



ATA SIGNAL

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN THYROID ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 4 NO. 2, OCTOBER 2001

In Appreciation: Diane Miller

by Martin Surks

As you know, Diane Miller has resigned her position as Administrator of the American Thyroid Association. After effecting a smooth transition of the ATA office to Falls Church, VA, under the renewed administrative leadership of Bobbi Smith, Diane left the Association on June 30, 2001.

close together for five years and she remains my good friend. After setting up the ATA office in New York, Diane worked tirelessly to make the office and meeting planning as effective and efficient as they could be. She stimulated dramatic improvements in the office's electronic capabilities and reorganized the ATA database, financial records, and meeting organization. She introduced credit card billing, electronic ticketing, and electronic abstract submission to our organization. Moreover, she provoked me to get into the electronic age by setting up an ATA web site at www.thyroid.org.

Under Diane's administrative leadership, the ATA had highly successful Annual

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Diane Miller (left) and Bobbi Smith (right) prepare ATA's administrative transition

I recruited Diane when I became Secretary of the ATA in October, 1993. We worked

ATA's New Headquarters

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Rescheduled 73rd Annual Meeting

The ATA's 73rd Annual Meeting has been rescheduled for November 7-10, 2001, still at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. Sessions will begin on Wednesday November 7 at 1:00 pm, and will end on Saturday November 10 at 12:45 pm. Committee and Executive Council meetings will be held on Wednesday from 7:00 am to 12:30 pm. The opening reception will be on Wednesday evening, a social event on Thursday evening, and the banquet on Friday evening. Guest rooms will again be available at both the Omni Shoreham and the Jurys Normandy Inn.

A special event before the meeting will be a forum for patients, to be held on Monday evening November 5 at the Omni Shoreham, and featuring ATA members and patient speakers. See the "Bulletin Board" (page 7) for details.

The ATA web site (www.thyroid.org) is the best place to keep up with meeting news and schedules, and to register for the meeting.

ATA thanks the intrepid travelers who got partway or all the way to Washington by September 11th (see related article on page 3), and encourages as many members as possible to attend the rescheduled meeting. We look forward to seeing you in Washington in November.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This past month's horrific events in New York and Washington have no doubt troubled all of us deeply, and serve as shocking reminders that these are indeed trying

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times. The upcoming weeks, months, and possibly years will continue to challenge our spirit and to test our will and determination to achieve a return to normalcy. In this light, as you know, we have rescheduled our annual ATA meeting for November 7-10, 2001. This was a decision that was both difficult and easy. The ATA has recently begun a journey that promises a transformation that will allow it to thrive in the new millennium. Through a strategic planning process, we have identified our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. As Paul Ladenson reports in this issue, we have already made substantial progress in implementing changes in our organization that hold promise to improve our administrative prowess, increase external focus, augment thyroid investigation and clinical practice, and plant seeds for future growth and development of our membership. We cannot be detained in reaching these goals. I ask that you join us to help in this effort. I wish you safe travels and hope to greet you personally in Washington, DC.

With regards,



WILLIAM CHIN, M.D.

In Appreciation: Diane Miller
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Meetings in Chicago (1994), Toronto (1995), San Diego (1996), Colorado Springs (1997), Portland (1998), and Palm Beach (1999), and she provided advice and support to the International Thyroid Congress in Kyoto (2000). A particular high point for me was the 1995 International Thyroid Congress in Toronto. We had 1450 participants

from 60 countries; more than 500 abstracts were presented. Diane ran the Secretariat for that meeting, which is warmly remembered by all who attended.

In addition to her extraordinary work ethic and commitment to the ATA, Diane always found time to provide services needed by ATA members. Her personal touch and

her close relationship with many of our members throughout the year and at annual meetings helped make our organization the premier medical society for many of our members.

The ATA greatly appreciates the tireless efforts of this extraordinary person and Administrator, and wishes her great success in her next

professional endeavor. You can reach Diane at 7 Erik Court, Nanuet, NY 10954, phone 845 623-4182, and e-mail Diane_17351@msn.com.



In Memoriam
Ralph R. Cavalieri

January 15, 1932 - September 30, 2001

Ralph Cavalieri, Professor Emeritus of Medicine and Radiology at the University of California San Francisco, died unexpectedly on September 30, 2001, after a cardiac procedure. He was 69. Born in New York City, he received his medical training at New York University and was Chief Resident under Lewis Thomas at Bellevue Hospital. He served at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Bethesda, Maryland, and then as a NATO Fellow at the National Institute for Medical Research in London under Rosalind Pitt-Rivers. After a fellowship at Johns Hopkins, he spent 35 years as Chief of Nuclear Medicine at the Fort Miley VA Hospital in San Francisco, as teacher, clinician, and researcher, contributing over 100 papers. Ralph took pleasure in supporting organizations that he believed in, like the ATA. He served as ATA President in 1992.

Colleagues describe him as an accomplished scientist, someone who inspired everyone around him, and one of the smartest people they ever knew. Endocrine fellows who recently worked with him wrote in their evaluations, "Dr. Cavalieri set a good example of a respectful, caring, sensitive physician and teacher," and "He is knowledgeable, kind, and patient—a true gentleman and physician."

The recipient of numerous honors and awards, he was remarkably modest about his achievements. After retiring, he went back to school to learn new biochemical and genetic techniques applicable to thyroid disease.

Beyond his devotion to his family, Ralph's interests included travel, history, and language. A devoted violist and violinist, his special passion was chamber music.

From his wife, Diana, and son, Stuart: "Contributions to the ATA would be appreciated. In his memory, play a little Mozart."

What Happened to ATA Annual Meeting Attendees on September 11, 2001

Postponement of the ATA's 73rd Annual Meeting was one of the thousands of minor consequences of the September 11 terrorist attacks. By the time the attacks began, conferees from all over the world had taken off for Washington, DC. While most had more adventures than they bargained for, all got home safely. Here are a few of their stories.

Steve Sherman was already in Washington on Tuesday morning September 11 when his wife reached him from their Houston home to say that a plane had hit the World Trade Center in New York. By the time the Pentagon was hit, Steve could no longer call home by land or cell phone. He set up an e-mail connection with his wife from his laptop computer, and they stayed in touch until he was able to phone home that night.

After receiving aid and hospitality from Connie Trump, Matt Ringel, and Paul Ladenson, Steve was able to rent a car, intending to drive back to Houston. But a call from his parents in New York City turned him northward instead. He and Naomi Davies were stunned as they drove up the New Jersey Turnpike on September 13 and saw a cloud still lingering over Manhattan where the World Trade Center towers had stood.

After a brief stay with

his parents, Steve started the drive to Houston, but along the way was able to book a flight home from Baltimore-Washington Airport. During an all-night wait at the airport, he visited with three Congressmen, one of them a physician and another who had appeared with Steve at a Thyroid Society fundraiser. Steve arrived home on Saturday afternoon to a very relieved family.

Naomi Davies started out from New York City to Washington by train on September 11. Her plan was to visit the grandchildren before joining husband Terry for the start of the ATA meeting. On the train she was aware of an unusual number of loud cell phone conversations, but she was working too hard to pay attention. As the train pulled into Baltimore, another passenger told her about the terrorist attacks. She jumped off the train and moved in with Martha and Paul Ladenson for two peaceful days. She was grateful for the respite because life in New York City has been difficult since her return.

Hoang Kim Uoc, ATA's first Vietnamese member, arrived from Hanoi in time to attend the September 11 Fellows' Conference. When his ATA sponsor, Peter Singer, reached him by phone from Los Angeles on the night of

the attacks, Dr. Uoc had not been able to get a phone line out to call home and reassure his wife that he was safe. Peter offered to call her, but Dr. Uoc feared that Peter didn't speak Vietnamese well enough to communicate well with her. Peter solved the problem by sending her a series of e-mails in English; she got a friend to translate the messages and respond for her. When Dr. Uoc finally got home, it was his turn to e-mail Peter, conveying his deep concern and sympathy for those who were injured or lost.

Steen Bonnema and his colleagues from Odense, Denmark, made the most of their time in Washington by doing lots of sightseeing. He wrote, "It was some very tragic days we experienced in Washington. We all feel sorry for [the] US and the rest of the free world. You can be sure that we Europeans stand by [the] US in these times."

Martin Schlumberger was flying from Paris to Washington on September 11 when his flight was diverted to Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. About 50 jumbo jets landed there, with 15,000 travelers. After a long but civil wait during which he could not call home, he was among 1,500 people taken by yellow school bus to the military

Camp Aldershot. They spent the next three days waiting, watching the news on CNN, and appreciating the dedication of the Canadian Red Cross, firemen, and soldiers. On Friday evening, the school buses took them back to Halifax airport for another long wait. Martin finally arrived in Washington long enough to say hello to Paul Ladenson. Then he was off to Detroit, the most direct route back to Paris.

Tony Toft was in flight from Edinburgh, mentally rehearsing "for the umpteenth time" his ATA Keynote Clinical Address, when his plane was also diverted to Halifax. Only upon landing were the passengers told about the terrorist attacks. Tony spent the next three days at Shearwater Military Base. "In no time one became completely institutionalized, almost enjoying the camaraderie of the shared ablutions and of the huge gymnasium with its 200 or so mattresses and camp-beds." The cacophony of snoring that kept him awake for those three nights gave him new respect for his colleague who studies sleep apnea. "The enduring impression, however, was that of the kindness of the Canadian people...the care and attention provided by those in the services and in the Red Cross are difficult to praise too highly."

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Proposed NACB Thyroid Testing Guidelines

The proposed National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry *Laboratory Medicine Practice Guidelines on Laboratory Support for the Diagnosis and Monitoring of Thyroid Disease* were presented at the Endocrine Society meeting in Denver in June 2001, the American Association for Clinical Chemistry meeting in Chicago in July, and the European Thyroid Association meeting in Warsaw, Poland in August. In addition, the guidelines on congenital hypothyroidism were presented to the Neonatal Screening Working Group in Montreal in July. All the presentations drew large audiences, vigorous

discussion, and valuable suggestions. More good suggestions have been e-mailed to the editors. Despite some geographic differences in thyroid testing strategies, it appears that global consensus can be achieved for most of the guidelines. There is also considerable interest in the final monograph being translated into a variety of languages.

The final presentation of the draft guidelines will be made on November 9 at the rescheduled ATA meeting. You can also review the guidelines now on the ATA web site at www.thyroid.org/resources/professionals/nacb.html.

Please send your comments to cspencer@hsc.usc.edu.

By the end of December, most input should have been received and the second draft of the monograph will be displayed for further comments on the NACB web site (www.nacb.org), with a link from the ATA web site. During 2002, a print version of the monograph will be made available, courtesy of Abbott Laboratories.

— Carole Spencer,
Co-Editor, NACB *Laboratory Medicine Practice Guidelines*

New ATA Web Site

www.thyroid.org has gotten a facelift, and the web site grows more interesting each day. ATA members and annual meeting registrants have been relying on the new site to keep them informed of the revised meeting plans and to let them register on-line and print out hotel reservation information. You can visit the new site now (you may need to hit "reload" or "refresh" on your web browser) and you can tour the site at Exhibitor Booth 18 during the annual meeting in November.

What Happened to ATA Annual Meeting Attendees on September 11, 2001

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Helmut Huber was mid-flight from Austria to Washington. "I heard the news about these incredible and cruel acts of terror when the pilot of our plane announced he had to fly back to our airport of origin, as the US air space was closed....If there are any refunds...I would like to ask you not to send the money back to me, but to send it to a charitable organization of your choice which supports victims of these criminal acts, e.g., NY firefighters' or police families. My thoughts are with the victims and their families, and with all people from the US!"

Manfred Blum never got farther than his office at

New York University Medical Center at 30th Street in Manhattan. When the first reports came in about the attack on the World Trade Center, he organized 90 colleagues to serve wherever they were needed to help victims. But as the day wore on and the only patients who needed care were injured firemen, policemen, and emergency medical technicians, the doctors began to realize that the unthinkable had happened: There were no survivors. Meanwhile, the Blums had a new worry. They had lost touch with their son, a hospital administrator and former paramedic who had organized a large group of paramedics from Westchester County, New

York to help with the rescue. He turned up fine a day later, having dispatched ambulances from Chelsea Piers all night long.

Manny also became concerned about how the aftermath of the tragedy was affecting his patients. To reach his office, they had to pass security forces and walls plastered with pictures and desperate requests from relatives of the missing. Perhaps most difficult of all, the office is adjacent to New York City's morgue, which had expanded out into the local streets with facilities for identifying body parts and refrigerated trucks for purposes that patients understood only too well.

The disaster was also

taking a toll on the medical students and house staff, many of whom had volunteered at NYU Downtown, just five blocks from the World Trade Center, or right at Ground Zero. Everyone needed to talk about and try to come to grips with their experiences. Manny has been spending lots of time talking and listening, and he is moved by the nobility of those who have been tested by the disaster.

ATA appreciates the many kind messages of sympathy and support for the United States sent by international members.

SECRETARY'S REPORT



The American Thyroid Association has sustained its work through previous trying times: the Depression, Pearl Harbor, D-Day, the Cold War, Vietnam, and the Gulf War. During those periods, the dedication of past (and many current) members led to key biomedical discoveries and vital advancements in health care. Now it's our time to fill the ATA's important niche.

See you in Washington.

The ATA is taking major steps this year to become more effective in fulfilling our mission and meeting the challenges of our Strategic Plan. This spring and summer, we made important changes—advancing our staff leadership to the level of an Executive Director, adding part-time staff to support public affairs and development initiatives, and moving our office to a new permanent home in the Washington, DC area. This autumn, the ATA will make further changes that will strengthen our committees, whose follow-through is essential if we are to meet our goals.

The resignation of our faithful and hardworking Administrator, Diane Miller, accelerated these changes. Her departure prompted your officers and Council to make this the time to upgrade the job description and expectations of our administrative leader. Recent e-mail communiqués and an insert in the last issue of the SIGNAL described the process by which Barbara (Bobbi) Smith was chosen and the qualities that made her an extremely attractive candidate. Bobbi has already proven that the ATA has chosen a splendid new Executive Director. I know that many of you look forward to renewing your acquaintance with Bobbi at the Annual Meeting.

Moving the ATA office to the Washington, DC area was a closely related decision. Over the past year, the

officers had become convinced that this is the optimal venue for the ATA—in proximity to many sister and similar societies, providing a strong association workforce, and representing a frequently visited destination for many members. We have already benefited from ancillary meeting support provided by staff from The Endocrine Society.

Further progress in pursuing our goals now depends on strengthening our committees' capabilities. Despite major efforts by many dedicated committee chairs and some members, the effectiveness of our committees has been limited by vague expectations, fading institutional memories, rushed deliberations, and understaffing—all of which have occasionally led to inadequate follow-through. For the first time this November, the ATA committees will meet for sufficient time to permit meaningful deliberation and alignment with the Strategic Plan—to discuss and define their aims, and develop concrete plans and timelines to achieve them.

Your Association is becoming "better than ever," and we are determined to make these enhancements without sacrificing any of the intimate collegiality that makes the ATA so special to us all.

With best regards,

PAUL LADENSON, M.D.

ATA Council Highlights

Denver, Colorado - June 20, 2001

- President Bill Chin and Secretary Paul Ladenson introduced Bobbi Smith, the new ATA Executive Director, and described plans to move the administrative office to Falls Church, Virginia. Paul Ladenson also introduced new Director of Public Affairs Edie Stern and new Campaign Director Linda Safran.
- Bill Chin expressed concern that the reorganization of NIH Grant Review Study Sections may result in thyroid research interests being under-represented. ATA members are encouraged to write to NIDDK about this.
- The ATA Strategic Plan has been reviewed by the membership and is ready to be implemented. We have already made progress on staffing, increasing cooperation with other societies, improving the web site, and enhancing the clinical program at the annual meeting. We should focus next on strengthening the ATA's committees.
- Standards of Care Committee Chair Susan Mandel and Mike Tuttle sent HCFA a white paper justifying the use of PET scanning for thyroid cancer. The Committee expressed concern about the American Board of Internal Medicine's new Continuous Professional Development recertification scheme.
- Treasurer David Cooper reported that ATA's overall financial status remains good despite the current stock market decline. ATA must build a reserve for each of the next four years in preparation for the next International Thyroid Congress in 2005, when there will again be no annual meeting income.
- The Education Committee has proposed offering thyroid courses at meetings of the American Association of Family Physicians and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, but has as yet received no favorable responses.
- The Public Health Committee supports the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's new policy requiring states to consider stockpiling potassium iodide for distribution in the event of radiation emergencies. Chair Arthur Schneider and the Committee got high marks for their quick response and cooperation with other societies in dealing with matters surrounding regulatory approval of thyroxine products.
- The Awards Committee had few nominees for awards this year. Council members and former award winners will be asked to submit nominations.
- The Nominating Committee has recommended Peter Singer for President-Elect, and Stephanie Lee and John Morris for Directors.
- Council approved the Research Committee's recommendations of research awards for Patrizio Caturegli from Johns Hopkins and Robert Philibert from the University of Iowa.

Linda Safran Named Director, Campaign for Thyroid Discovery



Linda Safran, Director,
Campaign for Thyroid Discovery

Linda J. Safran, CFRE, has been named Director of the Campaign for Thyroid Discovery. Since June, she has been working part-time with Pepper Davis, Eli Dow, and Paul Ladenson toward the Campaign's goal of raising \$3 million in endowment funds for thyroid research. A Certified Fund-Raising Executive, Linda is president of her own Baltimore firm, the Development Collaborative, which specializes in fundraising for nonprofits. Over the past 17 years in professional fundraising, she has raised money for hospitals, a national foundation, and a public television station, and has consulted for educational, health care, historical preservation, and faith-based organizations.

Linda comes from a medical family in Buffalo, New York. She is the daughter of a radiologist and a nurse, and the granddaughter of a nurse who spent 20 years as administrator of what is now Roswell Park Cancer Institute. Linda holds degrees from the University of Michigan and the Goucher College Management Institute, and she served in the Peace Corps in Brazil. She was elected to the University of Michigan Alumni Association Board of Directors, and is currently an officer of the Chesapeake Planned Giving Council. For the Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations, she helped draft the first certificate of ethical standards for U.S. nonprofits. She has two grown daughters.

Of her new role with the ATA, Linda said, "I'm delighted to join the team and I look forward to meeting ATA members at the Annual Meeting. Together we will secure funding for this very important thyroid research."

Pepper Davis commented, "We've needed professional stewardship in the ATA office for the Campaign for Thyroid Discovery. This need is met by the recruitment of Linda Safran. Linda is an effective fundraiser with a substantial experience in drafting and presenting case statements to foundations. She has a remarkable understanding of the idiosyncratic nature of money-raising by clinician- and investigator-dominated organizations such as ours. She is extraordinarily creative, closes loops, has enormous energy, and is a delight to work with. Linda's recruitment is a very important step forward for the Campaign."

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Susan Mandel to Appear on Lifetime TV's "Women Docs"

Susan Mandel will be featured in "Women Docs," a new series on Lifetime TV. The series will profile female physicians at major U.S. hospitals, showing them working with patients and balancing the demands of their professional and private lives. A producer followed Susan for several weeks as she cared for patients with benign and malignant thyroid nodules. The video crew also spent time at home with Susan and her family and friends.

The series began in August. The episode about Susan and several of her University of Pennsylvania colleagues is tentatively scheduled to air during February 2002. Broadcasts are on Saturday nights at 10:00 pm Eastern and Pacific time. The series will also be shown at hospitals, clinics, and medical schools, in cooperation with the American Medical Women's Association and other groups. The web site lifetimetv.com will profile the doctors shown in the series, give links to health resources, and feature "M.D. To Be," a section dedicated to informing young women about what it takes to become a doctor.

UPCOMING SOCIETY MEETINGS

ATA 73rd Annual Meeting

November 7-10, 2001
Omni Shoreham Hotel
Washington, DC

2nd International Huaxia Congress of Endocrinology

December 14-17, 2001
Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre
Hong Kong, China
contact: Ms Victoria Cheng
phone: 852 2369 9052
fax: 852 2723 9044
e-mail: pc@pctourshk.com
web: endocrine-hk.org/huaxia2001

Clinical Diabetes & Endocrinology in 2002

January 19-24, 2002
Medical Education Resources
Snowmass Village, Colorado
contact: Amy Dohr
phone: 800 421-3756
fax: 303 798-5731
e-mail: mer@qwest.net
web: www.mer.org

5th Mayo Clinic Endocrine Course

March 3-8, 2002
Our Lucaya Beach & Golf Resort
Grand Bahama Island
web: www.mayo.edu/cme/endo.htm

21st Joint Meeting of the British Endocrine Societies

April 8-11, 2002
Harrogate International Centre and the Majestic Hotel
Harrogate, United Kingdom
e-mail: info@endocrinology.org
web: www.endocrinology.org

American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists

May 1-5, 2002
Hyatt Regency Chicago
Chicago, Illinois
web: www.aace.com

Lawson Wilkins Pediatric Endocrine Society

May 3-6, 2002
Baltimore, Maryland
web: www.lwpes.org

ATA SIGNAL



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BULLETIN BOARD

**ATA Committee and
Council Meetings**

Wednesday, November 7
Breakfast and committee
meetings 7:00 - 9:30 am
Committees report to
Council 9:30 - 10:15 am
Council meeting and lunch
10:30 am - 12:30 pm
Omni Shoreham Hotel
Washington, DC

**Forum for Patients:
"Thyroid Disease
and You"**

Monday, November 5
6:00 - 8:00 pm
Omni Shoreham Hotel
Washington, DC
Free, but reservations are
required. Call
1-800-THYROID.
Organized by The Thyroid
Society for Education &
Research, ATA, and the
Thyroid Foundation of
America, in conjunction
with the National Graves'
Disease Foundation, the
Light of Life Foundation,
and ThyCa: Thyroid Cancer
Survivors' Association

**Thank
You**

to the members who have
responded to the SIGNAL
Readers' Survey and the
Public Affairs Survey that
were enclosed with the April
issue. If you would still like
to respond, please send your
completed survey to Edie
Stern, 2710 N. Howard St.,
Baltimore, MD 21218 or
fax it to 410 366-8986.

Upcoming Society Meetings
*continued from page 6***45ème Journées Internationales d'Endocrinologie
Clinique: A Decade of Advances in Thyroidology**

May 23-24, 2002
Paris, France
contact: Dr. G. Copinschi
fax: +32-2-5556239
e-mail: klotz@ulb.ac.be

X Brazilian Thyroid Meeting

May 30-June 2, 2002
Ribeirão Preto, Brazil
e-mail: lmzmacie@fmrp.usp.br

Endo 2002: 84th Annual Meeting of the Endocrine Society

June 19-22, 2002
San Francisco, California
contact: Beverly Glover
phone: 301 941-0200
fax: 301 941-0259
e-mail: bglover@endo-society.org
web: www.endo-society.org

European Thyroid Association 28th Annual Meeting

September 8-11, 2002
Goteborg, Sweden
contact: Dr. Ernst Nystrom
e-mail: euro-thyroid-assoc@cf.ac.uk

**Congress of the European Society for Paediatric
Endocrinology**

September 25-28, 2002
Madrid, Spain
contact: Dr. Jesus Argente
e-mail: espemadrid@terra.es

International Symposium & Workshop: Thyroid Cancer Three

October 2-5, 2002
Linz, Austria
fax: +011 437-3276-777318
e-mail: werner.langsteger@bhs.at

Clinical Endocrinology Update: 2002

The Endocrine Society
October 6-9, 2002
Portland, Oregon
contact: Beverly Glover
phone: 301 941-0200
fax: 301 941-0259
e-mail: bglover@endo-society.org
web: www.endo-society.org

ATA 74th Annual Meeting

October 9-13, 2002
Regal Biltmore Hotel
Los Angeles, California

More listings are on the ATA web site, www.thyroid.org.

**Thyroid Foundation of America
Medical Advisory Council**

The TFA invites ATA mem-
bers to join its Medical
Advisory Council, which
helps to educate patients,
the public, and the media
about thyroid disease. Dur-
ing their three-year term,
Council members attend
quarterly meetings held at
the annual meetings of the

ATA, Endocrine Society,
and American Association
of Clinical Endocrinologists,
plus a spring meeting in
Boston. If interested, call
TFA President Larry Wood
at 617 724-0101, or
Administrative Director
Kevin Laverty at
617 534-1506.