A Message from the President

Dear Fellows and Members,

In two months we will all meet at National Harbor, Maryland, for our 139th Annual ALA Conference. I am very pleased to report that our program committee, chaired by Dinesh Chhetri, MD, and with committee members Drs. Yolanda Heman-Ackah, Natasha Mirza, Michael Pitman, Susan Thibeault, and VyVy Young, has prepared an outstanding and stimulating educational program including expert panels on state of the art practice and research in laryngology, as well as 35 podium presentations and 70 posters with cutting edge projects and studies. This will be the second consecutive year of cooperation with the ABEA on a combined third scientific session on Friday afternoon.

I would like to draw your attention to two “superspecial” keynote presentations scheduled for the upcoming 2018 program. The first is the Daniel C. Baker Jr., MD, Lecture which will be delivered by our own Past-President Gayle Woodson, MD. Dr. Woodson, an experienced clinician, academician, teacher and leader, will present “Truth, Heresy and Paradigm Shifts.” This certainly promises to be a stimulating talk.

The second keynote presentation is our State of the Art Lecture. This year, we will be going “outside the box.” The lecture will be delivered by Dr. Melina Kibbe who is currently one of the most influential leaders in surgery in the US. Dr. Kibbe is the Zack D. Owens Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Surgery at the University of North Carolina. For her groundbreaking research and technological innovations, she was recognized by President Obama with the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. Dr. Kibbe has been a strong advocate for sex inclusion and against sex bias in biomedical research. Her campaign for “Research for All” resulted in significant policy developments at the National Institute of Health, the Government Accountability Organization and the FDA. Dr. Kibbe’s presentation is entitled “The State of the Art in Managing Conflict and Disruptive Behavior in Surgery.” You do not want to miss this one.

Our special award committees have met and decided on the awardees. I am very pleased to report that the 2018 American Laryngological Association Award will be given to Dr. Eiji Yanagisawa. Dr. Noel Garabedian, from Paris, is our 2018 Gabriel F. Tucker, MD, Awardee.

As a President, it is true honor and pleasure to be able to recognize people who are special, not only to me, but also to the ALA. Please join me during the opening session on Wednesday, as I introduce our Guest of Honor, Dr. Peak Woo, and give Presidential Citations to the New York Laryngological Society (celebrating its 145th year!); the tireless Dr. Dinesh Chhetri; and the one and only Ms. Maxine Cunningham. I thank you for giving me the honor of serving you as the ALA President. I look forward to meeting you all in National Harbor.

Respectfully Yours,

Gady Har-El, MD, FACS
ALA President
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 -  Mark S. Courey, MD

Inducted into the ALA Active Fellowship in 2002, Dr. Courey was elected to the Council in 2006 as a Councilor-at-Large and serving as the Editor from 2008-2013. Under his guidance as Editor, the ALA website was revised along with creating a format for electronic abstract submission. After serving as editor and vice-president, Dr. Courey was elected ALA President in 2014 and spearheaded a very informative 2015 annual program.

Dr. Courey received his medical degree from Boston University School of Medicine and his residency at the State University of New York at Buffalo. In 1992, he ventured south for his fellowship training in laryngology and care of the professional voice as the first laryngology fellow at Vanderbilt University Medical Center under Dr. Robert Ossoff. In 1993, Dr. Courey joined the faculty at Vanderbilt as an Assistant Professor and remained for nine years.

In 2004, Dr. Courey relocated to the University of California – San Francisco where he became a Professor of Otolaryngology and Director of the Division of Laryngology. He also served as the Medical Director of the Voice and Swallowing Center. In 2016, Dr. Courey returned to his home state, New York, and now holds the appointment of Professor of Otolaryngology at Mount Sinai Health System while serving as the Division Chief of Laryngology and Vice Chair of Quality for the department. Additional, he is also the Director of the Grabscheid Voice and Swallowing Center of Mount Sinai.

Dr. Courey is well-regarded nationally and internationally for his skills in the clinical management of patients with airway, voice, and swallowing disorders as well as his multidisciplinary approach to patient care and others in the laryngology practice. In his non-professional time, Dr. Courey enjoys spending time with his family.

Please join the Council and me in expressing our sincere gratitude to Dr. Courey for his 12 years of service on our Council.

Councilor-at-Large - Paul W. Flint, MD

One of Councilor-at-Large is Dr. Flint who became an Active Fellow in 2010 and a member of the Council in 2016. After receiving his medical degree from Baylor College of Medicine, he completed his residency training at the University of Washington. He joined the faculty at Johns Hopkins in 1991, where he served as Residency Training Program Director.

In 2009, Dr. Flint was appointed Professor and Chair, Otolaryngology –HNS at Oregon Health & Science University. In addition to being an ALA Active Fellow, he is a founding member of the Society for Airway Management, and an active member of the Triological Society, the American Academy of Otolaryngology, and the American College of Surgeons. He is the Senior Editor of the sixth edition of Cummings –Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, considered to be the definitive textbook for the specialty.

Dr. Flint’s clinical interests include the treatment of benign and malignant diseases of the airway, development of procedures to improve voice, swallowing, and breathing; and, treatment of movement disorders affecting the head and neck including dystonia and Parkinson disease.

During his non-patient care hours, he enjoys spending time with family and a game of golf or fishing.
Deemed a true son of Martinsville, VA., Dr. Philip Martin Sprinkle (Doc), passed away peacefully on Wednesday, December 28, 2016 at the age of 90. Dr. Sprinkle became an Active Fellow of the ALA in 1975 and was elevated to Emeritus status in 1990. Dr. Sprinkle’s education at the University of Virginia was interrupted by World War II when he served as enlisted man in the Army Air Corps at a time the invasion of Japan was to occur. Discharged honorably, he returned to the University of Virginia, School of Medicine where Dr. Sprinkle finished at the top of his medical school class earning AOA Honors and induction to The Raven Society. Having devoted more than 61 years to the practice of medicine, Dr. Sprinkle served as President of the Triological Society. Among his many interests, he was most recognized for his love of Martinsville and its citizens where he began and concluded his career.

It is with deep sympathy, the Council recognized the passing of Dr. John (Bud) Murray Frederickson on April 5, 2017 in Vancouver, Canada. Dr. Frederickson was born in Winnipeg of Icelandic descent on March 24, 1931 but grew up on Vancouver. Dr. Frederickson 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. Dr. Frederickson received his undergraduate in 1953 and medical degrees in 1957 from the University of British Columbia. Affectionately known as "Bud", his conscientious, kindly presence was appreciated by patients, colleagues and all who knew him. During his non-working time, he followed many sports but particularly his beloved soccer. It is said that his life story would not be complete without mention his love for jazz and classical music.

Dr. Minoru Hirano, of Kurume, Japan, a foundational figure of modern Laryngology, passed away suddenly on December 19, 2016. He is widely known for his original contributions to functional vocal fold anatomy. His landmark publication, *Histological Color Atlas of the Human Larynx*, presented anatomic observations which now form the basis for modern clinical practice. As an academic laryngologist, he spent his career at Kurume University, where he mentored numerous laryngeal surgeons and investigators, not least his son, Dr. Shigeru Hirano, now a leading figure in the own right. Dr. Hirano was elected Corresponding Fellow in 1984, and was honored as the ALA Award recipient by Dr. Sasaki in 2012. Dr. Hirano became a Corresponding Emeritus Fellow in 2015.

One of our long-time and enduring Fellows, Dr. Bobby R. Alford, passed away on February 20, 2018 after a brief illness. Dr. Alford was inducted as an Active Fellow in 1974 and during the 2017 annual meeting, was elevated to Emeritus status. He was a Distinguished Service Professor at Baylor College of Medicine where he served as department chair from 1967 to 2010. His dedication to the specialty of otolaryngology is evidenced by his accomplishments in patient care, education, and research at the department named in his honor at Baylor College of Medicine. He played a pivotal role in the merging of AAO and ACO as the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery as we know it today. Dr. Alford's most enduring legacy may be the enrichment of the lives of countless patients he treated over the years and the innumerable students, residents, and fellows he trained during more than 50 years of service. As the consummate physician and surgeon, his true legacy will live on in the lives of those inspired by his dedication and commitment to patients, research, education, and the pursuit of excellence he instilled in the more than 300 residents and faculty who continue to be leaders in otolaryngology and organized medicine.
**2018 Annual Meeting**

Registration is open for COSM. We encourage you to take advantage of registering on-line, [www.cosm.md](http://www.cosm.md), prior to the deadline.

**President’s Reception**—To culminate President Har-El term, join us in honoring him at the 2018 President’s Reception on Wednesday evening, April 18th. This year’s theme will be, “A 30-Year Reunion of Pop Music and Smooth Soulful Sounds”. We invite you to spend a portion of your evening with us as Dr. Har-El is recognized for his dedication to the Association, along with special recognition to recipients of two outstanding awards. To purchase tickets, please contact our Administrator, Maxine Cunningham, at Maxine.c@comcast.net or by calling her at 615-812-6170.

**2018 Winter Council Meeting Recap**

The winter meeting of the ALA Council was held January 18, 2018 in Scottsdale, AZ during the Combined Section Meetings of the Triological Society. The Council reviewed the recommendations submitted by the Membership Committee, Drs. Stacey Halum, Dana Thompson and chaired by Dr. Seth Dailey.

A summary of this year’s program was presented by President Har-El and especially regarding the presenters of the Baker and State of the Art lectures, Dr. Gayle Woodson and Dr. Melina Kibbe who will discuss current behaviors and shifts in present laryngology. The Council encourages you to attend each of the three half day sessions as well as the business meeting that is scheduled for Wednesday, April 18, at 12:15 PM.

As Historian, Dr. Benninger requested Council to observe a moment of silence in memory to Drs. Phillip Sprinkle and Minoru Hirano who passed away December 28, 2016 and December 17, 2017, respectively. Dr. Benninger also reported that the Sustainers Fund continues to receive donations. Although one milestone of reaching $100K has been met, he encourages each Fellow to make a contribution.

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. Following the recommendations of Siem Johnson LLP that performed a financial review, the outstanding amount deemed uncollectible has been reduced by more than 60%. Fellows who are delinquent are encouraged to remit payment when the invoice is received to prevent suspension of membership.

Dr. Chhetri, as Editor, provided an update to the revisions to the website. Anticipated date of launch is March 1, 2018. If you need assistance in obtaining your user name and a temporary password, please contact our Administrator, Maxine Cunningham, at maxine-alahns@comcast.net. A trial “run” was made for payment of the 2018 Membership dues that has been successful. Beginning with 2019 all members who are assessed dues will be able to pay on line as well as make a donation to the Sustainers Fund.

**Nominating Committee** - The 2018 Committee, comprised of Dr. Peak Woo, Clarence Sasaki, Tanya Meyer, Michael Pitman and chaired by Dr. Ken Aitman reported a record number of nominations. A report will be presented at the Business Meeting on Wednesday, April 18th. 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. Contact Dr. Lucian Sulica to submit nominees at the conclusion of the 2018 Annual Meeting.

**Ballot for 2018 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 March 31, 2018. Ballots returned incomplete or after March 31, 2018 will be considered invalid. Please follow the instructions on the last page of the ballot book.
The Neurolaryngology Study Group: A Short History

The Neurolaryngology Study Group began formation in the late 1980’s. Gayle Woodson (co-founder) and I put together a group of individuals who were interested in the neurophysiology affecting phonation, respiration, swallowing, coughing, and other laryngeal functions. Several of us had discussed previously the concept of a core group of researchers and physicians who might focus on the newest trends in what was to become known as “Neurolaryngology”. I had attended several meetings of the Facial Nerve (then “Paralysis”) Study Group and felt that a similar format might work for the new Neurolaryngology group.

The initial meeting was held in someone’s hotel room (maybe mine) in San Francisco during COSM 1989. It was extremely informal. In fact some participants sat on the floor, some on beds, and some stood the entire time. A partial list of those attending would include myself, Dr. Woodson, Christy Ludlow, Andrew Blitzer, Chuck Ford, Charles Cummings, Ira Sanders, and a few others. (maybe Clarence Sasaki?) At that meeting we discussed the concept, and then agreed that such a study group would be useful to us. The timing (1989) was such that there was much interest in the newer Botox approaches to treating spasmodic dysphonia, and it was also early in the era of Isshiki medialization laryngoplasty and reinnervation (and Teflon was still available) for unilateral vocal fold paralysis. There were a number of research laboratories and scientists turning out new and useful data, and this helped our nascent group to grow. Most communications were via email.

We agreed to have a Neurolaryngology Study Group (NLSG) meeting each spring at COSM, and a second meeting each fall during the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery annual meeting. Initially we continued to meet informally in a hotel room, or some other meeting area which might happen to have a free slide projector. During the early ’90’s the Triological Society and/or the ALA helped us identify a meeting place during COSM. The fall meeting at the AAOHNS was held immediately following the Academy’s Committee on Voice, Speech, and Swallowing committee meeting. Residents and particularly ALA laryngology fellows began to attend.

Al Merati was the first resident to present to the NLSG. His memories are poignant, and are included in the full version on the ALA website.

As the Study Group’s speakers and programs got better (and better known) our size grew to as many as 50-80 on some occasions. We developed some “growing pains” as by the early 90’s we needed to have a projector for Power Point, a screen, and seating for more people. Finding meeting rooms was a problem at AAOHNS, but we initially resolved that by getting the Academy to approve a Neurolaryngology sub-committee, which met immediately after the Academy’s Speech, Voice, and Swallowing Committee. Mike Benninger was chair of that committee and was extremely helpful to the NLSG, which met after his committee. in the same room. Formation of the sub-committee also allowed us to sponsor mini-seminars.

We were able to procure excellent speakers who were often from the basic sciences, particularly during the earliest years. Several members, notably Dr. Sulica, made significant financial contributions to pay for speakers, and/or audiovisual equipment. Some memorable earlier study group lectures (and subsequent discussion periods) include Sue Bodine (UCSD), Vince Caiozzo (UC Irvine), Ingo Titze (several times), Mitchell Brin, Christy Ludlow, Giuseppe Sant’Ambrogio, Jean-Paul Marie, and Hongliang Zheng.

I chaired the group initially, and organized the meetings, often with Dr. Woodson’s help. Then after a few years I asked her to take over the “chairing and organizing”. Many of us will never forget a meeting she organized in a beautiful and rustic conference room overlooking the Pacific Ocean in LaJolla. Then I resumed chairing it again few years, and subsequently then passed the baton to Lucian Sulica in ~2005. Lucian did a superb job of lining up speakers, venues, and letting potential attendees know time and place of each meeting. Then in 2015 Stacy Halum became chair of the Study Group, and as expected Stacy has maintained the quality of excellence of the programs and kept the NLSG on the “cutting edge”.

Chuck Ford chaired NLSG fall meeting on Sept 11, 2001. His recollections can be found in the full version on the ALA website. Another Colorado meeting (2007) of the NLSG resulted in an important position paper on Laryngeal Electromyography which was published in Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg Jun 2009.

Perhaps the 2 most important NLSG milestones were related to our ongoing liaison with the American Laryngological Association. The ALA allowed us to have our annual spring meeting at the end of the ALA meeting (and in the same room). This has allowed enhanced exposure and better attendance. Then most importantly in 2009 the ALA formally adopted the NLSG via a Council resolution. Now the Study Group had a home in organized medicine. Through Dr. Halum’s (and her successors) we look forward to many years of sharing research and surgical advances in the field of Neurolaryngology.

Roger L. Crumley, MD, MBA
February, 2018
First Row (left to right): Peak Woo, Clark Rosen, Kenneth W. Altman, C. Blake Simpson, C. Lucian Sulica; Second Row (left to right): Michael Benninger, Dinesh Chhetri, Gaelyn Garrett, Mark Courey, Paul Flint, Gady Har-El (Not pictured, Michael M. Johns III)

ALA Membership at 2017 Annual Meeting
Once again, with tremendous support from the ALA and the ALA Council, the post-graduate members had an outstanding year of growth in 2017 with 11 new members inducted at the Spring Meeting. The total post-graduate membership is 92. We maintain the overall mission of supporting the post-graduate members in their pursuit of full membership.

2017 Accomplishments
2017 Mentorship Match Results:
In the summer of 2017, we matched 5 new mentees to mentors, bringing the total number of pairs to 36. Each pair consists of a post-graduate ALA member and an active ALA fellow. Overall, the program is running strong and we are getting continued positive interest and feedback!

2017 Peer-to-Peer Mentorship Match Results:
We have 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.

2017 Breakfast Symposium
The 2017 Breakfast symposium was a success with the theme of “Inspirations for the future” featuring guest speakers Dr. Dinesh Chhetri and Dr. Steven Zeitels.

2017 Curriculum Development
In conjunction with the AAO’s Laryngology & Bronchoesophagology Education Committee, several members of this committee and the PG-ALA membership contributed to the “OTOSource modules.” This effort was led by Dinesh Chhetri and Michael Johns.

2018 Goals
2018 Mentorship Match
Will continue to match new post-grad members to active members for mentorship. Going forward, as we anticipate many more Post-Grad members desiring a mentor, we’ll look to mentorship for more volunteers. As the Post-Grad members become full members, we’d like to “emancipate” their mentors and assign them new mentees and solicit volunteers from the newly minted members as well.

2018 Peer-to-Peer Mentorship Match
Will continue to match interested post-grad members into a peer-to-peer group

2018 Breakfast Symposium Planning
Carol Bradford, MD Chairwoman University of Michigan will give a talk on “Mentors, Sponsors and Role Models.” She herself is an exemplary mentor, sponsor and role model and will deliver an inspiring talk about navigating the academic medicine world.
Al Merati will give a brief motivational talk to the group regarding movement toward full membership in the ALA

2018 Laryngology Curriculum Development
The update of VoiceProblem.Org – PG-ALA members will have the opportunity to write/rewrite a chapter for this informational website.
We expect another stimulating and dynamic meeting in National Harbor in April. We are once again meeting for a third half-day on Friday, in conjunction with the ABEA. Dr. Har-El’s Message at the beginning of this newsletter highlights some of the outstanding content.

In recognition of our shared clinical interests, the ABEA and the ALA have agreed to offer one another’s program notes in each organizations’ respective newsletters. We are certain this will be of interest to the membership, and will help you organize your time to ensure that you don’t miss any laryngology at all at this year’s spring meeting.

By the time you read this, the ALA’s new website will have debuted. The prior website, which is by internet standards of historical (perhaps even archaeological) interest, is being replaced. New ALA Editor Dinesh Chhetri has led the development of a site with much more functionality, featuring a member directory, more accessible information and the ability to pay dues online. It will serve as a flexible platform for expanded content in the years to come.

This year marks a decade since the inception of Postgraduate membership category, and thus the “graduation” of the senior class of PG members. A glance at the Postgraduate Members’ Corner earlier in this newsletter – mentorship, peer-to-peer exchange, website development – will make clear what a dynamic group this is. The Post-Graduate group has been essential for the ALA to articulate with early career laryngologists, and the organization has benefitted immeasurably from their involvement and drive. We look forward to welcoming all members of this group as Fellows.

I’m excited to see you all in National Harbor!

Best Regards,

Lucian Sulica, MD
Secretary