



ATA SIGNAL

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN THYROID ASSOCIATION

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



When I was growing up, my parents would often tell me that “good things come in small packages,” “you don’t have to be big to do important things,” and other such nonsense. Then I didn’t consider their comments particularly helpful, but now those clichés may actually have some merit-look at the ATA. The ATA is smaller than other professional organizations, but despite its size, it does “important things.” Indeed, virtually all of the important scientific and clinical advances in thyroidology carry the imprimatur of ATA members. ATA members influence health policy and the practice of medicine, and are known as the “thought leaders” in thyroidology.

But while the ATA has been doing “important things” since 1923, we also have come to understand that unless we are visionary and proactive, we could go the way of the adage “all good things must come to an end.” We realize that today there are more endocrine and specialty societies than ever before, which draw young researchers and clinicians to their memberships. Moreover, the changing realities in research funding, clinical practice, and managed care (actually, managed cost) mean that young clinicians and scientists have less time and less money, forcing them to be more selective in how they use their time and resources.

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Women in Thyroidology at 74th Annual Meeting

The inaugural gathering of Women in Thyroidology (WIT) was a new feature of the Los Angeles ATA Annual Meeting. On October 9 at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel, President Carole Spencer welcomed many of the women attending the annual meeting—including many younger women who had attended that day’s Endocrine Fellows’ Conference—to the launching of this important initiative of her presidency. The group’s mission is, “To increase the percent of women in the ATA membership and leadership to more accurately reflect the gender distribution of health-care providers and scientists with interest in the thyroid field.” President Spencer and Councilor Virginia Sarapura then outlined the goals of the initiative:

- Recruit and retain more women ATA members. Although more than 50% of graduating medical students and about 50% of endocrine fellows are women, only 10% of ATA members are women. ATA should increase its female membership by actively recruiting women endocrine fellows, members of other medical and scientific organizations, and authors of ATA abstracts and other publications about the thyroid. Current ATA members should welcome and mentor new women associate members to help them feel comfort-

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SECRETARY'S REPORT



As 2003 takes off, I am pleased to report that the American Thyroid Association is in very good shape—with maturing strategic plan initiatives, new members, a talented staff, a positive balance sheet and an Annual Meeting that was both scientifically stimulating and financially successful. This past year was particularly notable for our first competitive election for President and Councilors, the launch of the Women in Thyroidology initiative, growing member participation in the Campaign for Thyroid Discovery and even greater cooperation with our sister societies in public health initiatives, research advocacy, and responding to clinical practice concerns.

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In an effort to counter these trends, we must make sure that the ATA maintains its position as the preeminent leader in thyroidology, and draw to our membership the "best and brightest." During the past few years, through Bill Chin's initiative, our organization developed a comprehensive Strategic Plan that addresses today's-and, we hope, anticipates tomorrow's-changing climates of research funding and clinical practices. Still a work in progress, the Plan is designed to ensure not only the ATA's viability but also its continued growth. The Plan includes strategies for membership growth, stressing the importance of diversity, and emphasizes our members' roles not only as research scientists and clinicians but as medical teachers and advocates for public health. The plan is far-reaching, and it is being implemented.

So where does that leave me this year in serving our Association? At first glance it would appear that there's really not much for me to do, since the Strategic Plan has established the groundwork for our future. Further, Immediate Past President Carole Spencer has done a terrific job getting our committees to function more effectively. And, becoming more progressive, we have for the first time elected our current President-Elect, Clark Sawin, by popular vote. So, we're a mature and viable organization. What can I do to contribute?

I think that what I do best is encourage, collaborate, and, where necessary, agitate. Does our Strategic Plan need a bit of tweaking as our vision continues to evolve? We need to keep reviewing it to

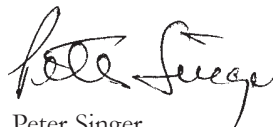
make sure we're staying on the right track. Are our committees working as effectively as they can be? I plan to continue Carole Spencer's committee initiative, and will personally work closely with several of our committees. Are we doing enough to collaborate with our fellow thyroidologists in other societies? ATA is part of a cooperative Sister Society initiative, but because of the large number of member societies, each representing different issues, glands, and hormones, I fear that the thyroid focus may become diluted unless we emphasize interaction with societies that share our interests. Collaboration is essential. I'm pleased to report that, because of the enthusiastic support of fellow ATA member and AACE President Hossein Gharib, our two societies will piggyback our educational efforts at our annual 2003 meeting in Palm Beach. Moreover, the ATA and AACE will jointly sponsor the KI conference (see page 5) on February 28, 2003. This year I intend to promote more joint initiatives, which can only be "win-win."

Finally, while the ATA is a North American organization, we are fortunate to have members from around the world, many of whom attend our annual meetings. I want to help make ATA even more inclusive. As many of you know, I have had a longstanding interest in Vietnam. I brought a young investigator from Hanoi to present a poster at our annual meeting in Los Angeles-the first-ever poster or paper from that country at one of our meetings. Vietnamese leaders in endocrinology were very excited about being represented at our meeting, and on

several occasions have expressed to me their interest in developing a more formal relationship with the ATA. They would like ATA members to visit Vietnam and provide first-hand knowledge about Western endocrinology. (They have no current texts or journals, other than what I've been able to provide through the kindness of a few of our members and through Mary Ann Liebert Publishers). With our help, they would also like to start a Vietnam Thyroid Association. I hope to conduct a first-ever symposium in Hanoi, either during my term as President or shortly after. All it will take is interest among our members.

Dear friends, I have been an ATA member for about 25 years, and have always considered it a privilege to serve our organization. I feel deeply honored to be asked to serve as President, and will do my best to help advance our vision and mission. I am indebted to Carole Spencer, who "broke me in" during her term so that our transition, I think, was seamless. I have already enjoyed working with our Secretary, Paul Ladenson, and Executive Director, Bobbi Smith, both of whom will provide me necessary guidance during this year. With their help, and with the help of our committees and commitment of our membership, the ATA will continue to do "big" (and bigger) things.

Happy New Year,



Peter Singer

Women In Thyroidology
continued from page 1

able in the Association, network scientifically and socially, and progress to active membership. A questionnaire should be given to those women who discontinue their membership, to find out why they are leaving.

- Increase women's visibility within ATA. ATA should nominate more qualified women to committee and leadership positions. Dr. Spencer pointed out that she is only the second woman to serve as ATA president in the association's 79 years. WIT participants should encourage and promote the nomination of more women for ATA awards, and invite more women to speak on the annual meeting scientific program.
- Better address women's thyroid health topics at ATA and other meetings. ATA should encourage more coverage of autoimmune thyroid disease, maternal hypothyroidism, and thyroid disease and obesity.

By the end of the lively meeting, 21 ATA members and 19 non-members had signed up to help organize the group and take part in its future activities, including a gathering at every annual meeting.

- Carole Spencer and Virginia Sarapura

Save the Date!



75th Annual Meeting
American Thyroid
Association
September 16- 21, 2003
The Breakers
Palm Beach, Florida

Stay tuned to
www.thyroid.org
for details!

Edie Stern bids adieu to the ATA

Edie Stern, Director of Public Affairs, departed the American Thyroid Association at the end of December. In response to her departure, Secretary Paul Ladenson said, "All of us in the American Thyroid Association are very grateful to Edie Stern for launching our Public Affairs activities—giving the ATA a proactive and clearer public voice—and for her dauntless support during the move of our office to Falls Church, VA. Her eager professionalism will be missed."

Since March 2001, Edie has been the ATA's interface with media, government, and the public. She has served as staff liaison to the Public Health and Clinical Affairs Committees as well as supporting the Patient Education and Advocacy Committee's efforts to educate patients about thyroid disease. Edie has been instrumental in supporting the Public Health Committee's potassium iodide initiative.

In parting, Edie expressed appreciation for her 22 months on the ATA Public Affairs "hot seat." Those months "have been a whole lot more exciting than any of us could have imagined. The ATA has given me extraordinary opportunities to learn on the job, tackle challenging projects, and work with terrific people."

Said Executive Director Bobbi Smith, "Edie Stern has earned the respect and high regard of the ATA membership and we wish her the very best in the years to come."

"Building on the foundation that Edie has created, the ATA remains fully committed to our public affairs initiatives," said President Peter Singer. "Responsibility for these activities will be assumed by the ATA headquarters staff in an effort to maintain a lean, effective administration." We anticipate a smooth transition and, as always, we welcome participation by ATA members in our public affairs efforts.

Combined Federal Campaign Workplace Giving

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Government employees can support the American Thyroid Association through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) which typically runs between September 1 and December 15, 2002. Government employees include:

- Federal • U.S. Military • U.S. Postal Service

When selecting which organization to contribute to, please be sure to choose # 2559 to designate the American Thyroid Association.

NON-GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Workplace Giving

The American Thyroid Association strives to work with companies to make it easy for you to help in our mission to improve the lives of those suffering from thyroid disease through treatment and research.

- Contact your charitable employee-giving coordinator and let them know that you would like to contribute to the American Thyroid Association through your Workplace Giving program.
- Or email us at workplacegiving@thyroid.org and we will work directly with someone from your company to get the American Thyroid Association added to your Workplace Giving options.

MATCHING GIFTS

Some employers match their employees charitable gifts so your gift may have twice the impact! Sign-up today to participate in your Workplace Giving program and be sure to designate the American Thyroid Association.

WOULD YOU RATHER DONATE DIRECTLY TO THE ATA?

We realize some people would rather donate directly to us instead of having their charitable giving go through a third party. We welcome any donations and would be happy to discuss further options with you at any time.

Whichever way you choose to give, we thank you for remembering the American Thyroid Association.

A New ATA Logo?

The past few years have brought discussion about whether ATA's logo still represents the Association well. Several concerns have been expressed:

- Among the goals of ATA's Strategic Plan are looking to the future, reassessing our image, and appealing to a wider audience. At a time when we are trying to attract new, younger members, the logo makes ATA appear more tradition-bound than forward-looking.
- Graves is one form of thyroid disease, and he may not be the ideal symbol for diseases that most often affect women.

- The logo does not make clear that ATA is a professional society.

In response to these concerns, Council commissioned some possible designs for a new logo. Members can view them on the ATA web site, www.thyroid.org. Please send the ATA office your comments via the e-mail link provided. Any change in the logo needs members' input and support.

Patients Given Medical Radioactive Materials May Be Detained In Antiterrorist Security Sweeps

Authorities at government buildings and transportation centers are using portable radiation detectors to catch terrorists who have been handling radioactive bomb-making materials. The detectors cannot distinguish illegal radioactive materials from the emissions of radioactive pharmaceuticals used medically. Some patients who have received radioactive tests or treatments are setting off the detectors, and some patients are being detained (1).

American Thyroid Association member Dr. Martin Surks and his colleague Dr. Christoph Buettner have published a letter about this problem in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (2). They ask physicians to warn patients that

they risk being detained after a radioactive test or treatment. According to the letter, the New York City Police Department's Terrorism Task Force suggests that physicians give treated patients a letter to carry in case they are stopped for setting off a radiation detector. The police might want to verify such a letter.

The American Thyroid Association recommends that when patients are given significant amounts of radionuclides, especially radioactive iodine (I131), they should get a statement from their doctor outlining the:

- patient's identifying information
- treating institution and physician, and date and time of treatment
- isotope used, its dose, and its biological

half-life

- physician's around-the-clock phone numbers

A model letterhead form and/or label for the back of your business card, can be downloaded at www.thyroid.org.

References

Baker, Al: High security trips up some irradiated patients, doctors say. *New York Times*, December 4, 2002.

Buettner, Christoph, and Surks, Martin I.: Police detainment of a patient following treatment with radioactive iodine (letter). *JAMA* 288(21), December 4, 2002.

ThyCa Supports Cancer Research Grant

ATA Research Grant Program Receives Significant Addition

The American Thyroid Association (ATA) is very pleased to announce the availability of funds from ThyCa: Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Association, Inc. to support a research project in thyroid cancer of \$25,000. Gary Bloom, of ThyCa, says "On behalf of all thyroid cancer survivors, I would like to thank the ATA for providing ThyCa with an opportunity to promote thyroid cancer research. It is so exciting to be instrumental in advancing thyroid cancer research. We look forward to working with the ATA to improve understanding and treatment of thyroid cancer".

The ATA continues to expand its research grant opportunities by supporting a limited number of research projects in thyroid function and disease. Topics include, but are not limited to, clinical thyroidology, thyroid cancer, thyroid autoimmunity, thyroid and the brain, thyroid hormone action and metabolism, and thyroid cell biology. Research grants, up to \$25,000 annually, will be awarded for up to two year terms, based on receipt and review of a satisfactory progress report from funded investigators in the fourth quarter of the first year.

Research awards are targeted to fund new investigators to obtain preliminary data that can lead to further work and funding from additional sources, such as the NIH.

Eligibility:

- New investigators are defined as individuals who have completed less than 6 years of postgraduate research training and have never been a PI on an NIH RO1 or equivalent grant.
- Investigators holding an NIH R29 award may be considered new investigators.
- Faculty members (M.D. and Ph.D.) and postdoctoral fellows (with written documentation) are eligible.
- Applications are limited to one per individual researcher.
- The funds can be used for a technician's salary, supplies or equipment, but not for PI's salary.
- New this year, the committee determined that recipients of ATA grants should be ATA members, or must apply to become ATA members. (For new members, membership dues for the first year will be waived).
- In order to receive the awards, attendance at the Annual Meeting during the year of the award as well as other measures deemed appropriate by the Awards/Research Committee to promote active participation in the ATA will be required.

By January 31, 2003, proposals should be submitted electronically through the Research Grant Application feature on the ATA website, www.thyroid.org. A hard copy should also be sent to Sandra M. McLachlan, Ph.D., Chair, Research Committee, at the ATA Headquarters address.

The ATA Research Committee will rank proposals (without providing critiques) according to their scientific merit. Authors of selected proposals will be notified by late February and invited to submit complete grant applications that will be due by April 1, 2003.

ATA Welcomes New Members

The ATA Membership Committee proudly announces 43 new members for the year 2002! The Committee thanks all the ATA members who recruited and sponsored new members this past year. Special recognition goes out to Irwin Klein, MD and Paul Ladenson, MD who each sponsored 3 or more new members.

Antonio C. Bianco, MD, Chairman of the ATA Membership Committee, encourages all members of the ATA to invite physicians, surgeons, and scientists interested in thyroidology to join the ATA. Membership application forms can be found in the Association's journal THYROID or through the ATA home page at www.thyroid.org (interactive membership form available). New in 2003, membership applications are now reviewed and approved by Executive Council at each of their 3 yearly meetings. In the past, the member applications were reviewed and approved by Executive Council only once a year at the annual meeting. If you would like to become more involved in the ATA Member Recruitment Program, please contact Theresa Ronk, Director Membership and Finance, at 703-998-8890 or tronk@thyroid.org.

February 2002

New Member

Active

Lee A. Bricker
John F. Coughlin
David F. Gardner
Thomas McDonald
Jeffrey Lier Ribbink

Sponsor

Irwin Klein
Lawrence C. Wood
Robert D. Utiger
Jody Ginsberg
Daniel S. Duick

Corresponding

Abdallah Gunaid
Jun-ichi Tajiri

Antonio C. Bianco
Fumito Akasu

Associate

Rajesh K. Garg
Serhat Aytug

Stephen W. Spaulding
Lawrence Shapiro

June 2002

Active

Arie Berghout
Maria Regina Castro
Jajin Thomas Chon
Sara Danzi
Gary J. Grover
Yehuda Handelsman
Anthony E. Karpas
Sung-Woo Kim
Steven H. Lamm
Sareh Parangi
Simona Scumpia
Offie Parat Soldin

Theo J. Visser
Faith B. Davis
R. Michael Tuttle
Irwin Klein
Irwin Klein
Jorge H. Mestman
Paul W. Ladenson
P. Reed Larsen
Delbert A. Fisher
Orlo H. Clark
Paul W. Ladenson
Lewis E. Braverman

Secretary's Report
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In the year to come, the ATA will sponsor our first free-standing public health symposium on "Protecting the Thyroid with Potassium Iodide." We will have both scientific and clinical satellite symposia in conjunction with our Annual Meeting at the Breakers in Palm Beach. And we will take some new serious steps into the realm of patient advocacy and education.

There's never been more for the ATA to do, and we've never had more human and financial resources to meet the challenge.

Best wishes to you all for a healthy, productive and happy New Year!

Paul W. Ladenson, M.D.

Corresponding

Cecilia H.A. Gouveia-Ferreira Antonio C. Bianco

Associate

Chun-Rong Chen Basil Rapoport
Viviana E. Hardy Serge Jabbour
Brian W. Kim Antonio C. Bianco
Tetsuya Mizokami Jack R. Wall
Sofia E. Vasquez-Solomon Elliot G. Levy

New Member

Sponsor

October 2002

Active

Liliana M. Bergoglio
Stephanie A. Fish
Irene T. Gaw Gonzalo
Edison Goncalves
Stephen A. Huang
Todd Kroll
Carl D. Malchoff
Michele Marino
Harvey A. Rubenstein

Carole A. Spencer
Susan J. Mandel
Terry J. Smith
Kenneth B. Ain
P. Reed Larsen
Paul W. Ladenson
James V. Hennessey
Aldo Pinchera
Leonard Wartofsky

Corresponding

Rosalinda YA Camargo

Geraldo Medeiros-Neto

Associate

Lara Joy Levin
Hiralal G. Maheshwara
Harmeet S. Narula
James G. Powell
Anna M. Sawka
Nikolaos A. Stathatos

Yaron Tomer
Antonio C. Bianco
Maisie Shindo
Bryan McIver
Vahab Fatourech
Kenneth D. Burman

REGISTER NOW!

Public Health Strategies for Protecting the Thyroid with Potassium Iodide in the Event of a Nuclear Incident
A Symposium of the American Thyroid Association

Friday, February 28, 2003

Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Avenue, NW,
Washington, DC 20001

For Program Information & Registration, go on-line
www.hopkinsmedicine.org/cme/events/PubHlthThyroid.html
or contact the Johns Hopkins CME Office (410 614-0148, fax 410 955-0807,
e-mail ckowarski@jhmi.edu)

Hyatt Regency Hotel reservations: 800 233-1234 or 202 737-1234,
fax 202 737-5773

United Airlines: 800 521-4041 (Meeting ID Number 549TJ)

2002 - 2003 Committee Members Serve the ATA

President Peter Singer announced the committee members and chairs for 2002-2003 and remarked that "the commitment and energy of these volunteers is reflected in all of the quality programs and initiatives of the American Thyroid Association." Council members are also active as liaisons to each committee, serving to promote action and focus by providing a communication link from the ATA executive council.

Awards Committee

P. Reed Larsen, Chair
James Figge
Valerie A. Galton
Jody Ginsberg
Elaine M. Kaptein
Leonard D. Kohn
Basil Rapoport
Arthur B. Schneider
Paul D. Woolf
Gregory A. Brent, Council Liaison

Bylaws Committee

Edward Merker, Chair
Richard S. Haber
Jay D. Silverberg
Peter P. Yeo
Jeffrey R. Garber, Council Liaison

Clinical Affairs Committee

R. Michael Tuttle, Chair
H. Jack Baskin
Andrew Bauman
Lynn A. Burmeister
Harvey Cohen
Gerard M. Doherty
Carol M. Greenlee
Kenneth H. Hupart
Susan Mandel
Kenneth A. Woeber
Stephanie L. Lee, Council Liaison

Development Committee

Elias C. Dow, Chair
Paul J. Davis, Campaign Chair
Lewis E. Braverman
Michael D. Brennan
Boris Catz
David S. Cooper, ex officio
Paul W. Ladenson, Council Liaison

Education Committee

Anthony N. Hollenberg, Chair
Elsie M. Allen
Leslie J. DeGroot
Vahab Fatourehchi
Yehuda Handelsman
David S. Rosenthal
Steven I. Sherman
Lawrence C. Wood
James V. Hennessey, Advisor
Rebecca Bahn, Council Liaison

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Manfred Blum

Jerome M. Hershtman
Amy L. O'Donnell
Douglas Ross
Ronald B. Stein
Stephen W. Spaulding, Advisor
David S. Cooper, ex officio
Charles H. Emerson, ex officio

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Colum A. Gorman
Marguerite T. Hays
William M. McConahey
James A. Pittman, Jr.
John B. Stanbury

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Henry B. Burch
Shireen Fatemi
James R. Hurley
Jonathan LoPresti
Jerald C. Nelson
Yolanda C. Oertel
Carole A. Spencer, Council Liaison

Local Arrangements Committee

2003 Elliot Levy

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Gregorio D. Chazenbalk
George Kahaly
Joanne Rovet
Virginia Sarapura
Geoffrey B. Thompson
William A. Valente
Elliot Levy, Council Liaison

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Gerard N. Burrow
Vivian Cody
Gilbert Daniels
William L. Green
Jorge H. Mestman
Susan A. Sherman
Sheue-yann Cheng, Council Liaison

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Glenn D. Braunstein
Orlo H. Clark
Faith B. Davis
Hossein Gharib
James V. Hennessey
Jacqueline Jonklaas
Cary N. Mariash
Whitney Woodmansee
Peter A. Singer, Council Liaison

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Rebecca Bahn, Chair, Basic Medicine
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Wolfgang H. Dillmann
Quan-Yang Duh

Douglas Forrest
Ian D. Hay
Sissy M. Jhiang
Michael M. Kaplan
Peter A. Kopp
Mary H. Samuels
Terry J. Smith
Paul Yen
Donald L. St. Germain, Council Liaison

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Victor J. Bernet, Vice-Chair and Acting Chair
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Rosalind S. Brown
John T. Dunn
Henry Fein
Ernest L. Mazzaferri
Marvin L. Mitchell
Hee-Myung Park
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David V. Becker, Advisor
Jacob Robbins, Advisor
Lester Van Middlesworth, Advisor
John C. Morris, III, Council Liaison

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Robert C. Smallridge
Alex S. Stagnaro-Green
Martha A. Zeiger
Terry F. Davies, ex officio
Jeffrey R. Garber, ex officio
Robert D. Utiger, ex officio
David S. Cooper, Council Liaison

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Irwin L. Klein
Ronald J. Koenig
Matthew Ringel
Mariusz W. Szkudlinski
Yaron Tomer
Marvin C. Gershengorn, Council Liaison

Website Advisory Group (ad hoc)

Matthew Ringel, Chair
Antonio Bianco
Alan Farwell
Mike McDermott
Richard Robbins
Michael Tuttle

Patient Alliance Task Force (ad hoc)

David Cooper
Faith Davis
Alan Farwell
Stephanie Lee

In Memoriam - Alvin L. Schultz 1921-2001

A native of Minneapolis, Alvin Schultz, MD, FACP, died on January 19, 2001 after a long illness. Dr. Schultz earned his BA in 1943 and MD in 1946 from the University of Minnesota. After an endocrinology residency and fellowship at the University of Minnesota, he was named Associate Director of the Radioisotope Laboratory, and Assistant Chief of Medicine at the Minneapolis Veterans Administration Hospital.

Dr. Schultz served as Chairman of Medicine and Director of Medical Research at Mount Sinai Hospital in Minneapolis and Chief of Medicine at Hennepin County Medical Center. By the time he retired in 1987, 300 residents had completed training in internal medicine, the full-time staff had grown to 55, and the Department of Medicine had achieved national recognition for the quality of its clinical, research, and educational programs. Upon his retirement, the Alvin Schultz Lectureship was established to honor his devoted service to the Department.

New "Hypothyroidism" Booklet on Web Site

Hypothyroidism, a new ATA patient information booklet is available on the web site (www.thyroid.org/resources/patients/brochures/hypothyroidismbrochure.pdf).

Drafted by Carol Greenlee and Edie Stern, the work is being revised in response to reviews by ATA members, other professionals, patients, and the public. You and your patients are

encouraged to read the booklet and send comments to the ATA office. If you're interested in helping to write the patient booklets, please contact Patient Education and Advocacy Committee Chair Alan Farwell at alan.farwell@umassmed.edu.

Campaign for Thyroid Discovery

Please
Attach
Your
Business
Card Here

Name: _____
 My Pledge is \$ _____ \$10,000 \$5,000 \$2,500 \$1,000
 Signature _____ Date _____
 I will complete my pledge*:
 With the enclosed check for the amount of \$ _____
 OR Charge my VISA/MasterCard for the amount of \$ _____
 Credit Card No. _____ Expiration Date _____

*If you would like to make payments towards your pledge on a schedule (e.g. monthly, quarterly, annually) please state those terms here:



6066 Leesburg Pike,
Suite 650
Falls Church, Virginia
22041

phone: 703 998-8890
fax: 703 998-8893

Campaign for Thyroid Discovery

The ATA initiated the Campaign for Thyroid Discovery as a nationwide effort to raise \$3 million to endow and ensure lasting support for thyroid research grants. The ATA is the only professional scientific society that provides grants for thyroid research exclusively. The Campaign will support peer-reviewed clinical and basic science investigations of exceptional merit and promise for years to come.

With your contribution, ATA grants give researchers an opportunity to establish the data and analysis required for successful applications to the National Institutes of Health and other grant-making organizations.



ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING Los Angeles - October 12, 2002

President Carole Spencer reflected on ATA's first year implementing the Strategic Plan, the professionalism of Bobbi Smith and her staff, ATA's expanded public image and influence, the hard work by ATA committees and their chairs, and the new Women in Thyroidology initiative. She particularly thanked Secretary Paul Ladenson for his wise advice and guidance.

Report of the Secretary: Dr. Ladenson praised the strong leadership of Executive Director Bobbi Smith and her staff. He expressed satisfaction with the association's positive balance sheet, and noted the financial success of the current annual meeting with \$450,000 in industrial support. He described several important achievements during the past year: strengthening of ATA committees, the "home stretch" for the Campaign for Thyroid Discovery, and ongoing thoughtful consideration of the ATA's role in patient education and advocacy. He noted that the 74th annual meeting is historic in being the first at which some leaders will be chosen by competitive elections. He reported several special upcoming meetings include a symposium on potassium iodide on February 28, 2003 in Washington, DC; new satellite courses at the 2003 Annual Meeting; and a two-day "State of the Art in Thyroidology" clinical conference in March 2005, the year of the International Thyroid Congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Necrology: Members stood for a moment of silence to remember Monte Greer, Robert Kroc, and Cosmo and Julia Mackenzie.

Report of the Treasurer: David Cooper reported that ATA's bond holdings have performed well this year and noted that our equity holdings have lost only 7% of their value despite the market. He reported that meeting cancellation insurance will pay a premium of \$135,000, offsetting losses from the postponed 2001 annual meeting. Dr. Cooper projected that this year's annual meeting will realize a \$46,859 profit, of which \$40,000 will be designated as a reserve for the 2005 ITC year, in which we have no annual meeting. Finally, he indicated that projected expenses will be budget-neutral.

Committee Reports

Finance and Audit Committee: Chair David Sarne reported that the 2003 budget format will reflect more clearly how the annual meeting income relates to annual meeting expenses. He indicated that we expect less income from United Way contributions in the coming year. The

Committee recommends that the association's investment policy be reviewed.

Program Committee: Reporting on behalf of Co-Chair Leonard Wartofsky, Gregory Brent reported attendance of 820 at the 74th Annual Meeting. The 246 submitted abstracts were evenly split between clinical and basic science topics, and almost one-half of all abstracts concerned thyroid cancer. Ian Hay coordinated satellite CMES programs smoothly with the scientific sessions. He noted that next year's Program Committee co-chairs, Bryan Haugen and Rebecca Bahn, are already off to a good start.

Local Arrangements Committee: Chair Greg Brent thanked the committee for arranging the opening reception and banquet entertainment, Universal Studios tour, wine tasting, tourist information, and staffing for the Ruth Volpe Hospitality Suite.

Membership Committee: Chair Tony Bianco reported that the Committee approved 65 new members this year, increasing ATA's membership by 7% to 890. However, he expressed disappointment that almost 15% of members are late in paying their dues. He reported that most active members renew their membership, whereas more than half of associate members do not. To boost membership, the Committee began offering free first-year associate membership plus a free subscription to THYROID. An on-line application form is also now available. The Committee proposes opening membership to other committed health professionals, including nurses, physicists, and others with a serious interest in thyroid disease. Finally, he encouraged members to recruit more young members.

Awards Committee: Chair Reed Larsen reported that from a wealth of excellent candidates, the Committee chose Hossein Gharib for the Paul Starr Award, Terry Davies for the Ingbar Award, Martin Surks for the Distinguished Service Award, and Sissy Jhiang for the Van Meter Award. The Committee wants to change the Van Meter awardee age requirement so that the recipient can be up to age 45 years during the year in which the award is made.

Education Committee: Jim Hennessey reported for Chair Tony Hollenberg that the Committee is planning a symposium on thyroid disease in pregnancy at the May 2003 American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology meeting. The Committee is also considering packaging and selling industry-sponsored "CMES" satellite programs from ATA annual meetings. He also indicated

Memorial Gifts

The ATA expresses its sincere appreciation to the families of Margaret Martz Polen and Tammy L. Adkins, who requested that memorial donations be made to the ATA's Campaign for Thyroid Discovery. Both families located the ATA by searching the web for thyroid related organizations. We are most grateful.

Old News and New

The History and Archives Committee, chaired by president-elect, Clark Sawin, is calling for members to contribute their personal archives related to the thyroid and the society to the ATA. Newspaper clippings, journal write-ups, curricula vitae and pictures will be carefully indexed and preserved at the headquarters office. So, dig out those old photos of Annual Meetings and send them in!

The SIGNAL newsletter also appreciates recent notices of awards, achievements and honors received by ATA members. Please send a current picture with your news items.

Annual Business Meeting
continued from page 8

that more “members-only” web-based materials was being sought.

Public Health Committee: Speaking on behalf of Co-Chair Ken Burman, Victor Bernet reported ATA helped extend potassium iodide (KI) coverage from 10 to 20 miles around nuclear power plants in Congress’s 2002 antiterrorism law. This law mandates a National Academy of Sciences (NAS) study of the best way to distribute KI, and the ATA has written to recommend including a thyroidologist on this panel. ATA has also encouraged distribution of pediatric KI doses, and the FDA recently approved a 65-mg (half-dose) pill. He noted that the ATA will offer a symposium on KI on February 28, 2003 in Washington, DC. Dr. Bernet reported that the Committee is also responding to web sites that promote unproven thyroid-related therapies, is working for notification when single-source drugs, such as Thyrel (R), are removed from the market, and plans to prepare an annual report on Americans’ dietary iodine status.

Development Committee: Chair Eli Dow reported that Genzyme has pledged \$25,000 toward the Campaign for Thyroid Discovery, Abbott has sent its fourth of five \$200,000 annual donations, and contributions have been received in memory of a thyroid cancer patient. He noted that ATA remains in the United Way’s Combined Federal Campaign. Boston, Baltimore, Miami, and Washington, DC have been targeted for special foundation fundraising efforts in the coming year. He urged members to donate generously and thanked them for their past support. He offered his special thanks to Roslyn McKee in the ATA office.

International Meeting Committee: Council Liaison Martin Surks reported that the International Coordinating Committee for the 13th International Thyroid Congress met to review preliminary plans for the October 2005 meeting Buenos Aires.

History and Archives Committee: Chair Clark Sawin said that the Committee continues to develop the archives, prepare biographical sketches and oral histories of senior members. He also reported that the committee plans to write a book about the ATA’s history.

Publications Committee: Chair Martin Surks noted that both THYROID and CLINICAL THYROIDOLOGY are doing well. Editor Terry Davies has reported more than 300 articles per year are being submitted to THYROID; 75% of these submissions come from outside North America. THYROID is now available on-line for members, for only \$7 per year. CLINICAL THYROIDOLOGY now goes to 10,000 subscribers. Editor Robert Utiger plans to recruit more commentators.

Standards of Care (Clinical Affairs) Committee: Chair Susan Mandel reported that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) tabled ATA’s request for coverage of PET scanning for thyroid cancer, because of their view that there was inadequate supporting scientific evidence. She anticipates, however, that CMS will revisit our request. The Committee is also reviewing ATA’s clinical practice guidelines, working on reimbursement for I-131 therapy, drafting standards for performing and reporting thyroid ultrasound, and updating its guide to insurance coding for thyroid-related disorders and procedures.

Patient Education and Advocacy Committee: Chair Alan Farwell reported that in its first year as a standing committee, requirements for membership in an Alliance of Thyroid Patient Societies were developed. Five patient groups have been invited to submit applications. The Committee has also begun revising ATA’s patient brochures. Members are encouraged to read and comment on the first brochure (“Hypothyroidism”) and to help draft future brochures.

Research Committee: Chair Sandra McLachlan reported that after advertising the research awards program in THYROID and CLINICAL THYROIDOLOGY, the Committee received 51 short proposals. The awardees are Peter Kopp and Antonio Bianco. ATA’s grants program is becoming all the more important with the loss of the Thyroid Research Advisory Council (TRAC) grants program.

Lab Services Committee: Chair Tom Bigos reported that the committee had started a symposium on thyroid testing that included thyroglobulin, TSH, and free T4 at this annual meeting. Next year, they will offer a symposium on other thyroid

tests. The Committee is addressing quality of thyroid testing in laboratories, the problem of physicians being forced to use laboratories that they consider substandard, and criteria for performing and interpreting fine needle aspiration biopsies.

Nominating Committee: Chair Chip Ridgway reported that, as directed by Council, the committee had planned and held a competitive election for President-Elect and Council members (see results below). Single nominees for Secretary and Treasurer will continue to be selected by the Committee. He reported that the committee has chosen Gregory Brent as Secretary-Elect and Charles Emerson as Treasurer-Elect, to serve from 2003-2008.

Bylaws Committee: Chair Edward Merker proposed the following amendments proposed in 2001 for voting:

- Rename the Standards of Care Committee the “Clinical Affairs Committee” and expand its scope. *Passed unanimously*
- Develop procedures for competitive elections of President-Elect and Directors. *Passed unanimously*
- Shorten Secretary and Treasurer’s terms from five to three years. *Defeated*

These new amendments were proposed for consideration at the 2003 Annual Business Meeting:

- Detailed procedures for nominating and electing President-Elect and Directors, including ability to vote without attending the annual business meeting. *Approved for future consideration.*
- Opening membership beyond physicians and scientists to include other healthcare professionals. *Approved for future consideration.*
- Ability to vote on proposed Bylaws amendments the same year that they are proposed rather than a year later. *Defeated*

After thanking all the candidates who had agreed to run for office in this first-ever competitive election, Carole Spencer announced the election results:

- President-Elect: Clark Sawin
- Directors: Rebecca Bahn and Donald St. Germain

Peter Singer was then escorted to the podium by Dr. Spencer and Dr. Nicoloff, and as his first official act, adjourned the Annual Business Meeting.

ATA SIGNAL



**AMERICAN THYROID
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

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Kandra L. Files

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UPCOMING SOCIETY MEETINGS

Public Health Strategies for Protecting the Thyroid with Potassium Iodide in the Event of Nuclear Incident

American Thyroid Association and the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
February 28, 2003

Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill
Washington, DC

contact: Carol Kowarski

phone: 410 955-2959

fax: 410 955-0807

e-mail: ckowarski@jhmi.edu

web: <http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/cme/events/PubHlthThyroid.html>

6th European Congress of Endocrinology
April 24-30, 2003

Lyon, France

phone: +33 4 72 98 58 58

fax: +33 4 72 98 58 98

e-mail: info@endocrinology2003.com

web: www.endocrinology2003.com

American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists

May 14-18, 2003

San Diego Marriott Hotel and Marina

San Diego, California

web: www.aace.com

Endo 2003: 85th Annual Meeting of the Endocrine Society

June 19-22, 2003

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

contact: Beverly Glover

phone: 301 941-0200

fax: 301 941-0259

e-mail: bglover@endo-society.org

web: www.endo-society.org

ATA 75th Annual Meeting of the American Thyroid Association

September 16-21, 2003

The Breakers

Palm Beach, Florida

admin@thyroid.org, web: www.thyroid.org

AFES 2003 & AOTA 2003

November 30 - December 4, 2003

Raffles City Convention Centre

Singapore

contact: Celestine Lee or Jocelyn Fan

phone: 65 326 6690 or 65 321 3564

fax: 65 223 9789

American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists

April 28-May 2, 2004

Sheraton Boston & John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial

Convention Center

Boston, Massachusetts

web: www.aace.com

Endo 2004: 86th Annual Meeting of The Endocrine Society

June 16-19, 2004

New Orleans, Louisiana

contact: Beverly Glover

phone: 301 941-0200

fax: 301 941-0259

e-mail: bglover@endo-society.org

web: www.endo-society.org

Resistance to Thyroid Hormone

September 13-16, 2003

OceanPoint Resort and Club

Miami Beach, Florida, USA

ATA 76th Annual Meeting

September 29-October 3, 2004

Westin Bayshore Resort & Marina

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

13th International Thyroid Congress

October 30-November 4, 2005

Buenos Aires, Argentina

HONORS & AWARDS

ATA members lead sister societies Congratulations to ATA members who serve our sister societies in leadership roles.

The ATA is pleased to recognize AACE Presidents, **Hossein Gharib, MD**, (current) and **Rhoda Cobin, MD** (2001) and Endocrine Society Presidents, **E. Chester Ridgway, MD** (current) and **John Baxter, MD** (2001). These personal connections cement relationships between the ATA and our sister societies in pursuit of mutual goals.

Paul Walfish, MD, Professor Emeritus, Department of Medicine, Pediatrics & Otolaryngology and Senior consultant, Head & Neck Oncology Program of Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, Canada has been selected by the Governor General of Canada to receive a Commemorative Golden Jubilee medal on the 50th Anniversary of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II accession to the

Throne to honor his significant contributions to science and medicine in Canada.

The Light of Life Foundation honored **Bruce Weintraub, MD** on December 5th in New York City for his outstanding contribution to the welfare of patients with thyroid cancer through the creation of Thyrogen. The award was created in collaboration between the Light of Life Foundation and the Martin Sonenberg Lectureship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Institute. The past recipients of the Light of Life Honorary Award are ATA members **Ernie Mazzafferri, MD**, **Orlo Clark, MD** and **Martin Schlumberger, MD**.

Paul Ladenson, MD was recently elected President-elect of the Association of Subspecialty Professors (ASP).



**Call for Nominations for 2003-2004
President and Directors of the American Thyroid Association**

In accordance with the Bylaws of the American Thyroid Association, the Nominating Committee is soliciting nominations from the membership for candidates for the offices of President and Directors (3) to serve on the ATA Executive Council. A ballot of nominees will be sent to the membership by mail, e-mail, or fax in June 2003.

President

The President will serve a one-year term as President-Elect, followed by one year as President (2004-2005), and the following year as a Director on the Executive Council (2005-2006). Election of the President will be competitive.

Nominee:

Executive Council Director

Three Directors will each serve a four-year term (2003-2007). Election of directors will be competitive.

Nominee:

Nominee:

Nominee:

Nominated by (please print or type):

Signature:

Date:

All nominations must be submitted to the Secretary by letter, fax, or e-mail by April 1, 2003:

**ATA Nominating Committee
American Thyroid Association
6066 Leesburg Pike, Suite 650
Falls Church, VA 22041**

**Fax: 703 998-8893
E-mail: bsmith@thyroid.org**



Call for Nominations for the American Thyroid Association 2003 Awards

Van Meter Award

Sidney H. Ingbar Distinguished Lectureship Award

Paul Starr Award

ATA Distinguished Service Award

The Van Meter Award established in 1930, recognizes outstanding contributions to research on the thyroid gland or related subjects. The awardee must not have reached the age of 45 in the year of the award. The Van Meter award winner is kept secret until the time of the award lecture during the annual meeting. An honorarium of \$2500 and expenses of \$1000 will be presented to the Van Meter Award recipient. This award is supported by Quest Diagnostics, Inc.

Nominee:

Date of Birth

Sidney H. Ingbar Distinguished Lectureship Award recognizes outstanding academic achievements in thyroidology, in keeping with the innovation and vision that epitomized Dr. Ingbar's brilliant investigative career. The Ingbar award is conferred upon an established investigator who has made major contributions to thyroid-related research over many years. An honorarium of \$2500 and expenses of \$1000 will be presented to the Sidney H. Ingbar Distinguished Lectureship Award recipient. This award is endowed by contributions to honor the memory of Sidney H. Ingbar and supported by Abbott Laboratories, Abbott Park, Illinois.

Nominee:

The Paul Starr Award recognizes an outstanding contributor to clinical thyroidology. An honorarium of \$2500 and expenses of \$1000 will be presented to the Paul Starr Award recipient. This award is supported by Monarch Pharmaceuticals and Boris Catz, M.D.,

Nominee:

The Distinguished Service Award honors a member who has made important and continuing contributions to the Association. The DSA award certificate is presented at the ATA Annual Banquet.

Nominee:

Nominated by:
(print or type)

Signature:

Date:

Nominators must submit all of the following:

1. Completed Nomination Form (above).
2. Curriculum vitae of nominee with publications, excluding abstracts.
3. Letter stating nominee's qualifications, noting the significance and quality of research.
4. Reprints or copies of up to four selected publications by the nominee.

All nominations must be submitted to the ATA Awards Committee in writing (letter, fax or email) no later than March 3, 2003 at the address below. The four submission requirements are necessary for the nomination to be considered.

ATA Awards Committee
American Thyroid Association
6066 Leesburg Pike, Suite 650
Falls Church, VA 22041
Fax: 703 998-8893
E-mail: admin@thyroid.org



Call for Abstracts

75th Annual Meeting of the American Thyroid Association
September 16-21, 2003
The Breakers, Palm Beach, Florida

Deadlines

- Regular call: Site opens - Monday, February 17, 2003
Site closes - Tuesday, May 13, 2003
- Short call: Site opens - Monday, July 28, 2003
Site closes - Tuesday, August 12, 2003

General policies and information

- Scientific materials presented at the ATA Annual Meeting must not have been published or presented before other national or international societies before the 75th Annual Meeting. (Local and regional meetings excluded.)
- All abstracts must be filed electronically via the American Thyroid Association website (www.thyroid.org). Submissions will not be accepted by fax or mail.
- All materials must arrive on or before the abstract deadlines noted above.
- Authorship on multiple abstracts is permitted.
- If selected for poster presentation, an author is required to be present during the assigned poster sessions.

Regular Abstracts

- Regular Abstracts submitted by the May 13 deadline will, with rare exceptions, be accepted for publication in the proceedings of the meeting and presentation as either a 10-minute oral talk or a poster.
- Notification of acceptance for Regular Abstracts will be e-mailed in June 2003.

Short Call Abstracts

- Short Call Abstracts should represent the very latest in thyroid-related research.
- Only four Short Call Abstracts will be selected for 10-minute oral presentations. Acceptance notices for those selected will be e-mailed on or before August 20, 2003.
- The remaining Short Call submissions will not be published or presented at the meeting in any format. Notification will be sent by e-mail to those not selected for presentation.