**ATS 2016 Report**

I would like to thank Action for Pulmonary Fibrosis for giving me the chance to present and discuss my research on IPF at the American Thorax Society (ATS) conference held in May 2016 in San Francisco, USA.

Due to the support of Action for Pulmonary Fibrosis I was able to present a poster demonstrating our findings on clusterin and its role in human lung fibroblast differentiation and function and potential consequences of low CLU levels in bronchoalveolar lavage fluid of patients suffering from IPF (see picture). During the poster presentation, I received great interest and feedback from leading researchers in the field of IPF research. The interactive environment of the ATS has helped me to discuss future directions associated with my research with scientific leaders and has helped me to foster a collaborative environment for my future work as an early career scientist.

Furthermore, following oral and poster presentations from engaged researchers around the globe focusing on IPF research has increased my understanding of the disease and has helped me to generate new ideas and future directions for ongoing research.

It is encouraging to see how many researchers worldwide work hard to gain new insights into IPF pathology and explore novel treatment options to help to fight this devastating disease.

Attending the ATS conference was a great experience and meeting world-renowned researchers in the field of IPF research has inspired me enormously. I am very grateful for the support I received from Action for Pulmonary Fibrosis and all fund-raisers that helped me to experience the ATS in 2016.

**American Thoracic Society Travel Fellowship 2016**

