



ALA

American Laryngological Association

Summer 2025 Newsletter

2025-2026 Council

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President-Elect**

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Second Councilor

Dinesh K. Chhetri, MD

Third Councilor

Michael M. Johns III, MD

Councilors-At-Large

Tanya K. Meyer, MD, MS

James A. Burns, MD

Administrator

Maxine Cunningham, MBA

A Message from the President

Dear Fellows and Members of the American Laryngological Association,

I am humbled and honored to have the privilege to serve as the 144th president of this honorable Association. Sometime during my residency, about thirty or so years ago, I was talking to Dr. Berke (my chairman and future Fellowship mentor) in his office and found myself perusing certificates on his wall. When I asked what each of these meant, I clearly recall a pause and sense of pride as he described his membership in the American Laryngological Association. The ALA is a 'senior society', one whose membership is comprised of only those who have demonstrated significant and continued scholarship in laryngology. I later attended the annual meetings at COSM and with Dr. Berke's gracious invitation found myself at (maybe one of the last) black tie receptions. I remember feeling distinctly underdressed and out of place; for those of you who know me, it will come as no surprise that, to this day, I do not own a tuxedo. Thankfully, I did have a dark colored tie and brought an otherwise professional outfit besides my typical shorts and tee shirt. Despite my characteristic fashion faux pas, I was welcomed at the event and left with a sense that the ALA is much more than polished academic presentations and receptions. I enjoyed meeting many of the people and personalities behind the manuscripts and found them to be excellent colleagues and mentors in years to come. Like some of my predecessors in the president's role, I would have never predicted as I looked at that certificate on the wall that I would one day be part of this Association's leadership council, let alone president of the ALA.



Last year, the ALA council, under the leadership of our president Dr. Johns, underwent a comprehensive dive into the ALA's mission and what we seek for our future. This was accomplished with a high-quality, professionally managed strategic planning process. Throughout this, we engaged with and listened to our membership but also interviewed active non-member laryngologists and used this information to hone our vision in the coming years as the leading society of laryngology. We expanded our committee structure to have a meaningful impact on what is important to you, our members and community at large. We have created new committees in the following areas: membership outreach, education, partnerships, and oversight of training standards and leadership in laryngology fellowship programs. As president, I have the duty and privilege to populate the committees of the ALA with representatives from our broad membership. Many of you figuratively raised your hands in response to surveys at our recent meeting and asked to participate.

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I have selected from this pool for roles in these committees and beyond with attention to fill our workforce with those from a variety of levels of seniority and background. I look forward to all the good that you will do to make our organization successful in years to come.

Some presidents have had themes for their year and annual meeting. If I were to choose a theme that resonates with me, I think it should be *community*. In my mind, the ALA is and always has been a society of increasingly diverse individuals who, despite differences, look to better the world though laryngology and treatment of laryngological disorders. When I review the transactions of the ALA from generations before me, or when I reflect on that first black-tie dinner I attended, I can see that some of the details of what we discuss or do may change with the times, but our fellowship is an enduring theme that remains. Our camaraderie through the common thread of laryngology is one that I enjoy at the annual meeting but also year-round. Last year's meeting in New Orleans was fantastic under the leadership of Dr. O'Dell and the program committee. For our planned upcoming 147th annual meeting of the Association, I've chosen our program committee to be led by Dr. Bock. I look forward to another engaging and thought-provoking meeting and engagement with our community. I look forward to seeing everyone in Phoenix.

"In my mind, the ALA is and always has been a society of increasingly diverse individuals who, despite differences, look to better the world though laryngology and treatment of laryngological disorders. ."

(Don't forget to attend the President's reception. I still won't have a tux!)

Sincerely,

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

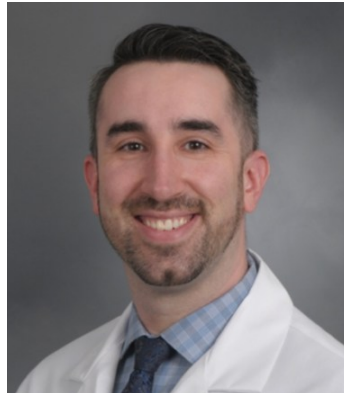
Joel H. Blumin, MD
ALA President 2025-2026

Welcome 2025 New ALA Fellows!

The Association welcomed six new Active Fellows and one International Fellow with their induction on May 17, 2025 during the business meeting in New Orleans. Congratulations and we look forward to their contributions in the coming years!



Jacqueline Allen, MBChB, MD
University of Auckland
International



Keith A. Chadwick, MD, MS
Stoney Brook University
Active



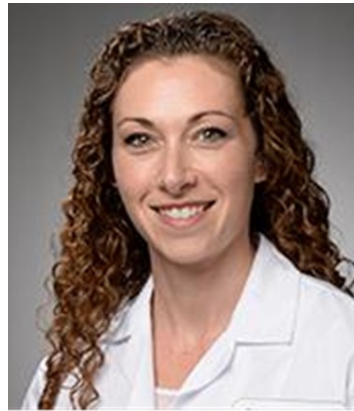
Rebecca J. Howell, MD
University of Cincinnati
Active



Jamie E. Moore, MD
Virginia Commonwealth Univ
Active



Matthew Naunheim, MD, MBA
MEEI/Harvard Medical School
Active



Lindsay Reder, MD
Kaiser Permanente
Active



David Rosow, MD
University of Miami
Active

Proposals for ALA Fellowship

Active Fellows are invited to propose candidates for fellowship (Active, International, Associate). The criteria for fellowship are detailed in the updated 2025 [ALA Bylaws](#). Please make sure the candidates have fulfilled the following eligibility criteria:

- Completion of otolaryngology residency in 2019 or earlier
- Attendance of at least three ALA annual meetings since 2019, and having served as author or co-author of at least one abstract accepted for presentation during that time (either podium or poster)
- Authorship of at least 10 peer-reviewed articles in recognized journals on topics related to laryngology.
- Fulfilling eligibility criteria does not guarantee Council nomination to advance to membership vote. Please see Guidelines on the last page of the [Fellowship Application](#).

Please submit your applications to the ALA Secretary (Ted Mau tedmau@stanford.edu) AND the Administrator (Maxine maxine.c@comcast.net) by September 1, 2025.

ALA Annual Meeting Recap —May 17-18, 2025, New Orleans, LA

President Michael M. Johns III began the meeting by introducing and paying tribute to his father, **Dr. Michael M. E. Johns** as his Guest of Honor. Dr. Johns Sr. spent two years after training at Walter Reed before becoming a faculty member at the University of Virginia. He went on to chair the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at Johns Hopkins and was then appointed as dean of the School of Medicine there. Following this he went on to become CEO of Emory Healthcare and the Executive Vice President of the Woodruff Health Sciences Center at Emory University. Over the course of his career, Dr. Johns held leadership positions in multiple professional organizations, (AHNS, ABOto and TRIO) and as the editor-in-chief of The Archives of Otolaryngology Journal. Dr. Johns III reflected how his father's profession and care of his patients instilled in him to follow that career path.

Presentations of the Presidential Citations were presented to individuals who were vital to his career growth while he was at Emory and his subsequent journey at the University of Southern California. He stated it was his honor to present this award to Drs. Jeanne Hatcher, Edie Hapner, Adam Klein, Karla O'Dell, Lindsay Reder, Elizabeth Schuman, and Lauren Timmon-Sund. Dr. Johns recognized the program committee, Dr. Odell, chair; Drs. Dale Ekbom, Alexander Gelbard, Adam Klein, Robbi Kupfer and Phillip Song for their dedication in curating cutting-edge research for the scientific sessions.



As the topic of his president's address, Dr. Johns spoke on **"Looking to the Future Together"**. Each half day session incorporated a panel discussion with topics that the program committee placed strategically in the session. Dr. David Lott moderated **"Laryngeal and Tracheal Transplantation"**, Part 1 of **"The Future is Now"** series, with panelists Drs. Marshall Strome, Martin Burchall and Eric Genden. Drs. Song and Vishwanatha Rao co-moderated the panel of Drs. Daniel Fink, Lindsay Reder and Kwang Sung for Part Two of **The Future is Now** with **"Are you Smarter than AI"** that incorporated audience participation. The first day's second session concluded with a stimulating and timely discussion on **"Laryngeal Trauma: A Case-Based Exploration of an Often-Overlooked Clinical Challenge"** with Dr. Gelbard as moderator and Drs. Guardiani, Dion and Daniero as panelists. This year's State-of-the-Art Lecture, "Playing Doctor: Lights, Camera, Action" was presented by Dr. Adam Rubin.

In the third and final session, Dr. Lesley Childs moderated the panel, **"25 Years of Office Based Laryngeal Procedures: What Have We Learned"**, with Drs. Amin, Woo, Howell, and Francis as panelists. Dr. Clark Rosen presented the Baker Lecture as he discussed **"Story Time: Key Moments in 30 Years of Laryngology."**

Awards were presented during the scientific sessions and at the President's Reception. The American Laryngological Association Award was presented to Dr. Gayle Woodson. The Gabriel Tucker award was presented to Dr. Karen Zur. Dr. Steven Sims was awarded the James Newcomb Award and Dr. Susan Thibeault was the recipient of the deRoaldes Award. For the Eugene N. Myers MD International Paper Award, Dr. Jeon Seong was the recipient;

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Dr. Susan Thibeault receiving the deRoaldes Award from Dr. Jennifer Long, Chair of the deRoaldes Award Committee and Chair of the ALA Research Committee, during the President's Reception.



Drs. Jeon Seong and Seong Keun Kwon of Korea receiving the Eugene N. Myers MD International Paper Award from Dr. Eugene Myers and Dr. Michael Johns III.

Dr. Matthew Naunheim was presented the Robert H. Ossoff DMD MD Best Paper by a Post-Graduate Member Award and The Casselberry Award was presented to Dr. Sheng Jie Ying for his manuscript. Dr. Pillutla received the Resident Research Award with the Young Faculty/Practitioner Award presented to Dr. Masayoshi Yoshimatsu.



Dr. Joel Blumin presenting presidential gifts to Dr. Johns.

2025 Council Spring Meeting Recap

President's Report—Dr. Johns provided an update to the Strategic Planning Initiative. He stated that the survey on Engagement Community received numerous responses where members indicated their willingness to serve on various committees. He encouraged each Councilor to look at the expanded and new committees that they are the liaisons for and think about how to expand the rosters to increase membership involvement.

Secretary's Report Dr. Mau reported that three requests for elevation to Emeritus status were submitted by Drs. Stephen Parnes, Randal Weber, and Joseph Kerschner. He shared that ACS has decided to sunset associations management of meetings and recommended a source to take over COSM. The COSM Secretaries Liaison Committee (SLC) will schedule a meeting to determine next steps. Dr. Brad Kesser was elected as the new SLC chair. COSM 2024 was successful financially, with each participating society receiving a distribution. Future COSM meetings will be held in Phoenix (2026) and Seattle (2027). Locations for 2028 were being considered. The implementation of the revised bylaws will become effect following the conclusion of the 2025 annual meeting.

Treasurer's Report Dr. Buckmire reported that the Association remains financially healthy, benefiting from a strong stock market performance in 2024. Delinquent dues were reviewed, with Council members asked to assist in follow-ups. Several delinquent members brought their membership current and Ms. Cunningham had a list of those registered for COSM and would reach out to them for payment.

Editor's Report Dr. Kost reported that the fellowship match for 2026 has 27 programs participating with 29 available positions. The activity on the website continues to increase especially in the category of visits.

Historian's Report Dr. Merati reviewed the 2025 Sustainers Fund campaign launched in December. He emphasized the importance of clearly communicating fund objectives to members. He also reported on the passing of several ALA Fellows and proposed incorporating memorial acknowledgments into the annual business meeting.

PGM Updates Dr. Bill Gao, the PGM Chair was invited to the Council meeting to provide an update of PGM activities. Dr. Gao reported that the mentorship program between active fellows and PGM members remains strong. A proposal was made to add an in-person mentorship event or online mentor profiles. Ten new post-graduate members were added to the roster. Ms. Cunningham was able to obtain a meeting room for the Symposium, sponsored by Dr. Berke, on Friday afternoon that featured a panel on surgical clinical innovation. Following the Symposium, a reception was held. Dr. Gao stated he was hopeful that Ms. Cunningham would be able to schedule timeslots and space in future years to increase attendance. Recipient of the 2025 PGM Best Paper Award, supported through Dr. Ossoff's generous ongoing sponsorship, would be announced during the scientific session.

Membership Committee Report Dr. Mau presented the committee's recommendations for new fellows and PGM candidates. Council discussed the bylaw revisions regarding membership qualifications and the application review process which will apply to the cycle beginning in September 2025. There was strong consensus that while the proposed bylaws revisions would remove the Trio thesis as an absolute requirement for Active Fellow, a high-quality Trio thesis is still the best mark for scholarship for ALA membership, and that the proposed new criteria represent considerations in an alternative pathway. The membership application deadline will be moved from the 3rd Monday in September to the 1st Monday to allow the Membership and Engagement Committee more time to review applications and to submit its report in late October so that the vetting of candidates could occur during the fall Council meeting.

ALA Post-Graduate Members Corner

The Post-Graduate Members steering committee is excited to provide the most recent updates and opportunities for its membership that continues to experience outstanding growth and has reached 109 members. Three of our members advanced to become ALA Active Fellows this year.



Post-Graduate Mentorship Program - Dr. Gao proposed semiannual meetings for the group to further clinical and scholarly advancement (with an emphasis on TRIO) in preparation for fellowship. New initiatives include encouraging joint attendance at business meetings and enhancing matching processes by providing mentor and mentee profiles in advance to better align individual preferences.

COSM Registration added a column for residents to indicate if they have an interest in a particular subspecialty. We will reach out to those who express an interest in laryngology and may invite them to the Symposium.

- The **Gerald S. Berke, MD Post-Graduate Symposium** featured a panel discussion, **“Exploring Pathways in Research: Getting Started, Finding Mentorship, and Synergizing”**, moderated by Dr. Sarah Rapoport with Drs. Rebecca Howell, Ted Mau, and Anaïs Rameau as panelists.
- ALA-PGM Best Paper Award— The **Robert H. Ossoff, DMD, MD Best Paper by a Post-Graduate Member Award** is to encourage and reward post-graduate member participation in the scientific program during the annual meeting. This year’s winner was Dr. Matthew Naunheim.

We extend our gratitude to Dr. Berke and Dr. Ossoff for their contributions, ensuing the growth of the post-graduate membership category for years to come. The ALA PGM Steering Committee appreciates your engagement in these activities. We are grateful for the support of the ALA Council and are excited for other opportunities, which support professional development and help secure a bright future for our specialty.

Please join me in congratulating our newest post-graduate members below!

Best Regards,

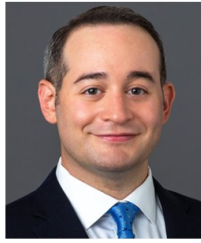
Bill Gao, MD
Chair, ALA PGM Steering Committee



Shumon Dhar, MD



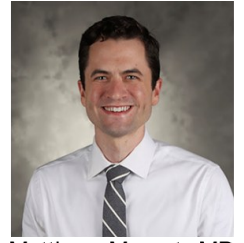
Kenji Kobayashi, MD



Adam Kravietz, MD, MPH



Benjamin Laitman, MD, PhD



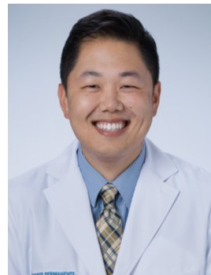
Matthew Marget, MD



Chloe Santa Maria, MD, MPH



Luba Soldatova, MD



Sungjin A. Song, MD



Neelaysh Vukkadala, MD



Xiao Mike Yang, MD

Advancing Research

Laryngology Research Collaborative (LRC)

One of the outcomes from the ALA Strategic Plan was creation of the Laryngology Research Collaborative (LRC), with its leadership drawn from the research committees of the ALA and the ABEA. The LRC held its inaugural meeting on Friday, May 16 at COSM. The agenda included a mock NIH study section discussion featuring mock reviewers Drs. David Francis, Stephanie Misono, and Zandy Hillel, followed by a 15-minute talk on the Importance of Advocacy especially for new grant reviewers. A roundtable discussion on “Struggles and Perspectives in Obtaining Funding” was moderated by Jennifer Long and Ted Mau and featured Drs. Stacey Halum, Jim Daniero, as well as NIH/NIDCD Council member Dr. Susan Thibeault. This outstanding group of NIH-funded laryngologists/voice scientists fielded questions from early-career clinician-scientists with a stimulating and informative conversation on research funding and career development. The LRC plans to meet at least yearly at COSM to support early career laryngologists and to serve as a platform for the community of research scientists in laryngology.

ALA Research Grants

The ALA now offers research funding awards through three mechanisms: the **ALA/ALVRE Research Grant**, the **Seymore R. Cohen Research Grant** (neurolaryngology or pediatric laryngology related), and the **ALA Post-Graduate Member Research Grant**. Each provides up to \$15,000 for a one-year, non-renewable award. The PGM Grant is awarded to a current PGM in good standing. Early career investigators with research proposals with good scientific potential for future NIH funding are particularly encouraged to apply for these awards.

The winners of the 2025 ALA Research Grants are:

ALA/ALVRE award: **Pranati Pillutla** *Characterizing the timeline of laryngeal denervation and reinnervation*

Seymour R. Cohen award: **Bharat Panuganti** *Assessment of safety and residence time of sustained-release triamcinolone formulation in PLGA microspheres in the rat subglottic submucosal compartment*

Post-Graduate Member award: **Benjamin Laitman** *Longitudinal histologic and multiomic examination of early fetal laryngeal development*

If interested, please submit a **Letter of Intent** no later than December 1, 2025 to maxine.c@comcast.net. The deadline to submit a completed application is January 16, 2026, and please email the application to both maxine.c@comcast.net and to Dr. Zandy Hillel (ahillel@jhmi.edu), Chair of the Research Advancement Committee. Additional details may be viewed at <https://alahns.org/research-education/ala-research-grants/>.

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 high-definition videos as an educational resource for residents, fellows, and any anyone interested in learning about the interpretation and analysis of laryngeal video stroboscopy.

This initiative is spearheaded by Drs. Shumon Dhar (ALA PGM), Bill Gao (ALA PGM), and Michael Orestes. They are supported by a team of section editors consisting of both early-career and senior laryngologists.

The atlas covers the entire breadth of laryngeal video stroboscopy, starting with variations of normal physiology followed by individual sections covering the entire spectrum of laryngeal pathology such as benign lesions, manifestations of systemic disease, malignancy, and pediatric voice disorders. **Stroboscopy.org** even has a section covering the variety of office procedures in laryngology.

Stroboscopy.org is comprised of videos submitted by members of the voice community, curated by a dedicated editorial board. The atlas will continue to grow and evolve as we seek to accumulate the largest collection of stroboscopy videos freely available to learners at any stage.

Please visit Stroboscopy.org to simply browse or contribute your own videos and encourage your trainees to do so. Authors of the top three 2025 submissions received complimentary registration to the ALA annual meeting in New Orleans: **Pratima Agarwal** (resident, Cleveland Clinic), **Isabela H. Schettini** (laryngology fellow, Brigham and Women's Hospital), and **Daniel Fink** (faculty, University of Colorado). Congratulations!

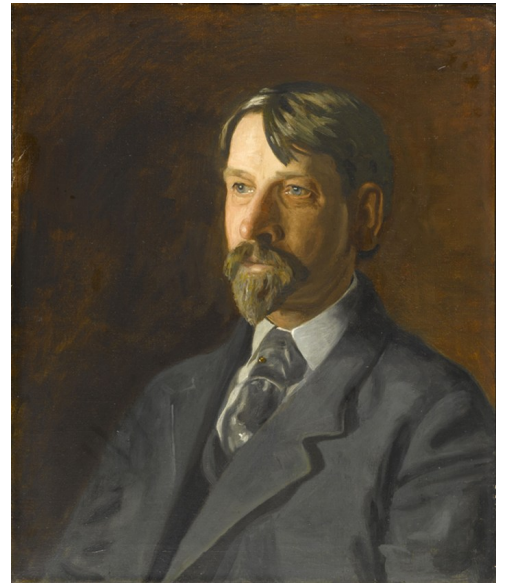


Historical Vignette

Albert Getchell, MD—American Laryngologist 1857-1950

By Edward J. Damrose, MD FACS

Albert Colby Getchell (1857-1950) was an early American laryngologist and member of the American Laryngological Association. Born in Waterville, Maine, he graduated from Jefferson Medical College in 1885 and established his medical practice in Worcester, MA. Dr. Getchell was an expert in tuberculosis and its laryngeal manifestations and complications. He performed the first adenoidectomy in Worcester and published his observations on the value of tonsillectomy to prevent complications of valvular heart disease.¹ He also published his observations on the clinical manifestations of “laryngeal vertigo”, what we know call “cough syncope”.² Interestingly, he may be most remembered for his portrait which resides in the North Carolina Museum of Modern Art (*right*). In 1907, he sat for the famous American painter Thomas Eakins, an artist known for his use of Realism in his work and who was a friend of Dr. Getchell’s wife, Edith Loring Peirce. Dr. Getchell was inducted into the American Laryngological Association this same year.



In 1885, Dr. Getchell received a pocket surgical case, likely in honor of academic accomplishments upon graduation from Jefferson Medical College. The case was produced by the surgical tool maker JH Gemrig & Son of Philadelphia. The case is interesting in that it provides a window into the typical surgical instruments a physician of that era would commonly use that could be carried in a coat pocket. The kit is incomplete, but carries space for 14 distinct instruments. JH Gemrig & Son manufactured surgical instruments from 1841 to 1881 and were major suppliers to the US Army during the Civil War. Typical instrument cases of this design included scalpels, bistouries (knives with a slender blade), gum lancets, tenaculums, wound probes, urinary catheters, scissors, directors, needles, and dressing forceps. Of the original instruments in the case, only the scalpel, tenaculum, urinary catheter, caustic dispenser, polypus forceps, needles and scissors remain.



Dr. Getchell's Pocket Case



Dr. Getchell's Pocket Case (Interior)

Acknowledgments: Thank you to Mr. Rafael Eledge of Shiloh Relics, for the courtesy of the use of his photographs above.

References

1. Getchell AC. XLII. The Relation of Enlarged Tonsils to Endocarditis. *Annals of Otology, Rhinology & Laryngology*. 1911;20(3):565-574.
2. Getchell AC. A Contribution to the Study of Laryngeal Vertigo. *Boston Med Surg J* 1896; 135:466-468.

Editor's Note: We thank Dr. Damrose for researching and contributing this vignette after acquiring a set of Dr. Getchell's surgical instruments earlier this year.



Welcome Our New Council Member

It is our distinct pleasure to introduce the newest Council Member, James (Jim) Burns, MD FACS, who is well recognized in the field. He has been an Active Fellow since 2011. After completing his undergraduate, medical school, and residency training at the University of Virginia, Jim served four years in the United States Air Force as medical director of the Otolaryngology service at Wright-Patterson AFB. Dr. Burns then completed fellowship training in laryngology at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. Currently Jim is a Professor in the Department of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery at Northwestern University in Chicago.

Dr. Burns has been an active participant at annual ALA meetings, serving as session moderator/discussant and panel moderator as well as representing the ALA on panels nationally and internationally. His service to the ALA includes participation on the Nominating Committee, chair of the Newcomb Award committee, ACS advisory council representative, and program chair for the 144th annual meeting. Believing the future of the ALA is the post-graduate membership, Jim is active as a mentor for that group and looks forward to his time on the council where he can promote opportunities for post-graduate members to excel academically and achieve active fellowship.

The ALA Council is made up of a diverse group of ALA Active Fellows who serve for approximately ten years. The highlight of their term is the position of President where initiatives to enhance the Association are implemented. With the approval of Council, these initiatives have created additional research funding, the creation of the Post-Graduate Membership category, the Sustainers Fund and updates to membership eligibility criteria.

With your support, the Council continues to seek avenues for growth in education, research, and improved healthcare support across our members' practices. We are deeply grateful for your ongoing commitment and engagement, which enables us to uphold the legacy of leadership our Association has embodied for the past 148 years.



First Row (Left to Right): Drs. Julina Ongkasuwan, Lucian Sulica, Michael Johns III, Joel Blumin, Karen Kost, Dinesh Chhetri
Back Row (Left to Right): Drs. Ted Mau, Albert Merati, Tanya Meyer, Clark Rosen, Robert Buckmire

In Appreciation

Each year, a Council Member completes their service and we honor that individual who has served for at least ten years. This year, it is one of our most esteemed Past Presidents, Dr. Clark A. Rosen. We have been graced with his dedication to the Association in his roles as Treasurer and President. During his year as president, he created an atmosphere for fun night at the President's Reception following the restart of COSM after the pandemic canceled two in-person meetings.

To Dr. Rosen, we express our sincere "Thank You" for all you brought to the Council!

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 upcoming Nominating Committee. Made up of three past ALA presidents and two Members-at-Large, the Committee is charged with vetting candidates and forwarding its recommendations to Council. The 2025-2026 Committee is chaired by Dr. Johns, with Drs. Dinesh Chhetri, Gaelyn Garrett, Amy Rutt and Phillip Song as members. Interested Active Fellows may self-propose their candidacy to the Committee. Please submit your proposals to the ALA Secretary (Ted Mau at tedmau@stanford.edu) and the Administrator (Maxine maxine.c@comcast.net) by October 1, 2025.