



ATA SIGNAL

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN THYROID ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 2 NO. 3 DECEMBER 1999

ATA Receives One-Million Dollar Pledge For Thyroid Research

KNOLL GIFT ANNOUNCED AT 72nd ANNUAL MEETING

Everything seemed to go just right at the 72nd Annual ATA Meeting: Hurricane Floyd took a last minute turn north and missed West Palm Beach just in time for the arrival of a record number 1,058 members and guests, the clinical and scientific sessions were better

funds.

Steve Bigler, Knoll's Director of the Thyroid Franchise, affirmed his company's commitment to thyroid research on behalf of our patients.

The Knoll pledge wasn't the only good news heard at the banquet. Marty Surks announced an endowed Annual Arthur Bauman Clinical Symposium, in honor of Arthur's memory. Arthur's son Andy, an ATA member, spoke on behalf of the Bauman family. We could feel Arthur's presence as Andy spoke (see article on page 3).

Other banquet highlights included recognition of this year's awardees, including Marla Berry, Chip Ridgway, Art Schneider, and Leonard Kohn. Also, certificates of appreciation

were presented to representatives of Jones Pharma, Inc., Kronus, Inc., Genzyme Therapeutics, Mary Ann Liebert, Inc., Bayer Corp, Merck, KgaA, Nichols Institute Diagnostic, and Henning Berlin GmbH, for their support of the ATA's mission.

ATA members and guests expressed appreciation to outgoing President Orlo Clark, who introduced our new President, Marty Surks.

Our ATA officers kept their

remarks mercifully brief, thus allowing more time for party-goers to dance to the energetic sounds of "Company Z". The music was much too lively for the SIGNAL editor, who remained on the sidelines ready to perform CPR (does he remember how?), should the occasion arise; fortunately there was no need to call on long-

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Thanks to the generous Knoll "jump-start", the 3 year Campaign for Thyroid Research is well on its way to meeting its goal.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Many of us recently returned from the 72nd annual meeting of the American Thyroid Association in-

spired by the extraordinary quality of the basic and clinical thyroid research that was presented, and the elegance of the venue at The Breakers, Palm Beach, Florida. We are greatly indebted to the Program and Local Arrangements Committees, under the leadership of John Morris, and Co-Chairs, Elliot Levy and Bob Smallridge, respectively.

The ATA Administrator,
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Knoll Pharmaceutical's Steve Bigler receives Certificate of Appreciation from Campaign for Thyroid Research Chair Pepper Davis.

than ever, the social events were great, and to top it off, former ATA President Paul Davis took to the stage at the banquet to announce a one million dollar pledge from Knoll Pharmaceutical to the ATA's 3 year, 3 million dollar Campaign for Thyroid Research. Now that's progress!

Pepper clearly echoed members' sentiments by expressing gratitude for the pledge, and briefly outlined the ATA's program to raise the additional

Banquet Highlights

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forgotten skills.

The last annual ATA meeting of the millennium was one of the best in memory, thanks to John Morris and his Program Committee, Local Arrangements Committee Chairs Elliot Levy

and Bob Smallridge, Secretary Paul Ladenson, Administrator-without-peer Diane Miller, and Special Projects Manager Jennifer Ellis. See you next year in Kyoto!



Here are some of the people who made the 72nd Annual Meeting a success. From left: Elliot Levy (with wife, Debbie), Jennifer Ellis, Diane Miller, John Morris, and Bob Smallridge (with wife, Betty).

President's Message

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Diane P. Miller, and Special Projects Manager, Jennifer Ellis, worked tirelessly under the leadership of our Secretary, Paul Ladenson, to ensure that the scientific sessions and social events went smoothly and that all aspects of the meeting took place in the highest professional manner. On behalf of the membership, I thank them all for their efforts.

Now that we are home, it is time to define goals for the ATA's 77th year, and the activities that will position the ATA for continued success in the next millennium. I want to share with you my personal goals for 1999-2000.

1). Campaign for Thyroid Research: The Campaign, under the leadership of Paul Davis, in coordination with the Development Committee, is well underway, with a major grant from Knoll Pharmaceutical Corporation. I intend to work closely with Pepper and the Committee to facilitate their ef-

forts. I will appeal particularly to the broad membership of the ATA to participate in the Campaign. It is critically important, when we approach industry, to demonstrate that a significant percentage of our membership has supported the Campaign. Currently, this is not the case, since only 23 percent of you have contributed to the ATA Development Fund. My goal, as your President, is to more than double that percentage!

2). Patient Education: In 1999 the ATA Council mandated that the ATA play a role in patient education, and this mandate is now a component of our Mission and Vision Statements. I plan to help define that role, along with the ATA Secretary and Council, through discussions with existing patient education groups and the newly formed Hormone Foundation. Our efforts should be directed at ensuring the quality of patient educa-

tion materials, decreasing redundancy and costs, and improving direct patient contact and support.

3). Long-range Planning: Your President-Elect, Bill Chin, has brought to our attention the need for a formal long-range planning process for our association to define our goals and the activities to achieve them during the next 10 to 20 years. I intend to begin this process under Bill's leadership.

4). Membership: Our efforts in attracting new members have been quite successful in recent years and I will support the efforts of the Membership Committee to continue their successful program. In addition, I plan to contact non-member attendees at ATA meetings personally and offer to sponsor qualified individuals for membership.

5). Attendance at the 12th International Thyroid Congress: As you know, we will forgo our Annual Meeting in the year 2000, in favor of attending the 12th ITC in Kyoto, Japan. Many of you who attended the 11th ITC in Toronto, Canada, will remember the added excitement of meeting with colleagues from more than 50 countries from around the world. Since Kyoto is just around the corner, I plan to work closely with the ATA Secretary and Administrator to develop favorable airline arrangements, and to generate funds for travel grants for Fellows to attend the ITC. My goal is that the ATA have at least 200 representatives at the ITC.

6). Laboratory Services: Your Laboratory Services Committee, under the leadership of Manfred Blum, is already working hard to develop recommendations for standardizing and improving the quality of measurements of serum thyroglobulin and interpretation of thyroid cytology. I intend to take their recommendations, after approval by Council, to our sister endocrine organizations, the Endocrine Society and the American Association of Clinical Endocrinolo-

gists, as well as the American Society of Cytology, and the Papanicolaou Society, for their approval and support. In this way, the endocrine and cytology communities can act in concert to improve the quality of care for our patients.

In addition to my personal goals, I have outlined a number of goals for many of our Committees, and will work closely with them, through their Chairpersons.

The American Thyroid Association is indeed a wonderful society of clinicians and scientists that has flourished since its founding in 1923. From my perspective as Secretary for five years, President-Elect and as President, I can tell you that no one has ever refused a request to serve our organization. It is the spirit of service, as well as excellence in research, patient care and teaching, that I wish to foster during the coming year.

Cordially,

MARTIN SURKS, M.D.
President, American Thyroid Association

**FELLOWS' CONFERENCE
AN ANNUAL PRE-MEETING
HIGHLIGHT**

The 7th Annual Endocrine Fellows Conference was held at The Breakers on September 29, 1999, a day before the official start of the ATA meeting.

The conference, sponsored by the Biomedical Research and Education Foundation of the University of Colorado, has been chaired every year by Chip Ridgway, and has been generously supported by Knoll Pharmaceutical ever since the first conference in 1993.

One Fellow from every accredited training program in the United States and Canada is invited to attend the annual conference, and this year 118 enthusiastic fellows took advantage of the opportunity to attend a full day of a bench-to bedside learning experience.

SECRETARY'S REPORT



In early October, the ATA's officers and staff spent a few days catching their breath after the Annual Meeting in Palm Beach. Members seemed pleased with the scientific and social programs and enjoyed the splendid venue. John Morris and his Program Committee, Elliot Levy and the Local Arrangements Committee, and Diane Miller and her incredible staff deserve the credit for a terrific meeting. As the weekend drew to a close, the ATA signed an agreement to return to The Breakers in 2003.

In fact, all of the ATA's committees deserve warm thanks for their accomplishments this year. Brent and the Membership Committee presided over initiation of the largest number of new members ever. Lynn Burmeister and the Publication Committee finalized their choice for succession of THYROID'S editorial leadership, Terry Davies. The Finance and Audit Committee, led by Bob Smallridge, carefully developed a new, highly responsible investment policy for the ATA's growing endowment and reserve funds. Bob Volpé and his Awards Committee chose fine honorees, and also put forward thoughtful proposals for potential new ATA awards. The Research Committee, chaired by Marla Berry, thoughtfully reviewed applications for ATA research support and picked two promising investigators with excellent projects. Bill Green's Nominating Committee selected candidates who will ensure an-

other term of wise, energetic Association leadership. Peter Singer and the Standards of Care Committee's recommendations for "Detection of Thyroid Dysfunction" have been accepted for publication, and their thyroid function testing guideline revision is moving ahead. John Dunn and the Public Health Committee have articulated ATA positions on potassium iodide prophylaxis against radioiodine exposure, hypothyroidism and pregnancy, and most recently, on "Wilson's Syndrome," which can be found on the ATA website (www.thyroid.org). The By-laws Committee, under Jeff Garber's leadership, skillfully negotiated a number of delicate legislative matters. Alan Farwell's Education Committee enhanced our Thyroid Workshop series, this year attracting almost one hundred participants to our Atlanta program. And finally, Eli Dow and the Development Committee laid the groundwork for Paul Davis and the Campaign for Thyroid Discovery to pursue its goal: raising \$3 million over the next three years for our research endowment. All in all, it's been a very good year. For your new Secretary, it has been a very satisfying challenge. Thanks to all of you for the opportunity to serve the association that means so much to us all.

With best wishes for the upcoming holiday season,

Sincerely,

PAUL W. LADENSON, MD
Secretary, American Thyroid Association

COUNTDOWN TO KYOTO

Now is the time to block out the dates of October 22-27 on your 2000 calendar and make plans to attend the 12th ITC in Kyoto, Japan. So what if a dollar only buys 105 Yen today...how often do you get 105 of anything for a buck?! Besides, the Dow Jones and Nasdaq are at all-time highs, so take some of your hefty profits and invest in a new camera (you'll need it for the spectacular sightseeing), and get ready to make your reservations.



ITC Program Chair Shigenobu Nagataki (pictured with his wife and ATA friends at the Annual Meeting) promises ATA members and guests a memorable experience.

Arthur Bauman Clinical Symposium To Become A Tradition

The 1st Annual Arthur Bauman Clinical Symposium

Indeed it was Arthur's particular love of the ATA that stimulated

was held at the ATA meeting on October 1, 1999, and was attended by several hundred ATA members and guests, including Arthur's pediatrician-wife Caroline, his endocrinologist sons Andy and Bill, and his daughter, Amy.

Marty Surks, Arthur's long time col-

league and close friend, introduced the Symposium by telling us of a distinguished career Arthur spent devoted to patient care, clinical research, and medical education. According to Marty, Arthur was the "epitome of the clinician-educator" and "his love for the ATA was exemplified by the fact that until this year he never missed a meeting, having attended every one since 1957, when he became a member."

his family to approach the ATA about an endowed annual symposium in his name, and it was substantial contributions by the Bauman family and friends, as well as contributions by his colleagues, that brought the symposium to fruition.

Susan Porterfield had the distinction of chairing the 1st Annual Arthur Bauman Clinical Symposium, a meeting which would have made Arthur very proud.



Standing in front of Arthur's image at the First Annual Arthur Bauman Clinical Symposium are from left: Arthur's son Bill, wife Caroline, son Andy, and daughter Amy.

Lew Braverman Honored By Colleagues And Former Fellows

Bill Chin had an idea. Why not hold a symposium in honor of Lew Braverman's 70th birthday? After all, Lew became Bill's "Fellow" last year after Lou moved from UMass to Brigham and

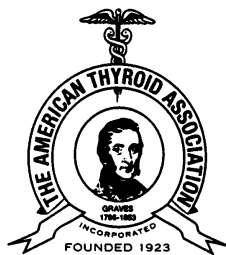


"Hooray for Uncle Lew" say former and current fellows and colleagues of Lew Braverman, at his (70th!) birthday celebration.

Womens, and what better way to show appreciation for a Fellow who has done a good job than to gather his friends and colleagues together to showcase the work they did as

a result of his tutelage. So, on September 29, 1999, approxi-

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American Thyroid Association Call for Nominations for the year 2000

In accordance with the Bylaws of the American Thyroid Association, the Nominating Committee is soliciting nominations from the membership for candidates for the office of:

President-Elect and two Directors to serve on the Executive Council.

The **President-Elect** - will serve a one-year term, followed by one year as President 2001-2002, and another one year commitment as a Director on the Executive Council.

Nominee:

Two **Directors** will serve a four-year term (2001-2004)

Nominee:

Nominee:

Submitted By:

Signature: **Date:**

Each nomination must be accompanied by a letter of support.

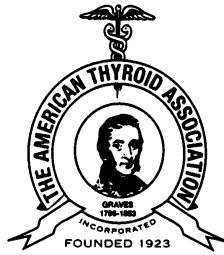
Please respond to the Secretary on or before **March 1st, 2000**

E-Mail Response - admin@thyroid.org

Fax Response - (914) 623-3736

Mail:

American Thyroid Association, Inc.
Administrative Office
Paul W. Ladenson, M.D., Secretary
Nanuet Townhouse Office Park
55 Old Turnpike Road - Suite 611
Nanuet, New York 10954



Van Meter Award - ATA Distinguished Service Award

The **Van Meter Award**, supported by Quest Diagnostics - Nichols Institute is awarded to a person who has made outstanding contributions to research on the thyroid gland or related subjects. The awardee must not have reached his or her 41st birthday before September 1st of this year. An honorarium of \$2000 and expenses of \$1000, will be presented to this awardee.

Nominee:**Date of Birth:**

The **Distinguished Service Award** is given each year to a member who has made important and continuing contributions to the Association.

Nominee:

Nominators please submit the following:

- Via E-Mail: admin@thyroid.org
- or Submit this information on a disc (IBM compatible word or word perfect)
- or Nomination packet should include eleven stapled sets of collated copies:

Contents:

1. Nomination Form.
2. Curriculum vitae of nominee with publications, excluding abstracts.
3. Letter stating nominee's qualifications, noting significance and quality of research.
4. Reprints or copies of nominee's publications, up to four in number.

PLEASE NOTE: NOMINATION OF UNSELECTED CANDIDATES

Nominators must submit updated Nomination Form, CV and any other supplementary materials for the awards committee's consideration.

Name of Nominator/Submitted By:Date:

Signature:

Please submit on or before **February 1, 2000**

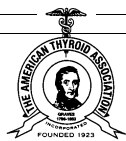
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BULLETIN BOARD

Check the American Thyroid Association website at www.thyroid.org to see virtually every picture taken at the 72nd Annual Meeting! The pictures were placed on the website by Richie Stark, ATA webmaster and technology consultant.

Thanks to Richie, we may all enjoy enduring memories of our last meeting.

ATA SIGNAL



THE AMERICAN
THYROID
ASSOCIATION, INC.

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7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. EST

Newsletter Design
Saratoga Graphics, Ballston Spa, NY

Art Direction - Kandra L. Files

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE ATA OFFICE

• WE'RE MOVING! •

As of January 7th, 2000, the Administrative Office will be located at:

Nanuet Townhouse Office Park
55 Old Turnpike Road - Suite 611
Nanuet, New York 10954
Telephone: (914) 623-3380
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• 2000 Annual Dues and Directory Update

Dues statements were sent to the membership on November 24, 1999 and we ask that members pay their dues before December 31, 1999, in order to ensure uninterrupted delivery of THYROID.

Dues are:

- \$190.00 (\$225 if outside the US/Canada) for Active Members
- \$50.00 (\$175 with THYROID) for Corresponding Members, \$50 (\$90 with THYROID or \$175 with THYROID if outside the US/Canada) for Senior Members
- \$25.00 for Associate Members (\$85 with THYROID or \$115 with THYROID outside the US/Canada).

Enclosed with your annual dues statement is an update for our membership file. It is essential that you complete the form and return to the Administrative Office with your dues payment.

• Membership Recruitment

The Membership Committee has announced 90 new members for 1999/2000, including 50 active members, 30 Associate members, and 10 in the Corresponding member category. This is a record,

Lew Braverman

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mately 150 former fellows, colleagues, other ATA members, and guests were treated to a full day of presentations by Lew's former "mentees", who came to The Breakers from far (Greece, Italy, and Japan, for example), and near to honor him. Lew was visibly moved by the outpouring of affection, as everyone joined to wish him a "happy birthday".

and reflects healthy growth of our organization. Our goal is to have each ATA member sponsor at least 1 new candidate for membership during this next year.

• Call for Abstracts - 12th International Thyroid Congress

The deadline for submission of abstracts for the Regular Call is April 4, 2000, and should be submitted to our Administrative Office. Our sister organization, the Asia and Oceania Thyroid Association will also be accepting this call. Forms and instructions will appear in the AOTA's Second Circular mailing. For more information, contact Professor Jungi Konishi, Secretary, AOTA; Fax +81 75 762 2304, or online <http://www.dnm.kuhp.kyoto-u.ac.jp/itc/>

• Travel Grants for the 12th ITC in Kyoto Available

Young investigators are encouraged to submit abstracts for the 12th ITC Meeting in Kyoto. Limited funding is available to defray the cost of travel for individuals with top-ranking abstracts, selected after Program Committee review. The ATA will accept travel grant requests only from young investigators who are sponsored by active ATA members. Travel grants are also available under the auspices of our four sister organizations, upon recommendation from the Program Organizing Committee. Requests for travel grants must be submitted to the ATA Administrative Office no later than April 4, 2000. Requests for travel grants submitted to sister organizations should be sent to the Secretaries of their respective sister organizations or societies.

Council Meeting
Highlights

September 29
through
October 2, 1999
Palm Beach, Florida

Council approved the recommendation of the Finance and Audit Committee that the DB Alex. Brown firm be selected as our management firm for a two-year trial period, with oversight by the Committee and Treasurer to assure adherence to the ATA Investment Policy.

- Council supported the recommendation of President Martin Surks and President-elect William Chin that the ATA embark on a strategic planning process in 2000.

- Council endorsed Campaign Chairman Pepper Davis' plans and budget for the three-year Campaign for Thyroid Discovery.

- Council directed the Laboratory Standards Committee to pursue revision of the Thyroid Function Testing Guidelines developed by the National Academy Clinical Biochemistry, and to invite our sister societies to cooperate in this effort.

- Council considered a recommendation by Secretary Paul Ladenson and Administrator Diane Miller that the ATA explore the possibility of leasing new office space to meet better the association's needs.

Just to reassure everyone that this wasn't a retirement party, Lew announced that he has accepted a new position as Chief of Endocrinology at Boston University. We wish "Uncle Lew" many more years of productivity, but suggest that he do a little less job-hopping in the future.