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**The ATS DDDD “BEAR Cage” at ATS 2017 – Washington, DC
Sponsored by the
ATS Committee on Drug Device Discovery and Development**

Session Title: The ATS Drug/Device Discovery and Development Committee’s Building Education to Advance Research (BEAR) Cage

Session Format: Special Venue Presentation

Sponsoring Committee: Drug/Device Discovery and Development Committee (DDDD)

Description: Attention all new clinical and translational researchers in academic, government, and industry settings. The ATS Drug/Device Discovery and Development Committee is sponsoring the third annual *ATS BEAR Cage*, a fun and competitive live presentation at the International Conference. This unique session supports a major tenet of the NIH roadmap, which is to quickly translate basic research discoveries into new modes of treatment and prevention of human disease. Unfortunately, progress towards meeting this tenet remains slower than desired. This session will serve to encourage, energize, and provide impetus to launch highly innovative research proposals. Ultimately, three selected new investigators (as defined by the NIH http://grants.nih.gov/grants/new_investigators/) will competitively “pitch” their highly innovative research proposals to a panel of translational science experts representing academia, industry, and governmental sectors in front of a live audience. The panel, with audience participation, will “vet” these proposals with each presenter and ultimately award a grand prize winner a \$5,000.00 prize as well as two runner-up proposals each receiving \$2,500.00. All will be featured in the ATS programming as well as in the ATS morning conference news the following day. The goal is to promote productive discussion of these innovative research ideas in the setting of a fun, yet competitive, forum promoting opportunities for collaboration, mentorship, and improvement of the research proposal. The prize is not meant to fund the research proposal, nor is the goal of this session to raise venture capital related to these proposals. Rather, we hope to incentivize scientists to submit their highly innovative project ideas and leave the process with an idea being closer to actual execution. To further promote this concept, a DDDD committee-sponsored “project advisory team” will provide feedback and distance mentorship to the awardees over the ensuing year.

How do I participate?

Eligibility requirements: The program is open to all ATS members. All applicants must be at an early stage in their career as defined above and must hold a research or health-professional doctoral degree or its equivalent. Clinical doctorate degrees include, but are not limited to: MD, DrPH, DO,

DDS, DMD, OD, DC, PharmD, ND, PsyD, as well as epidemiologists, behavioral scientists, and nurses with doctoral degrees.

Application: We are soliciting highly innovative, translational, human-focused research proposals that will be succinct (two pages maximum). Research can be clinical or translational based; however, pure basic research proposals are not eligible. Given the expertise of the DDDD, and its ability to assist in moving ideas to actionable projects, we are particularly interested in proposals that relate to potential therapeutics and diagnostics (drugs or devices) one could envision moving into the patient care arena. The proposals must be highly structured, succinct, and briefly outline the project aim, significance, innovation and broad approach to their research proposal. For this format we suggest a single project aim which must be innovative and transformative, yet feasible. The aim may take the format of a therapeutic intervention or other clinical/translational format. The approach can be strengthened by describing existing resources and collaborators as well by including information of perceived weaknesses and how these could be surmounted. It might also describe the rate-limiting steps or other factors which, if obtained, could transform the research landscape, moving the project closer to execution.

Proposals must adhere to the following space and formatting limitations:

- Half inch margins and Arial (11 point) or Times New Roman (12 point) font
- Significance (1-3 sentences maximum)
- Innovation (half page maximum)
- Approach (remainder)
- References do not count to the two page maximum
- Investigators can include their preliminary data to help support the proposal, but it is not required
- An appendix is not permitted
- In addition to their proposal, we ask that applicants please include a standard NIH biosketch or CV plus bibliography, whichever is readily available.

Proposals that do not adhere to these limitations will not be scored. COMPLETED APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE EMAILED TO DDDD@THORACIC.ORG. PLEASE USE THE SUBJECT: "BEAR CAGE APPLICATION ENCLOSED: <YOUR LAST NAME>. You will receive a confirmation from ATS Staff that your application has been received within one business day. If you don't receive confirmation, please call 212-315-8686.

The application deadline is December 16, 2016.

Selection: From these applications, the members of the DDDD committee and "ad hocs" will select three individuals to participate in the ATS BEAR Cage. There, they will competitively present their research to a panel of translational science experts as described above. The presentations will be highly structured and will be held to a strict time-limit of 15 minutes of presentation followed by 10 minutes of panel questions, and 10 minutes of audience questions. The presenters must be convincing in terms of why their proposal should be selected. Further information describing the format of these presentations will be provided to the selected applicants.

New this year: We have moved the application process forward, allowing the selection of the presenting Bear Cage finalists well ahead of the ATS International Conference. The finalists will be featured in the ATS program, highlighting the ATS Bear Cage competition.