The American Thoracic Society Public Advisory Roundtable (PAR) is a core component of the American Thoracic Society and a mutually beneficial partnership with organizations that represent people affected by respiratory diseases, critical care illnesses, and sleep-related medical conditions collaborate with the Society to advance their shared educational, research, patient care, and advocacy goals. The ATS PAR bridges the patient's perspective to the focus of all ATS programs and activities. With the support of its 15 member organizations, the ATS PAR has created unparalleled synergy with the Society’s matching research grant program.

Benefits of ATS PAR Membership

There are many ways that your organization can benefit from participating in the ATS PAR:

- Collaborate & exchange ideas with other organizations and individuals who share your mission.
- Collaborate in funding research, and take advantage of the Society’s matching research grant program.
- Have voice at all levels of the Society. With the Chair of the ATS PAR serving on the ATS Board of Directors, take advantage of a direct line of communication with ATS leaders.
- Participate directly in the work & activities of a number of Society committees.
- Contribute to the development of high-quality patient educational materials.
- Raise the visibility of patient-related issues to relevant stakeholders.
- Identify patient speakers for scientific symposia at the ATS International Conference.
- Receive preferential exhibitor and registration rates at the ATS International Conference.
- Participate in the “Meet the Expert” PAR patient education forum at the ATS International Conference.
- Participate in the year-round “Lung Disease Week at the ATS” and have the opportunity to attend live, local/regional patient education events.
- Participate in advocacy initiatives to influence legislation.
- Meet with lawmakers and opinion leaders on Capitol Hill, in collaboration with ATS members.
- Hold a concurrent position at the ATS Breath Better Alliance (BBA), a coalition of stakeholders working on PAR highlights patient stories each year in its annual PAR Path.

About Lung Disease Week

Lung Disease Week at the ATS

About Lung Disease Week

Each year, the American Thoracic Society Public Advisory Roundtable presents Lung Disease Week at the ATS, a series of weeks focused on specific lung disorders. ATS PAR member organizations provide support and guidance to patients and families who are affected by the various lung conditions.

The ATS PAR plays an invaluable role in helping the Society shape policies to keep patients at the forefront of the Society. PAR facilitates patient-geared organization shape policies with the presence of patients at the forefront of the Society. PAR facilitates patient-geared organizations additional exposure, and it facilitates interactions with physicians, scientists, industry professionals, among other conference attendees.

- Meet-the-Expert

The ATS PAR hosts a patient education forum each year at the ATS International Conference. This “Meet-the-Expert” patient/family forum is the centerpiece of patient-related activities at the conference. The event is free and open to the general public, held on the Saturday morning prior to the official launch of the conference. Topics change each year. A panel of expert speakers gives patient-centered talks, and there are also a number of breakout sessions where attendees are able to meet informally with expert pulmonologists. The forum also creates an opportunity for patients to meet other individuals who share their experience with lung disease. Refreshments and oxygen are usually provided.

- PAR Symposium

The ATS PAR participates in the scientific program of the annual ATS International Conference and submits a proposal for a scientific session. The session features a different topic each year and is chosen by PAR leaders. Traditionally, the symposium is chaired by the immediate past president of the ATS and current ATS PAR chair.

- Patient Speakers

Each year, the ATS PAR provides patient speakers for a number of the scientific sessions at the annual ATS International Conference. ATS PAR members identify speakers to prepare presentations. Over the past decade, the ATS PAR has provided patient speakers for an average of 15 sessions per conference. Clinicians and researchers appreciate this opportunity, which helps to put a face to various lung diseases, and interest in including more patient perspectives is growing.

- PAR Path

ATS PAR members typically receive a complimentary Exhibit Hall booth during the conference. This offers patient interest organizations additional exposure, and it facilitates interactions with physicians, scientists, industry professionals, among other conference attendees.

- Patient Voices

The ATS PAR plays an invaluable role in helping the organization shape policies with the presence of patients at the forefront of the Society. PAR facilitates patient-geared organizations additional exposure, and it facilitates interactions with physicians, scientists, industry professionals, among other conference attendees.

The ATS PAR actively participates in the scientific program of the American Thoracic Society Annual International Conference. ATS PAR members identify speakers who can address specific topics and then work with speakers to prepare presentations. Over the past decade, the ATS PAR has provided patient speakers for an average of 15 sessions per conference. Clinicians and researchers appreciate this opportunity, which helps to put a face to various lung diseases, and interest in including more patient perspectives is growing.

ATS International Conference
The ATS Foundation Research Program provides a unique opportunity for the ATS PAR to get involved in funding research. The program offers three funding options:

1. **Partnered Grants**: The ATS Foundation grants provide $40,000 over two years ($20,000/year) in research support. The ATS Foundation pools its financial resources with that of its non-profit partners to maximize the number of available research grants. Specifically, the ATS Foundation provides $20,000 towards each grant and assumes the responsibility of advertising, reviewing, and administering awards. Our partners determine the type of research we support and develop the call for applications.

2. **Combined Grants**: For non-profit groups who are unable to independently contribute $60,000 towards a research grant, the ATS Foundation facilitates partnerships among groups with similar clinical interests to help raise the necessary funds.

3. **Grant for Hire Program**: As the ATS Foundation can only match a limited number of grants, the ATS Foundation Research Program also offers a review option. Here, grant funding is provided by the partner, while applications are reviewed and awards are administered by the ATS.

To learn more about partner grant opportunities, contact the ATS Foundation Research Program at par@thoracic.org.