

Introduction

In 2001, vision turned into reality as the American Thoracic Society leadership formally partnered with patients and their families. This 15-year partnership is known as the ATS Public Advisory Roundtable (PAR), which continues to be one of the only patient-centered groups woven into the fabric of a medical membership association. PAR is a central component of the ATS.

At the ATS 2017 International Conference, Washington, D.C., in May, some of the best minds in pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine came together. Among them were 14 well-informed patients who ascended the podium to share engaging, disease-related experiences.

As in years past, their goal was to put a “face” to their diagnosis. As a result, respiratory professionals including physicians, clinicians, scientists, and researchers, received an intimate look at the impact of disease on patients’ lives.

This ATS PAR Patient Voices booklet was created to expand the reach of these stories, these stories, and in so doing we aim to create a more powerful and unified advocacy community. We trust that this leads to an outpouring of advances and ultimately—improved patient outcomes.

It is an honor and privilege for the ATS PAR to embody the “patient voice” of the Society.



Kerri Connolly,
Chair, ATS-PAR