



ALA

American Laryngological Association

Winter 2026 Newsletter

2025-2026 Council

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A Message from the President

Dear Fellows and Members of the American Laryngological Association,

I hope everyone is having a happy 2026! The ALA Council and our committees have been busy over this past fall and winter. I'd like to congratulate our program committee for setting up what looks like to be a fantastic annual meeting this coming April in Phoenix, AZ. Your program committee this year includes Drs. Jonathan Bock (program chair), Thomas Carroll, Rebecca Howell, Keith Chadwick, Matthew Naunheim, and Ruth Davis. They had the opportunity to review a record number of submissions and have selected 43 presentations for the podium. There will be three panels, and these are going to be 1) **biological therapies in laryngology**, 2) **complex tracheostomy issues**, and 3) **reclaiming voice and airway in posterior glottic disorders**. The Daniel C Baker lecture will be delivered by **C. Gaelyn Garrett, MD MMHC** entitled, '**A Joyful Journey**'. The ALA State of the Art lecture will be delivered by **Nikki Johnston, PhD**, who will discuss where we are now in the basic and translational science of reflux disease and epithelial defense. Our meeting will occur over three half-day programs: Wednesday AM session, Thursday AM session, and Friday PM session, and I look forward to a fantastic annual meeting. Come in person, learn something, mingle with your colleagues, and celebrate the recipients of the 2026 American Laryngological Association Award, the Casselberry Award, the Young Faculty/Practitioner Award, the Robert H Ossoff, DMD, MD Post-Graduate Member Best Paper Award, the Resident Research Award, the Eugene N. Myers MD International Paper Award, and the Dysphonia International Travel Awards.



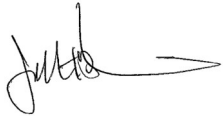
Your ALA committees have been quite productive these recent months. As you may recall, after our 2024 strategic planning we have expanded some of the committee structure and have been able to engage with our Fellows in what matters. As President, I have the privilege of participating with all our committees as an *ex officio* member, and I must say I have been impressed with how our community has taken the proverbial bull by the horns and are keeping our committees productive. Our Membership and Engagement Committee has reviewed and made recommendations for ALA membership that you will all see on upcoming ballots. While we are still evaluating all candidates with a standard of high scholarly engagement, some of the membership criteria have morphed so we can be inclusive of additional members with varied experiences, expertise, or backgrounds. Our Laryngology Fellowship Committee has been quite active and has been carefully evaluating, debating, and establishing Fellowship education goals amongst Fellowships who participate in the ALA Fellowship match. We are now enacting a pilot study to evaluate and manage these goals. Our Membership and Engagement Committee has also been involved in creating a joint program between the ALA and the ABEA called the BRIDGE Initiative (Bronchoesophagology & Laryngology Research, Innovation,

(continued from page 1)

Development, Guidance, Education) to establish an advisory network to support our community and harness the shared interests and goals of our organizations by fostering cross-disciplinary collaboration and breaking down any silos. I'm sure you'll see more communication regarding this group soon. I personally had the opportunity to represent the ALA at a summit for seventeen otolaryngologic specialty organizations to create a *One Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery* collaborative set to coordinate leadership across otolaryngologic organizations and enhance strategic impact. This group will focus on shared advocacy and policy efforts. The Education, Communication, and Outreach Committee has been focused on education products within laryngology, first directed to Fellows in laryngology, as well as the ALA collaboration with stroboscopy.org (check it out!). I am so excited about the engagement of our ALA community in these committees towards the advancement of our society and discipline.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Phoenix in April for the 147th meeting of the ALA at COSM 2026!

Sincerely,



Joel H. Blumin, MD
ALA President 2025-2026



	Wed April 22	Thur April 23	Fri April 24
early morning	ALA Business Mtg	ALA PGM Symposium	
AM	ALA	ALA	ABEA
PM	ABEA	ABEA	ALA
post-sessions	Neurolaryngology Study Group 5:00	poster receptions	Laryngology Research Collaborative 5:15
	President's Reception		

2026 President's Reception 7pm April 22, 2026

We invite you to join us in recognizing Dr. Blumin's term as the ALA President as he receives the President's Medal, Watch, and Past President's Pin. In addition to honoring Dr. Blumin, we will acknowledge recipients of the deRoaldes and Newcomb awards along with the Eugene N. Myer's MD International Award .

Phoenix is recognized as a vibrant sports city, home to several professional teams. It also boasts a rich and diverse music scene that reflects the breadth of its cultural influences. For entertainment and to highlight some of Dr. Blumin's favorite genres, entertainment will be provided by local artists. There will be a variety of cuisine offerings that you will thoroughly enjoy to enhance the evening.

Tickets are available for advanced purchase March 1st through March 20th for **\$115** for ALA members. Beginning on **April 1st**, the price will increase to **\$140**. To our Non-ALA Member colleagues, we hope you will also join us to celebrate Dr. Blumin's presidency and the growth of the ALA. You may purchase tickets during the same time period for **\$125** until April 30th and **\$150** effective **April 1st**.

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. 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 US bank check.

Rosemary Lester-Smith, PhD, CCC-SLP, Associate Professor in the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences at The University of Texas at Austin and the Director of the UT Voice Lab, will present a talk on “**Updates on interdisciplinary assessment and treatment of vocal tremor**”. Please join us!

2026 Winter Council Meeting Recap

President’s Report Dr. Blumin provided an update on the planning of the 147th Annual Meeting that will be held in Phoenix, Arizona in April. He will recognize **Dr. Gerald Berke** as his Guest of Honor. Again, a record number (187) of abstracts were submitted and approximately 40 have been selected for podium presentations. Dr. Blumin shared that the committees created within the Strategic Planning Process have played a pivotal role in providing additional opportunities for membership engagement. Dr. Blumin will present Presidential Citations to several colleagues and to our administrator to recognize her devotion to the Association.

Secretary’s Report Dr. Mau reported that we have nine candidates for active fellowship and fifteen for Post-Graduate Membership. The membership committee's report was previously reviewed at the fall Council meeting, and the candidate slate was unanimously approved. Dr. Brad Kesser assumed the reins as Chair of the COSM Secretaries Liaison Committee (SLC). Affinity Strategies has taken over COSM management from ACS after the latter discontinued its association management program in mid-2025.

Membership Update – Dr. Mau proposed a by-laws revision regarding the eligibility requirement for Post-Graduate Members due to the change in oral exam schedule as part of the certification by the ABOHNS, which delays the time to board certification following residency completion. He also suggested adding candidates’ personal statements to ballots for more informed voting. Dr. Mau will contact candidates to request consent to include their statements or provide revised versions for the ballot.

Treasurer’s Report Dr. Buckmire reported that the Association remains financially healthy, benefiting from a strong stock market performance in 2025. Delinquent dues were reviewed, with Council members asked to assist in follow-ups.

Editor’s Report Dr. Ongkasuwan reported the acceptance rate for podium presentations was higher than for posters, but both are strong. She reported discussion with Dr. Shumon Dhar, who co-leads Stroboscopy.org, on the consent process for video submissions to the website. Dr. Ongkasuwan also conveyed the progress made by the Education, Communication, and Outreach (ECO) Committee, particularly on efforts to engage current laryngology fellows.

Historian’s Report -Dr. Merati reviewed the 2026 Sustainers Fund campaign launched in December. He emphasized the importance of clearly communicating fund objectives to members. He also reported that he nor Ms. Cunningham had received notification of the passing of any members.

PGM Updates Dr. Bill Gao, the PGM Chair, was invited to report at the Council meeting. Dr. Gao informed Council that his term as PGM Chair was ending, and his committee has proposed Sarah Rapoport as a successor; she’s recognized for her communication skills and vision. They’ve coordinated with Maxine to schedule the PGM Symposium for Thursday April 23 at 6:30 AM, with the topic on starting and growing practice, with details arranged around logistics and timing. The group maintains an updated roster and seems to have a good selection process. The Council approved Sarah Rapoport as the new chair for the PGM Steering Committee.

Ballots for 2026 Candidates and By-laws Revision

The Association will provide the 2026 digital ballot of candidates and bylaws revision to eligible Fellows (Active, Emeritus) no later than March 1, 2026. 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**. **If you are unable to access your profile, you may 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 preferred. Remember to vote, sign, and return your ballot no later than **March 15, 2026**. Please read and follow the instructions on the first page of the ballot book.

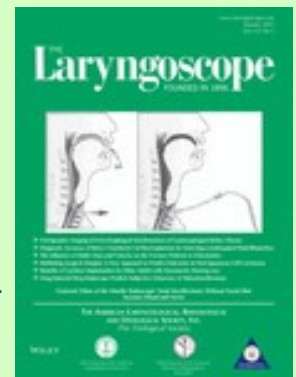
Our Administrator Maxine Cunningham can be reached at Maxine.c@comcast.net or by calling her at 615-812-6170.

Please Accept Manuscript Review Requests!

From The Associate Editors, *The Laryngoscope*

As you know, all oral and poster presentations at ALA Meetings are required to be accompanied by manuscript submission to *The Laryngoscope* by March 30, 2026. To maintain the high quality of peer review, the Associate Editors for Laryngology and Bronchoesophagology will need your assistance in reviewing these manuscripts. Your acceptance of review assignments is greatly appreciated, and thank you for your generous contribution of time and expertise. To become a reviewer, please contact thelaryngoscope@gmail.com

- Joel Blumin, MD, Dinesh Chhetri, MD, Julina Ongkasuwan, MD



Laryngology Research Collaborative

One of the major outcomes of the ALA Strategic Plan was to develop a Laryngology Research Collaborative (LRC). The mission of the LRC is to serve as an official platform for the community of clinician-scientists in laryngology to share ideas, support one another, develop the next generation of clinician-scientists in laryngology, and expand the cohort of NIH-funded laryngologists and laryngologists with extramural funding.

The first meeting of the LRC was held at COSM in New Orleans on May 16, 2025. The inaugural one-hour session led off with a mock study section review with panelists Dave Francis, Zandy Hillel, and Stephanie Misono, followed by a 15-minute talk by Ted Mau on the Importance of Advocacy in study sections, especially for new reviewers. A Round Table discussion on "Struggles and Perspectives in Obtaining Funding" then ensued, with discussants Susan Thibeault, Stacey Halum, and Jim Daniero. The meeting was well-attended and received positive feedback especially from junior laryngology investigators starting their research careers.

Starting 2026, the LRC will be part of the ABEA/ALA BRIDGE Initiative (Bronchoesophagology & Laryngology Research, Innovation, Development, Guidance, Education) to foster joint programs to support our memberships. The 2026 meeting will be held on **Friday, April 24 at 5:15 PM in Room 213AB in the Phoenix Convention Center**. There will be a round table discussion on **Multi-Institutional Studies in Laryngology**. We invite all laryngology researchers at any career stage to join us. If you would like to be added to a mailing list, please contact Jennifer Long (jlong@mednet.ucla.edu) or Ted Mau (tedmau@stanford.edu).

ALA Post-Graduate Members Corner

As we kick off 2026, we're excited to share the latest updates and opportunities for Post-Graduate members. This year, we continue to host several programs for our members as outlined below:



- ◆ **Post-Graduate Mentorship Program** – Each year, we continue to pair every new post-graduate member with an active ALA Fellow, fostering career development opportunities. The mentorship pairs for the 2026 ALA-PGM inductees will be announced in a separate communication before COSM. We encourage you to engage with your mentor at the upcoming COSM meeting in Phoenix or set up a virtual meeting to maximize this opportunity.
 - ◇ We plan to continue the initiative from last year to introduce post-graduate members to ALA association business. Mentors are asked to attend the ALA business meeting accompanying their mentee. Reminders and details to follow.
- ◆ **Post-Graduate Members Symposium** – We are excited to continue the annual ALA-PG Members Symposium during COSM 2026 in Phoenix AZ. The upcoming Gerald S. Berke, MD Post-Graduate Symposium will feature a panel focused on ***“Facets of Building a Clinical Practice Including Branding, Digital Marketing, Referral Networks, and Multidisciplinary Collaboration”***. More details will follow regarding the Symposium, which will take place on **Thursday, April 23rd at 6:45 AM**. If there are any specific topics you would like to see covered in future symposia, please forward to Bill Gao at william.gao@bsd.uchicago.edu.
- ◆ **ALA-PGM Best Paper Award** – The Robert H. Ossoff DMD, MD Best Paper by a Post-Graduate Member Award aims to encourage and reward post-graduate member participation in the scientific program during the annual meeting. This year's winner will be announced at COSM 2026. Past winners include:
 - ◇ 2022 - Rupali Shah, MD (University of North Carolina)
 - ◇ 2023 - Neel Bhatt, MD (University of Washington)
 - ◇ 2024 - Yael Bensoussan, MD (University of South Florida)
 - ◇ 2025 - Matthew Naunheim, MD, MBA (Harvard/Mass Eye and Ear)

We extend our gratitude to Dr. Berke and Dr. Ossoff for their contributions, sustaining the growth and mentorship of the post-graduate membership for years to come.

The ALA Post-Graduate Committee appreciates your engagement in our activities, which are offered with the support of the ALA Council to foster our individual professional development and our collective future as a specialty.

Best Regards,

Bill Gao and ALA Post-Graduate Steering Committee

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.



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.

Top 3 submissions will receive free registration to the ALA Annual Meeting in Phoenix!

From the Desk of the Secretary

The ALA has had a dynamic year going into COSM 2026. I would like to share the following new developments:

On the spring ballot

- We have 10 candidates (9 Active, 1 International), which may be a record. The number would have been 11 but for one candidate who cannot attend the Phoenix meeting and will be voted on in 2027. A new feature for the ballot book is the inclusion of the personal statements submitted by candidates. Each candidate is asked to submit "a personal statement describing their contributions in scholarship and innovation in laryngology, major contributions to laryngology education, and service to the Association and the field of laryngology, not to exceed one page". The inclusion of the personal statement on the ballot is to showcase the candidates' contributions to the field for those voting members who may not know them well. We believe the inclusion of the personal statements brings more transparency to the membership process. I personally have enjoyed reading each one and am impressed by the dedication, accomplishments, and unique strengths that every candidate brings to the Association.
- A single bylaws revision will be on the ballot pertaining to eligibility for PG membership. The current bylaws states "The candidate for Post-Graduate Member must be a diplomat of the American Board of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery or its equivalent as determined by the Council." The ABOHNS has revamped its oral exam to be based on real cases from a candidate's independent post-residency practice collected over a 9-month period, which means a candidate won't be board-certified until at least 2-3 years out of training. The proposed bylaws revision will state "The candidate.....must be board-eligible or board-certified....". This will preclude a delay in eligibility for PGM.

Business Meeting at the ALA Annual Meeting

- If you are a PGM mentor, please attend the business meeting with your mentee! If you are a PGM mentee, please attend the meeting with your mentor!
- In a departure from tradition, the business meeting in Phoenix will for the first time feature presentations from select committee chairs. Chairs of the Education, Communication, and Outreach (ECO) Committee, the Membership and Engagement Committee (MEC), and the Laryngology Fellowship Committee will share their committees' work with the membership.

See you in Phoenix!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jed Mau".

Ted Mau, MD PhD

