



# ASNR

Statement of the incoming Vice-President of the American Society of Neuroradiology,  
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## **Goals and Objectives:**

Many challenges face Neuroradiology, and I will dedicate my service to addressing them. The central role of imaging in clinical neurodiagnosis and neuroscience research is the source of our greatest strength and most serious challenges. Neuroradiologists remain the acknowledged experts in clinical image interpretation, but this is no time for complacency. In order to retain our preeminence we must insure that our members and trainees have expertise in all aspects of clinical imaging, including "physiologic" techniques (Perfusion, Diffusion, Tractography, MRS, and PET). Neuroradiologists need to be part of the research efforts that utilize imaging, and we must maintain and enhance our position in economic forums that deal with issues including reimbursement and credentialing. In order for this to occur, the Society must continue its efforts to increase the financial strength of NERF. The recent dues increase has produced a not unexpected surge of dissatisfaction. We have asked the members to make a necessary but significant financial contribution to the future of Neuroradiology, and we must provide our members with tangible evidence that this contribution will be valuable to them as individuals.

### **1) Fellowship Training:**

- A) Revision of the training requirements for the diagnostic neuroradiology fellowship is the first priority: There are many complex issues to deal with, in particular expertise in cerebral angiography. I will seek the opinions of practicing neuroradiologists in order to determine the value and importance of all aspects of the training program for the practice of neuroradiology. As a member of the Radiology RRC, I will lead the effort to revise our training standards in accordance with our needs and new ACGME requirements (e.g. core competencies, outcome measures), while limiting as much as possible additional administrative burdens.
- B) Fellow involvement in ASNR: I will promote the value of the ASNR for our fellows with special sessions for fellows at the Annual Meetings, and will work to insure that the educational material on the ASNR website is both valuable and available for use by the fellows. A key component of this effort will be to insure that fellows become Senior members of the ASNR upon completion of training.

### **2) Member Education:**

- A) The Annual Meeting must provide continuing education in both established and new aspects of clinical Neuroradiology. In order to fulfill this mission, a multi-year plan must be developed so that topics can be reviewed in a timely manner. In addition, I will look at the structure of the Annual Meeting to see if there are financially responsible ways of mitigating the cost of attending the meeting.
- B) The ASNR website is a valuable source of educational material, thanks to the efforts of the members of the Society and the Electronic Education Committee. I will work to insure that educational material will continue to be both extensive and up to date. Practices that facilitate easy conversion of ASNR talks to webcasts will be emphasized.
- C) The Society must provide support for continued success and growth of the *AJNR*.

### **3) Maintenance of Certification:**

- A) The Society should serve as the major vehicle for MOC for its members. The first task is to insure that all ASNR members understand that MOC is not something being imposed upon them by ASNR, the ABR or the Radiology RRC. Rather, it is the result of a national initiative aimed at reducing medical error by insuring that all physicians (not just radiologists) demonstrate that they are involved in activities that insure their continued competency ("Life long learning"). The ASNR will facilitate this process for our members by supplying key elements. The CAQ and recertification tests insure that we can document cognitive skills without having to study topics outside of our daily practice. Dr. Hudgins, our President, has begun discussions with the ABR to allow the recertification test to be given at the Annual Meeting (reducing cost and inconvenience), and I will continue to press for this to occur. Other components of MOC including SAM's (self-assessment modules) and CME requirements must be available through the ASNR Annual Meeting and Website. The Society should also provide

guidance to its members in order to fulfill other requirements (e.g. documentation of service, learning portfolios) with lectures at the Annual Meetings and/or information distributed through the website.

**4) Economic and Political Issues:**

- A) The ASNR must continue to provide a voice for its members in a host of economic issues, including reimbursement and credentialing. The Clinical Practice Committee must receive the financial support necessary for the performance of this key function, and the Society must recruit members willing to devote substantial time to this endeavor. I will insure that those individuals who engage in this time-consuming and often unglamorous activity receive the recognition that they deserve. NERF-supported research into new techniques (e.g. MRS and DTI) can advance both our scientific and economic interests by documenting the value of these techniques for patient management.

**5) Research:**

- A) Research and innovation are the wellsprings of our clinical and economic success. We need to encourage our fellows and members to be involved in neuroimaging research. The Annual Meeting must be seen as the major forum for presenting, and the *AJNR* for publishing new scientific information about our field. This is a daunting task since many venues now exist for presentation and publication of the same material. NERF can aid in this process by providing funds for fellows and young faculty to attend and present their material at the Annual Meeting. We will expand our efforts to honor our members who have done this work.
- B) The Society, through NERF, should continue to provide both research and training grants to encourage young investigators. In addition to the current programs, I would work to establish grants that specifically encourage collaboration with neuroscientists.
- C) The Society must continue to reach out to neuroscientists involved in image-based research. Invitations to speak at the Annual Meeting and/or to supply material for webcasts should be continued, and active participation in the operations of the Society should be encouraged with discounted membership fees and other inducements.