10:45 AM
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Wednesday, May 23, 2012

D11	CRITICAL CARE OF IMMUNOCOMPROMISED HOST	8:15 AM	10:45 AM
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PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Henry Koziel, MD, Chair

The MTPI Planning Committee has been quite busy and productive over this past year. The main goal of the Committee is to encourage, develop and foster long range plans of work for the MTPI Assembly, and to function as an “executive body” between the MTPI Assembly Chair and the general MTPI membership.

At our first face-to-face meeting in May 2011 in Denver, CO, considerable time was dedicated to reviewing the status of issues essential to our Assembly, including reviewing ATS conflict of interest policy (in the context of published MTPI-based clinical guidelines), reviewing the status of funded Assembly projects, and soliciting new ideas for projects and Assembly plans.

A critical function of the Committee is promoting, developing, reviewing, prioritizing and overseeing MTPI Assembly projects. By teleconference in August 2011, our committee reviewed, scored, prioritized and provided constructive feedback on 9 project proposal applications, working with the project principal investigator prior to final submission to the ATS.

A summary of our accomplishments to date:

1) Updates on Active MTPI Assembly Projects

The following active projects represent proposals that were favorably reviewed by the ATS Program Review Subcommittee, recommended for approval to the ATS Finance Committee, and approved for funding by the ATS Board of Directors. In a time of severe budget constraints, we were fortunate to have 3 major projects approved for continuation.

Updated Guidelines for Diagnosis and Treatment of Hospital Acquired Pneumonia (HAP), Healthcare Associated Pneumonia (HCAP) and Ventilator Associated Pneumonia (VAP) (Mark Metersky, ATS Co-Chair; Andre Kalil, IDSA Co-Chair). Considerable progress has been made, as the co-Chairs identified appropriate expert committee members, received instruction in GRADE system, and performed a systematic review of literature. At a January 2012 meeting the committee reported initial findings, and drafted PICO questions (Patient, Intervention, Comparator, Outcome) in preparation for writing. The next writing committee meeting is planned for fall 2012, with plans for a final draft in early 2013.

Targeted Tuberculin Testing and Treatment of Latent Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI), Update (Carol Dukes Hamilton, ATS Co-Chair; Tim Sterling, IDSA Co-Chair; John Jereb, CDC Co-Chair). The project continues to make progress, working in 3 teams of 6-10 experts covering “WHO” will be targeted for testing for LTBI, “WHAT” specific regimens will be recommended for treatment of LTBI and “HOW” the regimens will be monitored and administered. Committee members are actively reviewing the literature, determining the level of confidence in recommendations according to the GRADE criteria. The committee plans to prepare a draft to review at a face-to-face meeting at the ATS May 2012 conference, with plans for a completed document by late 2012, and ready for the approval process by January 2013 (and request a budget for publication).

Diagnostic Standards and Classification of Tuberculosis in Adults and Children (David Lewinsohn, Chair). The project is in the final stages of completion and external reviewer comments are being incorporated into a revised document and plans for submission in 2012.

2) New MTPI Assembly Project Proposals:

Unfortunately, with budget constraints, no new MTPI projects were approved for funding this year. However, plans are in progress to update documents, including the IDSA/ATS Consensus Guidelines for the Management of Community Acquired Pneumonia (CAP). The committee has solicited for a co-Chair from the MTPI general assembly to serve on the CAP updating/revision committee, working with the IDSA co-Chair to identify appropriate

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PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Henry Koziel, MD, Chair

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expert committee members, outline plans for updating and revision of the 2007 document, and assist in the submission of a project proposal for July 2012.

3) New Initiative: MTPI Assembly Membership Survey.

A newly assembled subcommittee (Grant Waterer-Chair; Max Salfinger, Naimish Patel, Patty George) developed an electronic survey to administer to the MTPI membership. The purpose of the survey is to solicit input and priorities on past and current projects, and published statements and guidelines. In addition, the survey will allow the opportunity to solicit new ideas or identify “gaps” in projects, topics or areas that have not been previously supported by the MTPI Assembly. The survey will be available on-line prior to the May 2012 ATS conference.

The MTPI Planning Committee continues to function as a vital liaison between the MTPI membership and MTPI Assembly Chair. We welcome your ideas, comments, criticisms and suggestions. We also encourage persons to identify themselves if you would like to participate more actively in future MTPI Planning Committees.

I would like to thank David Lewinsohn (immediate past MTPI Planning Committee Chair) for his insights, advice and continued support serving on the Planning Committee. Thank you to the tireless efforts and generous contributions of time of the MTPI Committee members over the past year: Kristina Crothers, Charles Daley, Keertan Dheda, Patti George, Stephen Gordon, Carol Hamilton, Laurence Huang, David Lewinsohn, Mark Metersky, Joseph Mizgerd, Naimish Patel, Mary Reichler, Max Salfinger, and Grant Waterer.

The next MTPI Planning Committee Meeting will be on Monday May 21, 2012 from 12:00 noon to 1:30 PM at the ATS 2012 International Conference in San Francisco, CA.

UPDATE FROM WEB DIRECTOR

M. Patricia George, Chair

This past year has brought many changes to the ATS website. Website visitors will notice that the most commonly accessed items (Conference, Journals, and Statements) are now featured on three banner links on the right side panel. The header continues to have all of the familiar subheadings, including the Assemblies link, within which you will find our webpage (Home > Assemblies > Microbiology, Tuberculosis & Pulmonary Infections). In addition, you'll notice links at the bottom of the home page to ATS Forums, ATS Job Board, and the ATS Morning Minute. For those inclined towards instant news and social media sites, you can also follow ATS news on Twitter or Facebook.

Meanwhile we continue to discuss ways to further update the MTPI and ATS website. The MTPI section is currently under review, and will be fully updated with new links and information in the coming months. We have also been working with Henry Koziel and the MTPI Planning Committee to design and implement a survey to help determine our MTPI priorities in the coming year. Please keep an eye out for a survey release in April (<http://vovici.com/wsb.dll/s/3c23g4ee0f>) to help our assembly prepare for ATS 2012 and beyond.

Finally, the Web Committee would first like to congratulate Dr. Carmen Luraschi-Monjagatta for a highly educational clinical case submission to the ATS Website. You will find the case "Acute respiratory distress syndrome secondary to an unusual infection" in the Clinical > ATS Clinical Cases section. I would also like to thank Dr. Matthew Gingo, committee member, for his help on the committee this past year. MTPI members who are interested in participating in website-based activities, especially in the publication of ATS Clinical Cases, updating links, or contributing any other ideas in the improvement of our website should contact Patricia George, MD at georgemp2@upmc.edu.

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
AII, RCMB	A85	THE IL33/ST2 AXIS: NEW BIOLOGY AND NEW POTENTIAL TARGETS IN ASTHMA	Sunday 5/20 2:00-4:30 pm
RCMB, AII, PEDS,	A86	NEONATAL ORIGINS OF ADULT PULMONARY DISEASE	Sun 5/20 2:00-4:30 pm
PC, AII, 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, AII, 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, AII, 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, AII	C88	LUNG CANCER STEM CELLS AND THE ROLE OF THE MICROENVIRONMENT IN LUNG CARCINOGENESIS	Tue 5/22 2:00-4:30 pm
PEDS, AII, CP	D9	CONTROVERSIES IN THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF SICKLE CELL LUNG DISEASE	Wed 5/23 8:15-10:45 am
AII, 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 Henry Koziel, MD at hkoziel@bidmc.harvard.edu

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

Assembly on Microbiology, Tuberculosis and Pulmonary Infections Welcome/Orientation & Membership Meeting

MONDAY, MAY 21ST

Welcome/Orientation from 4:30PM-5:00PM

Membership Meeting 5:00PM-7:00PM

SAN FRANCISCO MARRIOTT MARQUIS HOTEL

GOLDEN GATE A

B2 LEVEL

Assembly on Microbiology, Tuberculosis and Pulmonary Infections Dinner

*This year's featured speaker will be Dr. John F. Murray
Dr. Murray will discuss "Tuberculosis and the ATS"*

*MONDAY, MAY 21ST
7:00PM-10:00PM*

SAN FRANCISCO MARRIOTT MARQUIS HOTEL

*MISSION GRILLE
SECOND 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 pagelag 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.