

THORACIC SOCIETY CHAPTERS

CHAPTERS

OUTSTANDING CLINICIAN AWARD

Each year, the ATS honors an exemplary clinician with the prestigious Outstanding Clinician Award (OCA); that individual is chosen from chapter OCA nominees. Awardees are pulmonary, critical care, sleep or pediatric pulmonary clinicians who spend 75 percent or more of their time providing direct patient care. They are recognized by their patients and patients' families as caring and dedicated health care providers, and their peers praise them for having made substantial contributions to the clinical care of patients with respiratory disease. Nominees are chapter members who are also members of the ATS.

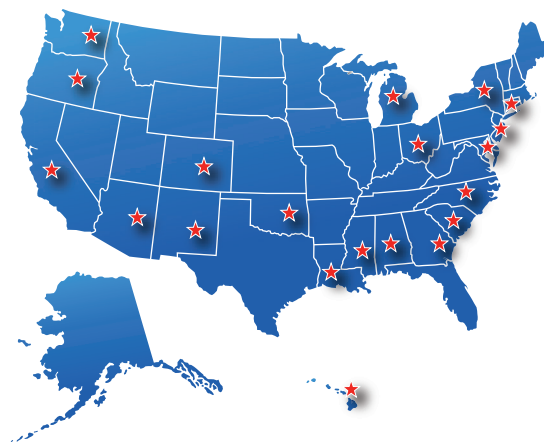
GREAT CASES SYMPOSIUM

Each year, officers of the Council of Chapter Representatives and others review hundreds of cases and select the ones that will be presented at the ever-popular Great Cases Symposium at the annual ATS International Conference.

- ★ ALABAMA
- ★ ARIZONA
- ★ CALIFORNIA
- ★ COLORADO
- ★ DC METRO
- ★ GEORGIA
- ★ HAWAII
- ★ LOUISIANA
- ★ MICHIGAN
- ★ MISSISSIPPI
- ★ NEW JERSEY
- ★ NEW MEXICO
- ★ NEW YORK STATE
- ★ NORTH CAROLINA
- ★ OHIO
- ★ OKLAHOMA
- ★ OREGON
- ★ RHODE ISLAND
- ★ SOUTH CAROLINA
- ★ WASHINGTON (STATE)



SEVERAL NEW CHAPTERS ARE CURRENTLY IN THE PLANNING STAGE.



All individuals are welcome to attend chapter educational meetings. Some chapters charge nominal dues to become a member. For more information on chapter activities, visit thoracic.org/chapters

If there is no chapter in your region and you are interested in creating one, please contact the ATS Member Services & Chapter Relations Department at: chapters@thoracic.org or 212-315-8633



Oregon Thoracic Society Chapter – Annual Chest Disease Conference.



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THORACIC SOCIETY CHAPTERS

Under the banner of the American Thoracic Society, the Society's Thoracic Society Chapters ("Chapters") represent states or wider geographic areas. The chapters nurture local collaboration and strive to **strengthen the knowledge and skills of medical professionals** while providing a local forum to their constituents to exchange ideas and improve the respiratory health, critical care, and sleep of their patients.

Participation in chapter activities provides a valuable opportunity to get to know others in the local medical community. Those interested may also help to plan the chapter educational programs and other activities.

Chapter involvement can also serve as a path to leadership. Each chapter elects a representative to the Council of Chapter Representatives (CCR). Three of the CCR reps are also named to the ATS Board of Directors.

Chapters and the CCR are integral to the ATS by providing a forum in which clinicians are able to discuss issues of education, practice, research, and public policy and present their findings and concerns to the Society.

CHAPTERS OFFER:

EDUCATION

Although activities vary by chapter, most offer annual educational meetings that range from evening sessions to multi-day programs, with local and national speakers who are experts in their particular area of respiratory medicine. Most meetings are accredited for continuing medical education (CME) credits. Some chapters offer monthly case presentation meetings or quarterly educational meetings.

Poster sessions are a component of some chapter meetings as well, providing opportunities for junior professionals to gain visibility, and some chapters additionally offer fellows forums.

ADVOCACY

Chapters support ATS advocacy activities through participation in the annual Hill Day in Washington, D.C., where chapter representatives meet with legislators to discuss issues pertinent to the practice of pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine, as well as research funding for related diseases. Chapters also designate individuals to be local government advocacy contacts for direct communication with their legislators throughout the year.

ATS government relations staff and others produce the weekly Washington Letter as well as Coding and Billing Quarterly. These e-newsletters are available to ATS members and are also archived at thoracic.org under 'Advocacy.'



PUBLICATIONS

Several chapters offer newsletters or medical journals, providing publishing opportunities as well as dissemination of information pertinent to individuals in the field. Notable are the California Thoracic Society's newsletter CTS Inspirations, and the Southwest Journal of Pulmonary and Critical Care, the official publication of the Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado Thoracic Societies.

HEALTH EQUALITY AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Building on a key initiative of the ATS – promoting health equality – chapters have initiated a community outreach program to disseminate information to patients in underserved and other areas on specific conditions such as obstructive sleep apnea and others. This program is being done in conjunction with the ATS Public Advisory Roundtable, a patient-focused group.