A Message from the President

This is an exciting year for me as President, and also for our great organization. To start, our Spring Program at COSM is marked by a number of important milestones. Led by our Program Chair Ted Mau, MD PhD, and committee members Drs. Tanya Meyer, Karen Kost, James Burns, Seth Cohen and Joel Blumin, we’ve created new grading, selection and categorization criteria of submissions to bring you the most clinically-relevant research.

As the inaugural year of our 3rd half day session, this year is shared with ABEA during its centennial, we’ve increased our capacity to have 37 podium presentations compared to 25 last year, as well as a vibrant poster session with 63 cutting edge projects. We are also following through with our bi-annual tradition of including the European Laryngology Society as a partner organization in our conference. It is very fortunate to have the Baker Lecture awarded to Ingo Titze, PhD who will speak on “Will the Vocal Ligament Become an Appendix in Humans?”, and the State of the Art Lecture delivered by Randy Paniello MD, PhD, MBA on “Rehabilitation of the Neuromuscular Larynx”.

Another milestone this year will be the inclusion of an audience response system during the panels, which will include “Vocal fold paresis: does sidedness matter?” with Stacey Halum as Moderator, and “The HPV Epidemic: What our patients want to know about the virus,” that will be moderated by Jim Burns.

Our council has been an absolute pleasure to work with, along with the stabilizing influence of our administrator, Maxine Cunningham. Based on the ALA’s prestige in otolaryngology, and our longstanding leadership in establishing best-practice, we’ve been increasingly called upon to guide our profession. As such, we’ve established the ad hoc Laryngology Education Advisory Committee “To coordinate and advance education in Laryngology through collaboration with resident, fellowship and Board certification curricula.” Led by councilmember Dinesh Chhetri MD, our experts include Post Graduate members to address our activities with AAO-HNSF committees, ABOto with maintenance of certification, the academy’s COCLIA resident curriculum, and to update our Laryngology Fellowship Guidelines.

The Post Graduate Fellows Committee (PGM) is growing in strength, now totaling 83 members, enhancing the formal mentorship program to 31 mentees, building peer-to-peer groups, and continuing with the annual PGM breakfast. PGM members will also be participating in our website renovation project, providing content development and a new web-platform with a modern content management system and adaptive design anticipated for next year. Our Research Committee will also benefit from PGM participation, and I’m exceptionally proud that in my tenure I’ve seen the ALA rise from no funded projects to consistent funding of 2 proposals annually through the ALA-ALVRE and Seymour Cohen MD grants.

Our year together has appreciated ongoing financial security with improved operations, growing engagement of our membership with transparency, and a number of important initiatives that will set the stage for our future.
Each year, a Council member’s term expires after many years of service. To replace that Councilor, an individual elected by the voting membership is installed at the Annual Meeting. This page is dedicated to those Council Members who are either “retired” from or will be concluding his/her term on the Council. Future editions of the newsletter will also feature those who are just beginning their life as an ALA Council Member.

First Councilor - C. Gaelyn Garrett, MD, MMHC

Dr. Garrett was first elected to the ALA in 2002 and the Council in 2003. She has the distinction of serving as both the Historian-Editor (2005-2008) and the Secretary (2008-2011) prior to her election as President in 2013. Dr. Garrett received her medical degree, where she also completed undergraduate studies, at the University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill.

After completing her laryngology fellowship training at Vanderbilt Medical Center, she joined Drs. Robert Ossoff and Mark Courey as an Assistant Professor at the Vanderbilt Voice Center. She is currently the Executive Medical Director of the Voice Center and Professor of Laryngology. She serves as a Board Member of the American Board of Otolaryngology and is a fellow of other professional organizations.

Dr. Garrett is highly recognized as a well-trained and dedicated laryngologist and administrator. She recently completed requirements for the Master of Management in HealthCare (MMHC). In her time away from Vanderbilt, she enjoys golfing and spending time with her parents, sister and niece.

I am sure you will join me in expressing the Council’s sincere gratitude to Dr. Garrett for her 14 years of service.

Immediate Past President - Peak Woo, MD

Dr. Woo was first elected to the ALA in 1996 and became a member of the Council in 2013. During his term as President in 2016, the ALA celebrated its 137th Annual Meeting that had the largest number of attendees in recent years.

Dr. Woo graduated from the Boston University School of Medicine Six year BA-MD Honors Program in 1978 and completed his residency at the combined Boston University-Tufts Otolaryngology Residency Program in 1983. As Clinical Professor of Otolaryngology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Dr. Woo continues to train otolaryngology residents and laryngology fellows while maintaining a private practice.

When he isn’t providing patients with ultimate health care, he enjoys spending time with his family and traveling with his son as they did last year to Venice.

Dr. Woo is an innovative surgeon, an outstanding teacher, and an excellent member of distinction in his service to the Association.

Dr. Woo is currently the Third Councilor and we are very grateful for his invaluable contributions to the ALA.
IN MEMORY OF
Fernando R. Kirchner, MD
December 19, 1930 – January 4, 2017

Dr. Fernando Kirchner, an Emeritus Fellow, passed away on January 4, 2017 in Tucson, Arizona where he resided following his retirement from academic practice in the Department of Otolaryngology at the University of Kansas. Dr. Kirchner was inducted as an Active Fellow after being proposed by Drs. Joseph Ogura and Emanuel Skolnik in 1975. He was active in the Association and was elevated to Emeritus status in 1991. He was pleased to stay in touch with the ALA although he was not always able to attend the annual meetings.

THE 2016-2017 COUNCIL

ALA Council represent a broad geographic area of the United States that also reflects our membership. Potential candidates, who exhibit a willingness to serve the association, are nominated by Active Fellows who may also nominate themselves.

*First Row (left to right):* Lucian Sulica, MD, Secretary; Kenneth W. Altman, MD, PhD, 2017 President; C. Gaelyn Garrett, MD, MMHC, First Councilor; Peak Woo, MD, Third Councilor; C. Blake Simpson, MD, Editor; Dinesh K. Chhetri, MD, Councilor-at-Large; Clarence Sasaki, MD, Past President (term concluded in 2016);

*Second Row (left to right):* Clark A. Rosen, MD, Treasurer; Mark S. Courey, MD, Second Councilor; Michael S. Benninger, MD, Historian; Gady Har-El, MD, Vice President/President-Elect; Paul Flint, MD, Councilor-at-Large
2017 President’s Reception

As is customary, Dr. Altman will be honored at the 2017 President’s Reception on Wednesday evening, April 26th. To recognize the Latin and Jazz cultures in San Diego, Dr. Altman chose, “An Evening of Jazz – San Diego Style: The Latin Genre”. We invite you to spend a portion of your evening with us as special recognition is given to Fellows and a special “thank you” to Dr. Altman for his leadership during this past year. To purchase tickets, please contact our Administrator, Maxine Cunningham, at Maxine.c@comcast.net or by calling her at 615-812-6170.

2017 Winter Council Meeting Recap

The winter meeting of the ALA Council was held January 20, 2017, in New Orleans, LA during the Combined Sectional Meetings of the Triological Society. The Council reviewed the recommendations submitted by the Membership Committee, Drs. Seth Dailey and Stacey Halum and chaired by Dr. Joel Blumin.

Dr. Altman presented a summary of this year’s program. Council acknowledged that both the Baker and State of the Art lectures will provide interesting and insightful opportunities for attendees.

Dr. Har-El reminded Council that this will also be the first year that there will only be one business meeting. In order to combine the two meetings, the business meeting will begin one hour prior to the program.

Dr. Benninger, as Historian, informed Council that Dr. Fernando Kirchner, an Emeritus Fellow, passed away on January 4, 2017 in Tucson, AZ. A moment of silence was observed in Dr. Kirchner’s memory. Dr. Benninger also reported that the Sustainers fund Donor mailing project was successful in that there were a number of Fellows who contributed more than $12,000 donations from first time donors.

Dr. Rosen reported that the ALA continues to be financially healthy. The investments have provided positive returns. Council was informed that several Fellows were suspended from the Association due to the delinquency of membership dues of three years or more. It was recommended by Siem Johnson, during the financial review, that the amounts that have been outstanding for several years be deemed uncollectible and removed. Letters were sent to each Fellow informing him/her of the suspension but also offered an opportunity to remit dues for reinstatement.

Dr. Simpson, as Editor, informed Council that quotes were requested for to modify the website and it is anticipated that the payment of dues via the internet will be explored.

Research Grants - Four applications, including two for the Seymour R. Cohen MD and two for the ALA/ALVRE grants were received for the 2017 awards. Each will undergo a review by the Research Grant Committee and two reviewers. The results of the reviews will be announced during the Annual Meeting. The Council continues to en-

Nominating Committee - At the 2016 Annual Meeting, a nominating committee was formed, chaired by Dr. Peak Woo and with Members Drs. Mark S. Courey, Ted Mau, Albert Merati, and Gayle Woodson. According to the new bylaws, adopted in 2013, Active Fellowship of the Association may submit recommendations and suggestions for a new Councilor-at-Large. Active Fellows may submit self-nominations. The Nominating Committee reported there was an excellent slate of five candidates recommended by Active Fellows. Dr. Woo requested a blind vote on each

Ballot for 2017 Candidates - Enclosed with this newsletter is the ballot for all candidates presented to the ALA Fellowship by the Membership Committee and the Council. Remember to vote, sign, and return your ballot no later than April 2, 2017. Ballots returned incomplete or after April 2, 2017 will be considered invalid. Please follow the instructions on the last page of the ballot book.
Franklin Henry Hooper (1850-1892):
A Visionary Laryngologist and Preserver of the ALA’s History

Franklin H. Hooper’s career as a Laryngologist was marked by profound achievement and extreme tragedy. Hooper graduated Harvard Medical School in 1876 and subsequently spent 4 years studying abroad in Europe where he decided to become a Laryngologist. He was heavily influenced by Schrotter’s clinic in Vienna. Hooper returned to America in 1880 and became Frederick Knight’s (3rd president of the ALA in 1881) partner at Harvard and the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). Knight inspired Hooper to be surgeon scientist and his short but illustrious career reflected that passion and dedication.

Hooper was likely America’s first neurolaryngologist. His pioneering unique bench research in the Physiology Laboratory of Harvard Medical School explored the neuromuscular function of the larynx was presented at the annual meetings of the ALA between 1883-1888. His canine experiments employing electrical stimulation of laryngeal neuroanatomy was groundbreaking in the 19th century and foundational to investigations that are done today.

Another area that Hooper made a substantial imprint was in the management of recurrent respiratory papillomatosis (RRP), which has been an omnitemporal problem in Laryngology. Remarkably, joining the ALA at that time required a candidate’s thesis and his 1882 manuscript was entitled “On the Treatment and Recurrence of Papilloma of the Larynx”. In this landmark paper, he stated, “The vascularity of the growth is perhaps the most important factor in determining the rapidity of its reappearance.” This key insight into the concept of angiogenesis and neoplasia was not fully formulated by Judah Folkman for another 90 years.

Hooper’s profoundly short and productive career was ironically and tragically cut short by unremitting tongue cancer with cervical metastasis. He had noted leukoplakic lesions in his mouth in medical school which
progressed to advanced tongue cancer over the ensuing 15 years. After failing surgical removal in the United States, he traveled to London and the renowned Head and Neck Surgeon, Henry Butlin was also unable to surgically cure his disease. Hooper returned to Boston and died slowly of progressive airway obstruction refusing a tracheotomy so as not to prolong his pain and suffering.

In a noble act of Victorian-era honor and respect, in recognition of Hooper’s dedication as an academic Laryngologist, Dr. Knight passed his professorship to his young partner prior to his death knowing he could never recover his appointment.

Hooper’s passion for Laryngology and the American Laryngological Association is embodied by the fact that he preserved key professional documents and instruments, which upon his death were donated with funding to preserve them at Harvard and the MGH. Hooper’s foresight to preserve these invaluable documents were combined with Dr. Knight’s materials and became an enduring record of the ALA’s history so that many of these documents can be viewed in our organization’s website.

Steven M. Zeitels, MD
Boston, MA
Post-Graduate Membership Update—February 2017

Once again, with tremendous support from the ALA and the ALA Council, the post-graduate members had an outstanding year of growth in 2016. The total post-graduate membership is now 83. We maintain the overall mission of supporting the post-graduate members in their pursuit of full membership.

In the summer of 2016, we matched 5 mentees to mentors, bringing the total number of pairs to 31. Each pair consists of a post-graduate ALA member and an active ALA fellow. Similarly, 2 peer-to-peer groups have been formed for exchange of ideas, camaraderie and peer-mentorship. Each group consists of 4 post-graduate ALA members. If you are interested in being matched to either an active ALA fellow mentor or a peer mentor, please contact Kim Vinson at kimberly.n.vinson@Vanderbilt.Edu or Lee Akst at lakst1@jhmi.edu

We look forward to another breakfast symposium at the upcoming COSM in San Diego. Drs. Dinesh Chhetri and Steven Zeitels will be presenting their scientific and clinical insights with the theme of the morning being "Inspirations for the Rising Generation." You will receive a special invite from our Administrator’s Office with additional details. We look forward to your joining us at this event on Thursday April 27, 2017 at 6:00 am. Bagels and Coffee will be served.
I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as Secretary of the ALA. I have the privilege to begin my term during a period of vibrancy, growth and opportunity for the organization, as for our subspecialty as a whole. The ALA provides the key forum for professional and academic interaction in our field. The expanded program this year is a necessary step to accommodate the increasingly dynamic discourse surrounding laryngeal disorders, and a reflection of the growth and energy of our membership. I take it as my mission as Secretary to support this increasing momentum to the best of my ability, and ask only that you not hesitate to let me know how I can do it better.

I have the good fortune to have been left an admirably clean desk by the outgoing Secretary, Dr. Har-El, who has served with steady hand over a period of organizational change which will stand us well as we evolve; and to benefit from the dedicated efforts of our administrator, Ms. Maxine Cunningham, who ensures continuity through her commitment. I thank them both for their support through the transition, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Council and in the membership – both Fellows and Post-Graduate members – to make sure the ALA continues to serve our needs as our specialty evolves.

Lucian Sulica, MD
Secretary