Purpose of the Meeting: NHLBI Workshop on the Primary Prevention of Chronic Lung Diseases

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This issue of *AnnalsATS Supplements* is devoted to determining the current knowledge and strategies for advancing a research agenda on the primary prevention of chronic lung diseases. The issue leads with an executive summary that outlines the process and goals of multiple National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) workshops to review the literature for several specific lung diseases, as well as approaches and research strategies to facilitate primary prevention. Conclusions and recommendations from six lung disease areas and one devoted specifically to lung health are presented in this supplement. Overall, the articles distinguish

two major concepts uniquely important to primary prevention of lung disease: promotion of lung health and prevention of lung diseases. Furthermore, the articles describe approaches to identify at-risk patients and the response that marks a shift from health to disease, and ultimately strategies to begin to implement primary prevention interventions.

One of the roles of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is to challenge the scientific communities to think in new ways and encourage new frontiers in research and management of health and disease. Together, the NIH and the lung community face the challenge of defining

respiratory health and disease in innovative ways that enable a shift from disease management to primary prevention and optimized lung health. Hence the workshops and accompanying articles are a call to action to create a new paradigm where sustained respiratory health and primary prevention of lung disease are feasible goals at both the individual and population levels.

The cover image, submitted by the NIH, highlights the special focus of this issue emanating from carefully executed NHLBI workshops on the exciting opportunities for the primary prevention of chronic lung diseases. ■