



AMERICAN LARYNGOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Winter 2024 Newsletter

February 2024

Message from the President

Dear Fellows and Members,

I extend my sincere gratitude for the honor of serving as your President. My commitment remains devoted to fortifying the objectives and missions of our Association. Heartfelt thanks are due to our exceptional council members, and our esteemed administrator, Maxine Cunningham, for their unwavering support in championing the realization of our shared goals and responsibilities.

Our 145th Annual Meeting is scheduled in the vibrant city of Chicago from May 16th to May 18th. The Program Committee, composed of Jennifer Long, Nausheen Jamal, Anaïs Rameau, Sunil Verma, and VyVy Young, has curated a scientific program brimming with cutting-edge research and clinical updates. Plan to delve into sessions on Thursday, May 16, both morning and afternoon, and a morning session on Saturday, May 17. The collaborative efforts of the ALA in securing three scientific sessions at COSM was a noteworthy achievement, and I eagerly anticipate your attendance and support for each session. Kindly register for the meeting through the COSM website (www.COSM.md).

Our Association thrives on collaboration and engagement with other esteemed otolaryngologic societies. In the spirit of camaraderie, the Triological Society has extended a generous registration fee discount to our members for the TRIO meeting.

During the Annual Meeting, I will highlight the Legacy of the ALA, emphasizing opportunities to safeguard a robust legacy well into the foreseeable future. The State-of-the-Art lecturer is Ingo Titze, who will cover past and future of laryngeal research. The Baker lecturer is Debara Tucci, who will highlight the NIH pathways to grant funding.

The ongoing success of the 2024 ALA Development campaign is commendable. While we have received generous contributions from our members, we remain on the journey to amass a corpus of \$300,000, earmarked for a groundbreaking ALA laryngology research grant tailored for early investigators. Your support is crucial; consider donating through this PayPal link (<https://www.paypal.com/US/fundraiser/charity/2268037>). All contributors will be duly recognized at the annual meeting.

The future of our Association lies in the hands of our Post-Graduate Membership (PGM). The ALA Council has made it a priority to address the needs of our PGM, sponsoring activities such as the breakfast symposium and fostering scientific endeavors, exemplified by the PGM Best Paper award. Generous contributions towards long-term funding for these initiatives have been received, and I express my profound gratitude. Further details will be unveiled during the annual meeting.

Under the leadership of Vice-President Michael Johns, the ALA Strategic Review is well underway. Selected members have undergone personal interviews, and an email survey will be dispatched to all members. Your 100% participation is pivotal, ensuring that every voice is heard. Questions or recommendations regarding this initiative can be directed to me (dchhetri@ucla.edu), Michael Johns (Michael.Johns@med.usc.edu), or Secretary Joel Blumin (jblumin@mcw.edu) at your convenience.

The ALA was established to foster connections, forge new friendships, cultivate camaraderie, and advance the discourse on laryngology. Let us unite to perpetuate our robust legacy, and I eagerly look forward to our meeting in Chicago this May.

Best Regards,

Dinesh K. Chhetri, MD, FACS
ALA President



2024 Winter Council Meeting Recap

In his President's Message, Dr. Chhetri provided an update to the 145th Annual Meeting that is being held May 16 and 18, 2024, in Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Gerald Berke, a Professor and the founding Chair of UCLA's Department of Head and Neck Surgery, is an ALA past president and an avid supporter of the Association, will serve as the 2024 Guest of Honor. Seven individuals, Drs. Joel Blumin, Roger Crumley, Brad DeSilva, Shigeru Hirano, Nupur Kapoor Nerurkar, Maie St. John, and Steven Zeitels, will be awarded Presidential Citations in recognition of their influence in their careers and contributions to laryngology. Of the 134 abstracts submitted for consideration for podium presentations, 37 were selected with the remain 92 invited to presented as posters with five authors declining the offer. Each poster presenter will have the opportunity to participate in the ALA poster competition.

This will be the first occasion that the ALA meetings include a "GAP" that on Friday, May 17th. Our three half day sessions include both a morning and ana afternoon session on Thursday and a morning session on Saturday. As Dr. Chhetri stated in his message, the Triological Society and the ALA are collaborating and encouraging our Fellows to support the TRIO by registering and attending its session on Friday afternoon by offering a reduced registered fee of \$100. To register, please log in to the COSM website and follow the instructions.

The business meeting is scheduled for Thursday morning at 7:00 AM. Each member is encourage to attend to support the introduction of our new fellows and members and reports by Council officers.

Dr. Blumin reported that Dr. Young, as chair of the **Membership Committee**, submitted its report on the proposed candidates. Recommended for Active Fellowship are Drs. James Daniero, Pavan Mallur and Amy Rutt. Dr. Elizabeth DiRenzo application was approved for Associate Fellowship. Drs. Ihab Atallah and Kiminobu Sato were nominated for Corresponding Fellow. Fifteen nominees for Post Graduate membership were approved as will be introduced during the business meeting. The council approved Dr. Mark Persky's requests for elevation to Emeritus status.

Dr. Buckmire reported that the finances of the Association continues to be financially healthy including its investment growth. The Treasurer's efforts to eliminate delinquency among members' dues has been remarkable in that the delinquent balance is less that \$4 thousand. He happily reported that less than eight members are delinquent. If you are among those who have not remitted your annual dues prior to 2024 and require a duplicate invoice, please contact our administrator, Maxine Cunningham at maxine.c@comcast.net.

Dr. Kost continues to serve as the Editor. She reported the website's traffic continues to show a steady increase of visits. From an analytic standpoint, most of our visitors are still from the US, followed by China, India, and Canada. She also reported the addition of two laryngology fellowship programs that are now participating in the NRMP match. The Post-Graduate members are to be congratulated for their continuous efforts on the educational related information on the website. Pages visited most are Laryngology Fellowship Meetings, Find A Laryngologist, and Laryngology Curriculum. In order to access member's only link, it is vital that Fellows/Members have their username, usually your email address and have a specific password. In most cases, the username is the member's email address. Log on to <https://alahns.org/members-area/#myaccount> to request a temporary password or contact our Administrator, Maxine Cunningham, at maxine.c@comcast.net. Plans to create new pages/links, including a job poster page to the website are forthcoming.

Dr. Merati as the Historian expressed his appreciation to Ms. Cunningham for her assistance in following up with Dr. Bob Ossoff who has funded the new best paper award by a post-graduate member. Dr. Berke contributed funding for the PGM Breakfast Symposium that has seen its attendance increase over the past five years. Dr. Merati expressed an interest in seeking out other potential donors to sponsor other noteworthy awards or new research opportunities.

Ms. Cunningham reported the 2024 Sustainers Fund Campaign kicked off in late November with each Fellow/ Member being mailed a donor card. We continue to encourage you to make a tax-deductible contribution to this fund with donations accepted throughout the year. The link to donate is <https://www.paypal.com/US/fundraiser/charity/2268037>.

Research Grant Applications - With Dr. Mau joining the Council, Dr. Jennifer Long now serves as the Research Committee chairperson. Drs. Marshall Smith, David Francis, Alexander Hillel, and Anais Rameau joined her to review all research grant applications. Dr. Maul was appointed as the committee's liaison. Due to an earlier date for the Winter Council meeting, the application deadline had not occur. Announcement of grant funding awards will be announced during the Annual Meeting.

2024 President's Reception

On Thursday, May 16th, Dr. Chhetri's term, as the ALA President, will be honored at the 2024 President's Reception at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in the Plaza Ballroom. We invite you to join us as entertainment will be provided by one of Chicago's best known and recognized soft Jazz pianist and vocalist, Brian Eric Danzy. Mr. Danzy has previously provided the musical entertainment and was well-received.

Dr. Chhetri will recognize several attendees for their contributions to the ALA and laryngology. He will be presented the President's Medal, Watch and Past President's Pin. Historically, the recipients of the Newcomb Award and the deRoaldes Award remain confidential until they are announced during the reception. Join us as we introduce these 2024 awardees.

To purchase tickets for this event, please contact the ALA Administrator, Maxine Cunningham, at Maxine.c@comcast.net or by calling her at 615-812-6170. Tickets will become available for advanced purchase on February 29th through April 29th for \$110 for ALA members. Beginning on **April 30th**, the price will increase to \$125. We welcome our Non-ALA Member colleagues and hope you will also join us to celebrate Dr. Chhetri's term as president. You may purchase tickets during the same time period for \$125 until April 29th and \$150 effective **April 30th**. Please request a payment invoice for the purchase amount from our Administrator. Acceptable methods of payment are credit card (VISA, MasterCard or American Express) and banks drawn on United States banks.

Ballot for 2024 Candidates

A digital ballot for the 2024 candidates will be provided to eligible members (Active, Emeritus fellows) will be provided no later than April 10, 2024. In order to receive the digital ballot, a valid email address must be in your profile on the website. Please confirm your email address by logging into the **Members Portal at www.alahns.org/members-area/ and request a temporary password**. If you do not utilize email, please confirm your mailing address with the Administrator so a ballot book may be mailed to you. You may select one of the two methods but the digital is most preferred. Remember to vote, sign, and return your ballot no later than **April 25, 2024**. Ballots returned **incomplete and after April 25, 2024** will be considered invalid. Please read and follow the instructions on the first page of the ballot book.

2024 Nominating Committee

Chaired by Dr. Sulica, with members (Drs. Clark Rosen, Peak Woo, Nausheen Jamal, and Thomas Carroll) who met and reviewed candidates who were nominated by an Active Fellow or self-nominated. The report will be provided during the business meeting. The Council continues to encourage all Active Fellows to actively nominate another Active Fellow or themselves for a new Councilor-at-Large or one of the two positions of non-Council members for the 2025 nominating committee. If interested, you should submit your nominations to the Secretary, Dr. Blumin, directly or to the administrator by September 1,

Research Grant Funding

This year, the Council approved an increase for the ALVRE Research Grant funding to \$15,000 with the purpose of increasing the number of applications. Applications for both grants (ALVRE and Seymour Cohen, MD) are accepted annually. To be considered, you should submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) by December 1st of the year prior to funding. A completed application is due by the third Tuesday in January in the year funding is requested. Detailed information is located on the ALA website, www.alahns.org or by contacting our Administrator.

BECOMING A MANUSCRIPT REVIEWER

From the Associate Editors, Laryngoscope

Dear ALA Members,

As you know, all oral and poster presentations at ALA Meetings are required to submit a manuscript to the Laryngoscope by April 10, 2024. To maintain the high quality of peer review of these manuscripts, the Associate Editors for Laryngology and Bronchoesophagology will need your assistance in reviewing these articles. Your acceptance to review these manuscripts is very much appreciated and thank you for your generous contribution of time and expertise. To become a reviewer, please contact Ted Mau at ted.mau@utsouthwestern.edu

We look forward to seeing you in person at the 145^h Annual Meeting of our Association.

Joel Blumin, MD

Dinesh Chhetri, MD

Ted Mau, MD, PhD

2024 Council

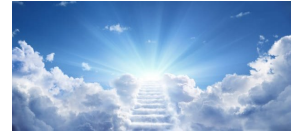
First Row (left to right): Dinesh Chhetri, President; Michael M. Johns III, Vice President/President-elect; Joel H. Blumin, Secretary; Robert Buckmire, Treasurer; Karen Kost, Editor; Albert Merati, Historian

Second Row (left to right): Paul W. Flint, First Councilor; Clark A. Rosen, Second Councilor; Lucian Sulica, Third Councilor; Ted Mau, Councilor-at-Large; Julina Ongkasuwan, Councilor-at-Large





Memorial Tribute



Since the conclusion of the Association's 2023 Annual Meeting, we learned of the passing of two Fellows. To honor their memory, a Moment of Silence to recognize their service to the Association will be led by Dr. Albert Merati. We ask that if you become aware that one of our invaluable Fellows passes away that you contact our Administrator so appropriate condolences may be extended to the family and notification is sent to our membership.

John N G. Evans, MD (September 12, 1934 – March 27, 2022)

The Association was notified after the conclusion of its 2023 Annual Meeting that one of our Corresponding Emeritus Fellows, John Noel Gleave Evans, MD, died peacefully at home on March 27, 2022 at the age of 87. In 1984, Dr. Evans was inducted as a Corresponding Fellow and elevated to emeritus status in 2019.

Dr. Evans enrolled at St Thomas' Hospital Medical School as a 1st MB student, in 1953, qualifying in 1959; however, in 1960, he began a Short Service Commission in the Royal Army Medical Corps for 3 years. Following his military service, Dr. Evans returned to St Thomas and after passing the Primary FRCS, was appointed ENT Registrar there. Dr. Evans was internationally renowned as a pediatric otolaryngologist after developing the innovative laryngotracheoplasty operation for pediatric subglottic stenosis that is still currently in use. At that time, he developed a close and enduring friendship with Dr. Robin Cotton.

In 1993, he was presented the ALA's prestigious Gabriel Tucker MD Award. He became President of the Section of Laryngology of the Royal Society of Medicine in 1993, and Master of the 10th British Academic Conference in Otolaryngology in 1999 that was followed by his retirement from clinical practice.

In 1960 John married Elizabeth Glascodine and became the parents to four children. Outside of patient care, they were known for their hospitality often entertaining friends and colleagues including his trainees. He was an avid windsurfer and enjoying his large garden. A towering figure in pediatric otolaryngology he was unassuming, approachable and always kind and supportive to colleagues starting out in this young subspecialty.

Eiji Yanagisawa, MD (May 12, 1930 – February 1, 2024)

We received notification of the passing of Dr. Eiji Yanagisawa on February 1, 2024 at the age of 93. Dr. Yanagisawa was inducted as an Active Fellow in 1981 and elevated to Emeritus 2013.

Born in Yokohama, Japan, he immigrated to the United States in 1956, where he embarked on a remarkable journey led by inspiration and determination. His extraordinary career in otolaryngology had its beginning at the Nihon University School of Medicine in Japan that was followed by a residency under Dr. John A. Kirchner. On a Fulbright Scholarship, he completed an Otolaryngology residency and graduated in 1959 from Yale University. Retiring at the age of 83 years, with more than 53 years of practicing, he provided positive influencing to a myriad number of patients, physicians, and friends around the globe. Dr. Yanagisawa was an influencer in training and developing more than 100 Yale residents during his fifty-year practice. He was recognized nationally and internationally for his clinical work and clinical research.

When he wasn't taking care of his patients or training residents, Dr. Yanagisawa was an avid lifelong fan of the New York Mets and UConn basketball teams. He also found time in the tranquility and serenity of the Japanese Garden that he designed and built in his backyard in 1973. Noted for always having his 35mm camera, Dr. Yanagisawa used it to capture beautiful nature photographs and fantastic moments and memories, especially those of his water lilies.

Active in the several professional organizations where Dr. Yanagisawa served, he was presented numerous honors including the ABEA's Chevalier Jackson Award; Presidential Citations from the AOS; ALA (twice), Trio Society, and AAO-HNS. He was selected as the ABEA President, Vice President of the Eastern Section of the Triological Society, and President of the New England Otolaryngological Society. Additional honors included a Lifetime Achievement Awards from AAO-HNS and the Pulitzer Society.

In 1960, Dr. Yanagisawa married his loving wife, June, who passed away in 2017 after 57 years of marriage. A devoted father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, he is survived by his four children, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Dr. Yanagisawa was kind, gentle, and compassionate to every person he interacted with, and served as a masterful mentor and brilliant instructor, teaching the intricacies and nuances of effective medical and surgical care of patients. Due to his excellence in nearly all facets of Otolaryngology, many referred to him as a "Renaissance Man" which is an absolute fitting name.

Post –Graduate Members’ Corner

We hope 2024 is already off to an excellent start! We are excited to share the most recent post-graduate membership (PGM) updates and exciting opportunities available. With a vibrant post-graduate membership, we can ensure a sound future for our subspecialty. To that end, please join me in congratulating our newest post-graduate members and those that have moved up to become Active Fellows in the ALA.

Through the leadership of the ALA Council and the robust activities of this organization, the PG membership has grown over the past ten years from 63 in 2014 to 122 in 2024. Since 2014, 39 post-graduate members have been inducted as Active Fellow status in the ALA.

We have a number of exciting opportunities this year that are outlined below.

- **Post-Graduate to Active Fellow mentorship match** – Each year we continue to match ALL post-graduate members with an Active ALA Fellow to encourage career development opportunities. We currently have 62 active mentor-mentee pairs. Mentorship pairs for the 2023 ALA-PGM inductees will be announced soon in a separate communication before COSM. Members that have engaged with their mentors through this program have found it an extremely valuable resource for career development. Take the opportunity to engage with your mentor at the upcoming COSM meeting in Chicago or set up a time virtually to gain the most from this process.
- **Post-Graduate Members Symposium** – We are excited to continue the annual ALA-PG Members Symposium during COSM 2024 in Chicago. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Gerald Berke, a past president, has agreed to sponsor the Symposium with a generous gift. In appreciation of this gift, the Symposium will be named the Gerald S. Berke, MD Post-Graduate Breakfast Symposium. This year’s topic will be **“Things I Do Now that I Taught Myself - Surgical/Clinical Innovation and Practice Evolution”**. We have assembled four outstanding laryngologists who will share their experiences with you in a variety of sub-topics. More details to come regarding the Symposium that will be held during on Saturday morning, May 18th at 7:00 AM in the Ballroom CD at the Hyatt. If there are any future topics of particular interest, please let Bill Gao know (william.gao@bsd.uchicago.edu).
- **ALA-PGM Scientific Presentation Award** – The PGM group has energized our development campaigns like few other areas of our ALA. I am extremely please to announce that Dr. Robert Ossoff, another of our past presidents, has pledged a generous gift to our ALA to support a “Best Paper” award submitted by a PGM member at each year’s meeting. Dr. Ossoff was instrumental in establishing this category to encourage fellowship trainees to become involved with the ALA prior to becoming an Active or Corresponding Fellow. This award, the Robert H. Ossoff DMD, MD Best Paper by a Post-Graduate Member Award, is established to encourage and reward post-graduate member participation in the scientific program during the annual meeting. The inaugural winner in 2022 was Rupali Shah, MD (University of North Carolina) and last year’s winner was Neel Bhatt, MD (University of Washington).

We are grateful to Drs. Berke and Ossoff for their investments that will ensure growth in the Post-Graduate Membership category for many years.

Laryngology Fellows Online Curriculum - Video recordings of these proceedings from 2020 through February 2022 have been uploaded to the ALA website. These can be accessed through the online members only portal. We will continue to update this multi-institutional educational content relevant to early career laryngologists.

The ALA Post-Graduate Committee would like to thank you all for engaging in these activities. We are glad to have the support of ALA Council and be able to offer these opportunities supporting your professional development and ensuring a bright future for our specialty.

Best Regards,

Post-Graduate Membership Committee

ChairpersonWilliam Gao, MD; James Daniero, MD (outgoing)

Committee Members Matt Clary, MD; Sara Abu Ghanem, MD; Karla O'Dell, MD; Robert Morrison, MD;
Sarah Rapoport, MD; Yin Yiu, MD

2023 Annual Meeting—Photos



REMINDER— 2025 Nominating Committee

This Committee will be chaired by Dr. Dinesh Chhetri as the Immediate Past President . If you wish to become a nominee or nominate an Active Fellow for the Council position or one of the two non-Council member positions for the Nominating Committee, please submit your nominations to the Secretary, Dr. Blumin, directly or to the administrator at maxine.c@comcast.net by September 1, 2024.

From the Desk of the Secretary



The ALA council has been busy this year. We are initiating a large strategic planning project utilizing the service of a professional consultant to evaluate our organization and re-think our mission and goals. For this, we will rely on our members for necessary feedback. It appears the last time the association completed a similar undertaking was in 1994 and at thirty years, it's time for critical self-evaluation as well as dynamic invigoration. Please be sure to look out for notices and questions and do your best to answer queries. We want this organization to serve our membership optimally, meet our contemporary requirements, and be the best it can be.

As ALA secretary, I have the privilege to represent you on the Secretaries Liaison Committee (SLC) for COSM. This group helps oversee and organize everything that occurs during COSM. One of the ongoing topics that was discussed intently this year was that of when the different societies meet during the COSM week. In the spirit of equity, a compromise was made to have a six-year cycle where each society would meet at the beginning of the COSM week once every six years, and then rotate towards the end of the week after that. This plan was unanimously approved. Over the next decade, you'll see some variation in how the meeting week looks for the different societies. The ALA and ABEA meetings will remain coordinated with each other, and I must give a big shout out to Maggie Kuhn, MD, secretary of the ABEA, whose collaboration was integral to this outcome.

Again, I look forward to our annual meeting at COSM. I see we have a fantastic program scheduled and the program committee under the leadership of Jennifer Long, MD, PhD, has organized an exciting mix of keynotes, paper presentations, and panels. I encourage you to attend!

Please also make time to come to the social events, including the President's reception, to celebrate the fellowship of the ALA. See you all in Chicago!

Kind regards,

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

Joel H. Blumin, MD, FACS