



PAN AFRICAN THORACIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear PATS Members, Colleagues, and Friends,

As 2025 draws to a close, I am reminded of how far we have come as a community united by a shared vision to advance lung health across Africa. This year has been marked by meaningful connections, scientific achievements, and milestones that continue to elevate the Pan African Thoracic Society's voice and impact on the global stage.

We kicked off our year with the CHEST Africa Accelerator Meeting held in March in Durban, South Africa, which offered a platform for Principal Investigators from across Africa to present their work, reflect on challenges, and learn from each other's experiences in overcoming barriers. Protocol was published in *BMJ Open Respiratory Research* [Chronic respiratory disease observatory for Africa \(CHEST-Africa\): study protocol for the prevalence, determinants and economic impacts of asthma and COPD in Africa](#)



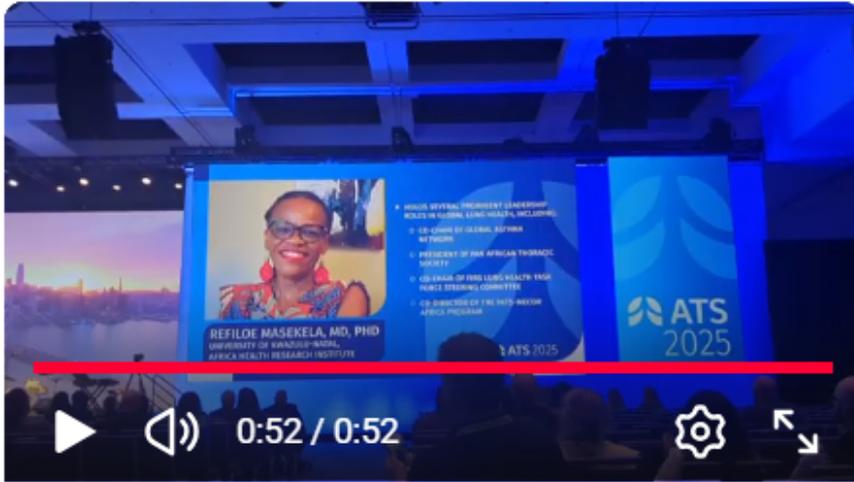
CHEST AFRICA Principal Investigators. Front Row - From left - Jibril Mohammed (Nigeria); Andre Amaral (UK); Refiloe Masekela (South Africa); Khuthadzo Hlongwane (South Africa); Phiona Ekyaruhanga (Uganda) and Sandra Kwarteng-Owusu (Ghana). Back Row - From Left - Lidia Cunha (Mozambique); Maia Lesosky (UK); Nqobile Ndimande (South Africa); Ouédraogo J.C. Romaric Pingdwindé (Burkina Faso); Joseph Baio Kamara (Cameroon) and Josue Mbonigaba (South Africa). Joining online; Prof Uju Ozoh and Tochukwu Ayo-Olagunju (Nigeria)

This was followed by the ATS Congress in San Francisco, held from May 17th to 21st. It was an inspiring experience to witness so many of our PATS members, MECOR students, and alumni presenting their groundbreaking work on such a prestigious international platform. Their contributions underscored the profound impact and success of our MECOR program, demonstrating its effectiveness in building research capacity and fostering future leaders in thoracic medicine

We are particularly proud to feature two of our exceptional students in this newsletter: Dr. Tanguy Nikiema from Burkina Faso and Dr. Ada Obiefuna from Nigeria, whose stories reflect the strength and impact of this program. If you are looking to strengthen your skills in respiratory research, I encourage you to SAVE THE DATE for the 2026 MECOR training, which will take place from 5-9 October 2026 in Kenya.



On a personal note, I was deeply honored to receive the World Lung Health Award this year. This recognition is not just for me, but for every one of you who contributes to the mission of PATS. It reflects the growing global acknowledgment of the critical work being done by our society and its members.



Our commitment to leadership development also saw the successful completion of the second cohort of our Women’s Leadership Program. Five remarkable women from different regions of Africa participated in this initiative, expertly guided by an outstanding woman coach, Dr. Susan Banda. This program continues to empower and elevate women in thoracic medicine, fostering a new generation of strong and visionary leaders across the continent.

Furthermore, I would like to congratulate our two PALI Award recipients. Dr Demilade Kuti from Nigeria and Dr Abbi- Monique-Bilungula from DRC. We eagerly anticipate their reports on the event scheduled for November 12th, World Pneumonia Day, which promises to be impactful.

As we look ahead, our excitement builds for the most anticipated event of the year. The joint Congress with the Egyptian Scientific Society of Bronchology (ESSB) in Cairo, Egypt. This collaborative event promises to be a landmark occasion, bringing together leading experts from across the continent and beyond, and offering network opportunities. We will for the first time be hosting our congress with colleagues from North Africa. Registration is still open, and we eagerly await your participation in what will undoubtedly be a memorable and enriching experience.

We will also hold our Annual General Meeting and you will get a chance to vote for the new executive members of PATS. You can nominate your executive member on the form and submit to info@panafricanthoracic.org before this Friday 21 November.

Thank you for your commitment, passion, and contribution to the work of PATS. Together, we are shaping the future of lung health across our continent.

Refiloe Masekela
President of Pan African Thoracic Society

24TH|ESSB 4TH|PATS | **Registration closing soon!**

Just **3 Weeks Left** to secure your spot at the best rate. Don't wait register today and save your seat

[Register Now >](#)

24TH|ESSB 4TH|PATS | **WORKSHOP**

Interventional Bronchoscopy Workshop 2025

Join this hands-on workshop to master rigid bronchoscopy, thermal and cold therapies, airway stenting, and foreign body extraction using phantom models and goat carcass airways. Designed for beginners and professionals seeking practical, expert-led training in interventional techniques.

[Register Here > \[essbpats.org\]\(http://essbpats.org\)](#)

24TH|ESSB 4TH|PATS | **WORKSHOP**

Lung Functions: Spirometry and Oscillometry

Learn how to perform and interpret spirometry, identify abnormal flow-volume loops, apply LLN, conduct 6MWT, and more. With expert-led lectures, case studies, and group training, this course is ideal for healthcare professionals aiming to boost their respiratory care skills.

[Register Here > \[essbpats.org\]\(http://essbpats.org\)](#)

24TH|ESSB 4TH|PATS | **WORKSHOP**

EBUS Mastery: Hands-On Simulation, Needle Skills & Live Bronchoscopy Case Insights

Advance your EBUS skills through expert-led lectures, live bronchoscopy cases, and simulation-based needle training. Learn mediastinal mapping, ROSE, anesthesia protocols, and complication management. Designed for intermediate and advanced bronchoscopists.

[Register Here > \[essbpats.org\]\(http://essbpats.org\)](#)



In this newsletter
you can expect:

PATS MEMBER
SPOTLIGHT

PATSMECOR &
WOMENS
LEADERSHIP
PROGRAM

PATSMECOR-
2026 SAVE THE
DATE



Dr Ragnagnewendé M. Ismael Tanguy Nikiema

We also celebrated significant achievements at the recent ERS and ATS Congress, our members showcased their expertise and contributed to global discussions on respiratory health.

One of our PATS member and MECOR student **Dr Ragnagnewendé M. Ismael Tanguy Nikiema** presented his work at the ERS Congress

“I am a pulmonologist and nutritionist from Burkina Faso, of Manga Regional Hospital Center (Burkina Faso) and currently undergoing advanced training at the Douai Hospital Center (France).

I firmly believe that in southern countries, nutrition should play a more important role in respiratory health and that lagging areas such as sleep disorders, non-invasive ventilation, and chest ultrasound will represent real challenges in the future, just as tuberculosis does today.

My interests therefore revolve around these areas.

And we had this wonderful opportunity to present one of our projects at the largest respiratory health conference in Amsterdam, thanks to Pan African Thoracic Society for supporting us in this adventure. Our current project is trying to assess the impact of undernutrition on TB treatment outcomes in Burkina Faso, and we're planning future studies on the role of nutrition in non-communicable diseases in pulmonology.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our families, colleagues, mentors of Burkina Thoracic society, mentors of Douai Hospital and the MECOR faculty, who are always ready to support us. And a special mention to Prof. Nemery, who assisted us during our first ERS congress. As a brother says « Wendna - Songdo” Barka....”

We proudly highlight **Dr Adaobi Obiefuna**, Consultant Pulmonologist at the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital (UNTH), Enugu, who showcased her important research at the American Thoracic Society (ATS) Congress 2025.

Her abstract, titled **“The Use of Asthma Self-Management Plans to Improve Clinical Outcomes in Adult Patients at UNTH, Enugu,”** reported findings from a randomized controlled trial involving 136 adults with asthma. The study demonstrated that written asthma self-management plans significantly improved asthma control, enhanced quality of life, and reduced hospitalisation due to exacerbations—reinforcing the value of patient-centred education in asthma care.

Beyond her research contribution, Dr Obiefuna is a dedicated clinician with expertise in asthma, COPD, sleep disorders, and air-pollution-related lung health. She is an active member of the ATS, ERS, and PATS, and a published author with 12 scientific articles

Testimonial for PATS MECOR Program

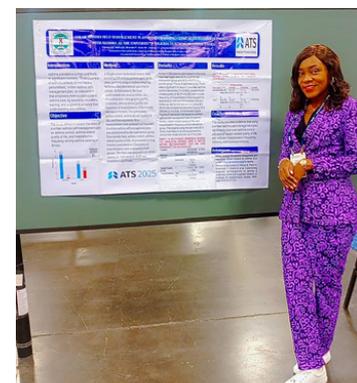
I am grateful to Dr. Nnamdi Nwosu for introducing me to the Pan African Thoracic Society Methods in Epidemiologic, Clinical, and Operations Research (PATS MECOR) Program. This exceptional initiative has significantly enhanced my knowledge and skills in clinical and epidemiological research methods, particularly in respiratory health. Having successfully completed Levels 1 and 2, I am eager to advance to Level 3.

I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the esteemed PATS MECOR mentors who have inspired and guided me throughout this journey:

Prof. Kevin Mortimer; Prof. Sean Semple; Prof. Allison; Prof. Ada Ayuk; Prof. Obianuju Ozoh

Their expertise, mentorship, and dedication to building research capacity in low- and middle-income countries have been invaluable. I look forward to continuing my research endeavors and contributing to the advancement of respiratory health in Africa.

Thank you, PATS MECOR, for this enriching experience. I am excited for the opportunities that lie ahead.



Dr Adaobi Obiefuna

EMPOWERING AFRICAN WOMEN IN RESPIRATORY HEALTH: A LOOK AT THE PATS/ATS
MECOR AFRICA WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



The Pan African Thoracic Society/American Thoracic Society MECOR Africa Women's Leadership Program recently concluded its second cohort with a highly successful program, reinforcing its commitment to fostering strong female leadership in respiratory health across the continent. This visionary program seeks to empower women to overcome barriers, cultivate leadership skills, and advance their careers with confidence and resilience.

The session was expertly led by Dr. Susan Banda, a professional female coach from Kenya, who prepared specialized activities and exercises to further enhance the participants' leadership skills and confidence.

The program, which focuses on equipping women in or aspiring to leadership positions with the tools to overcome challenges and fears, was held on 6 - 7 September at the Pride Inn Azuri hotel in Nairobi, Kenya. This initiative is exclusively designed for alumni of the MECOR research training program who have completed all three levels, creating a powerful network of experienced professionals.

Celebrating the 2025 Fellowship Recipients of the program, the five exceptional women who were awarded an all expense paid fellowship to attend the training in Kenya were: Dr Sbekezelo Hlophe (South Africa); Dr Aishat Shittu (Nigeria); Prof Ada Ayuk (Nigeria); Dr Leah Ferguson (Kenya) Dr Oddette Kibu (Cameroon)

The entire initiative was founded by the visionary Professor Sonia Buist, known as a world-renowned expert in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and the highest lifetime donor in ATS history. She is known and loved as "Mama MECOR" by her students, a title that honors her dedication and energy in establishing and driving the program's success and impact.

Looking Ahead: Apply for the 2026 Program

Are you a female PATS MECOR alumna looking to advance your career and tackle the challenges of leadership? The PATS/ATS MECOR Africa Women's Leadership Program is the perfect opportunity to gain confidence, skills, and a supportive community.

Applications for the 2026 fellowship will open next year. If you are looking to step into or are currently tracking a leadership position, this program is for you. Stay tuned.



2025 PATS/ATS MECOR Africa Course

The PATS/ATS MECOR (Methods in Epidemiologic, Clinical and Operations Research) Africa course in Kenya, held from September 1-5, 2025, was a resounding success, fostering significant advancements in lung health research capacity across Africa. The program featured intensive training, practical workshops in spirometry and air quality monitoring, and invaluable mentoring sessions by experts MAMA MECOR – Sonia Buist and Stephen Gordon.

A special highlight was the visit by ATS President Raed Dwein, underscoring the global importance of the initiative. Supported by ATS, Cambridge Africa, and Paolo Chiesi Foundation, the course provided participants from Level 1, 2, and 3 classes with comprehensive education and numerous opportunities for continued professional development, ultimately strengthening regional capabilities in addressing respiratory diseases. [READ MORE....](#)

Save the Date

**5–9 Oct 2026 | Brackenhurst,
Limuru, Kenya**



Invitation to express interest in contributing to the Global Asthma Report 2026: Country Stories



Dear GAN Collaborator

We are pleased to invite you to participate in the Global Asthma Network's upcoming publication, the Global Asthma Report 2026: Country Stories. This project aims to develop a detailed profile of countries across all six World Health Organization (WHO) regions, covering high-, middle-, and low-income settings. The profiles will highlight the unique challenges and experiences related to the burden, diagnosis, and management of asthma in each country. Building on the recently released Global Asthma Report 2025: Patient Stories, this new edition will also be a fully digital living document that will be regularly updated over time.

At this stage, we are seeking expressions of interest from contributors who would be willing to draft country-specific narratives. These pieces should provide insight into each country's experience with asthma diagnosis and management. While referencing relevant local data is encouraged, the primary focus is to capture a personal and contextual perspective from the authors to enhance each country profile. All contributors will be included in the authorship.

If you are interested, please email info@globalasthmanetwork.org specifying your title, name, country, and preferred contact details. We look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,
Prof. Refiloe Masekela and Prof. Kevin Mortimer on behalf of the GAN Steering Group