Dear ATS Fellows:

This brief note is the second ATS quarterly Connection email, which is intended to give a concise update on what is happening in our organization. This is one of several efforts aimed at increasing member engagement. As always, your feedback on this communication and ways to bring increased value to you as a Fellow and to the ATS certification is encouraged.

Certification Activity:
Please congratulate the following on their recertification: A. Wallace Hayes, Abigail Jacobs, Barbara Beck, Berna Magnuson, Edward Calabrese, Michael Holsapple, Gregory Ladics, Jan Hulla, Larry Robertson, Lie Fu, Merle Paule, Michael Dourson, Richard Schlesinger, Roger Ulrich, Stanley Omaye, and William Bierschmitt.

Fellows that became Emeritus include: Drs. Bruce Bernard, Ceinwen Schreiner, Frederick Miller, Reid Patterson, and Sidney Green.

The certification and recertification process continues to be a robust peer-review assessment of candidates. The BOD is continuing to look for improvements to the application. More stringent expectations for demonstrated continuing education in the initial certification is one such area currently being discussed.

All Fellows are asked to reach out to colleagues worthy of ATS certification and encourage their application. The next application deadline is 15 May 2017.

Board of Directors Business and Initiatives:
Progress continues to be made as the BOD staffs and initiates our three new standing committees. Thanks to all members who submitted recommendations for participants in these important groups. Several of the groups have already initiated work aligned with their mission. Committee members include:

- **ATS Recruitment Committee**: Dr. Jane Ellen Simmons, Chair; Dr. Jon Cook, Vice Chair; and from the general membership, Drs. Wei Zhang and Barbara Beck. This group will engage in outreach to potential candidates and maintain a recruitment list; will work with other professional societies to provide ATS Fellow mentors; will monitor ATS Fellow demographics.

- **ATS Recognition Committee**: Dr. Don Fox, Chair; Dr. Myrtle Davis, Vice Chair; and from the general membership, Drs. Ken Hastings and Sharon Meyers. This group will advance ATS recognition by proposing/ implementing new ideas that grow ATS visibility; will liaise with external groups to promote ATS Fellow involvement in national/international decision-making and/or advisory committees.

- **ATS Communications Committee**: Dr. Lorene Buckley, Chair, Dr. Kyle Kolaja, Vice Chair; and from the general membership Drs. Berna Magnuson and Dan Peterson. This group will advance the use of social media by creating an ATS LinkedIn website and facilitate member enrollment; will monitor scientific and regulatory issues of importance to ATS membership and implement mechanisms for rapid response, publications, issues summaries and written debates.
**SAVE THE DATE: ATS Business Meeting and Reception!**
The ATS Business Meeting and Reception has been scheduled for a new night! This year our event will be held the evening of Monday, March 13, 2017, beginning at 8pm! A more formal invitation will be sent out in the near future so please keep the date open! We look forward to seeing you there!

**Other News:**
The Awards Committee, on which I serve as Chair, includes from the Board Drs. Jon Cook and Paul Foster and from the general membership Drs. Angelo Moretto and Alan Wilson, has received and will be reviewing nominations for the Mildred S. Christian Career Achievement Award. Thank you to those Fellows that have taken time to provide nominations! Please join us at the Annual Fellow’s Reception at SOT to congratulate this year’s awardee.

The BOD has revised the ATS Bylaws in several important ways including: changes that bring clarity to the election process, more facile BOD decision making process, define appointments to committees, establishes the Executive Committee, expands the Board members to nine, and creates a new Secretary/Treasurer-Elect position. These changes will improve the effectiveness of the board and create a more stable board member rotation schedule. The bylaws ballot was emailed to all Voting ATS Fellows on December 1, 2016. Please vote by December 31, 2016.

*Give us your feedback!*

Enjoy the holiday season!

Best regards,
Matt
On behalf of the ATS Board of Directors

Matthew S. Bogdanffy, PhD, DABT, ATS
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