

Bulletin

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

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Letter From the Chair



Dean E. Schraufnagel, MD

It was the fourth year of my fellowship at McGill University when I received a \$12,000 grant. It was my only income for that year.

As my career progressed, I would receive larger research grants, but that early funding was the most influential. Without it, I wouldn't have had my last year of training, and probably wouldn't have had an academic career.

I'm sure my story isn't unique.

Many ATS members share that their early-career grants were life changing for them. What's your story? **We want to hear it at thoracic.org/go/your-story.**

With James Donohue, MD, concluding his term, I now have the privilege of serving as ATS Foundation chair. I'm honored to pick up where Jim left off. He is an amazing man and one of the most generous people I know. Thank you for leadership and service, Jim!

Leadership and service...I think that gets to the core of what make the ATS and the Foundation special. The Foundation invests in promising young people and helps them get started when start up is difficult.

We're developing tomorrow's leaders. We help the world breathe. I am so proud to be a part of this work. I hope you are, too.

Together, we invest in promising young people and help them get started when start up is difficult.

Together, since the ATS Foundation Research Program began, we've awarded \$15 million to 189 investigators who have gone on to secure \$188 million in federal funding. You make this possible—thank you for your generosity!

Soon, we'll begin our Funds for the Future Annual Campaign. You'll read about the outstanding young investigators whose careers were launched with Research Program grants—and the patients who benefit from lung research.

I hope you'll be inspired to continue your support of the Foundation...and build a future where our patients can breathe better.

I'm looking forward to working with you! ■

Thank you!

The ATS Foundation thanks James Donohue, MD (left), for his outstanding leadership and philanthropic contributions as ATS Foundation chair from 2010-2016.



Research Awardees: What Are They Doing Now?

Lynn Schnapp, MD, received a 2004 Research Program Career Investigator Award that was pivotal for her career.

"That grant enabled me to bridge between my career development award and an R01," says Dr. Schnapp.

With protected time for research and the opportunity to generate preliminary data, she successfully competed for her R01 the following year.

As her research continues to evolve, the Schnapp Lab at the University of Washington still focuses on acute lung injury and HIV-related lung diseases.

Dr. Schnapp advocates for the ATS Foundation Research Program, gives generously, and encourages her fellows to apply for grants.

One of her fellows, **Chi Hung, MD**, went on to receive a 2013 Research Program partner grant that helped him achieve his first K award last year.



Lynn Schnapp, MD, Research Program awardee, division chief, and Antarctic marathoner

It's critically important we keep the best and brightest in the field, keep them in academics, and keep them inspired.

When Dr. Schnapp is not working, she's an avid runner. Last year, she ran the Antarctica Marathon among the gusty winds, freezing temperatures, and penguins. "I want to run a race on every continent," says Dr. Schnapp. "Not necessarily a marathon, but a race, and I've got Antarctica out of the way."

(continued on page 2)

2016 Ziskind Awardees

Rachel Putman, MD, and Michael E. Wilson, MD, stood out in a crowded field of prestigious clinical researchers nominated by their mentors for the 2016 ATS Foundation Ziskind Clinical Research Scholar Award.

Morton Ziskind, MD, a charismatic clinical researcher at Tulane University, was renowned for bringing his fellows to the ATS International Conference and introducing them to memorable learning experiences. The Ziskind Award honors his commitment to mentorship.

Drs. Putman and Wilson were recognized at the ATS Foundation Research Program Benefit for their inspiring work, and had the opportunity to be mentored by senior researchers during ATS 2016. ■

Rachel Putman, MD, is a fellow in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital, where her research focuses on early interstitial lung disease. She hopes to identify markers for early-stage pulmonary fibrosis, leading to advances in secondary prevention of this disease.



Rachel Putman, MD



Michael E. Wilson, MD

Michael E. Wilson, MD, is a fellow in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. His research focuses on improving decision making, individualized prognostication, and the delivery of quality palliative care in the hospital and intensive care unit.

Sonia Buist, MD, Receives Vision Award

Sonia Buist, MD, an ATS past president and the founder of the Methods in Epidemiologic, Clinical, and Operations Research (MECOR) program, received the inaugural ATS Foundation Vision Award during the ATS 2016 Opening Ceremony.



Sonia Buist, MD, receives the Vision Award from ATS President Atul Malhotra, MD

Affectionately called “Mama MECOR” by MECOR alumni, Dr. Buist has nurtured the program to seven regions across the globe and helped train over 1,800 graduates from 60 countries. Alumni of the program have gone on to significantly influence and improve respiratory health care in their respective countries.

Thank you, Dr. Buist, for your visionary contributions to advancing global health!

To view the video on Dr. Buist and MECOR that aired during the Opening Ceremony, visit foundation.thoracic.org/videos. ■

(Lynn Schnapp, continued from page 1)

Today, Dr. Schnapp is the division chief for pulmonary, critical care, allergy, and sleep medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina, and continues her dedication to nurturing the next generation of physician scientists.

“These are challenging times for people in academics—there’s a lot of uncertainty,” notes Dr. Schnapp. “It’s critically important we keep the best and brightest in the field, keep them in academics, keep them inspired and excited about their work, and continue a strong tradition of ATS supporting research from bench to bedside.” ■

Dean E. Schraufnagel, MD
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Mount Sinai St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital

Stephen C. Crane, PhD, MPH
ATS Executive Director

Lydia Neumann
Director, ATS Foundation

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

More than 650 guests attended the Eighth Annual ATS Foundation Research Program Benefit in San Francisco on May 14, 2016, to honor Breathing for Life Awardee Sally Wenzel, MD, and support the early-career investigators of the Research Program.



James Donohue, MD, ATS Foundation Chair, and Sally Wenzel, MD, Breathing for Life Awardee



Dale Umetsu, MD, PhD, Sally Wenzel, MD, Chris Carney, Janet Lee, MD, and Prabir Ray, PhD



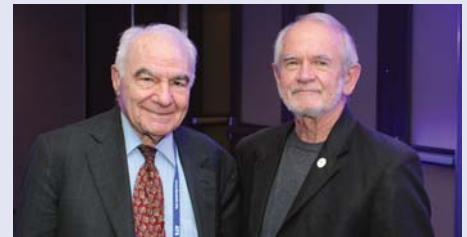
James Donohue, MD, with Julie Vu, PharmD, and Benjamin Kramer, MD, of Genentech, a Sapphire Level (\$100,000) Benefit Supporter



James Beck, MD, and Rama Mallampalli, MD, of UPMC, a Visionary Benefit Supporter



Cecilia Patino, MD, PhD, and Sande Okelo, MD, PhD, 2015 Research Program awardee



Gerard Turino, MD, and Philip Hopewell, MD



Leila Kheirandish-Gozal, MSc, MD, and David Gozal, MD, MBA, ATS President, with their son



Emily Deboer, MD, and Deborah Liptzin, MD, of Children's Hospital Colorado



Kusum Mathews, MD, MPH, Atul Malhotra, MD, Thomas Ferkol, MD, James Beck, MD, and Robert McGranaghan, MPH



Michael Lewis, MD, Zab Mosenifar, MD, Chidinma Chima-Melton, MD, and Guy Soo Hoo, MD, from Cedars-Sinai



Tochi Okwor, MD, and Obianuju Ozoh, MBBS, 2015 MECOR awardee



Sally Wenzel, MD, 2016 Breathing for Life Awardee, and Talmadge King, MD, 2012 Breathing for Life Awardee

Not only does the benefit reconnect ATS friends and colleagues, it supports the Research Program mission by:

- Funding research grants for promising young investigators to become independent researchers.
- Celebrating the Breathing for Life Awardee's generosity, scientific achievement, and commitment to mentoring young investigators—the very principles on which the Research Program was founded.

We hope to see you next year at ATS 2017 in Washington, DC!

ATS Foundation

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foundation.thoracic.org

Patient
ADVOCATES



Debbie
Drell

“Research kicks the door down and lets patients walk through it,” says Debbie Drell, the new chair for the ATS Public Advisory Roundtable.

PAR is an innovative partnership between the ATS and lung disease nonprofits. Together, they shape public policy, stimulate research, and advocate for patients.

The Pulmonary Hypertension Association—a longstanding PAR member—provides patient and family support services, research funding, medical education, and advocacy and awareness programs.

As senior director of volunteer services for PHA, Debbie is well-positioned to raise awareness about what ATS does for people living with lung disease.

“Patients want to know: How does ATS help physicians advance research? How does ATS help you breathe? How do they help you live your best life?” says Debbie, adding, **“PAR helps answer these questions.”**

Debbie’s dedication to the pulmonary hypertension cause is driven by her close relationship to her sister Alex, for whom she

is the primary caregiver. When Alex was first diagnosed in the 1990s, neither their family nor friends had heard of PH. Only one FDA-approved treatment was available then—today, there are 14.

Debbie is awed by the progress in treatment of this disease while acknowledging there is still much more to do.

The Pulmonary Hypertension Association is a generous partner of the ATS Foundation Research Program, co-funding research grants for young investigators in PH. This partnership has resulted in 17 PH researchers receiving grants since the program’s founding.

“For a rare disease, that’s life changing for many people,” notes Debbie. **“And with the Research Program’s return on investment of \$13 [in subsequent federal funding] for every dollar donated, that’s huge. But what does that mean for the human outcome? This keeps my sister alive.”** ■

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](https://www.thoracic.org/go/matching).