

# Bulletin

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

Winter 2017 | Vol. 13, No. 03

## Letter From the Chair



Dean E. Schraufnagel, MD

The new year is off to a fantastic start—and that’s thanks to you. Your commitment to supporting research, educational opportunities, and global health is building a future where patients breathe better.

I’d like especially to thank the ATS Assemblies for their enthusiastic support during the Assembly Challenge. We had the closest challenge yet! Many members made gifts supporting the Research Program and other core programs in the final days of 2016. Details on the challenge

results can be found in this issue of the Bulletin.

For the 2016-2017 grant cycle, the Research Program awarded 25 researchers grants totaling \$1.3 million. These grants can be transformational for early-stage investigators.

Our awardees are engaged in a remarkable breadth of pulmonary, critical care, and sleep research. One recipient, **Laura Crotty Alexander, MD**, and her work on e-cigarettes, is featured in this issue. Others are researching TB and HIV internationally, psychological support in the ICU, and mechanisms of macrophage activation in pulmonary fibrosis, among many other topics.

None of this is possible without you. This is why we strive to make the most of your generosity by leveraging the intellectual capital of ATS members to select—through a highly competitive grant process—the best proposals and the most dedicated professionals to support.

Your generosity is a lifeline for the next generation of researchers, clinicians, and medical educators...

...And your compassion gives hope to patients struggling with challenging lung diseases.

**Thank you for choosing us! ■**

## Your Generosity at Work

Laura E. Crotty Alexander, MD, is an assistant professor at the University of California, San Diego, and a staff physician in the VA San Diego Healthcare System.



Laura E. Crotty Alexander, MD

One of our newest awardees, Dr. Crotty Alexander received a 2016 ATS Foundation Recognition Award for Outstanding Early Career Investigators.

*Seeing the gaps in research—and the rise in e-cigarette “vaping” among teens and young adults—Dr. Crotty Alexander got to work.*

With her award, Dr. Crotty Alexander will continue her study of the effects of e-cigarette vapor. She was inspired to study e-cigarettes as she witnessed the increasingly successful advertising of the devices.

As she discussed e-cigarettes with her colleagues, she found there were many unanswered questions about the effects of e-cigarettes on nicotine addiction pathways, the immune system’s response to bacteria, and inflammation in the lungs and throughout the body.

Receiving an ATS Foundation Recognition Award for Outstanding Early Career Investigators is both personally and professionally meaningful for Dr. Crotty Alexander:

“There are researchers who believe in me as a researcher and believe in our research. It boosts my self-confidence about whether I’m a good researcher who’s asking the right questions and proposing the best research models,” she says.

*(continued on page 2)*

## Funds for the Future Campaign



Your support in 2016 put us on solid ground for an amazing 2017! Thank you for building a future where patients breathe better.

*(Laura Crotty Alexander continued from page 1)*

“On a personal level, it meant more to me to get this award than some of the other awards and grants I’ve received. I’ve been involved in the ATS for a long time and have a lot of respect for the ATS community. Having them decide to fund me just meant more because they’re ‘my people,’” says Dr. Crotty Alexander.

***Congratulations, Dr. Crotty Alexander!***

**Did you receive a life-changing research grant?**

**Share  
your  
story**

**[thoracic.org/go/yourstory](http://thoracic.org/go/yourstory)**

**Have you  
honored your mentor?**



*Make a special gift today!*

## Thank You, ATS Assemblies!

The ATS Foundation would like to thank all ATS assemblies for their outreach efforts and generosity during the 2016 ATS Assembly Challenge.

The annual challenge taps into the grassroots community—and competitive spirit—of the ATS assemblies in support of Foundation programs. This was the closest Assembly Challenge yet:

- Most dollars raised: **Respiratory Cell & Molecular Biology** with \$94,718;
- Highest member participation: **Nursing** with 20.49 percent;
- Most first-time donors in December: **Allergy Immunology & Inflammation** with seven new donors in December alone.

There was tremendous energy around the challenge this year, with assembly chairs crafting special messages geared specifically to their assemblies.

Your outreach and generosity provided a big boost to Foundation year-end giving campaigns—and a boost to our upcoming grant-making capacity for talented investigators.

Congratulations to the Respiratory Cell & Molecular Biology, Nursing, and Allergy Immunology & Inflammation assemblies!

They will receive special recognition in ATS communications, at ATS 2017, and within their own assemblies.

Thank you again to all of the ATS assemblies for your enthusiastic support. Truly, your energy, creativity, and participation were outstanding.

Thank you for everything that you do for the ATS, the Foundation, young investigators, patients, and respiratory health worldwide. ■

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

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

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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

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ATS Vice President  
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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

Aprille Russell  
Director of Individual Giving, ATS Foundation

## Spread the Word: Apply for Research Program Grants

The 2017-2018 ATS Foundation Research Program grant cycle opens in April 2017 with the opening of the letter of intent period.

The letter of intent includes a brief personal statement, a listing of previous positions and honors, and highlights of ongoing and completed research projects.

Applicants invited to submit a full application are assessed on a range of criteria including: scientific excellence, implications of the research, novelty of the project, potential to transition to a career as an established investigator, and the potential impact of the research to improve patient care and outcomes.

Interested applicants should submit a letter of intent at [thoracic.org/professionals/research](http://thoracic.org/professionals/research). ■

## Enjoy the Donor Appreciation Suite During ATS 2017

Join us at the Donor Appreciation Suite in the Walter E. Washington Convention Center during the ATS 2017 International Conference in Washington, D.C., from Sat., May 20 to Wed., May 24.

The suite is a comfortable spot to rest your feet or meet up with a colleague.

Suite amenities include: express registration for ATS 2017; complimentary breakfast, coffee, and snacks; Internet access; Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel software; and printers.

The Foundation welcomes donors who make contributions of \$250 or more between June 2016 and May 2017; in-training members making gifts of any size; Loyalty Circle members, donors who have contributed to the Foundation every year; and ATS 2017 attendees for special opportunities to get to know your Foundation.

It's our way of saying thank you to our generous supporters during the ATS International Conference!

You may make a gift online at [foundation.thoracic.org](http://foundation.thoracic.org), and gifts are also welcome on site by check or credit card. ■

## Join Us for the Research Program Benefit

Please join us for the Ninth Annual ATS Foundation Research Program Benefit on Sat., May 20 during the ATS International Conference in Washington, D.C.

We look forward to honoring David M. Center, MD, with the Breathing for Life Award—our highest award for philanthropy, scientific achievement, and commitment to mentorship.

For the past 30 years, Dr. Center has served as chief of Pulmonary Medicine for Boston University.

**Jeffrey Glassroth, MD**, one of the first fellows to train under Dr. Center, considers him a “triple threat.” “He’s a superb clinician, investigator, and teacher,” says Dr. Glassroth. “He’s also a person of tremendous integrity.”



David M. Center, MD

## When you join us for the benefit you'll:

- **Support** research grants for promising young investigators;
- **Celebrate** David M. Center, MD, and the Research Program awardees;
- **Reconnect** with ATS friends from around the globe!

Ticket packages consist of a cluster of cocktail tables with chairs and one tall bar table. Food is served buffet style at this reception.

You can choose a group package and celebrate with your department, or choose individual tickets and mingle with colleagues and friends.

Not only will your ticket package get you reserved seating at the benefit, it's a great way to support the ATS Foundation Research Program—100% of your gift goes to research awards.

Visit [foundation.thoracic.org/benefit](http://foundation.thoracic.org/benefit) or contact Ally Felix at [afelix@thoracic.org](mailto:afelix@thoracic.org) for details. ■

# ATS Foundation

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

25 Broadway, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10004  
foundation.thoracic.org

## Patient STORIES



Trina Massey Davis

**“Sarcoidosis may be a ‘snowflake disease,’ but living with it hits like an avalanche. We need your help to dig us out,”** says Trina Massey Davis, a sarcoidosis patient-advocate.

In her call to action delivered at ATS 2016, Ms. Massey Davis says there is a role for researchers, clinicians, and patients in finding better treatments for a disease that affects each patient uniquely.

“Sarcoidosis is like a medical secret,” she says. “Through research, we can figure out what causes it and advance from there.”

Meanwhile, Ms. Massey Davis, a supporter of the ATS Foundation Research Program, believes greater awareness of sarcoidosis—which can affect many parts of the body including most often the lungs—among health care professionals and the public is essential.

Ms. Massey Davis has lived with sarcoidosis, both undiagnosed and diagnosed, for 27 years. She nearly lost her job and was rushed to the ER with “a heart pumping out of my chest.”

Today, the mother and grandmother is back working for the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services. Although prednisone helps with disease flare-ups, the joint pain and fatigue never relent.

But Ms. Massey Davis is unstoppable. She was nominated for a Global Genes Champions of Hope Award for her advocacy efforts, organized a congressional briefing on sarcoidosis, and organized an annual 5k fundraiser for the Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research, an ATS Public Advisory Roundtable member.

Still, Ms. Massey Davis holds back tears when she recalls “snowflakes” who died recently and thinks about sarcoidosis and her own mortality. “It hurts to think that you may not be around to help those you love,” she says. ■

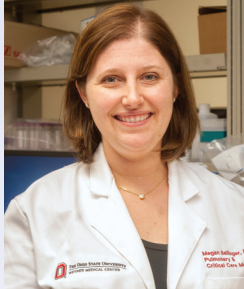
## Double the impact!

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).



# Congratulations

to the 2016-2017 ATS Foundation Research Program Awardees!



**Megan N. Ballinger, PhD**  
*The Ohio State University*



**Jeremy R. Beitler, MD, MPH**  
*University of California, San Diego*



**Olivier Boucherat, PhD**  
*Institut Universitaire de Cardiologie  
et de Pneumologie de Québec*



**Clemente J. Britto, MD**  
*Yale University*



**Martina Brueckner, MD**  
*Yale University*



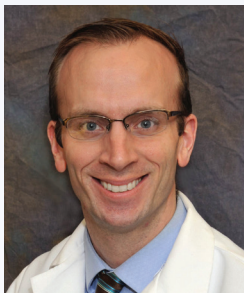
**Brian E. Cade, PhD**  
*Brigham and Women's Hospital*



**Laura E. Crotty Alexander, MD**  
*University of California, San Diego*



**Ian C. Davis, DVM, PhD**  
*The Ohio State University*



**Robert P. Dickson MD**  
*University of Michigan*



**Juliana C. Ferreira, MD, PhD**  
*University of Sao Paulo, Brazil*



**Emily Henkle, PhD, MPH**  
*Oregon Health & Science University*



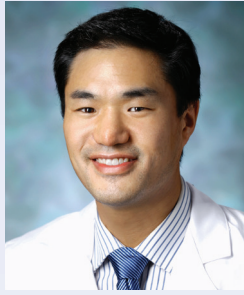
**Jennifer R. Honda, PhD**  
*University of Colorado  
Anschutz Medical Campus*

## ATS Foundation

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



**Amjad Horani, MD**  
*Washington University in St. Louis*



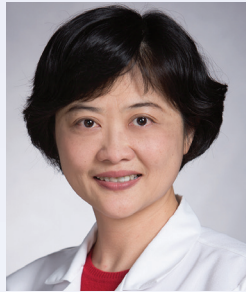
**Jonathan C. Jun, MD**  
*Johns Hopkins University  
School of Medicine*



**Lioudmila Karnatovskaia, MD**  
*Mayo Clinic*



**Chimusa Patrick de Marie Katoto, MBBS**  
*Universite Catholique de Bukavu  
Teaching Hospital, DR Congo*



**Jinghong Li, MD, PhD**  
*University of California, San Diego*



**Phuong Thi Mai Nguyen, MD, MSc, DDS**  
*Vietnam National Lung Hospital*



**Ogonna Nwota Odi Nwankwo, MBBS**  
*University of Calabar  
Teaching Hospital, Nigeria*



**Lawrence Ostrowski, PhD**  
*University of North Carolina  
at Chapel Hill*



**Farbod N. Rahaghi, MD, PhD**  
*University of Michigan, Ann Arbor*



**Kenneth E. Remy, MD, MHSc**  
*Washington University in St. Louis*



**Seyedtaghi Takyar, MD, PhD**  
*Yale University*



**Andrew W. Varga, MD, PhD**  
*Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai*



**Darcy E. Wagner, PhD**  
*Comprehensive Pneumology  
Center, Germany*

ATS Foundation Research Program grants and awards are life-changing for early career investigators—and for the patients, families, and communities worldwide who benefit as a result.

Thank you to our members, partners, and friends for making these awards possible.

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