

Foreword

Since 2001, the ATS Public Advisory Roundtable (PAR) has helped to highlight the patient experience and to weave 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.

Throughout the year, PAR and PAR partners promote awareness, public education, advocacy, and research. The outcomes of those presentations are expansive and stretch from inspiring investigators to shaping ATS advocacy programs.

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 in some cases, their recoveries. This special edition highlights a critical component of the journey—



Lynn Schnapp, MD, ATSF
President, ATS (2021-2022)



Karen Collishaw, MPP, CAE
CEO, ATS

the care team and advocates who walk alongside. This year, we are including the voices of the caregivers themselves to shine a light on what it's like to watch a loved one navigate the difficult transitions of lung disease, from the emotional toll of seeing a loved one struggle, to the power of becoming an advocate.

Throughout the book, we'll see how caregiving can take many forms, starting with immediate family and professional caregivers, and rippling out in concentric circles to include neighbors, church communities, and the community at large.

The stories illustrate many ways care teams provide support in the fight against respiratory disease, we're grateful to the contributors for sharing those experiences. We also share in their hope that this edition will raise awareness about lung disease and its far-reaching effects for those impacted.

Thank you for making Patient Voices possible as we work together toward ever more treatments, therapies, and ultimately, cures. ●