

## American Thyroid Association 2012 Annual Report



### INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY OF PROGRAMS

The American Thyroid Association (ATA) continues to be the leading worldwide organization dedicated to the advancement, understanding, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of thyroid disorders and thyroid cancer. ATA is an international individual membership organization with over 1,600 members from 43 countries around the world. Celebrating its 89th anniversary, ATA delivers its mission through several key endeavors: the publication of highly regarded monthly journals, **THYROID**, *Clinical Thyroidology* and *Clinical Thyroidology for Patients*; annual scientific meetings; biennial clinical and research symposia; research grant programs for young investigators; support of online professional, public and patient educational programs through [www.thyroid.org](http://www.thyroid.org); and the development of evidence based guidelines for clinical management of thyroid disease.

Founded in 1923 as the American Goiter Association, the American Thyroid Association (ATA) is a nonprofit professional medical society comprised of physicians and scientists dedicated to enhancing the understanding of thyroid physiology and pathophysiology, improving diagnosis and treatment of thyroid diseases, and promoting the education of physicians, patients, and the public about thyroid disorders.

The ATA is a unique society providing services to the public far beyond its membership numbers. Its 1,600 members have a wealth of expertise and are mission-driven to make the world a better place for patients suffering with thyroid disease and thyroid cancer. The ATA represents the best vehicle worldwide for thyroidologists - to share information that improves detection and treatment of thyroid disease; to advance basic and clinical thyroid research; and to provide a collegial setting for professional development.

Below is a summary of the American Thyroid Association's (ATA) programs.

The ATA provides:

- A communication network for national and international thyroidologists.
- An international organization disseminating leading-edge research findings about the full array of thyroid biology and disease.
- "Find a specialist" patient resource connecting clinical thyroidologists to patients in North America and around the world.
- Organization of scientific educational symposia, workshops, annual meetings, international congresses, all regarding thyroid research and clinical treatment to improve the lives of patients and the understanding of thyroid function.
- Extensive website resources for the public and health care professionals at [www.thyroid.org](http://www.thyroid.org).
- ATA sponsored Clinical Management Guidelines for thyroid diseases and thyroid cancer.
- The official Journal of the ATA, **THYROID**.
- *Clinical Thyroidology* and *Clinical Thyroidology for Patients*.
- Public awareness for thyroid education and thyroid health.

- Professional comment on thyroid drug safety and efficacy.
- Centralized search engine of clinical trials related to thyroid disease.
- Sources of thyroid research grant funding by the ATA.
- Consistent new information organized for the scientist, the clinician, the academic, the patient, the public.
- Fellows' Corner to support and encourage new endocrinology specialists.
- A society dedicated to thyroidology supporting educational and association benefits for trainees in endocrinology, and other specialties.
- "Friends of the ATA" – a resource for patients to receive monthly updates by email on the latest thyroid research and answers to frequently asked questions.
- Collaborative efforts with endocrine sister societies such as The Endocrine Society, the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists, the American Diabetes Association, the Pediatric Endocrine Society, and many others.
- Collaborative efforts with the International Thyroid Congress which is comprised of the four world thyroid societies – the Latin American Thyroid Society (LATS), the European Thyroid Association (ETA), the Asia & Oceania Thyroid Association (AOTA), and ATA.

The philanthropic support of our members and friends, and the public and grateful patients permits the ATA to provide this variety and extent of valuable services.

#### **MISSION, PURPOSE AND IMPLEMENTATION**

##### **ATA MISSION**

The ATA is the leading organization devoted to thyroid biology and to the prevention and treatment of thyroid disease through excellence in research, clinical care, education, and public health.

##### **ATA VALUES**

The ATA values:

- scientific inquiry
- clinical excellence
- public service
- patient advocacy
- education
- worldwide collaboration and collegiality
- ethical conduct

As a society focused on the thyroid, our prospects for philanthropic and corporate sponsorship remain narrow and each of these partners has suffered in the economic crisis that has included many job losses and cut-backs. Thus, our funding from external sources has been reduced.

It is important to note that the ATA is more than just an Association which conducts meetings and publishes a journal. Together, the revenues derived from our meeting and annual membership dues support many important activities in fulfilling our mission. These revenues provide free membership for our young members in post-doctoral and clinical training offering reduced membership and annual meeting costs as they transition to full academic and private practice status.



We provide 3 publications: THYROID, our official peer-reviewed journal on a paid subscription basis; and, *Clinical Thyroidology* to both 1,600 members and 3,600 non-members and *Clinical Thyroidology for Patients* currently at no charge to 12,400 public and patients. The ATA supports improvement in health care policies impacting the health of thyroid patients. We undertake costly maintenance and development of our website featuring our Fellows' Corner and extensive information to the public and members including Find-A-Physician search capabilities.

The expertise of thyroid experts is utilized in the development of evidence based clinical management Guidelines by experts serving on ATA task forces in an effort to improve care, standards, and policies throughout the world for those suffering from thyroid diseases and thyroid cancer. The ATA expenses include activities in Public Relations and the media, we provide a structure and culture that fosters the advance of clinical and basic sciences, we fund and distribute grants and awards funded by the ATA and other meritorious organizations that do not have the strong expanse of thyroidologists volunteering their time and expertise that create our infrastructure of grant review nor the administrative strength of paid staff to organize a top-notch grants program. This is a cost to the ATA as are all collaborative efforts which signify a strong nonprofit organization. While receiving charitable donations would seem to be simple, this requires significant financial processes and oversight, as well as applications for charitable status in federations and multiple states throughout the country to be eligible to solicit and accept donations including those received through the United Way, the Combined Federal Campaign, and Health and Medical Research Charities.

Our small but dedicated staff facilitates the productivity of our board and committee members who further our mission and values. The ATA staff holds the organization and themselves to the highest standards of nonprofit and charitable organizations.

The ATA is financially and philosophically solid and governed by an engaged and dedicated Board of Directors. We are optimistic in our future and mission oriented goals to serve the public and our members. We will continue to contain costs, seek to expand our scope of members and sponsors, carefully consider the value and costs of our endeavors, and scrutinize the value of activities that are not self-sustaining. However, the landscape of professional societies like the ATA is changing as the cost of fulfilling our mission remains steady and our corporate support diminishes.

## **Programs and Services provided in 2012**

### **PATIENT AND PUBLIC OUTREACH**

#### **Friends of the ATA**

The ATA has over 12,000 public subscribers to information sent electronically to those interested in learning more about thyroid disease and thyroid research. *Clinical Thyroidology for Patients* is sent monthly with a calendar of patient events held around the country by members of the ATA Alliance for Patient Education: ThyCa: Thyroid Cancer Survivors, Inc., Light of Life Foundation, and the Graves' Disease Foundation. This list is open to the public and is self-subscribed.

#### **Thyroid Disease Brochures in English and Spanish**

The ATA has web-based educational information on all subjects related to thyroid disease.

- Hypothyroidism Brochure
- Hypothyroidism Web Booklet
- Hyperthyroidism Brochure
- Graves' Disease Brochure
- Childhood Head and Neck Irradiation Brochure
- Radioactive Iodine
- Nuclear Radiation and the Thyroid
- Thyroid Nodules Brochure
- Cancer of the Thyroid Brochure
- Thyroid Hormone Treatment Brochure
- Thyroid Disease and Pregnancy Brochure
- Thyroid Disease in the Older Patient Brochure
- Thyroid Function Tests Brochure
- Thyroid Surgery Brochure
- Thyroiditis Brochure
- Postpartum Thyroiditis Brochure
- Thyroid and Weight
- Goiter
- Iodine Deficiency Brochure

A physician referral system is available to the public looking for a thyroid specialist - endocrinologist, surgeon or nuclear medicine physician – and ATA member – located on our homepage.

#### RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM

The ATA is committed to supporting research into better ways to diagnose and treat thyroid disease. The generosity of members, patients, industry, and donors in the workplace has enabled the ATA to award 59 thyroid research grants totaling \$1,530,000 since the inception of the Research Fund. The ATA collaborates with ThyCa: Thyroid Cancer Survivors, Inc. and Thyroid Head and Neck Cancer Foundation (THANC) to provide the rigor of scientific peer-review on qualified grant requests.

#### **ThyCa: Thyroid Cancer Survivors, Inc.**

Beginning in 2003, 35 special research grants focused on thyroid cancer have been funded by ThyCa: Thyroid Cancer Survivors, Inc., a member of the ATA Alliance for Patient Education totaling thus far \$961,250.

#### **Thyroid Head and Neck Cancer Foundation (THANC)**

From 2007-2011, the ATA agreed to expand the responsibilities of the expert reviewers on the ATA Research Committee by establishing grants funded by THANC. Sixteen grants were awarded for a total of \$460,000.

Each grant recipient received \$28,750 funding for the 12 month period beginning July 1.

#### **2012 ATA Grants**

Stephen Ayers, PhD – The Methodist Hospital Research Institute, Houston, Texas  
*An investigation of the LDLR-independent serum lipid modulation by thyroid hormone*

Ari J Wassner, MD – Children's Hospital Boston, Boston, Massachusetts  
*Type 3 Deiodinase in Dilated Heart Failure*

**2012 ATA ThyCa Grants – Thyroid Cancer**

Aime Franco, PhD – University of Arkansas for Medical Science, Little Rock, Arkansas  
*The role of Ras versus Raf in thyroid cancer development and progression*

Andreas E. Lundqvist, PhD – Karolinska Institute Stockholm, Sweden  
*Study the role of natural killer cells in anaplastic thyroid carcinoma*

Niklas Finnberg, PhD – Pennsylvania State Hershey Cancer Institute, Hershey, Pennsylvania  
*Sorafenib and quinacrine as potential combination for anaplastic thyroid carcinoma*

**2012 Second Year Grant Awardees**

Inna Astapova, PhD - Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (Harvard Medical School) Boston, Massachusetts

Mihaela Stefan, PhD - Mount Sinai School of Medicine New York, New York

Naifa Busaidy, MD - University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center Houston, Texas- *ThyCa*

Carmelo Nucera, MD, PhD - Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (Harvard Medical School) Boston, Massachusetts – *ThyCa*

Joanna Klubo-Gwiedzinska MD, PhD - Washington Hospital Center/Georgetown University Washington, DC - *ThyCa*

**July 1, 2011 ATA Research Grant**

Inna Astapova, PhD - Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (Harvard Medical School) Boston  
*Elucidating the in vivo Mechanisms by Which Thyroid Hormone Regulates Energy Expenditure*

**July 1, 2011 ATA Research Grant**

Mihaela Stefan, PhD - Mount Sinai School of Medicine New York, New York  
Role of interferon alpha in development of AITD: Epigenetic regulation of key genes

**July 1, 2011 ATA ThyCa Grants – Thyroid Cancer**

Naifa Busaidy, MD - University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center Houston, Texas  
A PI3K based phosphoproteome signature to predict prognosis and response to therapy in BRAF mutant papillary thyroid carcinoma

**July 1, 2011 ATA ThyCa Grants – Thyroid Cancer**

Carmelo Nucera, MD, PhD - Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (Harvard Medical School) Boston, Massachusetts  
Targeting BRAFV600E with an orally available selective inhibitor in novel in vitro and in vivo preclinical models of human papillary thyroid cancer

**July 1, 2011 ATA ThyCa Grant - Medullary Thyroid Cancer**

Joanna Klubo-Gwiedzinsk, PhD - Washington Hospital Center/Georgetown University Washington, DC  
The Role of the Translocator Protein (TSPO) in the Thyroid Cancer Response to the Treatment

**July 1, 2011 ATA Research Grant - \$28,750 – 2<sup>nd</sup> year**

Jens Mittag, PhD – Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden  
Regulation of Presympathetic Neuronal Activity by Thyroid Hormone

**July 1, 2011 ATA Research Grant - \$28,750 – 2<sup>nd</sup> year**

Mayrin Correa-Medina, PhD – University of Miami, Miami, Florida  
Deiodinase type 3 is critical for pancreatic islet development and function

**July 1, 2011 ATA ThyCa Research Grant - \$28,750 – 2<sup>nd</sup> year**

Tania Pilli, MD, PhD - University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois – *ThyCa*  
*The role of MADD, an IG20 gene splice variant, and its potential use as therapeutic target in the anaplastic thyroid cancer*

**July 1, 2011 ATA ThyCa Research Grant - \$28,750 – 2<sup>nd</sup> year**

Rozita Bagheri-Yarmand, PhD - University of Texas M D Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas - *ThyCa Medullary Thyroid Cancer*  
*Activating transcription factor 4 (ATF4), a novel putative tumor suppressor gene in medullary thyroid cancer*

**July 1, 2011 ATA THANC Research Grant - \$28,750 – 2<sup>nd</sup> year**

Wen T. Shen, MD, University of California, San Francisco, California – *THANC*  
*The Biological Relevance of mtDNA Damage in Hurthle Cell Neoplasms: A 3-Dimensional Molecular Model*

**BUILDING THE PROFESSION – ENDOCRINOLOGISTS, SURGEONS, SCIENTISTS IN TRAINING**

**ATA Fellows' Educational Track 2012 – Clinical, Basic and Surgical**

The ATA Fellows' Educational track is comprised of special sessions each day of the ATA meeting specifically designed to enhance fellows' knowledge of thyroid disease. These sessions run concurrent to the Annual Meeting program. Leaders in the field present on various topics to help fellows develop professionally. New this year, surgical fellows have been invited to participate in the track. Program input and contributions from ATA Surgical Affairs Committee Co-Chairs William Inabnet and David Steward have been integrated into the program. The ATA Fellows' Educational Track is open to all registered Annual Meeting fellows unless otherwise noted on the agenda. It is a career development and educational opportunity to learn more about the thyroid and experience the collegiality of the ATA. Approximately 200 fellows attended the annual meeting.

Co-chaired by Drs. Stephanie A. Fish and Andrew G. Gianoukakis, the ATA Clinical Fellows' Educational Track offers case studies, career information and an ultrasound course to compliment Clinical fellows' meeting experience.

Co-Chaired by Drs. Kristen Vella and Stephen Huang, the ATA Basic Fellows' Educational Track offers lectures and skill enhancement opportunities to Basic Post-Doctoral Fellows.

*Funding for these programs is provided by Genzyme Corporation, Abbott Laboratories, the Arthur Bauman Fund, the ATA Annual Fund, the University of Southern California Thyroid Research Group Fellows Fund and the ATA Annual Meeting registrant travel grant donations.*



**CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION**

**82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Thyroid Association**

September 19-23, 2012

Hilton Quebec City

Quebec City, Quebec, Canada

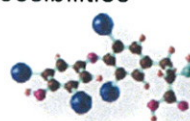
**American Thyroid Association Spring Symposium and Research Summit 2013**

Treatment of Hypothyroidism: Exploring the Possibilities

April 25-26, 2013

Westin City Center

Washington, DC



**AMERICAN THYROID ASSOCIATION**

*Spring Symposium and Research Summit 2013*

April 25-26, 2013 | Washington, D.C. |

[www.thyroid.org](http://www.thyroid.org)

**83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Thyroid Association**

October 16-20, 2013

Sheraton Puerto Rico Convention Center Hotel

San Juan, Puerto Rico



**American Thyroid Association**

**83rd Annual Meeting**

October 16-20, 2013 | San Juan, Puerto Rico

[www.thyroid.org](http://www.thyroid.org)

**84<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Thyroid Association**

October 29 - November 2, 2014

Hotel del Coronado

Coronado, California

**15<sup>th</sup> International Thyroid Congress (hosted by the ATA)**

October 18-23, 2015

Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort

Orlando, Florida

**85<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Thyroid Association**

September 21-26, 2016

Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel

Denver, Colorado

**86<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Thyroid Association**

October 18-22, 2017

The Fairmont Empress and Victoria Conference Center

Victoria, BC, Canada

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