

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Gregg H. Zoarski, MD



The ASSR was founded in 1993 as a subspecialty society of the American Society of Neuroradiology. Our mission has been to develop and support high standards of practice, research, and education in spine imaging and intervention. As the largest subspecialty society of the ASNR, our membership numbers nearly 600, and we have received more than 100 applications for new members this year! I believe that our growth and success is attributable to several factors. Recent past presidents like Judith Donovan Post, Wade Wong, John Mathis, and Orlando Ortiz had the wisdom to introduce spine intervention as a critical portion of our Annual Symposium. This led to a remarkable surge in membership, and in the awareness of our society in general. Interest in spine intervention has been so great over the past few years that the ASSR has offered hands-on spine intervention courses at the Annual Symposium and, under my direction, at the University of Maryland on various occasions. Future ASSR and ASNR programs will undoubtedly continue to address spinal intervention, and other new topics as they become relevant to our field. The Executive and Program Committees, however, have not forgotten that the Society was born out of intense interest and dedication to spine imaging. Our future ASSR and ASNR programming therefore also reflects the remarkable advances in spine imaging utilizing functional MRI, diffusion-weighted sequences, MR spectroscopy, and MR angiography. We need to remain at the forefront and dominate the field of spine imaging as we continue to strengthen our position in the arena of spine intervention.

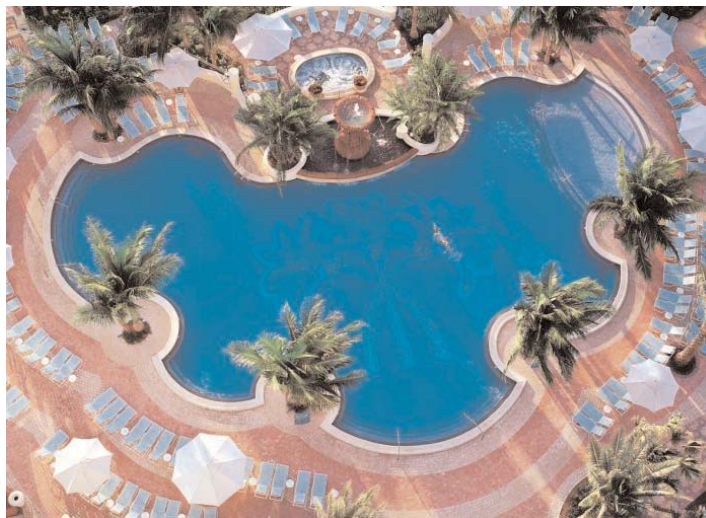
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2004 ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM PREVIEW

The ASSR returns to Florida again this year. The ASSR Annual Symposium will be held February 15-19, 2004, at the Loews Miami Beach Hotel. The outstanding facilities of the Loews Miami Beach Hotel are located on the sand and surf of South Beach. The luxurious hotel is located just a few steps from the restaurants and shopping of Lincoln Road Mall and South Beach, and is located in the middle of Miami Beach's best night life. The large pool features fountains, jacuzzi, and a wading area for younger family members. The ASSR cabanas will provide an informal meeting place for members, attendees, and their families while enjoying the pool facilities.

Scientific sessions will feature the newest applications and techniques in spine imaging and intervention, with an increased emphasis on original scientific investigation. Young investigators can compete for the Mentor Awards Program. More information is available online at www.TheASSR.org.

This year's marketing and advertising campaign has been larger than ever. Along with several e-mail notifications, advertising space was purchased in *AJNR*, *JVIR*, *Radiology*, *Spine*, *RT Image*, and *Pain Physician*, and the International Spinal Injection Society newsletter. Postcards and program registration forms were mailed to nearly 20,000 physicians. Promotional



Join us by the pool at the Loews Miami Beach Hotel
February 15-19 for the 2004 ASSR Annual Symposium.
Register on-line at www.TheASSR.com

REGISTER NOW - IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

There is still time to register for the
2004 Annual Symposium.

For program details and on line
registration, visit:

www.TheASSR.org

materials were made conspicuously available at the annual meetings of the WNRS, North American Spine Society, RSNA, and various other educational events throughout the fall and early winter. Cross promotion to societies such as SIR, NASS, and ISIS is intended to broaden our audience and our membership.

The 2004 scientific program is nicely balanced between advances in imaging, scientific sessions and spine intervention. We have called upon prominent speakers from around the world to present leading-edge clinical and scientific topics such as improved MR imaging of the spinal cord at high field strength, MR spectroscopy of the spine, and vascular MR imaging of the spinal cord.

Lectures will include basic interventions such as lumbar discography, facet and SI joint injections, epidural steroid, and selective nerve root blocks. Newer techniques such as dynamic discography, and percutaneous disc interventions - including Nucleoplasty, the Decompressor, and oxygen ozone treatment - will also be discussed. In addition to lectures on spinal pain management and interventions, we expect a lively discussion surrounding vertebral fracture stabilization and augmentation with

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PROGRAMS AND FELLOWSHIPS

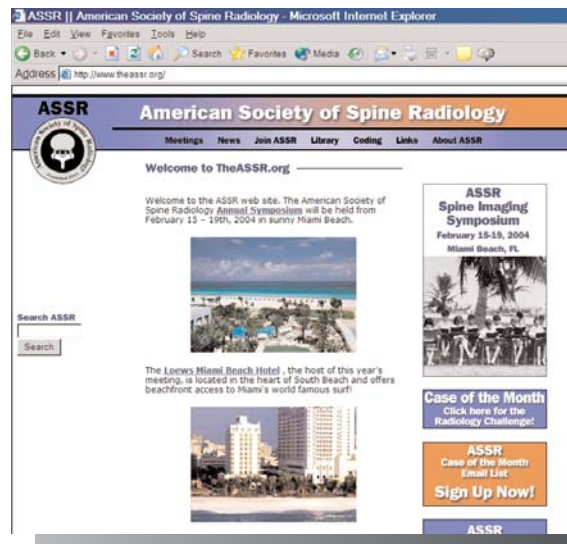
Mentor Program

Initiated in 2003, the Mentor Program solicits the submission of abstracts for presentation of original spine related research performed by fellows, residents, junior faculty, or medical students (see page 3 for past program award information). These junior investigators must be mentored by an ASSR member. The Mentor Committee selects up to five paper abstracts for special recognition; registration fees are waived for the presenting first authors, who also receive \$1,500.00 from the ASSR to help pay for travel expenses. The best paper, receiving the Mentor Award, is also presented at the American Society of Neuroradiology Annual Meeting that same year; the presenting author receives an additional \$2,500 to help defray ASNR meeting registration and travel expenses.

The ASSR is grateful for all of the corporate support that it receives! Special recognition goes to Parallax Medical, Inc., now part of ArthroCare Corporation, for its support of the Mentor Award Program and the ASSR Spine Research Awards. Parallax/ ArthroCare has generously offered to provide \$10,000 annually in support of the Mentor Program, and up to \$30,000 annually to support research investigation in spine radiology under the auspices of the ASSR.

VISIT THE ALL-NEW WWW.THEASSR.ORG

Every member should visit our new website, www.TheASSR.org, for information about the upcoming 2004 ASSR Annual Symposium, and to sign up for the ASSR e-mail list and Case of the Month. The newly redesigned website is an outstanding resource for links to your society's Executive Committee and ad hoc committee members, upcoming Symposium information, research awards and fellowships, past meeting programs and scientific abstracts, billing and coding resources, and links to other important related societies and websites. Past issues of *The Myelon* are also available through the business office.



ASSR Spine Research Awards

Individual awards between \$3,000 and \$30,000 (up to a combined annual total of \$30,000) will be granted based upon merit and budget requirements. A call for applications will occur in January and July of each year, with submission deadlines in March and September. The first call for applications will open in January 2004, with a submission deadline of March 15, 2004. Funds will be distributed after review of proposals and budgets, and within approximately 30 days of the March 15 and Sept. 15 submission deadlines. Awards will be granted and amounts determined based upon review by the ASSR ad hoc Research Committee. Each award recipient will be required to present his work, regardless of results, at the next ASSR Annual

Symposium. Registration fees for the meeting will be waived, and \$1,000.00 of each award will be budgeted to help defray the cost of travel and lodging. Application to the ASSR Spine Research Scholarship is open to any member of the ASSR in good standing, as well as their mentored medical students, residents and fellows. We are grateful for the generosity of Parallax / ArthroCare, which has made these awards possible. We encourage applications for this outstanding opportunity to initiate pilot studies or small-scale investigations which might lead to larger grants. We encourage all of our members and other interested investigators to compete for these awards. This is an outstanding opportunity for young investigators to achieve recognition, or to initiate new investigations.

PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A. Orlando Ortiz, MD, MBA



The past year has been an exciting one for our young and prospering society as ASSR celebrates its first decade of existence. We have moved continuously forward in our mission to develop, foster and support high standards of clinical practice, research and education in spine imag-

ing. This has been accomplished through our Annual Symposia, our collaborative participation at the American Society of Neuroradiology and the Society of Interventional Radiology meetings, and through the provision of hands-on courses. The ASSR Mentor Program, which encourages residents and fellows to pursue spine-related research projects, was extremely successful in its first year and will continue with increased corporate support. Furthermore, the ASSR made additional financial contributions to the Neuroradiology Education and Research Foundation. As an important step forward, we have also secured representation on the Council of the American College of

Radiology! These achievements would not have been possible without the contributions of the ASSR membership and Executive Committee members. The working committees of the ASSR gave selflessly of their time in order to make our society even more fruitful. I personally want to thank all of the members of the Executive Committee and our Business Manager, Mr. Ken Cammarata, for their support and help throughout the year. I would also like to acknowledge the advice of our sage past presidents and the financial support derived from our corporate sponsors. I am certain that the ASSR will continue to grow and prosper under the leadership of my good friend and colleague, Gregg Zoarski.

THE 2003 ASSR MENTOR AWARD**ASSR**

The overall quality of the scientific paper and poster presentations at the February 2003 ASSR Symposium in Scottsdale, Arizona was excellent. The

ASSR is pleased to announce that Jacob Agris, M.D., Ph.D., was the winner of the 2003 ASSR Mentor Award. Dr. Agris was a fellow in the Division of Diagnostic and Interventional Neuroradiology at the University of Maryland in Baltimore. He and his Mentors, Drs. Ortiz, Stallmeyer, and Zoarski, should be commended for their outstanding work. Dr. Agris' presentation was entitled: *Intravertebral Pressure During Vertebroplasty: a Study Comparing Multiple Delivery Systems*. The abstract and complete slide presentation may be viewed in the "News" section of on www.TheASSR.org.

Each year, the author presenting the Mentor Award paper receives \$1,500 to help pay for travel expenses to the ASSR Annual Symposium. The winning paper is also presented at the American Society of Neuroradiology Annual Meeting that same year; the presenting author receives an additional \$2,500.00 to help defray ASNR meeting registration and travel expenses. Corporate support from companies such as Parallax/ArthroCare have made continuation of the Mentor Program possible.

NEURORADIOLOGY EDUCATION AND RESEARCH FOUNDATION OF THE ASNR

Under the direction of Orlando Ortiz, First Past President of the ASSR, our society made a contribution in 2002 to the Neuroradiology Education and Research Foundation. This donation, in the amount of \$25,000, was matched with \$50,000 from the ASNR, and earmarked for future use to support neuro-radiology research in spine imaging and intervention. This was an outstanding opportunity to secure funding that will help ensure the opportunity for spine research.

For information about ASNR and its programs, visit www.ASNR.org.

NORTH AMERICAN SPINE SOCIETY (NASS) 2004 RESEARCH GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

NASS is the leading multidisciplinary organization representing caregivers and research scientists in the field of spinal disorders. Part of the NASS mission is to encourage and support basic and clinical science performed with integrity and a goal toward improving quality spine care for patients along with understanding underlying disorders. All spine-related proposals will be considered. A sample of the special interest topics is available on the NASS website, www.spine.org as well as inside the research application. For an application or more info, contact the NASS office toll free at 877-774-6337, or visit

www.spine.org/Research/ResearchProgram.cfm
Applications must be received in the NASS office by May 7, 2004.

NASS Offers:

Research Grants: For investigative research on the spine;

Clinical Traveling Fellowship: At least one month must be spent in three to five different medical centers studying spine techniques;

Research Traveling Fellowship: At least five months must be spent at one medical center (other than the facility at which the applicant currently practices).

Applications or questions may be addressed to:

Research Department
North American Spine Society
8320 St. Moritz Drive
Spring Grove, IL 60081
Phone: 815-675-0021
Fax: 815-675-3137
Email: Hintz@spine.org

KYPHOPLASTY EMAIL SURVEY RESULTS

In April 2003, the ASNR Clinical Practice Committee, under the direction of J. Arliss Pollock, M.D., circulated an e-mail survey to ASNR members on the subject of Kyphoplasty. The survey asked members if they currently perform Kyphoplasty in their practice and, for those who do, how many procedures they had performed in the past year.

158 responses were received. Of those, 22 respondents (14%) reported having performed the procedure within the past year. Of those, 68.4% had performed between 1-25 procedures, 10.5% performed 26-50, 10.5% between 51-75; and 5.3% between 76-100, and 5.3% over 100 procedures.

The ASSR and ASNR continue to be active in providing information to Local Carrier Medical Directors that assist them in making payment decisions particularly when they want to pay substantially more for kyphoplasty vs. vertebroplasty.

The most recent coding information, studies and findings in kyphoplasty, vertebroplasty, and other spine interventions will be the topic of sessions at the 2004 Annual Symposium. Register on line at www.TheASSR.org

BEST SPINE PAPER AWARD

The ASNR Outstanding Presentation Award in Spine Radiology presented during the ASNR 41st Annual Meeting in Washington, DC was given to Kurt P. Schellhas, M.D., from the Center for Diagnostic Imaging in St. Louis Park, MN, for his scientific paper entitled *Thoracic Intervertebral Disks: In Vivo Characterization of Intradiskal Pressure in Healthy Volunteers during Various Maneuvers*. A subcommittee of ASSR members assisted the ASNR Education Committee in judging the presentations.

For the latest information about programs, fellowships and awards, visit www.TheASSR.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT

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The upcoming Annual Symposium, February 15-19, 2004, in Miami Beach, Florida, promises to be the largest ever! Meeting and registration information is now available on line at our new website, www.TheASSR.org. Please see the articles in this issue for more details.

I undertook the role of President in May 2003 with several goals in mind. I articulated these goals clearly to the chairmen and members of all of our committees. I am proud that they have achieved success on so many fronts. The substantial growth in membership, with applicants for new members promising to augment our society by over 10% again this year, is largely due to the work of Alyssa Watanabe and the Membership Committee. Lisa and her committee members worked hard to develop electronic and conventional mailings to alert potential new members about the benefits of ASSR membership. We have also spread our net wider this year, and have marketed the Symposium and our Society to other relevant specialty organizations, such as the North American Spine Society and International Spinal Injection Society.

The Nominating Committee, under the direction of Gordon Sze, continues to work with Andrew Wagner, Chair of the Rules Committee and his committee members, to develop a new process for nomination of our Society officials. In October, a Call for Nominations was mailed to all ASSR members. Based upon the nominations received, the Nominating Committee has selected candidates to be placed on a ballot which will be mailed to all Active (Voting) members in the first quarter of 2004. Andrew Wagner and his committee are also working on revisions of the Bylaws of our Society in order to bring them up to date with the current structure and function of the ASSR.

Although I chair the Program Committee, I am substantially indebted to committee members Brian Bowen, Michael Rothman, Jeffrey Stone, Gordon Sze and David Yousem. Without them, I would have been hard pressed to develop great programs with so many new topics and

BEHIND THE SCENES

Ken Cammarata, ASSR Business Manager

Many of the critical functions of the ASSR are provided by our the society's Business Manager, Ken Cammarata. Ken handles the day-to-day services that keep the society moving (including membership processing, dues and other financial functions, and endless other support functions). Based in the ASNR office in Oak Brook, IL, Ken has been an essential part of the society for more than 5 years. He also serves as ASNR Director of Specialty

interesting speakers. Brian Bowen must have a crystal ball with pop up messaging that keeps him informed of new research and investigators in our field!

The Corporate Support Committee, under the direction of Bassem Georgy, was charged with increasing the amount of corporate support for the Annual Symposium. We now have commitments for nearly \$40,000, exceeding the landmark amount of corporate support that the society received in 2003, thanks to aggressive promotion and solicitation by Past President Orlando Ortiz.

Under the direction of Gordon Sze, the ad hoc Meeting Services Committee did an outstanding job reviewing responses to our RFP for meeting planning services. The committee selected Educational Symposia, Inc., to serve as our meeting planner beginning with the 2005 Annual Symposium and continuing through 2009.

Perhaps the accomplishment I am most proud of is our new website, www.TheASSR.org. Under my direction, Greg Petermann and the ad hoc Informatics Committee members Lesley Cala, Adam Flanders, Joshua Hirsch and Erin Simon went well beyond my expectations to help design and implement an outstanding web resource. Our site now offers up-to-date information about the Annual Symposium, meeting registration, membership applications, billing and coding, and numerous important links to other relevant societies and meetings. Greg and Adam worked tirelessly to design a Case-of-the-Month page that is simple and easy to use, and will contain a searchable archive. Please subscribe to the Case of the Month and join the ASSR e-mail list by

Societies and Member Services. His prior role as Director of Member Services at the National Employee Services and Recreation Association prepared him well before he joined ASNR in April, 1998. "Ken is a great asset to the ASNR and the Specialty Societies," commented James B. Gantenberg, ASNR Exec. Dir./CEO. Many thanks to Ken for his attention to detail, responsiveness and supportive attitude. You can reach him at the business office, through the website (www.TheASSR.org) or via email at: kcammarata@asnr.org.

going to our website. You can also find archives of last year's meeting abstracts, program, and past issues of *The Myelon*.

Finally, I would like to gratefully acknowledge the substantial marketing and financial support that Parallax Medical, Inc., now part of ArthroCare Corp., has provided for our scientific and research programs. Moving forward, the success of our Society will depend upon our ability to lead original research in spine imaging and intervention. In addition to providing valuable, on-going support in the form of consulting and marketing services, Parallax/ArthroCare has pledged to provide \$10,000 annually to support the Mentor Awards Program, in which junior investigators compete for awards based upon the presentation of original spine research at the Annual Symposium. Parallax/ ArthroCare has also pledged \$30,000 per year to support research investigation in spine radiology under the auspices of ASSR. Awards will be granted, and the amounts determined, based upon review by the ASSR ad hoc Research Committee. Please see the article entitled Programs and Fellowships, on page 2.

Whether it's a matter of raising children, or directing a society, some days seem to have no end; yet, on the other hand, one year seems to pass too quickly! My consolation comes in knowing that Gordon Sze will do an excellent job in continuing to support the initiatives and momentum that the Society has achieved over the past few years. It has been my honor and privilege to be elected to serve a Society with so many outstanding and hard working members who contribute to our joint success!

2004 ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM PREVIEW

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vertebroplasty and kyphoplasty. Lectures will be given by noted members of NASS, including orthopedic surgeons Eeric Truumees, Isador Lieberman, and Tom Faciszewski.

Sessions on growth and development are enhanced by lectures on fetal and post-natal spine surgery, and bone morphogenetic protein. Rehabilitation after spinal cord injury and the exciting topic of MR tracking of spinal cord cell transplantation will be addressed. Sessions on trauma will examine not only spine kinematics and patterns of injury, but multi-slice post-processing and benefits of 3D rendering.

Two Lunch and Learn sessions have been added to this year's program. This will offer an opportunity for meeting attendees, and their accompanying spouse or guest if desired, to sign up for a boxed lunch and enjoy lively presentations on timely topics. The first Lunch and Learn session, "The Cutting Edge," looks at innovative treatments for spine intervention including robotics and radiosurgery. A second Lunch and Learn session examines the issues of HIPPA regulation, and medical malpractice and reform. We encourage all meeting registrants to attend these special sessions. There is no additional registration fee; however, there is a small charge for a boxed lunch. Please indicate the number of lunches required for you and your guests on your registration form.



Book your room at the Loews Miami Beach Hotel using the form provided on line at www.TheASSR.org

HOTEL RESERVATIONS AT THE ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

Stay at the Loews!

Hotel accommodations at the significantly discounted ASSR Symposium rate are still available at the Loews Miami Beach Hotel. February is high season in Miami Beach, and hotel space is at a premium, so book your room(s) now! Contact the Loews and ask for the ASSR Symposium rate. Hotel contact information and a special housing form are available online at www.TheASSR.org.



The centrally-located Loews Miami Beach Hotel offers attendees and guests opportunities to enjoy the best of Miami Beach activities and night life.

On Tuesday, February 17, the Vertebroplasty.com Invitational Golf Tournament tees off at 12:30pm at the new Miami Beach Golf Club. This best-ball, pairs, shotgun start tournament represents the second such annual event. Last year's tournament in Scottsdale, Arizona saw fierce competition between a small number of competitors. We are hoping for wider participation this year, and

encourage all meeting attendees to participate regardless of skill level! Be sure to register you and your guests when completing the meeting registration form.

This year's Corporate Support Committee, led by Bassem Georgy, has already accumulated pledges of nearly \$40,000 in support of the 2004 ASSR Annual Symposium.

Take advantage of the special rate and help ensure even better negotiated rates for future ASSR meetings – book your accommodations now.

Members and companions enjoy many "perks" at each meeting. The ASSR asks for your help in meeting our lodging commitment at the host hotel by booking now for the duration of the Symposium. Call the Loews Miami Beach Hotel: 305-604-1601

We would like to thank all of our sponsors in advance, with special recognition for gold sponsors Parallax /ArthroCare, Spinal Specialties, Philips, and Cardinal Health. Please be sure to visit all of our sponsors while at the meeting; this outstanding meeting program, the social events, and choice of a first class venue for the Symposium would not be possible without their support.

Miami Beach is an exciting area that appeals to nearly everyone. People-watch on the sand or in the cafés of South Beach, or take a walk through the art deco historic district of Ocean Drive. Miami's cultural attractions include the Bass Museum of Art, the Jackie Gleason Center for the Performing Arts, the Wolfsonian Gallery, the Versace Mansion, the Miami City Ballet, and the Holocaust Memorial. Coconut Grove, Coral Gables, the Miami Zoo, nearby Fisher Island and many other attractions are just a short drive or boat ride away!

2003-04 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TAKES OFFICE IN WASHINGTON, DC**ASSR**

The following members of the ASSR 2003-2004 Executive Committee assumed office immediately after the May 1, 2003 Annual Business Meeting in Washington, DC. They will each serve in the positions listed below through the June 2004 Annual Business Meeting in Seattle, Washington. A special thank you goes to Chad A. Holder, M.D., Blake A. Johnson, M.D., Elias R. Melhem, M.D., and M. Judith Donovan Post, M.D. who left the Executive Committee after the Annual Business Meeting.

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2004-05 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SLATE

In October, a Call For Nominations for the 2004-2005 ASSR Executive Committee was mailed to the membership. Based upon the nominations that were received, the ASSR Nominating Committee selected nominees to be placed on an election ballot to be mailed to all Active (Voting) members in the first quarter of 2004. In an effort to make the election process as democratic as possible, we urge all members who are entitled to vote to please return your ballot promptly. The nominees for Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Members-at-Large are as follows:

Vice President

Brian C. Bowen, MD
University of Miami School of Medicine
Miami, FL

Blake A. Johnson, MD
Center for Diagnostic Imaging
St. Louis Park, MN

Secretary/Treasurer

Andrew L. Wagner, MD
Rockingham Radiologists, Ltd.
Harrisonburg, VA

Alyssa T. Watanabe, MD
Long Beach Memorial Medical Center
Long Beach, CA

Members-At-Large

Bassem A. Georgy, MD
Valley Radiology Consultants
Escondido, CA

Gregory J. Lawler, MD
Jersey Shore Radiology Associates
Neptune, NJ

Gregory W. Petermann, MD
Tripler Army Medical Center
Honolulu, HI

Erin M. Simon, MD
The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA

Jeffrey A. Stone, MD
Medical College of Georgia
Augusta, GA

Chi Shing Zee, MD
USC Keck School of Medicine
Los Angeles, CA

Robert D. Zimmerman, MD
New York Hospital/Cornell University
New York, NY

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The following individuals were approved for membership during the May 1, 2003 ASSR Annual Business Meeting in Washington, DC.

Active

Philip A. Adler
St. John Macomb Hospital
Warren, MI

Donna G. Blankenbaker
Univ. of Wisconsin Hospitals & Clinics
Madison, WI

Douglas C. Brown
Hampton Roads Radiology Assoc.
Norfolk, VA

Benjamin H. Cannon
North State Radiology
Chico, CA

John A. Carrino
Brigham & Woman's Hospital
Boston, MA

Konstantin Chernukha
University of Pennsylvania, Radiology
Wayne, PA

Dianna Chooljian
Walter Reed Army Medical Center
Washington, DC

Michael B. Clark
Trumbull Radiology, Inc.
Cortland, OH

Royden Daniels
Charleston Radiologists, P.A.
Charleston, SC

Gary J. Dee
Midstate Medical Center
Meridian, CT

Barbara L. Eisenkraft
Winthrop University Hospital
Mineola, NY

Adam E. Flanders
Thomas Jefferson Univ. Hospital
Philadelphia, PA

L. Anne Hayman
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, TX

Robert A. Koenigsberg
MCP Hahnemann University
Philadelphia, PA

Varoujan Kostanian
UCI Medical Center
Orange, CA

Gregory K. Lewis
Eastern Radiologists, Inc.
Greenville, NC

Patricia O. Macfarlane
Cape Radiology Group
Cape Girardeau, MO

Ian M. Matsuura
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, MA

Michael Maxim
Group Health Cooperative
Seattle, WA

Kevin R. Moore
University Hospital
Salt Lake City, UT

Kingsley A. Ozoude
Northeastern Regional Hospital
Las Vegas, NV

John H. Romer
Radiology of Huntsville, P.C.
Huntsville, AL

Peter E. Schloesser
University of Utah
Salt Lake City, UT

Erin M. Simon
Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA

Jeffrey A. Simon
Neuro Imaging Associates
Melbourne, FL

Eric M. Spickler
Henry Ford Hospital/University
Detroit, MI

Jeffrey A. Stone
Medical College of Georgia
Augusta, GA

Mubin Syed
Mercy Medical Center
Springfield, OH

Robert C. Wallace
Southwest Neuro Imaging
Phoenix, AZ

Christopher J. Wright
The Woodlands, TX

MILESTONES: PIERRE C. MILETTE, MD RETIRES FROM ACTIVE PRACTICE

Pierre Charles Milette was a founding member of the ASSR, and worked extensively on the original Society bylaws. He also conceived the Society logo, and concluded an agreement with the Editor of the *American Journal of Neuroradiology* so that the *AJNR* became the official journal of the Society. As Chairman of the ASSR Nomenclature Committee, Dr. Milette worked with representatives of the North American Spine Society (NASS) and the ASNR over a period of three years to develop *The Nomenclature and Classification of Lumbar Disc Pathology*. This classification, published in 2001, and available in its entirety on the ASSR website, satisfies a need for reliable terms that describe normal and pathologic conditions of lumbar discs in ways that can be interpreted accurately, consistently, and with reasonable precision among physicians.

Dr. Milette served as ASSR President in 1996/1997, and was Chairman of the Scientific Program Committee that same year. He served once again on the Rules Committee in 1999/2000, and on the Awards Committee in 2002/2003, and deserves considerable recognition for helping the ASSR to grow into a successful and widely recognized organization!

Dr. Milette was Clinical Professor of Radiology at the Université de Montreal, where he received his medical degree in 1967. He has been a member of the American Society of Neuroradiology since 1977, and a member of the Eastern Neuroradiological Society since 1995. He was elected Honorary Member of the NASS in 2003. Pierre had gained international reputation for his expertise in lumbar discography, persisting and prevailing in his convictions even at times when this procedure was condemned by the majority of academic neuroradiologists. He was also a pioneer of zygoapophysial joint injections.

The ASSR wishes Pierre all the best in his retirement, and hopes he will continue to participate in the Society's activities!

Associate

Frank J.E. Falco
Mid-Atlantic Spine
Newark, DE

Vibhu Kapoor
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
Pittsburgh, PA

Luigi Manfre
A.O. Cannizzaro Hospital
Catania, Italy

Mario Muto
Cordelli Hospital
Naples, Italy

Curtis N. Slipman
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA