A Message from the President

It has been an honor to serve as your president this year. We have an amazing council and their guidance has made my job as president a pleasure. Our administrator, Maxine Cunningham, continues to carry the work load and is much appreciated.

The 141st Annual ALA meeting will be in Atlanta Georgia. The theme for the ALA 2020 annual meeting will emphasize diversity. This is reflected in the program and includes a session on transgender voice care. This will be preceded by the State of the Art lecture, “Transgender Voice Care” presented by Mark Courey, MD. Presidential Citations go to Jo Shapiro, MD, David Brown, MD, Gaelyn Garrett, MD, and Susan Thibeault, PhD. They are recognized for their contributions to the specialty, and their commitment to professionalism and diversity.

The Guest of Honor is Charles Cummings, MD. The ALA award will be presented to Professor Nobuhiko Isshiki, and the Baker lecture will be delivered by Maisie Shindo, MD.

The 2020 ALA program committee, chaired by Dr. Peter Belafsky, includes Drs. Zandy Hillel, Tanya Meyer, Stacey Halum, and David Francis. There are 35 oral presentations and 4 panels in addition to the joint ABEA/ALA panel on diversity organized by Tanya Meyer, MD and Nicole Maronian, MD. The four ALA panels are 1) Revision thyroplasty, 2) Muscle tension dysphagia, 3) Lessons learned through surgical failure, and 4) Innovative management of the complicated dystonia patient.

The title of the President’s address is: Challenges and opportunities in Laryngology – technology – the balance between outcomes and cost. The theme for the President’s reception is “Hotlanta” and will feature the Mo’ Sol Band. This is one you need to attend!

I look forward to seeing you in Atlanta, and all are welcome to attend the President’s Reception. Please contact Maxine Cunningham for reservations.

Paul W Flint, MD, FACS
Professor and Chair
Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery
Oregon Health & Science University
President, American Laryngological Association
This year, the 141st Annual Meeting will be held April 22-24 (Wednesday– Friday) at the Hilton Atlanta Hotel in Atlanta, GA. Because we will begin our session in the afternoon on Wednesday, we will have two business meetings with the introduction of our new Fellows and Post-Graduate Members on Wednesday at 12:30 PM. We encourage you to attend this meeting to welcome our new inductees. President Paul Flint will officially welcome attendees, introduce the Dr. Charles Cummings as his Guest of Honor and deliver his President’s Address with the topic, “Challenges and Opportunities in Laryngology – Technology – The Balance Between Outcomes and Cost”. Dr. Flint will honor Drs. David Brown, Gaelyn Garrett, Jo Shapiro, and Susan Thibeault with Presidential Citations and recognize the 2020 Program Committee.

The first Scientific Session will begin at 1:30 PM with presentations and panel discussions that will discuss cutting-edge research and innovative updates to the specialty. The second business meeting will be on Thursday at 7:30 AM with reports from the Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, and Historian. Fellows (Active and Emeritus) will elect the 2020-21 Council.

The topic of the State of the Art Lecture, Transgender Voice Care, will be delivered by Dr. Mark Courey. Dr. Maisie Shindo was selected as the Daniel C. Baker Jr. MD Lecture and she has chosen Surgeon Burn-out: Analysis and Necessary Changes, as her topic.

The program is available on the ALA website, www.alahns.org. Dr. Flint provided additional information of the program in his President’s Message on page 1 of this newsletter.

Registration for COSM opened on January 27th. Attendees may register online by logging on to www.cosm.md. The deadline for early registration is March 23, 2020. Remember, in order to attend any ALA sessions, you must be registered for the ALA meeting and have it designated on your name badge.

President’s Reception – To culminate President Flint’s term, you are invited to join us in honoring him at the 2020 President’s Reception on Wednesday evening, April 22nd at 7:30 PM. Dr. Flint has chosen as his theme Hotlanta Musical entertainment will be provided by an Atlanta-based but nationally recognized band, Mo-Sol, so wear your foot tapping and/or dancing shoes for an evening of enjoyment, dancing and excellent southern food. Tickets purchased on or before March 27, 2020 will be available for $90 for ALA members and $100 for non-ALA members and will increase to $120 for ALA members and $130 for non-ALA members beginning on March 28th. To purchase tickets, please contact our Administrator, Maxine Cunningham, at Maxine.c@comcast.net or by calling her at 615-812-6170. You may remit payment via credit card (VISA, MasterCard or American Express). Checks are accepted in the mail when received no later than April 15th or you may purchase on April 22nd.

2020 Council
First Row (left to right): Paul Flint, President; Clark Rosen, Vice President/President-elect; Lucian Sulica, Secretary; Michael M. Johns III, Treasurer; Dinesh Chhetri, Editor; Michael Benninger, Historian;
Second Row (left to right): Kenneth Altman, First Councilor; Gady Har-El, Second Councilor; Blake Simpson, Third Councilor; Joel Blumin, Councilor-at-Large; Karen Kost, Councilor-at-Large
IN MEMORY OF

Stanley Thawley, MD
May 23, 1943 – January 22, 2019

Dr. Thawley’s induction as an Active Fellow was in 1982 and after 31 years, he was elevated to Emeritus status in 2013.

Stan moved to Austin, Texas after eighth grade to attend University Junior High, Stephen F. Austin High School, and University of Texas. He graduated with honors from University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. He was a surgical intern at Parkland Hospital in Dallas, served two years with the Air Force in Lubbock, Texas, and completed his Otolaryngology residency at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri. In 1975, he joined the Department of Otolaryngology at Washington University School of Medicine in 1975 in the days of Dr. Joseph Ogura, and remained there for the rest of his career. His career involved specializing in head and neck surgery including teaching numerous head and neck oncology courses on modified versus radical neck dissection, salivary gland neoplasms, carcinoma of the larynx, adenoid cystic carcinoma of the head and neck, and total glossectomy for tongue cancers. In the late 1980’s, Dr. Thawley had an expanded interest in endoscopic sinus surgery and management of sleep apnea as well as his clinical practice in that arena. He became the Director of the Sinus Allergy Division in Otolaryngology and Director of Adult Division in Otolaryngology. Among his many contributions to the specialty, he also served as Chief of Otolaryngology at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in 1975, Director of the AAOA Residency Training and Fellowship Committee, Secretary/Treasurer of the ENT Club of St. Louis 1994-2016, and Editor of the Laryngoscope Journal. Dr. Thawley cared for thousands of patients throughout his 44 years at Washington University.

He retired from clinical practice in 2017 and became Professor Emeritus at Washington University.

Gary Schechter, MD
January 12, 1939 — September 15, 2018

Dr. Schechter inducted as an Active Fellow in 1992 and elevated to emeritus status in 2007, passed away last year on September 15th from a traumatic brain injury suffered in a fall.

A native New Yorker, Dr. Schechter attended Syracuse University, graduating Summa Cum Laude, first in his class, from the State of New York College of Medicine, Upstate in 1963. This was followed with an internship at Montefiore Hospital. Afterwards, Dr. Schechter served with the United States Public Health Service Hospitals, Norfolk and Baltimore from 1964-67. He then completed his residency in Otolaryngology and a NINDS Training Fellowship in Otolaryngology at the Washington University/Barnes Hospital in St Louis, Missouri in 1970.

He began his professional career on the faculty of the Department of Ear, Nose and Throat at the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, Texas, Dr. Schechter returned to Norfolk to become the founding Chairman of the Department of Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeons at the Eastern Virginia Medical School. There, he developed a Residency program, a Research division, a Hearing and Balance Center, and one of the country’s leading Head and Neck Cancer practices. He also was a member of numerous state and national medical organizations.

Dr. Schechter, retired in 1999 as Professor and Chairman Emeritus, and then shared his time between Virginia and Naples, Florida.

Stanley Thawley, MD
May 23, 1943 – January 22, 2019

Several times, the Association only learns of the passing of a Fellow when mail is returned as “undeliverable” and our Administrator conducts media searches. It may be a year or two before verification is confirmed. We are asking you to inform us when you learn one of our invaluable Fellows has passed away so appropriate condolences may be extended to the family and the Fellowship is notified.
IN MEMORY OF

Jerry Goldstein, MD
November 4, 1935 - July 13, 2019

Dr. Jerome Goldstein, one of our esteem Emeritus Fellows, passed away on July 13, 2019 at the age of 83 years old in West Palm Bach, FL from complications of a chronic illness. His ALA membership began with his induction as an Active Fellow in 1983 and elevation to Emeritus status in 2002.

Dr. Goldstein, Jerry, as he was known to colleagues and friends, was a native of Little Falls, NY. Following completion of his undergraduate studies from the University of Rochester, he received his medical degree from the State University of New York. His internship was at Philadelphia General Hospital with residency training in surgery and otolaryngology at Bronx Municipal Hospital Center and the State University of New York (Syracuse) in 1968. His professional career began as an assistant professor at Northwestern University Medical School in Chicago until he returned to Glens Fall, NY in 1971 and entered private practice. He returned to academia as the Professor of Surgery and Head of the Division of Otolaryngology at Albany Medical College for nine years.

Jerry was a renowned surgeon specializing in Otolaryngology with such a passion for medicine that produced a distinguished career involving surgery, teaching, and administrative leadership. His efforts influenced many aspects of the growth of this specialty on a national and international level. Although he was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, Dr. Goldstein embarked on a public service career where he served as Executive Vice President of the American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS) in Washington, DC (1984-94). In 1994, the AAO-HNS established the Jerome C. Goldstein MD Public Service Award that is presented annual to commemorate his commitments to improve patient welfare. Throughout his career, he served in numerous leadership roles in academic medicine, including the Triological Society, the American Board of Otolaryngology, and as President of the American Society for Head and Neck Surgery (1983). As Chairperson of the Secretaries Liaison Committee (SLC) of the Combined Otolaryngology Societies Meeting (COSM), Dr. Goldstein was very instrumental in the growth of the annual meeting for many years.

Arndt J. Duvall III, MD
January 14, 1931 – October 28, 2019

In December, 2019, the Association learned of the passing of De. Arndt J. (Jack) Duvall III, age 88 years old, at his home in White Bear Lake, Minnesota. Dr. Duvall became an Active Fellow in 1973 and received elevation to Emeritus status in 1993.

To those who knew him, it was well recognized that he was proud of being a St. Paul native where he received both his undergraduate and medical school education at the University of Minnesota. He was a successful clinical physician, surgeon and professor of otolaryngology at the University of Minnesota, whose research and mentorship guided many surgical residents.
Dr. M. Stuart Strong, an Active Fellow inducted in 1975, passed away on Wednesday, November 06, 2019 at this home surrounded by family. He was elevated to Emeritus status in 1990.

Dr. Strong grew up on a farm in Kells, Ireland, the youngest of six children. Educated in Ireland at Trinity College and University College Dublin School of Physics, Dr. Strong came to Boston University School of Medicine in 1952 after completing residencies at the Royal Victoria Eye & Ear Hospital in Dublin, Royal Infirmary in Edinburgh, and Lahey Hospital & Medical Center in Boston. Four years later, he was named chair of the Department of Otolaryngology at Boston University School of Medicine and chief of Otolaryngology at University Hospital (now the Boston Medical Center), and subsequently became director of Otolaryngology at Boston City Hospital - positions he held until 1985. In 1968 he joined forces with Dr. Werner Chasin, then chairman of the Tufts training program, and together they formed the BU-Tufts Combined Training Program in Otolaryngology, which lasted for 25 years.

Dr. Strong’s contagious enthusiasm for scientific discovery led to a historic collaboration with other ALA Fellows, Drs. Geza Jako, Charles Vaughan and Thomas Polanyi, to develop the use of the carbon dioxide laser to treat diseases of the upper aerodigestive tract. This ‘minimally invasive’ transoral approach to these diseases changed the face of laryngology forever and improved the lives of countless patients.

Dr. Strong served as president of the American Laryngological Association in 1982; the Triological Society, the American Broncho-Esophagological Association and the Society of University Otolaryngologists.beyond his academic achievements,

Throughout his life he pursued his interests outside of work with the same passion that he showed for his professional work. He was an avid tennis player, golfer and fisherman. In his retirement years he also developed an interest in woodworking and flying model airplanes.

Dr. Strong was a true visionary in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery who always will be remembered for his professionalism, innovation, enthusiasm for teaching, compassionate care of patients, and his unwavering respect for others. He had a profound impact on countless otolaryngologists throughout the world and he will be sorely missed.
The winter meeting of the ALA Council was held January 24, 2020 in Coronado, California during the Combined Section Meetings of the Triological Society.

A summary of this year’s program was presented by President Flint to include scientific papers, lectures, and an increased in panels. It was reported that 98 abstracts were submitted to the Program Committee’s (Drs. Peter Belafsky, David Francis, Alexander Hillel, Tanya Meyer, and Stacey Halum) for review and ranking. Of this total, 35 were selected to present orally. Dr. Maisie Shindo will present the Daniel C. Baker Lecture and Dr. Mark Courey will be the State of the Art Lecturer. The Council encourages you to attend each of the three half day sessions as well as the business meetings that are scheduled for Wednesday, April 22 at 12:30 PM and on Thursday, April 23 at 7:30 AM.

Dr. Sulica reported that the Membership Committee (Drs. Dana Thompson, and Adam Klein and Tanya Meyer) reviewed each application for Active and Corresponding Fellowship and candidates for the Post-Graduate Member categories. On the recommendation of the Membership Committee, Council approved all candidates who will be introduced during the business meeting.

Dr. Johns reported that the ALA continues to be financially healthy even with the downturn of the markets in 2019, we continue to receive positive returns with investments. A financial review was conducted by Siem Johnson that found the financial management of the Association was error free and fluid. The Treasurer’s efforts to eliminate delinquency with members’ dues have been successful in member remittances. Unfortunately suspension of suspension of several Active and Corresponding Fellows, as well as some Post-Graduate members have occurred while other members are now current and in good standing.

Dr. Chhetri, as Editor, reported the website’s traffic continues to show a steady increase. Each Fellow/Member is encouraged to obtain his/her user name and a temporary password by contacting our Administrator, Maxine Cunningham, at maxine.c@comcast.net. Kudos to the Post-Graduate members who have worked diligently to create educational-related information.

As Historian, Dr. Benninger requested Council to observe a moment of silence in memory to Drs. Schechter, Thawley, Goldstein, Duvall, and Strong. He reported that a collaboration of the 2019 Sustainers Fund Campaign kicked off in late November. Each Fellow/Member was mailed a donor card as we continue to grow the fund with repeat donors in addition to several first-time donors. Donations are accepted throughout the year and each member is encouraged to make a tax-deductible contribution.

Research Grants - The Research Committee, chaired by Dr. Ted Mau, received nine applications for the 2020 award period. Results of review and/or funding will be announced during our Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia.

Nominating Committee - The 2019 Committee, comprised of Drs. Blake Simpson (chair), Gady Har-El, Mark Courey, Pieter Noordzij, and Steven Bielamowicz provided an in-depth report of candidates who were nominated or nominated themselves for either the position of Councilor-at-Large or the nominating committee for 2020. A report will be presented at the Business Meeting on Thursday, April 23. As a reminder, Active Fellows of the Association may submit recommendations and suggestions for a new Councilor-at-Large and to fill two positions of non-Council members for the next nominating committee. Active Fellows may also submit self-nominations. Contact Dr. Lucian Sulica to submit nominees by September 1, 2020.

Ballot for 2020 Candidates - Enclosed with this newsletter is the ballot for Active and Corresponding candidates presented to the ALA Fellowship by the Membership Committee and the Council. This year, a trial run for electronical balloting via the website will be available. If successful, we will begin using the electronic version in 2021. Your email address must be accurate to receive the electronic ballot. If you are unsure your email address is correct, please contact our Administrator at maxine.c@comcast.net immediately. You may select which of the two methods you wish to use. Remember to vote, sign, and return your ballot no later than March 30, 2020. Ballots returned incomplete or after March 30 will be considered invalid. Please read and follow the instructions on the first page of the ballot book.
Once again, with tremendous support from the ALA and the ALA Council, the post-graduate members had an outstanding year of growth in 2019 as we welcomed 15 new members (a 210% increase) inducted at the Spring Meeting. The total post-graduate membership is 98. We maintain the overall mission of supporting the post-graduate members in their pursuit of full membership.

Ongoing efforts include the following:

◊ Mentorship Match- Commensurate with this tremendous increase in PG-ALA interest, we have identified Active Fellow mentors for all of the new PG-ALA members. The success of the match program continues with the graduation of 4 mentees into full ALA membership last year. In particular, the PG-ALA Steering Committee would like to acknowledge the ALA members that continue to serve as mentors after their prior mentees progressed on to full membership. Those that re-volunteered this year include: Drs. Joel Blumin, Peter Belafsky, and Peak Woo. There are now an impressive 48 active mentor-mentee pairs and the newest mentor-mentee pairs will be announced after the first of the year, in time to meet during the ALA meeting in Atlanta or later in the year. Any member that would like to join the match process as either a mentor or mentee can e-mail Jim Daniero at jdaniero@virginia.edu to participate.

◊ ALA Website Educational Content- By far, our largest project this year was overseeing development of online educational content for the ALA website. This included patient education materials (https://alahns.org/research-education/voice-problems/) and a comprehensive laryngology curriculum (https://alahns.org/research-education/laryngology-curriculum/). With the guidance of Drs. Chetri and Johns, the PG-ALA Steering Committee oversaw the completion of this task by engaging the full membership of the PG-ALA to create content. The request was met with an enthusiastic response and the content was subsequently edited by the post-graduate ALA Steering Committee. In the coming year, Dr. Karla O’Dell will help to further curate the content and enlist the help of our new members to complete the few remaining abandoned topics.

◊ Breakfast Symposium- This year’s annual breakfast symposium will be a talk on “Developing a new laryngology skill set: Bilateral and Unilateral Reinnervation” by Marshall Smith. The session will focus less on the technical aspects of the surgery, but more on the process of pioneering a new technique and potential pitfalls along the way. We anticipate a compelling educational session and discussion afterwards. Please save the date: Thursday April 23, 2020 at 6:00 am.

Finally, the PG-ALA Steering Committee congratulates Drs. Lee Akst and Alexander Hillel on becoming full members. The newest members of the steering committee are Drs. Matthew Clary and Karla O’Dell and Melissa Mortensen.
Our upcoming meeting in Atlanta has shaped up well, with clinically-relevant papers and stimulating lecturers. We’ve increased the number of panels to four, in response to the single most often-made request in the evaluations from our last meeting. As last year, the meeting will extend over three half-days, each as content-rich as the others. Dr. Flint’s message on the cover of this letter details the meeting further.

I encourage everyone to attend President’s Reception. I cannot recall another year in which so much effort was made – by the President himself, no less – on selection of the musical entertainment. It’ll be a great evening among colleagues and friends.

I also bring to your attention the option to vote electronically for proposed new Fellows detailed by Ms. Cunningham on the previous page. We hope to get feedback from all Fellows by simplifying the process in this way.

Finally, this will be my last message as Secretary. I want to extend my thanks for the opportunity to serve the American Laryngological Association, an organization that has meant so much to my own professional development. I am grateful to the membership, to my fellow Councilmembers, and to Ms. Maxine Cunningham, our Administrator, for their patience and help. It’s been my privilege to serve.

I look forward to seeing you all in Atlanta.

Warm Regards,

Lucian Sulica, MD
Secretary