

100 Years of
Advances in the Treatment
and Science of Respiratory Dis



ATS NEWS

AMERICAN THORACIC SOCIETY

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Happy Birthday ATS! January 2005 Marks Beginning of Society's 100th Year

This month kicks off the ATS' year-long celebration of its centennial anniversary. Since its creation in 1905, the Society has become an international leader in pulmonary and critical care, contributed to many medical advances in these fields and witnessed the remarkable evolution of the study and treatment of respiratory disease over the course of the 20th and early 21st centuries. In recognition of these milestones, the ATS celebrates the medical progress made during the last 100 years by reflecting on its first century of existence and looking toward its future.

One hundred years ago, the face of respiratory medicine was drastically different than it is today: millions of people worldwide were dying of tuberculosis (TB) each year, with no end in sight; the medical community knew relatively little about lung function or how to treat respiratory disorders; and physicians did not have the luxury of government guidance and funding because departments like the U.S. Public Health Service did not yet exist.

Today, on the other hand, the medical community has an unprecedented understanding of pulmonary function, diseases and rehabilitation. Advances made in the last century include the discovery of treatments for TB and other serious diseases, the emergence of specialties that were unheard of during the early 20th century and the creation of federally-operated public health organizations. Throughout the year, the ATS will highlight its own evolution as a Society and its contributions to the advancement of respiratory science.

By 1905, TB in the U.S. population had reached such epidemic proportions that a group of doc-

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Web Tips

Find out the latest information about critical care online. The ATS Assembly on Critical Care has established a new feature on the ATS website that explores critical care research. Visit this new section at www.thoracic.org/criticalcare/ccresearch.asp and read "Translational Research: Basic Concepts and the Importance of Heterogeneity," an article in which Ellen Burman, M.D., and Marc Moss, M.D., explore the applications of basic science in the clinical setting. The website also offers up-to-date information about critical care research in the form of articles, official ATS statements and links to other websites. Users can also access information related to critical care billing, monitoring, procedures and cases from this web page.

Register Now to Attend ATS 2005 • San Diego, May 20-25

Don't miss this year's ATS International Conference, **ATS 2005 • San Diego!** The six-day conference, which is generally regarded by physicians, researchers, nurses and other healthcare professionals as the largest global exchange of the latest information and research in respiratory, pulmonary and critical care medicine, research and education, will offer participants a broad range of professional education opportunities.

With expert programming for both clinicians and researchers, the Conference will feature more than 450 scientific and clinical sessions, including postgraduate courses, clinical topics tracks, critical care sessions, symposia, abstract sessions and clinical workshops. Attendees will also have the opportunity to receive ATS assembly updates and comprehensive year-in-review information.

Since 2005 marks the ATS' 100th birthday, participants will also have the opportunity to celebrate the advances made in respiratory medicine during the last century at a variety of commemorative events. The Conference will clearly illustrate how ATS members have been instrumental in the advancement of respiratory science since the

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WHO'S WHO IN ATS



Suzanne Claire Lareau, R.N., M.S.
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M

essage from the President

by Sharon I. S. Rounds, M.D.

As the American Thoracic Society (ATS) rings in the 2005 New Year and its centennial year, it faces many challenges. As in the past, the Society is able to meet these challenges due to the energy and excitement of its members, who contribute in many ways, including participation in ATS committees.

There are two levels of committees in the ATS—those that assist with the organization's operation as a whole and those that specifically oversee assembly activities. Each assembly has executive, nominating, planning and program committees, in addition to other committees, depending upon its activities. Some positions are elected by the assembly members, but most assembly committee members are volunteers. Involvement in assembly committees is a terrific way to get involved and meet other ATS members with similar clinical and/or scientific interests. ATS staff members Graham Nelan, Elisha Malanga and Monica Simeonova ably staff, manage, and facilitate all ATS assembly activities. Typically, assembly committees are finalized in the early spring for the coming year. ATS members interested in getting involved with assembly committees should contact specific assembly chairs or Elisha Malanga, Associate Director of Assembly Programs and Research, via e-mail at emalanga@thoracic.org.

The ATS by-laws mandate several standing committees. The Executive Committee consists of the elected officers and the Executive Director. The Nominating Committee is elected by the Board of Directors. The International Conference Committee consists of elected members from each Assembly and the Council of Chapter Representatives, plus three members appointed by the President-Elect. Other ATS committees are appointed by the President-Elect. Committee service begins when the President-Elect takes office as President in May and appointments are for one year. There are also a number of other committees and task forces that have been convened to address important issues for the organization.

Most ATS committees meet in the fall or early winter and at the International Conference in May. Between face-to-face meetings, committee business is conducted through conference calls and via e-mail. Committee chairs frequently assist the President and advise the Board of Directors.

All ATS committees are important to the organization. In previous *ATS News* columns, I have highlighted the work of the Education, International Conference, Membership, Program and Budget and Publications Policy Committees. In this column, I will describe briefly activities of some other committees.

The Awards Committee, which is chaired by Mike Matthay of the University of California-San Francisco (UCSF), is responsible for choosing the recipients of prestigious ATS awards and has the difficult task of choosing among outstanding nominees. This year, the Awards Committee has chosen a typically terrific group of awardees to be recognized at the International Conference in San Diego in May.

The International Lung Health Committee is a new committee, a hybrid of the former International Relations and World Lung Health Committees. The International Lung Health Committee, co-chaired by former ATS presidents Phil Hopewell of UCSF and Sonia Buist of the University of Oregon, has developed an international agenda for the ATS that was adopted by the Society's Board of Directors last year. The International Lung Health Committee advises the leadership and the Board on matters relating to global lung health and relations between the ATS and other international organizations involved in lung health. This committee is ably staffed by Fran Du Melle, ATS Director of International Activities, who recently joined the ATS after a number of years with the American Lung Association (ALA). She has brought the Society a wealth of experience in international lung health.

The tasks of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) have been transformed in the past few years. Under the leadership of Jack Elias of Yale University, the SAC formulated the blueprint for the ATS Research Program. This program has grown remarkably in the past three years with leadership from ATS Past President Tom Martin, current SAC chair, and with outstanding staff support from Elisha Malanga. ATS research grants offered initially were "leveraged" with co-funding from the ATS and from collaborators, including partnerships with the Department of Veteran Affairs and the ALA, as well as the ATS' Public Advisory Roundtable partners, the Alpha-1 Foundation, the LAM Foundation and the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation. In this issue, the ATS is pleased to announce awards with our newest partners, the Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research and the LUNGevity Foundation. In addition, the Respiratory Institute, a Division of GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), has funded four 2 year ATS Research Grants for Novel Studies in COPD. The SAC solicits and reviews proposals and chooses the ATS program awardees. The SAC recently recommended that the ATS fund research grants that are not restricted with regard to topic. This proposal was approved by the Board of Directors at the December 2004 meeting.

The Planning Committee, chaired by David Schwartz of Duke University, has had an especially busy year. The ATS leadership decided last year that the organization needed a revised Strategic Plan to replace the outdated plan adopted in 1999, and the Centennial seemed an appropriate time to plan for the future. The Planning Committee interviewed prospective consultants and ultimately chose Mark Lipton and Susan Cane of Voussoir Associates to assist with the planning process. In June 2004, the ATS Board of Directors adopted the proposal of the Planning Committee for the Strategic Planning Process. The first step in Strategic Planning has been the formulation of the ATS Vision, a process undertaken by a diverse and hard-working group of members, the "2020" group, and ably staffed by Cathy Carlo-magno, ATS Director of Communications and Marketing. After the ATS Board of Directors approves the Vision, the Planning Committee will lead the Society in formulating a Strategic Plan based on that Vision. ATS members will be hearing much more about the Vision and the Plan and its implementation over the course of the next few months.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Robb Glenly of the University of Washington, has just completed its nominating process for the ATS Secretary-Treasurer position. The nominating process is simple and I strongly urge interested members to consider allowing themselves to be nominated in future years. I strongly urge interested members to consider allowing themselves to be nominated. The experience of being an ATS officer is interesting, gratifying and exciting!

This winter Peter Wagner, ATS President-Elect, will be formulating membership of ATS committees for the 2005-06 year. Speaking from experience, I can say that this is a huge job that benefits from the input of many. The ideal committee member is genuinely interested in the ATS, enjoys the challenges presented to our complex international organization and is willing to participate meaningfully in committee work. ATS members interested in committee work are encouraged to contact Peter Wagner via e-mail at pdwagner@ucsd.edu. 



Submit Minority Trainee Travel Awards Applications By February 18, 2005

Trainees of minority backgrounds may apply for the ATS' **Minority Trainee Travel Awards (MTTAs)** until **February 18, 2005**. Presented by the ATS Membership Committee and supported by a grant from Merck & Co., Inc., the MTTA's aim is to interest minority trainees in clinical, research and academic careers in respiratory medicine by providing them with travel funds to attend the ATS 2005 International Conference in San Diego, California, May 20-25.

The MTTAs will be awarded to co-authors of abstracts already accepted for presentation at the ATS 2005 Conference. Applications will be judged on the scientific quality of the respective abstracts, the applicant's level of contribution to the work to be presented and the potential impact of the award on the applicant's career development. Applicants may not be recipients of other travel awards at the 2005 International Conference.

Each eligible applicant must be:

- **A member of an under-represented minority**, as defined by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This includes African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Alaskan Natives and Pacific Islanders.
- **A trainee** (high school through post-doctoral fellow) at a U.S. institution.
- **An author of an abstract** accepted for presentation at ATS 2005 • San Diego.
- Able to attend the **Diversity Luncheon** at the International Conference on Sunday, May 22, 2005 from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., where he or she will be recognized with the other recipients. The luncheon will be held in the Marina Ballroom at the San Diego Marriott Hotel and Marina.

The MTTA application form is available for download on the ATS website at www.thoracic.org/mtta.asp.

For more information about this program, contact Allan P. Gordon, Manager of ATS Member Services and Chapter Relations, by e-mail at ats-mtta@thoracic.org. 

ATS Thanks Partners in Research

As the ATS Research Program continues to grow, the ATS would like to thank its current partners in research, including the Alpha-1 Foundation, the LAM Foundation and the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation (all of which are members of the ATS Public Advisory Roundtable), the Medical Research Service of the Department of Veteran Affairs, the Respiratory Institute, a division of GlaxoSmithKline, and the American Lung Association.

In addition, the ATS is pleased to announce research grant recipients with its newest partners in research, the LUNgevity Foundation and the Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research (FSR), and with one of its existing partners, the Respiratory Institute at GlaxoSmithKline. Please look for the newest awardees in the February *ATS News*. The Society thanks all of these organizations for their support of the ATS' mission.

During the Society's centennial year, the ATS Research Program will offer a portfolio of partnership grants, as well as grants that do not target specific diseases. Details will be announced in early 2005; please contact Elisha Malanga at the ATS via e-mail at emalanga@thoracic.org or telephone at (212) 315-8693 for further information. 

JOURNAL HIGHLIGHTS

The following articles appeared in the December issues of the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*.

Researchers showed that 16 weeks of treatment with the oral drug bosentan led to marked improvement in all clinical and hemodynamic parameters of severe pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH), a disease that is often associated with HIV. The new drug is an oral dual endothelin receptor antagonist. In HIV, endothelin is believed to be produced excessively, causing vasoconstriction, cell proliferation, fibrosis and inflammation. PAH results from chronic obstruction of small pulmonary arteries due in part to endothelial and vascular smooth muscle dysfunction and proliferation. In most cases, earlier death occurs as a direct result of PAH. The authors said that, as a result of the bosentan treatment, significant improvements were reported for parameters considered prognostic indicators of survival in the disease. These indicators included 6-minute walk distance, cardiac index, pulmonary vascular resistance, and improved echocardiography parameters. All patients suffered at least one adverse side effect of bosentan treatment, including peripheral edema, headache, abnormal liver function, muscle cramps, fluid retention and vomiting. Although 15 of the 16 patients were taking hepatotoxic antiretroviral therapies and 4 patients were co-infected with chronic hepatitis B and C, only 2 of 16 were believed to have abnormal hepatic function, which the investigators considered to be within the range of prior experience. (*Sitabon, Oliver, M.D., Hospital Antoine Bécère, Clamart, France*)

In a study of high-risk asthma patients with severe asthma who were hospitalized for serious exacerbations, researchers showed that within 7 days of discharge, their use of prescribed inhaled corticosteroids and oral steroids had fallen rapidly to approximately 50 percent of their prescribed dose. The investigators measured post-hospital adherence in 52 inner city asthmatics by means of electronic medication monitors, self-report, canister weight (for inhaled corticosteroids) and pill counts (for oral corticosteroids). The researchers noted that their results provided strong evidence that even under optimal conditions with free medications and intensive inpatient education, discontinuation of both inhaled corticosteroids and oral corticosteroids was common within 7 days of discharge from the hospital. The participants were almost exclusively African-American with 65 percent (34 patients) being female and almost half having a history of near-fatal asthma. For the most part, they were unemployed and unmarried. (*Krishnan, Jerry A., M.D., Johns Hopkins Asthma and Allergy Center, Baltimore, Maryland*)



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Last Chance to Register for the 10th Annual ATS Clinical State of the Art Course

The registration deadline for the ATS' 10th annual **Clinical State of the Art (SOTA) Course** in pulmonary and critical care medicine is quickly approaching. Because late registration will be contingent on space availability, all participants should register by **February 2nd**.

The course, which will be held March 3-6, 2005 at the Westin Michigan Avenue in Chicago, Illinois, is the ATS' premier CME course outside of the International Conference. It will offer concise, comprehensive updates by outstanding national faculty through both lectures and small group discussions. The course is designated for up to 29.5 American Medical Association Physician Recognition Award Category 1 credits. This year's course topics and faculty are:

"COPD Update" - **Bartolome Celli, M.D.**
"Occupational Asthma" - **J. Allen D. Cooper, Jr., M.D.**
"Sarcoidosis" - **James F. Donohue, M.D.**
"Interventional Bronchoscopy" - **Armin Ernst, M.D.**
"Obesity and Critical Illness" - **Jesse B. Hall, M.D.**
"Lung Cancer" - **Phillip C. Hoffman, M.D.**
"Acute Coronary Syndromes" - **Steven M. Hollenberg, M.D.**
"DX and Management of Tuberculosis" - **Phillip C. Hopewell, M.D.**
"Cystic Fibrosis" - **Douglas B. Hornick, M.D.**
"Cough" - **Richard S. Irwin, M.D.**
"Fungal Infections" - **Carol A. Kauffman, M.D.**
"HRTC" - **Ella Kazerooni, M.D.**
"Diagnosis of PE" - **Clive Kearon, M.D.**
"Prophylactic Strategies in the ICU" - **John P. Kress, M.D.**
"Neuromuscular Disease in the ICU" - **James W. Leatherman, M.D.**
"Bronchiectasis" - **John M. Luce, M.D.**
"Difficult Dyspnea" - **Fernando J. Martinez, M.D.**
"IPF and NSIP" - **Fernando J. Martinez, M.D.**
"HIV-Related Disease" - **Henry Masur, M.D.**

"Long-Term Follow-up and Complications After Lung Transplant" - **Janet R. Maurer, M.D.**
"Bronchiolitis: Making Sense of Chaos" - **Jeffrey L. Myers, M.D.**
"Outpatient Management of Respiratory Tract Infections" - **Michael S. Niederman, M.D.**
"Pulmonary HTN" - **Lewis J. Rubin, M.D.**
"New Modes of Ventilation" - **Gregory A. Schmidt, M.D.**
"Lung Protective Ventilation" - **Curtis N. Sessler, M.D.**
"Nutrition in the ICU" - **Andrew F. Shorr, M.D., M.P.H.**
"Difficult Asthma" - **Mary E. Strek, M.D.**
"Management Of the Patient With Sepsis" - **Arthur P. Wheeler, M.D.**
"Sleep Apnea" - **David P. White, M.D.**
"Toxic Exposures" - **Janice L. Zimmerman, M.D.**

To make attendance at this year's course more affordable, the ATS is sponsoring reduced airfares and reduced hotel rates. If airline tickets are booked at least 30 days before travel, participants will enjoy 10 percent off of the lowest applicable published airline fare. To take advantage of this discount, call (800) 241-6760 and refer to File Number 201438A for Delta Airlines. For United Airlines, call (800) 521-4041 and refer to File Number 523LA. Likewise, to book a hotel room at the Westin Michigan Avenue at a reduced rate, visit www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/Thoracic or call (312) 943-7200.

The host city of Chicago also offers course attendees a variety of cultural, culinary and sightseeing opportunities, including the Field Museum of Natural History, the Shedd Aquarium and the Adler Planetarium. For more information about Chicago's attractions, visit www.chicago.il.org/default.html.

For more information about the course, visit www.thoracic.org/education/sota2005/sota2005info.asp or contact Miriam Rodriguez, ATS Education Manager, via e-mail at mrodriguez@thoracic.org or via phone at (212) 315-8639. **ATS**

Happy Birthday ATS! January 2005 Marks Beginning of Society's 100th Year

tors created the American Sanatorium Association (now the ATS) to promote collaboration within the medical community and to determine how best to care for TB patients and treat the disease.

The Society's mission and scope, while at first limited to TB, has gradually expanded over the years to be more comprehensive. Likewise, its membership and structure changed many times to accommodate this expansion. Even the Society's name changed to reflect its broadening scope: in 1938, it became the American Trudeau Society, and in 1960, the American Thoracic Society (ATS).

Over the last 100 years, the ATS has grown from a small, national organization with a narrow focus to a large, international society composed of more than 13,000 scientists, educators, nurses, clinicians and researchers. Today, the Society strives to meet the needs of its growing international membership by focusing on a large number of specialties, including sleep medicine, nursing, behavioral science, pediatrics, environmental health, critical care and pulmonary medicine, among others. In addition, the ATS annually offers the world's premier respiratory medicine conference, produces two highly acclaimed respiratory journals and continues its advocacy efforts for patients through the efforts of its Washington,

D.C. office. In keeping with the large variety of lung-related interests that now exist, ATS members can now organize into interest-specific assemblies within the Society that allow for networking and collaboration with colleagues with similar interests. After 100 years of progress, there is much to celebrate.

"Birthday Bash"– Upcoming Centennial Celebrations: Under the leadership of the ATS' "Birthday Bash Committee," centennial celebrations include additions to the ATS website, the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine (AJRCCM)*, the *American Journal of Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology (AJRCMB)*, and the *ATS News*, as well as the creation and distribution of a 150-page, hardcover "coffee-table" style book, which will be given as a birthday present to all ATS members. In addition, the Society has planned several celebratory events and programs that will take place during the International Conference in San Diego, California, May 20-25, 2005.

ATS Website: In commemoration of the anniversary, ATS website editor Dean E. Schraufnagel, M.D., invites members to visit the

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WHO'S WHO IN ATS

Suzanne Claire Lareau, R.N., M.S.

Although when she first entered the medical field, Suzanne Claire Lareau, R.N., M.S., intended to focus solely on the academic side of nursing, she found that remaining active clinically was an essential part of teaching. "I've found that clinical practice helps me to better understand pulmonary disease and rehabilitation," she says. "More importantly, clinical work allows me to better understand and help my patients."

Over the course of her 38-year nursing career, Ms. Lareau has spent balanced academic, clinical and research pursuits, as demonstrated by her current roles as clinician, educator and researcher. She currently serves as Pulmonary Clinical Nurse Specialist at the New Mexico Veterans Administration (VA) Health Care System and Clinical Educator and Lecturer in the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of New Mexico's College of Nursing in Albuquerque.

A native of Woonsocket, Rhode Island, Ms. Lareau earned her degree as a registered nurse from the Sacred Heart Hospital School of Nursing in Manchester, New Hampshire in 1966. Because she was initially interested in returning to that institution as a teacher, she relocated to Columbia, South Carolina to earn a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing with the intention of returning to New England shortly thereafter.

"I enjoyed the Sacred Heart training program so much that I thought I'd go back to contribute if I could, but quickly realized that I needed to gain nursing experience outside the classroom first," Ms. Lareau says. "After I completed my undergraduate work, I moved to Tucson, Arizona to get some practical experience. The move provided me with very different and wonderful opportunities, and, thirty-five years later, I have yet to regret it. Those opportunities were what first got me interested in pulmonary medicine."

Shifting Focus

Ms. Lareau joined the Tucson Medical Center in 1969 as a staff nurse in the intensive care and critical care units. While there, ATS members Gayle Traver, R.N., M.S.N. (one of the first clinical nurse specialists in the country), and Benjamin Burrows, Jr., M.D. (founder of the Arizona Respiratory Center in Tucson), invited her to join the University of Arizona's newly-formed pulmonary division.

"I was drawn to that fact that I could 'specialize' and the fact that Ms. Traver and Dr. Burrows made the study of pulmonary disease so interesting," she explains. "I joined the University of Arizona as a Nurse Specialist while I earned my Master of Science Degree in Nursing."

Studying and working at the University of Arizona allowed Ms. Lareau to gain "the clinical and teaching experience" and the critical thinking skills that ultimately shaped her nursing career.

While there, she developed her interest in understanding patients suffering from COPD. "I was intrigued by how poorly we understood COPD patients and wanted to help to promote this understanding by studying dyspnea and how it affects the daily life of patients," she recalls.

After receiving her graduate degree in 1973 from the University of Arizona, Ms. Lareau stayed at the Respiratory Sciences Center as a faculty member and clinical nurse specialist for another five years, during which she was an instructor in Nursing and lecturer in the Internal Medicine master's degree program, which she recalls was "one of the few programs in the U.S. that pre-



"I've found that clinical practice helps me to better understand pulmonary disease and rehabilitation," she says. "More importantly, clinical work allows me to better understand and help patients."

pared Clinical Nurse Specialists in pulmonary medicine at that time." She left in 1978 to accept a position as Assistant Professor of Nursing at the University of Virginia (UVA) in Charlottesville, Virginia, where she spent two years teaching in the School of Nursing and working with ATS member Dudley Rochester, M.D., (now Professor Emeritus in UVA's Pulmonary Department).

Ms. Lareau was then recruited by ATS member John Hodgkin, M.D., to start a pulmonary rehabilitation program at the Loma Linda VA in California. For the next 22 years, she worked as a pulmonary clinical nurse specialist at the VA. In 2002, she accepted her current positions at the New Mexico VA Health Care System and the University of New Mexico.

Pulmonary and Patient Care Research

She notes that her interest in patient care research expanded in 1982 while she was developing the Pulmonary Functional Status and Dyspnea Questionnaire (PFSDQ), a survey that aims to help medical professionals understand the relationship between dyspnea and functional status. Published in 1994 (and soon followed by a shorter version), the PFSDQ has proven so useful in the evaluation of the effects of pulmonary rehabilitation that it has now been translated into six different languages. Ms. Lareau notes that the original and modified questionnaires would never have been properly developed without the help of fellow ATS members Virginia Carrieri-Kohlman, D.N.Sc., R.N., Susan Janson D.N.Sc., R.N., Paula Meek, Ph.D., R.N., and Philip Roos, M.D.

Over the course of her career, Ms. Lareau has presented her research in more than 30 abstracts and papers at the ATS' annual International Conferences. In addition to studying the effects of pulmonary rehabilitation, Ms. Lareau is currently investigating exacerbations of COPD with her colleagues and fellow ATS members Richard Crowell, M.D., and Paula Meek, Ph.D., R.N.

ATS Involvement

Ms. Lareau became a member of the ATS in 1972 and has attended every meeting since. She has served on several major committees (and as chairperson of six) and has been active in developing ATS programs. She was one of the founding members of the ATS Assembly on Nursing in 1976 and helped develop the Section on Pulmonary Rehabilitation in 1997. Recently, she chaired the Task Force on Donating Educational Materials to Underserved Areas, which oversees the ATS Guest Subscription Program. Her current committee positions include the Communications and Marketing Committee, the Quality of Life Database Committee, the COPD Patient Education Website Committee and the ATS Website Editorial Board. She also has and continues to contribute to ATS position papers relating to COPD patients.

Ms. Lareau was the first nurse to be a primary author of an article in the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine* (then called the *American Review of Respiratory Disease*) in 1978. The article, "The Relationship Between Frequency of Ventilator Circuitry Changes and Infectious Hazard," examines how often hospitals needed to change the circuits in patient ventilators.

On a Personal Note

In her free time, Ms. Lareau enjoys embroidering reproductions of historical samplers, cooking, wine tasting and visiting art museums. She lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico. [ATS](#)

Improvements Made to Efficiency, Design and Content of the "Red Journal"

A little more than a year after assuming editorial leadership of the *American Journal of Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology* (AJRCMB), editor Steven D. Shapiro, M.D., and his team of associate editors have made significant progress in increasing the publication's efficiency by establishing a uniform review process and adopting a more stringent manuscript acceptance policy. With that accomplished, Dr. Shapiro and his colleagues have also ordered major changes to the journal's appearance and format.

"Traditionally, the 'red journal' had tried to accept all scientific papers that were 'very good,' but such an open acceptance policy led to a startling increase in publication lag time," Dr. Shapiro explains. "When we took over in 2003, the publication's lag time was almost 7 months and the review and publishing policies in use were no longer tenable." Throughout the last year, Dr. Shapiro and his team have decreased this delay by more than 4 months; in fact, the red journal's publication timetable is now equal to that of the "blue journal," or the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine* (AJRCCM).

To achieve this goal, the AJRCMB editorial board instituted a policy to accept "only the most outstanding manuscripts submitted." Dr. Shapiro calls the decrease in the journal's acceptance rate (which has declined 15 percent in the last year) "a necessary change that, when combined with the additional efficiency of the review process, will allow authors to publish their work much more quickly and raise the profile of the journal."

"We want to maintain our place as the leading research journal in our field, and there's a lot of competition out there now," he explains. "The AJRCMB's impact factor has been stagnant for many years now, whereas the blue journal's has only increased. We are committed to changing this to better serve the ATS and the scientific community. Our mechanism of increasing our impact factor is simple — to only publish the best original science and timely reviews in cell and molecular biology with an emphasis on animal models of lung disease."

With those standards and guidelines in place, Dr. Shapiro and the AJRCMB editorial board are now focusing on the journal's external appearance and formatting. In 2005, the AJRCMB will have a more "colorful and artistic" cover; it will adopt a simple format similar to that of the "blue journal" (which will allow manuscripts to be more easily transferred between the two publications); and it will enhance the efficiency of its formatting to save page space.

Upcoming collaborations between the two ATS journals include publishing a group of reviews to recognize the ATS centennial anniversary throughout 2005. Beginning in April, each month the journals will focus on a topic related to disease and medical advancement in the last one hundred years. While the "red journal" will explore advances in the biological understanding of disease mechanisms, the "blue journal" will examine the corresponding evolution and role of clinical care. Topics to be examined include COPD, asthma, tuberculosis and lung cancer. [ATS](#)

Register Now to Attend ATS 2005 ■ San Diego, May 20–25

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organization was founded in 1905, while also providing vital information that will assist ATS members in their future pursuits to better understand and treat respiratory and critical care patients.

Important Conference Notes:

ATS members will receive their **Advance Programs** including registration information in the mail at the end of the month. Members are encouraged to register early to obtain preferred housing. Alternatively, ATS members can register online on the ATS website at www.thoracic.org/ic/ic2005/conference.asp.

Registration fees will cover admission to the majority of the conference sessions and abstracts on CD-ROM (supported by an educational grant from Astra Zeneca Pharmaceuticals), which will be sent to those who request them by the **early bird deadline, March 29, 2005**. Conference abstracts will also be published in *Proceedings of the American Thoracic Society (PATS)* the month before the Conference. The sessions containing the oral and poster presentations of original abstracts will be included in the Final Program.

When you complete your registration form, remember to sign up for the **"Welcome Reception"** on May 21st at 4:30 p.m. and the **ATS membership meeting** on May 24th from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. to hear the Society's leadership message. In addition to several sessions highlighting the advances in respiratory medicine over the past century, participants should attend the **"Nobel Laureate" program**, which will take place on May 23rd from 11

a.m. to 12:45 p.m. (For more information on these programs, see "Happy Birthday ATS!" on page 1).

ATS 2005 • San Diego will feature topics such as hypersensitivity pneumonitis, sarcoidosis, COPD, cystic fibrosis, lung cancer, asthma, lung transplantation and pulmonary fibrosis. Scientific, clinical and critical care topics that will also be covered at the Conference include signaling in lung cells, gene expression, pulmonary gas exchange, asthma therapy, pleural infections, non-invasive ventilation and ARDS. Other issues to be examined at the Conference include pediatrics, neonatology and sleep medicine, just to name a few.

Each of the 12 ATS assemblies will hold an annual membership meeting at the Conference in San Diego. All assembly members and other interested individuals are invited to attend these meetings, which will provide an update on each assembly's activities and projects. In addition, members will have the chance to vote for their assembly's future leaders and discuss the assembly's future plans. All assembly meetings will be held on Monday, May 23rd from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., with the exception of the Assembly on Behavioral Science, which will hold its membership meeting on Sunday, May 22nd from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. These meetings will be held at the Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel. For more information about assembly meetings, awards and dinners, contact Monica Simeonova at (212) 315-8696 or msimeonova@thoracic.org.

For more information about the Conference, call (212) 315-8658 or e-mail ats2005@thoracic.org. [ATS](#)

Happy Birthday ATS! January 2005 Marks Beginning of Society's 100th Year

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recently-created centennial section of the website at www.thoracic.org/aboutats/centennial/default.asp. This portion of the website, divided into three sections, gives a brief history of the ATS and features a collection of historic personal vignettes about the ATS and respiratory medicine, many of which were written by ATS members. Members can also peruse "Retrospectroscopes" written by Julius H. Comroe, Jr., M.D. This collection of articles, originally published in the *American Review of Respiratory Disease* (now the *AJRCCM*), describes important historical advances in knowledge related to respiratory disease and the persons who made them.

"Colleagues in Discovery: One-Hundred Years of Improving Respiratory Health": The ATS will give every member a hardcover copy of the commemorative book, "Colleagues in Discovery: One-Hundred Years of Improving Respiratory Health," which describes and illustrates 100 years of respiratory medicine through text, photographs, artifacts and medical imagery. It also provides a comprehensive history of tuberculosis and other lung diseases from 1905 to the present, features a timeline of pulmonary and critical care advances that spans the 20th and 21st centuries and emphasizes the relationship between respiratory research and its clinical applications. The book, which was written by an author selected by the ATS and produced with the financial support of the unrestricted grants provided by the ATS' corporate sponsors, Altana Pharma, Boehringer-Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Genentech Inc./Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation and Merck & Co., Inc., is not strictly a history of the ATS. Instead, it highlights the advances made in respiratory medicine during the last 100 years and notes the roles that the Society and its members have played in those accomplishments. **Watch for your copy of the book in February 2005!**

ATS 2005 • San Diego, California, May 20-25: Under the leadership of International Conference Committee Chair Randy Curtis, M.D., M.P.H., the ATS will certainly celebrate its centennial anniversary in a variety of ways at the 2005 International Conference.

On Saturday, May 21, the Conference will open at 4:30 p.m. with a festive **"Welcome Reception Birthday Party"** at the waterfront on San Diego's "Embarcadero," which offers scenic views of the

Pacific Ocean and the opportunity to mingle with colleagues. On Sunday, May 22nd, Dr. Curtis will lead the "Centennial Conference Chair Symposium" on **"The Next 100 Years of Translating Science into Advances in Lung Health,"** during which participants will look toward the future of basic scientific advances and how they will improve clinical practice and lung health. In addition, on Monday, May 23 from 11 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., the ATS will present a special program that will highlight the works of three distinguished **Nobel Laureate prize winners**, who will discuss their past research and ideas on the future of pulmonary medicine. Speakers include Baruch Blumberg, M.D., Ph.D., who won the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1976 for his research on Hepatitis B, Peter Agre, M.D., who won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2003 for his work with aquaporins, and Aaron Ciechanover, M.D., D.Sc., who won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2004 for his research on ubiquitin-mediated protein degradation.

The American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine (AJRCCM) and the American Journal of Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology (AJRCMB): These ATS' journals will collaborate during the upcoming year to publish a group of reviews to recognize the centennial anniversary beginning in April 2005. Each month, the journals will focus on a topic related to disease and medical advancement in the last 100 years. While the *AJRCMB* will explore advances in the biological understanding of disease mechanisms, the *AJRCCM* will examine the corresponding evolution and role of clinical care. The April 1, 2005 editions of the journals will focus on COPD. Topics that will be covered later in the year include tuberculosis, asthma and lung cancer.

For more information about ATS centennial celebrations, visit www.thoracic.org/aboutats/centennial/default.asp or call (212) 315-8600.

Members of the ATS "Birthday Bash Committee" include: Sonia Buist, M.D., Randy Curtis, M.D., Colleen Richardson, Committee Chair Sharon Rounds, M.D., Dean Schraufnagel, M.D., Martin Tobin, M.D., Gerry Turino, M.D., Peter Wagner, M.D., and John Walsh, as well several ATS staff members—Carl Booberg, Cathy Carlomagno, Gary Ewart, Rebecca Fournier and Graham Nelan. **ATS**

ATS Membership Benefits in 2005: Renew Your Dues Now

If you have not yet paid your dues for 2005, renew your ATS membership now to ensure continuation of membership benefits in 2005. Benefits of membership during the Society's 100th year include:

- Subscriptions to the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine* and the *American Journal of Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology*, which are respectively ranked number one and number two in respiratory medicine by the Science Citation Index, as well as to *Proceedings of the American Thoracic Society*
- The opportunity to organize into interest-specific **assemblies and sections**
- Access to a variety of accredited **continuing medical education (CME)** courses with significant discounts off of registra-

tion fees

- **Advocacy** for patients through the efforts of the ATS' Government Relations Office in Washington, D.C.
- Discounted registration for the **ATS International Conference in San Diego, California, May 20-25, 2005**

To renew your dues electronically, visit www.thoracic.org or return the dues renewal form that the ATS mailed out to all members last October. Whether renewing via mail or online, members are also asked to update their professional data included on Part II of the dues renewal invoice. Providing this information will assist the ATS in maintaining accurate member data.

For more information about dues renewal and member benefits, contact the ATS Member Services & Chapter Relations Unit at (212) 315-8698 or via e-mail at memberinfo@thoracic.org. **ATS**

CONFERENCES, COURSES AND MEETINGS

Activities sponsored or endorsed by the ATS and its chapters are listed in **bold**.

Date and Place	Information	Contact
February 3–5 Carmel, California	“Current Controversies in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine,” jointly sponsored by the California Thoracic Society, the American College of Chest Physicians-California Chapter and the ATS	Joyce Fennelly Phone: (714) 730-1944 E-mail: CTSLung@aol.com
February 4–5 Toronto, Ontario	“Better Breathing Conference 2005,” sponsored by the Ontario Thoracic Society and the ATS	Phone: (416) 864-9911, ext. 254 E-mail: ots@on.lung.ca Website: www.onlung.ca/BBC05/
February 10–13 Orlando, Florida	“26th Pulmonary Wintercourse,” sponsored by the Florida Thoracic Society and the ATS	Candy Holloway Phone: (800) 940-2933, ext. 21 E-mail: fts@lungfla.org
February 19–23 Honolulu, Hawaii	“5th Annual Symposium: Current Concepts in Pulmonary and Critical Care,” jointly sponsored by the Hawaii Thoracic Society and the ATS	Brenda Mahuka Phone: (808) 537-5966 E-mail: bmahuka@ala-hawaii.org
February 23–26 Vancouver, BC, Canada	“Challenges to TB Control,” sponsored by the North American Region of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (IUATLD)	Menn Biagtan, M.D. E-mail: biagtan@bc.lung.ca Website: www.bc.lung.ca
March 3–6 Chicago, Illinois	“2005 ATS Clinical State of the Art Course,” sponsored by the ATS	Miriam Rodriguez Phone: (212) 315-8639 E-mail: mrodriguez@thoracic.org
March 8–11 Montreal, Quebec	“International Beryllium Research Conference,” jointly sponsored by the Institut de recherche Robert-Sauvé en santé et en sécurité du travail, the National Jewish Medical and Research Center and the National Institutes of Occupational Safety and Health	Conference Secretariat Phone: (514) 288-1551 Fax: (514) 288-7636 E-mail: Beryllium2005@irsst.qc.ca Website: www.irsst.qc.ca/en/home.html
March 11 Baltimore, Maryland	“The 45th Annual Meeting and Scientific Session of the Maryland Thoracic Society,” sponsored by the Maryland Thoracic Society	Sharon Greason Phone: (410) 560-2120, ext. 232 E-mail: sgreason@marylandlung.org Website: www.marylandlung.org/research/research.htm
March 13–18 Perth, Australia	International Society for Aerosols in Medicine (ISAM) Congress	E-mail: kreyling@gsf.de Website: www.isam.org
March 21–25 Brussels, Belgium	25th Annual International Symposium on Intensive Care & Emergency Medicine	E-mail: sympicu@ulb.ac.be Website: www.intensive.org
April 7–10 Scottsdale, Arizona	“A Multidisciplinary Update in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine,” sponsored by the Mayo Foundation	Phone: (480) 301-4580 E-mail: mcs.cme@mayo.edu
April 19–22 Beijing, China	“10th International Conference on Occupational Respiratory Diseases (ICORD)”	Phone: +86 10 68792527 Fax: +86 10 68792528 E-mail: executive@icord2005.com Website: www.ICORD2005.com
May 20–25 San Diego, California	American Thoracic Society 2005 International Conference	Phone: (212) 315-8658 E-mail: ats2005@thoracic.org Website: www.thoracic.org

Correction: In the December issue of the *ATS News*, the Message from the President incorrectly stated: “The ATS Research Program continues to grow, using operating funds and funds that have been budgeted to continue strategic planning in FY 2005.” This should have read: “The ATS Research Program continues to grow. In addition, funds have been budgeted to continue strategic planning in FY 2005.”