

## Travel report ATS 2014

Every year the American Thoracic Society (ATS) holds a meeting in a big city in the United States. This year it was held in San Diego from May 16th till May 21st. The ATS is a multidisciplinary international conference meant for pulmonary, critical care, and sleep— clinicians, researchers and nurses which aims to ultimately improve patient care.

Every day the conference started at 8 am with presentations of world famous clinicians and researchers until 10.45. From 10.45 till 1pm people normally went to a big hall where everyday a new set of posters were presented. Also, at 10.30 the exhibition hall opened. Many Pharmaceutical companies advertised their products and medicines until 4pm every day. From 1pm till 5pm presentations and poster discussions were held throughout the convention center.

My focus is on chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. Due to the high number of simultaneously given presentations, I tried to focus on the talks about those two diseases. I was surprised that this year there was an extra focus on the basic scientific site of pulmonary diseases. Due to my pharmacy background I also tried to learn more about new therapies for airway diseases.

During the conference I visited the exhibition hall several times. I was interested in a company called EMKA which manufactures ventilation devices for small laboratory animals such as mice and rats.

Lastly, I also had many meeting during the conference with American colleagues. We discussed several experiments that we will conduct in Utrecht and agreed on a collaboration between our department and the medicine department of the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

In summary, the ATS 2014 in San Diego was a very interesting conference which helped me to better understand the mechanistic background of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. I was also able to meet new people who work in my field and set up collaborations.