ATS NEWS is online the first business day of each month:

ATS 2003 • Seattle International Conference Checklist

The ATS International Conference is fast approaching, and all plans indicate that it will once again be a comprehensive, scientific and clinical conference offering attendees many outstanding educational opportunities. To help members maximize their conference experience, the simple checklist below has been prepared. Consider each item to make the most of your time in Seattle.

- All ATS members were mailed an Advance Program in January. If you have not received yours, contact the ATS by phone: (212) 315-8658 or Email: shenderson@thoracic.org.

- Register as soon as possible as hotel rooms are filling up quickly. Use one of four convenient ways of registering: Online—at http://www.thoracic.org/ic/ic2003/register.asp

By Mail—Complete the forms in the Advance Program for registration, hotel reservations, sessions, tours and special events and enclose payment (check or credit card) and mail to: International Conference-Seattle 2003, P.O Box 825, 108 Wilmot Road, Suite 400 Deerfield, IL 60015-0825

By Fax—complete the forms in the Advance Program, pay via credit card and fax to (800) 521-6017 or (847) 940-2386.

By Phone— for general registration and hotel reservations only, call 1 (800) 650-6898, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Central Time. (Outside the U.S. call 1 (847) 940-2155).

ATS Advocacy Network Helped Influence Congress: Medicare Payments Increased for 2003

In late February, Congress passed the Omnibus Appropriations bill that included a provision to prevent the 4.4 percent cut in Medicare physician payments in 2003. In addition, as of March 1, the Medicare physician payment conversion factor has been increased by 1.6 percent. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) — which administers the Medicare program — had previously stated that data errors were causing a 6 percent overall projected reduction in Medicare physician payments for 2003. The Omnibus Appropriations bill gave CMS the legislative authority to correct those data errors, resulting in the 1.6 percent increase. ATS members can be proud of the role they played in persuading Congress to act on this important issue. Through the ATS Advocacy Network, ATS members used Emails, letters, calls and visits to make thousands of contacts to Congress, requesting action on Medicare physician payments. This is a well-deserved victory for the entire physician community. ATS

ATS 2002 Clinical Year in Review.

The ATS-2002 Clinical Year in Review sessions are now online. Go to http://www.thoracic.org/ic/ic2002/default.asp and then click on the “ATS Clinical Year in Review” on the left of the screen. This will connect to a "webcast" of the 2002 "Clinical Year in Review" sessions held at ATS 2002 International Conference in Atlanta. This webcast, accessible on a continuous basis from the ATS website, is a first step by the ATS Education Committee to make both the audio and slides (or PowerPoint presentations) from selected ATS continuing medical education (CME) programs available in a searchable format through the ATS website.
Message from the President
by Thomas R. Martin, M.D.

Strengthening the ATS - ALA partnership

Three years have passed since the American Thoracic Society and the American Lung Association (ALA) became separate organizations on January 1, 2000. The ALA began in 1904 as the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis. The ATS began in 1905 as the American Sanatorium Association; then became the medical section of the American Lung Association in 1938 under the name of the American Trudeau Society. With the dramatic growth in research and practice in all aspects of pulmonary and critical care medicine in the last half of the twentieth century, the ATS grew rapidly in scope and membership. The ATS International Conference now attracts as many as 16,000 attendees, and the ATS journals are recognized as the premier journals in lung-related research. As a member-driven professional organization, it was appropriate for the ATS to become an independent, international organization.

The separation was stressful at the national level, but relationships between local lung associations and state thoracic societies have been and continue to be very healthy. This was evident at the January meeting of the ATS Council of Chapter Representatives, which brought together thoracic society chapter representatives and local chapter administrators, who are staff members of the local ALAs. It was a lively meeting, with active participation from all of the members present. The local thoracic societies and lung associations are supportive of each other and provide opportunities for lay volunteers to work together with pulmonary and critical care practitioners to improve lung health and the awareness of lung diseases in local communities.

The ATS and the ALA have complementary missions. The ATS is devoted to Advocacy, Treatment, and Science for lung health. Improving patient access to care, increasing the provider workforce, and broadening the scientific basis for treatment of lung disease are important ATS goals. The ALA is devoted to advocacy for a cleaner environment free of tobacco smoke and other pollutants and fostering new scientific research related to lung diseases through support of asthma research and the career development of new pulmonary scientists. ATS members want to increase public awareness about lung disease in order to help patients, and the ALA programs bring concerns about lung diseases to the lay public and legislators across the country. Our missions are both complementary and synergistic.

What do we need to do now to strengthen the relationship between ATS and ALA? As with any relationship, communication is extremely important. As part of the separation agreement, ALA has two members on the ATS Board of Directors who share one vote; similarly, the ATS has two members on the ALA Board with a single vote. Representation at the board level is crucial, but broader interactions are necessary. The ATS and ALA have members on each other's key committees. For example, there is an ALA member on the ATS Planning Committee, and three local lung associations are members of the ATS Public Advisory Roundtable. We need to strengthen those interactions by having an active interchange on the advocacy committees. Harry Tweel, M.D., who chairs the ALA Task Force on Advocacy will become a member of the ATS Government Relations Committee. As we develop the new ATS Research Program, we will need to have effective communication with ALA about the complementary aspects of the ATS and ALA research efforts. ATS officers will be meeting with key ALA members to discuss our mutual interests in broadening research in lung disease.

A second way to strengthen the ATS and ALA relationship is to work together on joint projects, and we are encouraging this at the local and the national levels. The ATS has long served as the accredited joint sponsor of Lung Association professional education activities, to enable them to offer education credit without having to pay accreditation fees. ATS members contribute to public awareness programs sponsored by the local lung associations and support local fundraising events. Local lung associations provide administrative and organizational support for the local thoracic societies. The ATS and ALA share office space in Washington, D.C. to ensure close cooperation on key legislative issues such as, the Clean Air Act, tobacco dependency, research funding, patient access to specialty medical care and addressing the growth in COPD and asthma. The ATS International Conference is an excellent place for ATS and ALA members to come together to share ideas. This May in Seattle, the ALA will sponsor a major training program in fund raising for ALA participants. In addition, the ALA and the ATS will sponsor joint sessions on topics such as web-based patient education, global tuberculosis programs and environmental interventions for asthma in children. ATS member scientists derive support from the ALA research programs, and the successful efforts of ATS scientists bring great credit to the ALA programs in career development and pulmonary research.

The ATS and the ALA are independent organizations with overlapping missions. Our three years of independence have shown that the ATS is a vibrant organization that will continue to grow. As a professional organization of clinicians and scientists, the ATS benefits from links to the lay public and to our patients with lung diseases, and our interactions with the ALA are an effective way to maintain these links. Maintaining a positive relationship between our two historic organizations makes strategic sense for both groups, and it is also an excellent prescription for the health of the public.
CALL FOR INPUT
ATS 2004 • ORLANDO

The ATS is now accepting proposals for the scientific/medical program for ATS 2004 • Orlando, which will be held May 21-26 in Orlando, Florida. Sessions in all areas of respiratory medicine and science are welcomed and encouraged.

All proposals must be submitted electronically through the ATS website by Friday, June 13, 2003. If you are interested in submitting a proposal for consideration for the program, you may do so by going to the ATS website at www.thoracic.org/ic/ic2004/callforinput/

You may submit program in various formats including symposia, track session, seminars, workshops and postgraduate courses. Be sure to direct your proposal to the appropriate assembly for review. We look forward to your submission. For a list of ATS assemblies and their chairman, go to www.thoracic.org/assemblies/

Assembly Membership Meetings and Dinners Scheduled at ATS 2003 • Seattle

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Several ATS assemblies have scheduled dinners during the International Conference:

The Assembly on Allergy, Immunology and Inflammation (AI) has scheduled a dinner for Monday, May 19 at 7:30 p.m., in the Leonessa Ballroom of the Grand Hyatt Hotel, immediately following the Assembly’s membership meeting.

Stephen T. Holgate, M.D., from Southhampton General Hospital in the United Kingdom will speak on “Airway Remodeling in Asthma.” Because there has already been an overwhelming response to an earlier Assembly E-mail regarding the dinner, a waiting list for dinner reservations is now in place. To be put on the waiting list, contact Bethany Moore, Ph.D., the Assembly’s Membership Committee Chairman, via E-mail at bmoore@umich.edu. The A1 Assembly wishes to thank Merck & Co., Inc., for its generous sponsorship of the dinner.

The Assembly on Microbiology, Tuberculosis and Pulmonary Infections (MTPI) dinner will be held Monday, May 19 at 7:00 pm, immediately following the MTPI Assembly Meeting. This year’s dinner will be held at Assaggio Ristorante, 2010 4th Avenue in downtown Seattle. To make reservations to attend the dinner, contact Elisha Malanga at emalanga@thoracic.org. Seating is limited, and MTPI members wishing to attend are encouraged to reserve promptly. The MTPI Assembly thanks Bayer Pharmaceutical for their ongoing, generous support of this annual dinner.

The Assembly on Respiratory Neurobiology and Sleep (RNS) dinner will be held Monday, May 19 at 7 p.m. following the Assembly’s membership meeting.
Obituary: Anne L. Davis, M.D.

The ATS mourns the loss of long-term member, former president and colleague Anne L. Davis, M.D., who died on March 9 of cancer. She was 77.

Dr. Davis became the ATS’ first female president in 1980. During her tenure as president she facilitated the creation of the ATS Board of Directors and the establishment of it as the Society’s governing body. The ATS Council of Chapter Representatives was also established under her leadership. She first became involved with the ATS when she presented her first paper to the International Conference in 1958. During the 1970’s she served successively as president of the New York State Thoracic Society, of the American Lung Association of New York City, and of the Eastern Section of the ATS. She served as President of the American Lung Association (ALA) in 1989-90.

In addition, she was a strong advocate for the ATS and the ALA in research and public health funding and testified nationally on smoking related and air pollution issues. Over the past 50 years she participated in numerous professional education programs, as well as TV, radio and print media interviews to help the public understand the importance of lung diseases. She also helped to launch the ALA/ATS collaborative smoking cessation project and was the principal investigator.

She was an attending physician at Bellevue Hospital in New York where she served for more than 50 years. She trained with and was influenced by pulmonary pioneer J. Burns Amberson, M.D. She, in turn, was a great influence on many pulmonary physicians, including Gerard Turino, M.D., who served as Chief Resident at Bellevue. She was also an associate professor of medicine at New York University School of Medicine where she was on the active full time faculty for almost 35 years. She received her medical degree from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University and her post-graduate training in internal medicine and pulmonary disease in the Columbia Division at Bellevue with the help of an American Trudeau Society Fellowship.

Dr. Davis’s professional interests included chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and the role of smoking, air pollution and infection and other factors on the course and prognosis of these diseases. In the 1950’s, realizing that patients with COPD were often overlooked and that they had special needs that were often neglected in a busy medical clinic, Dr. Davis organized one of the first “emphysema” clinics in the country to study and treat them systematically, and to provide the services needed to solve their multiple medical, social and economic problems. In the late 80’s and early 90’s, when tuberculosis (TB) resurfaced as a major public health threat, she served on TB task forces locally and nationally and testified for the New York City Department of Health.

Dr. Davis will receive, posthumously, the ALA 2003 Will Ross Medal at the ATS International Conference in Seattle. This award is the highest honor given by the ALA to volunteers who have made a significant contribution to the prevention and control of lung disease. Condolences may be sent to her husband, Walter Wichern, M.D., a well-respected surgeon, and their two children Adam and Logan at 1088 Park Avenue, Apt. 10D, New York, NY 10128.

In lieu of flowers the family is requesting that donations be made in her memory to the ALA National Office, 61 Broadway, New York N.Y., 10006.

ATS LAUNCHES NEW TRIBUTE AND MEMORIAL PROGRAM

The ATS now offers members, patients, family members, friends, and business associates the opportunity to pay tribute to a special person, recognize a special occasion or memorialize a friend, loved one, or caregiver through the new ATS Tribute/Memorial Program.

This exciting new program will accomplish several things. It will: 1) further educate the public regarding the important mission of the Society, 2) increase ATS revenue to support research and clinical training, and 3) fulfill a personal mission for those individuals affected by lung disease.

Here’s how the program works:

• The tribute and memorial brochures are displayed in the ATS member physicians’ waiting rooms and reception areas.
• The interested party takes a brochure, completes it, and mails it to the ATS headquarters in New York (Or, the contributor may give online at www.thoracic.org)
• The Revenue Development office sends a handsome gift card to the honoree or family of the deceased. The gift cards currently available are congratulations, get well, thanks, and sympathy.

• The contributor receives an acknowledgement letter which expresses the Society’s appreciation and describes the tax benefit, for U.S. citizens, of making a charitable gift.

In order for this program to be successful, participation from our ATS members is very critical. ATS members have been urged to support this program by displaying the brochure in their office or, by making a contribution in memory or honor of a friend, colleague, loved one or business associate. Already, 20 members of the ATS Council of Chapter Representatives have volunteered to place brochures in their office waiting areas.

If you have any questions about this program or to order brochures for display, please contact Crystal Williams at (212) 315-6464, or e-mail her at cwilliams@thoracic.org. To make a contribution online please visit the ATS website at www.thoracic.org.

For a complete list of all tribute and memorial gifts, visit the “Roll of Honor” on the ATS web site. The full amount of your contribution to the ATS is deductible for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

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Anthony M. Marinelli, M.D., attributes his decision to become a pulmonologist/critical care physician to the influence of “compassionate clinicians and good teachers” who served as his mentors. But as a physician who still makes home visits to his shut-in patients, receives awards for his community service, is the recipient of numerous teaching honors and is constantly working to find improvements in patient care, Dr. Marinelli is himself a compassionate clinician who is constantly teaching and mentoring through his own strong example.

A Focus on Improving Patient Care

After completing medical school at Northwestern University in Chicago, Dr. Marinelli chose pulmonology as his specialty after studying under several strong mentors—Whitney Addington, M.D., who became the President of the Chicago Board of Health; David Cugell, M.D., a prominent Chicago physician focused on environmental and occupational health medicine; Douglas Gracey, M.D., now at the Mayo Clinic and Arcot Chandrasekhar, M.D., who became the Chief of Pulmonary Medicine at Loyola University. As he completed his fellowship in pulmonary medicine at the University of Illinois Medical Center, Dr. Marinelli chose a career path that would first and foremost put him in a place to assist patients. He chose to be a focused clinician first, and researcher and administrator second. “As a clinician I enjoy the ability to help people deal with their disease in the most positive manner possible,” he explains. “It is very satisfying to help cure patients of their disease or, if that is not possible, to make them as comfortable as I can.”

Today, as Medical Director of the Intensive Care Unit and Respiratory Care Services at West Suburban Hospital in Oak Park, Illinois, Dr. Marinelli is constantly seeking improvements in patient care. “Like all physicians everywhere, I want to give the best care possible to my patients,” he explains, “and by constantly reviewing our patient care processes, we can do just that.” As ICU medical director and as chairman of his hospital’s Utilization Committee, he spends time benchmarking outcomes and tracking processes over time to discover potential patient care improvements. In addition, as Vice President of Medical Affairs for the hospital, Dr. Marinelli strives to improve the delivery of care to patients by working to integrate the needs of the hospital with the various interests of its physicians for the overall good of the community. Addressing community needs is an area of importance for him and one in which he is a recognized, awarded expert. In 2000, the American Lung Association of Metropolitan Chicago presented him with their Community Service Award for his tireless, leading role in a flu immunization campaign focused on reaching the elderly and under-privileged populations. “I never expected to receive the award—I just saw it as part of my responsibility,” he graciously explains, “but I was most honored and proud to have received it. Through the flu vaccination program, we’ve been able to give over 100,000 shots in the last several years.”

Working with the ATS to Assist Clinicians

Another important way Dr. Marinelli has focused on advancing care for patients is by working to improve the environment in which physicians must practice medicine. And he sees the ATS as a partner in this mission. Serving as Editor of the “Practice Tips” column on the ATS website, Dr. Marinelli hopes to bring information to physicians that will help them maintain an efficient, successful practice, ultimately improving the practice of pulmonary and critical care medicine. Through the column, Dr. Marinelli brings to clinicians the advice of experts in various areas such as bronchoscopy, pulmonary function coding, practice compliance and outcomes management.

The website column is only one way Dr. Marinelli has used his practical, “in the field” experience to help the ATS assist its clinician members. He currently serves as Chairman of the ATS Clinical Practice Committee, as a member of the Society’s Council of Chapter Representatives, and is a former ATS representative to the HCFA Practice Expense Overhead Panels and the ATS Representative to the Critical Care Working Group. “I’ve always been a member of ATS because of the scientific information the Society gathers and disseminates, but over the last several years I’ve been most impressed with the Society’s emphasis on advocacy and helping private practice physicians with the ever-changing challenges we face,” Dr. Marinelli states. “Through the work of the ATS Washington office and its advocacy network, the ATS is uniting with other societies to address the high cost of providing medical care and other practice management concerns. I find it a privilege and honor to work with the ATS leadership, members of the CCR, other committee chairs and my colleagues to address these concerns.”

If serving as a compassionate clinician focused on improving care and the practice of medicine is Dr. Marinelli’s primary career focus, serving as a strong teacher-mentor is certainly a second goal he has achieved. He has received eight awards over the last 24 years for “Outstanding Teaching as a Specialist in the Department of Medicine,” by the house staff of West Suburban Hospital. “I enjoy teaching and being taught by the residents. They keep me up to date,” he explains. In addition, he is also an accomplished researcher, concentrating again on improving care in a specific area of critical care medicine. Specifically, he has participated in multiple clinical research trials to study investigative drugs for the treatment of sepsis and blood clots. “It has been very satisfying to see that some of these drugs do have a benefit for these conditions which are constantly treating,” he states.

On A Personal Note

As Dr. Marinelli focuses on the challenges of practice management, he is joined by an expert he knows well: his wife. Since 1979, his wife Ellen has supervised his patient billing and was the first person in Illinois to utilize electronic billing to Medicare. When the Marinellis are away from the demands of a busy practice, they enjoy spending time with their three children: Matthew, who is currently completing a legal clerkship in Juneau, Alaska; Melissa, who is studying pre-med at Loyola University in Chicago; and 13-year-old Mark, who keeps his father physically fit by challenging him to a new sport each season—from soccer to football to basketball. ATS
PAR Symposium

The Public Advisory Roundtable (PAR) announces the second PAR Symposium to be presented at the ATS International Conference in Seattle on Sunday, May 18, from 8:15-11:00 a.m. Immediate ATS Past President Adam Wanner, M.D., will chair the PAR symposium, "Reparative Medicine: A Blueprint or Pipe Dream?" The PAR will present the following speakers:

- Saul Shrikis, M.D., Johns Hopkins University, "Stem Cell Based Therapies"
- Kenneth Brigham, M.D., Emory University, "Potential for Cell and Molecular Therapy for Acute Lung Injury"
- Ronald Crystal, M.D., Cornell University, "Prolonged Alteration of Phenotype Induced by Transient Alteration of Genotype"
- Darwin Prockop, M.D., Ph.D., Tulane University, "Potential Use of Adult Stem Cells from Bone Marrow for Treatment of Pulmonary Diseases"

Each presenter will be followed by a patient perspective. Four patients will share their experiences by describing their personal journey with their specific illness. The goal is to increase the awareness of physicians and researchers to major life challenges and alterations faced by patients with a serious and sometimes little known disorder. The patients presenting at the Symposium and the organizations hosting the PAR Symposium are as follows: Gina Dichter represents the LAM Foundation, Gail Boyer-Hayes represents the Pulmonary Hypertension Association, Marsha Thornhill, M.D., represents the Sarcoidosis Research Institute and Michael Rosenzweig, M.D., represents the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation.

PAR Poster Session

Third Annual PAR Poster Session will immediately follow the PAR Symposium. 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. Attendees are invited to join the PAR for a box lunch and to visit with patient organizations. Organizations that are not members of the PAR are invited to participate in the poster session. Attendees should also plan to visit PAR Row in the Exhibit Hall to learn more about PAR members through their displays and booths.

History of the Public Advisory Roundtable

The PAR was organized and members were appointed in March 2000 by William J. Martin II, M.D., then ATS president. The purpose of the PAR is to provide the ATS with a patient perspective on pulmonary and critical care medicine. PAR’s mission is to serve as the bridge between the ATS and organizations representing individuals affected by lung disease and breathing disorders by stimulating collaboration in research, education, patient care and advocacy.

World TB Day Commemorated in March with Global Awareness Campaign.

On March 24, the ATS and the American Lung Association (ALA) joined health and advocacy organizations across the globe in celebrating World TB Day 2003. World TB Day is held on March 24 every year to commemorate the day Robert Koch, M.D., first demonstrated that the tubercle bacillus was the cause of human tuberculosis in 1882 by injecting tubercle bacilli into guinea pigs.

Organized by the STOP TB Partnership, World TB Day plays a crucial role in increasing awareness of the symptoms, diagnosis and treatment of TB, and the importance of effective TB control. It also has the potential to significantly increase case detection rates through education, awareness-building and social mobilization. With the theme of “DOTS (Direct Observation Treatment Strategies) cured me – it will cure you too,” specific objectives for this year’s awareness campaign were to educate the general public on the symptoms and treatment of TB; encourage people to get tested at a DOTS clinic if they have symptoms of TB; and persuade people to comply fully with the DOTS treatment strategy. World TB Day 2003 was recognized in over 60 countries with a wide variety of activities designed to raise awareness and support.

To commemorate World TB 2003, the ATS Washington office, in partnership with the ALA, worked to have TB-funding legislation introduced in the House of Representatives and the Senate on March 24. The legislation called for an increase in funding for domestic TB research, treatment and detection.

The ATS has also played an active role in combating international TB. The ATS, with the ALA and other partners, has worked with Congress to increase U.S. international TB funding from zero in 1995 to over $70 million in 2003. Representative Sherrod Brown (D-OH), former Representative Connie Morella (R-MD) and Senators Ted Kennedy (D-MA), Kay Bailey-Hutchison (R-TX), Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Ted Stevens (R-AK) played key roles in helping secure funds for international TB programs.

For some ATS members, the fight against TB has become personal. ATS former president and global TB expert, Philip Hopewell, M.D., is currently based at WHO headquarters in Geneva providing technical assistance to the WHO TB program. His role at WHO includes monitoring TB control programs in developing nations and providing technical support to countries. Dr. Hopewell also serves as a TB technical advisor to the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the year TB was declared a global emergency by the World Health Organization (WHO). It also marks the crossing of a major milestone in modern TB control – by World TB Day 2003, according to WHO estimates, 10 million patients have been treated under DOTS.
The following assembly meetings will be held on Tuesday, May 20 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.: the Assembly on Clinical Problems, the Assembly on Environmental and Occupational Health, the Assembly on Nursing, the Assembly on Pulmonary Circulation, the Assembly on Pediatrics and the Assembly on Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology. All assembly meetings will be held at the Red Lion Hotel, located at 1413 5th Avenue in downtown Seattle, (located 3 blocks from the Convention Center).

- Register your children for Convention Camp, where they will experience the diversity of Seattle through themed activities, arts and crafts and history programs. Convention Camp is a complete morning-to-early evening entertainment program packed with activities for children 6 months to 12 years old. For more information, call (504) 524/0188.

- Share the tour program opportunities listed on pages 103-106 of the Advance Program with your spouse or companion. Take note of the cruise to Alaska being offered to ATS Conference registrants at a special rate (page 106).

- Book your air travel early for better availability and advance purchase discounts. See page 114 of the Advance Program for more information. ATS

Morton Ziskind Memorial Fund for Clinical Training Launched in New Orleans

Amid laughter at fond reminiscences and sadness regarding the loss of an invaluable training mentor and friend, former students of Morton Ziskind, M.D., launched the ATS' first clinical training fund in pulmonary and critical care medicine.

The goal is to raise a minimum of $250,000 to endow a clinical training fellowship for five years. The fellowship will be open and available to any pulmonary student attending an accredited U.S. medical school. Preference will be given to students who also have an interest in pathology. The Ziskind Fund will be permanently endowed by ATS upon reaching a $1 million present value cash investment goal.

William Bailey, M.D., an alumnus of Dr. Ziskind's rigorous clinical training program at Tulane University in New Orleans, gathered together a small group of fellow alumni at Antoine's Restaurant. The son and daughter of Dr. Ziskind, Ramsey McLean of New York and Becky Ziskind of New Orleans, were the guests of the ATS.

Spencer "Spike" Foreman, M.D., spoke eloquently about Dr. Ziskind's influence on his entire career, even though Dr. Foreman was a practicing pulmonologist for just a few years before becoming a hospital administrator. Dr. Foreman is now president of Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx.

Paudits were also given to fellow dinnertable Hans Weill, M.D., who partnered with Dr. Ziskind in the Tulane program and is still involved with medical student mentoring.

Dr. Bailey is leading the fundraising effort for the Ziskind Fund. If you are a graduate of Tulane's program under Morton Ziskind or know of others who are not ATS members, please contact Dr. Bailey via E-mail at webailey@uab.edu, or phone him at (205) 934-5555. ATS

Caption: Friends, family and former students of Morton Ziskind: Left to right sitting: Jay Shames, M.D., Marvin Schwarz, M.D., Lowell Hurwitz, M.D., James Houser, M.D., Hans Weill, M.D., Standing: Rebecca (Becky) Ziskind (daughter of Dr. Ziskind), Ramsey McLean (son of Dr. Ziskind), Harry Tweel, M.D., William Bailey, M.D., Spencer Foreman, M.D., and Dean Elliotthorpe, M.D.
Activities sponsored or endorsed by the ATS and its chapters are listed in **bold**.

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| **April 24-25** | **International Consensus Conference in Intensive Care Medicine sponsored by the ESICM, ATS, ERS, and SCCM** | Estelle Flament  
Phone: 32 2 559 03 55  
Fax: 32 2 527 00 62  
E-mail: public@esicm.org |
| **May 16-21** | **ATS 2003•Seattle, the 99th International Conference** | Phone: (212) 315-8658  
E-mail: ats2003@thoracic.org  
Website: www.thoracic.org |
| **June 2-4** | “NIOSH-Approved Spirometry,” sponsored by UPMC Health System and M.C. Townsend Associates | Mary C. Townsend, Ph. D.  
Phone: (412) 343-9946  
Fax: (412) 343-9947  
E-mail: mctownsend@aol.com |
| **June 4-7** | “Lung Cancer: Early Events, Early Interventions,” sponsored by the Thomas I. Petty Aspen Lung Conference | Jeanne Cleary  
Phone: (303) 752-2081  
Fax: (303) 752-2678  
E-mail: Jeanne.Cleary@uchsc.edu  
Website: www.aspenlungconference.org |
| **June 14-18** | “14th International Congress of the International Society of Aerosols in Medicine (ISAM),” sponsored by Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine | Phone: (410) 614-0418  
Fax: (410) 955-0807  
E-mail: ckowarski@jhmi.edu  
Website: www.hopkinscme.org/ISAMreg.html |
| **June 19-21** | “National Conference on Asthma 2003,” presented by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute | Email: Asthma2003@courtesyassoc.com  
Website: www.Asthma2003.net |
| **June 19-22** | “Forefront Pulmonary Medical Education with World Class Fly-Fishing,” sponsored by the AIA of Vermont and the Vermont Thoracic Society | Robert C. Uerz  
Phone: (802) 863-6817  
Fax: (802) 863-6818  
Website: www.battenkildriverlungconference.org |
| **June 25-29** | “The Third Biennial International Eosinophil Symposium,” sponsored by the International Eosinophil Society | Steven Ackerman, M.D.  
Phone: (312) 996-2628  
Fax: (312) 996-5623  
E-mail: eos2003@uic.edu |
| **June 29-July 3** | **7th World Congress on Sleep Apnea** | Email: sleepapneanews2003  
Website: www.neuro.org/sleepapnea2003 |
| **July 5-8** | “XVII World Asthma Congress,” sponsored by the International Association of Asthmaology | Phone: 7095 429-9620  
Fax: 7095 366-5000  
E-mail: acisc@ibch.ru  
Website: www.isir.ru |

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**Assembly Membership Meetings and Dinners Scheduled at ATS 2003•Seattle**

The dinner, to be held in the Leonessa Ballroom III of the Seattle Grand Hyatt Hotel, will feature Ira Black, M.D., from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey as speaker. To register to attend the dinner, contact Estelle B. Gauda via E-mail at egauda@jhmi.edu or via fax at (410) 955-0298.

The Assembly on Respiratory Structure and Function (RSF) has scheduled a dinner for Monday, May 19 at 6:30 p.m. immediately following the Assembly’s membership meeting. The dinner will be held at The Desert Fire Restaurant, located on the 4th floor of the Pacific Place Shopping Center on 6th and Pine Streets in downtown Seattle. Dr. Joseph Milic-Emili from McGill University in Canada will be the featured speaker. To register for the dinner, Assembly members can download a dinner reservation from the Assembly’s website at http://www.thoracic.org/ assemblies/rsf/rsfdinner03.asp. Reservations are limited and will not be accepted after May 1. The RSF Assembly wishes to thank Merck & Co., Inc., for their support of the dinner through an unrestricted educational grant.