

Foreword

Since 2001, the ATS Public Advisory Roundtable has helped highlight the patient experience and weaved patients into the fabric of the American Thoracic Society. Along with PAR partners, comprised of various patient advocacy groups, PAR has opened up the Society to include those most personally affected by the diseases we research and treat: patients and their caregivers. Patient Voices is a particularly important part of this effort. In this edition, you'll hear from patients in their own words, not just about the disease and its treatment, but about their reactions to diagnoses, their fears, and their recoveries. These patients have spoken at ATS conferences and in patient advocacy organizations, serving as a reminder to the many others suffering from similar diseases that the fight continues.

In addition to Patient Voices, throughout the year PAR, in conjunction with PAR partners, promotes awareness, public education, advocacy and research. Such activities include patient programs, like 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. The outcomes of those presentations are expansive, and stretch from inspiring investigators and potentially even stimulating new research, into shaping ATS advocacy programs.

We're proud of this aspect of ATS, and we're glad to bring you another edition of this book. We hope that it can serve as a tangible reminder of the impact your work with patients has every day.

Thank you to all the contributors for your stories, and for making Patient Voices possible, as we work together toward ever more treatments, therapies, and ultimately, cures. ■



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