

Editorial Advisor

Susan B. Blonshine, RRT, RPFT, FAARC, AE-C

Contributing Faculty

Timothy D. Byrum, CRNP

David G. Fulghum, MSN, APRN, BC, RRT

John Hollingsworth, PA-C, RRT

Catherine "Casey" S. Jones, RN,
MSN, ANP-C, AE-C

Margaret Lester, RN, MSN, FNP, AE-C

Leo C. Rotello, MD, FCCP, FCCM, FACP

E. Rand Sutherland, MD, MPH, FCCP

Wendy Wright, MS, RN, ARNP, FNP

Director of Accreditation & Outcomes Analysis

Pamela Kleinman
pamela.kleinman@mebn.net

Managing Editor

Stacey Lamodi
stacey.lamodi@mebn.net

Contributing Writer

Deborah Eng, ELS

Graphic Design

Redspring® Communications, Inc.
info@redspring.com

Interactive Courseware Design

Engage Interactive, Inc.
info@engageinteractive.com

Publisher



6 Partridge Lane, Londonderry, NH 03053
Phone: (603) 432-7099
Fax: (413) 638-9953
info@mebn.net

Chief Executive Officer and President

Sharyn S. Lee

Chief Operating Officer, Vice President of Product Development

Ron Miner

Unless otherwise indicated, MEBN staff and writers have no financial relationships with a commercial party to disclose.

Editorial Notes

Additional COPD Education and Awareness



In the last several years, there has been a surge of interest in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) as reflected in increased basic and clinical research, comprehensive professional training programs in assessment and management, public awareness initiatives, and patient support groups and Web sites. This level of attention on COPD is long overdue, as COPD is currently the fourth leading cause of death in the United States—and will soon be the third.

The goal of this issue of *CE-TODAY* is to provide you with the latest knowledge and tools to advance your skills in managing your patients with COPD. I am confident that you will find the comprehensive courses within this issue a valuable tool in helping improve outcomes for patients with COPD.

As always, we welcome your feedback to ensure that *CE-TODAY* remains a trusted and valuable resource in your clinical practice.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Matthew Schambers'.

Matthew Schambers

Director of Business Development and Editorial, *CE-TODAY*

Leading the Way in COPD Prevention



Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) offers respiratory therapists a significant challenge. Of the top four causes of morbidity and mortality in the United States, COPD has the unique position of being the only disease that has consistently increased its death toll annually, year after year, for the past 40 years. The primary method of fighting this disease is prevention. Tobacco smoke is the primary cause of COPD, and although smoking rates have dropped in the United States, the past is quickly catching up with us.

Respiratory therapists can have a lasting impact on the prevention, identification, and management of COPD. As respiratory care professionals, it is incumbent upon us to lead the way in the prevention, education, and management of COPD.

The courses within the issue of *CE-TODAY* provides you with the knowledge and tools you need to enhance your ability to provide up-to-date, quality care to each individual with COPD. These interactive courses also provide you with additional support in your mission to prevent this insidious disease and its impact on future health.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Susan Blonshine'.

Susan Blonshine, RRT, RPFT, FAARC, AE-C
Guest Editorial Advisor, *CE-TODAY*