SAR News

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At the time of this writing we are in the mid-summer lull but the society remains very active. Having completed the largest meeting in the combined society's history with 883 registered participants from 34 countries and 42 states, planning committees are actively working on the 2015 meeting to be held from March 22–27 at the Hotel del Coronado in San Diego, CA. Plenary sessions have been arranged and invitations have been issued to outstanding keynote speakers. Innovative audience response systems to provide an interactive forum using audience smart phones are being investigated. The workshops have been organized, once again, involving national and international society members. Make reservations for the meeting now, *register early* to get the early-bird discounted rate. Future meetings sites have also been chosen: Hawaii in 2016 and Hollywood, FL in 2017. See the web site (<http://www.abdominalradiology.org/>) for exact dates.

Membership in the society continues to grow. As of July, we have 89 new members in 2014 adding to 103 new members in 2013. Please remind all Abdominal Radiologists in your practice to join and note that the criteria for joining the society have been modified to encourage membership. Applications for membership can be found on our website listed above.

The SAR is expanding beyond providing educational programs and mentoring radiologists, and has set up disease-focused panels to look at disease processes by organ system and treatment rather than solely by imaging modality. The concept will strengthen the scientific and educational mission of SAR, and expand the impact of SAR on medical practice and patient care. One goal of the SAR Disease-focused Panels is to provide abdominal

radiology experts who can partner with non-radiology physician groups to develop recommendations for improved patient care based on scientific evidence and consensus expert opinion. Please see the society website for more information on these new panels.

The society has upgraded the website (<http://www.abdominalradiology.org/>) using input from the IT committee. The new website allows easier modification of WebPages, more interactive sites and the ability to perform committee work using web interfaces which will improve efficiency. For example, we can collect dues electronically to save on mailing and processing. The IT and social media committees remain very active with Cases of the Week and social media interfaces. Visit us on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Society-of-Abdominal-Radiology/>)! We plan to hear from that committee in a future SAR News update.

In 2013, the SAR launched The SAR Fund to support the advancement of abdominal radiology research, education and practice. Visit the SAR Fund page on our website for more information on this opportunity to help assure the future of abdominal radiology. Tax deductible contributions can be made to the SAR fund online.

The society now has announcements posted on the SAR career center. Please see our website for exciting positions in both academic and private practices. If your practice is looking for abdominal radiologists, this is a great way of advertising. Thanks to all the members who serve on SAR committees: encourage new members to join committees by volunteering on our website.