



AMERICAN LARYNGOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Summer 2021 Newsletter

July 2021

MEET YOUR 2021 - 2022 COUNCIL

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A Message from the President



It is my great honor to be the ALA president. I would like to thank my ALA mentor, Gayle Woodson MD, and past and present ALA councils for this opportunity.

I am excited to share with you two topics regarding the ALA: (1) several new ALA ad hoc committee projects and (2) a “behind the scenes” description of the ALA.

The ALA has started two ad hoc committees to explore important topics to the ALA. The first is called the “ALA Listening Tour.” The ALA has formed a committee comprised of a representative from each ALA membership category (e.g. Active, Post-Graduate, Corresponding and Associate) to learn directly from our membership how the ALA is and could be better serving its members. The committee will compose a semi-structured telephone interview to be conducted with a portion (~30%) of the membership to learn from our members what the ALA does well and what areas we can improve. The interviews will complement an ALA-wide survey focused on the same topics. I would like to thank in advance all the ALA members who agree to participate in this initiative. The members of the ALA Listening Tour committee are Peak Woo MD (chair), Blake Simpson MD, Edie Hapner PhD, Nupur Kapoor Nerkar MD and Lyndsay Madden DO.

The 2nd ALA ad hoc committee will explore a variety of facets regarding our future generation of ALA members, specifically related to Laryngology fellowship training. This committee will explore some of the most important and “hot button” issues in Laryngology fellowship training. Examples include number of training opportunities, breadth, and nature of training. In addition, they will investigate how other Otolaryngology sub-specialty organizations are addressing some of these important topics. The members of this committee include Peter Belafsky MD PhD, Gaelyn Garrett MD, Michael Johns III MD, Tanya Meyer MD and myself. I would like to thank all the above committee members and I am looking forward to the results of their efforts.

Lastly, I would like to provide a brief overview of the ALA structure and operations. All too often I have heard questions about “how the ALA works” and comments that the ALA is an opaque organization. Many years ago, I felt that same way as a young laryngologist sitting in the business meeting watching the proceedings and I wondered how it all worked.

The ALA Council is comprised of 11 active fellows as prescribed by the ALA bylaws. Each year the council organizes itself with six officer positions (i.e. President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, and Historian). New council members typically start as councilors at-large and then will most often progress to president if they enjoy the duties and have the support of

council. Most councilmembers serve as an officer for four years prior to being considered for ALA President. After the presidency year, one serves on council as a councilor for an additional 3 years.

Every year a nominating committee solicits and reviews possible candidates for the next council position. Candidates for council can be self-identified or can be proposed by anybody from the ALA membership. The nominating committee is comprised of the immediate past-president (chair), second past-president, one previous council members and two at-large ALA active fellows. This committee is also responsible for proposing one at-large Council candidate and two at-large members for the following year's committee.

In addition to the ALA council, there are six standing committees that serve the ALA. These include the Membership, Casselberry Award, deRoaldes Award, Newcomb Award, Gabriel F. Tucker Award and Baker Lecture committees. Most of these committees are composed of three ALA active fellows with each serving a three-year term. Each year one member leaves the committee and is replaced with a new member appointed by the ALA president. These committees are a great way to serve the ALA and contribute to the activities of the ALA. If you are interested in serving on one of these committees, I encourage you to contact the ALA president shortly after the annual meeting.

I look forward to serving as your ALA president, so please feel free to reach out to me. I have asked Robert Buckmire MD to serve as the ALA 2022 annual meeting program chair. We are already hard at work planning next year's annual meeting in Dallas. Next year's meeting will be a welcome change of the COSM footprint allowing the ALA meeting to occur on a Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. That change in the days of the week is due to the hard work of our former secretary, Lucian Sulica MD. Thank you Lucian!

I hope you have a great and safe summer.

Best wishes,



Clark A. Rosen, MD

ALA President 2021-2022

A Welcome to our New Council Member

Each year, a new member of the Council is elected by the Association.

Al Merati, MD became an ALA Active Fellow in 2007. Dr. Merati is Professor & Chief of the Division of Laryngology in the Department of Otolaryngology-HNS at the University of Washington (UW) in his home town of Seattle. Following medical school at the UW during the Cummings era, he completed his Otolaryngology- Head & Neck Surgery training at the University of California at San Diego, including one year of NIH research training under the leadership of Jeffrey Harris MD PhD. From there, Dr. Merati went to Vanderbilt to study Laryngology with Dr. Ossoff. Following very productive years at Kansas University and at the Medical College of Wisconsin, Dr. Merati returned to his native Seattle to head up the Laryngology program at the University of Washington.



Dr. Merati has over 120 peer reviewed publications and also is the lead editor for the *Textbook of Laryngology*. He has served as Senior Examiner for the American Board of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery and as a Vice President of the Triological Society Western Section. Dr. Merati has earned two Distinguished Service awards from the American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery and is Past-President of the AAO-HNS as well as of the American Broncho-Esophagological Association.

Dr. Merati's real joys in life are in spending time with his wife, Jenny; their son, Solomon (12); and daughter, Rose (8) – road trips, geocaching, game night – all the magic of having school age children in the house. Dr. Merati is a veteran rock and roller, playing in one band as guitarist and another as a drummer. **“Rock and roll saves lives”** he has been known to say from time to time! Between music, time outdoors with the kids, and some serious poker, it is a busy and enjoyable life.

“Becoming a member of the ALA Council, hopefully representing our past and more importantly our future, is a dream come true for me.”

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 COUNCIL

The 2021 Council wishes to express its sincere gratitude for your continuous support throughout the past two years and COVID-19. The 2020 Annual Meeting originally planned to celebrate Dr. Flint's term, as President, was modified and held virtually with the other eight societies that comprised COSM this past April. Although our footprint was reduced to two half-day sessions, there was a notable increase in member participation and feedback was very positive.

For the 2022 annual meeting, the COSM Secretaries Liaison Committee (SLC) plans are to return to an on-site meeting in Dallas, Texas beginning April 27—May 1, 2022. The ALA will return to its three-day meeting April 28-30 and will commemorate the presidency of Dr. Clark Rosen. This will also be the first time in several years that we will have a weekend day for our meetings. Additional details will be announced as plans are finalized.



Top Row: Clark Rosen, President; Lucian Sulica, Vice-President/President-Elect; Joel Blumin, Secretary;
Michael M. Johns III, Treasurer

Middle Row: Dinesh Chhetri, Editor; Michael S. Benninger, Historian; Gady Har-El, First Councilor

Bottom Row: C. Blake Simpson, Second Councilor; Paul Flint, Third Councilor; Karen Kost, Councilor-at-Large;
Albert Merati, Councilor-at-Large

On behalf of the Association and the Council, we express our appreciation for the twelve years of service and dedication Dr. Ken Altman provided. As his term on the Council concludes, we are indebted to his devotion, knowledge and readiness to serve.



2021 Council Spring Meeting Recap

During the Council Spring Meeting, Council voted to add a third Council meeting beginning in August 2021. This will allow for a summary of the annual meeting and to implement any enhancements specifically in preparation for the upcoming meeting.

2021 Nominating Committee - The Nominating Committee, will be chaired by Dr. Flint, with Dr. Simpson (vice-chair); Dr. Garrett (past-president non-Council member); Drs. Long and Heman-Ackah (members-at-large) was voted on and approved during the 2021 Business Meeting. Active Fellows may submit recommendations and suggestions for a new Councilor-at-Large as well as nominate themselves by submitting a request to the Administrator's office.

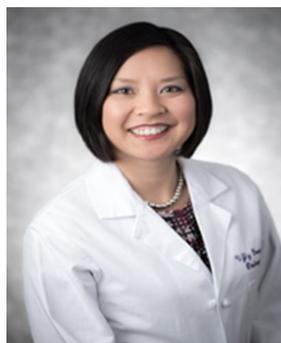
Research Grants - Council approved the 2021 Research Committee recommendations to fund proposals submitted by Drs. Anais Rameau (Weil Cornell Medical Center) and Riccardo Gottardi (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia). Dr. Rameau was awarded the ALVRE Grant and Dr. Gottardi received the Seymour Cohen Grants. Applications for the 2022 research grants will be available online at <https://alahns.org/research-education/ala-research-grants/>. For individuals interested in submitting a proposal for 2022, the deadline for the Letter of Intent (LOI) is December 1, 2021 with the application submission deadline on January 14, 2022. A copy of the announcement is included with this Newsletter. Awards will be announced during the 2022 Annual Meeting

Membership Dues - A vital source of the Association's operating revenue is derived from membership dues. Invoices are provided to the membership beginning in December prior to the dues period that begins January 1st. You are encourage to remit your dues via PayPal using AMEX, VISA, and MasterCard. If your institution's policy is to submit a check for payment on your behalf, it should be mailed to the address listed on the invoice. We ask that you confirm your email address with our administrator to prevent a delay in receiving your 2022 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 experienced a slight decrease in donations. Contributions were received from several first-time donors along with previous donors. Each year, we have a campaign and ask you to consider making a donation so we may continue to have a positive financial picture. Our investment portfolio continues to be strong but there is always an uncertainty in investment accounts. Your tax-deductible gift will help to maintain the desired levels to which we aspire.

2021 FELLOWSHIP INDUCTEES

The 2020 Membership Committee was reappointed to review applications received from 2021 candidates. Chaired by Dr. Dana Thompson, the Committee reviewed a total of four candidates (two Active and two Corresponding) and forwarded its recommendations to the Council. Each received substantial approval during the balloting process. We were delighted to introduce the following new Fellows to the membership during the virtual 2021 Business Meeting: Drs. Melin Tan, VyVy Young, Gustave Korn, and Gerardo Lopez-Guerra. Each newly inducted Fellow will play a pivotal role in 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.



(Left to right): Melin Tan-Geller, MD (Active); VyVy Young, MD (Active); Gustave P. Korn, MD; (Corresponding); Gerardo Lopez-Guerra, MD (Corresponding)

Historical Vignette: The 1919 Transactions of the 41st Annual Meeting of the ALA

Kenneth Altman, MD, PhD
June 21, 2021



The last American Laryngological Association meeting concluded my 12 years on the leadership council. We discussed the unique time we're living through with the COVID-19 pandemic, and we thought it would be interesting to reflect on our Transactions during the devastating "Spanish flu" pandemic from 100 years earlier.

Atlantic City, New Jersey hosted the 41st Annual Meeting of the ALA from June 16-18, 1919, with President Cornelius Godfrey Coakley MD, and First Vice President George Elmer Shambaugh MD. The cover page from the Transactions stated "Together with reports and contributions from fellows in active service during the war," which constituted 122 pages of war activity compared to 289 pages for the remainder of the meeting. Additionally, there was a large attendance from active duty military otolaryngologists. This opening emphasizes the context of the influenza pandemic occurring in the ranks and on the heels during the last year of World War I, which ended following a devastating 4 years in November 1918. WWI resulted in deaths of 8.5 million combatants and 13 million civilians, while the Spanish flu conservatively resulted in more than 20-50, and as many as 100 million deaths.

As such, the war was prominently represented in the platform meeting, with topics

"The relation of Strep hemolyticus carriers to Strep epidemics in the Army" (*before the age of antibiotics*)

"The removal of foreign bodies from the deep portions of the face"

"Injuries of the nose and throat due to bullet and shell wounds"

"Laryngology and rhinology with the American Expeditionary Forces, France"

Influenza related topics presented were

"The otolaryngological features of the Influenza epidemic at Camp Hancock, Augusta, Georgia, September-December 1918"

"Hemorrhage in epidemic Influenza"

"Report of a case of Influenza, otitis media suppurative, acute right side: Tonsillitis hypertrophic, chronic, bilateral, Streptococcus type"

Despite these Earth-shattering events, I was drawn to a paper by Norval H. Pierce MD on "Leucoplakia Laryngis," which summarized 2 cases presenting with hoarseness. The writing style was so colorful, it warrants some excerpts:

"Keratosis as it affects the larynx is most frequently limited to the region when pavement epithelium forms normal covering, namely, the interarytenoid space over the vocal processes and is then most commonly known a pachydermia larynges. However, the disease does rarely appear in regions when cylindrical epithelium is the normal covering, namely, in the upper surface of the vocal cords."

Case 2 "used tobacco and spirits liberally...The mucosa over vocal processes was thickened and of a bird color... After some months' stay in California, he returned [with] dyspnoea on exertions. The laryngoscope disclosed two tissues replacing the vocal cords with coarsely granular surfaces, pinkish white in color, and so large as to leave only a small chink between them in the middle line." The patient was treated with a tracheotomy, laryngofissure confirming it's "non-malignancy," and "Radium was placed in direct contact with the cut surfaces within the larynx on several days, after which the larynx was closed. The man has no recurrence after a year."

We're very fortunate to live in our time, having lived through wars without mass conscription, and a pandemic with far less impact (fewer than 4 million deaths globally), noting a vaccine developed and deployed in a record-breaking 9 months. Based on the circumstances in 1919, I have the highest admiration of our predecessor's professionalism, courtesy to each other during the recorded discussions, and relatively advanced understanding of diseases such as Leukoplakia at the infancy of medical technology.



IN MEMORIAM

Since our last newsletter, the Council was notified of the passing of several Fellows who had an impact on the Association, whether serving in an official capacity or providing dedication to the ALA's mission. We recognize these Fellows and extend our sincere condolences to each family. To view the complete obituary of each, please hold down "ctrl" and click on the individual link in the paragraph.

CLARENCE T. SASAKI, MD

On February, 4, 2021, we were notified of the passing of Dr. Sasaki. Inducted as an Active Fellow more than 40 years ago, Dr. Sasaki served on the Council for eight years and was elected as President in 2012. After receiving his medical degree from Yale University School of Medicine in 1966, he served in the US Army Medical Corp during the Vietnam Conflict. In 1973 upon completion of his residency at Yale, he would remain there for the duration of his career with 30 years as Chief of Otolaryngology. To review Dr. Sasaki's numerous accomplishments, [click here](#).

DONALD P. VRABEC, MD

Dr. Vrabec joined the faculty at Geisinger Medical Center in 1984 until his retirement in 2000. During his tenure, he was instrumental in establishing the House of Care which was renamed in his honor. Among the many accolades he received was the AAO-HNS 1996 Jerome Goldstein Public Service Award. Dr. Vrabec passed away on January 7, 2021 after an extended illness. You may view Dr. Vrabec's obituary by [clicking here](#).

GEORGE D. LYONS, MD

In July, 2020, we learned of the passing of Dr. Lyons, an Emeritus Fellow. Dr. Lyons became an Active Fellow in 1978 and was elevated to Emeritus status in 1993. For 25 years, he served as professor and department head of Otorhinolaryngology and Biocommunication at LSU. In addition to affiliation in the ALA, Dr. Lyons held membership in the TRIO, SUO, AAFPRS, and ABEA. To review other life accomplishments, please [click here](#).

BRUCE BENJAMIN, MD

Dr. Benjamin was inducted as a Corresponding Fellow in 1980 and after his retirement from patient care, he was elevated to Corresponding Emeritus in 2018. During his career, he was recognized for achievements in pediatric airways disease and laryngology for adults and children using telescopes including instruments he designed. One of the founding members of ASPORL (now ANSPIO) he served as its first president. In 2003, Dr. Benjamin was presented the Order of Australia for services to pediatric laryngology specifically airways diseases in children. Dr. Benjamin passed away on June 2, 2018. [Click here](#) to view his obituary

YASUSHI MURAKAMI, MD

Notification was received that Dr. Murakami passed away on April 30, 2020. Dr. Murakami was inducted as a Corresponding Fellow in 1985. He was a professor of Otolaryngology at the University of Kyoto School of Medicine in Japan. Dr. Murakami continued his support and always enjoyed attending the annual meeting until his health prevented him from doing so. Unfortunately, an official obituary was not located to allow us to submit one to the membership.

POST GRADUATE MEMBERS CORNER

A warm welcome to all the new post-graduate members inducted at COSM! We had a great 2021 virtual meeting including the PG highlight, “Tips for Completing your Trio Thesis: The path to ALA membership”. Dr. Dan Deschler, Triological Society Thesis Chair, joined to discuss thesis pathways and answer member questions. The topic appeared to be well received as nearly all of the 38 attendees stayed for the duration of the session.

In other news, the ALA-PG committee is continuing the mentorship match program. We are reaching out to everyone (especially new members) to highlight the mentorship program that the ALA has sponsored with great success over the last 8 years. For new members and those without an ALA mentor, this is a good opportunity to be paired with an ALA fellow mentor. The goal is to foster relationships that will help everyone thrive in their careers and lives outside of medicine, as well as navigating the path to becoming a full ALA Fellow.

Twelve new Post-Graduate members were introduced during the business meeting. We extend a warm welcome to Drs. Emily Ambrose, Neel Bhatt, Christopher Dwyer, Ashley O’Connell Ferster, Randal Holdgrad, Anne Hseu, Anthony Law, Andrea-Anne Leclerc, Benjamin Rubinstein, Andrew Tkaczuk, Andrew Vahabzadeh, and Naren Venkatesan.

We are elated to add new members (Drs. Sara Abu-Ghanem, Bill Gao, and Bobby Morrison) who join Drs. Matt Clary and Karla O’Dell to the Committee. Dr. Melin Tan, inducted as an Active Fellow, will join Drs. Mike Johns and Lee Akst as an advisor.

Please email Jim Daniero at jdaniero@virginia.edu if you’d like to join the 2021 ALA mentor-mentee match!

Finally, thank you to the post-graduate members that have contributed to Laryngology Curriculum topics and Patient Education Materials. The ALA continues to refine these resources to become the “go-to” location for trusted Laryngology content. Please visit the website, <https://alahns.org/research-education/laryngology-curriculum>.

Post-Graduate Membership Steering Committee

ChairpersonDr. James Daniero

Committee Members Drs. Sara Abu-Ghanem, Matt Clary, Bill Gao, Bobby Morrison and Karla O’Dell,

Advisors..... Drs. Michael M. Johns III , Lee Akst, MD and Melin Tan

Administrator.....Maxine Cunningham, MBA



Dates to Remember

- ◆ **2022 Annual Meeting**
 - ◇ Abstract Submission available on-line July 15-October 15, 2021
 - ◇ COSM — April 27-May 1, 2022, Dallas, TX
 - ⇒ ALA Annual Meeting April 28-April 30, 2022 in Dallas, TX

- ◆ **2022 Research Grant Application**
 - ◇ Letter of Intent Deadline—December 1, 2021
 - ◇ Application Submission Deadline—January 14, 2022

- ◆ **2023 Laryngology Match Program**
 - ◇ Match Opens—February 9, 2022

From the Secretary's Desk



There is a metaphor familiar to many of us in academic otolaryngology: Standing on the shoulders of giants.

I am humbled and honored to take on the role of your Secretary for the American Laryngological Association council. Due to the pandemic, the ALA council held positions for a year and Lucian Sulica, MD graciously added to his tenure as secretary. He leaves me a strong example to follow. I thank him for his service to the organization and for easing me into this role.

As we look to the future, I can almost guarantee the theme of 2021 and beyond will be 'emergence from the pandemic'. This past year has been challenging to say the least, but as an unforeseen benefit we have all innovated and honed new methods of academic communication and patient care. This year's COSM was a demonstration of our creativity and resilience. It was great success, and the ALA virtual meeting was exciting to attend—from the comfort of my desk in shorts and a tee shirt! As I look to next year's in-person meetings, I will be more formally attired but expect the content to be equally thought-provoking. The ALA annual meeting at COSM will again be three half days, beginning on Thursday and ending Saturday. I know our President, Clark Rosen, MD, has planned an exciting meeting. Please do not forget to send in your abstracts.

I look forward to re-kindling our in-person camaraderie and meeting face-to-face over the next year. I hope everyone has a relaxing summer.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joel Blumin', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Joel H. Blumin, MD
Secretary