

Bulletin

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

Fall 2016 | Vol. 13, No. 02

Letter From the Chair



Dean E. Schraufnagel, MD

A simple but potent idea has fueled the growth of the ATS Foundation Research Program: Even a modest grant awarded at a critical time in a researcher’s life can make a big difference. And you make this all possible!

Your support for the Research Program has launched nearly 200 young investigators into research careers in pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine. **Their research is a source of hope for patients everywhere.**

This issue of the Bulletin introduces readers to Neeta Thakur, MD, MPH, a recent Outstanding Early Career Investigator Award recipient.

Dr. Thakur’s research on childhood poverty, chronic stress, and asthma may help health care providers and others address more effectively the growing rates of asthma, especially among members of disadvantaged communities.

As we enter the giving season, I find there are many reasons to be hopeful. None motivates me more, though, than the good that can come from raising \$850,000 before the end of the year to support highly-motivated researchers like Dr. Thakur.

I feel fortunate to be able to contribute to an effort that has advanced our understanding of respiratory disease and laid the groundwork for breakthroughs that will allow patients to breathe better and live fully.

I hope you will join me in supporting the Research Program—or whichever program inspires you, including MECOR, Medical Education Research, Assembly Awards & Scholarships, and the Ziskind Clinical Research Scholar Award.

Your generosity, now and in the past, is a wellspring of hope. Thank you. ■



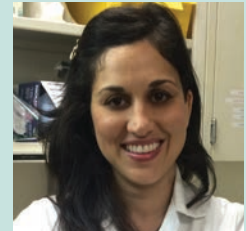
Funds for the Future

Build a future where patients breathe better.
 Give Today!

foundation.thoracic.org/donate

Your Generosity at Work

Neeta Thakur, MD, MPH, believes the circumstances of a patient’s life may need to be addressed as much as lab results.



Neeta Thakur, MD, MPH

In 2014, the University of California, San Francisco assistant professor received an ATS Foundation Outstanding Early Career Investigator Award to study biomarkers that might relate chronic stress to asthma.

Research Program awards are a springboard for young researchers

That research led to an NIH K23 Career Development Award to explore how adverse childhood experiences, including poverty and violence, can impact asthma.

Dr. Thakur hopes her work in African American and Latino neighborhoods grappling with high rates of asthma will produce screening tools and effective interventions that can reduce the burden of asthma for children.

While looking for answers in the laboratory, Dr. Thakur is also interested in marshalling community organizations to fight asthma and other health problems associated with growing up in difficult circumstances.

“Poverty gets under your skin,” Dr. Thakur says. “And adverse childhood experiences impact health.”

Research Program awards are a springboard for young researchers, allowing them protected time to successfully compete for larger NIH grants. The awards help keep promising young investigators in the field.

Thank you for your generous support of scientific discovery and better patient care!

David M. Center to Be Honored During Foundation Benefit

David M. Center, MD, will receive the 2017 Breathing for Life Award during the Ninth Annual ATS Foundation Research Program Benefit on Saturday, May 20. The Breathing for Life Award is the highest honor given to an ATS member for philanthropy, mentorship, and scientific accomplishment.

A distinguished researcher, clinician, and educator, Dr. Center has served as chief of pulmonary medicine at Boston University for the past 30 years.

The annual benefit is a great opportunity for individuals, medical institutions, and corporations to support the young investigators of the Research Program.

Food and cocktails are served buffet-style at this reception, and guests reconnect with ATS friends and colleagues from around the globe. ■

ATS 2017 Washington, DC, attendees can register for the benefit when conference registration opens the first week of December.

Double the impact!

Some companies double or even triple employees' gifts by offering a company match. See if your company matches at thoracic.org/go/matching.

Make your stock gifts before Dec. 31

Gifts of Stock:

another way to support the next generation of pulmonary scientists

Visit

thoracic.org/go/stock



SAVE THE DATE

MAY 20, 2017, 7PM

MARRIOTT MARQUIS WASHINGTON, DC

Honoring **DAVID M. CENTER, MD**,
2017 recipient of the Breathing for Life Award
Join us during the ATS 2017 International Conference.

Dean E. Schraufnagel, MD
Chair
University of Illinois at Chicago

Linda Nici, MD
Vice-Chair
The Alpert Medical School of Brown University

Nicholas S. Hill, MD
Secretary-Treasurer
Tufts Medical Center

James F. Donohue, MD
Immediate Past Chair
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

Theodore F. Reiss, MD, MBE
Trustee Emeritus
Celgene, Inc.

Gerard J. Criner, MD
Temple University School of Medicine

Debbie Drell
Chair, ATS Public Advisory Roundtable (PAR)
Pulmonary Hypertension Association

Jacqueline Ernst, MBA
PPD

LeRoy M. Graham, MD, FCCP
Bridge Atlanta Medical Center

Stephen P. Kantrow, MD
Chair, Council of Chapter Representatives
Louisiana State University Medical Center

Susanna A. McColley, MD
Northwestern University Feinberg School
of Medicine

Marc Moss, MD
ATS President Elect
University of Colorado School of Medicine

Richard K. Murray, MD
Merck & Co., Inc.

Polly Parsons, MD
ATS Vice President
University of Vermont

Sharon I. S. Rounds, MD
Providence VA Medical Center
Alpert Medical School of Brown University

Gerard M. Turino, MD
Mount Sinai St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital

William C. Bailey, MD
Chair, Ziskind Clinical Scholar Review
Committee
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Stephen C. Crane, PhD, MPH
ATS Executive Director

Lydia Neumann
Director, ATS Foundation

Aprille Russell
Director of Individual Giving, ATS Foundation

A Portrait of Giving



Sharon Rounds, MD

For many, the idea of making a planned gift can be intimidating. Sharon Rounds, MD, discovered there were simple ways she could support the next generation of researchers, clinicians, and educators:

“When I was very young, my husband and I invested a few hundred dollars in an annuity fund then promptly forgot about it.

Many years later, we were pleasantly surprised to learn that the fund had grown significantly in value. We had no plans to continue the investment, so we decided to make the American Thoracic Society Foundation the beneficiary of the fund.

The fund sits there, quietly accumulating value, and will benefit the ATS Foundation Research Program and (eventually) benefit patients with lung diseases.”

You have options when naming the ATS Foundation, Inc., as a beneficiary in your planned giving:

- Including the Foundation as a beneficiary of your life insurance plan,
- Retirement plan,
- Trust, or
- Will

You can choose to gift all or a percentage of your plan, will, or trust.

Your attorney or accountant can help you make choices that meet the needs of your family and support the causes you hold dear.

It’s your legacy. Contact Lydia Neumann at lyneumann@thoracic.org or visit foundation.thoracic.org/ways-to-help/legacy. ■

ATS Assemblies Gear Up for Challenge

The challenge is back on. The 2016 ATS Assembly Challenge begins on Nov. 29, a day known worldwide as #GivingTuesday, and continues through Dec. 31.

Last year, the Assembly on Respiratory Cell & Molecular Biology raised the most funds for the ATS Foundation. The assembly also led in the number of new donors. Assemblies are also recognized for highest member giving participation, an honor achieved by the Assembly on Nursing in 2015.

Winning assemblies are honored during the ATS International Conference, the ATS Leadership Summit, and throughout ATS and Foundation newsletters.

In accepting an award on behalf of his assembly, then RCMB chair **Naftali Kaminski, MD**, said he hoped the 2015 challenge would spark “a dramatic rise in donations and new donors from all assemblies” in 2016.

Assembly members can turn that wish into reality with their support for the ATS Foundation Research Program, MECOR, Medical Education Research, the Ziskind Clinical Research Scholar Award, and Assembly Awards & Scholarships. We look forward to announcing the 2016 results!

Learn more or download the Assembly Challenge toolkit at foundation.thoracic.org/what-we-do/assemblies ■



Naftali Kaminski, MD, then RCMB chair, receives RCMB’s 2015 ATS Assembly Challenge awards from James Donohue, MD, now Immediate Past Chair of the ATS Foundation

Black Friday. Cyber Monday.

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

November 29, 2016

Giving Tuesday is a powerful social movement that culminates with a global day of giving. Join the ATS Foundation for #GivingTuesday: Support respiratory research. Save lives.

ATS Foundation

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

25 Broadway, 18th Floor, New York, NY 10004
foundation.thoracic.org

Patient VOICES



Vijai
Sharma

Vijai Sharma's chronological age has nearly caught up to his lungs. When he was diagnosed with COPD at age 53, his doctor said he had the lungs of a 76-year-old.

In the 22 years he has lived with COPD, the now retired clinical psychologist has seen a major shift in how the disease is viewed. "Science has removed the shackles that come with viewing COPD as a completely irreversible, progressive, and horrible disease," he says.

Still, Dr. Sharma believes perspectives should widen a bit more to include research on alternative therapies like yoga and on the psychological dimensions of the chronic disease. With COPD, he says, "the emotional burden is significant because emotions are quickly translated into breaths." ■

Thank you, Vijai, for sharing your story!

Have you honored your mentor?



Make a special gift today!