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Dear Colleagues:

The One Hundred Twenty-Ninth Annual Meeting of the American Laryngological Association will be held this year at the JW Marriott Orlando Grand Lakes Resort in Orlando, Florida on Thursday, May 1st and Friday, May 2nd, 2008. The location this year, will provide a wonderful venue for our meeting and planned events. The superb program planned by our President, Marshall Strome, M.D., and his program committee chaired by Scott E. Strome, M.D., will encompass several components of laryngology. The program features four panels. Each panel is comprised of experts in each field. When combined with the free papers and lectures, the panels will not only provide for a wide reaching educational and meeting that I am certain will be superb.

Our sessions will begin with the Business Meeting on Thursday, May 1st at 7:30 AM and Friday, May 2nd, at 12:30 PM. Following these meetings, the Scientific Sessions will be held on the morning of Thursday, May 1st and the afternoon of Friday, May 2nd. The President's Reception and Annual Banquet will held in the Palazzo Ballroom Salon 3 on Friday evening, May 2nd. This year's event is black-tie (optional) as President Strome has selected "A Star-Studded Night in Orlando" as the theme. Entertainment for the evening will be provided by Mark Zauss and the Z Street Band. The ensemble will showcase their talents (vocal and instrumental) so be sure your wear or bring your dancing shoes. Tickets (\$125 each for members and \$150 each for non-members) for the banquet may be purchased by contacting our Administrator, Maxine Cunningham. We request that you purchase or reserve your tickets no later than April 8, 2008. Again this year, you may finalize your purchase with a credit card (AMEX, MasterCard, VISA). You must present your banquet ticket(s) at the door to attend the President's Reception and Banquet

By now, you should have received your registration package from the American College of Surgeons that continues to do a marvelous job in coordinating COSM. If not, information on registration may be obtained at the COSM website (www.cosm.md). Hotel rooms are very limited and the JW Marriott is already sold out.

Early registration must be postmarked by March 21, 2008 and received by April 11, 2008. After April 11, 2008, you will be required to register on-site. You are, however, encouraged to register on-line at www.cosm.md. Please follow instructions carefully to avoid any deadlines in your receiving your registration package at the meeting. Although the deadline for housing is April 23, 2008, hotel accommodations at the JW Marriott Orlando Grande Lakes Resort is reported to be sold out. The Renaissance Orlando Resort at SeaWorld will serve as the meeting's overflow hotel and the staff at ACS is working on obtaining additional hotel. Consult your registration package for contact information.

Dr. Strome will present Presidential Citations to three individuals by recognizing their contributions to our specialty. This year's honorees are Andrew Blitzer, M.D., D.D.S.; Robert H. Ossoff, D.M.D., M.D.; and Scott E. Strome, M.D.

This year, President Strome will present two Guests of Honor, Clarence Sasaki, M.D., Ph.D. and me (and I am truly humbled). We will be acknowledged during the first session on Thursday, May 1st.

During the past three years, the Baker Lecture has been held in conjunction with the Triological Society's Joseph Ogura Lecture. Dr. Charles N. Ford, M.D., Professor at University of Wisconsin will be our Fifteenth Daniel C. Baker, Jr. Lecturer. His topic will be "Paradigms and Progress in Vocal Fold Restoration."

The award for the Nineteenth Gabriel F. Tucker Award for outstanding contributions in Pediatric Laryngology will be presented to Seth Pransky, M.D. Dr. Pransky is the Director of Pediatric Otolaryngology at Children's Specialists of San Diego and an Assistant Professor in Otolaryngology at the University of California – San Diego.

Dr. Gerald Healy, a past president of the ALA will receive the 2008 American Laryngological Association Award. Dr. Healy holds the Gerald B. Healy Chair in Otolaryngology and is Professor of Otology and Laryngology at Harvard Medical School, and the otolaryngologist-in-chief, at Children's Hospital, in Boston. Additionally, Dr. Healy is the President of the American College of Surgeons. This Award will be presented to Dr. Healy for his outstanding contributions to the field of laryngology.

The Young Faculty or Practitioner Award has as its recipient, Dr. Bernard Rousseau of Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville. His presentation entitled "Extracellular Matrix Gene Expression after Latrogenic Vocal Fold Injury in a Rat Model" will be presented on Thursday, May 1st @ 10:28 AM.

Dr. Taha Shipchandler, an Otolaryngology Resident at the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio, will received the Research Resident Award for her presentation, "Laryngeal Transplantation in the Setting of Cancer: A Rat Model," that will be presented also on Thursday, May 1st @ 10:20 AM.

The Council approved the nominations of William B. Armstrong, MD; Richard E. Hayden, MD; Natasha Mirza, MD; Vanessa G. Schweitzer, MD; and Dana Thompson, MD for Active Fellowship, and David Vokes MD Corresponding Fellowship. They will be voted on at the first Business Meeting on Thursday, May 1st.

The Council has also recommended a change in the By-laws, Article VI – Officers, Section 5: Duties of the Historian and Editor. The proposed amendment will divided this office into two positions. Attached is the proposed change that all eligible voters will receive in a few weeks, with the ballot for our nominees. We ask that you mark your ballot accordingly and return to the Administrator's office by the deadline that will appear on your ballot.

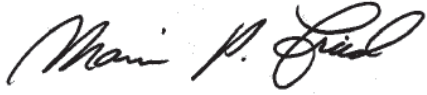
I am glad to report that we continue to receive fellows' email addresses that will allow us to communicate more effectively with you. If you have not responded to the request for your email address, please do so at your earliest convenience. As we continue to upgrade the ALA website, we hope to be able to disseminate information to you in a more timely manner. We also ask that you would take a few minutes to access the website, logging on and update your contact information. If you have not taken advantage of this feature, you may obtain your password by logging on to www.alahns.org, clicking on "Membership" and then "Membership Directory." If you enter your email address when prompted, you will be able to obtain your password (if you don't have one) or be taken directly to your profile.

As most of you are aware, the majority of our revenue is derived from the payment of dues, which serves as operating expenses for the fiscal year. Although, we have collected a high percentage of dues from fellows, many have not paid for 2008 and some are in arrears for previous years. For those who plan to attend the annual meeting and have not had the opportunity to remit payment of dues, we will be able to accept and process your payment during the annual meeting as a convenience to you.

Lastly, my term as Secretary will end at the conclusion of our 129th Annual Meeting. I'd like to express my gratitude for being allowed to serve as the Secretary of such a great Association. As the oldest national specialty society, the ALA has held a tradition of excellence and camaraderie which will continue for years to come. I also want to express my appreciation to Maxine Cunningham who has served as the Administrator of our Association during four years of my term for her assistance.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the One Hundred Twenty-Ninth Annual Meeting of the ALA. I assure you it will be truly outstanding.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Marvin P. Fried". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'M'.

Marvin P. Fried, M.D., FACS
Secretary, ALA

MPF: mc