**PULMONARY DISCIPLINE**

**COPD Foundation**

* Grace Ann Dorney Koppel, COPD Foundation president, spoke briefly about the need to increase public awareness of COPD and the sponsorship of new pulmonary rehabilitation programs in rural areas with limited access to PR by the Grace Ann Dorney Koppel and Ted Koppel Foundation.
* She also encouraged NCCRA to consider sponsoring a patient advocate to the Day on the Hill legislative advocacy event as well as to consider inviting patients to our state meeting.

**Introduction of Meeting Guest**

* Cristin Trecroce, D.O., Medical Director for Humana Medicare Health Services Organization - Southeastern Region was introduced to the group. Dr. Trecroce is responsible for North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Georgia. Her current focus is to increase Humana case manager awareness of COPD. She is a strong advocate for pulmonary rehabilitation and is working on opportunities to partner with us to improve care of COPD across the region. Dr. Trecroce attended the meeting as a guest of the NCCRA to learn more about pulmonary rehabilitation in North Carolina.
* Some of the challenges of enrolling patients into pulmonary rehab programs were discussed including travel distance, transportation, high insurance co-payments and affordability of medications.

**Spring Pulmonary Discipline Meeting**

* A Pulmonary Discipline meeting is being planned for late spring/early summer (probably late June depending upon site availability) in Winston-Salem.
* Attendees were asked to submit topics for the meeting to Connie Paladenech at cpaladen@wakehealth.edu.
* Suggested topics so far include ITPs, productivity and outcomes tracking, assessment of oxygenation status.

**Members Needs**

* The group was asked to give feedback to the NCCRA Executive Director and Board as to what they would like to see in the way of NCCRA support for themselves and their programs.
* One need expressed was to continue to include more pulmonary topics at the annual meeting.