

THE MECOR PROGRAM: International Courses that Change Careers and Lives



MECOR graduates from Vietnam

The ATS MECOR Program improves global lung health in low- and middle-income countries by developing local and regional research capacity. MECOR helps fill the gap in many physicians' education by training them in a variety of skills needed to be successful researchers, including basic research design, data analysis presentation skills, and manuscript preparation. Armed with these skills, clinicians are able to describe the burden of lung disease and develop studies that evaluate the interventions that are most likely to be effective in their respective countries' settings. The ATS MECOR Program graduates from Africa, Latin America, India, Turkey, and Vietnam have provided the scientific basis for health and public health policies including the development of country guidelines on respiratory, sleep and critical illnesses. Your gift will expand the global network of clinician/researchers in the battle against lung disease.



"There is a huge need in developing countries for health data specific to those countries."

SONIA BUIST, MD
Founder, MECOR

ATS ASSEMBLIES: Transforming Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine

The ATS Assemblies participate in the planning of the Society's annual International Conference. In the respiratory, critical care and sleep medicine communities, the conference is widely recognized as featuring the latest and best science. Assemblies are responsible for creating and updating official ATS statements and guidelines that influence the way physicians practice medicine. They also offer a forum for members to launch projects and activities that benefit the field of lung health.

EDUCATION & TRAINING: Translating Knowledge Into Patient Care

This initiative supports special educational projects and travel awards for clinicians, as well as material for patients and others who have an interest in pulmonary, critical care, or sleep medicine, and the treatment and prevention of respiratory diseases.

The Foundation of the ATS

The Foundation of the American Thoracic Society is a 501(c) (3) tax exempt organization. Your donation will make a positive impact on the lives of millions of patients burdened by lung diseases.

- YES!** I wish to make a gift to the Funds for the Future annual campaign:
 \$5,000 \$2,500 \$1,000 \$750 \$500 \$250
 \$100 Other: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____ Country: _____

Contact Preference: Mail Phone Email

Telephone: Day: _____ Evening: _____

Email Address: _____

Please make your check payable to **The Foundation of the ATS.**

- Enclosed is my matching gift form**

Please bill my credit card: one-time quarterly monthly

Credit Card Type: _____

Credit Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____

- I plan to contribute a gift of appreciated securities.**

Please call 212-315-6464 for instructions.

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

In honor of my mentor: _____

- Please send an acknowledgment of this donation to:**

Name: _____

Address: _____

I would like to designate my gift to:

- ATS Foundation Research Program

Assembly Name _____

- MECOR RESEARCH Training and Education

- MECOR EDUCATION Where it is most needed

(If no program is selected, your gift will automatically go to the ATS Foundation Research Program.)

- I would like to learn about making a bequest** to benefit The Foundation of the American Thoracic Society. Please contact me.

The Foundation participates in the Medical Research Charities section of the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). If your organization participates in the CFC, please consider making a gift to The Foundation. Our CFC number is: 48726.

Mail your contribution to:

The Foundation of the American Thoracic Society
25 Broadway, 18th Floor, New York, NY 10004
212-315-6464 <http://foundation.thoracic.org>



Help Us Help the World Breathe
Research • Education • Training

THE FOUNDATION PROGRAMS

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Foundation Programs

The American Thoracic Society (ATS) supports research and the dissemination of scientific discoveries that will improve the health of patients with pulmonary diseases, critical care illnesses, and sleep disorders.

In keeping with the American Thoracic Society's preeminence in the fields of respiratory, critical care, and sleep medicine, The Foundation of the ATS focuses on four strategic areas:

- The ATS Foundation Research Program
- MECOR (the international Methods in Epidemiologic, Clinical and Operations Research program)
- ATS Assembly projects in pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine
- Training and education initiatives

We hope you will consider making a generous contribution to the Foundation's four core programs. Your gift will empower the Foundation to fulfill its mission: "To foster charitable giving to advance the prevention and treatment of respiratory diseases."



"ATS has been a valued and thoughtful partner of the Pulmonary Hypertension Association since 2006, jointly creating possibilities for over a dozen research studies to date. We look forward to continuing this relationship."

RINO ALDRIGHETTI, MD
President and CEO
Pulmonary Hypertension Association

ATS Foundation Research Program at a Glance

Together, lung diseases, including lung cancer, COPD, and acute respiratory distress syndrome, are the third-leading killer of Americans. Lung cancer alone kills more people than breast, colon, prostate, and pancreatic cancer combined.

Lung diseases strike young and old and are a major cause of disability. Researchers now believe that sleep-disordered breathing, a condition rarely diagnosed a couple of decades ago, may affect one in ten Americans.

Through its Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization, the Society provides "seed funding" for junior investigators who seek cures for these and other pulmonary diseases, critical care illnesses, and sleep disorders. This funding has transformed their professional lives, launching careers dedicated to scientific discovery and better patient care.

Since the ATS Foundation Research Program began in 2002, its support has grown from approximately \$100,000 to more than \$1.5 million each year.



"The grants awarded by the Coalition for Pulmonary Fibrosis/American Thoracic Society partnership have proven important to the development of promising new theories about the pathways involved in the development of pulmonary fibrosis."

MISHKA MICHON
CEO, Coalition for Pulmonary Fibrosis

This support for early stage investigators is needed now more than ever. Federal research dollars have grown increasingly scarce. Not only do current budgetary constraints jeopardize ongoing research programs, they undermine the potential for future breakthroughs by forcing promising young investigators to abandon their careers as researchers. Your gift to the ATS Foundation Research Program can truly mean the difference between health and debilitating illness, and struggling for breath and dying and having all the oxygen needed to enjoy a full and a productive life.

Success of the ATS Foundation Research Program

Recently, the ATS surveyed grant recipients to determine the Research Program's impact on their careers. The 40

awardees who completed the survey unanimously agreed that the program has been critical in helping them to publish original research, advance their academic careers and secure additional research funding. In fact, after completing the research associated with the ATS Foundation grant, the 50 awardees went on to receive an additional \$90 million in funding as principal investigators. The ATS Foundation is proud of its Research Program. Its many successes are highlighted below:

- The program has provided nearly \$10 million in research funds since 2002. The Society has accomplished this through partnerships with individuals, and both corporate and nonprofit organizations.
- Grants funded by the ATS Foundation are highly competitive, as demonstrated by the fact that less than 10 percent of applicants who submit letters of intent receive funding (*Figure 1 below*).
- The program's success is evident in the number of manuscripts ATS awardees have published in high-impact factor journals and the number of subsequent grants they have secured. The ATS's investment of nearly \$10 million has resulted in more than 336 publications and 134 new research grants. Of the \$90 million in subsequent funding, \$41 million has come from the National Institutes of Health alone (*Figures 2 and 3 below*).

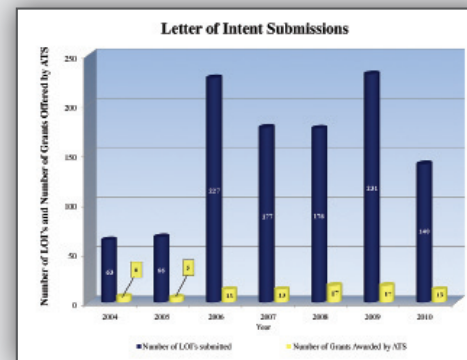


Fig. 1

Total number of grant recipients surveyed	50 (out of 106)
Total No. of pubs. relevant to ATS grant	336
Total no. of postdoc. fellows mentored by awardees	182
Percent of awardees who continue to be involved in research	100%
Percent of awardees who received subsequent grants as principal investigator (PI)	88%
Total number of subsequent grants received by awardees as a PI	134
Total funding of subsequent grants received by awardees as a PI	\$89,967,674

Fig. 2

Subsequent National Institutes of Health Grants

Grant Type	No. of Grants	Total Funding
K01	1	\$649,215
K08	2	\$639,771
K22	0	\$0
K23	2	\$629,100
R01	27	\$40,301,878
R03	4	\$640,486
R21	3	\$687,500
Other NIH grants	70	\$41,113,220
Non-Government funding	25	\$5,306,504
Grand total	109	\$89,967,674

Fig. 3



"This award supported the continuation of my research at a particularly vulnerable time in my career: when my NIH funding from my K08 award had been completed, but I had not yet succeeded in obtaining R01 funding."

ANDREW TAGER, MD
2008 recipient, ATS/Coalition for Pulmonary Fibrosis Research Award
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Massachusetts General Hospital