

# The American Society of Emergency Radiology

## Newsletter

By O. Clark West, MD, Secretary



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### ASER Shops for New Management Company

After providing excellent staff support services for ASER for the past 4 years, RSNA has decided that it can no longer support small radiology societies. RSNA has generously donated a grant of funds sufficient to cover a portion of the cost management services from a new provider. The grant is for 1 year. Members of the Executive Committee (EC) have enjoyed working with RSNA staff members including Janet Cooper, Tory Sansone, Annette Savage and Hilary Gentile. These individuals have been valuable colleagues in helping the EC stage the annual meeting and conduct the society's business.

Many of ASER services are handled by our support staff including: maintenance of the membership list, collection of dues and payment of bills, providing mailing labels for *Emergency Radiology*, and maintaining the ASER web site. The staff produces and mails the brochure for the annual meeting, coordinates the review of abstracts submitted, makes the many arrangements required for rooms, meals, audiovisual equipment at the annual meeting, publishes the meeting program, and provides front desk services at the meeting. ASER has benefitted from the excellent work provided by RSNA staff members, and we appreciate their support as we part company.

The EC is currently reviewing proposals from several companies that specialize in society management. We have the fortunate opportunity to choose among several qualified and experienced vendors. Our goal is to make a seamless transition from RSNA to the new company with no interruption in member services, and to do so at a reasonable cost.

### Open or Closed Annual Meetings? Member Input Requested

Stanford M. Goldman, MD, 1st Vice President/President Elect, raises an important question, "Should portions of the ASER Annual Meeting be a 'closed meeting'?" As opposed to the current "open meeting," a "closed meeting" would limit attendance at scientific paper presentation sessions to ASER members only. In doing so, papers presented at ASER may be eligible for presentation at other radiology meetings. Authors of manuscripts developed from material presented at ASER would have the option, but not the requirement, of submission to *Emergency Radiology*.

Closing the meeting may permit papers targeted for presentation exclusively at RSNA, ARRS, or other meetings to be presented at ASER as well. ASER scientific sessions may benefit from having additional interesting, high-quality research presented. By limiting attendance to members, meeting participants would have an additional incentive to join ASER.

Stephen Baker, M.D., Past President and Editor of *Emergency Radiology*, is "categorically opposed to this proposal for two reasons. First, I do not think a scientific meeting should ever be closed when science is being discussed... My second objection is that this proposal is directly counter to one of the goals of our society. *Emergency Radiology* is the official organ of the American Society of Emergency Radiology. Its survival depends upon the submission of reviews, articles and scientific investigations. At this stage, it is still a fledgling journal, needing sustained nurturing to gain prominence. Much of that support should come from scientific investigations and reports presented at our annual meeting... relaxation

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of [the rule that papers presented must be submitted to *Emergency Radiology*, ed.] would give prospective authors an opportunity to shun *Emergency Radiology*, providing them carte blanche to submit their manuscripts elsewhere without breaking any canon of our society..."

What are your thoughts? The Executive Committee wants your input. Please send your comments to [Stanford.M.Goldman@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Stanford.M.Goldman@uth.tmc.edu) or call 713-704-1714. This topic will be on the agenda for the business meeting on Tuesday, March 19, 2002 at 12:30 p.m. in Orlando.

## ASER Membership Campaign

By Stephen Hatem, MD, Membership Chair

The Membership Committee is making a push to recruit new members on several fronts: worldwide with the creation of an International Membership Subcommittee; with community radiologists interested in issues of 24 hour coverage/PACS/etc.; and our clinical colleagues. The emphasis is on extending our reach beyond the regional trauma center and into every emergency department. These goals require the help of our current membership. Members are asked to help increase the Society's profile in any way they can: from ASER name-dropping to citing *Emergency Radiology* to promoting the annual meeting. We particularly encourage members to reference the society when giving conferences or lectures, be it local or international. To facilitate this we are developing a series of talks on Emergency Radiology, and a membership packet, that will be available to members willing to speak in their local communities. Anyone willing to contribute lecture material for this purpose, with creative ideas, or a willingness to help our membership drive is encouraged to contact Stephen Hatem, M.D. (216-444-1022, [hatems@ccf.org](mailto:hatems@ccf.org)).

## ASER 2003 Moves to October

As more radiology courses and society meetings move to the spring, ASER will be moving to October. Current plans are to hold the 2003 Annual Meeting in October in Las Vegas. Few other radiology meetings are scheduled for the fall. The ASER meeting in early to mid-October will be sufficiently early to allow members to attend both ASER and RSNA. The weather in Las Vegas should be beautiful with an average high of 81°F and low of 53°F. We hope to have record attendance.

## Nominating Committee Report

At the EC meeting on November 26, 2001, Quentin Anderson, MD, Past President and Chair of the Nominat-

ing Committee, presented the following nominations as recommended by the Nominating Committee:

**President:** Stanford M. Goldman, MD  
(First year of 2-year term)

**1st Vice President/President-Elect:** Dimitrios G. Spigos, MD  
(First year of 2-year term)

**2nd Vice President:** Robert A. Halvorsen, MD  
(Second of two possible 1-year terms)

**Secretary:** O. Clark West, MD  
(Second of three possible 1-year terms)

**Treasurer:** Carlos J. Sivit, MD  
(Second year of 3-year term)

**Director-At-Large (1):** Anthony J. Wilson, MD  
(Third year of 3-year term)

**Director-At-Large (2):** Kimberley McKenney, MD  
(Second year of 3-year term)

**Director-At-Large (3):** Leonard Swischuk, MD  
(New nomination for 3-year term)

The offices of 1st Vice President/President-Elect, 2nd Vice President, Secretary and Director-At-Large (3) are up for election during the Business Meeting on Tuesday, March 19, 2002. ASER bylaws permit nominations from the floor for any of these offices.

## Strategic Planning Committee Proposed

John H. Harris, Jr., MD, DSc, Founding Member, Past President, and Chair of the Bylaws Committee proposed three amendments to the bylaws at the November 26, 2001 EC meeting. Two amendments further define the roles of President and 1st Vice-President/President-Elect. The third proposal would establish a permanent standing committee of Past Presidents and other members:

"The Strategic Planning Committee shall consist of the President, First Vice-President/President-Elect, all extant Past Presidents and two (2) members-at-large, appointed by the President.

The purpose of the Strategic Planning Committee is to identify, consider, and make recommendations, regarding factors or medical environmental changes, either intrinsic or extrinsic to the Society. The Committee shall convene at least annually and provide a written report to the Executive Committee prior to its next stated meeting."

This amendment would change the status of the Strategic Planning Committee from an Ad Hoc to a Standing Committee.

These three proposed amendments will be presented to the general membership at the Business Meeting on Tuesday, March 19, 2002.