

Chair's Message



Michele Manion

Chair, ATS-PAR

Since 2001, the American Thoracic Society leadership has formally partnered with patients and their families through the ATS Public Advisory Roundtable (PAR). PAR continues to be one of the only patient-centered groups woven into the fabric of a medical membership association. As the patient arm of the Society, PAR is a central component of the ATS providing the patient perspective in all aspects of the organization.

Each year, ATS PAR identifies patients to participate in an edition of Patient Voices, with the goal of sharing their journey – to put a “face” to their diagnosis and challenges. As a result, respiratory professionals including physicians, clinicians, scientists, and researchers receive an intimate look into a disease’s impact on patients’ lives. Understanding the patient perspective is essential for Society members to innovate and to advance scientific research toward better patient outcomes.

This edition, ATS Patient Voices 11, was created to highlight the voices of patients who had difficult journeys to diagnosis and had to overcome many hurdles to get vital care. These stories are critical to understanding the complexities that still exist in treatment for those living with these life changing diagnoses.

Today, we continue to align our work with the unique and urgent needs of individuals living with sleep disorders, critical illness, and respiratory diseases. Together, we’re creating a more unified and powerful research and advocacy community. As our patients gain more knowledge and insight about their diseases and the effect on their quality of life, they remain invaluable resources to us all.

It is a great honor and privilege for the ATS PAR to serve as the “patient voice” of the Society.