

PEDS Assembly Newsletter

Edited by Thomas W. Ferkol, Assembly Chair



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American Thoracic Society

WINTER 2010

Message from Assembly Chairman

Dear Colleagues,

I have a few updates from the chairs, but first, on behalf of the Executive Committee for the Pediatric Assembly (PEDS), I would like to wish everyone a happy holiday. May you and your family have health and happiness this year and next.

International Conference Program Committee Chair, Stephanie Davis, Chapel Hill, NC

Stephanie Davis, Robin Deterding (Denver, CO), and our Program Committee have been hard at work. Personally, I feel that they have created an outstanding, diverse program, providing something for everyone. In addition to the *Pediatric Chest Rounds* and *Pediatric Year in Review*, the following symposia have been programmed for the American Thoracic Society (ATS) International Conference in Denver: *New Advances in Understanding and Treating Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension in Children*, *Functional Modeling of the Pediatric Upper Airway*, *Evolution of Lung Disease in the Premature Infant*, and *Infections and Asthma: Causative or Protective?* The committee co-organized another symposium titled *Prenatal Exposures and Predisposition to Adult Lung Disease*, which bridges lung disease from infancy to adults.

The Scientific Breakthroughs of the Year symposium is titled *Progress in Lung Tissue Engineering* and will feature two keynote speakers: Don Ingber (*A Human Breathing Lung-on-a-Chip for Drug Screening and Nanotoxicology Applications*) and Laura Niklason (*Engineering Functional Lung Tissue -- Progress and Challenges*).

A workshop (*Applying New ATS Consensus Guideline Recommendations For Children's Interstitial Lung Disease*), three postgraduate courses (*Diagnostic Tests for the Pediatric Pulmonologist*, *Physiologic Basis of Pediatric Respiratory Function Testing*, and *Nuts and Bolts of Aerosol Delivery: Theory, Guidelines and Practice*), three Meet the Professor sessions (*Pulmonary Tuberculosis among US Children in 2010*, *Pulmonary Function During Exercise in Children*, and *Quality Improvement in Pulmonary Medicine*), and three Sunrise Seminar sessions (*Pulmonary Complications of Sickle Cell Disease*, *Diagnosis of Neuroendocrine Hyperplasia of Infancy*, and *Can We Improve Adherence with CPAP in Children?*) are also scheduled.

More than 300 abstracts were submitted to the Pediatric Program Committee, which is outstanding. The committee is currently in the process of organizing minisymposia, poster-discussion, and thematic poster sessions. Please send suggestions for facilitators and moderators to Stephanie Davis (sddavis@med.unc.edu) or Robin Deterding (deterding.robin@tchden.org). Participation by junior investigators is highly encouraged.

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Planning Committee

Chair, Jim Chmiel, Cleveland, OH

The Pediatric Planning Committee has been active this past year. As you may recall, the committee distributed an online questionnaire to survey assembly membership as to the areas of perceived need. The two areas of greatest interest were the management of the wheezing infant and care of the technology dependent child. Led by Clement Ren (Rochester, NY) and Ann Halbower (Denver, CO), two working groups were organized and new project proposals were submitted for consideration. Both submissions, *Guidelines for the Evaluation and Treatment of Recurrent Wheezing in Infancy* and *Pediatric Chronic Home Ventilation Guidelines Workshop*, were approved for funding by the ATS Program Review Subcommittee. The survey and formulation of the working groups certainly played a role in the decision to approve these projects. In addition, Margaret Rosenfeld (Seattle, WA) submitted a new project proposal titled, *Evaluation of Respiratory Mechanics and Function in the Pediatric and Neonatal Intensive Care Units*, which was approved for funding by the subcommittee. The Pediatric Assembly also served as a secondary sponsor for a new project proposal, *Pulmonary Hypertension Phenotypes*, submitted by Raed Dweik (Cleveland, OH), which was also approved. So, for those of you scoring at home, our members submitted or were prominent in four of the ten new projects approved for funding. Not bad.

ATS Program Review Subcommittee also approved three renewal projects where the Pediatric Assembly was the primary sponsor or secondary sponsor: *Care of the Child with Pulmonary Hypertension* (Steve Abman, Denver CO), *Optimal Lung Function Tests for Monitoring Cystic Fibrosis, Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia and Recurrent Wheezing in Children under 6 Years of Age* (Dr. Rosenfeld), and *Pharmacoeconomics of Respiratory Medications* (Donna Upson, Albuquerque NM). We anticipate that work products from these projects will be published next year.

Finally, the Planning Committee is reviewing previously published projects to determine if any are in need of revision or updating. Once this determination is made, working groups will be formulated to submit a project proposal to the Planning Committee. You are invited to review previously published projects (www.thoracic.org) to make your own determination. If you would be interested in participating in any of these working groups or have proposal concepts, please contact Jim Chmiel.

Membership Working Group

Chair, Clement Ren, Rochester, NY

We have created a Membership working group a new sub-committee of the Assembly Planning Committee that will provide strategic guidance to retain and grow an actively engaged membership in the Pediatric Assembly. The primary goal of this sub-committee is to increase young faculty and trainee involvement in the Assembly. If you have any questions or would be interested in participating in the committee, please contact Clement Ren.

Nominating Committee

Chair, Margaret Leigh, Chapel Hill, NC

We are seeking nominations for the 2011-12 Program Committee Chair-elect (1 member), and 2011-12 Nominating Committee Members (2 members). For the former, experience *is* necessary. Candidates for Program Planning Committee Chair-elect should have served on the committee. I do hope that those of you who are nominated will agree to be candidates.

Please note. The voting process for Assembly leadership positions has changed. It will be completely electronic this year. Assembly members will now have the opportunity to review the job descriptions for all available positions and biographical sketches for each of the candidates. Voting will open on April 1, 2011, and winners will be announced during the annual Assembly Meeting at the American Thoracic Society International Conference in Denver. Further details will be provided as the time nears.

Assembly International Relations Committee

Chair, Enrico Lombardi, Florence, Italy

Nearly a quarter of our Assembly membership and half of the ATS International Conference attendees are from outside the United States, so we have the potential to develop of diagnostics, clinical guidelines, and care pathways that could be applicable to children everywhere. Moreover, there are many opportunities to develop or advance multinational clinical investigations and translational research collaborations. Working with pediatric professional organizations worldwide, we are in the process of expanding the International Relations Committee and increase global representation in the various committees and leadership of the Pediatric Assembly. Please contact Enrico Lombardi if you should have any questions or would be interested in participating in joining the committee.

American Thoracic Society Awards

If you missed the October submission date for the ATS 2011 awards, you *still* have an opportunity to nominate exceptional teachers for the Outstanding Educator Award this year. The deadline is December 22, 2010. Please nominate worthy colleagues and mentors for consideration (www.thoracic.org/chapters/outstanding-clinician-award.php).

Pediatric Founder's Dinner

For those of you who were able to attend last year, you already know the Pediatric Founders Dinner was an exceptional evening, a real celebration of our specialties. For those of you who could not, you weren't alone. Over 200 seats were sold, which exceeded capacity. We plan to have the second "annual" dinner at the ATS International Conference, hopefully at a larger venue, and are now attempting to secure corporate funding. I should be able to provide more details, including the keynote speaker and recipient of the Pediatric Founders Award, after the holidays.

Foundation of the American Thoracic Society

The Foundation of the American Thoracic Society, which funds research in pulmonary disease, critical care and sleep medicine as well as the training and education for scientists, clinicians, patients and patient organizations, is in the midst of its annual giving campaign. Please support the Foundation. Any contribution will greatly benefit the Society's missions.

Lung Disease Week

Beginning in January 2011, the ATS Public Advisory Roundtable (PAR) is sponsoring a series of one-week programs to highlight rare lung disorders, and provide support and guidance to patients and their families that continues throughout the year. Educational documents and links to disease-specific content will be available on the ATS website. Other materials will include patient stories, interviews, videos, photos, support group information, clinical trial updates, and details concerning ongoing legislative efforts. The ATS will also host online question-and-answer sessions, Webinars, and podcasts featuring lung disease experts (patients.thoracic.org/par/index.php).