

PAN AFRICAN THORACIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear PATS Members and Family

As we close out another remarkable year, I am filled with immense gratitude and pride for what we have accomplished together as the Pan African Thoracic Society (PATS). The past months have been a testament to our commitment to advancing respiratory health across Africa through research, education, and collaboration.

From the impactful **PATS MECOR 2024** program in Kenya, which continues to nurture the next generation of researchers, to the newly launched **PATS Women's Leadership Program**, empowering female leaders in respiratory health, and our continued successful Working Group meetings and our initiatives have demonstrated the strength of our collective efforts. The success of these programs reminds us of the importance of inclusivity and capacity building in shaping the future of respiratory medicine on the continent.

On behalf of PATS, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the 10 deserving winners of the PALI Grants! This year's focus was on initiatives that enhance access to diagnostic tests and medicines for chronic respiratory diseases. These projects ranged from stakeholder engagement, education, community events and screening services. Remarkably, these outstanding individuals organized impactful events in their respective countries to mark World Lung Day on September 25. We are excited to witness how their initiatives will positively impact communities and improve lives.

Looking ahead, I am thrilled about the opportunities that lie before us. Preparations are already underway for our 2025 Congress to be held jointly for the first time in North Africa with the Egyptian Scientific Society of Bronchology (ESSB) in Egypt, which promises to be a significant milestone in our journey. Please save the date for this congress which will take place in Cairo from 3-5 December 2025. We are all looking forward to this next congress, please be on the lookout for call for abstracts and the program in your inbox.



First PATS WOMENS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM candidates .
From left - Rahel Argaw (Ethiopia); Patricia Alupo (Uganda);
Jaci Kagima (Kenya); Sandra Kwarteng-Owusu (Ghana) and
Joy Eze (Nigeria)



To each member, funder, and partner, thank you for your dedication and support. Together, we are not only advancing the field of respiratory health but also transforming lives across Africa. Let us continue to collaborate in promoting lung health in Africa.

Wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Warm wishes



Refiloe Masekela
President of Pan African Thoracic Society

In this newsletter
you can expect:

RACE AFRICA
NEWS

PATS MEMBER
SPOTLIGHT

PATSMECOR-
2025 SAVE THE
DATE

Supported by GOLD, PATS is raising COPD awareness in Africa.

We are excited to announce the launch of the GOLD and PATS Regional COPD Education and Awareness Program in Africa, led by Dr. Obianuju Ozoh, Vice President of PATS. This groundbreaking initiative aims to tackle the critical challenges posed by chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) across five African countries: Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, and Rwanda.

The program focuses on improving COPD awareness among communities while equipping healthcare workers with knowledge and tools to enhance diagnosis and treatment. Key activities include:

- Educational workshops for doctors and healthcare workers.
- Community surveys to assess awareness of COPD.
- Distribution of educational materials, including posters, fliers, and short animations, to spread awareness.

A highlight of this initiative is the integration of the CAPTURE screening tool and provision of essential equipment like peak flow meters, ensuring practical training and impactful results. With generous funding from GOLD (Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease), PATS is committed to building capacity, driving advocacy and fostering healthier communities.

Stay tuned for updates as this program unfolds and brings COPD advocacy to the forefront of respiratory health in sub-Saharan Africa



Event led by the Ethiopian team

PATS Member Achievement: Prof. Adaeze Ayuk Shines on the Global Stage



Prof. Adaeze Ayuk, a distinguished member of PATS, recently achieved remarkable milestones. On September 5, 2024, Prof. Ayuk delivered her inaugural lecture at the University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus, titled "*Let the Children Breathe: Navigating the Narrow Pathway of Paediatric Respiratory Care in Nigeria.*" In her lecture, she showcased her extensive research and advocacy work in paediatric respiratory health, highlighting the burden of childhood respiratory diseases, their risk factors, and innovative management strategies.

Prof. Ayuk's recommendations for improving paediatric respiratory care in Nigeria, including incorporating asthma medicines into the essential drug list and promoting cleaner cooking fuels, demonstrate her commitment to advancing public health.

A celebrated academic, Prof. Ayuk has over 125 research publications and has risen from Associate Professor in 2019 to full Professor in 2023. She holds an impressive array of qualifications, including an MPhil in Paediatric Pulmonology (with distinction) from the University of Cape Town, a PGD in Nutrition from Boston University, and a Leadership Diploma from the University of Washington.

Adding to her achievements, Prof. Ayuk has been appointed by the International Paediatric Pulmonology Society (iNSPiRED) as the Nigerian Ambassador to represent the Nigerian Thoracic Society on its board. As an Ambassador, she will play a pivotal role in fostering international collaborations, shaping policies, and representing Nigeria at the global stage.

PATS as the society, fosters opportunities for professional growth, leadership and global recognition. PATS congratulates Prof. Ayuk on her achievements and remains proud to have her as a valued member.

PATS MECOR 2025

1 - 5 September 2025, Limuru, Kenya

SAVE THE DATE

panafricanthoracic.org

