

The American Society of Emergency Radiology

Newsletter



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Come Join Us in La Jolla for ASER 2007 A Message from the President

When was the last time you attended the ASER annual meeting? Most of our members have not been to a meeting recently.

If you have not attended a meeting for the past three years, you are really missing something. We have modernized the format of the annual meeting to better meet our members' needs.

Each year, we have a Postgraduate Course on an important topic in the field of Emergency Radiology. This year our topic is "Trauma: Head to Toe".

Focus Session topics are targeted toward emerging technologies relevant to our practice, with recent emphasis on Cardiac Imaging. Scientific Sessions are important to some of our members, but not all. As an alternative, we now offer a series of interesting case presentations for those who do not wish to attend the Scientific Sessions.

New this year is a half-day session emphasizing advances in Emergency Radiology in the United Kingdom and Europe. This session brings new faces and new ideas to the ASER podium. A smaller version of the session held at ASER 2006 was excellent, so we are pleased to scale it up for the whole audience.

Issues of practice management have always been popular with the ASER audience. This year, we will return to the topic of Teleradiology and learn how technology has changed our practices.

The meeting has an excellent balance between intensive CME lecture time and free time. You can expect to obtain between 20 and 24 hours of category 1 CME if you attend all of the sessions. You will have Friday afternoon and Sunday free to explore the beautiful scenery and excellent shopping in La Jolla and San Diego.

Members' response to these changes in the meeting format has been uniformly positive. We have made the best meeting in the field of Emergency Radiology even better. Come check us out!

Focus on Online Education

Have you noticed the lack of textbooks in Emergency Radiology? At present, my residents can not buy a core textbook in Emergency Radiology, since none are currently in print. Fortunately, one of the key textbooks in the field is being reprinted and shorter paperback texts are available.

Nevertheless, this textbook shortage illustrates an important change in the way my residents are learning. Textbooks are fading away and being replaced by websites. ASER is stepping up to meet this change.

ASER is developing an online image atlas available to radiology residents and all interested radiologists. Under the direction of Ron Bilow and Diego Nunez, the Education Committee has conducted a successful pilot project that illustrates key areas in the ASER Core Curriculum. We are purchasing a more robust teaching file server, so that we can scale up this project at an affordable cost. Over the next two years, we plan to develop a comprehensive collection of teaching materials that will be freely available to you, the ASER member.

ASER has developed the reputation of producing a great annual meeting. During my two-year tenure as President, I hope that we will also develop the reputation of providing the definitive online teaching resource in Emergency Radiology.

O. Clark West, M.D.
President, ASER

ASER 2006 Annual Meeting Review **September 27-30, 2006** **The Omni Shoreham Hotel** **Washington, D.C.**

The ASER 2006 Annual Meeting, held September 27–30 in Washington, DC, was a great success, attracting 253 registrants – a new record. In addition to the meeting registrants, there were 24 spouses/guests registered. There was a strong international representation at the meeting, with 37 of the 253 registrants coming from outside of the United States. Attendees were treated to an interesting and historical meeting site at the landmark Omni Shoreham Hotel, with all of its memorabilia. The location in our nation's capital also provided many sightseeing and cultural opportunities. On Friday afternoon, there were no sessions scheduled, to allow a number of attendees to tour the Maryland Shock Trauma Center. This tour was hosted by Dr. Stuart Mirvis and Dr. Kathirkamanathan Shanmuganathan, the 2007 ASER Founder's Lecturer. After the Trauma Center visit, there was a tour of the National Aquarium, followed by a dinner at McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant, with old and new friends.

The scientific portion of the program included 15 papers, 23 posters, and 16 "Cases of the Day". The first place paper award and the Harris award (for best trainee presentation) both went to Markus Körner, MD. Stephan William Anderson, MD won the first place poster award and the Case of the Day winner was Charles Luttenton, MD. The second place paper award went to Ashraf Thabet, MD, with Clint Sliker, MD receiving the third place paper award. David Dang, MD won the second place poster award and Scott Steenburg, MD won the third place poster award. Congratulations to all award recipients!

The refresher course was presented by 55 faculty members, 45 of whom are ASER members. From the opening session until the closing session, attendance was high. Many of the registrants participated in the question and answer period at each session. The comprehensive program on emergency imaging included a session on the European perspective of emergency imaging, hosted by Dominic Barron, MD, FRCR.

During the Annual Business Meeting of the Society, the following four members were voted in as ASER Fellows: Susan John, MD, Seppo Koskinen, MD, Daniel Schwarz, MD and David Pellei, MD. The annual banquet and awards ceremony provided a pleasant conclusion to the meeting.

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At this event, the prizes for the scientific portion of the meeting were presented. The gold medal of the ASER was presented to Stanford Goldman, MD.

The society owes the following meeting organization team a vote of thanks for a job well done:

ASER President - Carlos Sivit, MD
Program Director - Stephen Ledbetter, MD
Scientific Program Coordinator - Clark West, MD
International Program Coordinator - Dominic Barron, MD,
Meeting Manager - Jessica Whalen
Association Manager - Angela Davis
Director of Finance - Rick Silverman
Meeting Coordinator - Jenny Smith

Joel A. Gross, MD
2nd Vice President, ASER

Anthony J. Wilson, MB ChB
1st Vice President, ASER

ASER Education Committee

Your education committee has been hard at work getting the ASER Online Core Curriculum illustrated. New cases are being added regularly, and we're very excited about some technical developments that will make it easier for everyone to view the online cases. So far, we have 11 cases online, so check 'em out. There are also another 9 ready to go. Seppo Koskinen, heading the Lower Extremity section, is by far our biggest contributor having prepared 10 excellent cases already. Way to go Seppo!

Although the final product selection has not yet been made, we are very close to choosing a new server for posting cases. This will make every step of the process simpler, from creating cases to viewing them. We also plan to improve our website, to eliminate the need to download the PDF version of the core curriculum document (although it will still be available) in order to link to the cases. This should really speed up the process of viewing cases, and make it a lot more user friendly.

Since the last newsletter and our annual meeting in Washington, all 12 of the subsection leadership positions have been filled. Though we're not quite ready, we hope to soon ask you, the society members, to submit cases for publication on the website. Details will be provided as soon as we're ready. If this interests you, keep watch on the various ASER publications including the next newsletter, www.erad.org and, of course, our journal, *Emergency Radiology*, for a complete list of the section leaders and their contact information.

Ron Bilow, MD
Co-chair, ASER Education Committee

Emergency Radiology Update

(ASER Membership Continued)

I am happy to report that much progress has been made for the journal Emergency Radiology. When I took over as Editor there were no reviewers for the Journal. Today there are 99 registered reviewers. We have successfully implemented the online submission and review process without any major problems. This innovation, plus efforts to encourage submissions, has been very effective. Since July 1, 2006 the Journal has received 80 new manuscript submissions. I contacted every person who spoke at the last ASER meeting and invited them to submit a manuscript to the Journal. I have received numerous articles as a result of that solicitation. The rejection rate has risen to 23%, indicating an improved quality of submissions. The processing of manuscripts has been very efficient. In most cases from submission to decision has taken less than 6 weeks.

A major result of the increase efficiencies has been an increase in the number of published Emergency Radiology issues. In March of 2007, Vol. 13, No. 6 will be released. Even after filling that issue, we have excess articles on hand for the first issue of Vol. 14. It is very likely that all issues for Vol. 14 can be published during 2007. This will put the Journal back on schedule.

I greatly appreciate the continued support of the executive committee, the editorial board, and the membership of ASER who have been responsible for much of this progress.

Ron Zagoria, MD
Editor-in-Chief, *Emergency Radiology*

ASER Membership

After the success of the Annual Meeting in the fall, the Membership Committee has had an influx of 17 new Society members, bringing our current total to 458. Please join us in extending a warm welcome to them:

Abdullahi, Adamu, MD
Ferco Berger, MD
Monique Brink, MD
Noemi Brunner, MD
Lara Bryan-Rest, MD
Ana Echenique, MD
Robert Gibbs, MD
Lisa Govila, MD
Julie Kaczmark, MD

Maikel Mankarious, BS
Ramesh Rao, MD
Laurence Spitzer, MD
Ethiopia Teferra, MD
Andrea Tompkins, MD
Ronald Townsend, MD, MS
Fred Van Natta, MD
Stephen Wei, MD

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, Steve Hatem at hatems@ccf.org.

Steve Hatem, MD
Chair, ASER Membership Committee

How to Join the ASER

Physicians who qualify for membership 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 Board of Directors. Upon approval, a dues invoice and notification of acceptance will be sent. To download a printable membership application, please click on the link below.

http://www.erad.org/download/2007/ASER_2007_MembershipApplication.pdf

For additional information regarding ASER membership, please visit the ASER website at www.erad.org

ASER Mission Statement (partial list)

- To advance and improve the radiologic aspects of emergent patient care.
- To establish Emergency Radiology as an area of special interest in the field of diagnostic imaging including sequencing, prioritization, and management of the delivery of imaging services.
- To develop educational curricula in Emergency Radiology for both medical students and residents.

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Report from the ACR Liaison to the Committee on Trauma

As the American College of Radiology liaison to the Committee on Trauma (COT) of the American College of Surgery, I am pleased to report on some recent successes.

ASER and ACR Draft Trauma Center Standards

For the first time since its inception, radiologists have had major input into standards that apply to Trauma Centers. Several ASER and ACR members helped draft revised standards for diagnostic imaging in trauma centers. These are published in Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient, 2006, which is available at

https://web2.facs.org/timssnet464/acspub/frontpage.cfm?product_class=trauma. We will seek permission to publish the standards that apply to diagnostic imaging in an upcoming issue of Emergency Radiology.

ASER and ACR Work Together to Improve Image Transfer for Trauma Patients

The need to streamline the transfer of images from community and rural hospitals to larger trauma centers has become a hot topic raised by our colleagues in the American College of Surgery.

The issue has also been raised by the trauma surgeons at several hospitals where ASER members practice. In response, we discussed the issue during Hot Topics Session at ASER 2006.

The consensus opinion from that session was that the ASER should support the efficient transfer of diagnostic images and reports from sending to receiving hospitals. Since ASER is a relatively small society with limited resources, we further agreed that the ASER would seek assistance from larger radiology societies that have resources to assist us.

ACR has agreed to lend its aid in solving this problem. The American College of Radiology Imaging Network (ACRIN) has a data center currently in use for research projects (<http://www.acrin.org>). The system is capable of transferring images between participating institutions. The Executive Director of the ACR, Dr. Harvey Neiman, has given us permission to see if their system will be an effective platform for transferring between hospitals in real-time for clinical care. In principle, ACRIN might serve as a national clearinghouse for image transfer. We will keep you informed as this exciting area develops.

Stanford M. Goldman, MD
ASER Past-President and ACR alternate councilor

ASER 2007 Annual Scientific Meeting



If you have any questions, please contact the ASER Meeting Management Office via phone at 713.965.0566 or email at aser@meetingmanagers.com.