

American Thyroid Association (ATA) Code of Conduct

The American Thyroid Association (ATA) is committed to making the ATA and the ATA Annual Meeting an inclusive space for sharing ideas and knowledge.

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ATA Commitment

ATA is committed to providing a safe and productive meeting environment that fosters open dialogue and the exchange of scientific ideas, promotes equal opportunities and treatment for all participants, and is free of harassment and discrimination. All participants are expected to treat others with respect and consideration, follow venue rules, and alert staff or security of any dangerous situations or anyone in distress. Speakers are expected to uphold standards of scientific integrity and professional ethics. This includes notifying ATA staff in advance of the meeting about any possible conflicts of interest. ATA recognizes that there are areas of science that are controversial. The ATA Annual Meeting can serve as an effective forum to consider and debate science-relevant viewpoints in an orderly, respectful, and fair manner. The policies herein apply to all attendees, speakers, exhibitors, staff, contractors, volunteers, and guests at the Annual Meeting and related events.

ATA prohibits any form of harassment, sexual or otherwise. Harassment should be reported immediately to the ATA Executive Director at thyroidexec@thyroid.org or 703.998.8890.

What is Harassment?

Harassment includes speech or behavior that is not welcome or is personally offensive, whether it is based on ethnicity, gender, religion, age, body size, disability, veteran status, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other reason not related to scientific merit. It includes stalking, unnecessary touching, and unwelcome attention.

Behavior that is acceptable to one person may not be acceptable to another, so use discretion to be sure that respect is communicated. Harassment intended in a joking manner still constitutes unacceptable behavior. Retaliation for reporting harassment is also a violation of this policy, as is reporting an incident in bad faith.

Reporting Harassment

ATA is committed to supporting a productive and safe working environment for everyone at the meeting. If an individual experiences or witnesses harassment, they should contact ATA Executive Director at thyroidexec@thyroid.org or 703.998.8890, or use a venue phone and ask

for security if they feel unsafe. All complaints will be treated seriously and responded to promptly.

If an individual experiences harassment, it is recommended that, in addition to notifying ATA Executive Director, they write down the details, as they may be asked to fill out a report. They are **not** expected to discuss the incident with the offending party. Their confidentiality will be maintained to the extent that it does not compromise the rights of others.

If an individual intends to file a formal complaint of harassment:

- Notify ATA Executive Director at thyroidexec@thyroid.org
- ATA Executive Director and ATA leadership will then discuss the details first with the individual filing the complaint, then with the alleged offender; seek counsel if the appropriate course of action is unclear; and report findings to the ATA Executive Officers and ATA Attorney.
- ATA will consult with the individual filing the complaint prior to taking any action.
- ATA reserves the right to remove an individual from the Annual Meeting without warning or refund, prohibit attendance at future ATA meetings, and notify the individual's employer.

For any questions about this policy, please contact Bobbi Smith, CAE, Executive Director, ATA at 703.998.8890.

Conflict of Interest

The American Thyroid Association (ATA) requires clear disclosures from all presenters at its Annual Meeting regarding any financial holdings, funding sources, or affiliations that might raise questions of bias or be perceived to have potentially influenced presentation content. ATA expects that all Annual Meeting speakers, organizers, and moderators are committed to full, forthright, and transparent disclosure of any potential conflicts of interest. The Association has not prescribed an exhaustive list of potential conflicts here; rather, we ask presenters to make a good faith effort to identify any issues that might reasonably be expected to raise conflict-of-interest questions.

When in doubt, presenters are asked to disclose any concerns or questions by contacting Annual Meeting staff at meetings@thyroid.org. Significant disclosures may be made public, as appropriate on a case by case basis, within the ATA Annual Meeting program.

Social Media Policy

Live-tweeting and sharing of ATA Annual Meeting content on social media is welcomed as a way to spread information throughout social networks. For Twitter, please consider using the ATA Annual Meeting hashtags [#thyroid2017](#), [#americathyroidassociation](#), [#ata2017](#).

The ATA Annual Meeting provides an international forum where scientific information is communicated among diverse fields, as well as more broadly among scientists, the media, policymakers, and the public. The American Thyroid Association 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.

Please note that Annual Meeting content is under embargo until the time of the scientific session, poster session, or lecture, or the related news briefing (whichever comes first). Therefore, the substantive research content of events (i.e., the “news punch lines”) should be communicated online only when that research information is presented, during the scientific session or related news briefing.

If a meeting speaker does not wish to have his/her research shared by Twitter, Facebook, or other social networks, he/she should make an announcement before and during his/her presentation. Courtesy in communications is encouraged by ATA. (Speakers should be aware that most ATA Annual Meeting events are open to the news media, and some are open to the public. ATA strongly encourages compliance with speaker requests regarding social-media sharing but cannot guarantee it.)

Concerns and questions about this policy should be directed to ATA Meetings staff at meetings@thyroid.org.

Registration for the 2018 Annual Meeting will open in **early March**.