

Dr. Carroll Awarded \$80,000 for COPD Research

Tomás Carroll, MS, PhD, associate lecturer in the Department of Medicine at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, is the recipient of an American Thoracic Society Foundation/Alpha-1 Foundation Research Grant to study the effect of a genetic protein deficiency on the development of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

The grant provides \$40,000 in funding per year for two years.

COPD describes a group of lung conditions that make it difficult to exhale, causing shortness of breath and fatigue. Chronic bronchitis and emphysema are the two primary conditions that make up COPD, which is a major cause of illness and death worldwide. Dr. Carroll will be studying a protein called alpha-1 antitrypsin. Patients with specific genetic mutations have low levels of the protein, making them more susceptible to COPD.

Since 2004, the Foundation of the ATS has awarded nearly \$10 million in grants to 105 junior researchers investigating a wide spectrum of lung diseases, ranging from asthma and COPD to pulmonary fibrosis and alpha-1 antitrypsin. The program has also funded the career development of 24 pulmonary and critical care fellows. Grants range from \$5,000 per year to \$100,000 over a two-year period.

The ATS Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the American Thoracic Society, whose mission is to improve health worldwide by advancing research, clinical care and public health in respiratory disease, critical illness and sleep disorders.

The Alpha-1 Foundation is dedicated to providing the leadership and resources that will result in increased research, improved health, worldwide detection and a cure for alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency.

For more information, please contact Alyssa Chase, senior manager of the ATS Foundation Research Program, at achase@thoracic.org.