

# ATA Signal



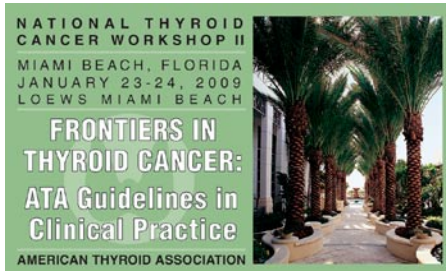
AMERICAN  
THYROID  
ASSOCIATION  
FOUNDED 1923

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN THYROID ASSOCIATION

## Thyroid Cancer Workshop Guidelines for Managing Thyroid Cancer January 23–24 at the Loews Miami Beach Hotel in Florida

Join the ATA at the National Thyroid Cancer Workshop, “Frontiers in Thyroid Cancer: ATA Guidelines in Clinical Practice,” on January 23–24, 2009 at the Loews Miami Beach Hotel in Miami, Florida. An expert array of scientist clinicians will discuss the Guidelines to provoke new ideas and address controversies regarding the diagnosis and initial management of thyroid cancer.



“I find this program exceptionally well done, timely, and both program content and location superb.”

The diagnosis of thyroid cancer raises certain questions concerning which thyroid nodules should be selected for fine-needle

aspiration biopsy and the extent of surgery that is necessary for different types of malignant tumors. The principal authors of the guidelines will present the latest thinking on these topics, all of which are covered in these guidelines.

This exciting CME-accredited meeting builds upon a successful workshop held in July 2008 and is designed for endocrinologists, surgeons, nuclear

medicine physicians, oncologists, and respective physicians and subspecialty

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## Highlights from the 79th ATA Annual Meeting

The 79<sup>th</sup> Annual ATA Annual Meeting held Oct. 1–5, 2008, in Chicago, Ill., was an outstanding event. This year brought together over 1000 attendees including 707 physicians and investigators from around the world to share the newest clinical and basic science research into thyroid disease. ATA Members (Active, Corresponding or Senior Members) were the largest group

represented at 361, 214 Fellows (many became Associate members and participated in the Tracks), 277 Non-Members; 57 one-day registrants; 81 Exhibitor Staff; and 58 Guests. Further, there were 472 MD or DO; 153 MD, PhD; 82 PhD's; and 8 RN's, who described themselves as Clinicians (538); Educators (45); Scientists

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**Important ATA Member Notices — visit [www.thyroid.org](http://www.thyroid.org) for more information**

- ▶ Dues renewal — 3rd reminder mailing sent! Pay efficiently online!
- ▶ Submit nominations for prestigious ATA awards and ATA Board of Directors positions
- ▶ ATA call for research grant applications — deadline January 31, 2009

### Letter from the President



It is a privilege to be a member of the ATA and to serve as your President.

The ATA is my most valued and important society. The ATA is internationally respected in large part due to the work of many active interested members. I would like specifically to thank Dr. David Cooper and Dr. Rebecca Bahn, the two immediate past Presidents for their dedication to the ATA. The future success of the ATA depends to a large extent on our ability to maintain

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## ATA Signal

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American Thyroid Association

## Newly Elected ATA Board of Directors

Active members of the ATA voted electronically for the first time ever in the 2008 election held in August-September. The newly elected Board of Directors were announced at the Annual Business meeting on October 2 at the **ATA's 79th Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois.**



**Terry Davies, MD**, an internationally recognized expert in thyroid disease, was elected ATA President-elect. He will serve a one-year term as President beginning in September 2009 at the 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the ATA in Palm Beach, Florida.

"I am honored to have been elected to serve as ATA President," said Dr. Davies, "The ATA is an exceptional organization and I look forward to working alongside my colleagues on the Board of

Directors to continue improving the lives of patients with thyroid diseases."

Dr. Davies is the Florence and Theodore Baumritter Professor of Medicine at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York and the Director of the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center. He has a long and distinguished record of significant contributions to understanding the endocrine physiology and pathology and has published more than 400 scientific papers, chapters and books, mostly in the area of thyroid disease at a basic level, in the areas of immunology and genetics, and in the clinical arena of autoimmune thyroid disease and pregnancy.

The ATA is pleased to welcome **James Fagin, MD**, and **Carol Greenlee, MD**, to the ATA Board of Directors. Both Drs. Fagin and Greenlee will serve a four-year term of office (2008–2012).



**Dr. James Fagin** is Chief of the Endocrine Service and a Member of the Human Oncology and Pathogenesis Program at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and a Professor of Medicine at Weill Medical College of Cornell University. He has had a long-standing interest in the pathogenesis of thyroid neoplasms, and his laboratory focuses on thyroid cancer genetics, on the development of mouse models to understand the biology of these tumors, and on the identification of specific therapies directed at key oncoproteins that drive the disease. He also has a keen clinical interest in the care of patients with advanced thyroid cancer.



**Dr. Carol Greenlee** has been in clinical practice in endocrinology, with a special interest in thyroid diseases, since 1986. Most recently she has been in practice in Atlanta, Georgia, as part of the Piedmont Endocrinology Consultants. There she set up and directed the Endocrine Tumor Board, integrated services for thyroid and parathyroid disorder evaluation and treatment, and conducted investigative work on parathyroid imaging, as well as her private practice patient care and teaching as part of University of Georgia School of Pharmacy. She has now relocated to Grand Junction, Colorado, where she will practice at St. Mary's Hospital and will have an academic appointment at the University of Colorado Denver, School of Medicine.

Submit your nominations for prestigious ATA Awards —  
Member Services online at [www.thyroid.org](http://www.thyroid.org)

# American Thyroid Association (ATA) Position Statement on Direct Access Testing (DAT) for Thyroid Function

Direct Access Testing (DAT) for thyroid function is now offered by some reference laboratories. Frequently ordered patient-initiated tests include common thyroid function and antibodies tests, such as TSH, T3, T4, free T3, free T4, and TPO and thyroglobulin antibodies.

DAT is becoming an increasingly popular option for patients wishing to monitor their health status and make more decisions about their own health care. However, the American Thyroid Association (ATA) notes several concerns about the safety and utility of making thyroid testing available directly to patients.

- Proper interpretation of thyroid function test results may not be straightforward; results can be ambiguous depending on the timing of the tests and the clinical circumstances in which they were obtained.
- Patients may be offered or advised to obtain thyroid tests out of commercial self-interest and/or in the absence of a qualified individual to interpret them or to render medical advice.

The American Thyroid Association (ATA) notes several concerns about the safety and utility of making thyroid testing available directly to patients.

- Interpretation by unqualified individuals, and by those unfamiliar with a patient's clinical status, may increase the chances of erroneous conclusions and improper recommendations regarding the diagnosis or the initiation/alteration of thyroid hormone therapy or other drugs that may affect thyroid status.
  - Testing profiles advised by some DAT sites have unproven utility.
  - Thyroid function testing by DAT is likely to be more expensive for patients because third-party reimbursements do not generally cover tests that are not ordered by patients' physician or health care provider.

The ATA advises patients to seek advice from their healthcare provider when considering thyroid function testing via DAT. Furthermore, patients should always discuss any changes in their treatment with their providers before doing so on the basis of DAT results.

To read the ATA statement to patients on DAT testing, visit the ATA website at [www.thyroid.org](http://www.thyroid.org).

## Editor's Corner



In this issue of *Signal* there is a new feature which we hope will be recurring in the future, updates to the membership from the one of the Editors of ATA publications. In this issue, Charles Emerson, the Editor-in-Chief of *Thyroid* outlines several of his plans regarding new directions and initiatives for the journal. He points out that two papers received awards at our annual meeting, one for the Best Clinical and one for the Best Basic Science papers published in *Thyroid* this past year. The manuscripts were chosen by the *Thyroid* editorial board based on their scientific merits and importance to the field. Please be sure to read these manuscripts and the other excellent research and review articles published each month in *Thyroid*. In this issue as well, we pay tribute to Bob Utiger. Among the many achievements as outlined in Dr. Emerson's comments, Dr. Utiger spent innumerable hours as the principle author and

editor of *Clinical Thyroidology*, applying his knowledge to the interpretation of key clinical articles in our field. Drs. Ernie Mazzaferri and Jennifer Sipos are the current Editor and Associate Editor, respectively. They have continued to build upon the breadth and depth of *Clinical Thyroidology* established by Dr. Utiger in its current electronic format. All members should receive a notification by email when it is published and it is also available on the ATA website, [www.thyroid.org](http://www.thyroid.org). I hope you continue to enjoy *Signal* and I look forward to your comments and suggestions regarding this and future issues.

Respectfully Yours,

Matthew D. Ringel, MD  
Editor, *Signal*

## Secretary/Chief Operating Officer's Report



It is with great pleasure that I reflect on the huge success of our annual meeting in Chicago this past October. Many attendees considered it the best ATA meeting that they had ever attended. This success was in no small part due to the outstanding leadership of Program Chairs Erik Alexander, Sissy Jhiang, and the entire Program Committee. For the second time our registration surpassed 1000 attendees and including more than 200 fellows—our lifeblood for the future. While endocrinologists dominated the attendance, surgeons were the second largest contingent of clinical specialists. The far reaching importance and value of ATA activities is reflected in the breadth of our attendees who represented 44 States and 37 Countries.

The Governance of the ATA is an active process that is overseen by the Executive Committee. This Committee has met by teleconference nearly every 2 weeks over the past year. The Board of Directors has met face-to-face three times in the past year and had monthly teleconferences with each Committee represented by a Board Liaison with reporting of Committee activities on a rotating basis. The President-Elect and Past-President have led the newly formed Public Relations Committee that has handled and distributes media inquiries, press-releases and media strategy and outreach. Each of these activities has increased the responsibilities and workload of these members and I thank them for their time, dedication, and creativity.

The professional office of the ATA is located in Falls Church Virginia where each of the Executive Committee members has paid at least 1 visit over the past year while gaining both camaraderie and insight into day-to-day activities of our organization. The success of the ATA is due

in large part to the efficient and highly productive leadership of Executive Director Bobbi Smith and her full-time staff of Adonia Coates and Jared Hoke, part-time staff, and extensive use of out-sourcing and consultants. I am grateful for their work to the ATA and the support that they provide me.

The ATA held our first two-day National Thyroid Cancer Workshop in July 2008 in Boston with an attendance of about 300 individuals. The objective was to take the written ATA Thyroid Cancer Guidelines and reach out into the community and demonstrate how experts use them in daily practice. Sponsors and attendees provided highly positive feedback. Our second Workshop will be held January 23-24, 2009 in Miami with Ernie Mazzaferri and me again serving as Co-Chairmen. After these two workshops are completed the ATA Board of Directors will consider the future of these events.

We extend our deepest appreciation to those who have served the Board for the past number of years: President David Cooper, director Gilbert Daniels, and director Steve Sherman. We welcome Terry Davies (as President-Elect), and directors: Jim Fagin and Carol Greenlee.

The ATA home office, Executive Committee, Board of Directors, our Committees and Task Forces, our Journal Editors, and many others work tirelessly to chart a productive future for the ATA; both locally and internationally. It is with pride that I continue to be a part of this vibrant and distinguished association.

With Warmest Regards,

Richard T. Kloos, MD  
ATA Secretary/Chief Operating Officer

Many attendees considered [our annual meeting] the best ATA meeting that they had ever attended.

**NATIONAL THYROID  
CANCER WORKSHOP II**

MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA  
JANUARY 23-24, 2009  
LOEWS MIAMI BEACH

**FRONTIERS IN  
THYROID CANCER:  
ATA Guidelines in  
Clinical Practice**

AMERICAN THYROID ASSOCIATION



**REGISTER NOW**

for the National Thyroid  
Cancer Workshop  
by going to:

[http://www.thyroid.org/ann\\_mtg/  
2009\\_Thyroid\\_Cancer\\_Workshop/  
index.html](http://www.thyroid.org/ann_mtg/2009_Thyroid_Cancer_Workshop/index.html)

# Among the 2008 year-end questions for *Thyroid* — Should “Instant Online” be Adapted



A few months ago Matt Ringel invited me to submit periodic reports in *Signal* regarding the ATA's journal, *Thyroid*. Having accepted, the challenge now is to cover something of current interest that does not overlap with Editorial Commentary in *Thyroid*. An obvious selection as 2008 closes would be to review the changes in *Thyroid* since the December 2007 issue was published. It was decided to forego this, and even, to forego a reiteration of the changes in 2008 that will not be reviewed.

Naturally, every declaration has an exception. Mention will be made, therefore, of the recent introduction of two prizes for outstanding papers in *Thyroid*. For 2007-2008 the Editorial Board and Editors of *Thyroid* selected “Ultrasonographic Evaluation of Thyroid Nodules in 900 Patients: Comparison

is the “Epub ahead of print” version which appears at the PubMed website (<http://www.pubmed.gov>). The least is the print version. Between these are the online versions of *Thyroid*. These can be found through library online journal services, at the Mary Ann Liebert, Inc. and ATA websites.<sup>2,3</sup> The Epub version of *Thyroid* papers are based on proofs that are generated after the paper is accepted for publication. The dictum of the EIC office is that proofs should be reviewed and corrected by the authors and editorial staff before they are sent to Epub for online publication. It is my impression that the interval between acceptance and appearance in Epub has been reduced in recent months. Now another way to shorten the gap between acceptance of a paper and its publication has been suggested. This is Liebert “Instant Online” (LION) a procedure that would super cede Epub in timeliness. Using LION papers would be circulated almost

Most would agree that important findings need rapid publication but how to select the papers that fit best in this category may be fraught with difficulties.

Among Ultrasonographic, Cytological, and Histological Findings” by Ito *et al.* in the December, 2007 issue of *Thyroid* in the clinical category and “Molecular interactions between the TSH receptor and a Thyroid-stimulating monoclonal autoantibody” by Sanders *et al.* in the August, 2007 issue of *Thyroid* in the basic category. For more please see the December issue of *Thyroid* and note the invitation to send your opinions and recommendations regarding prizes for 2008 - 2009 to Mr. Jared Hoke<sup>1</sup>, Manager of Membership and Communications at the ATA office.

Regrettably, the information in the preceding paragraph may already be dated. In fact, *Thyroid* hopes this information is dated as it provides evidence that timeliness, an overriding aim of medical journals, has been met. Ideally, when this is read you should already have seen the Commentary in *Thyroid* regarding its prizes. Regardless, some will recall the slides between presentations at the 2008 ATA meeting that announced the *Thyroid* prizes.

As noted, timeliness is a key objective of medical journals. Indeed, this is even more the case for authors who often find that by the time their papers appear in print they have moved on to other areas or progressed well beyond their recently published material. That, and relaxed peer review, are among the reasons authors derive more immediate satisfaction from presenting at meetings than from the subsequent paper. Later, sentiments typically reverse, with the record of publication in a peer reviewed journal being more meaningful than the oral presentation.

There are now several different ways to access the content of *Thyroid*; each differs on a scale of timeliness. The timeliest

as soon as the EIC electronically approves the paper on Manuscript Central website.

Should *Thyroid* adapt LION for some or all of its papers? There are clear arguments for and against this. Those in favor relate to the importance of disseminating important information as soon as possible and attracting authors to a journal that would rapidly publish their work. Against this is the fact that mistakes and incomplete information is almost the rule for proofs. Notably even for Epub, the online version is sometimes updated to correct typos and complete ancillary information. The middle ground, using LION for some papers, could be problematic. Most would agree that important findings need rapid publication but how to select the papers that fit best in this category may be fraught with difficulties. These and other questions require careful deliberation as *Thyroid* moves into the New Year.

Charles H. Emerson, MD  
Editor-in-Chief, *Thyroid*

## Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> Send Mr. Hoke's E Mail to [thyroid@thyroid.org](mailto:thyroid@thyroid.org)

<sup>2</sup> For more detail and complete information contact Mary Ann Liebert, Inc.

<sup>3</sup> We encourage ATA members, who have access to all issues of *Thyroid* through the ATA website, to let their colleagues everywhere know that the current issue of *Thyroid* is available without charge on the Mary Ann Liebert website.

# Women in Thyroidology Meet at ATA Annual Meeting

The annual gathering of Women in Thyroidology (WIT) was featured at the Chicago ATA Annual Meeting. As the third woman to serve as ATA president in the society's 85 years, Rebecca Bahn and WIT Leader Virginia Sarapura were most pleased to welcome more than 60 women who were attending the ATA annual meeting, including many younger women who had participated in the Endocrine Fellows' Conference.

WIT's mission is, "To increase the participation and visibility of women in the ATA membership and leadership to reflect the gender distribution of health-care providers and scientists with interest in the field of thyroidology" and following are the goals and some of the accomplishments of WIT:

## Recruit and retain more women ATA members.

- More than 50% of graduating medical students and about 50% of endocrine fellows are women. When WIT was first formed 5 years ago, only 12% of ATA members were women. **Currently this number is 26%.**
- Actively recruit women endocrine fellows, members of other medical and scientific organizations, and authors of ATA abstracts and other publications about the thyroid. **The percentage of women who join the ATA has steadily increased in the last few years and is now at 50% or higher.**
- Welcome and mentor new women Associate Members to promote collegiality, network scientifically and socially, and encourage progression to Active Membership.



Sissy Jhiang, co-chair of the ATA Annual Meeting in Chicago, speaking at the annual gathering of Women in Thyroidology.

## Increase women's visibility within ATA.

- Nominate qualified women to committee and leadership positions. **More women have been nominated for leadership positions recently than they had in the past, and in the last 5 years we have had two women in the highest leadership position, as President of the ATA.**

- Encourage and promote the nomination of women for ATA awards.
- Increase the number of women who participate in the annual meeting scientific program. Several ATA women spoke of their extraordinary and valuable experience in the ATA. Every speaker was enthusiastic about the goals expressed by the WIT leadership. Toward the end of the meeting, the group decided to give

more structure to the organization by nominating and voting for Virginia Sarapura as current President, Stephanie Lee as President-Elect.

On behalf of the ATA and the WIT leadership, Virginia Sarapura and Carole Spencer, you are invited to join the Women in Thyroidology. If you are a member of the ATA please send an e-mail to Adonia Coates at [acoates@thyroid.org](mailto:acoates@thyroid.org) expressing your interest in WIT. If you are not a member, please complete the [ATA membership application](#) (online interactive) and e-mail Adonia of your interest in WIT.

## ATA Upcoming Meetings

Visit the ATA website at [www.thyroid.org](http://www.thyroid.org) for updates and information on all upcoming ATA events.

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

January 23–24, 2009 • Loews Miami Beach Hotel, Miami, FL  
**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN** at <http://www.prereg.net/ataw>

### ATA 2009 Research Summit: *Thyroid Hormone in Pregnancy and Development and*

**Spring Symposium: *Thyroid Dysfunction and Pregnancy:  
Miscarriage, Preterm Delivery and Decreased IQ***

April 16–17, 2009 • The Madison, A Loews Hotel, Washington, DC  
**REGISTRATION OPENING IN JANUARY 2009**

### 80th Annual Meeting of the ATA

September 23–27, 2009 • The Breakers Hotel, Palm Beach, FL  
**REGISTRATION OPENING IN LATE SPRING 2009**

### ATA Spring Meeting 2010

May 13–16, 2010 • Hyatt Regency Minneapolis, Minneapolis, MN

### 81st Annual Meeting of the ATA

October 26–30, 2011  
The Renaissance Esmeralda • Indian Wells, CA

### 82nd Annual Meeting of the ATA

September 19–23, 2012  
Hilton Quebec City • Quebec City, Quebec, Canada

### 84th Annual Meeting of the ATA

October 29 – November 2, 2014 • Coronado, CA

### 15th International Thyroid Congress

September 17–23, 2015 • Orlando, FL

## Robert D. Utiger, MD: A Personal Note

**Robert D. (Bob) Utiger, MD**, Clinical Professor of Medicine in the Thyroid Division of Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston passed away on June 28, 2008.

As a member of the ATA since 1966 and a winner of its Van Meter prize in 1972, Dr. Utiger made many contributions, not only to thyroidology, but to endocrinology in general. Although most of his publications dealt with thyroid-related topics it is interesting that his first and last papers listed in PubMed concerned growth hormone and the parathyroid carcinoma.

Bob's studies of TSH in blood were pioneering, quickly finding their way into clinical practice. Ironically, one of his early studies on thyroid function in lithium treated patients was rejected by a major journal because the principal tool employed, measurement of serum TSH, was considered too basic for its audience.

In his later career Dr. Utiger had an extraordinary influence on the endocrine literature. This began with his editorship of *The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism* (JCEM) in 1983 and continued in 1989 when he transitioned to *The New England Journal of Medicine* (NEJM). First at the JCEM and later as Deputy Editor of the NEJM until 2000 he scrutinized and sanctioned some of the most outstanding original research in the endocrine world. With the March 2001 issue, only a short time after completing his tenure at the NEJM, he became Editor of *Clinical Thyroidology*. Despite serious illness he continued to work throughout much of 2007 on this task. Simultaneously with his tenure at the NEJM and Editorship of *Clinical Thyroidology*, he Co-Edited with Dr. Lewis Braverman the sixth through ninth editions



**Robert D. Utiger, MD**

of *Werner and Ingbar's The Thyroid: A Fundamental and Clinical Text*. Authors throughout the world, no matter what the nature of their manuscripts, became familiar with Bob's meticulous approach to their papers. This approach I, and no doubt others, initially found disconcerting but later came to appreciate.

Beyond his research and scholarship Bob Utiger was involved in the training of numerous endocrinologists, residents and medical students. I was fortunate to be one of his early fellows at the University of Pennsylvania. In addition to his superb teaching I shared the excitement as a new era in thyroidology emerged. The discovery of TRH was fresh and its availability for clinical and basic research was in perfect juxtaposition to the new methods for measuring TSH and thyroid hormones that Dr. Utiger brought to or developed at Penn.

Throughout his career Bob continued to appeal to developing endocrinologists. Dr. Reed Larsen, who recruited him as a full time member to the Thyroid Unit at the Brigham and Women's hospital in 2000, notes in his tribute in *Clinical Thyroidology* that Bob Utiger was in great demand by students and trainees at all levels due to his encyclopedic knowledge of endocrinology.

In less than a week from this writing a reception will be held in the Joseph B. Martin Conference Center at Harvard Medical School. The reception will be "A Celebration of the Life and Work of Robert D. Utiger, MD". I look forward to this celebration. It is an opportunity to pay tribute to his mentorship, and learn even more about his remarkable career.

— Charles Emerson, MD

### 79th ATA Annual Meeting, continued from front page

(141); and Program Directors (21). Work codes were selected as follows: Endocrinologists: 545; 79 surgeons, 20 nuclear medicine physicians and 23 oncologists, 19 internists and 5 family medicine physicians and the remainder were other/not specified. Geographically, 738 attendees hailed from 44 States and 292 attendees from 37 Countries.

**Thomas Scanlan, MD** delivered the meeting keynote lecture on thyronamine and **Delbert Fisher, MD**, past-president of the ATA, served as the 2008 presenter of the *Clark Sawin Historical Vignette* and discussed the development and history of the newborn thyroid screen. The plenary session was devoted a translational symposium on thyroid hormone analogues.

**Yun-Bo Shi, PhD**, was honored with the esteemed 2008

Van Meter Award and presented an outstanding lecture on the role of thyroid hormone receptors on vertebrate development. **James A. Fagin, MD**, was honored with the 2008 Sidney H. Ingbar Distinguished Lectureship Award and presented an excellent lecture on thyroid cancer pathogenesis and evolving therapeutics. The ATA also honored **Paul W. Ladenson, MD**, with the Distinguished Service Award, **E. Chester Ridgway, MD**, with the John B. Stanbury Thyroid Pathophysiology Medal. **Furio Pacini, MD**, received the prestigious Paul Starr Lectureship Award and presented an outstanding talk on *New Insight in Familial Non-Medullary Thyroid Cancer*.

The meeting featured many cutting-edge symposia,

continued on page 10

and enhance our clinical and scientific interactions with various other disciplines and to attract young physicians and scientists to actively participate in the ATA. To these ends, we have reached out to our affiliated societies. We meet together yearly to discuss areas of mutual interest with The Endocrine Society, the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologist, The American Society of Bone and Mineral Research and the Lawson Wilkins Pediatric Endocrine Society. Further, this year the Spring Symposium and Research Summit will focus on Thyroid and Pregnancy issues with emphasis on the implications of thyroid abnormalities on the mother, fetus and child. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecology and the Lawson Wilkins Pediatric Endocrine Society have worked closely with the ATA to formulate and participate in this program. Dr.

**the ATA must be the leader in clinical, academic, social, and political thought and action relating to the thyroid, and we must continue to expand our relationship with patient-oriented advocacy groups and affiliated societies with common interests.**

Alex Stagnaro-Green and Dr. Elizabeth Pearce have agreed to Chair the Spring Symposium and Dr. Gregory Brent is Chairing the Research Summit. They have devised an exciting interdisciplinary program.

The ATA has also increased interaction and interest with general surgeons, endocrine surgeons, as well as head and neck surgeons. Members of these societies are integrated into approximately eight of our working committees. A Surgical Task Force has been formed to assess the present state of interactions with affiliated societies, with specific focus on formulating a strategic plan with short- and long-term goals detailing recommendations for future interactions with ATA members who are surgeons and also with surgical societies. Dr. Mike Tuttle is Chairing this Task Force that has 11 members, five of whom are surgeons.

The ATA also plans to review and update the entire ATA Strategic Plan with the goal of making recommendations for charting the future course of the ATA in multiple areas, including the structure and function of the administrative office, the Board, and the ATA Committees. The Strategic Plan will make recommendations regarding development and financial goals. It will also study mechanisms to attract new members to the ATA. Under the leadership of Drs. Cooper and Bahn, we have already formed an Ethics Committee, which has responsibility for advising the ATA concerning compliance with national guidelines for nonprofit organizations. We already have formulated practice guidelines for thyroid nodules, differentiated thyroid cancer, medullary thyroid cancer, hypothyroidism, and hyperthyroidism. These guidelines have established our position as leaders in the clinical practice of thyroidology. We will continue

to work with our affiliated societies to update and expand these guidelines on an ongoing basis. Dr. Alan Farwell is Chair of the Patient Education and Advocacy Committee, which is expanding our interaction with patient advocacy groups. The ATA recognizes the relevance of directly and indirectly helping patients and their relatives understand and seek appropriate treatment for thyroid related conditions. The ATA now also supports research efforts through an organized application program chaired by Dr. Irwin Klein. We plan to expand this program as it plays an important role in furthering our understanding of thyroid diseases and of introducing younger scientists with the ATA.

Perhaps our most important duty is to acquaint younger physicians and scientists with the ATA and to support their attendance at meetings, membership in the ATA, and active participation in ATA activities. Our future depends on

recruiting a cadre of interested, intelligent young individuals. We have formulated a new Trainees and Career Advancement Committee, chaired by Dr. Gregory Brent. The goals of this committee are to detail how we can enhance our efforts to make the ATA a desirable society for younger members to join and to note specific means by which we can recruit more interested young clinicians and scientists. Dr. Brent will work with Dr. Victor Bernet, chair of the Internet Communications Committee, to update the ATA website and also make it informative and accessible to younger individuals. For example, they have developed a Fellow's Corner that will give current useful information.

The annual meeting is the lifeblood of the ATA, and I am happy to report that Dr. Matthew Ringel has agreed to serve as Basic Chair and Dr. Kathryn Schuff has agreed to serve as Clinical Chair for 2009. They have already formed an International Committee comprised of 14 members, and they are in the process of organizing the meeting. If you have any specific topics or speakers that you think should be included, please let them know.

One of the most important responsibilities of the President is to appoint new committee members. I have tried to expand membership of most committees and have appointed approximately 49 new committee members, many of whom are serving the ATA for the first time. There are now approximately 26 Committees or Task Forces, several of which are newly formed as noted.

Although space precludes further discussion of many of our active committees, on behalf of the Board, I would like to personally thank each member of all committees, and especially the Chairs, for their dedication to the ATA.



## New ATA Members in 2008

We are pleased to welcome a total of 134 new ATA members in 2008 - 40 active, 91 associate, and 3 corresponding. Thank you to our members for inviting colleagues into our society and a special thank you to the following members for sponsoring at least two new members each this year: Rebecca Bahn, Kenneth Burman, Bryan Haugen, Paul Ladenson, and Steve Sherman. We look forward to welcoming many more new members to the association in 2009.

### **ACTIVE MEMBERS**

Samuel O. Antony, Jr., MD  
Denis I. Becker, MD  
Meredith M. Berger, MD  
Amy T. Bui, MD  
Francesco S. Celi, MD  
Ara A. Chalian, MD  
Edward Chin, MD  
Gilbert J. Cote, PhD  
Michael A. DeRosa, DO  
Antonio Di Cristofano, PhD  
Robert L. Ferris, MD, PhD  
Robert C. Galagan, MD  
Nashaat Gerges, PhD  
Ann W. Gramza, MD  
Burritt L. Haag, MD  
Shirin Haddady, MD  
James E. Haddow, MD  
Jeffery A. Houtz  
Timothy Howland, MD  
Seema Kumar, MD  
Richard B. Lanman, MD  
Paul S. Menet, MD  
Brett L. Moses, MD  
Fadi A. Nabhan, MD  
Raffaele Napoli, MD  
Marina N. Nikiforova, MD  
Sara I. Pai, MD, PhD  
Leon L. Parks, MD  
Sanziana A. Roman, MD  
Saima Sajid-Crockett, MD  
Undraga Schagdarsurengin, PhD  
Marius N. Stan, MD  
Cord Sturgeon, MD  
David J. Terris, MD

Mark L. Urken, MD  
Stan H. Van Uum, MD, PhD  
Steven G. Waguespack, MD  
Marilene B. Wang, MD  
Jason A. Wexler, MD  
Rasa Zarnegar, MD

### **ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

Zinovi Abelev, MD  
Kelly Aguilar, MD  
Mazen Alsahli, MD  
Juliana Austin, MD  
Harpreet Bajaj, MD, MPH  
Kalleen S. Barham, MD  
Marla S. Barkoff, MD  
Vinita Bhagia, MD  
Elisa Bocchieri, MD  
Chirag N. Boradia, DO  
Dennis Bruemmer, MD  
Peter W. Butler, MA, MBBS  
Anders L. Carlson, MD  
Walid B. Chacra, MD  
Natasha N. Chattergoon, PhD  
Dianne S. Cheung, MD  
Kimberly D. Clay, MD, MPH  
Sissi E. Cossio, MD  
Amanda Cunningham, MD  
Amanda Daniel, MD  
Evangelina Delgado  
Yevgeniya Dynkevich, MD  
Sarah Fackler, MD  
Justin W. Fontenot, MD  
Allison A. Froehlich, MD  
Cesar S. Fuziwara  
Zsofia Geck, MD

Christina M. Gerhardt, MD  
Renata Grozovsky, PhD  
Yannis S. Guerra, MD  
Arthur F. Guerrero, MD  
Sean R. Hamlett, DO  
Barbara D. Hettinger, MD, PhD  
Farahnaz S. Joarder, MD  
Jyothi M. Juarez, MD  
Yavgeniy Kantor, MD  
Daniel Katselnik, MD  
Asma S. Khan, MD  
Jawaad S. Khokhar, MD  
Christina M. Kile, MD  
Sujata M. Kumbar, DO  
Nathan W. Laney, MD  
Ossama Lashin, MD, PhD  
Debra J. Lewkowicz, MD  
Rose H. Lin, MD  
Dingxie Liu, MD, PhD  
Yu-Yu Liu  
Jennifer A. Loh, MD  
Sharmini E. Long, MD  
Michael D. Loughner, MD  
Supna B. Lowery, MD  
Meliza Martinez, MD  
David O. McDonald, BSc  
Joseph C. McLean, MD  
Ihosvani Miguel, MD  
Alvia Moid, DO  
Myaser Mounla, MD  
Aram Mouzeyan, MD  
Vinod K. Nookala, MD  
Gia A. Novell, MD  
Valerie M. Oram, MD  
John E. Paes, DO

Shreya R. Parikh, MD  
Jonathan R. Parks, MD  
Komal S. Patil, MD  
Kimberly A. Placzowski, MD  
Sam Pourbabak, MD  
Dayal D. Raja, MD  
Irram A. Rao, MD, PhD  
Konda M. Reddy, MD  
Genevieve Rondeau, MD  
Liberio Santarpia, MD, PhD  
Prasanna Santhanam, MD  
A. Reagan Schiefer, MD  
Katia Seidenberger, MD, PhD  
Alison M. Semrad, DO  
Bhavin R. Shastri, MD  
Adam J. Shaywitz, MD, PhD  
Judy L. Shih, MD, PhD  
Sarika B. Shivnani, MD  
Maria Skamagas, MD  
Raymond Soccio, MD, PhD  
Anca Staii, MD  
Irinel N. Stanciu, MD  
Adam D. Stein, MD  
Marina Strizhevsky, DO  
Marjan Vahedi, MD  
Kristen R. Vella, PhD  
W. Edward Visser, MD  
Mary Vouyiouklis, MD  
Lei Zhang, PhD

### **CORRESPONDING MEMBERS**

JaeHong Kim, MD  
Young Joo Park, MD, PhD  
Evandro C. Vasconcelos, MD

### **President's Message**, *continued from page 8*

It is also a pleasure to work closely with Dr. Richard Kloos, Secretary/COO, who is actively involved with all aspects of the ATA and who offers calm, intelligent guidance. Dr. David Sarne meticulously works as the Treasurer. Ms. Bobbi Smith and her staff are outstanding, and their dedication and excellence is without parallel. Dr. Charles Emerson has ably taken over the Editorship of Thyroid. We owe them all a debt of gratitude.

In summary, the ATA must be the leader in clinical, academic, social, and political thought and action relating to the thyroid, and we must continue to expand our relationship with patient-oriented advocacy groups and

affiliated societies with common interests. We also need to continue to work to attract new members to the ATA who will contribute significantly in the future. It is a privilege for me to work for the ATA on your behalf. Please do not hesitate to contact us if there are newer initiatives you think should be pursued.

Sincerely,



Kenneth D. Burman, MD  
ATA President

## National Thyroid Cancer Workshop, *continued from front page*

fellows who wish to broaden and update their knowledge of the management of thyroid cancer. Comments from the Boston meeting were very positive:

“Meeting was terrific! Very informative, up to date.”

“Complex issues were well discussed.”

“I find this program exceptionally well done, timely, and both program content and location superb. I and my endocrine colleagues will plan the following changes: expansion of our practice database, development of a uniform protocol for cancer follow up, and seek membership within the ATA.”

Topics covered in January will include:

- Recent developments in the management of thyroid cancer and integration of new diagnostic and follow-up paradigms and the latest thyroid cancer therapies
- Integrating changes in treatment that result from the evolving demography of thyroid cancer
- The pathophysiology of thyroid cancer as it relates to new thyroid cancer drug therapies
- New drugs in the management of differentiated thyroid carcinoma and medullary thyroid carcinoma

The guidelines are actively being updated and some of the possible changes, and the data behind them, will be discussed. The latest information and potential

recommendations regarding medullary thyroid cancer (MTC) will also be examined during the workshop. Guidelines for the management of MTC have been completed by the ATA task force, chaired by Dr. Richard Kloos, and have been submitted for publication.

“Our goal is to help medical professionals and their patients by advancing the diagnosis and treatment of thyroid cancer,” said Richard Kloos, program chair and secretary/chief operating officer of the ATA.

For more information or to register online, visit: <http://www.prereg.net/ataw>

The evidence-based Management Guidelines have sparked much interest from practitioners. Over 25,000 free copies of the guidelines were downloaded from the ATA website between 2006-07, underscoring the educational need physicians have for understanding the diagnosis and treatment of thyroid cancer. For a copy of the 2006 management guidelines, go to <http://www.thyroid.org/professionals/publications/guidelines.html>

To get the Discounted Registration rates, go online before the deadline: January 9, 2009. The rate at the Loews Miami Beach in late January is especially advantageous at \$299 per night — don't delay on reserving your hotel room.

**Register now for the National Thyroid Cancer Workshop by going to  
[http://www.thyroid.org/ann\\_mtg/2009\\_Thyroid\\_Cancer\\_Workshop/index.html](http://www.thyroid.org/ann_mtg/2009_Thyroid_Cancer_Workshop/index.html)**

## 79th ATA Annual Meeting, *continued from page 7*

including clinical symposia on thyroid cancer, pediatric thyroidology, and thyroid surgery; translational/basic symposia on advances in thyroid hormone economy, pediatric thyroidology, and developments in thyroid autoimmunity; and special symposia on controversies in histopathologic analysis and gene profiling of thyroid cancer, Graves' hyperthyroidism, and ophthalmopathy. A novel symposium this year highlighted major clinical advances in thyroidology that had occurred the last twelve months. Three published papers were highlighted, with oral presentations of abstract data given by the lead authors.

To encourage young investigators to become active in the ATA, the meeting also included a basic fellows program, a customized program designed for basic post-doctoral fellows that provided special lectures and skill enhancement opportunities. In addition to participating in the regular

meeting program, the fellows attended special presentations by ATA meeting faculty focusing on basic science, grantsmanship and career development.

In addition, the meeting featured special early-riser session, “meet the professor” workshops focused on clinical care and thyroid investigation, and collegial discussion groups. Original novel scientific abstracts, both oral and poster presentations, were presented throughout the meeting.

According to the ATA Annual Meeting Program co-chairpersons, Drs. Erik Alexander and Sissy Jhiang, “This year's meeting met with exceptional success. We were so pleased to showcase all of the

cutting-edge clinical and basic research that occurs in our field of thyroidology – and bring together the greatest group of thyroid physicians and scientists for a 4-day ‘melting pot’ of discussion.”

Next year's event will be held **September 23–27, 2009, in Palm Beach, Fla.** Mark your calendars today!

