

Your Generosity Matters

Without the amazing individuals, research partners, and leaders in the field who donate to the program, we could not carry out our mission. Please show your support for early stage investigators so they may launch careers dedicated to scientific discovery and better patient health. To learn more, visit foundation.thoracic.org and watch our video on how the ATS Foundation Research Program is making a difference for patients and researchers.

Every dollar counts. The more you give, the more research grants we can award. In addition to the Research Program, the ATS Foundation's grant-making portfolio includes:

- MECOR Education/MECOR Research: An international program that trains physicians in middle- and low-income countries in epidemiologic, clinical, and operations research.
- Ziskind Clinical Research Scholars Awards Program recognizes young, talented clinical researchers who are presenting their research at the ATS International Conference.
- ATS Assemblies projects include official ATS statements and clinical guidelines that influence physicians' medical practice by marshalling the best evidence available to make recommendations for patient care.

To donate, please visit **foundation.thoracic.org**.

Research is the Answer



"I am grateful to the many researchers and clinicians whose scientific and clinical innovations made my recovery possible. For me, research is the only answer for the millions of patients worldwide struggling to breathe daily."

–Len Geiger, Alpha-1 Advocate and Recipient of a Double Lung Transplant

"There was only one drug on the market for pulmonary hypertension when I became ill in 2003. Thanks to research, there are now nine approved medications for this illness. I am managing my illness, hopeful that big strides in understanding the disease will continue."



–Joanne Sperando-Schmidt, Pulmonary Hypertension Activist

100% of your research donation goes to support research grants and awards

ATS Foundation

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In **10** years,
the ATIS Foundation
has awarded
\$11 million
in grants to
183 investigators,
who have gone
on to win
\$143 million
in major grants.

ATIS Foundation
RESEARCH PROGRAM

The Power of Discovery

Dear Colleagues,

Supporting outstanding early career investigators is vital to finding cures for respiratory illnesses and is a core principle of the ATS Foundation.

This is why the Foundation has awarded over \$11 million to 183 promising young researchers transitioning into independent scientists. These awards have given recipients the time and freedom to seek creative solutions to challenging medical problems.

Through our grant making, we invest in talent that will enrich the respiratory research community for years to come. We dedicate resources to underfunded areas of inquiry such as rare diseases, and we provide grant support throughout the world to combat the global burden of respiratory diseases.

We believe in the power of discovery. Every dollar you give is invested in a young researcher, thanks to the ATS, which picks up all administrative expenses. For more information and to donate, please visit foundation.thoracic.org.

James F. Donohue, MD
Chair, ATS Foundation

The Future of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine

To advance patient care and carry the ATS mission far into the future, the Foundation supports early stage investigators at a critical time in their careers.

The talented basic, translational, and clinical investigators funded by the ATS Foundation Research Program are taking new approaches to unlocking the mysteries of respiratory diseases. Their topics of scientific exploration are diverse, ranging from the mechanisms underlying lung cancer, ARDS, and pulmonary fibrosis to inflammation and lung disease, asthma control, and sleep physiology.

A New Generation of Researchers and Clinicians at Risk

The National Institutes of Health and other major funding agencies have significantly reduced biomedical research support.

Early stage investigators have an especially difficult time obtaining support in the current funding environment; yet, their success is paramount if science is to offer hope to millions of respiratory patients and their families.

The ATS Foundation offers both research grants and recognition awards to help sustain recipients' careers. In 2013, the ATS Foundation responded to the extraordinary need by introducing bridge awards to provide financial support to investigators who came close to, but did not meet, the NIH (or international equivalent) pay lines.

The Impact of the ATS Foundation Research Program

The Foundation's efforts are aimed at enabling early stage investigators to compete successfully for larger research awards, particularly from the NIH. In that effort, we have been astoundingly successful.

For every \$1 awarded by the ATS Foundation, recipients have received \$14 in subsequent funding from NIH and other funding sources. This fourteen-fold return on investment of the Foundation's initial \$11 million to young investigators has resulted in an additional \$143 million in funding for respiratory research.

Without the ATS Foundation's "seed" support, these researchers might not have received their subsequent grants.

Successes of ATS Foundation Awardees

A majority of former research awardees have gone on to publish original research in high-impact journals, become principal investigators in federally funded research, and mentor junior faculty.



Charles A. Powell, MD, recipient of the 2005 ATS Foundation/LUNGevery Foundation Partner Grant, has established himself as an independent researcher in lung cancer. He is now chief of pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine, at the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in New York City



Andrew Tager, MD, recipient of the 2008 ATS Foundation/Coalition for Pulmonary Fibrosis Partnership Grant, has identified a new IPF mediator that can be targeted by a drug now being tested in clinical trials.



Lisa Young, MD, recipient of the 2007 ATS Foundation/Hermansky-Pudlak Syndrome Network Grant, went on to receive an RO1 grant in 2013, allowing her to further explore the causes of this rare disease.

2013 Early Stage Investigators in their Own Words

Marta Kaminska, MD, McGill University, recipient of a 2013 unrestricted research award in sleep medicine, “Impact of Obstructive Sleep Apnea on Cognitive Dysfunction in Parkinson’s Disease”:



“The award allows me to investigate whether administering CPAP to these patients leads to better neurological outcomes over time compared to those who are untreated. Getting more precise preliminary data will allow me to publish and grow the project.”

Ednan Bajwa, MD, Massachusetts General Hospital, recipient of a 2013 unrestricted award in critical care, “Use of Soluble ST2 as a Diagnostic Biomarker for Lung Injury”:



“My research explores whether a novel blood test that measures levels of a protein called ST2 can be used to identify patients who have ARDS. The ATS Foundation grant is exactly what I needed to get this project to the finish line.”

ATS Research Program Grant Making Process

Scientific proposals are reviewed by a panel of leading pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine investigators. They conduct a rigorous peer-review process, modeled on the reviews conducted by the NIH. However, each year the ATS Foundation funds only 10 to 23 percent of research proposals, as the number of exceptional proposals outstrips our resources.

ATSFoundation
Curing Respiratory Diseases Through Research & Education