

American Thoracic Society
Annual Report
2022

President's Letter

As the world transitioned to a new normal in 2022, the ATS took stock of COVID-19's impact. The pandemic had dealt a significant blow to members with exhaustion and burn-out, and to the Society's financials. The revenue loss was palpable and the inability to provide the energy and engagement of an in-person conference for our members for two years was disappointing. However, the ATS 2022 International Conference took us back to San Francisco and a reunion of sorts with our global community of members, patients, and corporate partners. Propelled by the commitment and dedication of our incredible members around the world, the ATS never lost focus on what mattered most: leading scientific discoveries, providing resources to nurture members' professional development, and transforming patient care for all patients.

Among the lessons learned from the pandemic was the true cost of health inequities. We will redouble our efforts to drive out disparities in pulmonary medicine. We will continue to engage partners and diverse voices in developing greater access to treatment resources and growing the ATS Research Program so that young investigators across the world, from all walks of life can avail themselves of opportunities to make a difference in the lives of patients with lung disease.

The work we do is far too important to stop now. The work we do together, even more so. On behalf of the ATS leadership, thank you to all of you who have mentored, taught, donated, given counsel, and continued to push us to make an impact.



Gregory Downey, MD, ATSF
President
American Thoracic Society
2022-2023

Introduction



■ Mission

To accelerate global innovation in the advancement of respiratory health through multidisciplinary collaboration, education, and advocacy.

Strategic Framework



Pillars of ATS Strategic Framework

The ATS Strategic Framework is grounded in our goal to strengthen the ATS Community. Our aim is to be a sustainable organization, where every individual feels valued, respected, and an integral part of our shared mission. We lead people with passion, commitment, creativity, and fiscal responsibility. We manage systems and processes that are intuitive and facilitate engagement. Our strategic framework is supported by four pillars:

- Leading Scientific Discovery
- Transforming Patient Care
- Impacting Global Health
- Advancing Professional Development

Advancing Professional Development & Leading Scientific Discovery



International Conference

The annual ATS International Conference provides education, networking and mentoring to pulmonary, sleep and critical care health care professionals from around the globe. ATS 2022, held May 13–18 was the first in-person ATS conference after the pandemic. Given that so many of our members and regular attendees couldn't attend in person, we offered the On-Demand Highlights of ATS 2022. Although attendance was impacted post-COVID-19, ATS 2022 attendance was higher than the 2020 and 2021 virtual conferences. Highlights from the conference include:

- Attendees in Person: 8,140
- On Demand Attendees: 1, 177
- Scientific and Case Report Abstracts presented: 4,780
- EPosters: 3,202
- Scientific Symposia: 104
- Meet the Expert and Medical Education Seminars: 59
- Postgraduate Courses: 19
- Exhibitor Attendees: 2,238
- Exhibitors: 178

International Participants Center

The International Participants Center (IPC) played a crucial role during the ATS 2022 International Conference by offering a unique perspective on common disease themes from diverse global viewpoints. Unlike scientific symposia, IPC sessions placed a significant emphasis on the social and cultural aspects of these topics, along with the local solutions implemented. International researchers, clinicians, and domestic professionals interested in global health were invited to participate. The IPC sessions conducted in 2022 covered various subjects, including air pollution measurement, peer society publications, the impact of COVID-19 on tuberculosis, the MECOR program overview, and the rising burden of non-communicable lung diseases in low- and middle-income countries. These sessions served as a valuable platform for fostering knowledge exchange, collaboration, and a deeper comprehension of the challenges faced in respiratory health across different regions.



Global Respiratory Community

During ATS 2022, we welcomed participation from nine societies who actively exhibited their work, seizing the opportunity to network and collaborate throughout the conference:

- Asociación Argentina de Medicina Respiratoria
- Asociación Latinoamericana de Tórax (ALAT)
- Asian Pacific Society of Respiratory (APSR)
- Brazilian Thoracic Society (BTS)
- Canadian Thoracic Society (CTS)
- European Respiratory Society (ERS)
- Indian Chest Society (ICS)
- International Society for Aerosol Medicine (ISAM)
- Korean Academy of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases (KATRD)

Respiratory Innovation Summit

At ATS Respiratory Innovation Summit, the ATS featured innovative startup companies and connected innovators, investors, clinicians and advocacy groups who are leading the charge to create powerful new treatments for deadly and crippling diseases of the lungs and airways. This meeting attracted 350+ global leaders representing all facets of the respiratory industry, including representatives from start-ups, business development, venture capital, government, academia and clinical medicine.

International Health Committee Webinar Series

The ATS places a strong emphasis on providing educational opportunities for its members who are interested in global respiratory health both in the United States and internationally. To address this need, the IHC 2022 Webinar Series was organized as a platform for members to expand their knowledge and stay informed on critical topics. These webinars covered various themes, such as climate change's impact on lung health, air quality guidelines, COPD management in low- and middle-income countries, and the diagnosis and treatment of cystic fibrosis in resource-limited settings. The webinars garnered significant interest, with a total of 1,643 participants. This commitment to offering accessible and informative educational resources reinforces the ATS's dedication to promoting professional growth and a global perspective among its members.

Journals

ATS members are the thought leaders in the field of pulmonology and critical care medicine and read the ATS journals to learn the latest advances in the treatment of asthma, COPD, pulmonary infections, PAH, lung cancer, IPF, critical care medicine, cystic fibrosis, pediatric lung disease, and sleep medicine. The four peer-reviewed journals enjoyed a strong year, as illustrated by their new impact factors and article views:

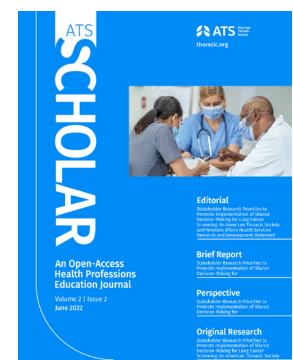
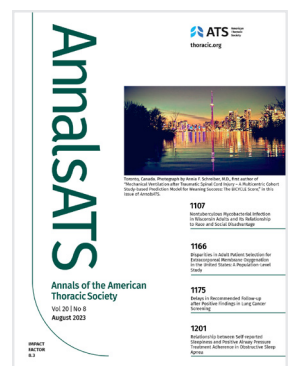
- American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine (AJRCCM—the Blue Journal) AJRCCM is the world’s leading respiratory journal focused on the treatment of diseases that affect the respiratory system and critically ill patients. Authors are the thought leaders in the fields of pulmonology, critical care, and sleep medicine.

 - Publication frequency: Twice monthly
 - Impact factor: **24.7**
 - Full-Article views: **9,017,606**
 - Fernando J. Martinez, MD, new editor-in-chief in January 2022
- American Journal of Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology (AJRCMB—the Red Journal) The American Journal of Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology publishes the most significant and original observations in respiratory and lung cell biology, including cellular, biochemical, molecular, developmental, genetic, and immunologic studies in health and in acute and chronic disorders related to the respiratory system and sleep.

 - Publication frequency: Monthly
 - Impact factor: **6.4**
 - Full-Article view: **1,663,930**
 - Paul Schumacker, PhD, editor-in-chief
- Annals of the ATS (Annals ATS—the White Journal) Publishes clinical trials, original research, ATS documents, systematic reviews, and case conferences in clinical, epidemiological, and health services research related to adult and pediatric pulmonary, respiratory, critical care medicine, sleep, and population health.

 - Publication frequency: Monthly
 - Impact factor: **8.3**
 - Full-Article views: **3,145,748**
 - Colin Cooke, MD, MSc, MS, editor-in-chief
- ATS Scholar (open access, online, education journal) ATS Scholar is a peer-reviewed, online-only, open-access, education-themed journal focusing on medical education, clinical education, education research, quality improvement, and more.

 - Publication frequency: Quarterly
 - Impact factor: **1.9**
 - Full-Article views: **167,368**
 - Nitin Seam, MD, ATSF, editor-in-chief



ATS Research Program

The ATS Research Program supports early career investigators in respiratory health with grants that enable them to launch their research and ultimately their careers. The Research Program's investment of \$22.8 million has resulted in over \$784.8 million in funds from the federal government to our awardees. That is a return on investment of \$32 per dollar awarded.

In 2022, we expanded the portfolio of grants for early-career investigators in our Research Program by creating a Diversity Grant, two grants on COVID-19, and three grants on health disparities. We awarded a total of nine research grants. Through these initiatives and others, we are preparing a diverse group of young members to be our future leaders.

Learning Programs

ATS is committed to providing pulmonary, sleep, and critical care health care professionals with innovative and evidence-based educational opportunities that enhance their knowledge, competence, and performance, ultimately improving patient outcomes and advancing the practice of medicine.

Special areas of focus included:

- Continuing and reinforcing our commitment to students, residents, fellows, and junior faculty through working to expand the format, content, breadth, and depth of the ATS Early Career Programs – Student Scholars, Resident Boot Camp, Fellows Track Symposium, New Faculty Boot Camp.
- Advancing ATS ED+, the interactive eLearning program, by providing clinical knowledge and competence, CME/MOC from ATS medical experts through on-demand presentations from the International Conference, interactive modules, and board exam flash cards.



Transforming Patient Care



Practice Guidelines

From January 2021 through December 2022, the ATS published 28 official documents, including 4 clinical practice guidelines. Implementation of published guidelines is key to improving patient care. In addition to publishing all official documents in ATS journals, guidelines were promoted as guideline briefs, scorecards, clinician guides, pocket cards, webinars, social media chats, videos, and patient information fact sheets.

Patient and Family Education

The patient education team at ATS is responsible for developing policies, procedures, and standards for the Society's patient education resources and producing the high-quality, user-friendly Patient/Public Health Information Series.

These patient education materials are designed to complement the information provided by clinicians by reviewing key concepts, important action steps, and additional resources.

Recently, we have focused our new materials on immunization-related topics to align with the CDC Vaccine Initiative grant, as well as topics associated with guidelines or other society-wide priorities.

To enhance their utility and uptake, some patient education materials are published in Spanish, and some are presented in audio/narrative format.

Public Advisory Roundtable

The ATS Public Advisory Roundtable (PAR) is a partnership with organizations representing persons affected by respiratory diseases, sleep-related conditions, or related critical illnesses. ATS collaborates with them to advance shared educational, research, patient care, and advocacy goals. PAR continues to be an incredibly important resource for the Society, providing the patient perspective on many ATS activities, including speaking at the International Conference.

In 2022, PAR held several patient and family education events including the in-person annual Patients & Experts Forum (PEF) in conjunction with the ATS International Conference, as well as several live webinars. The PEF patient education day was held in May 2022 in San Francisco with the theme, “Improving Lung Health: What’s on the Horizon.” In addition to presentations, attendees were able to speak with several prominent pulmonary experts in disease-specific breakout rooms.

Throughout 2022, other patient education events with health care experts were held virtually including webinars on patient reported outcomes, adherence to therapies and medical devices, mental and physical wellness, and how to get patients involved in clinical trials.

PAR members also served on several ATS committees and taskforces including the Drug/Device/Discovery, Research Advocacy, Tobacco Action, and Health Policy committees and others. The chair of PAR also serves on the ATS board of directors and was instrumental in helping to shape the direction of the organization throughout the year.

PAR also published the 11th edition of its annual Patient Voices book, which is a collection of stories from patients who had previously delivered talks at the ATS 2022 International Conference. The 2022 edition of Patient Voices focused on the harrowing journey some patients endure before they are properly diagnosed with lung diseases.

Chapters

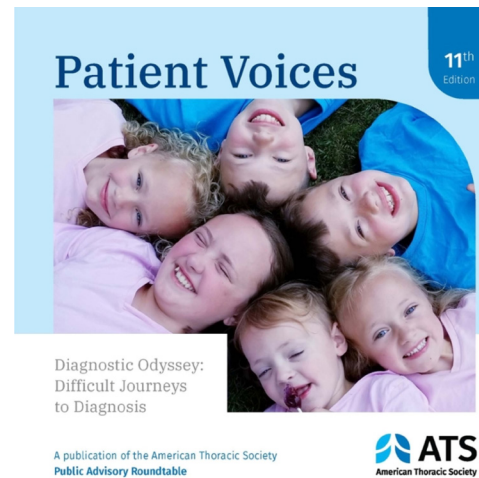
The network of ATS chapters continues to provide an important role in member engagement, leadership development, and education and training at the local or regional levels. In 2022 the ATS outlined a process for restructuring its affiliate chapter network. As part of this restructuring process all ATS chapters are required to sign an updated Core Standards Charter Agreement to continue as an ATS affiliate. These changes should ensure strong viability and continuity of each chapter for the foreseeable future. There are currently more than 20 active chapters representing all four regions of the US.

Advocacy

ATS continues to advocate for U.S. regulatory policy to advance respiratory health for our patients and our members. And we are seeing results on many fronts:

- **Research.** The ATS and its partners in the medical and public health community continue to push for increases in federal research funding. Programs like the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and VA Research Program continue to receive funding increases from Congress and the Administration. The ATS will continue to reinforce with policy leaders the significant health and economic benefits that lung research yields.

- **Tobacco Control.** The ATS has been part of the public health coalition pushing the Food and Drug Administration to aggressively regulate all aspects of tobacco products. The ATS joined other societies in pressuring FDA to take action to ban menthol cigarettes, flavored cigars and issue graphic warning labels for cigarette packaging. The ATS also engaged in court action to force the FDA to effectively regulate e-cigarette products.
- **Environmental Health.** The ATS has been urging the Environmental Protection Agency to act on air pollution and climate change. The ATS urged the EPA to issue more protective National Ambient Air Quality Standards for particulate matter and ozone pollution. Further, the ATS has advanced climate change science by contributing to the research supporting the improved social cost of carbon estimates. A recent ATS workshop report played a pivotal role in supporting revised estimates.
- **Occupational Health.** The ATS also continued to urge the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) to take action to regulate silica dust exposure for metal and non-metal miners. For too long, mine work exposure to silica dust has been unaddressed, leading to preventable cases of silicosis and other preventable occupational diseases.
- **Physician Reimbursement.** Ensuring appropriate payment for physician services is an important part of ATS’s advocacy work. The ATS is actively engaged in reviewing and commenting on Medicare coverage and reimbursement policy, fully participates in the AMA CPT and AMA RUC processes – which form the structure for the Medicare and private insurance physician reimbursement system and work to develop new and revised ICD-10 codes to track pulmonary, critical care and sleep health.
- **Tuberculosis.** Since its founding in 1905 as the American Sanatorium Association, one of the ATS’s most salient priorities has been the prevention, timely diagnosis, and treatment of TB through research and advocacy. The ATS has continued to push for robust funding for domestic and international TB control.



ATS Vaccine Initiative: Specialty Societies Advancing Adult Immunization

ATS is one of seven specialty societies to be awarded a grant from the Council of Medical Specialty Societies (CMSS) and CDC to increase COVID-19, influenza, and other routine adult vaccination rates among high-risk adult patients nationally. Specifically, ATS will focus on high-risk adult patients with respiratory conditions.

ATS is partnering with and funding projects with 8 health care systems across the United States to test and implement strategies to improve vaccine uptake using a quality improvement approach.



Impacting Global Health



MECOR Program - Lating America

Scholarships

ATS awarded 26 International Trainee Scholarships, providing recipients from 15 countries with the invaluable opportunity to attend ATS 2022. These scholarships were a testament to ATS's commitment to fostering international collaboration in respiratory health research. Additionally, ATS presented six MECOR Awards, extending support to participants from low- and middle-income countries to attend ATS 2022, which enriched their knowledge and skills in epidemiologic, clinical, and operations research. These awards reflect ATS's dedication to advancing research excellence on a global scale, facilitating networking and knowledge exchange among early-career researchers from diverse backgrounds and regions.

MECOR

For more than 28 years, the ATS has been working to build research capacity in low- and middle-income countries through its Methods in Epidemiologic, Clinical, and Operations Research (MECOR) Program. In 2022, the ATS MECOR Program rose to the formidable challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, achieving substantial progress with four MECOR courses, three conducted in person and one virtually.

The in-person courses—MECOR Turkiye, (PATS) MECOR Africa, and MECOR Latin America—ran seamlessly, capturing considerable interest and boasting enrollments ranging from 42 to 69 participants across varying proficiency levels.

The MECOR China course demonstrated adaptability and innovation by seamlessly transitioning to a virtual format, effectively engaging 21 students through immersive online sessions.

While the MECOR India course faced postponement in 2022 due to constraints related to pandemic-related challenges, plans for a 2023 course commenced.

Moreover, the ATS MECOR Program has embarked on a new course for the Asia-Pacific region, exploring collaborations with several thoracic societies to develop courses in different countries in the years to come.

Peer Societies

ATS actively engaged with a diverse array of respiratory societies, fostering international cooperation and knowledge exchange. Membership agreements were established or renewed with societies including the Adult Colombian Thoracic Society, Pediatric Colombian Thoracic Society, Mexican Thoracic Society, and the Philippine College of Chest Physicians.

Additionally, ATS Executive Committee members demonstrated their commitment to global respiratory health by attending in-person conferences hosted by peer societies such as the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology (APSR), Asociación Latinoamericana de Tórax (ALAT), Brazilian Thoracic Society (BTS), Canadian Thoracic Society (CTS), European Respiratory Society (ERS), and Turkish Thoracic Society (TTS). When in person attendance was not possible, ATS leaders participated virtually, such as with the Japanese Respiratory Society Conference and the Union Conference.

MECOR Program - Africa



Addressing Health Disparities



Health equity continues to be a priority of the ATS, and its pursuit is clearly delineated in the Society's strategic plan. Combatting health inequities and ensuring diversity throughout the organization is an ongoing goal, spanning initiatives which in many cases are necessarily multi-year efforts. The ATS Health Equity and Diversity Committee (HEDC) undertook several key ongoing initiatives throughout 2022 including leading and encouraging society-wide projects, symposia and publications addressing health equity. The HEDC also completed the first year of its mentoring program for those under-represented in medicine (URM) and in May onboarded a second cohort of mentees.

The ATS launched the Health Equity and Diversity Fund. Donations support programmatic activities and initiatives throughout the ATS organization related to promoting health equity and inclusion, including expanding our ATS Diversity Fellowships, funding research in at-risk communities, and establishing partnerships to increase the number of clinicians, researchers and scientists who are persons of color with support from the ATS Health Equality and Diversity Committee. Additional initiatives include the funding of a Harold Amos Scholar in collaboration with ALA and CHEST.

Evolving the Organization

The focus of Evolving the Organization is to undertake initiatives that help ensure that ATS is a dynamic organization that maximizes the engagement of its members in order to ensure that ATS remains at the forefront in advancing research, clinical care, and public health in respiratory disease, critical illness, and sleep disorders.

The ATS continually seeks to improve its operations to facilitate member engagement, increase the value of joining the community, and ensure that the ATS is a dynamic organization dedicated to accelerating the advancement of global respiratory health through multidisciplinary collaboration, education, and advocacy.

The ATS is currently engaged in several strategic initiatives aimed at transforming the Society to better meet member needs and expectations while also improving overall efficiency, transparency, and thereby securing its position in a competitive marketplace.

The Board created an Ad Hoc Task Force on Board Governance to develop recommendations for an efficient and effective decision-making structure and composition that leads ATS to become a more nimble and successful organization overall. The task force worked with an outside consultant to ensure exposure to current trends and leading practices in the non-profit community. The organization also undertook an evaluation of its governance of educational activities with the goal of creating a strategic education plan with an emphasis on robust year-round offerings in addition to the flagship International Conference.

ATS Corporate Member Program

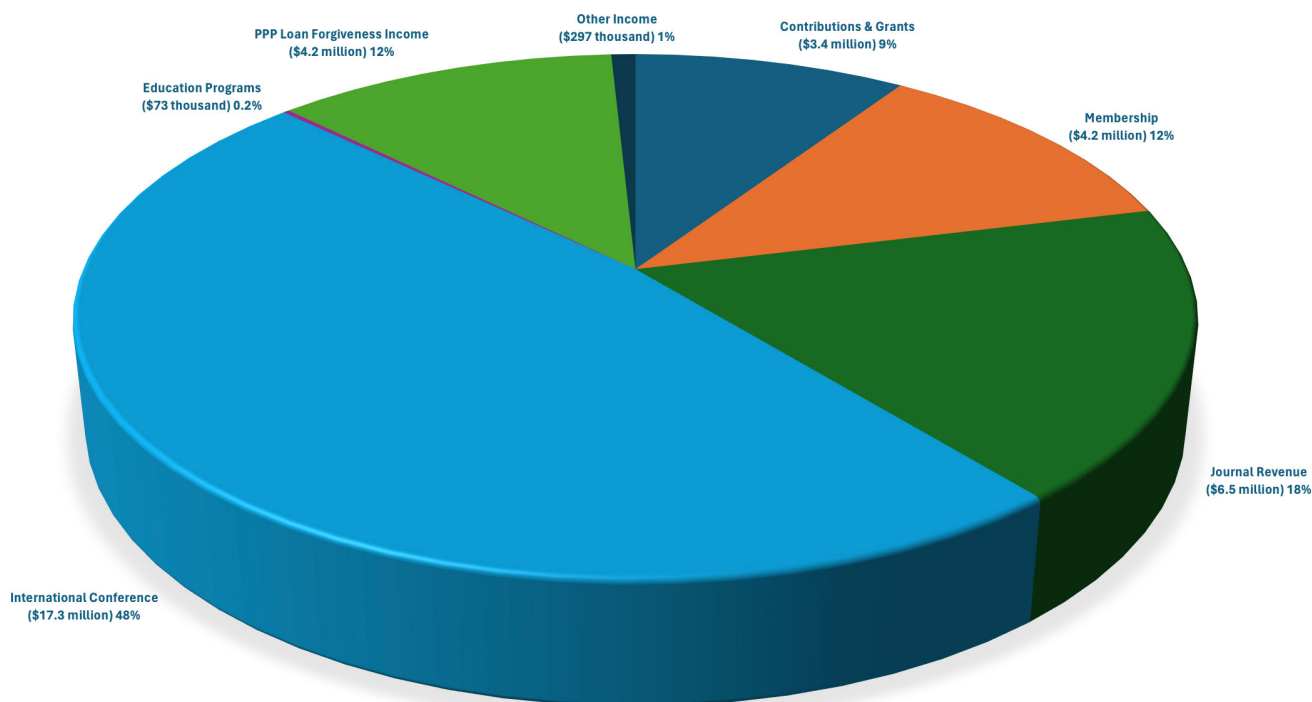
The Corporate Member Program, which celebrated 12 years in 2022, functions as a forum to discuss issues that frame the society's relationships with our colleagues in industry. The program facilitates an annual Corporate Member meeting as well as Corporate Advisory Board meetings to spearhead collaboration between and its industry partners. At the ATS 2022 Opening Session, the ATS recognized AstraZeneca for 10 years of continuous membership.

Financials

Functional Expenses (\$34.0 million)				
	2022	%	2021	%
International Conference	\$12,266,720	36%	5,152,846	21%
Journals	4,430,052	13%	4,719,748	19%
Membership services	936,728	3%	804,790	3%
Educational Programs	4,604,902	14%	4,237,944	17%
Research Program	2,293,643	7%	2,395,454	10%
Management & General	8,385,649	25%	6,841,656	27%
Fundraising	1,077,950	3%	883,995	4%
TOTALS	\$33,995,644	100%	25,036,433	100%

Revenue and Support (\$31 million)

Operational Revenue & Support (\$35.9 million)



2022 Major ATS Donors

\$25,000 or more

Lynn Schnapp, MD, ATSF

\$10,000 or more

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\$1,000 – \$2,499

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\$500 – \$999

William Bailey, MD ▪ Thomas Bleck, MD, ATSF ▪ Zea Borok, MBChB, ATSF ▪ Juan Celedón, MD, DrPH, ATSF ▪ David Gozal, MD, MBA ATSF ▪ John Heffner, MD ▪ Laurence Huang, MD, FCCP, ATSF ▪ Geoffrey Kurland, MD, ATSF ▪ David Lewinsohn, MD, PhD, ATSF ▪ Janet Mauer ▪ Shane McDermott ▪ Richard Murray, MD ▪ Perry Nystrom, MD ▪ David Schwartz, MD, MPH ▪ Chang Shim, MD ▪ Gwen Skloot, MD, ATSF ▪ Paul Stillwell, MD

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Connect with colleagues and get involved in the ATS community.

Give to make an impact on patients' lives.

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