A Message from the Secretary

On behalf of the ALA Council, I am very pleased to present you with our 2017 Summer Newsletter with a summary of our 2017 Annual Meeting.

The Association’s annual meeting celebrated the addition of a third half-day session that allowed for an increased in the number of podium presentations to 37. Abstract submissions continue to rise and with the additional day, Dr. Altman, the 2017 President, and the program committee, chaired by Dr. Ted Mau were able to include a wide range of topics with excellent podium presentations and panel discussions. Several members of the European Laryngology Society (ELS) attended our meeting and participated as panelists and moderators. This provided attendees opportunities to garner information from our international partners.

Dr. Ingo Tize, one of our Honorary Fellows, was selected to deliver the Baker Lecture. His topic, “Will the Vocal Ligament Become an Appendix in Humans?”, was well received by the audience. The State of the Art Lecture was delivered by another bright star in our Association, Randal Paniello, MD, MBA, PhD, who spoke on “Rehabilitation of the Neuromuscular Impaired Larynx”.

Dr. Stacey Halum moderated the panel comprised of Drs. Lucian Sulica, Phillip Weissbrod, Nicole Maronian, and Gauthier Desuter on the topic, “Vocal Fold Paresis: Does Laterality Matter?” Dr. James Burns led the discussion on “The HPV Epidemic: What Our Patients Want To Know About This Virus,” with panelists, Drs. Simon Best, Ryan Branski, Frederik Dikkers, Glendon Gardner, and Karen Zur. Following the conclusion of each panel, the audience response system registered feedback and comments from attendees.

As is customary, several awards were presented during the Scientific Sessions and at the President’s Reception. Committees appointed to recommend recipients did an excellent job. This year’s Tucker Award was presented to Dr. Paolo Campisi of the University of Toronto. He is highly recognized in the field of Pediatric Laryngology and has published multiple publications on the subject.

The American Laryngological Association (ALA) Award is presented to an individual who has made outstanding and noteworthy contributions to the
year’s recipient has served the Association for many years, including as the 2009 President. He was instrumental in creating the Sustainer’s Fund by which donations can be received for education and research purposes. It was a great honor to present the ALA Award for 2017 to Dr. Roger Crumley.

Dr. Astha Malhotra was presented the Young Faculty/Practitioner Award; the Resident Research Award was presented to Dr. Ian-James Malm; and Dr. Ted Mau received the Casselberry Award. Each are commended for the excellent presentation of their submissions. Again, this year, the posters were outstanding and after review by the Poster Presentation Award Committee, three posters were awarded as the top three posters: Drs. Nao Hiwatashi was awarded the first and second place and Dr. Brent Chang received honors for the third place.

Attendees at the President’s Reception were entertained by a local Latin Jazz, Latin A-Go-Go. Drs. Har-El and Sulica presented Dr. Altman with the Past President pin, President’s Watch and Medal. This year’s Newcomb Award was presented to Dr. Gerald Berke in honor of his service to the Association. The deRoaldes Award was presented to the family of the Late Dr. Steven Gray who passed away in 2002. His widow, Mrs. Janice Gray, and daughters, Martha and Rachel, accepted the Award posthumously on behalf of their husband and father.

2017 Spring Council Meeting Recap

The ALA Council held its Spring Council meeting on April 25 prior to the beginning of the Annual Meeting. Dr. Altman discussed the need for the Association to create an Ad Hoc Media and Communication Committee. The purpose of this committee will be to insure the dissimilation of news and events to all members. Dr. Chhetri, who was installed as the Editor is overseeing the modification of the ALA website. The change-over will be transparent but the modifications will insure each member with the ease of navigating throughout the site as more educational, scientific and informational content will be added.

I am also very pleased to announce that the third half-day meeting has been added to COSM’s footprint for 2018 and 2019. This will allow us to increase the number of oral presentations and panel discussion on subjects requested by our membership.

After much research and deliberation, the Council decided to change the association financial management company from the American College of Surgeons (ACS). Dr. Rosen, as Treasurer, solicited proposals from entities that would be able to service our financial needs and provide the financial support for our Administrator. We thank ACS for the years of collaboration as we continue to maintain healthy outlooks of the Association’s finances.

Drs. Garrett and Chhetri reported that four research grant applications (Two for the ALVRE and two for the Cohen Awards). Following a review by the Committee, it was recommended that Dr. Matthew Clary (Univ of Colorado) and Dr. VyVy Young (Univ. of Pittsburgh) as recipients of the Cohen and ALVRE grant awards, respectively.


Nominating Committee - The 2018 Nominating Committee, chaired by Dr. Altman, was elected during the 2017 business meeting. Drs. Woo, Sasaki, Meyer and Pitman will serve on the Committee. There will be one position of the Councilor-at-Large in 2018 and members of the nominating committee. Nominations may be submitted to any committee member or to the Administrator, Maxine Cunningham.
A Message from the President

Dear Fellows and Members of the American Laryngological Association:

In 1979, as a fourth year medical student doing an elective in otolaryngology, I had my first exposure to a surgical laryngeal case. I scrubbed on a case of partial vertical laryngectomy (hemilaryngectomy) with a sternohyoid muscle flap reconstruction (remember those?). A tracheotomy was also performed, and a nasogastric tube was inserted. Because of a wound dehiscence which delayed decanulation, regular oral food intake was not resumed until post-operative day #8. The patient remained in the hospital for 14 days. His voice was bad. He did, however, proceed to become a long term survivor. Today, on the very same day I am writing this message, I performed transoral endoscopic resection of a glottic tumor which is very similar to the one I witnessed in 1979. No tracheotomy... no nasogastric tube. These patients are being discharged home in 24 hours and within 4 months, 60% of them , in my experience, will be happy with their voice quality. The other 40% will go through the next stage of what our subspecialty has to offer, namely, an augmentation procedure, either an internal or external, at the glottic level. Almost all patients will consider their final voice outcome as satisfactory or better. And, yes, 85%-92% of them are expected to be long term survivors.

My personal experience, education, and growth in the field of laryngology and laryngeal oncology represent the tremendous advances we have witnessed during the last 40 years.

Laryngologists treat the pharyngo-laryngo-esophageal complex from A to Z. Laryngologists address the structural, functional and physiological aspects of the human breathing, speaking, and swallowing mechanisms. Since 1879, American and International laryngologists have been involved with, and represented by, the American Laryngological Association. Today, 39 years after being fascinated by my first exposure to the laryngeal surgery, I am very proud, and very thankful, for the honor of being elected as the President of the ALA. Our organization is vibrant, superactive, and hyperenergized.

With the help of our dedicated and motivated Council and Program Committee, we are working on an exciting program for our 2018 Annual Meeting. So, submit your abstract for presentation, submit your grant proposals, recruit new active fellows and post-graduate members, get involved with our committees, and definitely plan on attending our Annual Meeting. I look forward to seeing you all in April 2018 at the ALA Annual Meeting during COSM.

Sincerely Yours,

Gady Har-El, MD, FACS
ALA President
Research Grants
Applications for the 2018 research grants are available online at www.alahns.org. The deadline for the Letter of Intent (LOI) is December 1, 2017 with the application submission deadline on January 17, 2018. A copy of the announcement is included with this Newsletter. Awards will be announced during the 2018 Annual Meeting.

Membership Dues
The Membership Dues continue to be the primary source of the Association’s Operating Budget. Dr. Rosen, as Treasurer, continues to reach out to Fellows who are delinquent in remitting payment of dues. For the past few years, several of our colleagues have inquired to our Administrator, Ms. Cunningham regarding the ability to remit payment electronically. Beginning with the 2018 dues, we will offer you the option of paying your dues online with a credit card (AMEX, VISA, and MasterCard). Additional details will be provided on your invoice.

Sustainers’ Fund
Donations received from our Fellows have allowed the Sustainers’ Fund to increase the amount of the fund. With continuous contributions by Fellows and friends, the Council modified the different levels of giving. This will allow annual recognition to those who reach certain milestones. However, there is still a segment of the Fellowship who has not considered contributing to this worthy endowment fund earmarked to further the Association’s mission on promoting education and research. If you have not donated, I encourage you to do so to support the Association with your tax-deductible contribution. For additional information, please contact Dr. Michael Benninger or Ms. Cunningham.

A Thank You from the 2017 Council
The 2017 Council wishes to express its sincere appreciation for your ongoing support. The meeting, led by Dr. Kenneth Altman as President, was successful as we collaborated with the ABEA and our ELS partners. We look forward to another year of partnering with the ABEA and invite you to join us in National Harbor, Maryland as we celebrate our 139th Year.

First Row: Peak Woo, MD (Third Councilor); Clark Rosen, MD (Treasurer); Kenneth Altman, MD, PhD (President); C. Blake Simpson, MD (Editor); Lucian Sulica, MD (Secretary)

Second Row: Michael Benninger, MD (Historian); Dinesh Chhetri, MD (Councilor-at-Large); Gaelyn Garrett, MD (First Councilor); Mark Courhey, MD (Second Councilor); Paul Flint, MD (Councilor-at-Large); Gady Har-El, MD (Vice-President/President-Elect)
MEETING OUR NEW ADDITION TO THE 2017-2018 COUNCIL

Each year, a new member of the Council is elected by the Association. This year, we are very proud that the new Councilor-at-Large is Michael M. Johns III, MD.

Dr. Johns has the distinction of being a member of the inaugural Post-Graduate Class of 2008. He completed his laryngological fellowship training with Dr. Robert Ossoff at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in 2003 that was preceded by his residency at the University of Michigan. Dr. Johns joined the faculty at Emory University Medical Center in 2003 where he was appointed as the Director of the Emory Voice Center. His current position, as Division Director of Laryngology, is at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, California.

In 2012, Dr. Johns was proposed for Active Fellowship and was inducted in 2013.

In inquiring with Dr. Johns regarding his hobbies or down-time, he shared that when not working and parenting, he “enjoys attending to my small urban garden and cooking with fresh local vegetables abundantly available in my new home in Southern California. I enjoy the moving meditation of yoga for its physical and mental benefits. I grew up sailing and windsurfing and now, with the beach so accessible, I have taken up surfing and kiteboarding. Having world class skiing at Mammoth mountain within driving distance has brought me back to regular skiing.”

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Mike Johns for his election to the ALA Council and extending best wishes for what we know will be a successful tenure on the Council.
IN MEMORY OF
JOHN M. FREDERICKSON, MD
March 24, 1931 – April 5, 2017

Dr. Frederickson, was a native of Winnipeg of Icelandic descent, but grew up in Vancouver, Canada. He was inducted into the ALA as an Active Fellow in 1977 after being proposed by Dr. Douglas Bryce and G. Arnold Henry. In 1991, he was elected as President which he served with great pride and honor. After his retirement, he was elected to Emeritus status in 2002. His first teaching position was at Stanford University that began a long and distinguished career in Academic Otolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery. When he returned to Canada, Dr. Frederick was the Head of Clinical Sciences at the University of Toronto for 15 years. Between 1982 - 2002, he served as the Lindburgh Professor and Head of the Department of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery at Washington University, St. Louis until his retirement.

2017 FELLOWSHIP INDUCTEES

First Row (left to right): Adam Klein, MD (Active); Ian N. Jacobs, MD (Active); Julina Ongaskuwan, MD (Active)

Second Row (left to right): Mark A. Varvares, MD (Active); Jack J Jiang, MD, PhD (Associate); Kristina Simonyan, MD, PhD (Associate)

Third Row (left to right): Abdul Latif Hamdan, MD (Corresponding); Taner Yilmaz, MD (Corresponding)
POST GRADUATE MEMBERS CORNER

Post-graduate members of the ALA have several opportunities to participate in various initiatives this year. If you’re interested in any of the following, please reach out to the appropriate member of the Post-Grad Member Committee. Some things for you to consider:

• Post-grad / Full member mentorship match – Post-grad members who have been paired with mentors have found this a valuable source of career advice. If interested in this, please e-mail Lee Akst (LAKST1@jhmi.edu) or Melin Tan-Geller (MTANGE@montefiore.org)

• Peer group pairing mentoring – There are a handful of these groups now, as post-grad members can be a wealth of advice for one another. If you’re interested in joining one of these groups, please e-mail Kimberly Vinson (Kimberly.n.vinson@vanderbilt.edu)

• Breakfast symposium – Planning is underway for COSM 2018, and we’re always looking for more ideas. If you have any suggestions for topics, please e-mail Melin Tan-Geller (MTANGEL@montefiore.org)

• Patient education materials – With the strong support and encouragement of the ALA Council, we’re going to refresh and create patient education materials for the ALA website. Jon Bock, Jim Daniero, Zandy Hillel, and Lee Akst are working on a table of contents now, and will be looking for volunteers to sign-up for individual chapters in the future. If interested in writing for this project, please e-mail Lee Akst (LAKST1@jhmi.edu) or Jon Bock (jbock@mcw.edu)

During the Business Meeting, eleven (11) Post Graduate Members were introduced to the membership; We welcome the following members: Drs. Michael Lerner, R. Jun Lin, Ross Mayerhoff, Niv Mor, Karla O’Dell, Amit Patel, Derrick Randall, David Rosow, Amy Rutt, Kathleen Tibbetts, and Megan Wood.

Post-Graduate Membership Committee

Chairperson ......................Lee Akst, MD
Committee Members ........... Melin Tan, MD; Jonathan Bock, MD; Kimberly Vinson, MD
Immediate Past Chair.........Tanya K. Meyer, MD
Advisors......................... Peak Woo, MD; Robert H. Ossoff, DMD, MD; Michael M. Johns III, MD
Administrator.................... Maxine Cunningham, BA
The American Laryngological Association goes from strength to strength. The first three half-day meeting has been a success. A review of the meeting summary which starts this Newsletter will remind us all what a fruitful session it was. Not only was the entire program filled with high-quality papers, but so too was the meeting room filled through the entire conference. Both of these aspects speak to the growth of our subspecialty and the need for the ALA to accommodate this growth if we are to remain the premier forum for intellectual exchange and thought-leaders in our field. I am happy to report that the three half-day footprint will remain the ALA format for the foreseeable future, despite a crowded COSM schedule. For 2018, we intend again to share the extra session with our colleagues from the ABEA.

The utility and quality of the meeting can only be a reflection of the ALA membership, so I join this year’s President, Dr. Har-El, in urging you to submit your work for this meeting, and invite colleagues and mentees to do so too so that the 2018 meeting can be as successful as this past one. Please also note the Call for Grant Proposals included in this Newsletter and bring it to the attention of suitable candidates.

Enjoy the rest of the summer! I look forward to seeing all of you in the new academic year.

Best Regards,

Lucian Sulica, MD
Secretary