A Message from the President

Dear ALA members,

It has become a cliché to say these are unprecedented times; however, we are faced with multifaceted and complex challenges, one in the guise of COVID-19. COVID-19 has brought an unforeseen healthcare work stoppage crippling many healthcare institutions; it has brought unemployment to historic levels with associated loss of individual medical coverage. As if COVID-19 was not enough to expose the disparity in healthcare accessibility and outcomes along racial lines, it has elevated wearing PPE or face mask to the political level of abortion and assault rifles. More recently, a latent virus in the form of inequality has once again paralyzed many of our cities if not the country. The visual impact of George Floyd’s last minutes has at last opened the eyes of the majority of Americans to the judicial, economic, and educational disparities in our country.

Unfortunately, we are inundated by CNN, FOX, and other media sources, all full of political agenda. However, racism is not politics. Racism distorts and disrupts social and moral norms. I have heard it said that we must move, not beyond, but through racism, and enter on the other side. So what do we do? We remember we are physicians and our role in society is to heal and care for the sick and suffering. Our social obligation is to assist all with pain and suffering regardless of race, religion, gender identity/sexual orientation, and political views. We must not
compromise our integrity, we must find ways to volunteer and be charitable to those in need, and most importantly work with our colleagues to identify and address systemic racism within our institutions. Action is required, and we must move forward as citizens committed to changing a society where being black creates the impossibility of moving upward.

I am sharing resources below, provided by the President of Oregon Health & Science University, Danny Jacobs, MD, MPH, FACS that will help you understand and identify opportunities to engage racism in your institution and community.

Paul W Flint, MD, FACS
President, American Laryngological Association

Surviving and resisting hate: a toolkit for people of color

The trauma of being black in America: Dr. Alisha Moreland-Capuia, podcast

Systemic racism explained, and other useful YouTube videos
Frequently asked questions about racism and white privilege

Anti-racism resources for white people and parents

Let's talk! Discussing race, racism and other difficult topics with students

How to talk about race and racism: podcasthttps://www.aspenideas.org/podcasts/how-to-talk-about-race-and-racism

Books for personal growth or group study

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.
THANK YOU FROM THE 2019-2020 COUNCIL

The 2020 Council wishes to express its sincere appreciation for your continuous support throughout the year and COVID-19. The 2020 Annual Meeting celebrating Dr. Flint's term, as President, and in conjunction with COSM was cancelled due to concern for safe health practices. Deliberations by Council, it was decided to "freeze" the 2020 meeting to provide the opportunity to honor Dr. Flint's presidency in 2021. It is our sincere hope that there will be a large degree of normalcy so we will be able to celebrate our 143rd meeting. We look forward to your joining us in New Orleans, Louisiana on April 7-9, 2021 and above all else, wish you good health.

Top Row: Paul W. Flint, President; Clark A. Rosen, Vice-President/President-Elect; Lucian Sulica, Secretary; Michael M. Johns III, Treasurer
Middle Row: Dinesh Chhetri, Editor; Michael S. Benninger, Historian; Kenneth W. Altman, First Councilor
Bottom Row: Gady Har-El, Second Councilor; C. Blake Simpson, Third Councilor; Joel H. Blumin, Councilor-at-Large; Karen M. Kost, Councilor-at-Large
2020 Council Spring Meeting Recap

During the Council Spring Meeting, Council voted on the following:

**Nominating Committee** - The 2020 Nominating Committee, chaired by Dr. Simpson, was reappointed to serve in 2021 with those nominations to be presented for vote during the 2021 Business Meeting.

**Research Grants** - Council approved the 2020 Research Committee to fund proposals submitted by Dr. Rupali Shah (UNC) and Dr. R Jun Lin (Canada). Applications for the 2021 research grants are available online at www.alahns.org. For individuals interested in submitting a proposal, the deadline for the Letter of Intent (LOI) by the Administrator is December 1, 2020 with the application submission deadline on January 19, 2021. A copy of the announcement is included with this Newsletter. Awards will be announced during the 2021 Annual Meeting.

**Membership Dues** - Since each membership category is now able to pay dues via PayPal with AMEX, VISA, and MasterCard, the number of delinquent members has seen a significant decrease. 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 2021 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** - This year’s campaign donation experience mixed reviews as the level of contributions was lower than in previous years. We ask you to consider making a donation so we may a positive financial picture. Our investment portfolio is still strong but not knowing when we will return to previous levels of growth, your tax-deductible gift will help to maintain the desired levels. The 2021 campaign to provide our Fellows and friends opportunities to donate to the Sustainers’ Fund will begin in October. We encourage you to return the donor’s card via mail or you may make a donation via the ALA website at www.alahns.org/donate-to-ala. Donations are accepted with the following credit cards (AMEX, VISA, MasterCard) or checks made payable to the ALA. Please remember this worthy endowment fund is earmarked to further the Association’s mission on promoting education and research. Your annual contribution will insure continuation of this effort.
As we try to keep the heritage and history of the ALA, we initiated this column of “Historical Vignettes” two years ago. The membership, even Emeritus Members, only have a limited picture of our 142-year history. We have decided to search the archives of the ALA, so richly recorded in the Transactions of the American Laryngological Association. The Transactions began with the first official meeting where all presenters were required to document their presentations through an article that was published in the Transactions, at a time where there were limited peer-reviewed journals to immortalize their work. It is not clear in the early years if the presenters wrote their own summary, either before or after their presentation (perhaps reading it to the membership at the meeting), or a stenographer recorded all of the proceedings, as they read as a public recording of their lecture. We have decided to pick random early years and in each of these columns report on the content of the Transaction. The following is a brief summary the 18th Annual Meeting of the ALA (1896).

The meeting was held in Pittsburg, the first time that the meeting was not in one of the east coast cities, principally in New York. In fact it appears that there was a major concern about not having the meeting in the east. This is addressed in the opening comments of the President, William H. Daly in his Presidential Address: “…a congress of the first class in a city of the second class.”

Also notice that he begins his address with the salutation, “Gentlemen”. We have come a long way since then. At the time there were 67 Active Fellows, 1 Honorary Fellow and 21 International Fellows (all from Europe except 1 from Cuba).

Another interesting detail that has largely been lost is that the ALA was a society that represented both laryngology and rhinology, and almost half of the presentations were related to rhinology or the pharynx. There was a fascinating paper by Frederick Knight entitled, “Intermittent Dysphonia Spastica”, which was likened to “writer’s or fiddler’s cramp”. Many papers were related to infectious diseases such as tuberculosis or syphilis.

As a former Treasurer of the ALA, I was very interested in the Treasurer’s report which showed that the treasury was a $322 which is equivalent to about $10,000 today. Total dues was $265 or $8000 today and the meeting costed $100, most of this for food and dinners.
the treasury was a $322 which is equivalent to about $10,000 today. Total dues was $265 or $8000 today and the meeting costed $100, most of this for food and dinners.

It has long been stated that we “Stand on the shoulders of giants” and reading these Transcripts helps us realize how medicine and particularly laryngology has developed is how we build on the experience and science that is the legacy of our forefathers. I end with a list of the first President’s of the ALA for they clearly were the innovators and giants of our specialty that has molded our practices.

We can only hope that what we are contributing to laryngology today through our practices, our research and our publications will have such an impact over 100 years from now.

Michael S. Benninger, M.D.
Historian
2020 FELLOWSHIP INDUCTEES

Historically, during the Business Meeting, new Fellows and Post-Graduate Members are introduced to the Fellowship. For the 2020 candidates, the decision was made to present certificates to those with a formal introduction at the 2021 Meeting in New Orleans. We welcome seven Active and one Corresponding Fellow - all who have proven to be the future of laryngology impacting the specialty. We congratulate them for achieving this milestone in their careers and look forward to their role in the Association for many years.

IN MEMORIAM

LAWRENCE W. DESANTO, MD

We learned of the passing of an Emeritus Fellow, Lawrence William DeSanto, MD on May 1, 2020 in Scottsdale, Arizona. Dr. DeSanto was inducted as an Active Fellow in 1984 and elevated to Emeritus status in 2001. Our condolences to his family, colleagues and the many physicians he trained throughout his career.
Unfortunately, the Post-Graduate Breakfast Symposium was also cancelled due to COVID-19. The Committee is looking forward to resuming this activity during the 2021 Annual Meeting.

The PG-ALA Steering Committee is proud to announce that four Post-Graduate Members (Drs. Alessandro de Alarcon, Laura Mattrka, Sunil Verma and Katherine Yung) were inducted as Active Fellows.

Dr. Melin Tan-Geller continues in her role as the Post-Graduate Member chair. The membership continues to grow and assume an active role with the development of the Comprehensive Laryngology Curriculum for residents and practicing otolaryngologists as well as patient informational material for the field of Laryngology for the website.

The ten new Post-Graduate Members will be formally introduced during the 2021 Business Meeting at COSM. We welcome Drs. William Gao, Sara Abu Ghanem; Raluca Teona Gray; Margaret Huston; Seth Kaplan; Niki Kohli; Yue Ma; Nicole Maronian; Patrick McGarey Jr.; and Robert J Morrison.

We continue to be encouraged by the increased number of Active Fellows who provide mentoring for our new PG-ALA members but mentors are still needed as evidenced by 11 new PG members who were inducted this year. If you wish to serve as a mentor, contact Drs. Tan, Akst, or Johns.
I imagined that the note I wrote for the Winter Newsletter would be my last. Since then, circumstances with which you are all familiar have imposed themselves, and our Association has had to weather the cancellation of our annual meeting. To minimize the challenges and changes, the Council has decided to freeze council members in their current offices through our next meeting, which is why you continue to see the familiar lineup in this Newsletter. I thank my fellow council members as well as Maxine Cunningham, our Administrator, for their help dealing with the blizzard of unforeseen issues which arose during the past few months. I am particularly grateful to Joel Blumin, MD, for seconding me in some of my duties as Secretary as we here in New York became immersed in our COVID crisis in late March and early April.

Much of the scientific content of our meeting was translated into poster format and presented online, where I hope you've had a chance to view it. It remains available, and will be accessible for many months, although the period during which CME was available has expired.

I am happy to report that the cancellation of our spring meeting is not likely to affect ALA's finances substantially. The impact on the COSM organization of which the ALA is a member is more significant, but is expected to be manageable via the reserve to which the ALA and our sister organizations have contributed.

The Spring Council Meeting occurred despite the cancellation of the scientific meeting, allowing research grants to be made and Fellows and Postgraduate Members to be inducted, as you see in the previous pages. These new Fellows and Postgraduate Members will be formally introduced to the Association at our next meeting.

At this point, I usually wish everyone a happy summer. To that, I’ll add wishes for good health, and I urge all of you to use your professional authority to educate and advocate for prudent and safe behavior in the coming months.

Warm Regards,

Lucian Sulica, MD
Secretary