

Preface



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Chair, ATS Public Advisory Roundtable

The ATS is very honored to present the next installation of the ATS Patient Voices booklet to its readers, and I am very honored to present the ATS Public Advisory Roundtable (PAR) to you. Over two decades ago, Dr. William Martin, then ATS president, envisioned an assembly of patient representatives that could provide insight and lived experience to enhance the robust community of professionals dedicated to lung, critical care, and sleep medicine. His vision came to fruition with the creation of the public arm of the ATS, the Public Advisory Roundtable (PAR). PAR is comprised of leaders and patient representatives of non-profit organizations serving those concerned with lung health. We are an

integral part of the ATS and while every patient community is made up of many individuals, we strive to be the inspiration behind the work of the ATS. Certainly, we are the need. We are very grateful to ATS for realizing the importance of the patient's voice in its efforts. We have been invited to join in its work, sit at the table and help inform the outcomes. The ATS has been at the forefront of patient integration within medical specialty societies and for us as PAR members it has been quite an honor.

Patient Voices is a written example of our input as a collection of lived experiences from those chosen by PAR to exemplify real-world challenges and successes. The stories in this edition, Patient Voices 12, discuss the Mental and Emotional Health of patients and caregivers while they struggle with the difficult and challenging journey of their chronic illness. As you will discover, their stories are moving and inspirational and we are very proud of them.

Our work with the ATS has brought about many achievements. We have and continue to contribute in many ways including research, programming, and advocacy. But our most successful contribution is on the shoulders of the people we represent, the patients that have come forward to share their lives with us. They have added depth and yes, *breath*, to us all and for us all. We are grateful to each one of them for allowing their vulnerability to teach us more than we could learn on our own. We are delighted to share the best part of us in this edition, presenting Patient Voices 12.