

ATA Signal



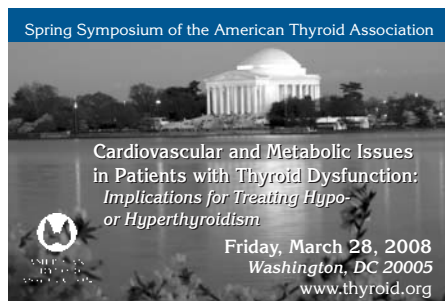
AMERICAN
THYROID
ASSOCIATION
FOUNDED 1923

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN THYROID ASSOCIATION

Spring Symposium Highlights Cardiovascular and Metabolic Issues in Hypo- and Hyperthyroidism

Mark your calendars for the ATA Spring Symposium, “Cardiovascular and Metabolic Issues in Patients with Thyroid Dysfunction: Implications for treating Hypo- or Hyperthyroidism,” on Friday, March 28, 2008 at the Marriott Metro Center in



Washington, DC. Co-chaired by Reed Larsen and John D. Baxter, the symposium deals with cardiovascular and metabolic issues in patients with thyroid dysfunction and how they are treated.

An outstanding faculty of experienced
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Tribute to ATA Volunteers

We would like to mark the beginning of the New Year by honoring the many ATA members who provide their valuable time and boundless energy to serve our organization in leadership positions, on committees, as well as special initiatives. We are proud of the high caliber of talent and expertise of our member volunteers, who have helped to move our fine organization forward on so many fronts.

Nearly 200 members serve on the 17 ATA Committees and Task Forces that provide an outstanding level of excellence and innovation in clinical care, research, education, and public policy initiatives. This represents 20 percent of our entire membership base and 33

percent of active members. In addition to this, past-presidents, senior faculty, and corresponding members step forward to volunteer in countless ways to provide support to the ATA.

“Our volunteers are the lifeblood of the ATA.”

Our volunteers are the lifeblood of the ATA. Without them, the ATA could not support its mission in providing outstanding leadership in thyroidology. We also recognize that your dedicated service is in addition to the many professional, academic, and family demands that ATA members face on a daily basis.

We sincerely thank the many people who have made their special contribution to the ATA. Although not every effort is individually recognized, it is always fully appreciated.

President's Message



It was a tremendous honor for me to assume responsibilities as ATA

president during the recent meeting in New York. I am indebted to our immediate past-president, David Cooper, for his leadership in generating exciting new initiatives and in strengthening the infrastructure of the association to ensure that the ATA retains both its relevancy and solvency into the future.

As I ponder the year ahead, it seems to be that my most important responsibility might be to continue this
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Important ATA Member Notices

- ▶ Register for the ATA Spring Symposium at www.thyroid.org
- ▶ Submit nominations for ATA president, directors, and prestigious ATA Awards (page 2)
- ▶ Renew your ATA membership today (page 12)

New ATA Officers and Directors Take Office

One new officer and two new directors were formally announced at the ATA Annual Business Meeting in New York City on October 4, based on the results of the September 2007 elections.

Three officers also assumed key leadership positions at the meeting. **Rebecca Bahn** took office as the 2007–08 ATA president. **Richard Kloos** is now the ATA secretary and chief operating officer and will serve a four-year term (2007–11). In addition, **David Sarne** took office as the ATA treasurer and will also serve a four-year term.



Kenneth Burman was selected as the ATA president-elect from 2007–2008. He will then serve a one-year term as president of the ATA board of directors in 2008–2009.

Dr. Burman is currently chief of the Endocrine Section in the Department of Medicine at Washington Hospital Center in Washington, DC. He is also program director of the Integrated Georgetown University/Washington Hospital Center Endocrine Fellowship Program and a professor in the Department of Medicine at Georgetown University and the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.



Ian Hay was elected as a director to serve from 2007–2011 on the ATA Board of Directors. Dr. Hay is a professor of medicine and the Dr. Richard F. Emslander Professor of Endocrinology Research at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine in Rochester, Minn. He has been a consultant in the Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism, Nutrition and Internal Medicine at the Mayo Clinic since 1983.



Michael Tuttle was also elected as a director to serve from 2007–2011 on the ATA Board of Directors. Dr. Tuttle is an associate member at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and associate professor of medicine at the Joan and Sanford I. Weill Medical College of Cornell University in New York, N.Y. He is an active clinician and researcher specializing in the management of advanced thyroid cancer.



David Cooper, the ATA's 2006–07 president, continues his service to the organization, as do all past presidents, as a director on the board. He will serve from 2007–08.

Submit your nominations for ATA president and directors online at www.thyroid.org (members only)

Also, submit your nominations for prestigious ATA Awards — Member Services online at www.thyroid.org



AMERICAN
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ATA Signal

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Officers and Directors 2007–2008

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(2007–2008)
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Secretary/Chief Operating Officer

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(2007–2011)
Columbus, Ohio

Treasurer

David H. Sarne, MD
(2007–2011)
Chicago, Illinois

President-Elect

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(2007–2008)
Washington, DC

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Alan L. Farwell, MD (2010)
Michael T. McDermott, MD (2010)
Ian D. Hay, MD, PhD (2011)
R. Michael Tuttle, MD (2011)

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American Thyroid Association

ATA Member Profile: Father and Daughter Team Raise Awareness of Radioactive Iodine and Salivary Glands

It's no coincidence that two Dr. Mandels made presentations at the recent ATA Annual Meeting. Susan Mandel, ATA member and associate professor of Medicine and Radiology in the division of Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, delivered a discussion, "When to biopsy a nodule? When Not To?" at a clinical symposium. Her father, Louis Mandel, clinical professor of Oral Surgery and assistant dean at Columbia University's School of Dental and Oral Surgery (SDOS), presented a "Meet the Professor Workshop" during the same day on "Radioactive Iodine and the Salivary Glands."



Susan Mandel and Louis Mandel at the ATA Annual Meeting.

Louis is not a thyroidologist, however, but an oral surgeon. His expertise focuses on salivary gland disorders and he is the founder and director of the Salivary Gland Center at the SDOS. And his current interest on the effects on radioactive iodine on the salivary glands was sparked when Susan informed him about salivary gland destruction that occurs in many patients treated with radioactive iodine. Until then,

even he, as a salivary gland specialist, wasn't fully aware of the prevalence of this problem. About 60 percent of patients who undergo radioactive iodine for thyroid cancer suffer these kinds of side effects.

Louis is a graduate of SDOS and has been conducting research and teaching oral surgery there for over 50 years. At 84 years of age, Louis is an active faculty member and treats patients on a full-time basis at the Salivary Gland Center, while still finding time to write papers.

Their complementary knowledge of the topic prompted the father and daughter team to work together to raise awareness about the effects of radioactive iodine on

the salivary gland through co-authoring papers on the topic.

Susan, however, downplays her role in co-authoring papers. "My father has really championed the idea that salivary gland side effects from radioactive iodine are far more common than previously thought, through writing papers and making presentations to oral surgeons, endocrinologists, and thyroid cancer patients. He has become a tremendous resource for both patients and physicians."

ATA Spring Symposium, *continued from front page*

thyroidologists from the US and Europe will participate. The format will be evenly balanced between didactic presentations and free flowing case discussions where audience participation is encouraged.

"We have designed this Symposium to address the most common metabolic and cardiovascular issues arising in patients with mild to severe thyroid dysfunction, from both a pathophysiological, as well as a therapeutic perspective," said Dr. Larsen, a professor of Medicine and Chief of the Thyroid Section, Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Hypertension at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

"Both mild and overt derangement in thyroid gland function poses a set of issues related to the cardiovascular system," said Dr. Baxter, professor of Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. "This meeting is an excellent opportunity to understand the clinical picture when there are these variations in thyroid gland dysfunction and what to do about them."

The morning session will focus on complications of hypothyroidism, both overt and subclinical, and will deal with dyslipidemias, endothelial dysfunction, arteriosclerotic cardiovascular disease, and obesity. This session will close with a clinical case discussed by a round table of experts in clinical management of thyroid diseases, with the goal of illustrating management of difficult issues in treatment and follow-up of hypothyroid patients.

The first part of the afternoon program will address hyperthyroidism. The etiology and treatment strategies for cardiac arrhythmias and congestive heart failure in patients with thyrotoxicosis will be discussed, as well as the management of amiodarone-induced thyrotoxicosis. The effects of thyrotoxicosis on skeletal health, its pathophysiology and treatment will also be addressed. This session will conclude with an illustrative case presentation, with four experienced clinicians discussing how they deal with both common and unusual problems in the treatment of the hyperthyroid patient.

The ATA is very excited about the concluding symposium, in which new directions or indications for thyroid hormone or newly developed analogs will be presented by experts in their respective areas. A longstanding goal in the endocrine community has been to devise thyroid hormone derivatives, which could be used to treat lipid disorders or impact caloric balance to aid in weight management but are engineered to avoid the adverse effects associated with excessive levels of the natural hormone. Such compounds have been developed and have entered clinical trials. There is considerable optimism with respect to the possibility that they could eventually be used therapeutically.

To register or to learn more about the ATA Spring Symposium, visit www.thyroid.org.

ATA Board of Directors' Meeting Highlights

78th Annual Meeting of the American Thyroid Association

Appreciation from the Board to Outgoing Secretary/COO

Outgoing Secretary Gregory Brent has been a leader among leaders, and a thoughtful yet forceful advocate for the ATA. When complex issues arose this year, some weighty and some trivial, some humorous and others extremely serious, they were dealt with by Dr. Brent in a manner that placed our organization in the strongest possible position, while maintaining the ATA's reputation as an unbiased voice for thyroidology. Dr. Brent's reasoned and articulate approach to difficult problems was gratefully acknowledged by President David Cooper as supportive in making his year as presidency a year of accomplishment and success for the ATA.

Guidelines

This past year, we have made a major effort to impact clinical practice with guidelines devoted to the management of Medullary Thyroid Cancer, Hyperthyroidism, and a revision of our guidelines devoted to Thyroid Nodules and Thyroid Cancer.

Fellows

The Board welcomes and supports the incorporation of Fellows into the ATA. The decision was made that for Associate membership, Fellows only need to have a letter indicating that they are in a fellowship program to support their application. Membership dues are waived for the first year and discounted for the following 4 years. The Fellows Track has become so wildly popular that we had to limit attendance to the sessions this year; however, we have secured more space at the Chicago meeting to serve all Fellows who attend the Annual Meeting. A "Basic" Fellows Track was inaugurated to serve a different but very important ATA constituency.

Conflict of Interest and Ethics Policy

A major focus of the board over the past year has been to review and update our conflict of interest policies and to adopt ethics policy for the ATA. We have successfully instituted a more restrictive conflict of interest policy for the officers, no longer allowing consulting or receiving compensation from industry or taking on positions with other professional organizations. In addition to annual written disclosure by board members, we have instituted a practice of individual oral disclosure at the beginning of each board meeting. A final stage of this transformation of governance is to define and manage the ethical issues that confront our association. The board has reviewed

and discussed the challenges that we face as an association with issues of professional behavior, plagiarism, conflict of interest in our publications, industry conflicts, guideline development, lay communications, legal and ethical exposure of the ATA. An Ethics Task Force, chaired by Ernie Mazzaferri, includes Mary Samuels, Pepper Davis, Marty Surks, and Glenn Braunstein is preparing a report to help the ATA formulate Ethics guidelines for the ATA.

Publications

The ATA outreach through our publications and web site remains strong. Terry Davies will complete his stewardship as editor of *Thyroid*. He has done an outstanding job and instituted many innovations and improvements to our flagship publication. Charles Emerson is welcomed as the new editor of *Thyroid* beginning January 1, 2008.

Bob Utiger has been editor of *Clinical Thyroidology* since

ownership and publication was transferred to the ATA, and will be stepping down at the end of the year. He has been a highly effective editor as we have seen this publication grow in impact. Bob has also prepared a "lay" version that was made available to our web site and highlighted in our *Friends of the ATA Newsletter*. Ernie Mazzaferri is welcomed as the new

editor of *Clinical Thyroidology* beginning January 1, 2008.

Recognition of Annual Meeting Chairs and Leadership

The ATA Board of Directors, on behalf of the membership, extends its deep appreciation to the leaders and chairs of the 78th Annual Meeting: Program Chairs Peter Kopp and Mike McDermott, and their committee, for an outstanding program. The University of Colorado Fellows Day program and faculty, led by Chip Ridgway. The ATA Clinical Fellows Track, chaired by Bryan Haugen and Katherine Schuff. The inaugural Basic Fellows Track, chaired by Tony Bianco and Sheue-yann Cheng. The advanced ultrasound course, chaired by Susan Mandel.

Baguio Estate Bequeathed Residential Property to the ATA

Matilde Baguio bequeathed the ATA a house in Athens, New York. The ATA contacted her nephew who confirmed that certificates of recognition to her sisters in the Philippines would be appreciated. She was treated for thyroid cancer in New York. The proceeds of the sale of the property will be assigned to a board designated fund for clinical initiatives, including guidelines. For more information on contributing to the ATA, please see our website at <http://www.thyroid.org/support/>.



Secretary/Chief Operating Officer's Report



Just a few months into office, and I find I have much to report to the membership. It is impossible to cover all of the activities of the ATA, nor provide great depth to any one topic. However, I will try to cover the most recent and active topics, and apologize now to those who I forget to acknowledge for their hard work and dedication to the ATA.

The ATA currently rests on steady ground, due to the hard work and diligence of those who have gone before us, including the efforts of our most recent leaders: Greg Brent, David Cooper, and Charles Emerson. Further, our organization could not have achieved the level of productivity and international respect that it has without the managing hand of our Executive Director and CEO Bobbi Smith, along with her productive staff, Jared Hoke and Adonia Calhoun Coates.

Reed Larsen, John Baxter, and Tony Bianco are actively designing our Spring Symposium, "Cardiovascular and Metabolic Issues in Patients with Thyroid Dysfunction: *Implications for Treating Hypo- or Hyperthyroidism*," to be held Friday, March 28, 2008 in Washington, D.C. We are also planning a National Thyroid Cancer Workshop for July 11-13 in Boston, Mass., co-chaired by Ernie Mazzaferri and myself, entitled "*Frontiers in Thyroid Cancer: ATA Guidelines in Clinical Practice*," which we hope will be repeated in multiple locations across the country as we take our Thyroid Cancer Guidelines "on the road." With the success of our 78th Annual Meeting barely behind us, Erik Alexander and Sissy Jhiang have begun work towards our next Annual Meeting scheduled for October 1-5, 2008 at the Chicago Sheraton Hotel & Towers.

With all of the activities of the ATA, I have initiated monthly ATA Board conference calls in an effort to increase Board input and oversight into the activities of the ATA, and as a way to keep the Board up-to-date with all that is happening. President Rebecca Bahn and I have expanded the charge of the Awards Committee, chaired by Sandy McLachlan, to create a list of prestigious, medically/scientifically-related awards and their deadlines for nomination. The awarding of prestigious medically/scientifically-related awards to our members may highlight the accomplishments of our members, but also the stature of the ATA. In return, the ATA may grow in recognition, and this recognition may attract future members to the ATA and to its mission. We have also created a new Committee to oversee the ATA's application for CME credentialing, and to help the ATA develop and update our highly successful Guidelines. Our Public Health Committee, chaired by Joe

Hollowell, has completed considerations of the FDA Docket No. 2007N-03561 on "Behind the Counter Availability of Certain Drugs" and how this could affect the thyroid health of the public. The ATA has endorsed The Endocrine Society's White Paper on Minority Participation in Clinical Research. The Patient Education and Advocacy Committee, chaired by Alan Farwell, drafted a letter to Oprah Winfrey, who has acknowledged having hypothyroidism, and have invited her to make a special guest appearance at the ATA Alliance for Patient Education's Annual Forum during the annual meeting next fall in Chicago. She was encouraged to refer patients with hypothyroidism to our website, and we asked to set up an appointment to talk about how we can work with her to raise awareness about hypothyroidism. The ATA and the Research Committee, chaired by Irwin Klein, have agreed to collaborate with the THANC Foundation (Medical Director and President Mark Urken) on significant programs

involving research grant funding and scientific initiatives that will expand our ability to fund

a greater number of qualified research applications. Alex Stagnaro-Green has been active in leading the ATA Thyroid Health in Pregnancy & the Postpartum Initiative with ambitious plans to address the educational needs of professionals and the public regarding this important topic. Additional committee

activity has occurred with Publications, chaired by Matthew Ringel, which has actively sought to define the future of *Clinical Thyroidology* and has named Ernie Mazzaferri as the new editor. The ATA recognized Bob Utiger during the Annual Meeting for the phenomenal job that he has done as editor of *Clinical Thyroidology* for the past seven years.

An additional area of activity has been the re-emergence of potassium iodide distribution around nuclear power plants because President Bush authorized his chief scientist, Dr. Marburger, to consider rejecting a plan developed by Congress after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks to expand the distribution of potassium iodide to people who live in a ring 10-20 miles around the nation's 104 nuclear power plants. This story appeared in *USA Today*, and the ATA replied with an open letter to the editor, spearheaded by President-Elect Ken Burman, with a copy to Dr. Marburger's office. This letter has subsequently been more widely distributed to other news outlets. The opinion and expertise of the ATA were recognized by Dr. Marburger, who requested a meeting with the ATA (independent of the letter to the editor). An esteemed panel of ATA experts was assembled that included Ken Burman, Jacob Robbins, Arthur Schneider, David Becker, Lewis Braverman, and

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“The ATA currently rests on steady ground, due to the hard work and diligence of those who have gone before us.”

Elizabeth Pearce. With the input of the Task Force, Dr. Robbins created a list of key points that the Task Force presented in a joint meeting and conference call to Dr. Marburger on November 2, and a follow-up letter to Dr. Marburger's office on November 7. Our initial talking points included the following:

1. Thyroid irradiation, both external and internal, is a proven cause of thyroid cancer.
2. KI given appropriately in timely fashion is proven effective in preventing deposition of radioiodine in the thyroid gland.
3. A 10-mile zone around a source of radioiodine release is arbitrary and inadequate for provision of KI because exposure depends on the wind pattern after release.
 - A. The American Thyroid Association (ATA) recommends a 50-mile zone for KI pre-distribution and a 200-mile zone for KI stockpiling based on findings after the Chernobyl accident.
 - B. Increased thyroid cancer occurred in children in the Bryansk province of the Russian Federation, whose border is approximately 50 miles from Chernobyl.
 - C. Radiation from inhaled radioiodine was significantly suppressed by KI in southeastern Poland, whose border is about 200 miles from Chernobyl.
 - D. A 20-mile zone, while still inadequate, brings KI stockpiles closer to the needed distance.
4. KI is proven to be safe.
 - A. KI given to about 10 million children in Poland had few side effects, none serious. Some infants had transient increase in serum TSH.
5. KI does not supplant but supplements other protective measure (evacuation, sheltering, milk and vegetable restriction).

- A. Chaotic conditions after an accident can interfere with timely evacuation as witnessed by New Orleans after Katrina and Washington and New York after 9-11.

The mission of the ATA to provide "...outstanding leadership in thyroidology by promoting excellence and innovation in clinical care, research, education, and public policy" demands an interaction with the media, a facet of the ATA that has seen enormous growth. In an effort to optimize our media outreach, I have asked Ken Burman to serve as our media czar during his year as president-elect. The first part of this task entails acting like an editor to assemble a list of experts across thyroidology to provide rapid and expert opinion to media requests as they arrive. The second part of this task entails a more proactive media outreach campaign to promote important topics and to accomplish our mission through the power of the media.

Looking forward, Rebecca Bahn and I recognize the success of the ATA's initiatives with fellows in training, and the activities of fellows have become an increasing part of our annual meeting, as witnessed by the highly success Fellows Track Program in New York. We recognize the importance of our fellow's to the future of the ATA and we are actively evaluating how to best oversee continued growth of fellow's activities within the ATA leadership structure so that we cultivate this vital resource year round.

I hope that this busy, yet only partial, list of activities over the past month has conveyed to you the excitement and energy that embodies the ATA. And I hope that we can count on your energies and contributions to further the mission of this collegial and productive association.

Sincerely,



Richard T. Kloos, MD

ATA Member News

Bryan Haugen Appointed Division Head

Bryan Haugen, MD, has been appointed by the University of Colorado Denver – School of Medicine to the position of Head of the Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Diabetes effective August 1, 2007. Dr. Haugen is a Professor of Medicine and holder of the Mary Rossick and Jerome H. Kern Endowed Chair in Endocrine Neoplasms Research within the Department of Medicine at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and Associate Program Director of the Adult General Clinical Research Center. Dr. Haugen has been a member of the ATA since 1994 and served on the ATA Board of Directors from 2003–2007.

Paul Walfish and Jean Dussault Honored

Paul G. Walfish, professor emeritus of Medicine, Pediatrics, Otolaryngology and Pathology & Laboratory Medicine at the University of Toronto School of Medicine and Mount Sinai Hospital was appointed to the Order of Ontario in acknowledgement of his contributions in thyroidology.

The pioneering work of Dr. Walfish and the late **Jean Dussault** on the creation of a neonatal screening program in Ontario to detect congenital hypothyroidism was highlighted as among the "Top 10 Canadian Medical Advances for Children in the Last 100 Years" at the Canadian Association of Pediatric Health Centers' recent Annual Meeting.

Editor's Corner: Matthew Ringel Serves as New Editor of *ATA SIGNAL*



Matthew Ringel, MD, *ATA Signal* Editor

Matthew Ringel is the new editor of the *ATA SIGNAL*, having taken over responsibilities from Rebecca Bahn, the ATA's new president. Dr. Ringel is a professor of medicine in the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism at the Ohio State University where he also serves as the director of the endocrinology fellowship program. In

and leadership communicates with its members. My goal is for *ATA SIGNAL* to most effectively inform ATA members of important society issues and events and to make the members aware of new initiatives that might help them in their clinical practices and/or research programs."

A member of the ATA since 1995, Dr. Ringel serves as a director on the ATA board and is the current chairman of the Publications Committee. He has been the chair of the

“*ATA SIGNAL* is an important avenue by which the ATA office and leadership communicates with its members.”

addition to a clinical practice directed toward thyroid cancer, his research focus is on cell signaling and mechanisms of thyroid cancer progression.

“I am honored to serve as editor of *ATA SIGNAL*. *ATA SIGNAL* is an important avenue by which the ATA office

ATA ad hoc Web Site Committee in 2001 and 2002 and has served on several other ATA committees. Dr. Ringel is on the editorial boards of *Thyroid*, *Endocrine-Related Cancer*, *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism*, and *Endocrine Reviews*.

Iodine Deficiency Underscored as Global Public Health Issue

The translational symposium on iodine deficiency disorders (IDD) at the ATA Annual Meeting on October 7 highlighted the recent progress in the control of IDD and the urgent need to eliminate this major international public health problem. The symposium was co-sponsored by the International Council for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (ICCIDD).

Kul C. Gautam, deputy executive director, UNICEF, who was a special guest speaker at the symposium, spoke on “The Sustainable Elimination of Iodine Deficiency: A Public Health Triumph.”

Today over 1 billion people in the world suffer from iodine deficiency, and 38 million babies born every year are not protected from brain damage due to IDD, according to Mr. Gautam in his presentation. These 38 million, or nearly 30 percent of the world's newborns, come from families that are the least educated, most isolated and economically disadvantaged.

“Based on careful review of scientific evidence—much of it provided by ICCIDD,” said Mr. Gautam, “WHO [World Health Organization] and UNICEF have recommended that elimination of IDD through Universal Salt Iodization (USI)

is a safe, cost-effective and sustainable strategy to help ensure sufficient intake of iodine by all individuals.”

According to Mr. Gautam, this great public health and nutrition effort requires the favorable blending of three essential ingredients:

- impeccable science with proven results in public nutrition
- full participation of the private productive sector in which the delivery process is lodged
- persistent monitoring and review of sustained progress and public reporting.



Kul C. Gautam,
deputy executive
director, UNICEF

Gerard Burrow, MD, chair of the newly-formed ATA Sub-Committee on IDD, moderated the symposium. Speakers also included Elizabeth Pearce, who discussed iodine associated with pregnancy, and Michael Zimmermann, of the ICCIDD, who spoke about the status of worldwide iodine deficiency.

The symposium was dedicated in memory of Francois Delange, one of the most prominent physicians of his time in the fight against iodine deficiency in the world, who died June 15, 2007.

FDA Approves Thyrogen for Use in Thyroid Cancer Ablation

In December, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved a supplemental indication for Thyrogen (thyrotropin alfa for injection, Genzyme Corp, Cambridge MA) to be used in combination with radioiodine to ablate, or destroy, the remaining thyroid tissue in patients who have had their cancerous thyroids removed.

“This is welcome news for patients,” said Gary Bloom, president of ThyCa: Thyroid Cancer Survivor's Association, Inc. “Being diagnosed with thyroid cancer brings much stress, fear, and life disruption. It's wonderful that Thyrogen is now available to help patients try to maintain a full quality of life when going through radioiodine treatment.”

forward motion with a view towards identifying forces that might, in the future, challenge the effectiveness and indeed, the viability of the ATA.

Certainly, we will not survive as a society if we cannot attract a diverse group of young physicians and scientists to join our ranks. To this end, a task force is being established to identify how best to engage our associate members in the activities of the association so that they might understand the important role that membership in our association could play in their future professional lives. The survival of the ATA will also rest on our ability to continue to offer access to the latest information on the treatment of thyroid diseases and cutting edge scientific discoveries relevant to the thyroid and its diseases. In addition, we must continue to act as strong advocates for our patients, both individually and in matters related to education and public health. It seems paradoxical, therefore, that despite the tremendous advances in the understanding and treatment of human diseases brought about by scholarship and scientific inquiry, and the selfless patient advocacy demonstrated by countless physicians worldwide, society's image of the medical profession has become tarnished. The profession is viewed as being motivated by self interest, rather than by its historical commitment to the welfare of patients and, more broadly, to society at large. As a result, the ability of societies such as ours to be an effective voice for patient and public health advocacy is threatened.

This circumstance has prompted a resurgence of interest in ethics and medical professionalism, as reflected in the large number of articles that have appeared in medical literature in recent years. A document entitled "Medical Professionalism: A Physician Charter" was sponsored by the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM), American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine and the European Federation of Internal Medicine and published simultaneously in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* and *The Lancet* in 2002¹. The Charter, providing a framework for medical professionalism in the 21st century, has been endorsed by over 100 national and international medical organizations. The ultimate goal of the professionalism movement is to restore public trust by again embracing the values and behaviors of professionalism that reflect altruism, excellence, humanism and accountability. To be successful, these behaviors must be embraced by only not individual physicians, but also by medical societies and academic medical centers.

The American College of Cardiology (ACC) and the American Heart Association (AHA) jointly conducted a consensus conference on professionalism and bioethics in 2004, the results of which were published that year². The conference comprised six individual task forces that reviewed and made recommendations on a wide range of topics, including codes of conduct in human research, investigator participation in clinical research, relationships

with commercial interests, appropriate clinical care and issues of "self referral," expert testimony, and a code of conduct for the staff and leadership of cardiology societies.

This past year saw the report of a blue ribbon panel sponsored by the ABIM Foundation and the Institute on Medicine entitled "Health Industry Practices that Create Conflicts of Interest"³. A set of proposals for academic medical centers were outlined to mitigate risks and threats to the conduct of professionalism that arise while engaging with pharmaceutical companies and medical device manufacturers. The recommendations generated apply equally to medical associations. While larger societies, such as the ACC and the AHA, may have greater exposure due to the scale of industry involvement, all professional associations, including the ATA, have a duty and responsibility to address these complex issues.

The ATA has a rich history of professionalism, cohesion and collegiality among its members. Our membership continues to work diligently to develop practice guidelines that will be read and evaluated by a very wide audience outside the ATA, including internists, pediatricians, family physicians, surgeons and obstetricians. This calls for complete transparency on behalf of the ATA in order that the guidelines are seen to be in the patients' best interests, rather than serving those of thyroidologists and endocrinologists. The ATA, while relatively small, is highly respected and punches above its weight nationally and internationally in matters related to public health advocacy, physician and patient education and the ethical conduct of biomedical research. Indeed the ATA, by virtue of its size, cohesiveness, and demonstrated track record of integrity, can be a leading voice and advocate for professionalism nationally and beyond.

As part of our commitment to professionalism, the ATA board of directors this past August established an ethics task force, chaired by Dr. Ernest Mazzaferri. This group is charged with developing and implementing policy for the ATA in the area of ethics. In addition, the topic of medical professionalism and its implications for our association will be the featured agenda item for the winter meeting of the board of directors. We particularly invite the input of all ATA members on this topic and look forward to hearing your views.



Rebecca S. Bahn, MD
ATA President

1. Project of the ABIM Foundation, ACP-ASIM Foundation, and European Federation of Internal Medicine. Medical professionalism in the New Millennium: A Physician Charter. *Ann Int Med* 2002;136:243-246.
2. Popp RJ and Smith SC. ACCF/AHA Consensus Conference Report on Professional Ethics. *Circulation* 2004;110:2506-2549.
3. Brennan TA, Rothman DJ, Blank L et al. Health Industry Practices that Create Conflicts of Interest: A Policy Proposal for Academic Medical Centers. *JAMA* 2006; 295:429-433.

ATA Annual Meeting Highlights

Over 1,300 thyroidologists attended the ATA's 78th Annual Meeting at the Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers, October 3–7, 2007 in New York City to share the latest clinical and basic science research on thyroid disease.

Highlights of the program included a keynote lecture given by Tony Bianco on *The Role of Thyroid Hormone in the Regulation of Metabolism*, a translational symposium on *Resistance to Thyroid Hormone (RTH) and Thyroid Hormone Action—40 years later* by Samuel Refetoff, MD, and Arthur Schneider's description of his studies of the consequences of radiation exposure to the thyroid in the *Clark Sawin Historical Lecture*.

Kul Gautam, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), was among the speakers in a special translational symposium on *Iodine Deficiency Disorders*, which highlighted the successes and current challenges of this important public health issue that needs our continuing attention.

Special Award Recipients

The ATA honored five thyroid experts with its 2007 Distinguished Awards during the Annual Meeting. Three honorees delivered lectures highlighting the work that formed the basis for their distinguished award.

Yuri Nikiforov was honored with the prestigious Van Meter Award, the ATA's oldest and most anticipated because it is kept secret until the recipient presents a lecture at the Annual Meeting. Dr. Nikiforov's lecture was titled, "Radiation-induced Thyroid Cancer: Lessons from the Past and Hopes for the Future."

Paul Walfish is the recipient of the 2007 Sidney H. Ingbar Distinguished Lectureship Award, which recognizes outstanding academic achievements in thyroidology. He delivered his lecture, "Thyroid Hormone Action: A Second Career Odyssey."

Ken Burman is the recipient of the 2007 Paul Starr Award, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to clinical thyroidology. As part of this prestigious award, he presented a major lecture, "Thyroid Cancer: Historical, Clinical and Molecular Perspective."

In addition to this, Jerome Hershman was honored with the John B. Stanbury Medal for Thyroid Pathophysiology, which recognizes outstanding research contributions to the understanding of thyroid physiology or pathophysiology of thyroid disease. Robert Utiger is the recipient of the 2007 Distinguished Service Award, in honor of important and continuing contributions to the organization.

"Pioneers in Thyroid Patient Education" Awards

The ATA presented five "Pioneers in Thyroid Patient Education" awards to the charter members of the ATA Alliance for Thyroid Patient Education. The awards were in recognition and appreciation of creating organizations to increase awareness and provide support for thyroid disease patients and their families.

ATA Member Larry Wood, founder of Thyroid Foundation of America, was honored with his pioneering work in thyroid patient education with an award presented at the ATA business meeting. In addition, awards were presented at the ATA banquet to Gary Bloom, of ThyCa: Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Association, Joan Shey, of the Light of Life Foundation, and Nancy

Hord-Patterson, of the National Graves' Disease Foundation, for their service to other patients in the areas of thyroid education, awareness, and advocacy.

Patient Forum

An educational Patient Forum was held once again in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. New York-area local patients and their families attended this free event to discuss and ask questions about thyroid disorders to thyroid experts and patient education groups. The forum was presented by the ATA Alliance for Thyroid Patient Education.

New Basic Fellows' Track

For the first time, the meeting offered a basic fellows' track, alongside the clinical fellows' track. Eighty clinical and basic fellows participated in these integrated programs, which featured specialized and customized workshops targeted to the fellows, all woven into the regular scientific meeting.

Media Coverage

The amount of media coverage generated from the Annual Meeting more than doubled, compared to the 2006 Annual Meeting. At least 46 articles were published in a wide range of medical publications about research presented at the meeting, compared to 21 published articles from the Annual Meeting in Phoenix.

Reporters from *Endocrine Today*, *Clinical Endocrinology News*, *Internal Medicine World Report*, and *The Scientist* attended the meeting and each wrote multiple stories on the meeting highlights. Two articles were also published in the consumer news magazine, *US News & World Report*.

Turn to pages 10 and 11 to view photos from the Annual Meeting. Additional photos are also posted on our website at www.thyroid.org.



Highlights of the 78th Annual Meeting



Arthur Schneider delivers the Clark Sawin Historical Lecture.



ATA Alliance members, Gary Bloom, Joan Shey, Nancy Patterson and Larry Wood, are honored with Pioneer Awards by the ATA.



Pres. David Cooper, Sec./COO Greg Brent and Exec. Dir. Bobbi Smith enjoy a perceptive comment by an ATA Board member.



ATA's new Secretary/Chief Operating Officer Rick Kloos and new *Thyroid* Editor-in-Chief Charles Emerson chat at the Welcome Reception.



Ernie Mazzaferri makes his point during the ATA Board Meeting in New York City.



David Cooper awards the Van Meter to Yuri Nikiforov, with Nominator Jim Fagin.



Rita Hayes, Virginia Sarapura and Stephanie Lee enjoy the Women In Thyroidology meeting.

October 3–7, 2007, in New York City

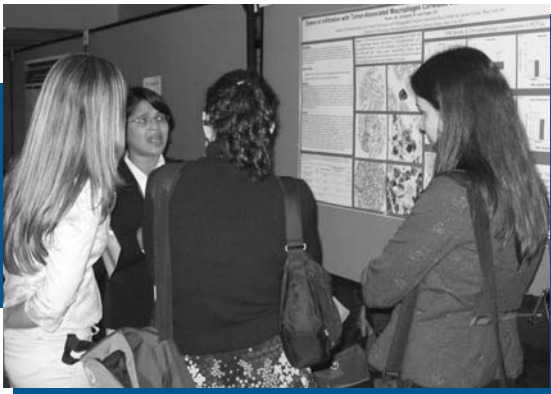


Dan Duick discusses the diagnosis of a patient with Samuel Yeboah during the sold-out Advanced Ultrasound Course.



Joanne Rovet and Graduate Student Nevena Simic at the ATA Welcome Reception.

2007 ATA/ ThyCa Grant Recipient Mabel Ryder discusses her poster with meeting attendees.



Distinguished Service Award Winner Robert Utiger, Executive Director Bobbi Smith, and Sally Utiger socialize at the ATA Welcome Reception.

Larry Wood, Michael Brennan, Rebecca Bahn, Maria Segni, and Christine Spitzweg at the ATA Annual Banquet in NYC.

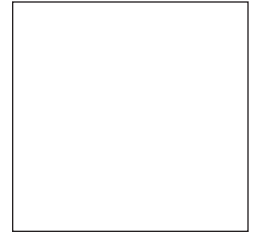


ATA member Simon Forehan, and future ATA member Emily MacKenzie come from Australia to attend the ATA meeting.



Lisa Usdan, Beth Kaplan, and John Paes enjoy the Newcomers' and Fellows' Reception.





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Upcoming Meetings

American Thyroid Association SPRING SYMPOSIUM and Research Summit

ATA Research Summit

(limited seating/registration)

Thursday, March 27, 2008

Cardiovascular and Metabolic Issues in Patients with Thyroid Dysfunction: Implications for Treating Hypo- or Hyperthyroidism

Marriott Metro Center, Washington, DC

Friday, March 28, 2008

Second ESPE Advanced Seminar in Developmental Endocrinology

Thyroid Development and Its Disorders

April 24 – April 25, 2008

Paris, France

National Thyroid Cancer Workshop Frontiers in Thyroid Cancer: ATA Guidelines in Clinical Practice

July 11–12, 2008

Boston, Massachusetts

European Thyroid Association 33rd Annual Meeting

September 19–24, 2008

Thessaloniki, Greece

American Thyroid Association 79th Annual Meeting

October 1–5, 2008

Chicago, Illinois

For more information, visit
www.thyroid.org

Renew and Update ATA Membership at www.thyroid.org

If you haven't already, it's time to renew your ATA membership for 2008, as all membership renewals were due on January 1, 2008. Active member dues include the subscription to our official journal, *Thyroid*. All other members have the option of subscribing to the journal, both in print and online. Membership rates are significantly discounted from the regular subscription rate. Please encourage your library to subscribe as well.

Members may renew their membership in three ways. They may pay their dues on-line in the "Member Services" section of the ATA website, www.thyroid.org or fax credit card payment to (703) 998-8893 or mail to the address below. For assistance logging onto the website, please contact the ATA office at (703) 998-8890 or email us at thyroid@thyroid.org.

When you access "Member Services" you can change your address as necessary and also look up in the member directory the contact information for other members. Please be sure to check that your email address is correct so that we can keep you up-to-date on ATA activities, as member news and surveys are sent electronically. As part of the renewal process online, members in clinical practice may opt to be included in the physician referral on the ATA website. Please be sure that work contact information is current for an accurate referral. We receive a dozen or more calls every week from patients looking for a thyroid specialist, so you can expect to hear that the "ATA sent me" in the near future.

Members are encouraged to renew as soon as possible to avoid any interruption in the delivery of *Thyroid* and other benefits.