

The American Society of Emergency Radiology

Newsletter

C. Craig Blackmore, MD, MPH, Secretary



Volume 3 Issue 1

Summer 2004

President's Report

By Stanford M. Goldman, MD

Since the last annual meeting of our Society, your leadership has been busy planning the Annual Scientific Meeting, in Montreal, from September 7-12, 2004. Montreal will be an excellent venue for our meeting with its European ambiance at an ideal time of the year. I know it will be a fantastic meeting. I hope you will all plan to attend. I suggest you consult our Web site for updates and information. You might also look at the Montreal Web site to see all of the interesting things to do while you are there.

The List Serve on our Web site has been launched through the efforts of many individuals, especially Dr. Myer Roszler. It is a great place to ask questions and have group dialogs on topics of mutual interest. One issue of interest raised by these e-mails is how radiologists are covering their Emergency Rooms and/or their hospitals throughout the 24-hour/7-day week. Dr. Bruce Hauser presented the results of a survey on 24/7 coverage at the ACR Annual Meeting in May. Dr. Hauser was kind enough to share the questions used in the survey and the preliminary results. Based on this data, I appointed a committee to be chaired by Dr. Daniel Schwarz to delve into other aspects of this issue that are a bit more specific to the needs of our Society members.

In early March, I attended the Annual Meeting of the American College of Surgeons and their Trauma Committee on behalf of the American Society of Emergency Radiology. I believe representation on this committee is a major success story for our Society, as this committee sets policy and accredits Emergency Rooms.

Another Society success is Dr. James Provenzale's excellent educational program for neuroradiological emergencies. This program will be on our Web site soon. We hope additional units in this area of emergency radiology will be forthcoming.

This is an exciting period for our specialty. We would love to have your input and help in our committee structure and in working on special projects. If anything interests you, please contact me. If there are other issues which you would like our Society to look into, also feel free to contact me via the Web.

Emergency Radiology to be listed on Medline

Thanks to the hard work of editor Dr. Steven Baker and publisher Springer-Verlag, *Emergency Radiology*, the official journal of the ASER, will now be listed by the National Library of Medicine in MedLine and Index Medicus. Volume 10 of *Emergency Radiology* should be available on PubMed within weeks. More details are to follow on this exciting breakthrough for our journal.

ASER Joins Committee on Trauma

The Committee on Trauma (COT) of the American College of Surgeons met in Tucson March 11-13, 2004. President Goldman attended this meeting as the appointed Liaison from the American College of Radiology to the COT. This is the first time radiology has had representation on this Committee, which among its many facets accredits the emergency rooms in which we work. These are his observations of that meeting.

The COT has approximately 180 members, including a President and Vice-President from each state, and regional Chairmen. There are several subcommittees, particularly in neurosurgery, pediatrics, and orthopedics. Liaison appointees include emergency room physicians, neurosurgeons, pediatricians, orthopedists, and, now, for the first time, radiologists.

The COT was extremely appreciative of the American College of Radiology (ACR) and me, as President of the American Society of Emergency Radiology (ASER), representing the ACR. Dr. Wayne Meredith, COT Chair, introduced me to the entire assemblage and as a result, several of the subcommittee chairmen spoke to me privately. All expressed appreciation that I was present and that the field of radiology was represented at the meeting.

continued on page 3

ASER 15th Annual Meeting

Montreal: September 8-11!

ASER 2004 Program Summary

The 2004 Annual Meeting and Postgraduate Course will take place in Montreal, Canada on Sept. 8-11, 2004. The format for the program has been changed this year, with the first three days devoted primarily to a comprehensive course in Emergency Radiology. The course lectures will provide in-depth information on important and emerging topics related to emergency imaging, with topics alternating over a two to three year cycle. This year's program will include two mini-courses on emergency neuroimaging and upper extremity trauma. Certificates of completion of these courses will be available to attendees who wish to have verification of continuing education in these areas. Special topics will include the Ottawa rules for extremity imaging, facial trauma, imaging of obstetrical and other emergencies in the pregnant patient, and pediatric topics such as child abuse and radiation exposure of the pediatric patient. A Horizons of Emergency Imaging lecture will address the emerging technology of CT angiography in patients with acute myocardial infarction.

The third day of the meeting will begin with an in-depth focus session on the details and challenges of teleradiology and after-hours coverage in emergency radiology. The session will include presentations by radiologists experienced with local, national, and international teleradiology services, as well as discussions of the political and legal aspects of such coverage. Ample opportunity will be provided for participants to exchange information about these important issues. A presentation about the controversies of physician extenders in emergency radiology will also be included. Two scientific sessions will present new original research in emergency imaging. The meeting will be highlighted by the annual Founder's lecture and awards banquet.

We anticipate an informative and lively course and scientific meeting this year. We look forward to seeing you there. Please see page 4 for cultural information about Montreal.

ASER E-mail Listserve Goes Live

Electronic communication has pulled all of us closer together, and the ASER is no exception. Under the guidance of Dr. Myer Roszler, the ASER e-mail listserv is now available. This is a voluntary forum, where members can send e-mails to the group at members@asersonline.org to generate discussion, gather opinion, and exchange ideas. In the first few months of this e-mail exchange, topics generating enthusiasm and controversy have included the use radiology extenders in emergency radiology, the practice of off-shore coverage for off-hours coverage, and models for providing 24/7 emergency radiology practice. ASER members can subscribe to the e-mail listserv by contacting the ASER office at aser@meetingmanagers.com. This forum is explicitly not for commercial purposes, but rather for the ready exchange of ideas among the ASER membership.

ASER Awards 2003

Gold Medal

Stuart E. Mirvis, MD, University of Maryland

Founder's Lecture

George Y. El-Khoury, MD, University of Iowa

Harris Educational Presentation Award

Robert Lewandowski, MD, Role of unenhanced head computed tomography in excluding orbital, maxillary or zygomatic fractures in blunt head trauma

New ASER Fellows Inducted

C. Craig Blackmore, MD, MPH, Harborview Medical Center, University of Washington

Patrick Eude, MD, Centre Hospitalier, Aurillac, France

Roberto Grassi, MD, University of Napoli, Italy

Stephen Hatem, MD, Cleveland Clinic Foundation Hospital

Suzanne LeBlang, MD, Jackson Memorial Hospital, University of Miami

Fabio Pinto, MD, Cardarelli Hospital, Naples, Italy

Mariano Scaglione, MD, Cardarelli Hospital, Naples, Italy

CME CREDITS

If you need copies of continuing medical education (CME) certificates for 1999 - 2002 ASER meetings, contact RSNA, who will maintain these records permanently. You may contact Ed Pietrzak in the RSNA Education Center using the toll-free number (800) 381-6660 and asking for the Education Center. Our new management company, International Meeting Managers, will maintain records for the 2004 annual meeting. The 2004 annual meeting is accredited by Continuing Medical Education Resources, Inc. for up to 22 hours.

The good news is that the major problems and high agenda items were, for the moment, not radiological ones. Specifically, there were presentations on EMTALA, resident coverage under the new accreditation guidelines and, most importantly, patient dumping. In particular, dumping is a much more serious problem in neurosurgery and orthopedics. Smaller trauma centers send patients to the major centers because the small centers don't have a neurosurgeon/orthopedist available at night. This problem has become more acute because, apparently, the number of practicing neurosurgeons in the country is declining and few are willing to take E.R. night call.

However, there were some serious issues about radiological coverage. Some of the issues that were brought to my attention were as follows:

- a) The use of night hawks, especially from foreign countries such as India and Israel. Interestingly, there wasn't as much concern with out-of-state night hawks.
- b) One of the surgeons in Region 6, which is the region from which I come, commented that he/she read and billed for emergency CT's at night, even though a radiology resident was present in the hospital.
- c) The head of Region 6, who had contacted me before because of problems he was having at his institution with 24/7 radiology coverage, reports that the emergency room physicians have raised the issue, again, of reading their own studies. In fact, he now informs me that the reason for the radiology group initially starting coverage 24/7 was to prevent this occurrence. It is of interest because the emergency physicians had been sending all simple chest x-rays from the emergency room to the radiologists at home.

In November 2003 I attended a COT meeting as an observer. Between the November meeting and the March meeting the ACR forwarded to the COT suggestions for modifying the Yellow Book, the bible for emergency rooms. (The American College of Surgeons published the Yellow Book, formally titled *Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient*, in 1999.) Although these suggestions, including some I had sent, had been given to the COT fairly soon after the November meeting, I was doubtful these would be included in the new edition. At this meeting, it became apparent that there had been a delay in publication of the new guidelines. I contacted Dr. Meredith on behalf of the ACR and the ASER to see if these suggestions could indeed be included, since the manual had not been published and would remain as the main source for a great while. He has stated that he has included the changes we suggested and he would forward them to me, but I have not yet received them.

ASER Increasingly Global

Although founded as the American Society of Emergency Radiology, the ASER now has a global presence, reflected in its membership, its journal, and its annual meeting.

Over the past several years, the international membership of the ASER has steadily grown. Currently, the ASER has members from 22 different nations, including 11 European nations as well as Australia, Canada, Japan and Taiwan. This past year, over 10% of the Society's members were from outside of the United States. Also at the past annual meeting, for the first time, the honor of fellowship of the ASER was awarded to Drs. Grassi, Pinto, and Scaglione from Italy, and Dr. Eude from France.

The global scope of emergency radiology also has been pushed into prominence by the ongoing process of identifying methods of providing 24 hour coverage to emergency departments. Rather than providing night coverage with local radiologists, some institutions are relying on radiologists in distant countries (and therefore different time zones) to provide coverage during the foreign radiologists' own daylight hours. This off-shore coverage has been a hot topic in emergency radiology with much discussion on the new ASER e-mail listserve (see article in this newsletter), and will be a Hot Topics session in the upcoming annual meeting in Montreal.

Fittingly, 2004 will also be the first international meeting site for the ASER, with the annual meeting in Montreal, Canada. The program assembled by Dr. Susan John and colleagues will feature topics of global significance and speakers from a variety of nations.

JOB LISTINGS

The Web site at www.erad.org is available for members to post job openings at no cost. For further information contact the ASER staff at: **American Society of Emergency Radiology**

4550 Post Oak Place
Suite 342
Houston, TX 77027
Phone: 713-965-0566
Fax: 713-960-0488
aser@meetingmanagers.com

MONTREAL! LIFE IS A FESTIVAL

By Pam Vinje

Montréal is truly an experience of old world charm, French joie de vivre and a modern style all its own. The fun starts with La Fête des Neiges and the Montreal Highlights Festival, and goes nonstop through with



de Jazz,
Canada
Montréal
Fireworks Competition and

the whole year,
such mega-
favorites as the
Festival
International
the Air
Grand Prix, the
International
many film festivals.

At night, Montréal catches a second wind and the action shifts over to comedy clubs, and port, martini, and wine bars. Weekends start early on Thursday nights as bars and terraces along Crescent and Saint-Denis Streets and Saint-Laurent Boulevard cater to the nightlife.



Montréal culture includes paintings and sculptures displayed with a flourish in the great halls of Montréal's many prestigious museums and hundreds of top-notch local galleries. Each year the Opéra de Montréal offers a complete roster of the greatest classics, while various theatre companies stage eclectic productions, from the works of Shakespeare to the latest in fringe. Then there's Ex-Centris, a revolutionary Cinema and New Media Complex where film buffs go to see the best independent films from around the world and the totally plugged-in get their technological thrills.

Old Montréal and the Old Port are literally a five-minute walk from downtown. One thousand years of history and architecture are recorded in the museums and buildings of Old Montréal. As you stroll along the serpentine cobbles, stop at City Hall to admire its Second-Empire architecture, and visit the archeological crypt under Pointe-à-Callière, Montréal's Museum of Archaeology and History. Dance with the street performers on Place Jacques Cartier, and visit the Marché Bonsecours, for its

magnificent tin-plated dome, and for its terraces and designer boutiques.

Mont-Royal Avenue and Saint-Denis Streets feature eclectic and designer boutiques, as well as an unbelievable wealth of sidewalk cafés and restaurants. On Prince Arthur Street, a quaint pedestrian cobblestone street, you'll find family-friendly restaurants where you're welcome to bring your own wine, and where you can pick up the perfect baguette, hand-made chocolates and exquisite pâtés.

No city in the world welcomes the first rays of spring sunshine with more ceremony and panache. Parasols sprout like so many brightly-colored mushrooms on terraces all over the city as tables fill with sun worshippers sipping, munching and chatting away the long days until well past Labor Day.

Terrace sitting is a sacred ritual in Montréal as everyone will tell you. So is greeting each new day with a café au lait (sipped very slowly and dreamily) and ending a perfect meal with a platter of choice, sumptuous cheeses made right here in Québec. To take home other delicious local specialties, visit the Marché des Saveurs in the Jean-Talon Market.

