

**Society of Skeletal Radiology
Annual Business Meeting
Hotel del Coronado, Coronado, California
Sunday, March 2, 2003
Minutes**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. B.J. Manaster, President, at 8:00 am. There being 107 members in attendance, a quorum was present.

II. Announcements

Dr. Manaster welcomed all attendees to the 26th Annual Meeting of the Society of Skeletal Radiology. Dr. Manaster introduced the administrative management team supporting SSR, including Denise Miller, Heidi Prange and Steve Mason.

Dr. Manaster briefed membership on changes in the abstract submission process that will be implemented for next year's meeting. In order to fully comply with American College of Radiology (ACR) Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements, the abstract submission process is being moved to be 6 months in advance of next year's meeting. The abstract submission deadline will be August 15, 2003. Dr. Manaster asked that all members make a note of this requirement and plan accordingly.

III. Approval of the March, 2002 Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the Annual Business Meeting of November 15, 2003 were presented for discussion.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as presented

ACTION: The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. Officer and Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report

Dr. Mark Kransdorf presented the SSR financial results as of December 31, 2002 and projected financial results for the year ending June 30, 2003. With revenue of \$142K and expenses of \$118K, current projections show \$23K in net revenue for the 2002/2003 fiscal year.

Dr. Kransdorf reported that the society was making progress in establishing a financial reserve equivalent to three years of operating funds. However, with net revenues of \$30K, the society has way to go, but is going in the right direction.

Projections for the 2003 Annual Meeting were reported as \$56K in revenue and \$52K in expenses. Dr. Kransdorf pointed out that the net revenue of \$4K was somewhat misleading in that management and administrative costs were not included. When management and administrative costs are considered (using a conservative estimate of \$8K), the meeting continues to experience a negative net revenue. Dr. Kransdorf continued with a comparison of the cost per CME for attendees at the SSR annual meeting when compared to equivalent meetings. The SSR cost per CME is significantly below the cost of all comparable meetings. Future increases in meeting attendance costs are anticipated to help establish a revenue-neutral meeting.

Chair Elect's Report

Dr. Art Newberg welcomed all to the meeting. He extended a special welcome to residents from UC San Diego who were attending as guests of the society. Dr. Newberg thanked the Program Committee

for their assistance in planning and organizing this year's meeting. He also thanked Denise Miller for her contributions to planning the meeting.

Dr. Newberg requested that all attendees complete both the Program Evaluation booklet (for CME) and the SSR Meeting Questionnaire (to obtain valuable feedback for planning future meetings). He asked that attendees pay particular attention to questions on the survey concerning planning for future meetings.

Dr. Newberg introduced the Case of the Day and Focus Sessions scheduled for this year's meeting. He encouraged all members to attend these noteworthy sessions.

Dr. Newberg reiterated the significance of the change in the abstract submission process that will be implemented for next year's meeting. He asked that all members adjust their planning to accommodate the advanced schedule and observe the August 15th deadline.

Dr. Newberg provided a briefing on next year's meeting site – the Loews Ventana Canyon resort in Tucson, Arizona.

Auditing Committee Report

Dr. Lynne Steinbach provided the Audit Committee Report. She indicated that the committee had completed their audit of financial records and all were found to be in order.

Electronic Communication Committee

Dr. Ken Buckwalter presented the Electronic Communication Committee Report. He reminded all members that the URL for the society's website is www.skeletalrad.org. He also reminded members to "click through" the SSR website when ordering books or other items from Amazon.com. SSR receives a referral fee from Amazon.com for all orders that are referred through the SSR website.

During the past year, the committee shifted the hosting service used for the SSR website. It was a successful transition resulting in lower overall costs.

Institutions are reminded to submit MSK fellowship information to Dr. Buckwalter for posting on the SSR website. This is a valuable resource for SSR members and all were requested to help keep it up to date by providing current information to the webmaster.

Rules Committee

Dr. Mary Kathol, Chair of the Rules Committee, provided a report on activities to update the SSR bylaws. During the past year, the committee has worked to prepare changes to the bylaws and has vetted all proposed changes through the Executive Committee. The Rules Committee presented the proposed changes for consideration by the SSR membership. Highlights of the changes include:

- The bylaws have clarified membership requirements and they now state that all members must be Board certified Radiologists.
- The bylaws now explicitly state that applicants must be involved in at least 50% MSK radiology.
- Honorary and Emeritus membership dues shall be determined by the Treasurer based on the financial needs of the Society.
- For consideration as an Emeritus Member, the applicant must be a member of the society for at least five years.
- Responsibility for termination action on non-paying members who are in arrears in their membership dues has been shifted from the Secretary to the Treasurer.
- The process for appointment to SSR members to serve on external committees has been clarified and the Executive Committee has been designated with the responsibility for such appointments.

Socioeconomic Affairs Committee

Dr. Richard Daffner presented the committee report. He informed membership that Congress has rolled back the planned 4.4% decrease in Medicare reimbursements and has approved a 1.6% increase across the board. HIPPA compliance requirements will continue to have an impact on all medical practitioners.

Tort Reform continues to be a significant issue in a number of states, including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, West Virginia, Massachusetts are considering legislation to restrict awards for “pain and suffering”.

There is an ACR Seminar on socio-economic issues on May 9, 2003 as part of the ACR annual meeting.

Dr. Daffner informed membership that the focus session at next year’s meeting will be on socio-economic issues. He invited interested members to contact him, especially members with coding experience.

Standards Committee

Dr. Andrew Sonin provided the Standards Committee Report. The committee worked to define the SSR role in promulgating standards in the musculoskeletal community. The committee considered whether to develop our own SSR standards or to review and comment on ACR standards. He stated that SSR had decided to work within the ACR standards instead of developing independent standards.

The committee reviewed the applicable ACR standards and has prepared a list of recommendations for improvements or updates. The committee will present these to the SSR ACR Councilor, Art De Smet, for presentation to the ACR.

Dr. Sonin encouraged all members to refer to the ACR website and provide input to proposed standards. ACR membership is important; it is the means for providing inputs into the standard development process.

SSR is a collaborative organization with the National Council on Radiation Protection (NCRP) and is invited to comment on any policy involving musculoskeletal radiology.

Membership Committee

Dr. Robert Boutin presented the Membership Committee report. Dr. Boutin reported that SSR membership continues to grow. With 40 new members being considered at this meeting, the membership is as follows:

- 354 Full Members
- 17 International Members
- 6 Emeritus Members
- 377 Total Members

This represents a significant change since 1979 when there were only 19 members and the mid-90s when membership was 100 persons. SSR is now almost 20 times the size it was in 1979.

Dr. Boutin advised all members who are sponsoring new applicants to clearly state that the applicant fully complies with all requirements for SSR membership. Dr. Boutin requested that members to please not submit sponsor letters for persons who are still in training and to submit nomination letters by the membership deadline.

V. SSR Representative Reports

Report on the Academy of Radiology Research

Dr. B.J. Manaster reported a very successful year. Former ARR board member, Dr. Elias Zerhouni was appointed the NIH Director, the first radiologist appointed to this position. Dr. Rod Pettigrew, a radiologist, was appointed as the director the NIBIB. A third positive event for the year was the recent approval of a \$280M for the NIBIB with \$130M of new money. This represents an increase of 150% of the NIBIB budget. There is now money for research grants.

Report on the ACR Council

Dr. Art De Smet provided a report on his participation at the ACR annual meeting as the SSR Councilor. He pointed out that the ACR meeting is an inclusive meeting of all radiology. It encompasses over 45 member societies. The sessions address issues that affect all radiologists.

Dr. De Smet provided a summary of the potential impact that ACR decisions could have on SSR members and the importance of being involved in the ACR process. One motion considered at the meeting was to change the name from ACR Standards to ACR Guidelines. After a lengthy discussion, membership overwhelming voted against the motion

Dr. De Smet stated the importance of ACR membership for all SSR members. SSR must maintain a high percentage of ACR members to continue to hold a seat on the ACR Council.

In several instances, Dr. De Smet suggested changes to the wording of particular standards that were too restrictive. The suggested wording was accepted, resulting in a better, more flexible standard. Dr. DeSmet emphasized the importance of SSR participation in this process.

VI. Election of New SSR Members

Dr. Manaster presented the listing of SSR applicants as submitted by the SSR Membership Committee for consideration by the membership.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded that the prospective members be approved as presented by the SSR Membership Committee (list attached).

ACTION: The motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Manaster welcomed the new members to the society.

VII. SSR Bylaws Changes

Dr. Manaster presented the proposed changes to the SSR Bylaws as submitted by the SSR Rules Committee for consideration by the membership.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded that the proposed bylaws changes be approved as presented by the SSR Rules Committee (revision attached).

ACTION: The motion was unanimously approved.

VIII. Old Business

None.

IX. SSR Nominating Committee

Dr. Manaster presented this report on behalf of Dr. Mark Anderson. She recognized committee chairs that have completed their term and are rotating off committee assignments. She thanked them for their service to the society:

- Dr. Lynne Steinbach Auditing Committee
- Dr. Robert Boutin Membership Committee
- Dr. Mark Anderson Nominating Committee
- Dr. Mary Kathol Rules Committee
- Dr. Andrew Sonin Standards Committee

She also welcomed the new committee chairs that will serve during the coming year.

- Dr. Curtis Hayes Auditing Committee
- Dr. Theodore Miller Membership Committee
- Dr. Andrew Sonin Nominating Committee
- Dr. Kenneth Buckwalter Rules Committee
- Dr. David Rubin Standards Committee

Dr. Manaster reported that, during the past year, the Executive Committee and Nominating Committee discussed the philosophy of committee assignments and concluded that committee membership should be made only to active members. Committees help the society make policy and active participation in the society's functions is important. She encouraged all members to apply or reapply for committee appointments. The society needs new ideas from new members as well as the corporate memory from long-standing members. Dr. Manaster requested that all members consider participating in SSR committees and to submit their names for consideration by the nominating committee for next year.

X. New Business

Ad Hoc Committee

Dr. Manaster announced the establishment of an Ad-Hoc Committee to examine membership issues and report back to the Executive Committee. She reported that the society faces many issues on membership and membership criteria that will impact the future of the society. The Ad-Hoc committee has been formed to: (1) fully identify the pertinent issues, (2) assess the pros and cons related to these issues, (3) survey the membership about their regarding the issues, and (4) develop recommendations for consideration by the Executive Committee. Such issues include:

- Size of the society
- More or less restrictive membership criteria
- Canadian and international membership.

The ad hoc committee shall be tasked with the responsibility of identifying critical issues and providing recommendations in a report to the Executive Committee by October 15, 2003. Volunteers to participate in this committee are invited.

Award for Best Paper at the 2002 Meeting

The award for the best paper at the 2002 Annual Meeting was presented to Dr. Derek Armfield.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, on motion made, seconded, and unanimously approved, the was meeting adjourned at 8:59 am.