

# Respiratory Societies Unite to Raise Awareness on World Bronchiectasis Day 2026

*On World Bronchiectasis Day, members of the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS) bring attention to a chronic lung disease affecting people worldwide*

**JULY 1, 2026** – In support of the fifth annual World Bronchiectasis Day, July 1, the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS), of which Pan African Thoracic Society is a founding member, is joining the Bronchiectasis and NTM Foundation and several international organizations to raise global awareness, share knowledge, and encourage continued research 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.<sup>1</sup> Although there is currently no cure, detecting and treating bronchiectasis early can improve quality of life and long-term health.

According to a 2023 study<sup>2</sup>, the most common cause of bronchiectasis was post-infective disease. A smaller percentage of the study participants were classified as idiopathic. Compared with other regions, patients in central and eastern Europe had more severe bronchiectasis measured by a Bronchiectasis Severity Index and more exacerbations leading to hospitalizations. The study calls for more research and future therapeutic development to understand differences in patient characteristics, treatment, and outcomes across the world.

“World Bronchiectasis Day provides an important opportunity to increase awareness of a disease that can have a significant impact on patients’ quality of life,” said **Guy Marks, President of FIRS**. “Through global alliance, we can bring together patients, clinicians, researchers, and advocacy organizations to advance education, improve access to care, and accelerate progress in bronchiectasis research.”

As part of this year’s observance, organizations across the international respiratory community are sharing educational resources, patient stories, research updates, advocacy initiatives, and community events designed to improve understanding of bronchiectasis and support those affected by the disease.

A full calendar of activities can be found on the [World Bronchiectasis Day website](#) run by the Bronchiectasis and NTM Association.

## **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,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://resources.bronchandntm.org/public/document-library/49/english/20260501170522.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Chalmers J, Polverino E, Crichton M et al. Bronchiectasis in Europe: data on disease characteristics from the European Bronchiectasis registry (EMBARC) The Lancet Respiratory Medicine, 2023; 11, 637-649  
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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](http://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 comprising the world's leading international respiratory societies working together to improve lung health globally: [American College of Chest Physicians](#) (CHEST), [American Thoracic Society](#) (ATS), [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), [Global Initiative for Asthma](#) (GINA), and the [Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease](#) (GOLD).

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.