

Western Association of Gynecologic Oncologists



Volume 2, Number 1

NEWSLETTER

April 2005

Message From The President

Joan Walker, MD



You all noticed the 2004 WAGO meeting had extraordinary enthusiasm and energy. The dynamics of the joint Felix Rutledge Society and WAGO improved the meeting for both organizations. We plan to repeat that experience within three years.

Santa Fe, New Mexico will definitely compete with the Monterey location for dining, shopping and site seeing. The weather and environment should be equally stunning. We plan to explore the Southwestern Art, wonderful cuisine, and you are even invited to hike the mountains.

We need feedback on what you like about each meeting and issues that you believe are the challenges for our specialty in the future. We have attempted to make the WAGO meetings exciting for the fellows in training as well as those more senior in their career. We need to expand the medical oncology, radiation oncology, and pathology involvement: please invite your friends. The biggest differences between gynecologic oncologists may be where we decide our practices start and stop, and how we limit our responsibilities. The range may include chemotherapy, venous access devices, chest tubes, Indiana Pouches, rectus abdominus vaginal reconstruction, colorectal surgery or NOT. Practice management may not be of interest at these meetings, but how to get along with general gynecologists, medical oncology, thoracic surgery, pulmonary, colorectal surgery, and urology might. How does one continue to gain surgical skills after fellowship? What other issues are on your minds? Let's talk – email ideas to joan-walker@ouhsc.edu.

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2005 WAGO Officials

Officers

President	Joan Walker, MD
President-elect	Sidney Scudder, MD
Vice President	Michael L. Pearl, MD
Immediate Past President	Beth Karlan, MD
Secretary-Treasurer	Gary Leiserowitz, MD

Members-At-Large

Anil Sood, MD
Joseph Lucci, III, MD

Executive Director

Cassandra Larkins

2005 Annual Meeting Committee

Sidney A. Scudder, MD, Chair
Thomas Krivak, MD
Janice Ryu, MD
John Chan, MD
Claire Verschraegen, MD
Luis Padilla, MD
Harriet Smith, MD, Local Arrangements Chair

WAGO WEBSITE

Please visit the new WAGO website at www.wagogynonc.org to see how we have worked with ACOG's Electronic Resources Department to develop the site. We hope this will be a useful tool for all WAGO members. The website includes general information about the organization, current meeting information with instructions on submitting an abstract electronically, how to become a member and a membership application, and links to other related organizations' websites. If you have trouble accessing the website, please contact Cassandra Larkins at the WAGO office, 202-863-1648 or clarkins@acog.org.

WAGO Western Association of Gynecologic Oncologists

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Western Association of Gynecologic Oncologists

The Western Association of Gynecologic Oncologists (WAGO) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1972 to provide a forum for education and dissemination of knowledge about gynecologic oncology. The Association stimulates and promotes original scientific investigation of gynecologic oncology, and disseminates information concerning new developments in gynecologic oncology and assists in the education of physicians and others interested in the gynecological cancer patient. WAGO has a main goal of promoting quality science and fellowship among the members. The membership consists of approximately 200 members including gynecologic oncologists, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists and pathologists. The association membership is limited to board-certified physicians who were either trained or currently practice west of the Mississippi River.

The Annual Meeting held in May or June presents a program of carefully chosen subjects dealing with clinical problems and research topics in the field of gynecologic oncology and allows participants an opportunity to interaction and discussion.. The meeting is well attended, with a good mix of individuals from community practice, academic centers, and those completing fellowships or residencies.

The Association is an affiliate organization of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). This relationship, is identified as part of ACOG's goals to interrelate with and support other organizations with special interests in obstetrics and gynecology, and women's health care in general.

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2005 Annual Meeting



The 34th Annual Meeting of the Western Association of Gynecologic Oncologists (WAGO) will be held June 15-18, 2005, at the Hilton of Santa Fe, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Abstract Submission: The deadline to submit abstracts for the Annual Meeting **has been extended to April 15, 2005**. You may submit your abstract electronically to the WAGO office by downloading the abstract form from the WAGO website www.wagogynonc.org and sending the completed form to the office as an email attachment to Cassandra Larkins at the following email address: clarkins@acog.org. Instructions for submitting your abstract electronically are included with the form on the website. You may also submit your abstract by using the abstract form enclosed with this newsletter. You will receive confirmation from the WAGO office that your abstract has been received, and further notice if your abstract has been selected for presentation.

Meeting Registration: Please use the enclosed form to register for the meeting. Once you have completed the meeting registration form, please return it to the WAGO national office with the appropriate fees. Please note the \$25.00 discount for registrations received before May 1, 2005. We will continue the special reduced fee for individuals currently enrolled in a Board-approved residency or fellowship program, provided a letter from the program director confirming such status is included with their registration. In addition, the Program Committee is following precedent in seeking an educational grant to allow for the waiver of presenting trainees' registration fees. To take advantage of this trainee benefit, please see the enclosed document on Residents/Fellows' Scholarship Fund outlining the eligibility requirements for this scholarship. Social activities will include the welcome reception on Wednesday, the annual dinner on Friday evening, and a special activity planned for Thursday. In keeping with previous meetings, everyone attending any of the social or scientific functions, including those attending to deliver their scientific presentations, must pay a registration fee. All registered guests and family members are welcome to the meals and functions.

The WAGO annual meeting is traditionally known for its great scientific and social interchange and the 34th annual meeting will be no exception. For more information about the WAGO meeting, please contact Cassandra Larkins, WAGO Executive Director, at 202-863-1648 or clarkins@acog.org, or visit the WAGO website at www.wagogynonc.org. We look forward to seeing you in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Sidney Scudder, MD
WAGO President-Elect
2005 Program Chair

Hilton of Santa Fe

Located in the heart of downtown Santa Fe, two blocks from the historic plaza, and within easy walking distance of Art Galleries, shopping, restaurants, Museums and Cultural sites, the Hilton of Santa Fe offers luxurious accommodations in the grand Southwestern style. Built on the historic homestead of one of Santa Fe's most prominent early families, the Ortiz Family, the Hilton of Santa Fe preserves some of the original buildings on the Ortiz estate which dates back to 1640.

We have reserved sleeping rooms at the Hilton of Santa Fe with a single/double group rate of \$179. To reserve a room, please call the Hilton of Santa Fe at 505-988-2811 or call the toll free reservation number 800-336-3676 and make sure you identify your affiliation with the Western Association of Gynecologic Oncologists (WAGO) 2005 Annual Meeting. The cut-off date for hotel reservations is May 15, 2005.



2004 Annual Meeting Highlights

The 2004 joint meeting of the Western Association of Gynecologic Oncologists (WAGO) and the Felix Rutledge Society in Monterey was a huge success! The scientific program committee chaired by Joan Walker, MD with John Tatman, MD (FRS) was outstanding, the social events were fun and exciting, and the venue for this meeting was beautiful. In addition to the excellent abstract presentations, there were poster presentations, a “Stump the Professor” session, and a special presentation on Radical Trachelectomy. The Presidential Guest Lecturer was Jack Lewin, MD, CEO, California Medical Association, who gave a presentation on “Healthcare: As Good as it Gets.”

Everyone had a wonderful time at the reception at The Monterey Bay Aquarium on Thursday evening. The Aquarium sits on Monterey’s historic Cannery Row. The Aquarium project was initiated in 1977 by a group of four marine biologists at Stanford’s Hopkins Marine Station in Pacific Grove. It opened October 20, 1984, and in 1996 the Outer Bay Wing opened. The Outer Bay Waters exhibit features the one-million gallon tank containing tuna, sharks, ocean sunfish and sea turtles.

The 2004 award winners for outstanding papers were:

2004 James F. Nolan Award

Anil Sood, MD

MD Anderson Cancer Center

Houston, TX

Paper titled: “*Role of Focal Adhesion Kinase (FAK) in Ovarian Cancer Progression*”

2004 J. G. Moore Award

Charles Landen, Jr., MD

MD Anderson Cancer Center

Houston, TX

Paper titled: “*Neuroendocrine Modulation of STAT33 in Ovarian Cancer*”

2004 J. G. Moore Award

Premal Thaker, MD

Houston, TX

Paper titled: “*Novel Anti-Vascular Approach for Therapy of Ovarian Carcinoma*”

2004 Leo D. Lagasse Award

Sean Dowdy, MD

Mayo Clinic

Rochester, MN

Paper titled: “*The Utility of CT Scans in Predicting Suboptimal Cytoreductive Surgery in Women with Advanced Ovarian Cancer*”





Report of the Secretary-Treasurer

Gary Leiserowitz, MD



Membership Report

WAGO currently has 203 members

- 171 Regular Members
- 2 Associate Members
- 15 Emeritus Members
- 15 Honorary Members

We are pleased to welcome the new members to WAGO listed below:

Kian Behbakht, MD
Denver, CO

Cecelia H. Boardman, MD
Dept of ObGyn
VCUHS/MCVH
Richmond, VA

Matthew P. Boente, MD
Dept of Obstetrics
Gynecology & Women’s Health, University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN

Jubilee Brown, MD
The University of Texas
MD Anderson Cancer Ctr, Dept of Gynecologic Oncology
Houston, TX

Seiko Diane Yamada, MD
University of Chicago
Dept of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Div of Gynecologic Onc
Chicago, IL

Elizabeth Mary Swisher, MD
University of Washington
Seattle, WA

Financial Report

The beginning balance on January 1, 2004 was \$131,297.90; income totaled \$137,829.17; expenses totaled \$105,903.01. The ending balance on December 31, 2004 was \$163,224.06.

Beginning Balance January 1, 2004:	\$131,297.90
Total Income	<u>+137,829.17</u>
Total Assets	\$269,127.07
Total Expenses as of December 31, 2004	<u>-\$105,903.01</u>
Ending Balance December 31, 2004	\$163,224.06

**In Memory Of
ALAN KING, MD
1932-2004**

Alan King, MD, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Loma Linda University Medical Center, Loma Linda, California, unexpectedly passed away on October 15, 2004.

Born in San Antonio, Texas, in September 1932, Dr. King obtained his B.A. in Chemistry from Union College, Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1954, obtained his M.D. from Loma Linda University School of Medicine (formerly the College of Medical Evangelists) in 1958, and served his internship and residency at White Memorial Medical Center in Los Angeles from 1958-62. From 1962-64 he was an Instructor and later Assistant Professor in the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Loma Linda University School of Medicine. He served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps as Chief of the Obstetrical and Gynecologic Service at Valley Forge General Hospital, Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, from 1964-66. Following discharge he undertook a fellowship in Surgical Oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, from 1966-68. He returned to Loma Linda in 1968, and served continuously in the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics since that time, as Chief of Gynecologic Oncology from 1970-79 and as Professor and Chairman from 1979 until the time of his death. He was certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology in 1967 and by the ABOG Division of Gynecologic Oncology in 1974, and belonged to numerous professional organizations.

Dr. King is survived by his wife, Bonnie; three children: Karen Ewert, MD and Kelly King, MD (both obstetrician-gynecologists), Kerry King; and four grandchildren.

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Send articles, letters, comments to

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