ALA 2019 Annual Meeting Update

On behalf of the ALA Council, I am elated to present you our Summer Newsletter with a summary of the program and events at our 2019 Annual Meeting held in Austin, Texas. With the third half-day session now permanently in the COSM Footprint, an increase in the number of podium presentations and panel discussions provide for a more diverse program of numerous topics.

President Blake Simpson greeted and welcomed attendees as the opening session began. His President’s Address, “Rockstars of the ALA: Past, Present, and Future”, kicked the first day’s meeting off with an innovative reflection and recognition of those who were instrumental to his medical training. The prestigious Guest of Honor Award was presented to Dr. Robert Ossoff with Drs. Robert Bastian, Jamie Koufman, James Netterville, Clark Rosen, and Robert Sataloff, receiving presidential citations. The 2019 Program Committee whose members were Drs. Mona Abaza, and Chairperson Dr. Julina Ongkasuwan, was recognized for formatting an outstanding program.

The program committee, chaired by Dr. Julina Ongkasuwan, reviewed 110 abstracts and selected 35 as podium presentations. The first day session was concluded with a panel discussion, Laryngology Training Past, Present and Future, with Dr. Albert Merati as the moderator and Drs. Mona Abaza, William Armstrong, Dinesh Chhetri, and Mark Courey as panelists.

This year’s Baker Lecture, “Mentoring in a Changing World,” was presented by Dr. Gregory Postma. He discussed the value of mentoring junior laryngologists and the effects of constant change in the care and treatment of patients. Dr. Peter Belafsky was selected as the State of the Art Lecture. His presentation, “The Laryngologist as Deglutologist” provided the attendees with perhaps a leading edge of the practice.

The topic for the second panel discussion was “The Geriatric Laryngology Patient” and was a collaboration between the Association and the American Geriatric Society. Dr. Ozlem Tulunay-Ugur led this discussion as moderator and was joined on the panel by Ms. Juliana Litts, Drs. Robert Sataloff, Postma, and Anjuli Hipolita Vasquez.

The European Laryngology Society (ELS) was invited to participate on the third panel discussion, “Laryngeal Dysplasia,” that was held during the third day session. Dr. Daniel Fink moderated this panel that included Drs. Andrew McWhorter, Wendong Yu, Peak Woo, and Cesare Piazza.

The American Laryngological Association Award (ALA Award) was
presented to Dr. Peak Woo by Dr. William Armstrong. Dr. Woo has served on the Council, Advisor to the Post-Graduate Members, the 2015 President and an avid a constant support of the Sustainers Fund.

Dr. Ahmed Soliman, a member of the Gabriel Tucker Award, introduced the recipient, Dr. Marshall E. Smith as the 2019 recipient. An Active Fellow since 2009, Dr. Smith continues to play an active role in the Association.

On behalf of Dr., Yue Ma, Dr. Chhetri accepted the 2019 Young Faculty/Practitioner Award. Dr. Yue’s paper, “A Phase II, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo- Controlled Multi-Institutional Study to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of Autologous Cultured Fibroblasts for Treatment of Vocal Fold Scarring and Atrophy” was presented to the audience by her co-author, Dr. Chhetri. The recipient of this year’s Resident Research Award was Dr. Justin Ross for his presentation, “Utility of Audiometry in the Evaluation of Patients Presenting with Dysphonia”. We congratulate each for their outstanding presentations. There were 57 posters reviewed by the Poster Presentation Award Committee. This year, because the posters were outstanding, the Committee selected four (two first place and two third place) to receive awards.

The President’s Reception was held on Wednesday evening at the JW Marriott Austin. The Willy Kickit Band, of which Dr. Simpson was one of the original members provided entertainment for the evening with Dr. Simpson joining his former bandmates on the keyboards. Following the presentation of the James Newcomb Award to Dr. Allen Hillel by Dr. Michael Benninger, Dr. Steven Bielamowicz presented the deRoaldes Award to Dr. Bruce Pearson for his years of service to the Association and the field of laryngology. Dr. Flint joined Dr. Sulica on the stage to present Dr. Simpson received with the Past President pin, President’s Watch and Medal. The evening continued with a wonderful array of food and beverages along with socialization among the record number of attendees.

Concluding the third day session, Dr. Simpson introduced the incoming President, Dr. Paul Flint, by passing the mallet prior to adjournment.

2019 Spring Council Meeting Recap

The ALA Council Spring Meeting was held on April 30. Dr. Simpson presented a brief report on his plans to recognize individuals who have played a role in his career development. He announced that Dr. Robert Ossoff will serve as his Guest of Honor with Drs. Robert Bastian, Jamie Koufman, James Netterville, Clark Rosen, and Robert Sataloff, receiving presidential citations.

As Secretary, Dr. Sulica reported on the membership census including the candidates who were recommended by the Membership Committee. He also updated Council on the COSM footprints for the next three years with the Association continuing to have three-half day sessions.

Dr. Rosen informed Council there was a brief turn-down in the financial market that resulted in the loss of income in the investment accounts earlier in the year; however, the financial market recovered to minimize the loss and he anticipated a positive report will be forthcoming. The number of delinquent members has been greatly reduced with payment of dues continues at a higher percentage Ms. Cunningham has ever seen. Several members brought their dues to a current status but two Active Fellows and two Post-Graduate members were suspended due to non-payment of dues.

Dr. Chhetri reported that activity on the website has increased. The Laryngoscope accepted 46.6% for publication with another 42.8% resubmitted or transferred to Open Access. There were three manuscripts that were not submitted. Benninger reported on the passing of several fellows and stated he will present “in memorial” during the Business Meeting. A moment of silence was observed in memory of those Fellows who are deceased. will present “in memorial” during the Business Meeting. A moment of silence was observed in memory of those Fellows who are deceased.

Dr. Sulica confirmed that the COSM footprints beginning in 2019 include the third half-day session. These will be “stand-alone” sessions that will allow for additional program of ALA content.
Dear fellows and members of the American Laryngological Association,

I am honored and humbled to serve as your president for 2019-2020. During my term as council member, I have been impressed with the momentum gained on many fronts and look forward to continued improvements directed toward ease of access to information relevant to the ALA, continuing education, membership participation and diversity. On the positive side, we continue to see growth in membership with 10 new active fellows inducted in 2019; remarkably, half are women. During my tenure, I will continue to advocate for diversity within the ALA at all levels.

We have also seen remarkable growth in the post graduate program. The Post Graduate members have been instrumental in developing the new, soon to be available, online curriculum. This year we will continue to work with our post graduates members through various mentoring programs with the purpose of facilitating transition to active fellowship.

Lastly, the website has undergone vast transformation and will soon provide online updates pertaining to current and future events, dues payment, balloting, and online donations. Here is where I put in a plug for the Sustainer’s Fund that has continued to grow and now exceeds $125K. Learn more about this initiative at https://alahns.org/donate-to-ala/

I look forward to serving the members of the ALA in the coming year and will see you at the 141st Annual Meeting in Atlanta, April 22-26, 2020.

Paul W. Flint, MD
THANK YOU FROM THE 2018-2019 COUNCIL

The 2019 Council wishes to express its sincere appreciation for your ongoing support. This year’s meeting, led by Dr. Simpson, as President, presented scientific sessions with uniquely named topics but focused on modern laryngeal practices. We look forward to your joining us as we continue to grow with innovative ideas that provide educational experience.

Top Row: C. Blake Simpson, President; Paul W. Flint, Vice-President/President-Elect; Lucian Sulica, Secretary; Clark Rosen, Treasurer; Dinesh Chhetri, Editor; Michael Benninger, Historian;

Bottom Row: Peak Woo, First Councilor; Kenneth Altman, Second Councilor; Gady Har-El, Third Councilor; Michael M. Johns III, Councilor-at-Large; Joel H. Blumin, Councilor-at-Large

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 Karen M. Kost, MD., who was inducted as an Active Fellow in 2011. Dr. Kost is a native from Montreal, Canada, where she works as an academic laryngologist at the McGill University Health Center. She did her undergraduate studies and residency at McGill University in Montreal and completed a fellowship in Laryngology and Head and Neck Oncology at the Institute of Laryngology and Otology in London England under the stewardship of Sir Donald Harrison. Dr. Kost is a Professor of Otolaryngology at McGill University where she is also the Director of the Voice and Dysphagia Laboratory. Areas of special interest include Airway problems, Voice, Dysphagia and Geriatric Otolaryngology.

In addition, Dr Kost worked as a ‘flying doctor’ for almost 2 decades providing specialized care to the Inuit in Nunavik (northern Quebec). She played a key role in a government project to repatriate medical and surgical services to Nunavik, where she had the privilege of performing the first surgical procedure under general anesthesia.

She has served as President of both the Canadian Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Society and the American Society of Geriatric Otolaryngology. Since becoming an ALA Fellow in 2011, Dr. Kost has been actively involved in the Association, serving on the audit committee, and as poster judge. She very much looks forward to the opportunity to serve as the new member-at-large of the ALA.

Dr. Kost is an outdoor enthusiast. She has participated in 2 medical missions which involved hiking into remote areas of the Nepalese Himalayas accessible only by foot. She is a passionate powder skier, engaging in catskiing and/or heliskiing every year. She is also an enthusiastic scuba diver, having seen the beautiful sealife in remote corners such as the Galapagos and the Maldives. Dr. Kost also enjoys several other outdoor activities including ski-touring, cross-country skiing and cycling. She has been called a ‘foodie’, and very much enjoys both cooking and baking. She is fortunate to share these passions with her family, and most especially her husband and her son.
Nominating Committee - The 2020 Nominating Committee, chaired by Dr. Simpson, was elected during the 2019 business meeting. Drs. Har-El, Courey, Bielamowicz and Noordzij will serve on the Committee. There will be one position of the Councilor-at-Large in 2021 and two members of the 2021 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 by September 1, 2019.

Research Grants - Applications for the 2020 research grants are available online at www.alahns.org. Individuals interested in submitting a proposal, the deadline for the Letter of Intent (LOI) by the Administrator is December 1, 2019 with the application submission deadline on January 16, 2020. A copy of the announcement is included with this Newsletter. Awards will be announced during the 2020 Annual Meeting.

Membership Dues - Since each membership category is now able to pay dues via PayPal with AMEX, VISA, and MasterCard, we have reduced the amount of delinquent members substantially. We encourage you to be mindful that dues account for more than 80% of the operating budget. Your invoice is electronically generated with the capability to print a copy if you have to provide one for your department. We ask that you confirm your email address with our administrator to prevent a delay in receiving your 2020 invoice in late December or January. Additional details will be provided on your invoice or you may contact our Administrator at maxine-alahns@comcast.net.

Sustainers’ Fund - Council decided to conduct an annual mailing campaign to provide our Fellows and friends opportunities to donate to the Sustainers’ Fund in October. Tax-deductible 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) or check made payable to the ALA. To continue to grow this worthy endowment fund, that is earmarked to further the Association’s mission on promoting education and research, you are asked to make an annual donation. Recognition of each donor is given at the Annual Meeting. For additional information, please contact Dr. Michael Benninger or Ms. Cunningham.


2019 FELLOWSHIP INDUCTEES

During the Business Meeting, ten Active and three Corresponding Fellows were introduced to the Fellowship. Each has proven to be the future of laryngology impacting the specialty and the Association for many years. We congratulate them for achieving this milestone in their careers.

First Row (left to right): Paul C. Bryson, MD (Active); Dale Ekbom, MD (Active); Alexander Hillel, MD (Active); Amanda C.M. Hu, MD (Active); Nausheen Jamal, MD (Active)

Second Row (left to right): Romaine F. Johnson, MD, MPH (Active); Katherine Kendall, MD (Active); Libby J. Smith, DO (Active); Phillip Song, MD (Active)

Third Row (left to right): Karen Zur, MD (Active); Seong Keun Kwon, MD, PhD (Corresponding); Nupur K. Nerurkar, MBBS, MS (ENT), Corresponding; Chi-Tan Wang, MD, MSc, PhD (Corresponding)

IN MEMORIAM

ARNOLD NOYEK, MD

Since the Winter Meeting, we received notification of the passing of an Emeritus Fellows, Arnold Noyek, MD of Toronto, Canada on December 18, 2018. Dr. Noyek was inducted as an Active Fellow in 1986 and elevated to Emeritus status in 2015.
The PG-ALA Steering Committee is proud to announce that seven Post-Graduate Members were inducted as Active Fellows: Drs. Paul Bryson, Dale Ekbom, Alexander Hillel, Amanda Hu, Nausheen Jamal, Libby Smith, and Phillip Song.

Dr. Melin Tan-Geller continues in her role as the Post-Graduate Member chair. With the induction of Dr. Alexander Hillel, there is an opening for a new committee member. If you are interested, please contact Drs. Tan-Geller, Lee Akst or Michael Johns III.

We also welcome 15 new Post-Graduate Members who were introduced during the business meeting on April 18th. They are Drs. Simeon Brisebois, David Cates, Alissa Collins, Mark Fritz, Inna Husain, Brandon Kim, Diana Kirke, Paul Kwak, Maggie Kuhn, Matthew Naunheim, Anju Patel, Anais Rameau; Valeria Silva-Merea; Helen Wang, and Mi Jin Yoo.

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 are encouraged by the increased number of Active Fellows who provide mentoring for our new PG-ALA members. However, mentors are still needed as evidenced by 15 new PG members who were inducted this year. 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 continues to be a success and we will be planned for Spring 2020 meeting.
The American Laryngological Association had a stimulating and rich meeting in Austin this past spring. A review of the meeting summary which starts this Newsletter will remind you of the vibrancy of the program, exceptionally well focused on clinical and translational subjects. Now fully settled in to the three half-day schedule, the ALA is better able to keep pace with the growth of our subspecialty by accommodating more content, both papers and panels.

The quality of the Austin meeting reflects well on the scholarship and drive of the ALA membership, both Fellows and Postgraduate Members. To perpetuate the high-quality of the annual meeting, I join this year’s President, Dr. Flint, in urging you to submit your work for next year, and invite your colleagues and mentees to do so too so that the 2020 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.

Warm Regards,

Lucian Sulica, MD
Secretary

The Triological Society has requested that we remind you that all Triological Society members who author or co-author a manuscript accepted for *Laryngoscope Investigative Otolaryngology*, receive a discounted publication fee.