

ATS Welcomes Dentists



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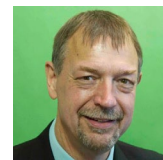
American Thoracic Society
International Conference
May 15 - May 20
Denver, Colorado

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By Steve Carstensen

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May 24, 2015



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The American Thoracic Society (ATS), renowned professional society of pulmonologists, has reached out to dentists to explore how sleep breathing therapy can be enhanced by working together. Dr. James Metz of Columbus, Ohio is a top level dental educator and has stepped up to lead this exploration. He's put together what is going to be a foundational event for bringing the two professions together to benefit patients: a meeting during the ATS Annual Session in Denver on May 16th which will include the ATS Sleep and Respiration Assembly Chair and incoming chair. Dr. David Gozal, incoming President of ATS, is also highly supportive of dentists and ATS MD members attending together, all focused on improving the relationship. Dentists have been working with ATS for years; this step forward is the culmination of lots of effort, yet also the *'beginning of a beautiful friendship.'*



[Learn more](#) about
Dr. James Metz

Here is what Dr. Metz has created to guide our first group meeting:

The goal of the Dental Sleep Medicine Interest group is to bring together dentists with an interest in sleep medicine and align them with the Assembly on Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology so that they may discuss common interests that will benefit patients worldwide.

The Groups objectives are as follows:

- To further identify research priorities and outcome studies in the area of oral appliances
- To Collaborate with the Assembly on Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology in the development of joint statements that will benefit the sleep community, the field of Dentistry and patients worldwide.

The joint statements should include:

- a) What screening devices are appropriate for use in the dental office
- b) Definition and characteristics of an oral appliance for the treatment of obstructive sleep apnea
- c) Titration Procedure for mandibular advancement devices
- d) When are mandibular advancement appliances appropriate.
- e) Durability of mandibular advancement devices and report of problems to FDA
- f) Considering allergic potential, what materials are acceptable
- g) Medications and procedures that are appropriate for dentists.

- To Collaboratively create opportunities for the Dental Community at the ATS International Conference

The American Thoracic Society improves global health by advancing research, patient care, and public health in pulmonary disease, critical illness, and sleep disorders. Founded in 1905 to combat TB, the ATS has grown to tackle asthma, COPD, lung cancer, sepsis, acute respiratory distress, and sleep apnea, among other diseases. For more information visit: <http://www.thoracic.org/members/membership/join-the-ats/index.php>