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**DATE:** March 27, 2006  
**TO:** Council of Chapter Representatives and Chapter Members  
**FROM:** Louis S. Libby, M.D.  
Chair, Council of Chapter Representatives  
American Thoracic Society  
**RE:** Your help is needed: ATS Public Advisory Roundtable – Patient Survey

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As you will recall, at the winter chapter meeting in San Diego in January, I announced the rollout of the Patient Survey of the Council of Chapter Representatives (CCR) and the Public Advisory Roundtable (PAR) of the American Thoracic Society (ATS). The survey is designed to determine what patients would look to the ATS for in terms of educational materials and events, and possibly membership.

The survey instrument was developed by the ATS PAR and the Assembly on Behavioral Sciences. The process for conducting the survey is described in a brief letter to patients (attached). The letter contains a toll free number that patients can call, if they would like to participate in the survey. Once you pass the letter off to your patients, indicating the importance of the survey, you need do nothing further.

Interested patients calling the survey number will be indicating their active consent and will be guided through a 10-15 minute process during which they will be asked a series of questions without being asked to provide any unique identifying information.

As a clinical practitioner interested in providing your patients with the best treatments, medical services and educational resources, we are seeking your participation in this survey. To assist us, we are asking you to do the following:

1. Introduce the subject and provide the attached letter to at least 12 of your patients with respiratory diseases, encouraging them to participate.
2. Solicit two of your colleagues to each do the same with 12 of their patients.

The ATS Council of Chapter Representatives and Public Advisory Roundtable greatly appreciate your time and consideration. If you have any questions about this process, please do not hesitate to contact the coordinator of the survey:

Molly McGuire  
E-mail: [mmcguire@alphaone.org](mailto:mmcguire@alphaone.org)  
Telephone: (888) 825-7421, x398

Sincerely,

Louis S. Libby, M.D.



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*President*  
American Thoracic Society

March 27, 2006

Dear Patient,

The American Thoracic Society (ATS) is an international organization of physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists and other health care professionals engaged in the practice of respiratory medicine and research. The clinician you are seeing today is involved with this organization. He/she thought you might be interested in participating in an upcoming telephone survey for the ATS.

The ATS is interested in helping patients with their lung disease outside of the health care provider's office, but they aren't sure what would be most helpful to you. They have many ideas about how to build a more meaningful relationship with patients including: informational pamphlets, educational events, and new website features. They're even considering creating a new membership category for patients. But without knowing what patients are really interested in, it is hard for them to expand their activities. That's where you come in.

The telephone survey will take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete with one of our survey administrators. To participate, please call the toll-free telephone number below. Most likely you will be able to complete the survey at that time, although if all survey administrators are busy you will be directed to a voicemail box.

If you have any further questions about the survey, your health care provider can answer them.

Best regards,  
The ATS Patient Needs Assessment Survey Team

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If you're interested in participating, please call our survey administrators, toll-free, at:

**1.866.588.6828**

If no one is available, you will be directed to voicemail. Please leave us your first name, phone number (including area code), state (so we call at an appropriate time), and the best time to reach you.

All of your personal information is confidential and will not be sold or distributed to any third party.



The ATS Public Advisory Roundtable serves as the bridge between the American Thoracic Society and organizations representing individuals affected by lung disease and breathing disorders by stimulating collaboration in research, education, patient care and advocacy.