“When I was first diagnosed, I felt like time was on our side. Unfortunately, time is running out for me and many others who wait (not always patiently) for new lungs.”
In January 2008, I was diagnosed with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. My nurse practitioner heard “crackles” in my lungs while I was being examined. The first thought was pneumonia. She sent me to have a chest x-ray, and later she called to say that I had better see a pulmonologist as she suspected something much worse. IPF is a chronic, progressive disease that usually results in an average survival rate of three to five years. To know that you have a terminal disease with no cure or treatment is devastating.

Because there is no cure or treatment for IPF, the only option is lung transplantation, and I was recently listed for transplant by my doctor at Temple University Hospital who I have been with for five years. I participated in several studies and clinical trials through Temple Health to explore both the effectiveness of trial medication and to track the progression of the disease. I would do most anything to assist in finding a cure or treatment for IPF. I certainly appreciate the efforts of all the doctors, scientists, and medical personnel and hope someday they will find a treatment and eventually a cure.

Initially, I was able to function relatively well—resting more than usual—but I was able to accomplish normal tasks and hobbies. As the disease and my symptoms worsened, I had to give up many hobbies and interests. I could no longer hike the trails to go hunting with my buddies. Fishing became a chore, as I no longer had the strength, breath, and endurance to reel in the big ones.

These days, I can’t I swim and snorkel with my youngest daughter (one of our favorite vacation activities), and sightseeing and most outdoor hobbies have become

**Connell Rodden**
a thing of the past. I need oxygen 24/7. Even going to dinner with the family and playing with my seven-year-old grandson is no longer easy, as I experience shortness of breath. It is a horrible and frightening experience not being able to breathe.

When I was first diagnosed, I felt like time was on our side. The feeling was, “Five years is a long time, anything can happen.” I thought, “They are finding cures for many diseases—why not IPF?” Unfortunately, time is running out for me and many others who wait (not always patiently) for new lungs.

Connell Rodden was a patient speaker at the ATS 2013 International Conference in Philadelphia.