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THE MYELON
newsletter for the members of the American Society of Spine Radiology



FROM THE

PRESIDENT

A. Orlando Ortiz, M.D., M.B.A.

The previous academic year was both exciting and productive for our relatively young society. Our membership continues to grow at a rapid rate and the ASSR now has 536 members. The society draws its strength from its diverse and active membership as highlighted by the success of the 5th Annual ASSR Symposium in Nassau, Bahamas, which attracted over 200 attendees.

Please continue to encourage your colleagues to consider membership in our society. Remember, membership applicants who are ASNR members are not required to submit member sponsors. The application deadline for ASSR membership is January 10, 2003. Membership applications can be obtained by contacting Ken Cammarata at the ASSR Headquarters Office. Applications are also available online from the link to ASSR from the homepage of the ASNR website, www.asnr.org.

Numerous ASSR members have and continue to volunteer their personal time in order to serve the society; we are grateful to you all. Our *ASSR 2nd Annual Image Guided Spine Interventions Hands-on Course* was held at the University of Maryland; special thanks to Drs. Gregg Zoarski, Bernadette Stallmeyer, and the ASSR course faculty for a job well done.

The ASNR Foundation Symposium *2002 Advances in Spinal Imaging and Interventions* featured the ASSR as the sponsoring society. The Symposium was dedicated to advances in spine imaging and spine interventions. The imaging sessions focused on congenital spine, spine trauma, degenerative disc disease, spine neoplasms and spine infection. The interventional sessions included presentations on vertebroplasty and kyphoplasty; Dr. Wade Wong delivered the keynote address on the topic of Spinal Pain Management. Congratulations to Drs. Mathis, Haughton and the other members of the Program Committee for coordinating what was evaluated as an outstanding program.

As part of the ASSR's commitment towards encouraging and supporting spine-related research, the ASSR made a substantial financial contribution to the Neuroradiology Education and Research Foundation (formally known as the ASNR Foundation), with a generous matching offer by the ASNR.

At an operational level, Dr. Judith Donovan-Post has graciously agreed to chair the ASSR Mentor Committee. The objective of this program is to encourage and support junior faculty, fellows, and residents who are interested in spine research, to formulate, develop, and present their projects at the ASSR Annual Symposium. Please contact Dr. Post if you are interested in preparing and presenting a mentored research project at the 2003 ASSR Annual Symposium at the Westin Kierland Resort and Spa in Scottsdale, Arizona February 20–23, 2003.

At an organizational level, the ASSR is currently applying for representation within the American College of Radiology. The ASSR proposal will be considered at the Annual ACR meeting in Miami. Other initiatives that are underway include an invitation to participate in the creation and development of ACR standards for procedures such as computed tomography of the spine, kyphoplasty, and other image guided spine interventions. ASSR members are encouraged and invited to participate in these extremely important projects. Please contact Dr. Ortiz or Ken Cammarata for further information.

On behalf of the ASSR membership, I wish to express our sincere appreciation to Mr. Ken Cammarata, Mr. Ron Ryals of Ryals and Associates, Educational Symposia, Inc., and our corporate sponsors for their important contributions to the overall success of our prospering society. See you in Scottsdale.

ASSR MENTOR COMMITTEE

M. Judith Donovan Post, M.D., F.A.C.R.

ASSR Third Past President; ASSR Mentor Committee Chair

The ASSR Mentor Committee, comprised of members Dr. Vic Haughton, Dr. John Mathis, Dr. Wade Wong, Dr. Chi-Shin Zee and chairperson Dr. M. Judith Donovan Post, have been charged by current ASSR President, Dr. Orlando Ortiz with the following goals:

1. To foster student, resident, fellow, or junior faculty participation in spine-related research projects.
2. To improve the quality and quantity of spine-related research projects/topics.
3. To impact favorably on spine-related research topics at national meetings and peer reviewed journals.

To accomplish these goals of fostering research and positively impacting patient care, the ASSR Mentor Committee would like to announce the following 2002–2003 ASSR Mentor Research Program.

1. Fellows, Residents or Junior faculty wishing to be a primary investigator on a spine research project will choose an ASSR member as a mentor of his/her project.
2. The Fellow, Resident or Junior Faculty member will perform their research project under the guidance of this mentor and will submit an abstract for scientific paper presentation to the ASSR Mentor Committee by the deadline of December 17, 2002. This 350 words or less abstract (to be done in the format of ASNR abstracts with

stated Purpose, Methods, Results and Conclusion) will then be peer-reviewed. The five abstracts deemed best by the ASSR Mentor Committee will be chosen for presentation at the ASSR Annual Symposium to be held February 20–23, 2003 in Scottsdale, Arizona. The five individuals who have had their papers selected for presentation will have their registration fees waived and will also receive \$1,000.00 from the ASSR to help pay travel expenses.

3. During the ASSR Symposium and after all five papers have been presented, the ASSR Mentor Committee will then judge the papers and choose the best of these five research presentations. The one individual selected as having the best research paper and presentation will then be chosen to present his/her paper at the Scientific Session for Spine at the Annual Meeting of the ASNR, to be held in Washington DC April 27–May 2, 2003. That individual will receive \$2,000.00 by which to defray the meeting registration and travel costs. This individual, as a pre-requisite for selection, will bring to that ASNR meeting their completed manuscript that will be submitted to the AJNR for possible acceptance into their peer-reviewed journal.

Should there be any questions regarding this research program and competition, please contact Dr. Post at jpost@med.miami.edu.

We look forward to receiving your abstract.

2002–2003 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TAKES OFFICE IN VANCOUVER

The following members of the ASSR 2002-2003 Executive Committee assumed office immediately after the May 13, 2002 Annual Business Meeting. They will each serve in the positions listed below through the 2003 Annual Business Meeting. A special thank you for their service to the society goes to Drs. Alan L. Williams, Victor M. Haughton, and Chi-Shin Zee, who left the Executive Committee after the Annual Business Meeting.

President

A. Orlando Ortiz, M.D., M.B.A.
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Dept. of Radiology
Mineola, NY

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Gregg H. Zoarski, MD
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Dept. of Diagnostic Radiology
Baltimore, MD

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La Jolla, CA

Third Past-President

M. Judith Donovan Post, M.D., F.A.C.R.
Univ. of Miami School of Medicine
Dept. of Radiology (R-308) MRI Center
Miami, FL

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The following individuals were approved for membership during the May 13, 2002 ASSR Annual Business Meeting.

Kevin J. Abrams

Baptist Hospital
Miami, FL

Cosma Andreula

A.O. Polillinico-Consorziale
Bari, Italy

Joseph A. Andrezik

Mercy Health Center
Oklahoma City, OK

Charles Aprill

Magnolia Diagnostics, Inc.
New Orleans, LA

Ramesh Avva

Radiology Assoc of Columbus, P.C.
Columbus, GA

Mark M. Bahn

Mayo Clinic
Rochester, MN

Danielle Baleriaux

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Brussels, Belgium

Bruce A. Cheatham

Clear Sky Diagnostic Imaging
Dallas, TX

Cynthia T. Chin

UCSF
San Francisco, CA

Gerard A. Compito

Princeton Radiology Assoc., P.A.
Kendall Park, NJ

Stephen C. Crawford

St. Dominic Hospital
Jackson, MS

Azar P. Dagher

Annapolis Radiology Associates
Annapolis, MD

Gerard P. Farrar

Advanced Diagnostic Imaging, PC
Saginaw, MI

Arthur J. Fountain

Emory University School of Medicine
Atlanta, GA

Richard L. Fremaux

Valley Regional Medical Center
Brownsville, TX

Brian A. Howard

Charlotte Radiology
Charlotte, NC

Paul Kalapos

London Health Sciences Centre
University
London, ON Canada

Philipp K. Lang

Brigham & Women's Hospital
Boston, MA

Preston R. Lotz

Gainesville Radiology Group
Gainesville, FL

Alexander S. Michael

A.R.L.
Park Ridge, IL

Dmitry Niman

Temple University Hospital
Philadelphia, PA

Abraham M. Obuchowski

University of Maryland Medical System
Baltimore, MD

Alan Pitt

Barrows Neurological Institute
Phoenix, AZ

John D. Roll

Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Nashville, TN

Martin L. Silbiger

University Diagnostic Institute
Tampa, FL

Marian Simko

Lindenhof Hospital
Bern, Switzerland

Brian R. Turley

Conroe Regional Medical Center
Hospital
Conroe, TX

Travis A. Van Meter

Methodist Hospitals Of Dallas
Dallas, TX

Matthew T. Walker

Northwestern University Medical School
Chicago, IL

James A. Wiese

Mercy Hospital
Iowa City, IA

Brian W. Zernich

Medical Diagnostic Imaging Group
Phoenix, AZ

Laurel E. Zollars

Alpharetta, GA

THE BEST SPINE PAPER AWARD

The ASNR Outstanding Presentation Award in Spine Radiology, presented during the ASNR Annual Meeting in Vancouver, was given to Huy M. Do, M.D., for his scientific paper entitled *Percutaneous Vertebroplasty versus Medical Therapy for Treatment of Acute Vertebral*

Body Compression Fractures: A Prospective Randomized Study. A subcommittee of ASSR members assisted the ASNR Education Committee in judging the presentations. The subcommittee was comprised of Drs. Orlando Ortiz, Elizabeth Lustrin, and Gregg Zoarski.

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ASSR HANDS-ON COURSE RECAP

Gregg H. Zoarski, M.D.
ASSR Vice President

The 2nd Annual ASSR Image Guided Spine Interventions Hands-On Course was held at the University of Maryland July 20–21, 2002. Thirty physicians from across the country attended, and the course evaluations were overwhelmingly positive! One half-day of lectures was followed by a day-and-a-half spent working in small hands-on groups with instructors. Cadavers were used to demonstrate and practice the techniques for facet and SI joint injections, selective nerve root blocks, epidural steroid injections, ganglionic blocks, discography, and percutaneous vertebroplasty. The overall value of the course was rated as exceptional. Most attendees commented that the laboratory sessions were more than adequate to develop comfort with performing the procedures.

Consistently positive comments focused upon the teaching skills of the fac-

ulty, including John Barr, John Mathis, Wayne Olan, Orlando Ortiz, Bernadette Stallmeyer, Wade Wong, Chi Shin-Zee and Gregg Zoarski. The hands-on sessions were held concurrently in four fixed angiography suites, including one bi-plane room. Experienced angiography technologists staff each suite. The grueling laboratory schedule required a 12-hour day on Saturday, and over eight hours in the fluoroscopy suites on Sunday.

These courses would not be possible without the support of many vendors such as Allegiance Healthcare, American Osteomedix/Interpore Cross, Bryan Corporation, Cook Incorporated, Parallax Medical, Spinal Specialties, and Stryker Instruments who regularly attend and provide their support. We appreciate their generosity and willingness to bring products for display and use in the labs.



Because attendees came from across the United States, future plans include the possibility of a course on the west coast. ASSR members receive a discounted registration. If you are interested in developing skills and a practice in spine intervention, consider coming to one of the upcoming courses. Announcements will be published in *The Myelon*, and distributed to ASSR members before the information is released to other societies.