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Thoracic Society Chapters 2013 Year in Review

Greetings to chapter CCR reps, presidents and administrators! We invite you to pass along this inaugural *Thoracic Society Chapters Year in Review* to your officers, members and other interested parties. The Year in Review provides a cumulative picture of what the thoracic society chapters of the American Thoracic Society accomplished in 2013. Chapters' collective efforts have provided medical education, trainee visibility, career advancement, networking, leadership development and support of ATS advocacy initiatives.



Thoracic
Society
Chapters

Education

In 2013, thoracic society chapters held 25 educational meetings, lasting from a full evening to multi-day. Chapters collectively served more than 1,000 doctors and allied health professionals at these meetings. All of the educational meetings, except for Arizona's monthly sessions, were also designated for continuing medical education (CME) credit, primarily by ATS but also by other providers.

Advocacy

In 2013, we embarked on a new initiative. The thoracic society chapters each named a Government Affairs Representative (Gov't Rep) whose role is to support, locally, the ATS government relations efforts that are led by the Washington, DC office staff. Gov't Reps submit letters to their local legislators a few times a year on topics determined, and with letters prepared by, the Washington office, to strengthen the local voice from the professional to legislators. Gov't Reps provided valuable support on two issues: opposition to the proposed Cigar Bill for which 34 letters were sent, and expansion of statewide Medicaid.

Additionally, representatives from nine chapters - Arizona, Colorado, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, New Mexico, Rhode Island, Washington, DC, and Washington State - participated in the annual ATS Hill Day in Washington, DC on March 19. The issues they presented to legislators included NIH funding, opposing legislation exempting cigars from FDA regulation, and Medicare SGR reform.

Chapter Revivals and Startups

As chapters continue to build, we are pleased to have several chapter revivals and startups underway. Volunteers recently stepped up to the plate to revive the inactive Kentucky, Oklahoma, Ohio and New Jersey chapters, and we are seeking volunteers in Pennsylvania. Thank you to these future chapter leaders!

Outstanding Clinician Award

Each year chapters are invited to submit nominees for the Outstanding Clinician Award (OCA) which recognizes clinicians who spend 75 percent or more of their time providing direct patient care, and, especially, who are recognized by patients and families as caring and dedicated healthcare providers and by their peers as having made substantial contributions to the clinical care of patients with respiratory disease. In 2013, three chapters named an Outstanding Clinician for the chapter awards:

- Steve Kirtland, MD, Virginia Mason Medical Center - Washington State Thoracic Society
- Abderrahmane E. Amine Temmar, MD, ABQ Health Partners - New Mexico Thoracic Society
- Allen Thomas, MD, Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center - Arizona Thoracic Society

Dr. Thomas was selected from the nominees to also receive the ATS OCA award and was part of the awards ceremony at the International Conference in Philadelphia in May, and the three individuals were recognized at a reception at the Clinicians Center.

Great Cases Symposium at the International Conference

The annual *Great Cases: Clinical, Radiologic and Pathologic Correlations by Master Clinicians* symposium highlights nine unusual and interesting cases presented by trainees, with experts in clinical medicine also participating. *Great Cases* regularly draws a full house and attendees participate in the diagnoses via audience response devices. CCR Reps, who organize and chair the symposium, review hundreds of cases to select those that will be presented. Thanks to Dona Upson and Linda Nici for chairing *Great Cases 2013*.

Publications

The *Southwest Journal of Pulmonary & Critical Care* continues its online presence. This e-journal is now the official publication of the Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado Thoracic Societies, an expansion from its startup by the Arizona Thoracic Society. The California Thoracic Society continues to produce twice yearly issues of its e-newsletter *CTS Inspirations*, which contains medical content as well as chapter news.

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With thanks, and best wishes to the thoracic society chapters and their leaders for a spectacular 2014!

*Samya Nasr, MD*

2013-14 Chair, Council of Chapter Representatives

*CCR Executive Committee, 2013-2014:*

Samya Nasr – Chair                      Linda Nici – Immediate Past Chair

Robin Gross – Chair-Elect              Steve Kirtland – Secretary

*Is your chapter engaged in an activity not included here? Let us know at [chapters@thoracic.org](mailto:chapters@thoracic.org) or 212-315-8633. ATS News is always looking for chapter news, and we will mention it in the 2014 Year in Review.*

ATS Member Services & Chapter Relations Staff: Jennifer Ian, Director, May Ling Brantman, Coordinator.  
Chapter web pages: <http://www.thoracic.org/chapters/index.php>