

HIGHLIGHTS AND DETAILS
The 13th Annual International
Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Conference

October 15-17, 2010 — Dallas, Texas

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

OVERVIEW

- We are honored to report that the 13th International Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Conference brought together thyroid cancer survivors, family members, friends, and health care professionals from 40 states, District of Columbia, Canada, Hong Kong, and United Kingdom. Once again, the conference had outstanding attendance and speakers.
- The conference theme was "Support, Education, Communication, and Hope through Research."
- 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 led more than 100 sessions, generously contributing their time, enthusiasm, energy, and expertise. They came from 19 states, District of Columbia, Canada, and United Kingdom.
- For the 4th year in a row, nurses' continuing education credits were available for nearly all of the more than 50 medical information sessions.
- 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 42 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 \$38,000 for thyroid cancer research. Trish Allen, anaplastic thyroid cancer survivor of Texas, and Phil Doetsch of California, who organized the Million Steps for Bob that raised funds in memory of his friend Bob Dubcich, who lost his life to anaplastic Thyroid Cancer, gave inspiring talks about their experiences, ThyCa's positive impact on them through support, education, and community, as well as the need for more thyroid cancer research, and how it offers hope for cures for all thyroid cancer.
- Most attendees who completed evaluation forms gave the conference an overall rating of 5 (excellent) on a 5-point scale. The average rating was 4.8. The most common rating for individual sessions was 5. Most session ratings were either 4 or 5.
- We were gratified to receive so many positive comments during and since the conference, as well as to receive so many helpful suggestions for future conferences. You are invited to send your suggestions/comments to conference@thyca.org throughout the year. Your offers of volunteering are also welcome. You don't have to live in the host city, or even attend the conference to volunteer.
- 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, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin; Canada; Hong Kong; and United Kingdom.
- **81 distinguished speakers and session leaders came from 19 states, District of Columbia, Canada, and United Kingdom. They included 9 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 pathology, including experts in every type of thyroid cancer
 - Nurse practitioners
 - Mental health professionals
 - Certified genetic counselors
 - Specialists in acupuncture, fitness, and other approaches to well-being
 - A pharmacist
 - Attorneys
 - 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 some 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 several sessions on getting involved in ThyCa's support services, and research fundraising and advocacy.
- **The conference also featured the premiere showing of a new educational 62-minute documentary titled "Thyroid Cancer's Magic Bullet: The Prep, The Pill, The Post,"** developed by Nick Isenberg, documentary filmmaker and thyroid cancer survivor, It included interviews with specialists at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. The film helps patients and caregivers see, hear, and understand what to expect before and after receiving RAI, giving the perspectives of patients, physicians, and other professionals as it tells the story about differentiated thyroid cancer care.
- **Resource tables displayed free materials,** in English and Spanish, including the new expanded 7th edition of the downloadable Low-Iodine Cookbook, the free Pediatric Backpacks sent to families with children and teens with thyroid cancer, thyroid cancer awareness and outreach materials, the ATA Guidelines for differentiated and medullary thyroid cancer, and numerous additional resources.
- **Most participants who returned evaluation forms gave the conference the highest possible overall rating—5.** The overall conference ratings averaged 4.8 on a scale of 1 to 5. The most frequent rating given for individual sessions was 5; most scores were 4 or 5.
- **People heard about ThyCa and the conference from varied sources.** These included ThyCa's web site, other web sites, e-mailings, physicians, flyers in their physicians' offices and hospitals, flyers posted in community locations, word of mouth from ThyCa volunteers, members, friends, local support groups, the news media, and outreach 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.
- **Our thanks to all our generous donors for your valued support, which sustains and strengthens our services.** Year-round Financial Sponsors include ThyCa's Members, Individual Donors, AstraZeneca, Bayer/Onyx Pharmaceutical, Exelixis, Inc., and Genzyme.

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- For the fourth consecutive year, continuing education credits were again available for nurses, for designated sessions where speakers provided learning objectives. More than 30 nurses took advantage of this added benefit.
- 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 14-16, 2011, in Los Angeles, California.
- More than 130 people helped plan, organize, publicize, and run the conference. Conference Co- Coordinators were ThyCa's Executive Director and a volunteer; in addition, more than 10 committee coordinators and 110 additional volunteers helped in advance, onsite, or both. 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 2010 so successful. Everyone's wonderful help made a big difference! We look forward to seeing you in Los Angeles, California 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/ProgSched2010.pdf>. If you don't have access to the Internet, or 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 some 50 sessions on thyroid cancer care and research, plus sessions on coping skills, complementary approaches, and legal and financial issues, as well as survivor/caregiver roundtable discussions on varied themes, and sessions on getting involved in support services and in research fundraising and advocacy.
- Brief biographies and photographs of many speakers, are available at: <http://www.thyca.org/SpeakerBios2010.pdf>.

Thank you very much to our speakers:

Rick Abrams, ThyCa Volunteer, MA

Janet Adams, ThyCa Volunteer, TX

Carol Anderson, M.D., Nuclear Medicine Physician, Univ. of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX

Vickie Baggett, ThyCa Volunteer

Douglas W. Ball, M.D., Endocrinologist, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Baltimore, MD

Gary Bloom, ThyCa Executive Director, MD

Marcia S. Brose, M.D., Ph.D., Oncologist, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Rebecca Brown, M.D., Endocrinologist, University of Chicago Medical Center, Chicago, IL

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Naifa L. Busaidy, M.D., Endocrinologist, University of Texas, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX
Maria E. Cabanillas, M.D., Endocrinologist, University of Texas, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX
Patti Carey, L.Ac., Licensed Acupuncturist, McKinney, TX
Mark S. Chambers, M.S., D.M.D., Oral Medicine, University of Texas, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX
Christine Ciletti, ThyCa Volunteer, FL
Dan Clark, ThyCa Volunteer, TX
Lesley Clark, ThyCa Volunteer, TX and United Kingdom
Gary L. Clayman, M.D., Surgeon, University of Texas, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX
Gilbert Cote, Ph.D., Endocrinologist, Univ. of Texas, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX
Peter Crane, Esq., ThyCa Volunteer, WA
Teresa L. Deshields, Ph.D., Psychologist, Barnes-Jewish Hospital & Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO
Michael Dubrow, ThyCa Volunteer, NJ
Tom Engle, ThyCa Volunteer, MO
Karen Ferguson, ThyCa Volunteer, SC
Sherrie Flores, R.N.C., WHCNP-BC, ANP-C, Nurse Practitioner, University of Texas, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX
Robert F. Gagel, M.D., Endocrinologist, University of Texas, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX
Fran Goodstat, ThyCa Volunteer, FL
Evelyn Gross, ThyCa Volunteer, PA
Mouhammed A. Habra, M.D., Endocrinologist, University of Texas, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX
Jan Halzel, Pharm.D., Halzel Associates, CO
C. J. Hartman, M.A., Certified USAT Coach and WSI Swim Instructor, WI
Shelby Holt, M.D., Endocrine Surgeon, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX
Mimi I. Hu, M.D., Endocrinologist, University of Texas, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX
Lauri Huber, ThyCa Volunteer, IL
Julie Hunsaker, Hypoparathyroidism Association, Idaho Falls, ID
Nick Isenberg, Documentary Film Producer, Glenwood Springs, CO
Uzma Z. Khan, M.D., Endocrinologist, University of Missouri, Jefferson City, MO
Joshua P. Klopfer, M.D., Endocrinologist, University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center, Denver, CO
Cheri Lindle, M.Ed., Management Consultant, 3C Consulting, Tulsa, OK
Ildiko Lingvay, M.D., M.P.H., M.Sc., Endocrinologist, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX
Jochen Lorch, M.D., M.Sc., Oncologist, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA
Rebecca Lord, ThyCa Volunteer, MD
James G. Luehman, Deputy Director, DMSSA, United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC
Donald Margouleff, M.D., Nuclear Medicine Physician, North Shore University Hospital, Manhasset, Long Island, NY
Bill McClain, ThyCa Volunteer, CT
Galina McClain, ThyCa Volunteer, CT
Bryan McIver, M.B., Ph.D., F.R.C.P., Endocrinologist, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN
Lee Melton, ThyCa Volunteer, TX
Peggy Melton, ThyCa Volunteer, TX
Mira Milas, M.D., Endocrine Surgeon, The Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland, OH
David Myssiorek, M.D., F.A.C.S., Otolaryngologist, New York University Clinical Cancer Center, New York, NY
Rebecca Nagy, M.S., C.G.C., Certified Genetic Counselor, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

Christine Neill, Esq., Attorney, TX
Pat Paillard, ThyCa Volunteer, PA
Sherryl Pascal, ThyCa Volunteer, NJ
Wayne Petrie, ThyCa Volunteer, ON, Canada
Theresa A. Rich, M.S., C.G.C., Certified Genetic Counselor, University of Texas, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX
Scott A. Rivkees, M.D., Pediatric Endocrinologist, Yale Univ. School of Medicine, New Haven, CT
Jennifer Rosen, M.D., Surgeon, Boston University Medical Center, Boston, MA
Bob Samuel, ThyCa Volunteer, PA
Louise Samuel, ThyCa Volunteer, PA
Carol Sanders, Hypoparathyroidism Association, Idaho Falls, ID
Pamela Schultz, R.N., Ph.D., Research Nurse, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM
Gisela M. Schwab, M.D., Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, Exelixis. S. San Francisco, CA
Jennifer A. Sipos, M.D., Endocrinologist, The Ohio State Univ. College of Medicine, Columbus, OH
Julie Ann Sosa, M.D., M.A., Surgeon, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT
Beatriz Tendler, M.D., Endocrinologist, University of Connecticut Health Center, Storrs, CT
Sondra Touris, ThyCa Volunteer
Clayton Twigg, ThyCa Volunteer, OH
Rose Twigg, ThyCa Volunteer, OH
Jennifer Vermillion, Esq., Attorney, TX
John R. Vermillion, Esq., Attorney, TX
Dwight Vicks, ThyCa Volunteer, NY
Steven G. Waguespack, M.D., Endocrinologist, University of Texas, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX
Lynn Waldmann, L.C.S.W., Senior Social Work Counselor, University of Texas, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX
Jo Walker, ThyCa Volunteer, AZ
Carl Weisbrod, Esq., Attorney, TX
Samuel A. Wells, M.D., Surgeon, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD
Theresa Wickerham, ThyCa Volunteer, MO
Michelle D. Williams, M.D., Pathologist, University of Texas, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX
Lori J. Wirth, M.D., Medical Oncologist, Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center, Boston, MA
Laura S. Wood, R.N., M.S.N., O.C.N., Renal Cancer Research Coordinator, The Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland, OH
Anita Ying, M.D., Endocrinologist, University of Texas, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX
Candy Zechmeister, ThyCa Volunteer, TX

B. EXHIBITORS AND RESOURCE TABLE MATERIALS

- **ThyCa: Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Association**
 - ThyCa's Materials in English and Spanish
 - Pediatric Backpack Display
- **Guest Exhibitors and Resource Material Contributors**
 - American Cancer Society
 - American Thyroid Association
 - Cure Today Magazine
 - Genzyme Corporation
 - Hypoparathyroidism Association

C. DONORS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT of ThyCa Conference 2010

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Six Flags Over Texas

Dallas Cowboys

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Dallas Mavericks

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Dallas Stars

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George Woideck, Ceramic Artist

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 Grand Hotel DFW Airport

D. COMMENTS FROM ATTENDEES

OVERALL COMMENTS

- Thank you for a wonderful conference. Excellent organization and coordination.
- Congratulations on another great conference.
- It was wonderful!
- So much info was helpful. I really appreciate all the speakers & volunteers.
- The conference was amazing yet again.
- It is always such a pleasure to meet and talk with fellow meddies and their families.
- Great conference yet again!
- Glad to be here! Great job — nice speakers & roundtable discussions.
- Good to have so many choices. Great presenters & patient-oriented physicians & others. Good support from participants. Good job ThyCa!
- The 2010 ThyCa Conference was fabulous as usual.
- Thanks, this was a first time to attend, appreciate all the work; learned so much;
- So much information I didn't know.
- Some great docs & good info. Was glad I came!
- Both supportive information and good learning experience.
- Excellent presentations.
- So glad I came — wonderful speakers.
- So much info was helpful. I really appreciate all the speakers & volunteers.
- Excellent variety of topics.
- All sessions were well done. The doctors are impressive speakers with great knowledge.
- Great!
- Presenters love to come and hear our questions and knowledge.
- How friendly this group is, and accepting.
- All the sessions I attended were wonderful. The speakers were all fascinating. I learned so much!
- The value to us changes with the years. The first one was critical to learn facts and orient my thinking. This one, three years later, was a little about the facts and more about seeing old friends.
- This was a wonderful conference; a good experience.
- There were lots of options and sessions to satisfy anyone that attended. I love the doctor sessions as well as roundtable time. I learned a lot.
- Good job!!! Very useful information & excellent presenters.
- Was glad I came! I think this is such an awesome & unique organization in its ability to develop a highly respected website and annual conference!
- All sessions attended provided information and benefits that satisfied a different need of which all were critical to me.
- Excellent.
- It was great!
- The sessions helped make us informed patients by having so many knowledgeable, patient, and friendly physicians plus other medical specialists. All gave us greater insights into all aspects of thyroid cancer and all topics related to it. You can learn something new every year at the International Thyroid Cancer Survivors' Conference.
- Congratulations on another great conference.
- It was wonderful!

COMMENTS ABOUT PARTICULAR SPEAKERS AND SESSIONS

- Roundtables helpful.
- The new guidelines offer hope.
- I thought the sessions were more varied this year and very well chosen topics for MTC patients.
- M.D.'s seem to have presented the most helpful information. Other sessions were not as informative as needed more structure and medical facts presented. Lots of good options but hard to decide which one to go to and which one not too. Excellent overall!
- Too many sessions but there aren't any that I would cut. Good to have so many choices. Great presenters & patient-oriented physicians & others. Good support from participants. Good job, ThyCa!
- Helped me understand limitations and help of FNA, along with whole process of continued management of thyroid cancer.
- One of the best parts is hearing different stories, knowing others share so much, and hearing their differences, and learning about what to look for, helping prioritize the issues for my own management.
- I love the "repeated" topics, and from year to year I get completely different and equally useful perspectives that allow me to make more sense of it all.
- All of the sessions I attended were excellent! I am amazed at the amount of information I obtained in each session.
- One session disappointing.
- Doctors more approachable and not as technical. Better organized.
- Doctor presented a wonderful session; presented the information so it was easy to understand, very relevant to all cancer survivors.
- Sessions on treatment options helpful. Some a bit too technical with presentation but got good once questions were asked.
- Most helpful sessions were those talking about treatment options/trials/dealing with side effects.
- I felt one session developed into gossip; unfounded information. One speaker entertaining but didn't answer questions directly.
- All sessions wonderful.
- Doctor deserves an award for enthusiasm, commitment to care, and knowledge. Excellent attitudes toward care.
- Very easy to understand explanations of basics.
- All were excellent — right on!
- Great detail and flow of presentation.
- All excellent. Amazing speakers!
- Clear points and presentation flow.
- Great info and very pertinent. Great speaker!
- Been to several conferences of ThyCa and excited to hear updates from the medullary specialists.
- Outstanding. Learned so much.
- The sessions I attended were all very good to excellent.
- Love hypoparathyroid sessions, so useful, and all doctor sessions helped me understand and sort out options to take control of my decisions and feel more comfortable with them. It all helps me educate my doctors!
- Doctors had a good sense of what patients worry about.
- Thank you for bringing in the MD's with such experience and feelings about medullary thyroid cancer!
- Well-organized, clear presentation. Handouts of slides/PowerPoint very helpful.
- Session on survivorship nice change from all clinical talk, addressed emotional needs and caregivers needs.
- Documentary film very informative; wish I could have seen it prior to my treatment.

TOPIC AND PROGRAM COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

(Editors' Note: The topic suggestions are very helpful. We use them when inviting speakers. The question times also provide 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. (a) Think we should be able to “recap” the events on the web site. Links to speakers or sessions. It was great! (b) Have the speakers' slides posted on the ThyCa Site. (c) How to get notes/copies of handouts from missed sessions? *We will post any speaker's slides for which we receive permission. Newsletters since the conference have included conference notes and excerpts from speaker handouts. More additions are planned.*
2. An in-depth discussion of thyroglobulin; one doctor did talk about thyroglobulin but that was not the listed topic. The doctor was an excellent speaker. *We will try to include this topic in the 2011 program. Speakers and topics change based on speaker availability every year.*
3. Suggest people take home a program to give to your doctor. *Great idea for using extra conference booklets. We also encourage everyone to take home the free outreach materials and give them to medical professionals, other cancer survivorship groups, community groups, and friends and family. If you didn't take home materials, but would like to receive some now, send your detailed request to conference@thyca.org or ThyCa, P.O. Box 1102, Olney, MD 20830-1102 and we'll follow-up.*
4. Suggest session on hormonal issues re thyroid hormone replacement and female hormones (e.g.: sex drive, monthly cycle, menopause).
5. More details about RAI and side effects, including symptoms and causes.
6. Sessions were repetitive. *Some session topics are repeated to enable people to attend the session at one time or another.*
7. Would love to have had more handouts. *We make handouts available for any session the speakers provide them. Some speakers are sharing unpublished information, and don't want to distribute it yet.*
8. Presentation on nutrition would be helpful.
9. There were a lot of new people and I think it would have been helpful for Gary to give a quick background on ThyCa, etc. I think that this is such an awesome organization in its ability to develop a highly respected website and annual conference! Please pat yourself on the back. You have deserved it. *This is a great suggestion for a new session.*
10. Session on short/long-term disability and impact on job.
11. Doctor great, spoke in layman's language.
12. One session did not stay on topic; questions diverted it to other topics. *While we assign session topics, the speakers try to provide information based on the questions asked during their sessions. They are trying to make this our conference.*
13. Identify topics so you can attend a repeat session if another session conflicts.
15. An opening session (plenary) debate format on RAI or other “newly” modified guidelines.
16. Massage therapists; more alternative/complementary sessions.
17. Sessions on how the patient can assist the caregiver so that they can help the patient.
18. More about the interpretation of the results of specific clinical trials.
19. I would appreciate handouts or website info on helpful ways to organize and manage my medical records.

SCHEDULING COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

1. Please make a longer lunch break.
2. I would suggest a longer lunch break so most of us who are patients could rest. Instead we miss good sessions to nap or rest. Or caregiver sessions during that time.
3. Need a break for lunch, or better sack lunches.
4. Maybe a free lunch hour. Once you offer roundtables we feel guilty about skipping.
5. Start a half hour earlier. There was a long wait for the announcements.
6. Need a 15-minute prayer time.

Thank you for all of these suggestions. The majority of people have requested that we have choices of sessions during the lunch time slot, rather than a formal lunch break for everyone. Each of us plans our own session schedule and the timing of our breaks, and can take breaks as needed.

SUGGESTIONS FOR AUDIOVISUALS AND ROOM SET UP

1. Some small workshops should have microphones due to activity in nearby rooms. *We provided microphones in rooms based on the recommendations of the hotel's audiovisual department. Thanks for this input.*
2. Some speakers repeated questions from the audience; some did not (hard to hear at times). *We'll ask speakers to do this next year, and remind session moderators to assist with this as well.*
3. It helps if each room has an aisle on each side as well as down the middle. *The hotel sets the room layout.*

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

(Editors' Note: Thank you.)

Hosts/Moderators:

- Perhaps facilitators should be trained (and audience participants should be told) that one person-one question should apply. Several sessions were monopolized by one attendee.

Conference Central Room:

- The goody bag was a nice touch.
- The welcome package/bag was really, really nice. Thanks!
- The handling of the money for all events was a 10-plus! Very professional!
- Sell notepads 8 x 11 to raise money, for those of us who forgot to bring paper to take notes.

OTHER:

- Wish we had done a better job with outreach to the Spanish speakers in the area.

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. In any metropolitan area, usually one or two hotels offer this combination of features needed for the conferences.

- (1) Great hotel and staff.
- (2) Might help to choose a hotel closer to more local amenities & attractions.
- (3) Lunch was not good. Sandwiches with no condiments, no napkins, no lettuce, no tomato. Just not good.
- (4) Rooms very cold, hotel staff excellent.
- (5) Hard to concentrate when it's freezing.
- (6) Chairs were horrible.
- (7) Great bathrooms! *Please let us know during the conference when a meeting room is too cold, or the food isn't up to standards so we can act on this immediately. Thank you for these comments.*

FUNDRAISER COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS:

1. Dinner/auction was great (from several people).
2. It would have been helpful to have a list of auction items ahead of time. *Most years we're able to do*

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this. There was a computer software glitch this year. We will try to provide the advance list in 2011.

3. Give auction item contributors credit in the materials at the auction. Do not have a maximum bid. Many items would have made more \$ if allowed. Mexican theme a nice alternative. Auctioneers were great.
4. Had a fantastic time at the dance on Sat. night. This was a definite plus to the weekend. I hope you will continue this next year. *We will try!*
5. Liked the auction and the daily draws. Made it fun!
6. Dress code for the Dinner/Auction should be mentioned on the registration form so the first-timers would know what to pack. This is a once-a-year event. We should dress up a little to boost the morale. It might make some people feel good at least for a few hours.
7. Enjoyed the Dinner (and band) and Auction.
8. Suggest an activity banquet with the auction (bingo, casino night).
9. Avoid delay in auction checkout.
10. Have more silent auction items or separate things. Set bids on bid sheets prevented me from bidding and buying as much as normal.
11. Dinner was awesome, but cold. Nice change from normal dinner fare at conferences. The auctioneers were outstanding!!
12. Auction – would have been better if items had been separated, rather than grouped. Also, slips should be picked up immediately when auction closed.

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.

THANK YOU AGAIN TO EVERYONE!

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE

**14th INTERNATIONAL
THYROID CANCER SURVIVORS' CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 14 - 16, 2011
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

Hilton Los Angeles Airport Hotel
5711 West Century Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90045

The 2011 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 the 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, New York, NY 10159-1545, or e-mail to thyca@thyca.org.