



# ASHNR

American Society of  
Head & Neck Radiology

ASHNR NEWS

SPRING 2021

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ilona M. Schmalfluss, MD, ASHNR President



**We did it!** Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, we had a very successful 1st Virtual ASHNR meeting with over 1,200 participants. Going virtual opened the access to the world with about 600 international attendees from more than 60 countries. Many of the international participants would not have been able to come, even without the ongoing pandemic, due to limited monetary resources, visa restrictions and long travel times. It was amazing to log into the virtual platform each morning and be greeted from India, Japan, Australia, South Africa, Belgium and so many other countries. What an incredible international outreach!

The meeting not only provided access to outstanding lectures that the ASHNR is known for, but also included various social events ranging from welcome receptions, mentoring sessions for in-training members to Gold Medal reception to honor Dr. Vijay Rao from the Thomas Jefferson University. Despite the virtual environment, all of these have been very special with a lot of chatting and twitter messaging every day. In fact, the scientific session was never filled with so many questions and ad hoc collaboration plans! In addition, many of us got to meet new radiologists or got to know our ASHNR friends even better! Your all contributions and engagement were fabulous! Huge thank you for making the 1st Virtual ASHNR meeting so exceptional and such an incredible success!

## 55TH ANNUAL MEETING PREVIEW

Nancy J. Fischbein, MD  
ASHNR President Elect/Program Chair

Just about a year ago, in our Spring 2020 ASHNR Newsletter, Dr. Ilona Schmalfluss commented that COVID was dominating our lives – it is hard to believe that, one year later, this is still the case, but sadly, it is. I hope all members of our ASHNR family are doing as well as possible during these difficult times.

With the pandemic still raging, vaccinations only now getting off the ground, and much uncertainty regarding the feasibility of “live” meetings still with us, the ASHNR Executive Committee has determined that it is once again safest and wisest to convert to a VIRTUAL meeting. Therefore, the 55th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Head and Neck Radiology will once again be virtual. Please hold September 8-12, 2021, on your calendars to participate in an incredible educational, scientific, and social event!

The program for ASHNR 2021 is still in development, but please watch your email and your mailboxes for updates! On the didactic/educational side, we are planning a robust program with 80+ speakers covering a wide range of traditional and cutting-edge topics in Head and

Neck Radiology. We will have focus sessions on journal publications, on medical-legal pitfalls, and on professionalism and career development, among others. We look forward to a Scientific Papers session where current research will be presented and debated, and we hope that many members will submit Electronic Exhibits that delve deeply into a variety of topics of interest. Case of the Day submissions will be as fun and challenging as ever. We intend to have Chat and Q&A functions available for all our sessions, and we hope to also be able to offer live polling and other options that we have not had in the past. These functionalities should contribute to making events like our Annual Game Show lots of fun.



We also plan to engage in as many fun virtual social events as possible, and we hope that the integration of these events into our Meeting Agenda will facilitate participation. We look forward to working with corporate ex-

## 55TH ANNUAL MEETING PREVIEW, continued

hibitors to support our meeting and to offer opportunities for engagement and for learning about new products and services at the same time that you are absorbing our traditional content. If you have ideas about things you would like to see incorporated into our 2021 virtual meeting, please reach out and let me know.

Thank you for embracing the “new normal” by supporting the 55th ASHNR virtual meeting. The registration site should be opening soon. Please also encourage your trainees to submit scientific abstracts and/or electronic exhibits, and we can all look forward to seeing who will carry away prizes such as the 2021 In-Training award and others. We also expect On Demand access to all meeting content to be available on our meeting

platform for at least 90 days after the meeting, which should facilitate easy access to any sessions that you are unable to watch live.

Though we will miss the opportunity to be in close physical proximity, I expect that we can meet or exceed the incredible connectivity that we achieved last year. Here’s to a robust virtual experience at ASHNR 2021, and a hope to return to our traditional format in Denver in 2022.

Stay safe and stay well, and again, please reach out with any thoughts or ideas that can help ensure the success of ASHNR 2021.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### 55th Annual Meeting

September 8 -12, 2021  
Now Virtual!

### 56th Annual Meeting

September 6 -10, 2022  
Gaylord Rockies Resort  
Aurora, Colorado

## INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

Amy Juliano, MD

Starting in the fall of 2020, the American and European Societies of Head and Neck Radiology (ASHNR and ESHNR) entered into a historic joint initiative, hosting a series of CME-accredited monthly educational webinars titled “HN x HN: Two Heads and Necks are Better Than One”, following on the lecture series hosted by ASHNR titled “Talking Heads and Necks” in the spring and summer of 2020. This wonderful and incredibly well-received series of webinars could not have happened without the dedication, effort, time, and love of education and learning by the founders of this series – Christine Glastonbury and Cally Robson from ASHNR (immediate past ASHNR Education Committee chair and immediate past ASHNR president), and Salman Qureshi along with Bert De Foer from ESHNR leadership. Thanks also to Debbie Shatzkes and Salman Qureshi for initiating the collaborative relationship between the two societies, and now Phil Chapman for continuing the work on this educational initiative as the current Education Committee Chair. Huge thanks to all the Education Committee members as well for volunteering their time as moderators, and to all the speakers.

Each webinar consists of two lectures on one topic, one lecture on anatomy and one lecture on pathology, delivered by two speakers selected by each society, and with a moderator from each society. Topics have included Larynx, Oropharynx, Hypopharynx/Cervical Esophagus, Nasopharynx, and Sublingual and Submandibular Glands, with Oral Cavity, Thyroid Gland, and Parathyroid Glands to come this spring. These have been very well-received, with attendees from many countries around the world. Past webinars are recorded and available for viewing on the ASHNR website.

Separately, the ASHNR International Relations Committee is exploring avenues through which we can increase connectivity with the global head and neck community. Ideas include social, networking, and mentoring events between the United States and various countries on a virtual platform. Once travel can resume, in-person meeting and networking opportunities will be much welcomed I am sure.

On behalf of myself and the past Chair of the committee, Dr. Christine Glastonbury, I would like to again thank every member of the Education Committee that served this past year. Though the 2020 annual meeting represented a departure from tradition with its virtual format, the enthusiasm for the Education Committee's mission was as strong as ever, reviewing a large number of educational and scientific exhibits.

#### Education Exhibits:

**GOLD: Elizabeth George:** *Critical Thrombosis Patterns in Head and Neck Infections*

**SILVER: Mistry Devanshi:** *Raiders of the Lost Canal: Review of Uncommon Skull Base Canals, Foramina and Fissures*

**BRONZE: Frederick Kebbel:** *Blind Spots in Head and Neck Imaging*

#### Certificate of Merit Winners:

**Amy Metry:** *Postoperative Imaging of Hearing Loss*

**Alexandra Foust:** *Developmental Anomalies of the Midface*

**Cooper Cain:** *Adverse Effects of Bisphosphonates in the Head and Neck*

**Pesach Baral:** *Narrowing the pipe: A look into the different etiologies of tracheal stenosis*

**Alexandra Foust:** *Imaging Findings in Massive Lymphadenopathy with sinus histiocytosis [Rosai Dorfman disease] in the pediatric head and neck*

#### Case Exhibits:

**FAN FAVORITE AWARD: Aakriti Mishra:** *Inflammatory Pseudotumor of the Nasopharynx*

#### Oral Papers:

**In-Training Award: Ngoc-Anh Tran:** *Diagnostic performance of CT for the detection of extranodal extension in patients with HPV-associated SCC of the oropharynx.*

#### Case of the day

Nine presenters from across the US stumped many of us with their incredibly challenging unknown cases. This year, a separate award was given for each case, giving us 10 total winners (including a tie).

Winners included:

**Daniel Meltzer, Jyoti Kumar, Norbert Campeau, Nancy Fishbein, David Zander, Yeliz Pekcevik, Hugo Tames, Shehanaz Ellika, and Bill Maloney.**

We look forward to a new group of great cases this year now that Barton Branstetter will be leading the COD presenters.

Congratulations to all the winners, and a sincere thank you to all the contributors and presenters who brought their hard work and their expertise to share with us at ASHNR20.

#### Abstracts for 2021

Similar to last year, abstracts for the 2021 meeting will be submitted for Oral Scientific Presentations or Electronic Exhibits. No hard copy posters will be accepted. Case Reports and Case Series will be accepted as Electronic Exhibits ONLY. The deadline for abstract submission will be July 9, 2021 at 11:59 PST. There will be no exceptions to this deadline and no changes to the abstract will be permitted after the deadline. Please look for additional upcoming announcement regarding abstract submission for the upcoming meeting of 2021.

As your ACR councilor, I would like to provide important updates on ACR activities:

The May 2020 ACR meeting moved to a virtual platform because of the COVID pandemic. The meeting was a great success with approximately 750 attendees. The council discussed 50 resolutions including the statements on non-physician providers and certifying boards in radiology.

During the annual virtual meeting, the ACR held the convocation to the new fellows of the ACR. Congratulations to the ASHNR members awarded the ACR fellowship: Ethan Bradley Foxman, MD, PhD, and John Herbert Rees, MD. This honor is awarded to College members who have demonstrated service to the ACR, evidenced by significant accomplishments in scientific or clinical research in the field of radiology; made significant contributions to literature; and/or provided outstanding work as a teacher of radiology. Only 10 percent of College members have been awarded this honor.

A vital function of the ACR is advocacy. The ACR advocacy group was very active during 2020. As expected, the Congressional Debate was dominated by the response to the COVID Public Health Emergency (PHE) including posting of important COVID-19 pandemic resources on the [acr.org](http://acr.org) website such as:

- CiP Open Access Cases & Radiology Teaches COVID Module – free to trainees
- CPI Chest Radiology E-Books

- CiP COVID-19 cases
- CDC and Health care specialty society group COVID-19 resources
- ACR Bulletin, JACR, DSI and RLI Resources
- One ACR priority for 2020 was the Congressional Waiver of E/M Budget Neutrality. As a result of advocacy by an ACR led medical coalition, representing more than a million providers, congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Omnibus and Coronavirus Relief Bill) with significantly reduced 2021 Medicare provider payment cuts than anticipated from -10% to -4% by:
  - Applying a 3.75% increase in the payment schedule applied across the board to all payments under the Medicare physician payment schedule
  - Suspending payments for new proposed HCPCS code G2211 (previously GPC1X) for 3 years (through the end of December 2023).

Through advocacy we can make a difference! Therefore, I highly encourage each ASNR member to become an ACR member. There are many opportunities to be involved in ACR functions and serve on committees. You can also contribute to the RAD- PAC campaign, either individually or as a part of your group practice. We must continue to have a high level of engagement on the national legislative level to ensure our profession's future. This is critical to allow us to continue to provide the highest level of care to our patients and communities!

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT****Ashok Srinivasan, MD**  
ASHNR Vice President & Committee Chair

We held the 1st virtual ASHNR meeting last fall with huge success. The ability to listen remotely to world renewed experts helped accelerate our membership growth, and we crossed the 1000 mark for the first time in the history of our society! Kudos to all invested stakeholders including the Program Committee and Program Chair who designed the program, all faculty and moderators who helped create a superlative educational experience, and all attendees for being such an engaged audience. The future of our ASHNR society truly knows no bounds!

At this time, it is important to stress the wonderful benefits derived from being an ASHNR member which

includes discounted fees for meeting attendance, subscription to our subspecialty journal AJNR at the member rate, regular member mailings, and access to the "members only" section of the ASHNR website. Your contribution to the society also helps fuel our educational and research missions, and is the basis for a thriving society!

On behalf of the Membership Committee, I would like to solicit ideas and suggestions for improving our offerings. Please send your suggestions to [ashoks@med.umich.edu](mailto:ashoks@med.umich.edu), and kindly remember to renew your membership for 2021 if you have not already done so!



Congratulations to the 2020 recipient of the William N Hanafee M.D. Research Grant:

***Katherine J. Reinshagen, MD, Massachusetts Eye and Ear:***

for her project entitled: Detection of 'Hidden Hearing Loss' with Advanced MRI

The ASHNR Research Committee has the honorable and unique privilege of supporting innovative research in head and neck imaging via the William N. Hanafee and ASHNR Core Curriculum research grants. The Hanafee grant honors Dr. William Hanafee (1926-2009), a pioneering neuroradiologist and head and neck radiologist who was a founding member of the ASHNR in the 1970s. Remarkably, Dr. Hanafee pursued a second career in Head and Neck Radiology after serving as Chair of the UCLA Department of Radiology, specifically requesting to have the ENT chief resident at his side to learn the importance of each other's specialty and elevating patient care! In the spirit of advancement in Head and Neck imaging, the William N. Hanafee Research Grant enables and supports investigators to conduct a pilot 1-year scientific project that can lead to subsequent external grant funding.

The deadline for letters of intent for the 2021 Hanafee Research Grant is April 23, 2021 and the deadline for the full proposal and completed submissions is August 6, 2021. In addition, explore the option to apply for a 2021 ASHNR Core Curriculum Seed Grant. Priority consideration is given to young investigators with projects having potential for generating a noteworthy publication or external grant funding. The deadline for full proposal submissions is August 6, 2021. Grant recipients will be notified in writing prior to and will be announced during the ASHNR 55th Annual Meeting.

Check out our website at <https://ashnr.org/hanafee-research-grant/> for additional details on eligibility and how to apply. Good luck with your application!

## WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

Nicholas A. Koontz, MD  
ASHNR Website & Social Media Chair

On behalf of the entire ASHNR Website and Social Media (SoMe) committee, it is my great pleasure to invite you to visit our recently revamped ASHNR website (<http://www.ashnr.org>). After many months of planning and execution, we are proud to present to you our new and greatly improved website.

This was truly a team effort and labor of love involving members of the Website and SoMe committee (special thanks to Drs. Courtney Tomblinson, William O'Brien, Sinéad Culleton, Paul Bunch, and Rick Wiggins), the Executive Committee, the ad hoc Strategic Planning Committee, and our design team at Elemental Design. More than a completely redesigned interface and a fresh new look, we hope that the new ASHNR website will serve as a growing online learning portal. Society members can access more than 22 hours (and growing) of prior ASHNR annual meeting lectures, rewatch prior ASHNR webinars, peruse an archive of past cases of the popular ASHNR Case of the Week (#ASHNRCOTW), or view a current listing of training programs offering a dedicated fellowship in Head & Neck Imaging. Members can also enjoy new features, such as the ASHNR Member Spotlight (spearheaded by Drs. Tomblinson and O'Brien), which celebrates the accomplishments and backstories of our society's diverse membership.

In terms of SoMe outreach, the ASHNR remains a leader in the field of radiology with our highly engaging #ASHNRCOTW, a weekly interactive unknown case competition that engages learners through gamification. This remains one of the most popular and longest running SoMe-based educational offerings in radiology, having attracted millions of views and hundreds of thousands of interactions by society members and H&N imaging aficionados worldwide. We are always looking for new cases from society members, so please feel free to reach out to me by email ([nakoontz@iupui.edu](mailto:nakoontz@iupui.edu)) to receive instructions for submitting your great cases! As an officially sanctioned educational offering of the ASHNR, this is a fantastic opportunity to get your trainees involved with the society (and add a line to their CV).

While not a replacement for the camaraderie of interacting with friends and colleagues in-person, we truly hope that our continued society outreach through SoMe and the ASHNR website helps connect our members during this challenging time. If you haven't checked out the new website or followed us on Twitter (@ASHNRSociety), please make sure to do so soon!

Stay safe, get that vaccine, and keep wearing that mask!

## ASHNR Appreciates the Generous Member Support of the Core Curriculum Fund!

*The ASHNR gratefully acknowledges the support and generosity of those who contributed to the Fund since March 12, 2020.*

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### Ways to make a tax deductible contribution:

1. Online at [www.ashnr.org](http://www.ashnr.org)
2. Check, payable to ASHNR Core Curriculum Fund, to:  
ASHNR Core Curriculum Fund, 800 Enterprise Drive, Suite 205, Oak Brook, Illinois 60523-4216
3. Phone 630-574-0220 ext.234

*Help support your future, contribute today!*

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