

International Lung Health Organizations Join to Raise Awareness for Bronchiectasis

On World Bronchiectasis Day, members of the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS) spotlight a lesser-known lung disease.

JULY 1, 2023 – In support of the second annual World Bronchiectasis Day, July 1, the Forum of International Respiratory Societies, of which Pan African Thoracic Society is a founding member, is joining the COPD Foundation and several global organizations to raise global awareness, share knowledge, and discuss ways to reduce the burden of bronchiectasis for patients and their families worldwide.

A lesser-known chronic lung disease, bronchiectasis affects hundreds of thousands of children and adults worldwide. Individuals living with bronchiectasis experience recurring lung infections due to enlarged and scarred airways which make it difficult to clear mucus properly. Symptoms include frequent coughing (often with thick, discolored mucus), sputum production, breathlessness, repeat chest infections, increased tiredness, unexplained fever, chills, sweats and weight loss, and chest pain.¹

Although there is currently no cure, detecting and treating bronchiectasis early can improve quality of life and long term health.

"World Bronchiectasis Day was started with the intention of raising the profile of bronchiectasis to aid clinicians and patients in more readily recognizing its signs and symptoms," said Jean Wright, MD, MBA, CEO of the COPD Foundation and World Bronchiectasis Day founding partner. "I am encouraged by the success of the first global educational campaign, but there is more to be done. Often misdiagnosed as pneumonia, bronchiectasis worsens over time. An accurate diagnosis is needed to begin treatments to effectively manage the disease."

The inaugural World Bronchiectasis Day, July 1, 2022, raised awareness for bronchiectasis by sharing resources including:

- Video: [The Faces of Bronchiectasis](#)
- Information sheet: [Basics of Bronchiectasis](#)
- Information sheet: [Treatment of Bronchiectasis](#)

Pan African Thoracic Society is proud to support the second annual World Bronchiectasis Day," says Prof. Heather Zar "Campaigns such as this one incite a global conversation and raise recognition. Through increased awareness, we can do our part to support those living with bronchiectasis and their families worldwide."

The [6th annual World Bronchiectasis & NTM Conference will](#) take place in New York City on July 18-20. This CME-accredited in-person and livestreaming course will feature the most up-to-date education in

¹ <https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/chronic-respiratory-diseases-bronchiectasis>

bronchiectasis and non-tuberculous mycobacterial infections including original research presentations and more. Learn more and [register to attend the conference](#).

About World Bronchiectasis Day

World Bronchiectasis Day, recognized annually on July 1, aims to raise global awareness of bronchiectasis and help those with the disease and others yet to be diagnosed through education, advocacy, and a global conversation focused on reducing the burden of bronchiectasis for patients and their families worldwide. **To learn more about bronchiectasis and to support annual World Bronchiectasis Day, visit worldbronchiectasisday.org.**

About Pan African Thoracic Society

[Pan African Thoracic Society](#) (PATS) is a society comprising healthcare professionals from across the continent and beyond. Since its establishment in 2003, we have grown to include over 1,000 members from 65 countries. Our primary mission is to promote lung health in Africa, a continent deeply affected by respiratory diseases. Through education, research, advocacy, optimal care, and capacity development, we strive to effectively address respiratory challenges in Africa. We actively collaborate with regional and international respiratory organizations to improve lung health globally. Guided by FIRS and an influential Executive Committee we are committed to reducing morbidity and mortality associated with respiratory diseases in Africa

About the Forum of International Respiratory Societies

[The Forum of International Respiratory Societies](#) (FIRS) is an organisation comprised of the world's leading international respiratory societies working together to improve lung health globally. The goal of FIRS is to unify and enhance efforts to improve lung health through the combined work of its more than 70,000 members globally.

FIRS comprises the American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST), American Thoracic Society (ATS), the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology (APSR), Asociación Latino Americana De Tórax (ALAT), European Respiratory Society (ERS), International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases (The Union), Pan African Thoracic Society (PATS), the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA), and the Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (GOLD).