Guest Editorial

Welcome to the 79th Annual Meeting of the American Thyroid Association

In the last twelve months the pace of biomedical scientific discovery has continued at breakneck speed. This is echoed in our field of thyroidology. The primary goal of this 79th Annual Meeting of the American Thyroid Association (ATA) is to assure that our members and guests stay informed of each and every new advancement and share the joy of collegial academic camaraderie. A core mission of the ATA is to advance the parallel goals of cutting edge clinical thyroid care as well as novel discovery through benchtop research. As exemplified in this meeting agenda and published research abstracts, the efforts of the ATA’s leadership have sown great rewards. In planning the 79th Annual Meeting, the ATA Program Committee worked with a wealth of proposed topics and speakers. Out of this beautiful morass, we have an agenda that seeks to be inclusive, featuring hormonal biology, pediatric care, thyroid oncology, autoimmunity, surgical advancements, cytologic and histopathologic analysis, clinical thyroidology, global epidemiologic analysis, and much, much more.

Among the many highlights, we draw your attention to the opening symposium, entitled “Recent Developments and Future Challenges in Thyroidology.” This novel presentation will feature several senior members of the ATA, each of whom will provide an overview of the important advances in thyroidology.
the past year in one of four major areas of thyroidology, including thyroid neoplasia, thyroid hormone regulation and action, autoimmunity, and thyroid hormone synthesis. They will also discuss future challenges and forecast some answers to questions that might emerge during this meeting. We are confident the welcome reception afterward will be ripe with discussion and excitement regarding this session and the upcoming meeting.

The keynote address by Dr. Thomas Scanlan will begin our first full meeting day and focus on the excitement of the rapidly emerging field of thyronamine biology and physiology. Following the plenary abstract session, an in-depth translational symposium will parallel the keynote address, discussing the latest advances in thyroid hormone analogues and their potential clinical utility. Throughout the meeting attendees will have the opportunity to choose from nearly 20 different symposia and more than 20 different Meet the Professor Workshop Luncheons, as well as nearly 250 abstract presentations of original research.

Friday and Saturday will be exciting days, as the Paul Starr Award, Ingbar Award, and Van Meter lectures are presented. The State of the Art lecture, to be delivered by Dr. Joseph Takahashi, will focus on the molecular neurobiology and genetics of circadian clocks. We also draw your attention to two symposia that focus on a great deal of behind-the-scenes work and are precursors to the year ahead. The NIH Thyroid Fine Needle Aspiration ‘State of the Science’ Workshop symposium follows in response to an important gathering that occurred in late 2007. Discussion of published and unpublished works will provide an insight into the consensus that may emerge on aspects surrounding the most common procedure performed by thyroidologists—the thyroid needle biopsy. Similarly, the ATA Medullary Carcinoma ‘Guidelines’ Symposium will review the past two years’ work of an ATA committee. Led by ATA Secretary/COO Richard T. Kloos, highlights from upcoming guidelines will be released.

In summary, the ATA Program Committee invites you to share the excitement of this 79th Annual Meeting ahead. Chicago is a wonderful city, with sightseeing, events, food, and hospitality that will equal the scientific excitement of the meeting itself. We look forward to seeing each of you in the Windy City!

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Call for Nominations for the American Thyroid Association 2009 Awards

Van Meter Award  Sidney H. Ingbar Distinguished Lectureship Award  Paul Starr Award
Distinguished Service Award  John B. Stanbury Thyroid Pathophysiology Award

The Van Meter Award established in 1930, recognizes outstanding contributions to research on the thyroid gland or related subjects. The award is given each year to an investigator who is not older than 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.

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 King Pharmaceuticals and Boris Catz, M.D.

Nominee:

The Distinguished Service Award (DSA) honors a member who has made important and continuing contributions to the Association. A letter of nomination and CV are required. The DSA award certificate is presented at the ATA Annual Banquet.

Nominee:

The John B. Stanbury Thyroid Pathophysiology Award recognizes outstanding research contributions, either conceptual or technical, to the understanding of thyroid physiology or the pathophysiology of thyroid disease, as evidenced by having a major impact on research or clinical practice related to thyroid diseases. A medal will be conferred at the Annual Meeting Banquet, travel expenses and an honorarium will be provided.

Nominee:

Nominators must submit all of the following electronically to thyroid@thyroid.org to complete the nomination by the deadline of March 31, 2009:

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.
Basic Chair
Sissy Jhiang

Clinical Chair
Erik Alexander

Committee Members
Glenn Braunstein (2005–2008)
Patrizio Caturegli (2006–2009)
James Fagin (2005–2008)
Sebastiano Filetti (2005–2008)
Peter Kopp (2006–2009)
Virginia LiVolsi (2007–2010)
Mark Lupo (2005–2008)
Michael McDermott (2006–2009)
Honey Reddi (2007–2010)
Kathryn Schuff (2005–2008)

Board Liaison
Antonio Bianco

Staff Liaisons
Bobbi Smith
Adonia Coates
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<td>Endocrine Fellows’ Conference</td>
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<td>8:00</td>
<td>Exhibitors Move In 8:00 AM — 12:00 PM</td>
<td>Welcome &amp; Keynote Address: 8:15 AM — 9:00 AM</td>
<td>Paul Starr Lecture: 8:15 AM — 9:00 AM</td>
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<td>Plenary Abstract Session (4): 9:00 AM — 10:00 AM</td>
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<td>Break &amp; Poster Review: 10:15 AM — 10:30 AM</td>
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<td>Meet the Professor Workshop Luncheons (8): 12:15 PM — 1:15 PM (Admission by ticket only)</td>
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<td>ATA Committee &amp; Board Liaisons Meetings: 2:00 PM — 4:00 PM</td>
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**MEETING-AT-A-GLANCE**

**AMERICAN THYROID ASSOCIATION**

**79TH Annual Meeting of the American Thyroid Association**

**Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers • Chicago, IL • October 1-5, 2008**

Dedicated to scientific inquiry, clinical excellence, public service, education and collaboration.

**www.thyroid.org** • **Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers**