The Canadian Thoracic Society has several roles to play for physicians in Canada. First – and the reason for its founding – the CTS is the medical arm of the Canadian Lung Association and the primary organization in Canada of physicians and scientists concerned with respiratory diseases. It has also in large measure been a well kept secret and a small group that today still comprises only about 300 members. As the current membership chairman following in Sharon Peters’ footsteps, I have been asked to expand on her vision of reaching more potential members and expanding the membership of CTS.

This was a very difficult task until recently, but now, with the advent of Airwaves and the Canadian Respiratory Journal, we have vehicles to reach a large audience.

For those who are unaware of the activities of CTS, one can quickly list the production of position papers, assigning research funds, and organizing symposia and special speakers.

The second role played by the CTS is as the professional organization of Canadian respiratory physicians. It represents their interests to the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, to the Canadian Medical Association and to governments. Respiratory physicians need to be reminded that CTS is going to play a key role in developing MOCOMP programs with the Royal College.

Respiratory program directors also need to be reminded that first-year memberships for their trainees and fellows are free and that they should automatically register these individuals as members of CTS.

Finally, because of its key role in virtually all aspects of respiratory diseases in Canada, the CTS should appeal to many primary care physicians who may well wish to join this vigorous and essential organization.

For membership application, contact the CTS office at:

The Lung Association
1900 City Park Drive, Suite 508
Gloucester, Ontario, K1J 1A3
Telephone (613) 747-6776
Fax (613) 747-7430

John C Acres MD FRCPC
Membership Chairman
Canadian Thoracic Society