A Message from the Secretary

I am pleased, on behalf of the ALA Council, to present you with our 2018 Summer Newsletter recapitulating the program and events our recently held 2018 Annual Meeting.

Again, this year, the Association’s annual meeting provided a third half-day session shared with the ABEA on Friday, April 20th. The program committee, chaired by Dr. Dinesh Chhetri, incorporated additional podium presentations that were preceded by Dr. Gayle Woodson’s delivery of the Baker Lecture, *Truth, Heresy, and Paradigm Shifts.* President Gady Har-El welcomed attendees as the opening session began. He presented his President’s Address, “From Laryngeal Oncology in Oncologic Laryngology—The ALA and Laryngeal Cancer,” to a very enthusiastic group of attendees. During this address, he honored Dr. Peak Woo as his Guest of Honor noting that Dr. Woo has been very supportive to him as the Association in many areas including serving on the Council and an advisor to the Post-Graduate Members.

Dr. Har-El presented Presidential Citations to Dr. Chhetri, the New York Laryngological Society and to the ALA Administrator, Ms. Maxine Cunningham. Recognition of the 2018 Program Committee members, Drs. Yolanda Heman-Ackah, Natasha Mirza, Michael Pitman, Susan Thibeault, VyVy Young, and Chairperson Dr. Chhetri was given with gratitude from Dr. Har-El and those in the audience.

This year’s State of the Art Lecture was delivered by a rising star from the University of North Carolina, Dr. Melina Kibbe. She selected as her topic, “The State of the Art in Managing Conflicts and Disruptive Behavior in Surgery.” Opportunities during a question and comment from the audience were provided.

To close out the first day session, Dr. Allen Hillel served as the moderator of a panel discussion, “LEMG: What’s All the Fuss?”. The discussants and topics were: Dr. Hillel on “LEMG: What it is not essential for a laryngologist; Dr. Heman-Ackah on the topic, “LEMG: How do I incorporate it in my practice?”; Dr. Woo spoke on “Is LEMG necessary to diagnose vocal fold paralysis?”; and, Dr. Clark Rosen discussed “What does LEMG tell me that I already don’t know?”.

During the second day session, Dr. Mark Courey led a panel discussion, “Innovation in Laryngology: Update, Challenges, and Future Directions.” Topics presented included “Advanced therapies and tissue engineering approaches in Laryngology” by Dr. Jennifer Long; “Cause and effect in voice production” by Dr. Zhaoyan Zhang;
“Bridging the gap between discovery and cure in idiopathic subglottic stenosis.” by Dr. Alexander Gelbard; and “Objectively measuring oropharyngeal swallow function” by Dr. Timothy McCullough.

The ALA and the ABEA presented a joint panel on, “R.I.P. RRP: What lies ahead for advanced RRP”. Dr. Gaelyn Garrett served as the moderator and one of the panelists. Her topic, “Overview of clinical issues and challenges,” led the discussion and was followed by Dr. Craig Derkay who presented, “Clinical Update: Current management of tracheal and pulmonary RRP”; Dr. Richard Schlegel’s presentation of “When RRP turns ugly insights from pathology to manage advances/aggressive RRP”; and “Basic science update and future directions for clinical trials” by Dr. Clint Allen.

Dr. Ellen Friedman, who served as the ALA Award Committee chair, introduced the American Laryngological Award recipient, Dr. Eiji Yanagisawa who for many years was active in the Association. Dr. Reza Rahbar, as chairperson of the Gabriel F. Tucker MD Award Committee, introduced the 2018 recipient, Dr. Noel Garabédian to the audience. Dr. Garabédian is a highly recognized pediatric laryngologist from Paris, France.

The 2018 Young Faculty/Practitioner Award was presented to Dr. Catherine Sinclair for her paper, “Unearthing a Consistent Bilateral R1 Component of the Laryngeal Adductor Reflex in Awake Humans: A Stride Forward in Our Understanding of Laryngeal Pathophysiology”. Dr. Molly Naunheim’s abstract, “Vocal Motor Control and Central Auditory Impairments in Unilateral Vocal Fold Paralysis,” was the recipient of the Resident Research Award. For the second consecutive year, the Casselberry Award Committee reviewed submitted manuscripts and ranked the title, “Rejuvenation of Aged Larynx with Alginate/Hyaluronic Acid Hydrogel Which release Basic Fibroblast Growth Factor (Bfgf) Slowly,” by Dr. Seong Keun Kwon. We congratulate each for their outstanding presentations. There were 57 posters reviewed by the Poster Presentation Award Committee and three posters were awarded as the top three posters: First, second, and third place awards were presented to Drs. Gregory Dion, Solomon Husain, and Thomas Carroll, respectively.

The President’s Reception was held on Wednesday evening at the Gaylord National Resort. Entertainment was provided by Rise Band and Show, featuring Earnest Bennett. Following the presentation of the James Newcomb Award to Dr. Woo by Dr. Michael Benninger, Dr. Mirza presented the deRoaldes Award to Dr. Benninger for his years of service to the Association and the field of laryngology. Drs. Sulica and Simpson presented Dr. Har-El with the Past President pin, President’s Watch and Medal. Having learned that among Dr. Har-El’s favorite musical group is ABBA, the band dedicated a song in his honor.

2018 Spring Council Meeting Recap

The ALA Council Spring Meeting was held on April 17. Reports were submitted by the Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, and Historian. Dr. Sulica reported on the membership census including the candidates who were recommended by the Membership Committee. Dr. Rosen informed Council the investment account for some of the Sustainers’ Fund monies had been opened and Ms. Cunningham will facilitate the transfer of those funds to Prodigy. He also reported that the number of delinquent members has been greatly reduced with collectible dues is at a higher percentage Ms. Cunningham has ever seen. Dr. Chhetri reported that the revised website is now complete and members will be able to log in and obtain a password. Anticipation for improved interaction will be noted. Ms. Cunningham discussed online payment methods that will take affect for 2019 dues invoicing. Drs. Johns and Altman reported that the Ad Hoc Media and Communication Committee is functioning and it is anticipated that full implementation within the website is forthcoming. Dr. Benninger reported that several Emeritus fellows have passed away since the previous meeting. A moment of silence was observed in memory of our deceased Fellows.

A Message from the 2018-2019 President

Dear Fellows and Members of the American Laryngological Association:

The field of laryngology has increased tremendously since I first joined the ranks a little over 20 years ago. As part of the first wave of fellowship-trained laryngologists, there were two academic job openings in the entire county when I finished my training at Vanderbilt in 1996. My co-fellow, Greg Postma took the job at Wake Forest, and I was able to get the other job at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. Things have changed quite a bit since then. We went from two or three fellowship positions a year to more than twenty-five. We went from a handshake job offer at the end of the fellowship interview to an actual NRMP match. When I graduated from my fellowship, most otolaryngologists did not consider laryngology a subspecialty, and certainly not on the level of head and neck surgery or neurotology. The majority of residency programs did not have a laryngologist on staff. Fast forward 20 years later and many of the larger residency programs have three or more laryngologists and almost every program in the country has a fellowship-trained laryngologist. Although the ALA has thrived over the past 139 years, as a subspecialty, Laryngology has arrived over the last 10 years or so.

The ALA has responded to this growth. For the first year, we will be adding an extra half-day scientific session to our 2019 COSM program. That means more podium presentations, panels and expanded content for our members, and the laryngology community. It leads to more opportunities for our younger members to get up and share their original work with their colleagues at one of the best laryngology meetings of the year.

The program committee is assembling an outstanding program for 2019, so please submit your abstracts and grant proposals for the Annual Meeting. See you in Austin!

Sincerely yours,

C. Blake Simpson, MD
INTRODUCING OUR NEW COUNCIL MEMBER

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 Joel Blumin, MD.

Dr. Blumin was inducted as a Post-Graduate Member during the first year of its inception in 2008. He has played a pivotal role in its growth and expansion. He is an academic laryngologist at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) in Milwaukee. He is a Professor of Otolaryngology and Chief of the Division of Laryngology & Professional Voice.

Dr. Blumin is a California native and comes to Milwaukee from the Los Angeles area. He went to medical school at the University of Iowa where he was introduced to laryngology when he did research with Harry Hoffman, MD in evaluation of speech parameters of spasmodic dysphonia and vocal tremor. He went on to residency at UCLA and then matriculated as the first Fellow in Laryngology under the mentorship of Gerald Berke, MD.

Dr. Blumin has a comprehensive laryngology practice and treats patients with problems of airway, swallowing, and voice. He has served on a variety of institutional and society committees and looks forward to representing the ALA membership as a Council Member.

When he isn't caring for patients, Dr. Blumin has a variety of interests including listening to and critiquing music, cooking and grilling, tinkering with computers and cars, reading about history, exploring Milwaukee, paddling a kayak and most importantly, spending time with his family.

THANK YOU FROM THE 2017-2018 COUNCIL

The 2018 Council wishes to express its sincere appreciation for your ongoing support. This year's meeting, led by Dr. Har-E; as President, presented some innovative ideas in our subspecialty as well as continued collaboration with our sister society, the ABEA. We look forward to being able to present new ideas and practice ideas in our expanded meeting and invite you to join us in Austin, Texas as we celebrate our 140th Year.

Top Row: Gady Har-El, President; C. Blake Simpson, Vice-President/President-Elect; Lucian Sulica, Secretary; Clark Rosen, Treasurer; Dinesh Chhetri, Editor; Michael Benninger, Historian;
Bottom Row: Mark Courey, First Councilor; Peak Woo, Second Councilor; Kenneth Altman, Third Councilor; Paul Flint, Councilor-at-Large; Michael M. Johns III, Councilor-at-Large
Nominating Committee - The 2019 Nominating Committee, chaired by Dr. Har-El, was elected during the 2018 business meeting. Drs. Altman, Woodson, Buckmire, and Mirza will serve on the Committee. There will be one position of the Councilor-at-Large in 2019 and members of the 2020 nominating committee. Please keep in mind that individuals may nominate an Active Fellow or self-nominate themselves. Nominations may be submitted to any committee member or to the Administrator, Maxine Cunningham.

Research Grants -
Applications for the 2019 research grants are available online at www.alahns.org. The deadline for the Letter of Intent (LOI) is December 1, 2018 with the application submission deadline on January 15, 2019. A copy of the announcement is included with this Newsletter. Awards will be announced during the 2019 Annual Meeting.

Membership Dues
Beginning in October 2018, members will be able to remit payment of dues electronically using AMEX, VISA, and MasterCard via the ALA website. You will receive an invoice electronically via your email address on file. Please insure your current email address is accurate. For those members whose institution wishes to continue to remit payment via check, this option will still be available. Additional details will be provided on your invoice or you may contact our Administrator at maxine-alahns@comcast.net.

Sustainers’ Fund
Donations to the Sustainers Fund may also be made via the ALA website at www.alahns.org/donate-to-ala. Donations are accepted with the following credit cards (AMEX, VISA, MasterCard). There is still a segment of our membership who has not considered contributing to this worthy endowment fund earmarked to further the Association’s mission on promoting education and research. Recognition of each donor is given at the Annual Meeting. If you have not donated, I encourage you to do so to support the Association. All contributions are tax deductible. For additional information, please contact Dr. Michael Benninger or Ms. Cunningham.

2018 Group Photo
IN MEMORIAM
BOBBY ALFORD, MD (FEBRUARY 20, 2018)
WILLIAM SAUNDERS, MD (MARCH 5, 2018)
JAMES KELLY, MD (APRIL 8, 2018)

Since the Winter Meeting, we received notification of the passing of three Emeritus Fellows.

Dr. Bobby Alford passed away on February 20, 2018. He was inducted an Active Fellow in 1974 and elevated to Emeritus status at last years’ meeting.

Dr. James Kelly passed away on April 8, 2018. Inducted as an Active Fellow in 1998, he was elevated to Emeritus status in 2012.

Dr. William Saunders, an Active Fellow inducted in 1964, with elevation to Emeritus status in 1989, passed away on March 5, 2018. Dr. Saunders served as a First-Vice President in 1973 during the period when there was two vice-presidents of the Association.

2018 FELLOWSHIP INDUCTEES

First Row (left to right): Lee M. Akst, MD (Active); Jonathan Bock, MD (Active); Thomas L. Carroll, MD (Active)

Second Row (left to right): David O. Francis, MD, MS (Active); Gregory A. Grillone, MD, (Active); Jennifer Long, MD, PhD (Active)

Third Row (left to right): Edie R. Hapner, PhD (Associate)
The PG-ALA Steering Committee congratulates Jonathan Bock and Lee Akst as they were inducted as full members of the ALA this spring. Lee will act as advisor to the committee. Melin Tan-Geller will take on the chair position of the committee. The committee welcomes several new members: Matthew Clary, Karla O’Dell, and Melissa Mortensen. They join current members Zandy Hillel, Jim Daniero, and Kimberly Vinson.

We also welcome our new Post-Graduate Members who were introduced during the business meeting on April 18th. They are Dr. Ahmad Al Omori, Rebecca Howell, Rachel Kaye, Robbi Kupfer, Benjamin Rafii, Craig Villari. Dr. Hagit Shoffel-Havakuk will be introduced during next year’s meeting.

We have started the task of developing the Comprehensive Laryngology Curriculum for residents and practicing otolaryngologists as well as patient informational material for the field of Laryngology. Both will be available as part of the ALA web content.

We continue the mentorship match for new PG-ALA members to be paired with ALA Active Fellows. We are refreshing the current list of available mentors to acknowledge those mentors whose mentees have been inducted to full membership, and to offer new full members an option to be a mentor. We will run the match this summer in addition to matching peer-mentoring groups.

Our annual PG-ALA breakfast symposium will be planned for Spring 2019.
The American Laryngological Association had a stimulating and dynamic meeting in National Harbor this past April. A review of the meeting summary which starts this Newsletter will remind us of the vibrancy of the program. In the future, as the ABEA moves to its own Friday half-day, the ALA will be able to host even more papers on its podium to accommodate the growth of our subspecialty.

Beyond the growth of the program, the meeting landscape is changing, and we are interested in understanding how best to serve the membership in this regard. To this end, members will be polled in the coming weeks about meeting durations, venues and formats. Other societies, for example, do not always meet in conjunction with COSM. Would it be useful or attractive to have a “breakout” meeting? When meeting at COSM, would it serve members better to meet later in the week rather than Wednesday to Friday? We need your feedback.

The quality of the meeting can only be a reflection of the ALA membership, so I join this year’s President, Dr. Simpson, in urging you to submit your work for next year’s meeting, and invite your colleagues and mentees to do so too so that the 2019 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 you all again in the new academic year.

Best Regards,

Lucian Sulica, MD
Secretary