



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR RESPIRATORY CARE
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June 14, 2021

Kurt Greenlund, Ph.D.
Chief, Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch,
Division of Population Health, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health
Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
4770 Buford Hwy NE, Mailstop S107-6,
Atlanta, GA 30341

Dear Dr. Greenlund:

As President of the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) I am contacting you to confirm our organization's commitment to be a key collaborator for the joint American Thoracic Society/COPD Foundation grant proposal to increase public, patient and provider awareness and education about chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

The AARC is a national professional association with more than 40,000 members and whose organizational activities impact respiratory therapists, the profession, and individuals with chronic lung disease worldwide. Respiratory therapists specialize in providing pulmonary diagnostics and care and are experts in treating patients who suffer from respiratory conditions like Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and other lung disorders. Respiratory therapists can be found in all areas of health care, including hospitals, home care, nursing homes, and physicians' offices — in short, anywhere patients are being treated for lung diseases.

AARC members play an important role in the treatment of patients with COPD and our association is fully aware that the of lack of public information about COPD symptoms has frustrated efforts to improve the early diagnosis of COPD. We are also aware that many COPD patients are not given appropriate access to effective COPD therapies like pulmonary rehabilitation and portable supplemental oxygen. If funded, AARC looks forward to partnering with ATS and the COPD Foundation to identify COPD information knowledge gaps, develop appropriate patient and provider information about COPD, share key information with patients, providers and the public and assisting in the evaluation of the COPD awareness campaign's effectiveness.

We are excited about the possibility of participating in a CDC-funded effort to raise awareness about COPD. We hope CDC will strongly consider funding this important grant proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheri Tooley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sheri Tooley BSRT, RRT, RRT-NPS, AE-C, CPFT, FAARC
President and CEO 2021-2022