



ALA

American Laryngological Association

Summer 2024 Newsletter

2024-2025 Council

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Third Councilor

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Councilors-At-Large

Julina Ongkasuwan, MD

Tanya K. Meyer, MD, MS

Administrator

Maxine Cunningham, MBA

A Message from the President

Dear ALA Community,

I am honored and delighted to serve all of you as the 143rd President of the American Laryngological Association. My formative memories of the ALA date back to the late 1970s and 1980s at the Combined Otolaryngology Spring Meeting held at the famous Breakers Hotel in Palm Beach. My dad would bring the whole family down for the week as a spring vacation and, in my dad's Assistant/Associate Professor years, we would typically stay at the Holiday Inn up the road. While my dad was at the meeting, the rest of us had a ball missing school, sitting by the pool, swimming in the ocean, and hanging out with the rest of the families at the meeting. I remember running around the Breakers Hotel with Bobby Cantrell and Zander Rice having lots of energy, buying things from the gift shop "on the room tab" and occasionally causing other minor trouble, like the time we started a small food fight in the "Kids Room" at the ALA Black-Tie formal. However, what I recall most from these early memories is the sense of community and engagement that was evident in everyone at the meeting.

I had no idea what the ALA was about or even what laryngology was at the time. I didn't know that my professional journey would lead to otolaryngology, then academic laryngology, and ultimately president of the ALA, but it was clear to me that the community of the ALA was positive, impactful, and something people aspire to join. The seed was planted early in me, and I am truly humbled to serve as ALA president this year. *(continued on page 2)*

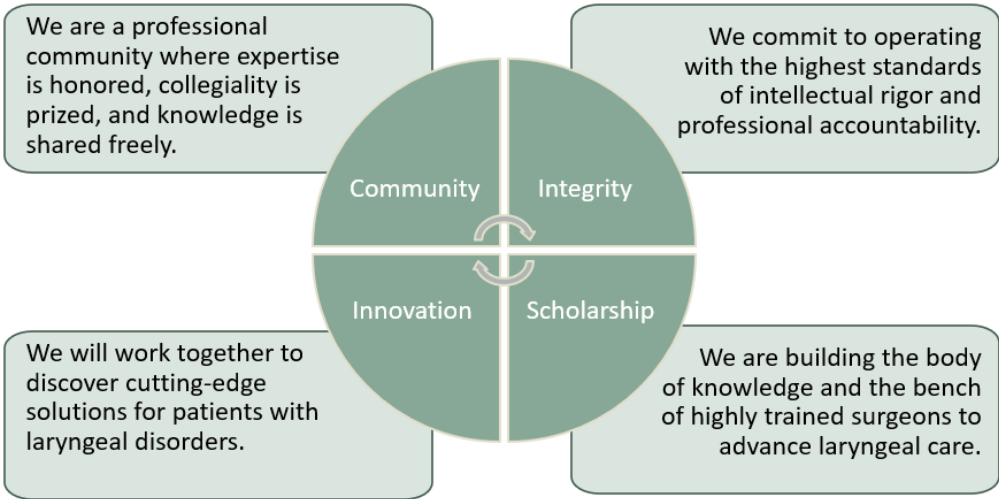


I would like to thank our ALA past President, Dr. Dinesh Chhetri, for an exceptional year and a great ALA meeting led by this past year’s Program Chair, Dr. Jennifer Long alongside Program Committee Members. Anaïs Rameau, Sunil Verma, Nausheen Jamal, and VyVy Young. We enjoyed a rich mix of content showcasing the latest advances from our ALA community. From foundational science to clinical application, the importance of scholarship as a core value of the ALA has shone brightly. Furthermore, Dr. Chhetri launched a new ALA grant to be awarded annually to support our Post Graduate Members early research

“ We have refreshed our mission and vision, developed core values, and have defined four broad goals to guide our work over the next several years.”

I seek to build on our strong momentum and help steer the ALA forward positively into the future. As I mentioned at the close of the 2024 meeting, the ALA Council has initiated a professionally led strategic planning process for our organization. Stakeholder interviews, an organizational benchmarking exercise, and subsequent survey of the membership greatly informed the council for a productive strategic planning day that was held prior to the opening of this year’s ALA meeting. The ALA Council has been working hard to finalize the new strategic framework and its specific initiatives. Through this process, we have refreshed our mission and vision, developed core values, and have defined four broad goals to guide our work over the next several years. I am pleased to share a snapshot today and the full finalized strategic framework will be shared soon.

CORE VALUES



STRATEGIC PLAN FRAMEWORK: Mission, Vision, Strategic Priorities, Values

MISSION STATEMENT

ALA is a scholarly organization that elevates the practice of laryngology through education, training, and innovation.

VISION STATEMENT

We will build a dynamic community of experts working together to advance the care of individuals with laryngeal disorders.

GOALS

GOAL 1:

Enhance ALA's value to members.

GOAL 2:

Foster the next generation of leading laryngologists.

GOAL 3:

Position ALA as the premier platform for intellectual work in laryngology.

GOAL 4:

Create a culture of inclusivity and engagement.

CORE VALUES

Community, Integrity, Scholarship, Innovation



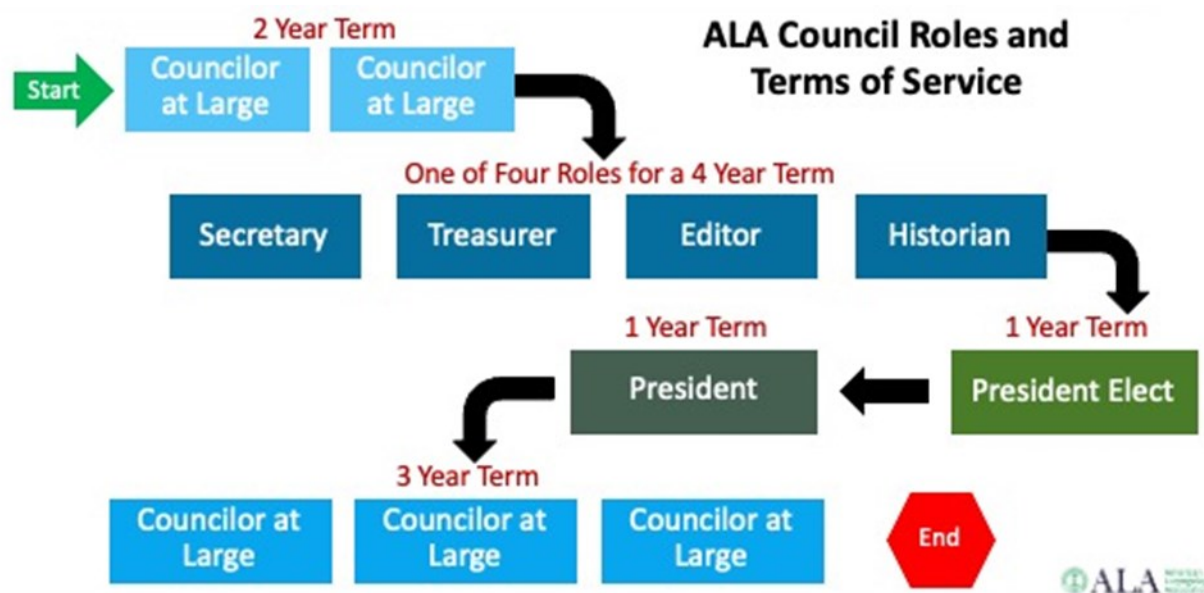
GOALS AND SUPPORTING STRATEGIES

GOAL 1: Enhance ALA's value to members.	GOAL 2: Foster the next generation of leading laryngologists.	GOAL 3: Position ALA as the premier platform for intellectual work in laryngology.	GOAL 4: Create a culture of inclusivity and engagement.
STRATEGIES			
1.1: Represent the laryngology subspecialty in policy, payment and research decision-making.	2.1: Assume a leadership role in setting standards for laryngology fellowships.	3.1: Broaden research funding opportunities.	4.1: Increase transparency and broaden opportunities to serve in leadership.
1.2: Significantly increase opportunities for member participation.	2.2: Expand opportunities to ascend to active fellowship while maintaining rigorous standards.	3.2: Field a research collaborative to support early career investigators.	4.2: Deliberately and decisively commit to include women and those underrepresented in medicine at all levels of the organization.
1.3: Develop a robust approach to communication and outreach.	2.3: Enhance the structure of the current mentorship program.	3.3: Provide curated educational content for practicing laryngologists.	4.3: Clearly articulate ALA's leadership and governance structure.



“Expect many more opportunities to engage with the ALA with expanded and newly created committees and increased transparency.”

To achieve each of these goals, we have outlined priority initiatives that are actionable and attainable. Expect many more opportunities to engage with the ALA with expanded and newly created committees and increased transparency. Towards the latter, I would like to encourage you to take another look at Dr. Clark Rosen’s president’s message from the [2021 ALA summer newsletter](https://alahns.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/2021-Summer-Newsletter.pdf) [<https://alahns.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/2021-Summer-Newsletter.pdf>] now presented visually.



Let’s get charged up for a great year. Abstract submission for the 2025 meeting in New Orleans will open soon. The program committee is currently being assembled. Expect a healthy mix of your high-quality scholarly work, clinical advancements, engaging panels, and featured speakers. New committees and committee appointments will be announced shortly. ALA member applications are being accepted and are due on the third Monday in September. Nominations for the next ALA Councilor are open. Submit your nominations (self-nominations accepted) to Maxine Cunningham at maxine.c@comcast.net.

Thank you for entrusting me with the privilege of serving as your ALA president. Know that I will work hard, honestly, and transparently to help make the American Laryngological Association stronger and stronger.

Warm regards,
Mike

Michael M Johns, MD
ALA President 2024 - 2025

Welcome 2024 New ALA Fellows

Four new Active, one Associate, and two Corresponding (International) Fellows were inducted into the Association on the morning of Thursday, May 16, 2024 during the business meeting at the Annual Meeting in Chicago. Congratulations and we look forward to their contributions in the coming years!



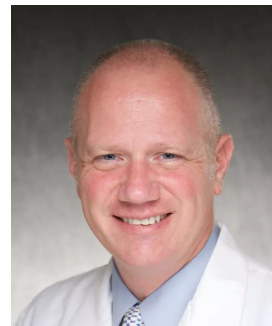
Active
James Daniero, MD
University of Virginia



Active
Pavan Mallur, MD
Beth Israel Deaconess/
Harvard



Active
Amy Rutt, DO
Mayo Jacksonville



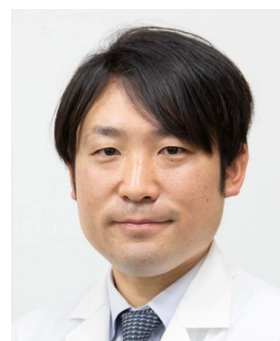
Active
Douglas Van Daele, MD
University of Iowa



Associate
Elizabeth Erickson-DiRenzo, PhD
Stanford



**Corresponding
(International)**
Ihab Atallah, MD-PhD
Université Grenoble Alpes



**Corresponding
(International)**
Kiminobu Sato, MD PhD
Kurume University

2024 ALA Annual Meeting Recap—Chicago, IL

President Dr. Chhetri opened the program by presenting Dr. **Gerald Berke** with the ALA Guest of Honor award and gave his presidential address on “**Continuing the Legacy of the ALA**”, into which he artfully weaved recognitions of the recipients of the Presidential Citations: Drs. **Joel Blumin, Roger Crumley, Brad DeSilva, Shigeru Hirano, Nupur Kapoor Nerurkar, Maie St. John, and Steven Zeitels**. Dr. Chhetri acknowledged the legacy of the ALA for which he has become a part of at UCLA, which produced ALA Presidents Gerald Berke (2002), Paul Ward (1995), and Joel Pressman (1966).

Dr. Chhetri unveiled two exciting initiatives he championed during his presidency for the benefit of the Post-Graduate Members. A generous endowment from Dr. Berke will sustain the ongoing endeavors of the Post-Graduate Member Breakfast Symposium at the annual meetings, and a new research award has been established specifically for principal investigators who are Post-Graduate Members.

Dr. Chhetri recognized the Program Committee, chaired by Dr. **Jennifer Long** and consisting of Drs. **Anaïs Rameau, Sunil Verma, Nausheen Jamal, and VyVy Young**, for their exemplary work in crafting an outstanding program of 38 podium and 76 poster presentations. The first session concluded with a stimulating and timely panel on “**Artificial Intelligence in Laryngology**”, moderated by Dr. **Anaïs Rameau** with presentations by Drs. **Yael Bensoussan** and **Anthony Law**.

The American Laryngological Association Award was presented to Dr. **Chuck Ford**. Dr. **Ingo Titze** gave the State-of-the-Art Lecture on “**Discovering the Amazing Physical Phenomena in Laryngeal Sound Production: Successes and Challenges**” and put forth a new proposal for how the vocal fold epithelium may play a role in phonation at high soprano frequencies. Dr. **Jennifer Long** moderated a panel on **Laryngeal Reinnervation**, from which we learned about the

(continued from page 5)

frontier in pediatric and adult reinnervation from Drs. **Julina Ongkasuwan**, **Marshall Smith**, **Gerald Berke**, and **Alexander Gelbard**. Dr. **Bonnie Martin-Harris**, a renowned expert in dysphagia research, gave an outstanding lecture on **“Resetting Respiratory-Swallowing Coordination: Impact on Laryngeal Biomechanics and Airway Protection”** for the Neurology Study Group.

In the third and final session, Dr. **Sunil Verma** moderated a panel on **Career Pathways for Laryngologists Outside of the Operating Room**. Dr. Verma and panelists Drs. **Nausheen Jamal**, **James Daniero**, **Stacey Halum**, and **Inna Husain** shared their experience and perspectives on career pathways that included health system administration, medical school administration, entrepreneurship, bench research alongside a private voice practice, and leveraging social media to develop a clinical practice. Finally, Dr. **Debara Tucci**, Director of the NIDCD, gave the much anticipated Daniel C. Baker Jr. Lecture on current efforts at the NIDCD to enhance **Career Development for the Otolaryngologist-Surgeon-Scientist**.



Announcements

Nominations for Council and Nominating Committee

Active Fellows are invited to propose candidates for the Councilor-at-Large position on the Council and two positions on the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee is made up of three past ALA presidents and two Members-at-Large. The Committee is charged with vetting candidates and eventually nominating Active Fellows to these three positions. The 2024-25 Committee is chaired by Dr. Chhetri, with Drs. Lucian Sulica, Blake Simpson, Alexander Hillel, and Laura Matrk as members. Interested Active Fellows may self-propose their candidacy to the Committee. Please submit your proposals to the ALA Secretary (Ted Mau ted.mau@utsouthwestern.edu) or the Administrator (Maxine maxine.c@comcast.net) by October 1, 2024.

ALA Research Grants

With the addition of the Post-Graduate Member Research Grant, the ALA now offers three mechanisms for research funding, each offering a one-year, \$15,000 award. Early career investigators and laryngology fellows with research proposals with good scientific potential for future NIH funding are particularly encouraged to apply. Details are at <https://alahns.org/research-education/ala-research-grants/>. The deadline to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) is December 1, 2024, with application submission deadline January 16, 2025.



The ALA has partnered with **stroboscopy.org**, a non-profit organization started by a group of early career laryngologists who have created an outstanding repository of laryngeal stroboscopic videos as an educational resource for residents, fellows, and anyone interested in learning about laryngeal videostroboscopy. Please visit the website <https://stroboscopy.org> to simply browse or contribute your own videos.

ALA Post-Graduate Members Corner

Dear ALA Fellows and Post-Graduate Members,

This year's ALA meeting at COSM in Chicago provided a great platform for bringing together members to share the latest research developments, partake in lively discussions, and meet new colleagues in our field. In this edition of the *ALA PGM Corner*, we'll recap some of the essential updates. Whether you attended in person or are catching up, we're excited to share highlights from the meeting.



Post-Graduate Member to Fellow Mentorship Match

Each year, we're excited to match all newly inducted post-grad members with an active ALA fellow. This past year, we had a record 15 new PG members matched with fellow mentors! If you were not able to connect at COSM, we encourage mentees and mentors to reach out to meet virtually as these relationships are invaluable for sharing perspectives and helpful insights on career paths, research, and life in general. Yin Yiu (yuiu@houstonmethodist.org) and Bill Gao (williamgao@uchicago.edu) will be "running the match" again this upcoming year prior to COSM 2025 for the PG members newly inducted in Chicago so stay tuned. Please reach out to Maxine or either one of us if you need contact info about your mentor/mentee, or interested in re-engaging in the mentorship match.

"We encourage mentees and mentors to reach out to meet virtually as these relationships are invaluable for sharing perspectives and helpful insights on career paths, research, and life in general."

Gerald S. Berke, MD Post-Graduate Breakfast Symposium

- We are grateful for Dr. Berke's generous sponsorship of the annual PGM breakfast symposium, which was widely attended – thank you!
- This year's symposium included an insightful panel moderated by Dr. Bobby Morrison with panelists Drs. Milan Amin, Julina Ongkasuwan, and Blake Simpson sharing **"Things I Do Now that I Taught Myself - Surgical/Clinical Innovation and Practice Evolution"**.
- If you have ideas/topics you'd like to see for next year's symposium, please email Bill Gao (williamgao@uchicago.edu)!

Robert H. Ossoff, DMD, MD Post-Graduate Member Best Paper Award

- Now in its 3rd year, this award was initially established by Dr. Peak Woo in 2022 and graciously extended with a generous donation from Dr. Ossoff for perpetuity in order to encourage and acknowledge PG members for their scientific contributions to the program
- Dr. Yael Bensoussan was recognized with the award at COSM for her work on "The Bridge2AI-Voice App: Initial Feasibility Study of Voice Data Acquisition Through Mobile Health".
- She joins the ranks of previous award recipients Dr. Rupali Shah (2022) and Dr. Neel Bhatt (2023).

Thank you all for keeping the PGM section of ALA vibrant and helping advance the future of our field. Please share with us any ideas or programs you'd like to see sponsored by the PGM section. For those who can make it, we look forward to seeing you at the 146th ALA meeting in New Orleans.

Sincerely,
Bill Gao, MD
Chair, ALA PGM Steering Committee



Welcome Our New Council Member

Tanya Kim Meyer, MD was inducted as an Active Fellow in 2014 after active participation in the ALA post-graduate section. After graduating Magna Cum Laude from UCLA with a Bachelors of Science in Biochemistry, she pursued her medical degree from the University of California, San Diego. From there she completed 2 years of a general surgery residency at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, New York, going on to do a 2 year Research fellowship at the Lineberger Cancer Center at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and then completing her Otolaryngology residency at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. She studied with Andrew Blitzer, MD, DDS in Manhattan for her fellowship in Laryngology and Neurolaryngology.

Dr. Meyer is currently a Professor in the Department of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Washington in Seattle.

She has been the residency program director since 2015 and is dedicated to the education of her trainees. She has been recognized by multiple teaching awards for her enthusiastic support of resident education. Dr. Meyer has a comprehensive laryngology practice but is a known expert in management of neurolaryngological disorders. She has served on a variety of institutional and society committees and looks forward to representing the ALA membership as a Council member.

Thank You From The 2023-2024 Council

The 2024 Council would like to thank you for your continued support of this remarkable organization. In response to extensive feedback from ALA fellows, Post-Graduate Members, and others who have considered fellowship in the past or would like to do so in the future, the Council is working hard to finalize a Strategic Plan that will expand pathways to membership, increase engagement of current fellows/members, and enhance the value of ALA fellowship/membership. We look forward to your contribution in the ALA's evolution.



Top Row: Dinesh Chhetri, *President*; Michael M Johns III, *Vice President/President-Elect*; Joel Blumin, *Secretary*; Robert Buckmire, *Treasurer*; Karen Kost, *Editor*; Albert Merati, *Historian*

Bottom Row: Paul Flint, *First Councilor*; Clark Rosen, *Second Councilor*; Lucian Sulica, *Third Councilor*; Ted Mau, *Councilor-at-Large*; Julina Ongkasuwan, *Councilor-at-Large*