For Immediate Release

Dr. Maxwell Akanbi Awarded $5,000 for Research on COPD in HIV-Infected Patients

Maxwell Akanbi, MS, Consultant Physician at Jos University Teaching Hospital, Nigeria, the recipient of an American Thoracic Society Foundation MECOR Program Grant to perform the study entitled, “Burden of Chronic Obstructive Airway Disease among HIV infected adults in Nigeria.”

The one-year grant provides $5,000 in funding.

Patients with HIV are more likely to have chronic obstructive airway disease (COPD) compared to the general population. About 68% of the persons living with HIV infection globally are in sub-Saharan Africa. Despite this huge HIV burden, little is known about the prevalence of COPD in Africa. This study is to estimate frequency and identify factors that increase the likelihood of COPD in an African HIV population.

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.

In 2010, the Foundation began awarding grants to graduates of the ATS’ Methods in Epidemiologic, Clinical and Operations Research (MECOR) Program. Designed to strengthen research related to pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine in middle- and low- income countries, MECOR is an intensive one-week course in research methods that has been offered throughout Latin America and in Africa, Turkey, India and Vietnam for physicians and other healthcare professionals.

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