

# The American Society of Emergency Radiology

## Newsletter

By O. Clark West, MD, Secretary

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### Session on “Hot Topics” closes ASER 2001 Meeting

Experts in Emergency Radiology addressed several controversial topics. John H. Harris, Jr., MD, DSc, and Debra S. Dyer, MD, addressed whether conventional radiography or CT scanning was the most appropriate screening test for aortic injury. Dr. Dyer favors CT as the initial examination, while Dr. Harris advocates using the chest radiograph as the initial screening method for mediastinal hematoma. Debate centered on the importance (or lack of importance) of minimal aortic injury associated with little or no mediastinal hematoma.

Leonard E. Swischuk, MD, favors the combination of conventional abdominal radiography and abdominal ultrasound as his preferred method for evaluating children with suspected appendicitis. In contrast, Carlos J. Sivit, MD, favors CT scan as the primary diagnostic tool, citing studies showing CT to be more sensitive in a larger group of patients. The experts respectfully agreed to disagree on this issue.

O. Clark West, MD, and Kathirkamanathan Shanmuganathan, MD, reached consensus on the importance of obtaining 5–10 minute delayed scans through the kidneys, when performing abdominal CT for trauma. Both radiologists perform these urographic phase images routinely, but note that performing images only when renal or perinephric fluid is an acceptable alternative. Dr. West illustrated cases where the urographic phase images provided additional information about other abdominal injuries while Dr. Shanmuganathan finds little value in the delayed images outside the urinary tract.

ASER President, Salvatore J. A. Sclafani, MD, and Stuart E. Mirvis, MD, squared off over the role of embolization in the management of splenic trauma. Both experts agreed that urgent surgery is needed for the management of visceral injury in hemodynamically unstable patients. They disagree on how soon embolization should be performed. Dr. Mirvis favors embolization for all patients with vascular contrast extravasation on CT while Dr. Sclafani prefers to select patients based upon angiographic demonstration of arterial extravasation.

### Winners at ASER 2001

All of the attendees at ASER 2001 were winners in learning more about Emergency Radiology. A few individuals were cited for special merit:

**John H. Harris, Jr., MD, DSc, Award** for best oral scientific presentation by a medical student or resident:

*Sean D. Hilchey, MD, (Harvard Medical School, Brigham & Women’s Hospital)* “Renal Ultra sound in the ER for Acute Renal Failure: Is it useful?”

#### Posters:

Summa cum laude

*Adam El-Dieb, MD and colleagues (Ohio State Medical Center)* “Ureterolithiasis: Classic and atypical findings on unenhanced CT”

Magna cum laude

*Leonard E. Swischuk, MD, and colleagues (U Texas-Galveston)* “Lateral condylar femoral avulsion fracture: Importance of the subtle bony fragment”

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Cum laude

*Akira Kawashima, MD, and colleagues (U Texas-Houston, accepted by Stanford M. Goldman, MD)*

“Imaging of renal trauma: A comprehensive review”

**Award of special merit:**

*John H. Harris, Jr, MD, DSc, and Thea Trotscher, RN (U Texas-Houston)* “On-Line Interactive Emergency Radiology Primer”

**Case-of-the-Day:**

*Donald S. Cerva, MD, (Yale)* winner for the second year in a row.

## Executive Committee Restructures to encourage ASER development

Through a series of bylaws changes, the members of the ASER have restructured the Executive Committee. The President and President-Elect will each serve a two (2) year term, affording the President more time to advance the society’s goals. The Secretary-Treasurer office has been replaced with separate offices for Secretary and Treasurer. The Secretary will serve a one (1) year term and be eligible for re-election to a total of three (3) terms. The scope of the duties has been broadened substantially, including production of this newsletter. The Treasurer will serve for a single three (3) year term.

In a related move, the Nominating Committee enlarged to include the Immediate Past President, President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President/President-Elect, and two members-at-large appointed by the President. The Nominating Committee will call for executive officer nominations from the membership through e-mail and the ASER web site ([www.erad.org](http://www.erad.org)) in October.

## Baker and Nunez to Edit “Emergency Radiology”

Stephen R. Baker, MD, will be the Editor-in-Chief and Diego Nunez, MD, will be the Associate Editor of *Emergency Radiology*, effective July 1, 2001. Drs. Baker and Nunez succeed Theodore Keats, MD, and John H. Harris, Jr., MD, DSc, in these roles. At the Annual Meeting, Drs. Keats and Harris were warmly acknowledged for their years of service in establishing *Emergency Radiology* in 1995 and shepherding it through its initial years.

## ASER Awards Two Gold Medals

Stephen R. Baker, MD, was awarded the highest honor of ASER, the Gold Medal. Dr. Baker has a record of service to ASER since 1991, serving as President 1995–96. He has distinguished himself as ASER liaison to the American College of Radiology since 1995 and as CME liaison since 1994. He will further increase his level of service to ASER when he becomes Editor-in-Chief of *Emergency Radiology* in July.

Charles F. Mueller, MD, was also awarded a Gold Medal. Dr. Mueller is a founding member of ASER, with a record on continuous service since 1988. He was President 1996–97. Dr. Mueller has distinguished himself as chair of the Corporate Support Committee since 1990 and led the effort to establish the Gold Medal award.

The Gold Medal was established in 1999 and is awarded periodically by the Executive Committee in recognition of distinguished and exemplary service to ASER and/or the specialty of Emergency Radiology.

## ASER Leadership 2001–2002

*President*, Salvatore J. A. Sclafani, MD

*Past President*, Quentin M. Anderson, MD

*1<sup>st</sup> Vice President/President-Elect*,

Stanford M. Goldman, MD

*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*, Robert A. Halvorsen, MD

*Secretary*, O. Clark West, MD

*Treasurer*, Carlos J. Sivit, MD.

*Members at Large (3-year term):*

Dimitrios G. Spigos, MD, (*third year, replacing Dr.*

*Halvorsen*); Anthony J. Wilson, MD, (*second year*); and

Kimberley L. McKenney, MD, (*first year*)

*ACR Counselors*: Stephen R. Baker, MD; Charles F. Mueller, MD, (alternate).

*Program Committee Chair*: Suzanne Leblang, MD

## ASER continues to grow

Eric Brandser, MD, Membership Committee Chair, reported that ASER now has 504 members, a net increase of 23 members in the past year.