

HIGHLIGHTS AND DETAILS
The 12th Annual International
Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Conference
October 16-18, 2009 — Boston, Massachusetts

Sponsored by ThyCa: Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Association, Inc.SM

OVERVIEW

- We are honored to report that the 12th International Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Conference brought together more than 450 thyroid cancer survivors, family members, friends, and health care professionals. Once again, the conference had outstanding attendance and speakers.
- The conference theme was "Support, Education, Communication, and Hope through Research."
- Participants came from 36 states, District of Columbia, Brazil, 5 provinces of Canada, Puerto Rico, and United Kingdom.
- Attendees included people from children through seniors, from people awaiting diagnosis to long-term survivors of every type of thyroid cancer — papillary, follicular, medullary, anaplastic, and variants. Many had never previously met another person dealing with a thyroid cancer diagnosis.
- Our goal was to give everyone in-depth opportunities to learn from distinguished experts and to understand the latest information about this disease, its treatment and management, and research advances. Our hope was that wherever people were from, or whatever their circumstances with their thyroid cancer, they would gain in knowledge and would find a sense of community during the weekend, among new friends.
- 81 presenters from 22 states and 2 provinces of Canada led more than 100 sessions, generously contributing their time, enthusiasm, energy, and expertise.
- Once again, continuing education credits were available for nurses.
- In the program booklet and at our volunteer appreciation reception, ThyCa honored the memory of those who lost their lives to thyroid cancer during the past year. This year we honored and remembered 54 wonderful people.
- More than 90 volunteers helped onsite at the conference. Dozens of additional volunteers who were unable to attend helped throughout the year with outreach, publicity, and publications.
- Our Saturday evening Dinner/Auction Fundraiser successfully raised more than \$35,000 for thyroid cancer research. Ken Pelt, thyroid cancer survivor of Wisconsin, gave an inspiring talk about how thyroid cancer research is urgently needed, and offers hope for cures.
- Most attendees who completed evaluation forms gave the conference an overall rating of 5 (excellent) on a 5-point scale. The average rating was 4.6. The most common rating for individual sessions was 5. Most session ratings were either 4 or 5. The average overall rating for all sessions was 4.5.
- Many people have sent thank you e-mails since the conference. Our thanks to all of you.
- We were gratified to receive such positive comments and to receive so many helpful suggestions for future conferences. Please remember, we invite you to send your suggestions/comments to conference@thyca.org throughout the year.
- Below you'll find more highlights, plus details about the program, speakers, exhibitors, and donors, as well as comments and suggestions from the evaluation forms.
- Many thanks to everyone who helped make the conference such a big success.

MORE HIGHLIGHTS

- Conference participants came from Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin; Puerto Rico; Brazil; Canada's provinces of British Columbia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and Ontario; and United Kingdom.
- **81 distinguished speakers and session leaders came from 22 states and 2 provinces of Canada. They included 8 members of ThyCa's Medical Advisory Council.** Our presenters all generously donated their time. Our speakers included:
 - 30 physicians, including specialists in endocrinology, surgery, medical oncology, nuclear medicine, and anesthesiology/neurology, including experts in every type of thyroid cancer
 - a nurse
 - 4 mental health professionals
 - specialists in Reiki, art therapy, recreation therapy, and other approaches to well-being
 - a pharmacist
 - a financial specialist
 - an attorney
 - survivors of every type of thyroid cancer
 - family members and caregivers affected by every type of thyroid cancer
- **The conference offered more than 100 session choices, with 6 or 7 sessions in different rooms at most time periods during the day.** These included almost 50 sessions on thyroid cancer care and research, plus sessions on coping skills and complementary approaches, survivor/caregiver roundtable discussions on coping with thyroid cancer, and 7 sessions on getting involved in ThyCa's support services, and research fundraising and advocacy.
- **Most participants who returned evaluation forms gave the conference the highest possible overall rating—5.** The overall conference ratings averaged 4.6 on a scale of 1 to 5. The most frequent rating given for individual sessions was 5; most scores were 4 or 5. The overall session ratings averaged 4.5.
- People told us that they heard about ThyCa and the conference from varied sources. These included ThyCa's web site, other web sites, e-mailings, doctors, flyers in doctors' offices and hospitals, flyers in community locations, ThyCa volunteers, members, friends, local support groups, the news media, and mailings.
- **Scholarships to cover the registration fee were available on request, to make the conference available to everyone regardless of ability to pay.** Grant funding plus the nominal registration fee covered printing, postage, audiovisual equipment, and the other basic conference expenses.
- Year-round Financial Sponsors include ThyCa's Members, Constituents, Individual Donors, AstraZeneca, Genzyme Corporation, Abbott Laboratories, Bayer/Onyx Pharmaceutical, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Exelixis, Inc., KRONUS, OXiGENE, and Sigma-Aldrich. **Our thanks to all our generous donors for your valued support, which sustains and strengthens our services.**
- Continuing education credits were again available for nurses, for designated sessions where speakers provided learning objectives.
- We will use suggestions received on the evaluation forms, placed in the suggestion box at the conference, expressed verbally at the conference, and in e-mails since then for added topics and other improvements as the planning continues for next year's conference, October 15-17, 2010, in Dallas, Texas.

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- More than 130 volunteers planned, organized, publicized, and ran the conference. At the conference, they handled the set-up the day before the conference and the packing up after the conference; registrations, exhibits, and spirit items, session hosting and introduction, and dinner/auction setup through wrap-up. Volunteers helped attendees with their questions and needs. More than a year of planning involved brainstorming, inviting speakers, preparing of materials, arranging supplies, posting information on the web site, publicizing the conference by e-mail as well as phone and mail, and numerous other details.
- Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make ThyCa Conference 2009 so successful. Everyone's wonderful help made a big difference! We look forward to seeing you in Dallas, Texas, next year.

DETAILS

A. THE PROGRAM AND SPEAKERS

B. EXHIBITORS

C. DONORS

D. MORE COMMENTS FROM THE EVALUATION FORMS

A. THE PROGRAM AND SPEAKERS

PROGRAM

- The complete program schedule is on web site page: <http://www.thyca.org/ProgramSchedule2009.pdf>. If you don't have access to the internet, and would like a copy, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) to: ThyCa Conference Program, P.O. Box 1102, Olney, MD 20830-1102.
- The more than 100 sessions included nearly 50 sessions on thyroid cancer care and research, plus more than a dozen sessions on coping skills and complementary approaches, more than 30 survivor/caregiver roundtable discussions including open discussions and sessions on specific themes related to coping, and sessions on getting involved in support services, and in research fundraising and advocacy.
- The speakers:

Rick Abrams, ThyCa Volunteer, MA

Erik Alexander, M.D., Endocrinologist, Brigham & Women's Hospital, Boston, MA

Natacha Alpert, Reiki Practitioner, MA

Joel Amromin, ThyCa Volunteer, CA

Pamela M. Ayotte, CTRS/L, Recreation Therapist, Northeast Rehabilitation Hospital, Salem, NH

Zahid H. Bajwa, M.D., Anesthesiologist and Neurologist, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, MA

Rita Banach, BSc., DSc., DTATI, Art Therapist, Toronto, ON, Canada

Andrew J. Bauer, M.D., LTC MC USA, National Navy Medical Center, Bethesda, MD, and Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, DC

Dorothy Beazley, DO, Gynecologist/ Obstetrician, Tufts Medical Center, Boston, MA

Diane Blake, M.A., Psychotherapist and Human Services Administrator, Londonderry, NH

Gary Bloom, ThyCa Executive Director, Olney, MD

Lewis E. Braverman, M.D., Endocrinologist, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA

Joanie Bruce, ThyCa Volunteer, Newfoundland, Canada

Glenn W. Bunting, MS, CCC-SLP, Speech Pathologist, Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Boston, MA

Naifa L. Busaidy, M.D., Endocrinologist, University of Texas, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX

Charles Butler, Exelixis, San Francisco, CA

Christine Ciletti, ThyCa Volunteer, FL

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Peter Crane, Esq., ThyCa Volunteer, WA

John Cucarese, ThyCa Volunteer, OH

Gilbert H. Daniels, M.D., Endocrinologist, Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center, Boston, MA

Michelle Deschamps, Reiki Practitioner, MA

Michael Dubrow, ThyCa Volunteer, NJ

Tom Engle, ThyCa Volunteer, MO

Henry Fardella, M.Ed., Pastoral Care Coordinator, Northeast Rehabilitation Hospital, Salem, NH

Joan Fardella, M.Ed., Rockingham VNA and Hospice, Salem, NH

Alan P. Farwell, M.D., Endocrinologist, Boston Medical Center, Boston, MA

Karen Ferguson, ThyCa Volunteer, SC

Aime T. Franco, Ph.D., Research Scholar, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY

Robert F. Gagel, M.D., Endocrinologist, University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX

Margot Gibbs, M.A., Psychotherapist, Nashua, NH

Evelyn Gross, ThyCa Volunteer, PA

Jon Guljord, ThyCa Volunteer, FL

Leah Guljord, ThyCa Volunteer, FL

Gail Gundling, ThyCa Volunteer, AZ

Janis I. Halzel, Pharm.D., Pharmacist, Centennial, CO

Cathy Hampton, Reiki Practitioner, MA

Yvonne Harris, ThyCa Volunteer, MA

Yariv Houvras, M.D., Ph.D., Medical Oncologist, Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center, Boston, MA

Stephen Huang, M.D., Endocrinologist, Children's Hospital Boston, Boston, MA

Roselle Kovitz, ThyCa Volunteer, WA

Paul R. Krakovitz, M.D., Otolaryngologist, Cleveland Clinic, OH

P. Reed Larsen, M.D., Endocrinologist, Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA

Stephanie L. Lee, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.E., Endocrinologist, Boston Medical Center, Boston, MA

Cheri Lindle, M.Ed., Learning Unlimited Corporation and ThyCa Volunteer, OK

Jim Luehman, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC

Carl D. Malchoff, M.D., Ph.D., Otolaryngologist, University of Connecticut Health Center, Farmington, CT

Patti Malloy, ThyCa Volunteer, OH

Donald Margouleff, M.D., Nuclear Medicine Physician, North Shore University Hospital, Manhasset, Long Island, NY

Ernest L. Mazzaferri, M.D., M.A.C.P., Endocrinologist, University of Florida Shands Hospital, Gainesville, FL

Casey McDaniel, B.S., Therapeutic Recreation Specialist, Salem, NH

Bryan McIver, MB, Ph.D., F.R.C.P., Endocrinologist, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

Lee Melton, ThyCa Volunteer, TX

Peggy Melton, ThyCa Volunteer, TX

David Myssiorek, M.D., F.A.C.S., Otolaryngologist, NYU Cancer Center, New York, NY

Pat Paillard, ThyCa Volunteer, PA

Sareh Parangi, M.D., F.A.C.S., Surgeon, Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center, Boston, MA

Sherryl Pascal, Mrs. New Jersey Globe 2009, NJ

James A. Peterson, Esq., Attorney, Salem, MA

Gregory W. Randolph, M.D., Otolaryngologist, Mass Eye & Ear Infirmary, Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center, Boston, MA

Jennifer Rosen, M.D., Surgeon, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA

Julie A. Rosenberg, M.D., Oncologist, Oncology Global Clinical Research, Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS), Wallingford, CT

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Louise Samuel, ThyCa Volunteer, NJ

Carol Sanders, Hypoparathyroidism Association, Idaho Falls, ID

Charles Saxe, Ph.D., American Cancer Society, Atlanta, GA

Connie Schade, ThyCa Volunteer, MO

Joseph Scharpf, M.D., Otolaryngologist, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH

Mary Seemueller, ThyCa Volunteer, VA

Manisha H. Shah, M.D., Medical Oncologist, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

Betty Solbjor, Reiki Master / Practitioner, Bach Foundation Registered Practitioner, & Interfaith Minister, MA

Julie Ann Sosa, M.D., M.A., Surgeon, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT

Marie T. Sullivan, R.N., M.S.N., CRRN, VP for Patient Care Services, Northeast Rehabilitation Hospital Network, NH and MA

Beatriz Tendler, M.D., Endocrinologist, University of Connecticut Health Center, Farmington, CT

Sandy Triplett, ThyCa Volunteer, MO

R. Michael Tuttle, M.D., Endocrinologist, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY

Clayton Twigg, ThyCa Volunteer, OH

Rose Twigg, ThyCa Volunteer, OH

Mary Van Diepenbos, ThyCa Volunteer, MI

Mearle Van Diepenbos, ThyCa Volunteer, MI

Douglas Van Nostrand, M.D., Nuclear Medicine Physician, Washington Hospital Center, Washington, DC

Jo Walker, ThyCa Volunteer, AZ

Lori J. Wirth, M.D., Medical Oncologist, Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center, and Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA

B. EXHIBITORS AND RESOURCE TABLE MATERIALS

- **ThyCa: Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Association**
 - ThyCa's Materials in English and Spanish and Pediatric Backpack Display
- **Guest Exhibitors and Resource Material Contributors**
 - American Thyroid Association
 - AstraZeneca
 - Canadian Thyroid Cancer Support Group (Thy'vors)
 - Exelixis, Inc.
 - Genzyme Corporation
 - Hypoparathyroidism Association
 - National Organization for Rare Disorders

C. DONORS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT of ThyCa Conference 2009

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THANK YOU TO

- All our Volunteers
- The Individual Donors of Beautiful Items for our Conference and the Auction

OUR SPECIAL THANKS ALSO TO the entire staff of the Sheraton Ferncroft Hotel

D. COMMENTS FROM THE EVALUATION FORMS

COMMENTS FROM THE EVALUATION FORMS, CLOSING SESSION, SUGGESTION BOX, AND E-MAILS RECEIVED AFTER THE CONFERENCE

OVERALL COMMENTS

- This is very exciting and gives me new energy. I love to hear from different doctors, to ask personal questions of doctors and other participants. I will be back!
- Great job getting doctors in.
- Great job. Thanks to all!
- Excellent job. Thanks. Wonderful seeing old friends.
- Great job as usual!
- Great selection.
- Thank you to all the volunteers.
- Sessions were all good and great.
- Thank you.
- First conference — liked all I went to.
- All good. Having both top surgeons and endocrinologists was great.
- Liked that speakers were willing to answer my questions after the sessions.
- All very helpful.
- Great!
- The topics and quality of the sessions provide such important information and fit my needs in ways I could not think to ask, without making me feel overwhelmed. I wish I could attend even more, though!
- Great program.
- Excellent sessions.
- Satisfactory, kinda expected a little more.
- Great doctors!!
- EXCELLENT CONFERENCE.
- I just wanted to thank you for an enlightening and informative Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Conference! I realize that a great deal of time and work went into making this such a successful event!
- It was a great conference.

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- It was truly an empowering experience to meet all other people who are touched by thyroid cancer one way or another – as a patient, a medical professional or a caregiver. Also, it was just amazing to see how a disease like cancer could bring out so much positive energy from people.
- We just arrive home from the annual Thyca Conference in Boston. It was a great meeting and good to see old Meddie friends.
- I attended the 12th Thyroid Cancer Conference this past weekend and thought it was great! Everyone worked so hard to make this happen and many thanks to all that helped to get this together. Was also so happy it was back here in my area as it originated from here 11 yrs ago. It was really nice to meet up with all my old friends and meet so many new people. And thanks to all the Doctors and speakers who gave up their time for us. As a 16 year survivor stage 4 with widely metastatic disease I was relieved to see that there are so many new clinical trials available for those of us with this status.
- I just wanted to say thanks to all who participated and that my husband and I had a great weekend.
- That was a fantastic conference. So much info.
- GREAT conference!

COMMENTS ABOUT PARTICULAR SPEAKERS AND SESSIONS

- Doctor very knowledgeable, open to questions, good slides.
- Coping skills session was excellent.
- Session on targeted therapy for metastatic thyroid cancer was most helpful.
- Pregnancy and relationship session helpful.
- Fundraising session helpful.
- Doctor was an excellent speaker.
- Clinical trial patients' session — they did a great job. Session could have been longer.
- Session on coping skills was outstanding. All presenters were superb.
- Closing roundtables helped with any final questions.
- Coping skills — excellent speakers!! Would love to continue with them again.
- Clinical trial session most helpful. She detailed future ideas for clinical trials, patients, etc.
- Could have used more time for the doctor.
- Helpful roundtable. Facilitator really sensitive to my questions and concerns.
- Coping skills session a very nurturing tone to welcome me into ThyCa, first encounter in conference; led group in nurturing way and encouraged opening up.
- Hypoparathyroidism session.—I had no idea there was all this information available. It helped me understand some of my symptoms and treatment options — wow! I'd thought it was just something I had to figure out and deal with alone.
- Doctor was very good at answering our questions.
- The doctor rocks! A great speaker.
- Kudos for getting the NRC to our meeting. This may be a non-court way to open dialogue.
- Sessions will help me both as a facilitator and for my own personal benefit.
- Seems we should lobby the FDA. They seem to be blocking new roads to therapy.
- Facilitator did a wonderful job of facilitating session and encouraging everyone to participate.
- I especially appreciated the session on familial thyroid cancer.
- Doctor always very informative and good humored.
- Excellent idea for all people is the open mike survivors/ caregivers roundtable.
- Opening roundtable worthless for those that have attended before. Have something useful.
- Doctor was extremely well prepared, answered very completely, and professional and friendly.
- Helpful being able to share briefly my journey, in opening roundtable.
- Opening roundtables a great way to start!
- Everything was great today.
- Very interesting lecture.
- Presentation was very good, though did not speak on the advertised subject.
- Art therapy session most helpful.
- The doctor was excellent.
- When you post a session as Ask a Doctor, it should keep on this topic as stated.
- Doctors very informative. Give wonderful sense of caring and empathy for all of us.

- Doctor gave excellent talk on a very difficult subject.
- Excellent discussion.
- Lunchtime session deserved a full session.
- Doctor presented so much information and fielded questions so very well.
- Doctor was excellent.
- Great communicator, knowledgeable, use of humor, connects well with audience.
- Great speaker! Ask him back!

TOPIC AND PROGRAM COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

(Editors' Note: The topic suggestions are very helpful. We use them when inviting speakers. The Ask a Doctor sessions and the question periods in other sessions also give opportunities to ask about varied topics, as there aren't enough spaces in the program to continue all the previous topics and add all the suggested new topics. In addition to the comments, we've included responses in italics. If you have added suggestions related to one of the comments, please e-mail the number of the comment/reply with your additional note to conference@thyca.org to help make the next conference even better.)

1. More time devoted to patients who are on trial/study drugs (roundtables). *We will develop more roundtables for people to discuss all aspects of their clinical trial experiences.*
2. Occasional recreational sessions mid-day would be great as an alternative (e.g., nature walk, guided; yoga session, exercise class). *We offer some alternative/complementary sessions throughout the weekend, and will try to add more.*
3. Have more fellow survivors' roundtables. *We can do this.*
4. Session on hospice care: purpose, goal, patient as well as family support, support for children of patient, how to access the support network. *Excellent suggestion and a session we've offered in the past. Unfortunately, we weren't able to secure someone to lead this session this year. We'll try to offer this session again in 2010.*
5. Would like to see more pertaining to the emotional experience of thyroid cancer. *Thank you. We weren't able to secure people with the right skill sets to lead discussions on this topic.*
6. Have medullary sessions specifically for MEN patients and specific problems. *We offered one such session this year, and will do our best to offer at least one such session each year (speaker dependent, of course).*
7. For medullary thyroid patients, have special groups for newly diagnosed patients where basic presentations are given concerning (a) genetics, RET, and (b) the pathway of testing for clinical trials, phase I, II, III. Meddies who have attended previous years will know this. They want to hear about current success of treatments and what's new on the horizon. *We'll work on this.*
8. Need a prayer time in a.m. *This is a personal matter, and individuals desiring prayer time can make time for it.*
9. Have a speaker on "thyroid brain" — the memory is missing. *The Q and A sessions offer a good opportunity to raise questions about particular symptoms and challenges.*
10. Maybe more after-treatment workshops, health benefits like eating, relaxation techniques, maybe even basic yoga or something. *We'll work on this.*
11. Invite more drug company representatives to future conferences. *We invite representatives from relevant pharmaceutical firms to the meeting. Few were able to come this year. We'll invite representatives again for 2010.*
12. I liked the doctor sessions much better than looser roundtables or medical company speakers. *Each year we offer numerous physician-led sessions, as well as a variety of choices in each time period.*
13. Living with permanent side effects, terminal cancer, physical and mental issues. *Thank you, we'll work on adding additional discussion sessions on this important aspect of our care.*
14. More specific talk on tear duct problems. *We encourage people to reach out to other attendees through the message board to identify others dealing with a topic such as this, if there's not a specific conference session on the topic.*
15. Sessions for treatment issues and diagnostic questions for those with poorly differentiated thyroid cancer. *We'll work on additional discussion sessions on this difficult variant of our disease.*

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16. TSH effect on babies in utero. Have a session on how the baby is affected by the TSH lack of or too much during pregnancy – any recent studies done. *We offered a session on pregnancy and maternity issues, and hope to again offer this topic in 2010.*
17. (1) NRC needs to accept and use our information to improve guidelines. (2) One session was more a political debate than how to deal with practical approaches, what to do, expect, etc. (3) Need to speak with FDA about putting iodine on food labels. *We hope that dialogues and discussions at our conferences will educate everyone on issues on which they may choose to follow up.*
18. As a medical professional I prefer topics which focus on the physiology and pathology of the disease. *We do try to have sessions which at least touch on this. However, the majority of attendees are more interested in discussions about the course of the disease, and its treatment.*
19. Some participants asked the same questions to different doctors in different sessions. *We encourage people not to monopolize speaker Q&A time in order that everyone who has a question gets the chance to ask it. Because the mix of attendees changes from session to session, it is difficult to identify repeat questions being asked of different speakers by the same person.*
20. Presentation on nutrition: No salt diet/low iodine. General nutrition post surgery. *We will try to have a nutritionist with us in 2010. Unfortunately, we weren't able to get one for this year's meeting.*
21. Cardiologist to discuss ramifications of TSH suppression, arrhythmias, etc. *We can try to find a cardiologist to join us. In many cases, an endocrinologist is well suited to lead this discussion.*
22. Put more information about targeted therapy on www.thyca.org. Thank you. *We encourage speakers to give us handouts and attendees to share session notes with ThyCa, to help us add information to the web site throughout the year.*

SCHEDULING COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

23. Should offer same topic more than once at different times. (2) Could there be repeat of certain sessions? *We try to offer at least some sessions at more than one time/day.*
24. More time and venues to meet people and spend enough time to get to know more people. Also more structured way to meet others with similar types of thyroid cancer. *Our hope is that people will meet each other in the session rooms, and talk outside the sessions, during breaks, and when enjoying meals together. Also, please use the Conference Directory to look up new friends, and reach out to them. The message board outside the Conference Central Room also allowed people the opportunity to leave each other notes, or develop get-togethers. We will continue to brainstorm ways to improve this important aspect of the weekend.*
25. It would be great to have balance of speakers on Sunday as well as Saturday, but I realize they likely may not be available on Sundays. *We do our best to offer a broad and comprehensive program. The only thing we aren't able to control is the days and times the speakers are available. Also, speakers sometimes have to change their plans shortly before the conference. We try to reschedule speakers rather than lose them. All these factors contribute to differences in speaker participation each day.*
26. Timing suggestions: (1) Have Sessions end by 4 pm. Even though great talks, just too tiring. (2) People exhausted by 4 p.m. Saturday. (3) Was exhausted by 4 p.m. (4) Please finish each day at 4 pm. (5) We need breaks, time for lunch, etc. The day was way too much. *Each day of the conference is long, as is the entire meeting, because attendees vary in their preferences and energy levels. Each participant should definitely take a break whenever tired, or have a shorter day rather than trying to attend the full program. We try to offer a wide array of choices over the three days, and communicate in the daily announcements that people may come and go as they wish during the day.*
27. Helpful to know night before if there is an early morning cancellation. *We try to make announcements as soon as we know of a cancellation, and to offer many choices at each time period.*
28. Ensure a time break between a volunteer's time helping in Conference Central and their leading a roundtable. *Thank you; good suggestion.*
29. Suggestions for social gatherings: (1) The way the Friday reception and annual meeting was described in the program, many people thought it was for volunteers only. (2) Have a social gathering each evening to allow for networking and meeting people. *Thank you. We will change the title of the reception for 2010 to make it clear that we want everyone to attend this social gathering, and to have fun together. The message board also helps people arrange get-togethers during the weekend.*

SUGGESTIONS FOR AUDIOVISUALS AND ROOM SET UP

30. (1) Put nursing credit sign-in at back of room. (2) Better room labeling. Maybe list day's workshops outside each room. (3) Roundtable needs better set up for a large group. (4) Be sure mics' batteries okay before session. (5) Have tables and chairs. (6) Session needed bigger room. (8) Have table where a person can pick up handouts from sessions they do not attend. Any handouts that are left after session can be moved to that table for others to pick up. *Excellent suggestions. We lacked time to print room signs with session lists this year. Regarding room size, we usually can predict which topics need larger rooms, though occasionally there are last-minute schedule changes and a big room isn't available. Whenever a speaker gives us handouts, we put extras on the resource tables.*

SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONS TO VOLUNTEERS' GUIDELINES AND THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CONFERENCE CENTRAL ROOM

(Editors' Note: We will add to the guidelines. Thank you.)

31. A. Microphone use: (1) Train hosts/moderators on how to use microphone and to make sure speakers use microphone. (2) Use microphone for larger rooms for audience questions, or have the moderator, speaker, repeat the question. (3) Hearing questions asked is most effective with microphone usage. (4) Be sure host/moderator continues the Q and A if just a few people still waiting. (5) Try to have people use microphone or stand to speak. B. General: (7) Keep to session time lines to allow next speaker their allotted time. (8) Make sure speaker sticks to topic. Make sure title lets attendees know what it's about. (9) For Q & A sessions, make sure program lists which type of questions are best for which type of physician. C. **Conference Central Room.** (1) Have designated person on each floor to assist with directions to sessions, especially on first day. (2) Have one-to-one volunteers available to give support to new attendees who may need someone to talk to. (3) Maybe higher registration fee and more "giveaways" like welcome bags. D. Suggestions from volunteers: (1) add microphone usage instructions to host/moderator guidelines; (2) introduce roundtable co-facilitators to each other before the conference so they can get acquainted and plan sessions together; (3) give written instructions/layouts as well as verbal instructions to set-up volunteers and registration volunteers; including lists of all items in boxes; (4) make list of questions/answers for registration volunteers; (5) provide ongoing guidance to them, with supervisors available; (6) notify local set-up volunteers if already have enough volunteers; (7) have many more Conference Central volunteers, including 2 at checkout table at all times; (8) save time in materials assembly by matching number of extra packets to anticipated number of walk-in attendees; (9) greet attendees personally and hand them their nametag and packet, to ensure a personal interaction with every attendee; (10) cross-train volunteers so they can fill in for each other in Conference Central. *Thank you. As noted above, we will add to the guidelines given volunteers, as well as try to recruit more volunteers for next year's Conference Central room and other onsite needs. Our web site has a Volunteer Form and contact information, for everyone who'd like to volunteer. Regarding the number of extra packets, some years we have unexpectedly large numbers of walk-in attendees. This can happen again any year, and we're always glad to welcome walk-ins, because many people hear about the conference shortly before it begins. So we try to assemble a lot of extras, because we'll lack time for assembly during the conference. It's always a good thing to be prepared for very large attendance.*

FACILITY, FOOD, AND OTHER COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS

Hotel Comments and Suggestions

(General note: The conference moves to a different region and hotel each year. The hotel is selected from among those offering meeting rooms of the sizes we need, dates that avoid conflicts with major physicians' meetings, and the discounted sleeping room rates needed by our attendees. We usually get free parking also. In any metropolitan area, usually only a few hotels offer this combination of features needed for the conferences.)

32. Floor plan and hotel location. (1) Meeting rooms on same floor. Waterpark, party people lumped together due to noise. (2) More central location. (3) Choose future hotel that has more restaurants, shopping, and possibly entertainment within walking distance. (4) Cluster conference attendees on one floor away from noisy parties, etc. (6) Provide shuttles, if in remote area, to get to supplies. (5)

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Have a social event in evening for people to meet. (7) Be at hotel that will provide free transportation to and from airport – a cab cost me \$70. (8) Hotel housekeeping in one room needed improvement. (9) Rooms could be a bit cooler in temperature. (10) Have list of side trips, recommended restaurants, seasonal events, things to do in area. Maybe set up tours of local sites. (11) Give information on all transportation options to hotel. (12) Have the Conference Central room in a central location in the hotel. *See note above. Thank you for these comments.*

Food, Beverage, and Lunchtime Suggestions

33. Day 2 could use break for coffee, etc. (2) Take-out orders from local restaurants – pre-order food in a.m. and have delivered? (3) Offer better food choices onsite. (4) Hotel food prices unreasonable. (5) Need better lunch program. More time for lunch, form 2 lines, have cash registers for lunch meal. (6) Have better banquet food. (7) Friday reception would have been better with a glass of wine. Meeting short and great

FUNDRAISER COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS:

34. (1) I liked the auction with tickets. Maybe ask this year's participants if they would donate something for next year. Perhaps of items easily packed for travel like jewelry, gift cards/certificates. Also, drawing for free registration for next year's conference, or buy one, get one free if you're here with a friend, caregiver, etc. (2) Does Morton Salt offer support? (3) Sell fleece vests, baseball caps. (4) Use specialized auction software. (5) Have a committee that focuses only on the dinner/auction. (6) Have a way for people to bid if they don't choose to go to dinner/auction. *We hope to continue the "ticket" auction in the future. We are following up on the possibility of specialized software. We continue to explore possible Spirit Items for availability year-round as well as at the conference. Thank you to everyone who made this year's research fundraiser such a big success, thereby helping us sustain our Research Grants program for the future.*

Again, thank you, everyone. Your suggestions help our planning. We greatly appreciate all your comments and expressions of appreciation.

SOME NOTES FROM SPEAKERS AFTER THE CONFERENCE

"Thanks very much. I really enjoyed it. I was surprised to see the room full of my own patients."

"It was truly a great pleasure to be with all of you. I have come to the realization that I am happiest when I am engaged with my patients. I think you very much for the invitation to speak and participate. The organization is maturing and the support of research is outstanding."

"I really enjoyed the conference and hope that I will be able to join you for future conferences."

"I really enjoyed the conference and hope that I will be able to join you for future conferences."

"The conference was once again excellent. Great job!"

"Thanks so much for the invitation to speak; I really enjoyed the opportunity, got some great questions and a few ideas, and I hope to get invited back in the future as I think it could be a really great collaboration."

"Thanks so much for having me involved with the conference - it was fantastic."

"You are doing amazing work!"

"I look forward to more opportunities to work together with you and ThyCa,"

"Thanks so much for including me in the event. Will definitely be interested in future meetings!"

THANK YOU AGAIN TO EVERYONE!
HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE

**13th INTERNATIONAL
THYROID CANCER SURVIVORS' CONFERENCE**

DALLAS, TEXAS,

OCTOBER 15-17, 2010

Sheraton Grand Hotel DFW Airport
4440 West John Carpenter Freeway
Irving, TX 75063

The 2010 Conference Flyer and the Volunteer Invitation Form are now on the web site. Watch www.thyca.org for further details and updates throughout the coming year.

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ABOUT ThyCa: Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Association, Inc. (www.thyca.org)

ThyCa: Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Association, Inc., is a national non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization of thyroid cancer survivors, family members, and health care professionals. We are dedicated to education, communication, support, awareness for early detection, and thyroid cancer research fundraising and research grants. ThyCa provides a wide array of free education and support services, as well as numerous downloadable publications and special events throughout the year.

For more information and free materials, visit our web site of ThyCa: Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Association, Inc., at www.thyca.org, call toll free at 1-877-588-7904, write to ThyCa: Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Association, Inc., P.O. Box 1545, NY, NY 10159-1545, or e-mail to thyca@thyca.org.