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PULMONARY • CRITICAL CARE • SLEEP

Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology Assembly Newsletter

Edited by Mary J. Morrell, Assembly Chair

SPRING 2009

Message From the Assembly Chairperson

Mary J. Morrell, Ph.D.

Officers of the Assembly on Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology

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2007-2009: Evelyn H. Schlenker

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I am pleased to have this opportunity to update you on the activities of our Assembly. We have had a busy year with many exciting new developments. Our focus this year has been on widening participation, and on increasing our educational activities. We welcome Susmita Chowdhuri and Klar Yaggi who have taken on the role of Patient Education in our Assembly. Currently, the SRN patient information series is limited. Susmita and Harry plan to develop materials on basic topics such as 'Treatment of Sleep Apnea' and some pulmonary overlap syndromes e.g. Sleep Apnea and COPD; Sleep Apnea and Asthma; Obesity Hypoventilation. Followed by other specific important clinical topics such as: Sleep Apnea, Heart Disease and Stroke; Sleep Apnea and Hypertension; Sleep and Diabetes. If you have any suggestions, or would like to get involved please contact ATS staff member for Patient Education: Judy Corn at JCorn@thoracic.org.

The SRN Assembly also welcomes Sushel Patil and Malcolm Kohler as our new Web directors. They will take over the content of our webpage, including our successful *Sleep Fragments* feature. We now have an excellent collection of interesting traces and cases that receive many hits from the ATS membership and beyond. I know you will join me in a vote of thanks to Evelyn Schlenker and James Rowley who are stepping down as our Web Directors – they have done a great job. We welcome any comments on this or any other issues.

This year the International Conference will once again be preceded by its post graduate courses. For the first time this year the ATS will offer a two-day post graduate course sponsored by the SRN Assembly. Although these courses may be taken independently those who register for both courses, will receive a 10% discount of the fee for the Saturday course. We thank the Educational Committee and Atul Malhotra for their support in enabling us to programme one of these courses on sleep, including pediatric sleep medicine. The courses will provide added value to our trainee delegates travelling to the Conference. I urge you to tell your junior faculty about them, if you have not already done so.

The International Conference itself will be packed full of exciting symposia highlighting the latest basic translational and clinical research in the area of sleep and control of breathing. However, I am conscious that in programming more sleep sessions we may have created the perception that we have moved away from basic research. Moreover, that we do not embrace our links with control of breathing – this is not the case. One of the strengths of the ATS International Conference is the translational nature of our activities. The SRN Assembly is committed to this ethos and to supporting all our members in their research. We welcome any comments on this or any other issues.

Our Assembly meeting will be on Monday night of the Conference, please come

(Continued on page 2)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Advocacy	2-3
Pediatric Sleep-Disordered Breathing Workshop	3-4
Message from the Program Chair	4
SRN Assembly Sessions	
Message from the Web Directors	4-6
Message from the Planning Chair	6-7
Project Application for funding in FY2010!	7
Public Advisory Roundtable	7
Fellows ATS Membership	8-9
ATS Foundation	10
SRN Membership Meeting	10
SRN Assembly Reception	10

Message From the Assembly Chairperson

Mary J. Morrell, Ph.D.

(Continued from page 1)

by and join us. Last year our Assembly meeting was followed by an **Assembly Reception**, which was very popular. This year we will again have the reception followed by a bar and hors d'oeuvres. During the Reception the recipient of the **James B Skatrud New Investigator Award** will give a brief presentation, and we will also have a guest speaker: **Dr David White**. The reception is a

great place for junior investigators to meet colleagues and find out about our assembly. I would urge you all to attend, relax at the end of the meeting, enjoy catching up with friends, and give us your feedback. Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in our Assembly who has donated their time and energies to keeping our community vibrant and flourishing

in these challenging times. It has been an honour and a pleasure to serve as your SRN Assembly Chair and I thank you for the opportunity. Good luck and best wishes to Atul in taking over the role.

I look forward to meeting you in San Diego.

Advocacy

Mary J. Morrell, Ph.D., Assembly Chairperson

The ATS is committed to the prevention and treatment of respiratory diseases through research, education, patient care and ADVOCACY.....

When I started my term as Assembly Chair one of the things I was least aware of is the tremendous amount of advocacy work the ATS undertakes on legislative as well as regulatory issues. The Washington Office is 'the hub of a nationwide Legislative Network that enables state and local ATS volunteers, members, and staff to participate in grassroots advocacy on public policy initiatives'. The SRN Assembly has been particularly busy this year campaigning on a number of important issues that affect our community.

Proposed Decision Memo for Sleep Testing for Obstructive Sleep Apnea (CAG-00405N): In January 2009 the ATS was invited to comment on the proposed decision memo for coverage of portable monitor sleep testing for the diagnosis of OSA (CAG-00405N). Dr Sam Kuna has been taking the lead on

these issues on behalf of the SRN Assembly (you can read his reports on the 2007 MedCAC meeting and subsequent changes in the coverage for CPAP at <http://www.thoracic.org/sections/about-ats/assemblies/srn/news/pages/medcac.html>). Again we called on him to prepare a response on behalf of the SRN Assembly. This statement was reviewed and amended by members of the SRN Executive/Planning Committees. It was then approved and endorsed by the ATS Executive and submitted to CMS on behalf of the ATS. The statement can be viewed on the SRN Assembly website. If you would like further details on any of these issues, please contact Sam or myself. Alternatively you may wish to contact the ATS staff (gewart@thoracic.org).

State of Washington (Medicaid) coverage of sleep devices: In January we were also informed that State of Washington was conducting an assessment of sleep apnea diagnosis and treatment (www.hta.hca.wa.gov). It was proposed that all available evidence

would be reviewed to determine if the diagnosis and treatment of OSA was effective, and should continue to be paid for through the state Medicaid program. It was felt that other States would pay close attention to this review, and that the group could implement positive or negative changes based on their findings. The State of Washington was seeking clinical evidence that supported the need for the diagnosis and treatment of sleep apnea. Again I asked Dr Kuna to prepare a response on behalf of the SRN Assembly. After appropriate review by members of our Assembly it was endorsed by the ATS Executive and submitted on behalf of the ATS on the 16th January 2009. The statement can be viewed on the ATS website and again please contact either Sam or myself for further information.

The SRN Assembly is grateful to the ATS Executive Committee and Gary Ewart in the ATS Washington Office for working with us on the very tight deadlines for these documents;

(Continued on page 3)

Advocacy

Mary J. Morrell, Ph.D., Assembly Chairperson

(Continued from page 2)

especially as they were submitted in the midst of the inauguration celebrations!

ACGME Sleep Training Fellowships: This year we have also been lobbying in the area of Education. We all know that to keep our research and clinical practice thriving we need to attract top people into our community. However, there is a major concern that changes to the ACGME Training Program has seriously reduced the number of Pulmonary-oriented people taking up Sleep Fellowships. With this in mind Dr Atul Malhotra (SRN Assembly

Chair-Elect) has been working with the ATS Executive to put an alternative suggestion to the ACGME. Our aim is to present a tri society approach to the ACGME. He has formulated a letter which has been endorsed by the ATS/SRN Leadership, the ATS Education and Training Committees, the ACCP and Association of Pulmonary & Critical Care program directors. The proposal is now with the AASM. For more information on this issue please contact Atul or myself.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the North American mem-

bers of our Assembly for their help in guiding me through this aspect of my role as Assembly chair. Although these issues covered are mainly USA clinical policy, I believe the impact of these changes is worldwide, and something to which our Assembly must pay particular attention. It has been very rewarding to see the difference we have made on these issues.

Pediatric Sleep-Disordered Breathing Workshop

Ann C. Halbower, M.D., Vice Chair, Health Policy Committee, ATS

Childhood sleep-disordered breathing (SDB) is associated with a myriad of health problems that underscore the need for early diagnosis and treatment. For example, children with SDB present with behavior problems,{Chervin, 2006 1886 /id;Huang, 2007 2044 /id}*, deficits of general intelligence,{Rhodes, 1995 1007 /id;Blunden, 2000 1003 /id}, learning and memory deficits,{Gozal, 2007 2060 /id} evidence of brain neuronal injury,{Halbower, 2006 1861 /id}, increased cardiovascular risk profiles,{Gozal, 2008 2045 /id}** and poor quality of life.{Baldassari, 2008 2050 /id}* The health care utilization rates of children with SDB far exceed those of normal children.{Tarasiuk, 2007 2126 /id}

There is evidence that the majority of the problems associated with childhood SDB improve with treatment. Treatment of pediatric SDB

has improved behavior{Li, 2006 2067 /id;Garetz, 2008 2068 /id} and even reversed diagnoses of Attention Deficit Disorder, a common overlap symptom of SDB.{Huang, 2007 2044 /id}* Cardiovascular risk profilesLi, 2008 2061 /id;Kheirandish-Gozal, 2006 2049 /id} and quality of life {Baldassari, 2008 2050 /id;Mitchell, 2007 2063 /id} Evidence suggests that treatment improves function and outcome in many domains, suggesting that early diagnosis and treatment should be the standard of care in order to protect children from brain or cardiovascular injury, until proven otherwise.

Despite these facts, childhood SDB is still an under-recognized disorder, with gaps in awareness of physicians, teachers, and parents. {Strocker, 2007 2066 /id;Tamay, 2006 2129 /id;Owens, 2001 2131 /id} Children with even moderate to

severe SDB continue to have delays in diagnosis because of a lack of awareness of the important symptoms by parents, and a lack of screening by primary care providers.

In April, 2006, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academies released a report on the status of academic sleep research and sleep medicine in the United States. The report included recommendations to improve public awareness and strengthen the field of sleep medicine. The project was initiated and funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the American Academy of Sleep Medicine, Sleep Research Society, and the National Sleep Foundation.

The ATS has accomplished two major directives for 2009 toward the goal of sleep disorder recognition: 1)

(Continued on page 4)

Pediatric Sleep-Disordered Breathing Workshop

Ann C. Halbower, M.D., Vice Chair, Health Policy Committee, ATS

(Continued from page 3)

calling on Centers for Disease Control to implement additional policies and public health interventions to address the epidemic of sleep-related disorders in the U.S., and 2) a directive calling on NHLBI to continue investments in basic research to understand the impact that sleep and the circadian cycle has on the development of pulmonary and cardiovascular disease and other sleep-related illnesses.

Pediatric SDB requires specific labeling as a public health problem, with targeted education of multidis-

ciplinary health practitioners and the community to increase early recognition and diagnosis.

On Saturday, May 16th a workshop will take place at ATS 2009 in San Diego entitled, "Pediatric Sleep-Disordered Breathing, an Unrecognized Public Health Problem". The purpose of this workshop is to provide a forum for discussion between experts in pediatric sleep medicine, epidemiology, and economics; members of sister societies, ATS assembly chairs, NIH, and members of ATS government relations, to influ-

ence policy in regards to the management of pediatric SDB.

The American Thoracic Society is in an ideal position to affect progress in research, partner with NIH to fund programs for community education, influence medical school curriculum, and with the help of sister societies, initiate a policy of early recognition, diagnosis, and treatment of pediatric SDB.

Message from the Program Chair

James A. Rowley, M.D.

Seva Polotsky (Program Chair-elect) and I have put together what we believe is an exciting program for the 2009 ATS International Conference. The program will highlight the latest basic/translational research as well as the latest clinical advancements in our field.

We have 2 major symposia this year in the basic/translational track: Hypoxia and Hypercapnia in Sleep, and Ventilation in the Sleeping Obese

Patient. There are 2 major symposia that are primarily translational in nature: Sleep-Disordered Breathing Beyond Obesity and Metabolic Syndrome and Respiratory Disorders. Finally, we have an exciting clinical symposium, New Frontiers in the Management of Obstructive Sleep Apnea, that promises to highlight the future of OSA management.

In addition to our major symposia, we have an excellent research pro-

gram planned as well. The mini-symposia, poster discussion and thematic poster sessions that will highlight research in control of breathing during sleep, intermittent hypoxia, upper airway pathophysiology, the interaction of cardiovascular disease and SDB, and clinical aspects of SDB.

ATS 2009 – San Diego Sessions Sponsored by the Assembly on Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology

Postgraduate Courses

Friday, May 15, 2009

PG13	COMPREHENSIVE UPDATE IN SLEEP MEDICINE DAY 1: SLEEP BIOLOGY AND NON-PULMONARY SLEEP	8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
PG14	PATHOBIOLOGY OF OXYGEN EXPOSURE DURING DEVELOPMENT: BEDSIDE TO BENCH AND BACK TO BEDSIDE	8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

ATS 2009 – San Diego

Sessions Sponsored by the Assembly on Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology

Postgraduate Courses

Saturday, May 16, 2009

PG28	COMPREHENSIVE UPDATE IN SLEEP MEDICINE DAY 2: PEDIATRIC AND PULMONARY SLEEP MEDICINE	8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
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Symposia

Sunday, May 17, 2009

A87	SLEEP-DISORDERED BREATHING BEYOND OBESITY: THE ROLE OF GENDER, RACE, AND GENETICS	1:30 PM - 4:00 PM
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Monday, May 18, 2009

B6	IH(2): HYPOXIA AND HYPERCAPNIA IN SLEEP: THE GOOD AND THE BAD	8:15 AM - 10:45 AM
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Tuesday, May 19, 2009

C8	NEW FRONTIERS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF OBSTRUCTIVE SLEEP APNEA	8:15 AM - 10:45 AM
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Wednesday, May 20, 2009

D88	BURGERS, BEDTIME AND BREATHING: WHY VENTILATION FAILS IN THE SLEEPING OBESE PATIENT	1:30 PM - 4:00 PM
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Meet the Professor Seminars

Sunday, May 17, 2009

MP420	OVERLAP BETWEEN OSA AND METABOLIC SYNDROME: THE EVIDENCE FOR A CAUSE AND EFFECT RELATIONSHIP?	12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
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Monday, May 18, 2009

MP519	PARASOMNIAS FOR THE PULMONOLOGIST	12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
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Tuesday, May 19, 2009

MP619	MEDICO-LEGAL ASPECTS OF EXCESSIVE DAYTIME SLEEPINESS	12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
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Sunrise Seminars

Monday, May 18, 2009

SS118	SLEEP DISORDERS IN WOMEN	7:00 AM - 8:00 AM
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Tuesday, May 19, 2009

SS218	PULMONARY HYPERTENSION IN SLEEP DISORDERED BREATHING: WAKING UP TO REALITY	7:00 AM - 8:00 AM
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Wednesday, May 20, 2009

SS319	SLEEP AND CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE AIRWAY DISEASE	7:00 AM - 8:00 AM
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Workshop

Monday, May 18, 2009

WS3	POSITIVE PRESSURE THERAPY IN SPECIAL CONDITIONS	12:00 PM - 1:30 PM
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ATS 2009 – San Diego

Sessions Sponsored by the Assembly on Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology

Mini-Symposia

Sunday, May 17, 2009

A20 PHYSIOLOGICAL RESPONSES TO INTERMITTENT HYPOXIA 8:15 AM - 10:45 AM

Monday, May 18, 2009

B98 CONTROL OF VENTILATION: WAKEFULNESS TO SLEEP, ANIMALS
TO HUMANS 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

C20 ENDOTHELIAL DYSFUNCTION AND BEYOND IN SLEEP DISOR-
DERED BREATHING 8:15 AM - 10:45 AM

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

D19 UPPER AIRWAY: STATE-OF-THE-ART 2009 8:15 AM - 10:45 AM

Poster Discussion Sessions

Sunday, May 17, 2009

A29 SLEEP-DISORDERED BREATHING: EPIDEMIOLOGY, DIAGNOSIS AND
MANAGEMENT 8:15 AM - 10:45 AM

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

C108 SLEEP-DISORDERED BREATHING: OUTCOMES 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM
C109 SLEEP DISORDERED BREATHING: CARDIOVASCULAR, RESPIRA-
TORY AND METABOLIC COMPLICATIONS 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

D109 SLEEP-DISORDERED BREATHING: DEVELOPMENTAL ASPECTS,
FROM BENCH TO BEDSIDE 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Thematic Poster Sessions

Sunday, May 17, 2009

A65 SLEEP MEDICINE FROM LUNG DISORDERS TO PHARMACOLOGY 8:15 AM - 4:00 PM
A66 EPIDEMIOLOGY AND DIAGNOSIS OF SLEEP-DISORDERED BREATH-
ING 8:15 AM - 4:00 PM

Monday, May 18, 2009

B65 SLEEP-DISORDERED BREATHING: MANAGEMENT AND OUTCOMES 8:15 AM - 4:00 PM
B66 THE UPPER AIRWAY: CONTROL OF FUNCTION AND PATHOPHYSI-
OLOGY 8:15 AM - 4:00 PM
B67 SLEEP DISORDERED BREATHING AND CARDIOVASCULAR MORBID-
ITY: CLINICAL ASPECTS 8:15 AM - 4:00 PM

Message from the Web Directors

James A. Rowley, M.D., Evelyn Schlenker, Ph.D., Co-Chairs

The major effort for the website has continued to be the monthly Sleep Fragments feature, which continues to be widely viewed by members of

the ATS. This past year we had fragments highlighting sleep methodology (including filters and artifacts), high altitude breathing, ar-

rhythmias, circulation time and CPAP compliance. In addition to the Sleep Fragments feature, our

(Continued on page 7)

Message from the Web Directors

James A. Rowley, M.D., Evelyn Schlenker, Ph.D., Co-Chairs

(Continued from page 6)

assembly featured a case of obesity hypoventilation for the ATS Case of the Month feature and we continue to have a Best of the Web on Patient Education Websites.

Evelyn Schlenker and I will be stepping down as Web Directors after the SRN Assembly meeting. We'd like to thank everyone for their support the last 4 years and welcome

Susheel Patil, MD and Malcolm Kohler, PhD as the new Web Directors. If you have ideas for the SRN website, please contact them.

Message from the Planning Chair

Richard J. Schwab, M.D.

I wanted to provide an update on the activities of the Planning Committee over the last year. We were fortunate to have three new funded RNS Assembly Projects for 2009:

1) *Pediatric Sleep-Disordered Breathing: An Unrecognized Public Health Problem* (PI: Ann Halbower). This project will increase awareness of sleep disordered breathing in children.

2) *State-of-the-Art Update on Sleep Disorders* (PI: Richard Schwab, Co-PI Atul Malhotra). This project will lay the groundwork for an ATS sponsored state-of-the-art course on sleep disorders independent of the ATS international meeting.

3) *Sleep Apnea, Sleepiness and Driving Risk II* (PI: Kingman Strohl). This project will examine driving risk in patients in patients with sleep apnea.

We will have an update on these projects at the Assembly meeting on Monday, May 18 at the Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology (SRN) Assembly Business Meeting/ Reception to be held at the 2009 ATS International Conference in San Diego. If you have a good idea for an RNS assembly project please come to the SRN assembly meeting or contact Rich Schwab (rschwab@mail.med.upenn.edu). Details of how to apply for an as-

sembly project can be found on the ATS website. This year once again we will be hosting a reception with the aim of facilitating interaction between assembly members and new junior members attending the SRN Assembly Membership Meeting. The reception will be held on Monday, May 18th from 6:00 - 8:00 PM following the SRN business meeting. Dr. David White will discuss "Interaction of Academics and Industry in Sleep Medicine" at the Assembly meeting/reception. It should be a great event. Hope to see you there.

Please consider submitting an Assembly/Committee Project Application for funding in FY2010!

This year we will once again use an **Online Application Process** using an electronic grants submission site called proposalCENTRAL. All interested applicants must submit their Assembly/Committee Project Applications online through proposalCENTRAL. To avoid being rushed at deadline time, applicants are encouraged to register and complete a

professional profile at proposalCENTRAL as early as possible.

There will be a link to proposalCENTRAL on the ATS homepage at www.thoracic.org along with comprehensive instructions that have been designed to correspond with the fields in the online application. Please consider submitting an online application for an Assembly/

Committee project. If you have a suggestion for a project application and you need assistance, please contact your Assembly Planning Committee chair Richard J. Schwab at rschwab@mail.med.upenn.edu.

Please contact Miriam Rodriguez with any questions at tel: 212/315-8639 or email: mrodri-guez@thoracic.org.

Patients to Speak at Fifteen Designated ATS International Conference Symposia

The ATS Public Advisory Roundtable (ATS PAR) has selected patients to provide a patient perspective at fifteen symposia at the 2009 ATS International Conference Symposia. This concept has worked exceptionally well within the format of the PAR Symposium for the last seven years as well as at an increasing number of sessions at ATS International Conferences from 2004 to 2008.

This is the sixth year that patient speakers will participate within the Assemblies' Symposia. The patients will make a five-minute presentation to offer insight into their personal journeys. This insight will address diagnosis, treatment, and how the disease has dramatically altered their lifestyle, family, career and relationships. They will share their perspective into what patients would like physicians and researchers to

know about physician/patient relationships and the importance and relevance of the work in which investigators and researchers are engaged.

The symposia at which a patient perspective will be presented are listed below:

ASSEMBLY	SESSION CODE	TITLE	DATE/TIME
CP/AII	A3	Controversies In Lung Transplantation: A Pro-Con Debate	Sunday, May 17 8:15 AM-10:45 AM
CP/BS/NRSG/RCMB	A82	High Impact Disease Modifying Therapies In Advanced COPD: Current Status And Future Directions	Sunday, May 17 1:30 PM-4:00 PM
PC/RCMB	A85	Selective Kinase Or Multikinase Inhibitors In Pulmonary Hypertension	Sunday, May 17 1:30 PM-4:00 PM
SRN	A87	Sleep-Disordered Breathing Beyond Obesity: The Role Of Gender, Race, And Genetics	Sunday, May 17 1:30 PM-4:00 PM
EOH/AII	B9	Fat And Flow: Implications Of Diet And Obesity For Asthma	Monday, May 18 8:15 AM-10:45 AM
CP/AII	B82	Clinical Problems In Sarcoidosis	Monday, May 18 1:30 PM-4:00 PM
PC/AII/CP	C5	Scleroderma-Related PAH: A Paradigm For Vascular Remodeling	Tuesday, May 19 8:15 AM-10:45 AM
SRN	C8	New Frontiers in the Management of Obstructive Sleep Apnea	Tuesday, May 19 8:15 AM-10:45 AM
RCMB/AII/CP/CC/PC/RSF	C85	Mechanotransduction In Lung Injury, Repair And Fibrosis: May The Force Be With Us	Tuesday, May 19 1:30 PM-4:00 PM
RSF/CP/CC/NRSG/PC/RCMB	C86	Causes Of Multi-organ Failure In Critically Ill Septic Patients	Tuesday, May 19 1:30 PM-4:00 PM
CP	D2	Lung Cancer Clinic: State Of The Art	Wednesday, May 20 8:15 AM-10:45 AM
CC/CP	D4	Therapeutic Frontiers In Acute Lung Injury	Wednesday, May 20 8:15 AM-10:45 AM
BS/CP/NRSG/PED/PR	D10	Medication Availability And Access: Issues Of Value And Affordability	Wednesday, May 20 8:15 AM-10:45 AM
RCMB/AII/CP	D89	Targeting Tumor Microenvironment Interactions In Lung Cancer	Wednesday, May 20 1:30 PM-4:00 PM

ATS PAR Symposium

The ATS Public Advisory Roundtable (PAR) is pleased to announce the eighth ATS PAR Symposium to be presented at the ATS International Conference in San Diego on Sunday, May 17, 2009 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.. The topic of the symposium is “Lung Fibrosis” and it will be jointly chaired by David H. Ingbar, M.D. and Donna J. Appell, RN. The program includes the following:

- New Molecular Targets In Pulmonary Fibrosis - P.B. Bitterman, M.D., Minneapolis, MN
- Patient's Perspective - *TBD*
- Lessons From Pulmonary Fibrosis In Hermansky Pudlak Syndrome

NHGRI - B.R. Gochuico, M.D., Bethesda, MD

- Genomics And Pulmonary Fibrosis - J.E. Loyd, M.D., Nashville, TN
- Molecular Diagnostics And Biomarkers In IPF - N. Kaminski, M.D., Pittsburgh, PA
- Where Are We With Clinical Trials In IPF? - *TBD*
- Novel Treatments For Pulmonary Fibrosis: Stem Cells And All That Jazz - L.A. Ortiz, M.D., Pittsburgh, PA
- Wrap-Up Interactive Discussion - D.H. Ingbar, M.D., Minneapolis, MN

The ATS PAR Annual Poster Session will be open from Sunday, May 17 – Tuesday, May 19 2009 in the Exhibit Hall of the San Diego Convention Centre. Public Interest Organizations (PIO's) concerned with lung and sleep disorders will present information about their organizations. A representative from each organization will be present at the poster session to provide additional information.

ATS Public Advisory Roundtable's Third Annual

Breathing Better with the ATS Forum

This is a forum at which patients will have the unique opportunity to network and learn more about their disease. This year the panelists will focus on oxygen management and quality of life issues.

Panel Includes:

Patrick Strollo, MD
Sam Giordano, MBA, RRT, FAARC
Rell Trey Schwab

If you have any patients in the San Diego area, please encourage them to attend. They will have an opportunity to hear from and network with other patients and experts in the pulmonary community.

May 16, 2009, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel located at One Market Place, San Diego, CA

RSVP by: April 30th, 2009 by emailing cwhite@thoracic.org or call

Courtney L. White at (212) 315-8640

Fellows Get First Year of ATS Membership for Free!

ATS is offering a free year of ATS membership to all first-year pulmonology, critical care, sleep fellows and post-doctoral PhD fellows! This special program is intended to welcome fellows to the ATS community. The Society would like these junior entrants to the fields of respiratory medicine to take advantage of the benefits of membership and look to ATS as their professional home for post graduate and continuing medical education, networking on a global scale, and for helping them to serve the needs of patients and the public at large.

Today's fellows will be the research and clinical professionals who will achieve the next major advancement in the science and treatment of pulmonary disease, critical illness and sleep disorders critical to advancing science and practice of the fields.

To learn more about this program, send an e-mail to fellows@thoracic.org or visit the ATS Web site at www.thoracic.org and click "Free Year for Fellows" under the Membership drop down menu. Program directors are encouraged to share this information with their fellows and other colleagues.

ATS Foundation to Host Inaugural Benefit Dinner for the ATS Research Program at ATS 2009 in San Diego

The Board of Trustees of the Foundation of the American Thoracic Society invites you to attend our Inaugural **Gala** Dinner benefiting the ATS Research Program on Saturday, May 16, 2009 in San Diego, California. The **evening** will begin with a **reception** at 7:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:45 PM. The **event** will be held at the Manchester Grand Hyatt on the Fourth Level in the Randle Ballroom. During the dinner, we will recognize ATS Research Program **awardees** and honor the **recipients** of the 2009 Breathing for Life Award. Please join us! **Please register early as seating is limited.**

To register for **the conference and reception/dinner** go to:

<http://foundation.thoracic.org/web/ats-research-program-dinner.html>

or call (212) 315-6822 for more information.

SLEEP & RESPIRATORY NEUROBIOLOGY ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MONDAY MAY 18TH 4:30-6:30 PM
MANCHESTER HYATT HOTEL SAN DIEGO
RANDLE BALLROOM A (4TH LEVEL)

SLEEP & RESPIRATORY NEUROBIOLOGY ASSEMBLY RECEPTION

MONDAY MAY 18TH 6:30-10:30PM
MANCHESTER HYATT HOTEL SAN DIEGO
RANDLE BALLROOM A (4TH LEVEL)

The Reception is supported by a generous donations from the LASH
Foundation & Respironics Sleep and Respiratory Research Foundation