

## Foreword

The ATS Public Advisory Roundtable (PAR) bridges the patient's perspective to the Society and provides the ATS Board of Directors with strategic guidance to keep patients and families as a central focus of all ATS activities and programs. Through PAR, we enable unparalleled synergy with patients—providing support, shaping policy, and stimulating research—as a team.

Since 2001, PAR has represented the patient voice of the Society and has helped to bring patients and families to the forefront. The ATS and PAR's patient advocacy groups collaborate on issues of disease awareness, public education, advocacy, and research. Now everyone, including a patient, is able to participate in the activities of the Society and join the ATS as a member.

Perhaps most importantly, PAR facilitates patient programs, such as the Meet-the-Expert patient and family forum, PAR Symposium, and several dozen scientific sessions that feature patient speakers, at the annual ATS International Conference.

Patient Voices highlights the stories of patients who have presented at our past conferences. You will hear stories of pulmonary disorders such as COPD, asthma, ARDS, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, pulmonary hypertension, sepsis, pneumonia, lung cancer, sleep disorders, and others.

Many patients have struggled all their lives with disease, and often times they experience life-threatening conditions. The vulnerability of their narratives helps shed light on pulmonary diseases and inspires the millions grappling with lung disease all over the world.

We look forward to continued inclusion of the patient and family perspective in our work. We empower patients and their stories to be told, and we hope that this booklet is valuable to clinicians and scientists seeking their viewpoints.

Thank you to fearless voices who make this sixth edition possible. Your contributions are needed at the bench and the bedside, and together we can achieve our fiercest dreams of treatments, therapies, and cures.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marc Moss".

**Marc Moss, MD**  
ATS President  
2017-2018



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Crane".

**Steve Crane, PhD, MPH**  
ATS Executive Director