

# Bulletin

**ATS Foundation**  
 Improving the lives of patients with respiratory  
 diseases through research, education, & training

Fall 2015 | Vol. 12, No. 02

## Letter from the Chair

As we enter the 2015 giving season, I'd like to thank you and our many friends for supporting the ATS Foundation Research Program.

Our Funds for the Future Campaign goal for research is to **raise \$700,000 by December 31, 2015**. Please make your gift today and help ensure the Foundation's ability to increase the number of unrestricted grants we award in 2016.

Your support of the Research Program has really made a difference. In the wake of across-the-board cuts authorized by Congress in 2013 and 2014, the NIH could not fund many outstanding research proposals. The Foundation responded by awarding 13 young investigators who just missed the NIH pay line \$40,000 each to continue their research, gather more data, and sharpen their proposals to NIH and other funders.

These researchers have **gone on to secure \$8 million in total committed funding** from the NIH, Burroughs-Wellcome, the Parker B. Francis Foundation, and other funders. That's a fantastic return on investment, thanks to the generous contributions you and our research partners have made.

The ATS has contributed \$200,000 to the Foundation in honor of the Research Program's tenth anniversary and has challenged everyone to join together and match this gift dollar for dollar to help retain young investigators in careers in pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine.

The Funds for the Future Campaign also includes: MECOR, Medical Education Research, Assembly Awards & Scholarships, and the Ziskind Clinical Research Scholar Award. No matter what program inspires you, **thank you for your generosity, and have a wonderful holiday season!** ■



James F. Donohue, MD

## Research Awardees: Then & Now

William Lawson, MD, is grateful for his 2006 ATS Foundation Research Program award, and believes the award played an important part in jumpstarting his research career.



William Lawson, MD

Dr. Lawson is now an associate professor at Vanderbilt University and director of their Pulmonary and Critical Care Fellowship Program.

In addition to his research on the role of alveolar epithelial cell dysfunction in pulmonary fibrosis, he continues his clinical service work at the Nashville Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Dr. Lawson is committed to nurturing the career development of young investigators, and is a generous supporter of the ATS Foundation.

When asked what he wished other people knew about the Foundation, Dr. Lawson replied,

"The money raised by the ATS Foundation goes directly to support its research programs. The Foundation's impact is enormous—many investigators in pulmonary research have benefitted from ATS Foundation grants, and many important discoveries have been made that hold promise for impacting the health of individuals with pulmonary diseases." ■

*Thank you, Dr. Lawson, for sharing your story, and for everything you do for the ATS Foundation!*

Help us reach our **\$700,000 goal** and build a future where we can all breathe better.

**Give today!**

[foundation.thoracic.org/donate](http://foundation.thoracic.org/donate)



**Have you honored your mentor?**



*Make a special gift today!*

## Research Program Benefit Will Honor Sally Wenzel, MD

Sally Wenzel, MD, will be honored at the Eighth Annual ATS Foundation Research Program Benefit on Saturday, May 14, 2016, during the ATS 2016 International Conference in San Francisco.

The Foundation is proud to award Dr. Wenzel, a world-renowned asthma expert, with the Breathing for Life Award, the highest honor given to an ATS member for philanthropy.

The annual benefit is a great opportunity for individuals, medical institutions, and corporate sponsors to support the Research Program.

The Research Program Benefit format of cocktail tables paired with tall bar tables provides guests with an intimate setting for socializing, while allowing them to mingle with others attending the event.

Food will be served buffet style and highlight San Francisco's world-renowned cuisines. Enjoy the dancing, and catch up with friends. ■

**Join us as we celebrate Dr. Wenzel and the ATS Foundation Research Program awardees!**

*Registration for ATS 2016 and the Foundation Research Program Benefit open the first week of December.*

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Eighth Annual ATS Foundation  
Research Program Benefit**



**Honoring Sally Wenzel, MD  
Saturday, May 14, 2016, 7 p.m.  
San Francisco Marriott Marquis**

## RECURRING GIVING

### A Convenient Way to Make a Big Impact

William C. Bailey, MD, the Eminent Scholar Chair in Pulmonary Diseases at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, is committed to the mentorship of young clinical researchers and educators.

He is also a loyal ATS Foundation donor and one of the Foundation's earliest supporters.



William C. Bailey, MD

"I have received so much," says Dr. Bailey, "and it's important to me to pay that back."

Dr. Bailey finds recurring giving to be an easy way to make a big impact: "For years, I've given to the ATS Foundation in monthly installments. I never have large lump sums sitting around, but I can easily send a few hundred dollars a month to the ATS Foundation, which can add up. I use a credit card—it's easy, convenient, and I highly recommend it." ■

*Thank you, Dr. Bailey!*

To learn more about recurring giving, visit [foundation.thoracic.org/donate](http://foundation.thoracic.org/donate)

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*Thank you for choosing us!*



Carolyn Fruci, MD, PhD

"I feel strongly that as pulmonary and critical care physicians we all need to support research in our field," says Carolyn Fruci, MD, PhD, chief of the pulmonary and critical care division at Prima CARE.

The research award Dr. Fruci received early in her career motivates her giving, and she is proud to give back. Dr. Fruci adds that she gives to the ATS Foundation in particular because every penny of her donation goes to support research grants and awards.

*Thank you to Dr. Fruci and all of our loyal donors!*

# ATS Foundation

Improving the lives of patients with respiratory diseases through research, education, & training

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## Patient VOICES



Heather Snyder

Despite the fact that Heather Snyder's father died of pulmonary fibrosis when Heather was nine, her breathing problems were misdiagnosed as asthma, until her mother insisted she get an x-ray.

"Things went rapidly downhill from there," recalls Heather, who came within hours of her life when she received a double-lung transplant.

Although looking forward to the fifth anniversary of her transplant because she feels better every year, Heather believes that transplantation offers an incomplete answer to this deadly and puzzling lung disease.

"We need research to find medications that stop the progression of pulmonary fibrosis and research to find a cure," she says. "Patients need hope and research is hope. I want to know that the next generation of patients can survive." ■

*Thank you, Heather, for sharing your story!*

## 2015 ATS Assembly Challenge Kicks Off December 1st

During the 2015 American Thoracic Society Leadership Summit, assembly leaders endorsed renewing last year's successful ATS Assembly Challenge in support of the ATS Foundation Research Program.



Naftali Kaminski, MD, RCMB chair, Gregory P. Downey, MD, All chair, and Kristin A. Riekert, PhD, BSHR chair, display their 2014 awards

The Assembly Challenge taps into the grassroots power and generous giving spirit of the ATS assemblies, and runs throughout December.

"Without member support, amazing programs such as MECOR and young investigator research grants wouldn't exist," said **Kristin A. Riekert, PhD**, chair for the Assembly on Behavioral Science and Health Services Research, which won an award for highest member participation in 2014.

Assemblies are also recognized for highest overall giving and most first-time donors. Thank you to the ATS assemblies, and we look forward to announcing the 2015 results! ■

*Learn more at [foundation.thoracic.org/what-we-do/assemblies](http://foundation.thoracic.org/what-we-do/assemblies)*