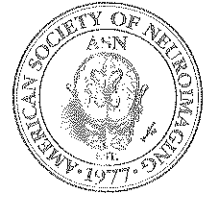


# AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEUROIMAGING NEWSLETTER

EDITOR: Charles H. Tegeler, MD



March 1998

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*by Ilydio Polachini, Jr., MD*

The 21st Annual Meeting of the American Society of Neuroimaging was a success, hosting approximately 200 attendees. The scientific meeting was rated very highly by the participants, featuring sessions in Basic and Advanced MRI, Ultrasound, SPECT, Interventional Neuroimaging and an Integrated Neuroimaging symposium.

The business meeting was very well attended, virtually by all participants, who had a wonderful

opportunity to not only listen but also to interact in real time with our invited guest Henry Allen, Esq., who gave a very enlightening and eye opening lecture on antitrust legislation. Mr. Allen successfully argued in the Naples case for a group of Neurologists, reversing at the appellate court level an initial adverse summary judgment of no basis for antitrust proceedings. The case, in which members of our society had their neuroimaging privileges wrestled away, is now awaiting trial after the reversal at

the appellate court level.

Medical Resources, Inc., a major player in the Neuroimaging outpatient business was present at the meeting stressing its commitment to our members. Discussions are now underway for MRII to use the American Society of Neuroimaging as an educational partner to train neurologists in Neuroimaging and to oversee and implement quality assurance and improvement at their centers.

The certification exams, given for the first time in a computer platform, were very well received, and are constantly being refined. Our society is also spearheading an effort to develop accreditation guidelines for MRI centers in conjunction with the American Academy of Neurology and the American College of Cardiology.

Planning for next year's meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona, Feb 25-27 is well under way, for what promises to be an even more successful program. So, do make a point of coming next year; we need your support. Don't miss the opportunity to make the ASN stronger!!

## ASN LEADS THE WAY WITH ON-LINE EXAMS

*by Rob Bakshi, MD, and Joseph C. Masdeu, MD, PhD*

At the 1998 meeting in Orlando, 16 candidates sat for the MRI/CT certification examination and 37 for the Neurosonology examination. For the first time, the ASN offered computerized, on-line examinations. With this offering, the ASN leads the way nationally in the societies. The 52 physicians taking the examinations praised the new point-and-click technology as facilitating recording of the answers. Because the range of gray hues is greater on a monitor than for printed images, image detail is enhanced over the traditional booklet presentation. Color images and video clips, important in Neurosonology and Functional Neuroimaging, and helpful in MR angiography, will be available in future examinations. Computerization

also facilitates standardizing the exams. The Angoff procedure is applied by a large panel of experts evaluating what constitutes competency in MR/CT, Neurosonology, or in the future, Functional Neuroimaging. Their evaluation of each question is recorded in a database and analyzed using sophisticated statistical software. This project was directed by Dr. Joseph Masdeu, Chairman of the Certification Committee, by Dr. Rob Bakshi, Chairman of the MR/CT Examination Committee, and by Dr. Charles Tegeler, Chairman of the Neurosonology Examination Committee. Information and application materials may be obtained by contacting Theresa Gutoski, American Society of Neuroimaging, (612) 545-6291; <theresagutoski@compuserve.com>.

## REQUEST FOR CASES

We are expanding our bank of items for both examinations at all times and welcome submissions from our members. For those who have interesting cases with corresponding images, please forward to the ASN Office for use as possible examination questions.

## 1998 MCKINNEY AWARD RECIPIENT: DISYA RATANAKORN, MD

Dr. Disya Ratanakorn is a current fellow in neurosonology at Wake Forest University School of Medicine. She has had a distinguished early career, studying medicine in Bangkok, Thailand, followed by postgraduate training in neurology at The National Hospital, Queen Square, London, and transcranial Doppler sonography at University Hospital Bonn, Germany. She was awarded the Willit Award in 1997 for work in neurosonology at Wake Forest University.



*Disya Ratanakorn, MD*

Her manuscript entitled "A new dynamic method to detect internal jugular valve incompetence using air contrast study" reported the significance of the valves in the internal jugular vein.

The incompetent internal jugular valve can cause venous reflux into the internal jugular vein. This prevents cerebral venous return, causing cerebral venous engorgement, increased intracranial pressure, and marked edema of the brain

which may lead to disturbance of the respiratory center or even death. Internal jugular venography is invasive Doppler sampling of the internal jugular vein and color flow imaging of the internal jugular vein. Using agitated saline and air as a contrast agent with intravenous injection during Valsalva maneuver and monitoring real time B-mode of the internal jugular vein above its valves has proved to be a reliable non-invasive method of interpretation. The individuals with incompetent or absent internal jugular valves will reveal air contrast bubbles as bright, tiny mobile echoes in the internal jugular vein cephalad to its valves during this method. This paper describes a safe and accurate bedside method to evaluate the competency of the internal jugular valves.

## 21ST ANNUAL MEETING A SUCCESS

The ASN enjoyed another outstanding educational program which included four Breakfast Seminars, four Courses, four Symposia and a Hands-On Workshop. We had strong interest in the educational program with roughly 200 physicians in attendance, a good representation of ASN members and non-members. The Society would like to thank Nycomed, Medical Resources, and Philips Medical Systems for their generous support of our educational program. Our thanks to our Exhibitors: ICAVL, Image Enhancement System, Lippincott-

Raven Publishers, Medical Resources, Inc., Mosby-Williams & Wilkins, Multigon Industries, Nicolet Vascular, Inc., Nycomed, Inc., W. B. Saunders Co., and Universal Pain Technology. We would also like to extend our thanks to those companies which supported the Workshop: Hewlett-Packard Company, Multigon Industries, Inc. and Nicolet Vascular Inc. Our success is due in large part to the generous gifts of time and expertise from our course directors and faculty. Congratulations on a job well done and thank you to all.

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS, *JOURNAL OF NEUROIMAGING* EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The American Society of Neuroimaging is recruiting for an Editor-in-Chief of its journal, the *Journal of Neuroimaging*. The founding editor, Dr. Leon Prockop, has served the maximum two 4-year terms as Editor-in-Chief. Under his leadership, the journal has become one of the most cited publications in the field of the clinical neurosciences. Nominations should be submitted to the chairman of the search committee, Dr. Joseph C. Masdeu, Chairman, Department of Neurology, New York Medical College, Valhalla, NY 10595, or by e-mail at <masdeu@nymc.edu>. Nominations will be closed by May 29, 1998.

**1998 OLDENDORF AWARD RECIPIENT:  
ROB BAKSHI, MD**

Dr. Rob Bakshi was awarded the prestigious Oldendorf Award by the ASN. Dr. Bakshi was cited for research work that he first-authored in collaboration with his colleagues at the Lucy Dent Imaging Center, Millard Fillmore Hospital, and State University of New York at Buffalo which involved the use of brain positron emission tomography (PET) in the study of multiple sclerosis (MS). He received the award at the 1998 ASN meeting in Orlando, Florida, and presented a lecture at the meeting detailing these findings. The award, named in honor of Dr. William H. Oldendorf, a pioneer in the field of neuroimaging, is presented to a young investigator for outstanding neuroimaging research.

Dr. Bakshi is a graduate of Cornell University and the University at Buffalo Medical School. After completing postgraduate training at Harvard and UCLA, he joined the Dent Neurologic Institute and State University of New York at Buffalo Neurology Department.



*Rob Bakshi, MD*

In his address to the ASN, Dr. Bakshi said that the effects of MS on brain functioning may play an important role in the progression of this disease, but have previously been poorly understood. Using fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG) as a tracer to measure brain metabolism by PET, his group found widespread global and specific regional hypometabolism in MS patients as compared to healthy subjects.

This effect of reduced metabolism and consequently reduced function was most profound in the frontal and occipital gray matter, and in the white matter. Dr. Bakshi remarked that these findings suggest that FDG-PET may be a useful tool to improve the understanding of the pathophysiology of MS and track the response of these patients to new therapies. Future MS studies are planned at the Dent Neurologic Institute to define the relevance of these FDG-PET abnormalities in relation to clinical and MRI findings.

The work presented in Dr. Bakshi's lecture was co-authored by Dr. William R. Kinkel. The work was supported, in part, by the Dent Family Foundation. Neurologists at the Dent Institute are also using PET scanning to improve the understanding of other neurologic diseases such as Alzheimer's disease, epilepsy, brain tumors, and movement disorders.

**21ST ANNUAL MEETING  
ON TAPE**

We were fortunate to have the opportunity to make audio tapes of the sessions at our Meeting in Orlando. On-site interest in this was strong, and tapes are still available to those who were not able to attend, or who did not take the opportunity to purchase tapes at the meeting. Prices range from \$10.00 for the Breakfast Seminars to \$70.00 for the 1 1/2 day MRI Course. For more information and order forms, contact Theresa Gutoski in the ASN Office.

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1999 MEETING  
ANNOUNCEMENT

February 25-27, 1999

Marriott Mountain Shadows  
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*Join us for another  
exceptional program*

American Society of Neuroimaging  
Newsletter

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