As an official international online journal of the American Thoracic Society, the Annals of the American Thoracic Society (AnnalsATS), formerly PATS, delivers up-to-date and authoritative coverage of adult and pediatric pulmonary and respiratory sleep medicine and adult medical critical care. The scope of the journal encompasses content that is applicable to clinical practice, the formative and continuing education of clinical specialists, and the advancement of public health.

The journal features methodologically rigorous Original Research articles and Brief Communications that address questions relevant to patient care and health care delivery. Additional highlighted contents include Focused Reviews that update readers on the epidemiology, classification, and management of clinical problems, and the safe, efficacious application of procedures. Perspectives provide contemporary or historical overviews of topics relating to health care delivery, dissemination of knowledge, public health, clinical ethics, professionalism, and health care policy. Opinions and Ideas articles offer informed opinions on controversial or unsettled questions of interest to clinicians. Under the heading Case Conferences, AnnalsATS publishes clinical vignettes that illuminate knowledge of current clinical practice in a format inspired by the teaching conferences common to many academic fellowship training programs. On the Receiving End articles provide an opportunity for patients and family members to communicate observations and recommendations to clinicians based on narratives of personal experience in health care.