American Laryngological Association

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Dear Colleagues:

The One Hundred Thirtieth Annual Meeting of the American Laryngological Association will be held this year at the JW Marriott Desert Ridge in Phoenix, Arizona on Thursday and Friday, May 28-29, 2009. Our meeting will kick off the annual COSM program which runs from May 28 through Sunday, May 31. Dr. Roger Crumley, this year’s President, and the Program Committee, chaired by Dr. Andrew Blitzer, have planned an outstanding program that will emphasize individual scientific podium and poster presentations. As a special tribute to our Emeriti Fellows, Dr. Crumley will recognize those in attendance following his Presidential Address on Thursday morning.

The Business Meetings are scheduled for 7:30 AM on Thursday and 12:30 PM on Friday, one-half hour before the beginning of each Scientific Session. The annual membership group photograph will take place immediately following Thursday’s Scientific Session. The location will be listed in the meeting program booklet and will be announced during the session.

Presidential Citations will be presented by Dr. Crumley to four individuals in recognition of their contributions to our specialty. Honorees are Drs. Geza Jako, W. Frederick McGuirt, Clarence Sasaki, and H. Bryan Neel III.

President Crumley will present the 2009 Guest of Honor Award to Dr. Gayle E. Woodson on Thursday, May 28th. Dr. Woodson has made significant contributions to our association and to laryngology and has previously been honored with the deRoaldes Award in 2003.

The Daniel C. Baker Jr. lecture will be presented by Dr. Lawrence Krames, of San Francisco, CA. Due to a change in the COSM schedule for this
will not be held in conjunction with the Triological Society’s Joseph Ogura Lecture. Dr. Krames, will deliver his talk “DaVinci, Netter, Rockwell, ENT…and me” during Thursday’s session.

Dr. Crumley has invited Dr. Gordon B. Hughes, the Program Director for Clinical Trials at the National Institute for Deafness and Other Clinical Diseases (NIDCD), to speak on “New Clinical Trial Initiatives and Funding Opportunities at NIDCH” on Thursday morning.

Dr. William Crysdale, a professor of otolaryngology at the University of Toronto and on the senior staff at the Hospital for Sick Children, is the recipient of the 2009 Gabriel F. Tucker Award. This award is being presented to Dr. Crysdale for his outstanding contributions in Pediatric Laryngology during a 38-year career that has been devoted to the care of children.

The American Laryngological Association Award is presented to an individual who has made outstanding contributions in the field of laryngology. This year’s recipient, Dr. Stanley M. Shapshay, is truly such an individual who has played a remarkable role in shaping the Association in his service as a past president of the ALA and through his contributions to our specialty.

Several award-winning manuscripts will be presented during both sessions:

Dr. Randal Paniello of the Washington University School of Medicine – St. Louis, will be honored as the recipient of the Casselberry Award for his paper entitled, “Improved Recovery of Adductor Function by Early Injection of the Posterior Cricoarytenoid Muscle: A New Paradigm Vocal Fold for Paralysis. He will give his presentation Thursday morning.

Also on Thursday, the Young Faculty or Practitioner Award will be presented to Dr. Tsunehisa Ohno of Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville. He will present his manuscript entitled “Regeneration of Aged Rat Vocal Folds Using Hepatocyte Growth Factor Therapy”.

Dr. David Francis, an Otolaryngology Resident at the University of Washington – Seattle, will receive the Research Resident Award for his paper, “Impact of Surveillance on Survival in Laryngeal Cancer Patients, “ to be presented on Thursday.

In lieu of a formal banquet, the ALA is hosting a food and beverage reception for members and guests on Thursday evening at 7:00 PM. This event will be held in the Wildflower B Ballroom. The theme for this year’s event will be “Spirit of the Southwest,” and will feature theme-appropriate musical entertainment . Business or festive attire with a southwestern flair is suggested. Ticket prices for this reception is $65 each for members and $75 each for non-members. Tickets may be purchased by contacting our Administrator, Maxine Cunningham (615-322-6326 or Maxine-alahns@comcast.net). We request that you purchase your ticket(s) no later than May 9, 2009 by remitting payment with a check mailed to P O Box 128186, Nashville, TN 37212-8186 or with a credit card (AMEX, MasterCard, VISA). A minimal number of tickets will be available for purchase at the sign-in desk outside the scientific session meeting room. You must present your ticket(s) at the door to attend the President’s Reception.
By now, you should have received your registration package from our meeting planners with the American College of Surgeons. The ACS continues to do a fabulous job in coordinating the COSM program. If you have not received a packet, information on registration may be obtained at the COSM website (www.cosm.md). Hotel rooms are very limited and a sell-out is expected. Early registration must be postmarked by April 14, 2009. Registration forms received after Thursday, May 21, 2009, will not be processed for early registration. Please register onsite if you do not meet the May 21 deadline. Please follow instructions carefully to avoid any deadlines in your receiving your registration package at the meeting. Although the deadline for housing is April 27, 2009, hotel accommodations at the JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort and Spa are limited. Consult your registration package for further contact information.

Interest in ALA membership remains high. During the Winter Council Meeting, the Council approved the nominations of Eric Genden, MD; Yolanda Heman-Ackah Beausoliel, MD; Joseph Kirshner, MD; Reza Rahbar, MD; John Schweinfurth, MD; C. Blake Simpson, MD; and Marshall Smith, MD for Active Fellowship, and Thomas Cleveland, PhD for Associate Fellowship. The ballot book is enclosed for review. Please review and mark your ballot according to instructions provided and return to the Administrator’s Office by the deadline stated on the last page of the book. Once the ballots are tabulated, the candidates will be introduced at the first Business Meeting on Thursday, May 28th. The Association also will introduce 14 individuals as its second group of Post-Graduate Members during the first Business Meeting. These individuals have all completed a fellowship in laryngology and are encouraged and mentored to fulfill the requirements for Active Fellowship in the future.

Last year, the Council recommended a change in the By-laws, Article VI – Officers, Section 5: Duties of the Historian and Editor. The proposed amendment will divide this office into two positions to reflect the increasing responsibilities of the editor in maintaining the new website and to reflect renewed interest in cultivating the historical aspects of our society. As per by-laws requirements, the proposed change must be voted on by the membership after review prior to the annual meeting. Attached is the proposed change that all eligible voters are receiving with this newsletter. We ask that you mark your ballot accordingly and return to the Administrator’s office by the deadline that will appear on your ballot.

The updated website (www.alahns.org) was launched in January 2009, thanks to the extremely hard work of our current Historian-Editor, Dr. Mark S. Courey and our administrator, Maxine Cunningham. I am pleased to report that we continue to receive fellows’ email addresses that will allow us to provide you with updated information in a more timely manner. This site is very user-friendly and I am sure you will find useful information regarding the Association. Please contact Dr. Courey or Ms. Cunningham if you have any suggestions or problems with the website. If you have not responded to the request for your email address, please do so at your earliest convenience. If you need your username to set up your profile, please contact the office of the administrator.

Again this year, we have strived to increase our dues collections. With the turndown in the economy, revenue derived from our investments has decreased so we must depend on payment
of dues for operating expenses. We again ask that, if you have not done so, please remit your 2009 annual dues and any delinquent amount you may owe. Although we have collected a high percentage of dues from fellows, many have not paid for 2009 and some are in arrears for previous years. For those who plan to attend the annual meeting and have not had the opportunity to remit payment of dues, we will accept and process your payment during the annual meeting as a convenience to you.

As I complete my first year as Secretary, I want to express my appreciation to Maxine Cunningham who serves diligently as the Administrator of our Association and to Dr. Crumley who has been extremely hands-on during his presidential year.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the One Hundred and Thirtieth Annual Meeting of the ALA in Phoenix. I assure you, it will be a truly outstanding meeting.

Sincerely yours,

C. Gaelyn Garrett, M.D.,
Secretary, ALA

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