

## ASER 2016 Education Grant Recipients



Tarek Hanna, MD

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**Title: Working Towards a Standardized Emergency Radiology Fellowship Curriculum and Enhancing Resident Awareness of Emergency Radiology Fellowship and Career Opportunities**

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Our project involves a two-pronged approach to enhancing and promoting the appeal of emergency radiology (ER) as an independent subspecialty. Our work will help identify ways to cultivate interest among diagnostic radiology residents through ER subspecialty exposure and advocacy, and to equip those residents who ultimately elect to pursue ER fellowship with a training and educational program that reflects the collaborative efforts and best practices of fellowship leadership in North America.

Our primary aim is to develop a standardized emergency radiology fellowship curriculum, including establishing minimum competency requirements. ER training is the least represented of radiology subspecialty fellowship programs, with only 16 known programs in the United States and Canada. These fellowships vary widely in their educational offerings, clinical exposure, and institutional resources. The proposed project includes a survey of all ER fellowship program directors in North America to determine the state of current curricula and recommended essential components of a standardized ER curriculum. Using this information, we will work towards developing a core ER fellowship curriculum. After we have a complete draft, we will invite the ASER Fellowship Education Subcommittee to help finalize the proposed model curriculum.

Our secondary aim is to increase awareness of ER fellowship and career opportunities among diagnostic radiology residents, and ideally increase the number of high-quality diagnostic

radiology residents interested in pursuing ER as a career. Awareness of the existence of ER fellowships is far from universal, and literature examining radiology fellowship selection often does not even include ER as a subspecialty. We presume that a failure to choose ER for fellowship training arises, in part, out of a lack of exposure to the field during residency training. This project will conduct the first North American survey to learn what current diagnostic radiology residents know about ER fellowship opportunities, their perceptions of ER as a career, and factors that may have bearing on their decision to ultimately pursue ER or other subspecialty training. The data obtained will help identify strategies to highlight underappreciated advantages and rewards of ER practice and to dispel potential misconceptions about ER as a career choice. We anticipate that the results of the resident survey will be of particular value to the ASER Resident Education Subcommittee in its ongoing efforts to stimulate resident interest in the field of ER.