ATS Awards 2010 Recognition Award for Scientific Accomplishments to Sally E. Wenzel, MD.

Sally E. Wenzel, M.D. will receive the 2010 Recognition Award for Scientific Accomplishments at the American Thoracic Society’s International Conference in New Orleans on May 17, 2010. She will give a presentation entitled “Asthma Phenotypes: A Prelude to Mechanistic Insights on Disease Pathogenesis”.

The Recognition Award for Scientific Accomplishments is given each year to ATS members who demonstrate outstanding scientific contributions in basic or clinical research to the understanding, prevention and treatment of respiratory disease or critical illness. Awardees make a 25-minute presentation on their research.

Dr. Wenzel is the director of the University of Pittsburgh Asthma Institute at UPMC/UPSOM. As director, she is responsible for a wide range of clinical, educational and research endeavors related to asthma in the Western Pennsylvania region. Specifically, Dr. Wenzel has a long standing interest in severe asthma, its phenotypes and their pathogenesis, an interest which started during her 19 yrs at National Jewish Health and the University of Colorado. She has continued these projects in Pittsburgh where she is one of four NHLBI funded investigators in the Severe Asthma Research Program (SARP network). She has published widely on differing inflammatory phenotypes in asthma and their relation to clinical characteristics. Her bench research is focused on epithelial changes in severe asthma which contribute to these different clinical and inflammatory phenotypes. Finally, she is actively involved in clinical trials in severe asthma, incorporating these phenotypic differences in predicting response to therapy.

“I am extremely honored to be chosen for this award,” said Dr. Wenzel. “The legacy of names of previous awardees reads as a list of ‘Who’s Who’ in ATS, and I am humbly delighted to be considered among those names!”

Dr. Wenzel served on the Pulmonary-Allergy Advisory Committee to the FDA, was Assembly Chair for the American Thoracic Society (ATS) section on Allergy, Immunology and Inflammation, and chaired the ATS International Conference Committee. She was Deputy Editor for the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine 2005-2009, and was awarded the ATS Elizabeth Rich Award in recognition for her efforts on behalf of women in the ATS in 2005.

“To be recognized for my contribution to a body of work in asthma and severe asthma in particular is a tremendous but humbling experience,” said Dr. Wenzel.
The award will be presented to Dr. Wenzel on May 17th, 2010 at 1:30pm in Room 271-273 of the Morial Convention Center.

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**About the ATS:**
Founded in 1905, the American Thoracic Society is the world’s leading medical association dedicated to advancing pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine. The Society has more than 15,000 members who prevent and fight respiratory disease around the globe, through research, education, patient care and advocacy.