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American Laryngological Association

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2011 Winter Newsletter

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Maxine Cunningham, BA
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March 14, 2011

Dear Colleagues:

The One Hundred Thirty-second Annual Meeting of the American Laryngological Association will be held this year at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers in Chicago, Illinois on Wednesday, April 27th and Thursday, April 28th, 2011 as part of the Combined Otolaryngological Spring Meetings (COSM). The American College of Surgeon's meeting planning team has once again done a magnificent job in selecting a wonderful venue for our meeting and associated events. Andrew Blitzer, M.D., D.D.S, our President, and his program committee chaired by Soly Baredes, M.D., have planned a program that will feature a superb quality of scientific papers from our national and international colleagues, two State-of-the-Art lectures, and panel discussions.

Our first session will begin with the Business Meeting on Wednesday morning, April 27th at 7:30 AM followed by the first Scientific Session at 8:00 AM. On Thursday afternoon, April 28th at 12:30 PM, our second Business Meeting will be held followed by the second Scientific Session at 1:00 PM. The annual reception honoring President Blitzer will be held on Wednesday evening, April 27th in the Mayfair Ballroom located in the Sheraton Chicago Hotel. This year's theme will be "Celebrating Chicago's History of Music." The reception begins at 7:00 PM and is business-casual dress. Tickets (\$75 each for members/spouses and \$85 each for non-members) for the reception may be purchased by contacting our Administrator, Maxine Cunningham. In order to ensure adequate preparation for all attendees, we request that you purchase your tickets in advance before April 11, 2011. A very limited number of tickets may be available on-site. Again this year, you may purchase with a credit card (AMEX, MasterCard, and VISA). Tickets must be presented at the door **to attend the President's Reception.**

By now, you should have received your COSM registration package from the American College of Surgeons meeting planners. If not, information may be obtained at the COSM website (www.cosm.md). Excellent hotel room rates

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have been negotiated by the ACS and I encourage everyone to take advantage by reserving hotel space as quickly as possible since space is limited. The deadline for housing application is Monday, April 4, 2011.

You are encouraged to register on-line. Early on-line registration must be postmarked by Monday, March 14, 2011. You may also fax your registration to 312-202-5003. Those submitting registration by mail must do so for a postmark date by March 14, 2011. Registration received after Monday, April 18, 2011 will not be processed. Beyond this date, you will only be able to register on-site.

Since its inception, the ALA has worked diligently to follow its mission in promoting and disseminating innovation and advances in laryngology. As in previous years, the meeting program will provide a forum for original research in the form of oral presentations, poster presentations and insightful lectures. This year's program committee is pleased to promote our poster sessions to highlight the growing number of outstanding scientific papers. These sessions are a unique opportunity to interact directly with the authors.

Following the Business Meeting on Wednesday, April 27th, Dr. Blitzer will present his Presidential Address, "*The Evolution of Laryngology with an Eye to the Future*" at 8:00 AM. Dr. Blitzer, in planning a multi-faceted program has scheduled a State of the Art Lecture for each half-day session. Dr. Steven Zeitels, an Active Fellow, will present his talk, *Current and Future Directions in Laser Surgery of the Larynx*, on Wednesday morning, April 27th. Dr. Kristina Simonyan will present as her topic, "*Functional MRI and Understanding the Neural Control of the Larynx*" Thursday afternoon, April 28th.

Several years ago, the ALA created a new member category, Post-Graduate Members, that embraces those who do not yet meet the criteria for Active Fellowship but who have completed a fellowship in laryngology. Since its inception, this group has grown to more than 35 members who are actively contributing to the ALA mission. Dr. Michael M. Johns II will moderate a panel discussion, "*The Challenges and Future Directions of Laryngology – A Post Graduate Member Perspective*" with post-graduate members, Lee Akst, MD; Joel Blumin, MD; Tanya K. Meyer, MD; and Catherine Rees, MD as panelists on Thursday afternoon at 5:00 PM. I invite you to attend this session as I am sure it will be a very interesting and informative discussion.

Dr. Clarence Sasaki will be honored as the Daniel C. Baker Jr. Lecturer on Wednesday, April 27th. For his topic, he has selected to speak on "*The Animal Spirits: A Curse on the Vagus Nerve.*"

The ALA is always proud to welcome new fellows who have been nominated for membership by two active fellows. This year, the Council approved the nominations of seven candidates for Active Fellowship and one candidate for Corresponding Fellowship. Several of our Fellows have met criteria for elevation to Emeritus Fellow status. You are receiving your Ballot book with this newsletter. As mandated by our By-Laws, please mark your ballot and follow instructions on the last page of the book. A final vote will occur at the first Business Meeting on Wednesday, April 27th. The Post-Graduate Member category also continues to grow. As of this newsletter, we have five (5) candidates who will be introduced during our first business meeting.

The website, www.alahns.org, continues to be a wonderful resource. If you have been unable to access our website, please contact our administrator, Maxine Cunningham, to confirm your email address. Once that is done, you will receive a temporary password. I am glad to report that we continue to receive

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fellows' email addresses that will allow us to communicate more effectively with you. If you have not responded to the request for your email address, please do so at your earliest convenience.

The Council continues to monitor operating expenses. As you know, the majority of our revenue is derived from payment of member dues. Although collections are improving, there is still an outstanding amount that remains delinquent. Invoices were sent during the last quarter of 2010 for this year. We ask that if you have not remitted your dues, please do so as soon as possible. For those who attend this year's Annual Meeting, we again will be able to process payment on-site as a convenience to you. We also ask that you review the By-laws' section pertaining to those who are delinquent. Questions may be directed to our administrative office.

As Secretary of this Association, it is my sincere pleasure to provide you with updates on the growth of our organization. We have made great strides in collaborating with other societies, attempting to become more financially sound, and seeking new avenues to promote our subspecialty. As the oldest national specialty society, the ALA continues a tradition of excellence and camaraderie that has flourished for more than one hundred and thirty-seven years. I also extend my appreciation to Maxine Cunningham, who as the Administrator of our Association, is invaluable to our day-to-day operations.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the One Hundred Thirty-second Annual Meeting of the ALA in Chicago. I assure you it will be truly outstanding.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. Gaelyn Garrett", followed by a horizontal line.

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

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