

CHEST at 90

Through changes and challenges, CHEST has cultivated a legacy of learning, leadership, and lung health

The role of education is overwhelmingly important to the history of CHEST, according to CHEST Past President Deborah Shure, MD, Master FCCP.

“Everything springs from education,” she said.

This approach has defined CHEST for nine decades, beginning with the founding years—when TB education transformed the life of one Murray Kornfeld.

THE TB YEARS

In the parlance of his day, Murray Kornfeld was a “go-getter,” a dynamic manager in a New York export-import firm before he turned 25. So, in 1917, when Kornfeld contracted pulmonary



Murray Kornfeld

TB, he had no patience for an illness that was treated at the time through isolated convalescence.

After only six months of rest, Kornfeld resumed traveling through South America and reaching potential business partners via ship, railroad, and mule.

When a second bout of TB struck in 1923, Kornfeld reported to a sanatorium for a short rest. But the

disease had a different timetable—one that demanded six years.

Being sidelined from his adventurous life transformed Kornfeld and his understanding of the disease. He came to believe that physicians were misdiagnosing TB but could vastly improve treatment outcomes if they had the means to access more knowledge.

By 1935, Kornfeld had gathered a group of physicians to form the



Pope Pius XII

A Historic Journey

1937

The organization is renamed American College of Chest Physicians to reflect a larger role in the advancement of medical science beyond treating TB.

1940

Committees and sections (now known as CHEST Networks) are created to address clinical issues in specific fields.

1943

The FCCP designation is introduced to signify fellows of the organization.

1950

The first International Congress on Diseases of the Chest is held in Rome with Pope Pius XII in attendance. This meeting establishes the organization as an influential organization with global reach in chest medicine education.

1935

The Federation of American Sanatoria (now known as CHEST) is founded with the intention to discuss the role of sanatoria as it relates to early diagnosis of TB. In March, the journal *Diseases of the Chest* is launched by the Federation of American Sanatoria. The first annual meeting is held August 9 to 10 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, with 38 registrants.

1945

CHEST postgraduate courses are offered throughout the year to help educate physicians returning from service in WWII.

1949

CHEST partners with the National Cancer Institute of the US Public Health Service to conduct research on lung cancer.



Federation of American Sanatoria, the precursor to the American College of Chest Physicians. He had also published *Diseases of the Chest*, the precursor to the journal *CHEST*®.

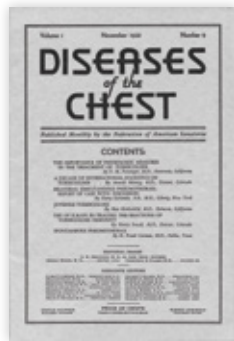
Ten years later, the organization had 24 chapters and 1,766 members.

POST-WAR EXPANSION

As vaccines, anti-TB drugs, and testing improved patient outcomes, the journal expanded its focus to consider issues such as allergic, occupational, suppurative, and neoplastic chest diseases, as well as medical economics.

By the early 1950s, *Diseases of the Chest* began to devote nearly one-third of its pages

to conditions other than TB. It continued this expanded approach through 1970, when it was renamed to *CHEST*.



The organization grew as well. By 1985, it had grown to approximately 14,000 members and preparations were made for a grand 50th

anniversary gathering in New Orleans featuring an address by outgoing Past President Dick Briggs Jr, MD, Master FCCP.

KEEPING PEOPLE UP TO DATE

In 1968, after two years in the US Air Force and completing his medical residency, Dr. Briggs accepted a position as professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine,

where he would teach and treat patients his entire professional career.

Dr. Briggs' dual commitment to education and clinical practice reflects what he sees as *CHEST*'s greatest strength.

"In my opinion, the continuing education of physicians who are already trained as internists and pulmonary specialists is the major impact of the American College of Chest Physicians," Dr. Briggs said.

As an example, Dr. Briggs pointed to the role that *CHEST* played in educating clinicians about the transformative power of ventilators and in establishing critical care as a key subfield of respiratory and pulmonary medicine.

Article and timeline continued on next page

1951
The organization moves to 112 East Chestnut Street, Chicago.

1960
CHEST's journal cites smoking as a probable cause of lung cancer.

1968
CHEST and the US Public Health Service partner to evaluate the physician's role in smoking cessation and educate physicians on helping their patients to quit smoking.

1984
CHEST launches its board review program for pulmonary medicine.

1989
CHEST launches its board review program for critical care medicine.

1953
Edward Robitzek, MD, FCCP, publishes groundbreaking data on a new drug to treat TB in *CHEST*'s journal and presents the research at the CHEST Annual Meeting.

1965
CHEST's work contributes to the passage of the bill requiring the Surgeon General's warning label to be printed on all cigarette packages.

1970
The journal *Diseases of the Chest* is renamed *CHEST*, as it is known today.

1986
The first guidelines on antithrombotic therapy are published as a supplement to the journal *CHEST*.

1990
CHEST plays a key role in the passage of legislation to ban smoking on domestic flights within the US.

“Over the years, the American College of Chest Physicians, and the journal it has produced, helped to keep people who were interested in lung disease—and dealing with lung disease every day—up to date with the latest information about what was working and what wasn’t working,” Dr. Briggs said. “It has also helped prepare members for pulmonary and critical care medicine [board exams], and it has done this while remaining focused on people.”

PAYING IT FORWARD

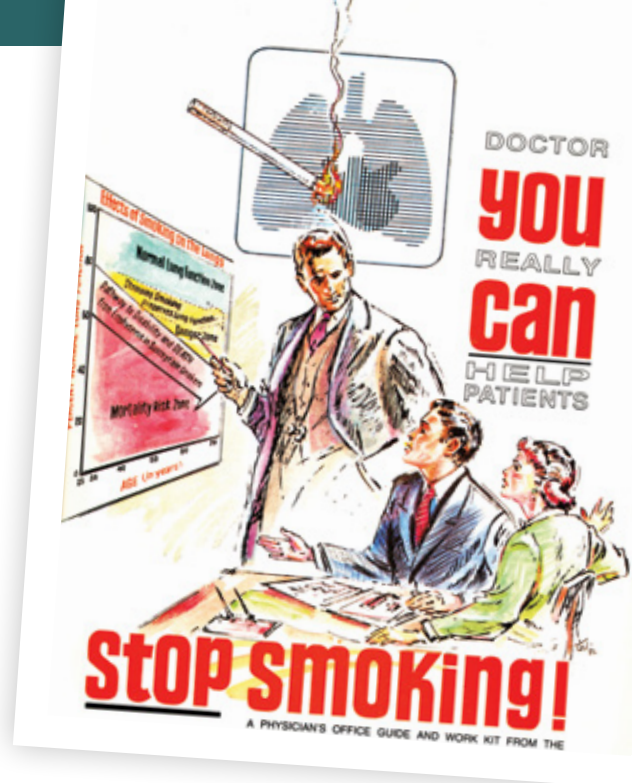
In the late '70s and early '80s, Dr. Shure was a fellow at the University of California, San Diego, conducting research on a new bronchoscopic technique for obtaining lung tissue using fine-needle aspiration. When she presented a paper on her research, she was approached by *CHEST* Editor in Chief Alfred Soffer, MD, Master FCCP, who said: “You need to be a part of the College.”

This was Dr. Shure’s introduction to the American College of Chest Physicians and what she characterizes as a family of professionals who share goals of

improving medical knowledge and supporting one another’s efforts.

The warm welcome was even more significant, Dr. Shure said, given how few women were involved in the field and how difficult it was to be part of a minority group in the profession. During her term as *CHEST*’s first female President from 1995 to 1996, Dr. Shure was approached by junior members, international members, and members of diverse backgrounds who told her how important it was to see her in the position. Throughout her presidency, she strove to fully integrate international members into positions of leadership. In turn, they provided key insights and leadership for important *CHEST* initiatives, such as the global fight against tobacco smoking.

To this day, the international character of *CHEST* strengthens the organization’s core educational mission by drawing on the experiences of different clinical practices from around the globe, Dr. Shure noted. “Education, clinical education, and the education of how we can



work together—that’s all part of it,” she said.

FROM SAVING LIVES TO CHANGING LIVES

Allen I. Goldberg, MD, MBA, Master FCCP, was introduced to *CHEST* in the early 1980s. This initial affiliation reinforced two important lessons Dr. Goldberg received from his mentor, Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, MD, ScD, FCCP (Hon). The first was to join organizations and surround yourself with talented, experienced people to effect change. The second was to always pursue more education.

<p>1991 ACCP-SEEK is introduced for board review self-study education.</p>	<p>1995 CHEST adds a philanthropic arm to the organization offering grants for research, education, and community impact. Thanks to the generosity of donors, CHEST philanthropy has awarded \$14 million in grant funding since its launch.</p>	<p>2007 CHEST begins offering a sleep medicine board review course.</p>	<p>2014 CHEST builds the Innovation, Simulation, and Training Center in Glenview, Illinois, featuring a dedicated simulation wing. The advanced simulation capabilities lead to CHEST becoming the first medical association in the United States to receive accreditation from the Society for Simulation in Healthcare.</p>	
<p>1995 Deborah Shure, MD, Master FCCP, becomes the first female president of the organization.</p>	<p>2002 CHEST Challenge is introduced at the Annual Meeting.</p>	<p>2005 Simulation exercises are offered at the CHEST Annual Meeting for the first time.</p>	<p>2009 The journal <i>CHEST</i> is voted one of the 100 most influential journals over the last 100 years in medicine and biology by the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division of the Special Libraries Association.</p>	<p>2020 CHEST members stand on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic, caring for the sickest patients. The COVID-19 Task Force is created to disseminate best practices to clinicians around the world.</p>

Through CHEST, Dr. Goldberg said he encountered “a loving and supportive culture—a family,” as well as immense support from his mentors within the organization, which included Dr. Shure, Bart Chernow, MD, Master FCCP, and Robert McCaffree, MD, Master FCCP. In 1995, Dr. Goldberg became the organization’s Treasurer and began what he described as “five of the most amazing years of my life,” which included his term as President from 1998 to 1999.

CHEST was already one of the world’s leading medical education organizations, Dr. Goldberg said. But the creation of the CHEST Foundation (now CHEST philanthropy) became “a tipping point” that would bring the findings of academic and clinical research into communities across the globe through impactful, science-based programs.

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Noting that CHEST has been immensely successful in uniting professionals across the globe, Dr. Goldberg urged the organization to apply this cross-cultural expertise to educational



programs bridging differences within the US, such as the rural-urban divide. He would also like CHEST to consider offering certifications or educational programs in health care management so that clinicians could better navigate “the cultural difference between medicine and management.”

Thinking more broadly, Dr. Shure said mistrust in and hostility toward science is a global phenomenon and might require a global answer. Trust in the expertise and connections that organizations such as CHEST have built could help counter this trend, she said.

“I like to think there is always hope,” Dr. Shure said. “I think the bottom line is that we have this sense of family and community—of supporting one another—and we have this vision of an expanded family, a worldwide family. We are all in the same boat, and we are all paddling.” ■



Special Sessions at CHEST 2025

To mark 90 years of CHEST, the Scientific Program Committee has planned a series of sessions highlighting the past, present, and future of several lung topics. Look for these sessions in the CHEST Events app for more details.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

90 Years of Progress: Mechanical Ventilation – Past, Present, and Future

Lakeside Center, Room 451A

9:15 AM – 10:15 AM

90 Years of Progress: TB – Past, Present, and Future

South Building, Room 403AB

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

90 Years of Progress: Lung Cancer – Past, Present, and Future

South Building, Room 403AB

3:15 PM – 4:15 PM

90 Years of Progress: Diffuse Lung Disease – Past, Present, and Future

South Building, Room 503

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21

9:15 AM – 10:15 AM

90 Years of Progress: Respiratory Vaccines – Past, Present, and Future

South Building, Room 403AB

2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

90 Years of Progress: Asthma – Past, Present, and Future

South Building, Room 403AB



90 for 90

Honoring the Past, Investing in the Future

To commemorate CHEST’s 90th anniversary, 90 early career clinicians received travel grants to attend CHEST 2025 through a dedicated fundraising campaign

As CHEST celebrates its 90th anniversary this year, the organization is investing in 90 early career clinicians who can shape the future of pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine. This initiative, called the 90 for 90 Campaign, includes travel grants for the 90 clinicians to attend CHEST 2025 in Chicago. Each grant includes free meeting registration and a \$1,000 stipend to cover travel costs.

Just as importantly, the grant program connects the clinicians with the larger CHEST professional network. Each recipient is paired with a mentor, ensuring that they have the knowledge they need to advance patient care where they live and work. This exponentially expands the impact of CHEST’s world-class clinical education, noted Robert De Marco, MD, FCCP, Chair of the CHEST Board of Advisors.



Robert De Marco, MD, FCCP

“It’s about how you will take something you learned and bring it back to your community,” he said.

REAL-WORLD IMPACT

Sudha Misra, MD, had heard others question the feasibility of pursuing research while at a community-based fellowship program.



Sudha Misra, MD

“There’s this belief that fellows or trainees who are in community-based settings don’t do much research or don’t have enough resources to pursue academic research,” she said. “And that was a question that plagued me.”

When Dr. Misra received a travel grant to attend CHEST 2024, she took the opportunity to ask “every single person I came across”—including CHEST Presidents, past and present—for input about the feasibility of pursuing research while at a community-based fellowship program. Inspired by their responses, less than a year

later Dr. Misra helped conduct the first research symposium in her program at Reading Hospital, Tower Health, in Pennsylvania.

“The reason I think it happened, entirely, is because all these people gave me hope. They gave me the belief,” Dr. Misra said. “Where we are, we have enough. We have smart people; we have brilliant people. We can come together and organize research in our way, at our level.”

FILLING MANY NEEDS

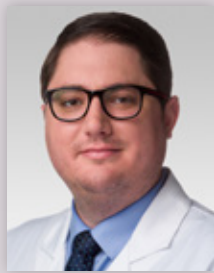
The CHEST Travel Grant program has been building momentum for several years. Donors funded 35 travel grants in 2023 and 55 in 2024.

CHEST Travel Grants help early career clinicians navigate hurdles and focus on what really matters, said Anthony J. Esposito, MD, who received a travel grant to attend CHEST 2024 as a junior faculty member.

“When you have early career professionals come to a conference

like this and get exposed to new technologies and new ways of approaching clinical problems, it doesn't just help us—it helps our patients," Dr. Esposito said.

Dr. Esposito, Assistant Professor at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine, added that



Anthony J. Esposito, MD

the mentorship component of the travel grant was especially meaningful for furthering his career. His mentor guided him through the ins and outs of being a leader, collaborated

on a session proposal, and recommended Dr. Esposito for induction as a Fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians at this year's meeting.

Although CHEST 2025 is underway, the 90 for 90 Campaign will remain open until the end of the year in an effort to maximize support for CHEST's commitment to education, mentorship, and equity in access. Members of the CHEST community can contribute gifts of any size through the CHEST website at **chestnet.org/donate**, or at the Grantee Showcase Pod in the Exhibit Hall.

As with all CHEST philanthropy gifts, every dollar is passed along fully to the grant recipient. ■

Our Donors Make It Possible

Thank you to the many CHEST members who have supported the important work of our grantees by making a gift to support CHEST's philanthropy efforts. Your gifts empower the next generation of chest medicine specialists.

Scan the QR code to make a gift to CHEST philanthropy today and inspire the future of medicine.



CHEST 2025 Travel Grant Recipients

Congratulations to the 90 recipients of this year's travel grants!

Nawal Aamir, MD	Anika Chowdhury, MD	Tasmea Haque, MD	Donna Oh	Zhayna Spooner, MD
Andrew Abrahamian, MD	Chebly Dagher, MD	Samira Hayee, MBBS	Kimberley Okoyeze, MD	PL Sriram
Brian Adams	Joshua Raphael G. De Guzman, MD	Alan Hu, MD	Sarang Patil, MD	Vilte Stefanija Duksaite, MD
Aamer Ahmad, MBBS	Michelle Delgadillo, AGACNP-BC	Nanditha Karra, MBBS	Shirley Perez Anel, MD	Shilpa Sridhar, MD
Neil Alden Tan, MD	Valeria Demeneghi Aleman, MD	Mounicka Karthikeyan, MBBS	Shreya Podder, MD	Ann Susan Paul, MBBS
Moe Ameri, MD, MSc	Shubh Desai	Clara Keum, MD	Ana Polanco Montero	Robert Tuosto, DO
Elaine Araujo de Souza	Adolfo Diaz-Barba, MD	Antoine Kharsa, MD	Carra M. Powell, MD	Noor ul ain Alvi, MD
Erik Avis, DO	George Doumat, MD	Manav Limbachiya	Christopher John Q. Quadra, MD	Katrina Villegas, MD
Laith Ayasa, MD	Ahmed Dudic	Belissa A. Lopez-Pena, MD	Sreya Rahman	Manuel Villegas Roberson, MD
Jyoti Bajpai, MBBS	Rida Ejaz, MBBS	Diksha Mahadeva Gowda, MBBS	Armando Reyes Yparraguirre, MD	Francisco Vizcaino, MD
Santosh Basyal, MBBS	Abuoma Ekpendu, DO	Zin Mar Htun, MBBS, MS	Melina Sanchez, BA	Tyler West, RRT, RRT-ACCS
Killen Briones-Zamora, MD	Minaam Farooq, MBBS	Juan Martinez Ortega, MD	Parthkumar Satashia, MBBS	Rebecca Wolff, DO
Ennajee Brisbane, MD	Falah Fayaz	Bibi Maryam, MD	Naina Sawal, MD	Abhishek Yadav, MBBS
Anouar Bouabdellah, MD	Enrique Gerardo Villarreal Noyola, MD	Kevin Meek, DO	Chail Shah, MD	Beverly Christine B. Yu, MD
Emory Buck, MD	Michelle Guadalupe Ortiz	Hicham Mekkaoui	Vivek Singh, MD, RRT-ACCS, RRT-NPS	Craig Yugawa, MD
Luca Calero, PA-C	Astha Guliani, MD	Chase Mitchell	Saiyara Sheikh Shama, MD	Bugra Zengin, MD
Rendy Javier Chaparro Reyes, MD	Aaron Haag, DO	Ghanshyam Mudigonda, MBBS	Prinay Sohal, MBBS	Mina Zhang, MD
Ana Chavez Velasquez, MD, MS	Mohammad Hashim Salameh, MD	Chidimma Nwafor	Rupali Sood, MD, MPH	
Kevin Chiu, MD				