



# AMERICAN SOCIETY OF EMERGENCY RADIOLOGY NEWSLETTER

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## Presidential Message

The American Society of Emergency Radiology has come a long way over the past two decades! Since its formation in Boston in 1988 by our enlightened Founders-Gordon C. Carson, John H. Harris, Jr., Alan Klein, Jack P. Lawson, James J. McCort, Stuart E. Mirvis, Charles F. Mueller, and Robert A. Novelline- ASER has shown at times steady, and at other times, exponential growth, cementing its role promoting and educating the radiology and medical community at large about the fantastic specialty of Emergency Radiology. Our membership continues to grow as does attendance at our Annual Meetings. Particularly exciting is the interest being shown by members-in-training and internationally.

I hope and expect that we will have another record setting event this year, on the heels of the great success in Seattle under the leadership of Program Chair Dr. Joel Gross. This year, the meeting returns to one of our most popular locales, Florida, but moves South to the Miami area: the Ritz Carlton Key Biscayne, September 14-17, 2011. The Program being put together by Chair Aaron Sodickson and Assistant Chair (and local “host”) Felipe Munera, promises to continue on the successful structure of recent meetings, but with some exciting new endeavors and updates. Of course, outside the meeting rooms, the Ritz is ideally suited for the business of networking, the fun of Sun & Sand, and a short trip to everything Miami and South Beach have to offer!

The Society remains financially sound. Not only have we weathered these past few challenging years admirably under Dr. Tony Wilson’s leadership, we are well positioned to promote new activities and upgrade existing ones. These include expanded and facilitated online resources, and taking a more assertive and proactive stance in the broader radiology community, to better address our members’ and specialty’s needs. Some of these are addressed in the reports that follow in this newsletter. I would be remiss not to extend thanks to all those that lead and serve on various committees; their volunteerism is admirable and what has made ASER the success it is!

If you have not attended the meeting recently, I urge you to come to Florida in September (sounds especially good as I am writing during a snow and ice storm from Cleveland!). From the quality of the program and its speakers, to the scientific presentations and educational exhibits, to the networking and social opportunities, it should be a unique and excellent meeting, not to be missed. I look forward to seeing you there.

Stephen F. Hatem, MD

President, American Society of Emergency Radiology

## ASER Education Committee Report

Submitted by Ronald M. Bilow, MD

Over the past few months, we have made considerable progress in simplifying society member participation in the Core Curriculum Illustration Project. First off, we now have 100 author licenses available for our use (formerly, we had only 15). Below are instructions on how one can setup their own FREE [www.aser.mypacs.net](http://www.aser.mypacs.net) user account.

1. Navigate to above URL
2. Click on the “sign up for a new account” button from the left side of the screen.
3. Click on the [aserc@gmail.com](mailto:aserc@gmail.com) hyperlink in the bottom right corner of the “new account registration form”, and then send the email. You do not have

to include any additional information in the email, but you will have to be connected to your email server. You will receive an autoreply from the above Gmail address with the validation password. If you have any problems, please don’t hesitate to contact me ([ronald.m.bilow@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:ronald.m.bilow@uth.tmc.edu)) or Angela Davis ([ADavis@meetingmanagers.com](mailto:ADavis@meetingmanagers.com)), and we can send you the password (it’ll just take a little longer).

4. Fill out the registration form, making sure to enter the validation password at the bottom.

This is all you need to gain access to the cases. However...

5. If you are interested in becoming an author, please send me an email, so I can

add you to the approved list of authors in the MyPACS database. I will also send you instructions on authoring cases.

There are now approximately 110 cases on the system available for public review. About 25 additional cases in progress are presently held private by their respective authors. We have added a few new section leaders to the Core Curriculum Faculty as well. A big welcome goes to Marc Camacho (Male GU), Tom Ptak (Face and Neck), Michele Johnson (Central Nervous System), Nalini Kanth (OB/Gyn), and Jason Rexroad (Pediatrics). Tudor Hughes has taken over Lower Extremity and Manickam Kumaravel has taken over Pelvis and Hip.

# ASER 2010 Annual Scientific Meeting and Postgraduate Course

## August 11 – 14, 2010

### Grand Hyatt Seattle Hotel • Seattle, Washington

The ASER 2010 Annual Scientific Meeting and Postgraduate Course, held August 11- 14, 2010 in Seattle, Washington was a great success, attracting a record high number of 315 professional registrants, 54 spouses/guests, and 8 exhibitor representatives. There was a strong international representation at the meeting, with 56 of the attendees practicing outside of the US.

The scientific portion of the program included 40 papers, 84 posters, and 16 “Cases of the Day”. The meeting offered two Self Assessment Modules, “Trauma Head to Toe: Spine Trauma” and “Trauma Head to Toe: Abdominal Trauma”. These SAMs were qualified by the American Board of Radiology in meeting the criteria for self-assessment toward the purpose of fulfilling requirements in the ABR Maintenance of Certification Program.

The course consisted of presentations from 54 faculty members, 39 of whom are ASER members. From the opening session until the closing session, attendance was good, with many of the attendees participating in the question and answer period at the end of each session.

During the Annual Business Meeting of the Society, the following members were voted in as ASER Fellows: Dr. Digna R. Kool of the Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre and Dr. Thomas Ptak of Massachusetts General Hospital. The awards banquet and ceremony provided a pleasant conclusion to the meeting. Congratulations to all of the award recipients.



Image of Seattle, WA • Courtesy of Mahesh Thapa, MD  
www.starvingphotography.com

#### 2010 ASER Annual Meeting Award Recipients

Gold Medalist	Leonard E. Swischuk, MD
Founder’s Lecturer	Joseph S. Yu, MD
2010 Fellows	Digna R. Kool, MD
	Thomas Ptak, MD, PhD, MPH
1 <sup>st</sup> Place Paper Award Recipient	Marc Camacho, MD
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Paper Award Recipient	Martin Gunn, MB ChB, FRANZCR
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Paper Award Recipient	Digna R. Kool, MD
1 <sup>st</sup> Place Poster Award Recipient	Nicholas Beckmann, MD
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Poster Award Recipient	Kathy Borovicka, MD
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Poster Award Recipient	Robert Klingsmith, MD, PsyD
4 <sup>th</sup> Place Poster Award Recipient	Britton Bennett, MD
5 <sup>th</sup> Place Poster Award Recipient	Ahmed Albuali, MD
Robert Novelline Award Winner	Doug Kitchin, MD
Harris Award Winner	Daniel Hou, BSc, MD
Case of the Day Winner	Nicholas Beckmann, MD

The Society owes the following meeting organization team a thank you for a job well done:

ASER President	Anthony J. Wilson, MB ChB
Program Director	Joel A. Gross, MD
Scientific Program Coordinator	Thomas Ptak, MD, PhD, MPH
Cases of the Day Coordinator	Andrew Gelbman, DO
Program Committee Members	Stephan W. Anderson, MD, Dominic Barron, FRCR, Mark Bernstein, MD, Jamal Bokhari, MD, Marc A. Camacho, MD, MS, Andrew Gelbman, DO, PhD, Martin Gunn, MB ChB, FRANZCR, Stephen F. Hatem, MD, Susan D. John, MD, FACR, Douglas S. Katz, MD, FACR, Digna R. Kool, MD, Wayne S. Kubal, MD, Ken S. Linnau, MD, MS, F.A. Mann, MD, Felipe Munera, MD, Thomas Ptak, MD, PhD, MPH, Aaron Sodickson, MD, PhD, Jorge Soto, MD, O. Clark West, MD, FACR, Anthony J. Wilson, MB ChB and Joseph S. Yu, MD

# Save-the-Date for the 2011 ASER Annual Scientific Meeting and Postgraduate Course

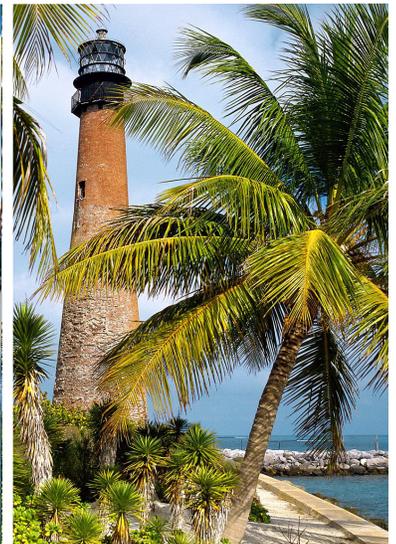
September 14-17 • Ritz-Carlton, Key Biscayne, Florida  
Located south of Miami Beach

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## Program Highlights:

- The current and future state of Emergency Radiology as a specialty
- Emergency Radiology practice issues
- Trauma Head to Toe categorical course
- SAM: Spine Trauma
- SAM: Musculoskeletal Trauma
- CT protocol optimization for image quality and radiation dose
- Ultrasound and MR in the ER
- Tour of the Jackson Memorial Trauma Center
- Scientific Papers and Scientific and Educational Exhibits

Additional information will be posted to the ASER Web site, [www.erad.org](http://www.erad.org) as things progress. We look forward to seeing you in Florida!



*Photos courtesy of The Ritz-Carlton Key Biscayne and citypictures.org*

**Remember to check  
the ASER Job Board**



This is a free Job Listing service of the American Society of  
Emergency Radiology Web site for Emergency Radiology professionals.  
Register to post your free, 60 day listing today.

Get started now, by clicking here!

# Report: 2010 Annual Report of the American Society of Emergency Radiology Fellow to The American College of Radiology

Submitted by: Stanford Goldman, MD

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Theme: Financing Research and Education in Radiology:  
Current Challenges and Future Solutions, Chair, Dr. Chip Dodd (University of Colorado)

This report reflects activities of the ACR during the past year, as well as the 87th Annual Meeting of the ACR Council (AMCLC). This report will first reflect the major issues of interest to our membership i.e. emergency radiology, but will also report on several issues that reflect the importance of the ACR to our members as part of the radiology community in general. This report reflects the 87th meeting of the council, as well as the reports of Drs. Harvey Neiman, James Thrall, Paul Ellenbogen, Carol Rumack, Henry Reed Dunnick, Mitchell Schnall, Jeff Goldsmith, Bibb Allen, Jr., Darrel Picus, Richard Duszak, Jr., and Dr. Silva.

## **The biggest issue that will be facing the emergency radiologist and radiology in general, is the issue of appropriately minimizing patient radiation dosage.**

This has become a major topic in our journals and in the lay press. As I assume you are aware, there have been incidents of significant overexposure to a child by a technologist, and due to CT miscalibration, multiple patients at Cedars-Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles received excessive radiation. We are all aware of the multiple patients having repeat chest CTs for pulmonary embolism in the emergency room, etc. The ACR has joined in partnership with the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, a non-profit, non-government program. The ACR also belongs to the Alliance of Radiation Safety in Pediatric Imaging. It is probable that there may be legislation requiring a national data registry on individual patient exposure; and it seems certain that there will be a registry in regard to situations of over-exposure, which the physicians will have to report, as well as the manufacturers. The ACR is committed to planning appropriate education for its members; and certainly has in place currently, appropriate accreditation methodologies in this area. There is, in fact, a movement to not only use our current slogan of **“Quality is our image”, but to list as one of our major goals the role of the radiologist as the patient advocate in regards to radiation safety (“Patient focused Imaging”)**.

The items listed below are a highlight of other important issues for our membership that reflect our interest in radiology in general.

1. **The ACR, ARRS merger is now official**; however, there are still many kinks that need to be worked out such

as software differences and differences in business rules. It is believed that this will take approx. 18 months. What is clear is that the ARRS will take on the major responsibility of education. It is unclear as to whether there will be a merger of these two meetings in some form, and/or a move of these meetings from the Fall to the Spring at the time of the writing of this report.

2. All members of the ASER should be cognizant of the recent changes in the healthcare field. **The College has had significant input in modifying many of these decisions** and it is important that all of our members with collaboration with their state societies and the ACR itself, contact state regulators, legislators and federal legislators. **There is an estimate that there will be an additional 32 Million covered by the new law.** This certainly will affect how we will practice in general, and the number of emergency radiology visits in particular. **This legislation will increase our costs and decrease reimbursements.** The College was partly successful in changing the estimated time that equipment would be theoretically used in estimating reimbursement values from 90% of the time to 75%, saving billion of dollars in fees for office radiology. The College reported that 422 members who attended the AMCLC meeting visited their legislators in the capital.

3. In this volatile world, there is a **new AMCLC web portal** that has been **developed (AMCLC.ACR.org)** where instant communication between the College and its members will be available.

4. **Now is the time for members to seriously consider becoming Fellows in the ACR as soon as one becomes eligible.** The convocation is breathtaking. Please check out the website in order to find out how to apply for this most coveted award.

**THE MESSAGE THAT I WOULD LIKE TO BRING TO YOU IS THAT THE COLLEGE HAS BEEN THERE FOR YOU, IT IS TIME THAT YOU BE THERE FOR THE COLLEGE.**

For a copy of the report in its entirety, including the complete list of items that the membership may be interested in, please contact the ASER Office at [aser@meetingmanagers.com](mailto:aser@meetingmanagers.com).

# Community Radiology Corner

Submitted by David Lee, MD

“Boy, you have a great job!”

I hear this phrase all the time, from acquaintances in my (non-medical) community, partners in my group, and other physicians. It is because of my schedule, 7 nights on and 14 off. Yes, I do radiology overnight for my large group in the Upper Midwest. This is the schedule that was felt to be the most sustainable over time and the one that I have maintained for over 12 years. I didn't have anything to do with devising the original scheme, but it has been sustainable for me, at least up to this point. Other radiologists who do the same thing have a similar schedule.

It is a job, like any other, that has its pluses and minuses. It is almost always interesting. The patients who come into a level I trauma center overnight are often having a very bad day. They have been severely traumatized or have a significant medical problem, many not knowing where else to turn as an un- or underinsured poor person or immigrant. Often the condition has progressed much further than it would have if they had been able to see a physician sooner. I am now a solo practitioner and must be able to decipher complex problems and help, in particular, decide whether or not a patient needs immediate surgical, or other, intervention. Having started my career in an academic environment, I initially felt lost not being able to bounce ideas off of a more experienced colleague. My closest colleagues are now ED physicians and surgeons and I have learned that the key is often speaking with them directly and learning more about the clinical presentation. I have a healthy respect for the aging body, immune compromise, intoxication, and the inability to communicate effectively (due to age, English language skills, or physical condition). I check

a lot of operative notes and pathology reports. Many of my radiology colleagues have no desire to practice under these conditions.

The ASER became my greatest resource over the years. After attending my first meeting, I was scared. What had I been missing? Who had I killed? The learning curve was steep, but it has finally started to level off. First, the faculty have always realized that they were teaching us a new way to look at problems that present themselves in the ED, that this is a broad subspecialty, and that, while there might be a few ways to skin the cat, it is really important to recognize that it is a cat. The basic fundamentals of radiology have always been at the forefront. Now I feel like I could give many of the talks and support them with a host of interesting examples.

A big plus has been the opportunity to enjoy the company of my wife and children at times other than the evenings or weekends. My children attended city schools and I got involved, even getting called to go on field trips with classes other than my own kids'. I know more about art, soccer, running carnivals and booster clubs than I ever anticipated. The kids in the neighborhood know me and greet me by name. I have met many fascinating elderly members of my community while working with our block nurse program.

I am really tired sometimes. I have become sleep disordered and it can be disconcerting to feel “unrested”. A partner once told me I was taking a decade off my life. Does that mean my final years in diapers will be avoided, or will the diapers be mine to deal with sooner rather than later? That partner just started working nights last week.

## Emergency Radiology 2010-2011

Submitted by Ronald J. Zagoria, MD, Editor-in-Chief

Emergency Radiology, the official journal of the American Society of Emergency Radiology (ASER) is prospering. During the past year submissions have been excellent in both quantity and quality. There continues to be a robust volume of manuscripts submitted for possible publication in Emergency Radiology. There has been an increase in the number of research and review articles submitted over the last year. This is a good trend that will improve the impact of our journal over time. The volume of articles submitted allows us to maintain a high quality journal through peer review-based article selectivity. Related to the quality of articles published, journal usage, both subscriptions and online downloads, continues to increase.

We have a great team of reviewers for the journal. For those of you who are reviewers, I thank you for the work you do for our journal. It is essential for its success. Even with our high submission rate, we have been able to maintain a rapid process for reviewing the submitted manuscripts and for making final editorial decisions.

The finished product, Emergency Radiology continues to be published on a regular schedule every other month. Dr. Leonard Swischuk has continued his excellent column on trauma issues unique to children that is featured in each issue. This continues to enhance each issue of our journal with useful information specific for pediatric trauma radiology.

New to our Editorial Board, whose members help oversee, and contribute to the journal, is Dr. Sravanthi Reddy. Her positive contributions have had a substantial positive impact on the journal already. She has contributed a major article to the journal highlighting the scientific and didactic material presented at the annual ASER meeting.

Through the help of our reviewers, editorial board, and authors, the journal is prospering and continues to improve.

### **Emergency Radiology - Be on the Cutting-Edge!**

Sign up for a free Table of Contents Alert of *Emergency Radiology*, the ASER journal.

Every time an issue is published online, you will be notified of its content per e-mail.

Click on [this link](#) and simply fill in your e-mail address in the box on the lower right hand side of the page.



# ASER Membership Update

Submitted by Sravanthi Reddy, MD, Chair, ASER Membership Committee

## 2011 Dues

The first notice has been sent; and if you have not already paid your 2011 dues, please remember to do so. Dues can be submitted via mail, fax or online. If you have questions regarding your membership or need to update your contact information, please contact the ASER Office via email at [aser@meetingmanagers.com](mailto:aser@meetingmanagers.com) or via telephone at 713.965.0566.

## Welcome New Members

After the success of the 2010 Annual Meeting, the Membership Committee has had an influx of 46 new Society members. Please join us in extending a warm welcome to the Society's newest members:

### Active

Dr. Gautam Agrawal  
Dr. Troy Belle  
Dr. John Blase  
Dr. Robert Bree  
Dr. Brian Burgoyne  
Dr. Ryan Christie  
Dr. David Dinhofer  
Dr. Nella Dornbluth  
Dr. Matthew Duncan  
Dr. Thomas Fiorito  
Dr. Gary Galens  
Dr. Tamara Haygood  
Dr. Carrie Hoff  
Dr. Michael Levey  
Dr. William Lowry  
Dr. Shin Nam

Dr. Mark Newman  
Dr. John Ritter\*  
Dr. Gwy Suk Seo  
Dr. Ajay Singh  
Dr. Joshua Sokol

### Training Members

Dr. Asif Abdullah  
Dr. Adam Bauer  
Dr. Aaron Bress  
Dr. Christopher Buckle  
Dr. Gopal Chandran  
Dr. Cherng Chao  
Dr. Garry Choy  
Dr. Michael Collins  
Dr. Corey Daniels  
Dr. Noah Ditkofsky

Mr. Vasant Garg\*\*  
Dr. Thomas Le  
Dr. Ruth Magera  
Dr. Lorenzo Mannelli  
Dr. Monique Meyer  
Dr. Steve Mohler  
Dr. Jaffray Paul  
Dr. Jacob Pirkle  
Dr. Christopher Potter  
Dr. Shashank Prasad  
Dr. Ravi Ramakrishna  
Dr. Jimmy Saade  
Dr. William Stevenson  
Dr. Jacqueline Tung  
Dr. Esben Vogelius

\*Active Military

\*\*Medical Student

The Society is grateful to the many of you who have actively promoted ASER in your lectures, to your partners, residents and clinical colleagues; and we encourage you all to keep up the good work. The Society is only as strong and active as its membership. Happily, we are thriving, but, as always, looking for more ways to promote the Society as the voice of, and driving force behind, emergency radiology. Please forward any suggestions for improving member services or for new recruitment to me, Sravanthi Reddy at [sravanthi.reddy@usc.edu](mailto:sravanthi.reddy@usc.edu).

## How to Join the ASER

Radiologists, scientists, imaging technologists, physician assistants in radiology, practice assistants in radiology, or non-radiological physicians with an interest in Emergency Radiology whose credentials are acceptable to the Membership Committee, and who are interested in promoting the goals of the American Society of Emergency Radiology are invited to complete the application form. New applications are reviewed semiannually by the Membership Committee. Upon approval, a dues invoice and notification of acceptance will be sent. To download a printable membership application, please click on the following link, ASER Membership Application For additional information regarding ASER membership, please visit the ASER Web site at [www.erad.org](http://www.erad.org).

## Benefits of Joining the ASER

There are many benefits to joining

the American Society of Emergency Radiology, including

1. Discounted registration fee for the annual meeting of the Society
2. Hard copy and online subscription to the Society's official journal, Emergency Radiology (members-in-training receive only the online subscription; however, hard copy subscription may be purchased for an additional fee)
3. Complete access to the ASER Web site, which includes the Core Curriculum in Emergency Radiology Project and the members only online directory, allowing you the opportunity to connect with emergency radiologists throughout the US and abroad
4. The opportunity to participate on numerous committees

### Military Discount

If you qualify for active or associate membership within the ASER and are in full-time training duty in one of the US Military branches listed below, then you

are eligible for a membership discount. Please note that applicants must also submit a copy of their government ID.

Army, Air Force, Navy, USMC, Coast Guard and Reserve/National Guard

All Members-in-Training Receive FREE Membership in the ASER The Executive Committee and the Membership Committee of the American Society of Emergency Radiology are pleased to inform you that residents, fellows and medical students can now join the ASER for FREE! Members-in-training will receive free online access to the Society journal, Emergency Radiology, and can subscribe to the printed version at a discounted rate of \$55/year. They will also be able to attend the Annual Meeting of the Society at a discounted rate. Members-in training are encouraged to submit an abstract for consideration of presentation at the annual meeting of the Society.

Please encourage your residents, fellows and medical students to join today!