THE ASTHMA INSTITUTE’S DR. WENZEL RECEIVES BREATHING FOR LIFE AWARD FROM AMERICAN THORACIC SOCIETY FOUNDATION

This month, Dr. Sally Wenzel will be presented with the Breathing for Life Award from the American Thoracic Society Foundation (ATS). This award given annually is the highest honor presented by the ATS Foundation for exemplary philanthropic and scientific contributions. This will be the eighth year of the ATS Foundation Research Program Benefit and the presentation of this award. It will take place as part of the ATS 2016 International Conference on Saturday, May 14, 2016, in San Francisco, CA.

The Breathing for Life Award is granted to individuals or institutions who: “Demonstrate consistent philanthropic support for the research agenda of the ATS and the ATS Foundation, encourage/inspire philanthropy from others, such as other ATS members, non-ATS members, and the public at large, advocate for the philanthropic support of young investigators in pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine, raise awareness of the burden of respiratory disease on patients and their families to the public at large.”

Dr. Wenzel’s work achieves these measures and more. As a Professor of Medicine and Director of the University of Pittsburgh Asthma Institute at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Dr. Wenzel investigates the complexities of asthma phenotypes in severe asthmatics with specialization in matching cellular and molecular responses to asthma therapies. This approach is important in aiding asthma patients whose symptoms are poorly controlled by standard treatments.

Her widely published research and exceptional drive has earned her numerous honors in the scientific community. Dr. Wenzel is the recipient of an ATS Recognition Award for Scientific Accomplishment. She is also one of seven investigators chosen as a part of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute’s Severe Asthma Research Program network. Among other roles, Dr. Wenzel has served on the Pulmonary-Allergy Advisory Committee to the FDA, as the Deputy Editor for the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, chaired the ATS International Conference Committee, and was Assembly Chair for the ATS section on Allergy, Immunology, and Inflammation.

Beyond academic accolades, Dr. Wenzel extends her efforts and expertise back into the community through her commitment to patient care, mentorship of young scientists, advocacy efforts for women in science, and innovation of integrated specialist care in the community. She is also the recipient of an ATS Elizabeth A. Rich Award for her leadership and mentoring of women in science.

Dr. Wenzel says, “It is incredible feeling to be honored by the Foundation of the professional society (ATS) that you have spent most of your life working with. To be counted among the names of the previous awardees is humbling indeed.”

Also being recognized, Anuradha Ray, Ph. D. will be receiving the Recognition Award for Scientific Accomplishments at the benefit. As a professor of Medicine and Immunology at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Dr. Ray’s outstanding research on immune mechanisms as they relate to chronic inflammatory diseases in the lung and gut has earned her this prestigious award. Keep an eye out for our next newsletter, which will feature her research and award!

Tremendous congratulations to Dr. Wenzel and Dr. Ray!

Upcoming Community Events from our Partners at Breathe PA!

**Breathing in the ‘Burgh**

**June 17, 2016, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

**Gateway Clipper Fleet**

350 W Station Square Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Registration is FREE and required to reserve your spot. Please register by June 3, 2016.

Check out their website at www.breathepa.org or call 1-800-220-1990 for more information about their community events and programs! They offer assistance programs for asthma medications and supplies including air conditioners, pulmonary rehab, spacers and peak flow meters, and nebulizers for patients who qualify!

**Asthma Day**

**June 26, 2016, 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium**

This event is open to 4th, 5th, and 6th graders with asthma. Pre-registration and $10 fee is required.