## **AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY**

## **ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING & MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

## Sunday, June 14, 2015

# **WELCOME**

Dr. Weissman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the 26th Annual Scientific Sessions.

# **CALL TO ORDER**

## President Neil Weissman, MD, FASE called the annual membership meeting to order and read the Society’s Conflict of Interest Policy.

## **MINUTES**

## The minutes had been announced to membership and posted online for member viewing. With a proper motion and second, the minutes from June 2014 were approved as written.

# **STATE- OF-THE- ASE**

## Dr. Weissman gave a review of his Presidency noting that it has been a great year for ASE. During that time membership came to an all-time high with International Membership continuing to increase resulting in 15% of members residing outside the U.S. He stated Early-Career Physician and Fellows are engaged leading to a 36% growth since 2012. ASE’s member survey showed almost 80% of respondents were extremely or very satisfied with their membership.

## Dr. Weissman stated that ASE has taken a leadership role in healthcare reform by completing the Value Forum Proceedings (published in July JASE); sponsoring a WomenHeart Hill Briefing on Heart Disease in Women; Scientific Sessions Track Session on “Getting your Echo MBA” to help members prepare for advocating for echo in their practices; and by becoming a *Choosing Wisely* campaign partner.

Dr. Weissman stated that ASE’s is addressing the rapidly changes technology by bringing together 17 companies (IRT Think Tank) to address the field’s future. ASE has been involved with SUSME and attendees of the 3rd World Congress on Ultrasound in Medical Education. ASE’s Pediatric Think Tank is helping design the best technology for pediatric patients. ASE’s “**I** Heart Echo” Symposiumand other POC outreach are also helping address rapidly changing technology.

Dr. Weissman stated that ASE is committed to reducing regulatory burdens and making sure that access to quality care is not compromised by short-sighted policy. We are working on big picture policy initiatives, but not at the expense of issues that impact our members. He reported that ASE’s lobbyist is the point person on each issue on the Hill to make echo’s voice heard. ASE conducted a stand-alone legislative fly-in in February which was key to helping pass the SGR. He stated that with an ASE presence in Washington, we are able to work with new organizations like WomenHeart to build coalitions that help expand our influence. ASE has also had significant success in AMA RUC coding including having a new interventional code approved.

Dr. Weissman reported that ASE is expanding its global presence. We have formed the International Alliance Partners program, now with 10 partners. This purpose of the program is to provide a pathway for collaborations with a goal to share knowledge, expand thought leadership, and enhance standards and practices based on the best thinking worldwide for improved patient health. Two humanitarian and education missions to Argentina and Vietnam are planned for August 2015. ASE has over 30 translated items including guidelines, webinars and posters that have been distributed outside the U.S. We have also created an e-newsletters specifically for our international members.

Dr. Weissman reported that ASE has expanded its educational portfolio with the creation of the Echocardiography Test and Teach Product, partners with Ke Labs. This innovative software is designed to ensure quality and consistency of cardiac ultrasound image review. ASE’s Comprehensive Echocardiography Textbook is based on ASE guidelines. ASE has developed MOC products that include ASEUniversity III: Case Based Learning Focus on Patient Safety. ASE’s first international ECHO ASEAN Course will be held in October 2015.

Dr. Weissman stated that Fellowship in the American Society of Echocardiography (FASE) has opened new avenues for FASE recognition by inviting echo practitioners of all specialty types who demonstrate proficiency and dedication to the field of cardiovascular ultrasound to apply. We have increased the number of application review cycles from 4 to 6, and developed a user-friendly checklist for applicants.

Dr. Weissman said it’s been a wonderful year representing ASE and talking to our members throughout the world at JSE, EuroEcho, CSE and here in the U.S.

# **PRESENTATION OF BOARD ROTATION**

# Dr. Weissman thanked Dr. Benjamin Byrd, Immediate Past President; Sherif Nagueh, MD, FASE, Treasurer; and Ken Horton, RCS, RDCS, FASE, for their outstanding service to ASE.

He also thanked the outgoing ASE Board Members for their three years of service to the society:

* Dr. David Forst
* Dr. Kathryn Glas
* Dr. Partho Sengupta
* Mr. Matt Umland
* Mr. Richie Palma

Dr. Weissman thank the outgoing Council Chairs for their two years of service to the society:

* Dr. Naomi Hamburg
* Dr. Leo Lopez
* Dr. Madhav Swaminathan
* Ms. Elizabeth McIlwain

Dr. Weissman introduced the new and continuing ASE Executive Committee Members

* President – Dr. Susan Wiegers
* President-Elect – Dr. Allan Klein
* Vice President – Dr. Vera Rigolin
* Treasurer – Dr. Benjamin Eidem
* Secretary – Ms. Deborah Agler
* Member at Large – Mr. Joe Kreeger
* Immediate Past President – Dr. Neil Weissman

Dr. Weissman welcomed the new Directors:

* Dr. Raymond Stainback
* Dr. Steven Little
* Dr. Federico Asch
* Ms. Elaine Shea
* Ms. Maryellen Orsinelli
* Dr. Cynthia Taub
* Dr. Leo Lopez

Dr. Weissman welcomed the Incoming Council Chairs:

* Dr. Esther Kim
* Dr. Meryl Cohen
* Dr. Roman Sniecinski
* Mr. Patrick Coon

Dr. Weissman recognized the 2015 Program Chair, Dr. Rebecca Hahn for her leadership, enthusiasm and dedication as Chairman of the 2015 Scientific Sessions. He presented Dr. Hahn with a plaque.

Dr. Hahn thanked the 2015 Session Chairs for all of their hard work

* Dr. Richard Grimm – Abstract Chair & Incoming 2016 Program Chair
* Mr. David Adams – Sonography Track Chair
* Dr. Madhav Swaminathan – Perioperative Track Chair
* Dr. Carolyn Altman – Pediatric & Congenital Heart Disease Track Chair
* Dr. Soo Kim – Vascular Track Chair

Treasurer Dr. Sherif Nagueh presented ASE’s financial status. ASE ended 2014 very positively with $643,893 in year-end excess revenues and 7.16 million in assets. ASE’s Foundation had a great Annual Appeal in 2014 with over $224,274 captured in its fundraising efforts. Currently, gains from courses, products, membership and investments are expected to allow the Society to surpass our 2015 projections and end the year positively. ASE’s Board of Directors has earmarked additional funds to work on meeting member needs and advance the strategic tactics to push the field forward.

# Dr. Weissman thanked the 2015 Industry Roundtable Partners:

* Bracco Diagnostics, Inc.
* GE Healthcare
* Hitachi Aloka
* Lantheus Medical Imaging
* Phillips Healthcare
* Toshiba America Medical Imaging

Dr. Weissman introduced Dr. Tom Ryan, Chair of the ASE Foundation Taskforce who provided an update on the Foundation’s activities. He stated that the Annual Appeal has started and the goal is to raise $225,000 to support the Society’s initiatives. Monies raised will support:

* Research awards
* Guidelines-based projects to standardize patient care
* Student and fellow travel grants and scholarships
* Humanitarian missions (Global & U.S.-based)

Dr. Ryan stated that the scope and success of these projects are completely dependent on donor giving. Each year, we look to ASE members, the greater community of health care providers, and corporate partners to secure the funding needed to realize these goals. Together, we can make a world of difference! He showed a short video depicting the ASE foundations efforts over the past year.

Dr. Weissman presented the 2015 ASEF Awards. He presented the Top Physician Donor Award to Dr. Tom Ryan. Additional donor awards went to Dr. Jose Banchs, Bharat Patel and Maryellen Orsinelli.

Bernhard Mumm, the president of TomTec, presented a Foundation Research Travel Award to Diego Medvedofsky, MD, from the Univ. of Chicago.

Dr. Weissman introduced Dr. Patrick O’Gara as the 26th annual ASE Edler Lecturer. He stated this lecture, created in 1990, honors Inge Edler, MD, the founder of cardiac ultrasound over 50 years ago. He presented Dr. O’Gara with a copy of Edler’s original thesis as a thank you.

**AWARDS PRESENTATIONS**

# Dr. Weissman presented the annual awards on behalf of the Society. Recipients included:

# LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

## Steven Goldstein, MD, FASE

Peg Knoll, RDCS, FASE

# MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

## Roberto Lang, MD, FASE

# RICHARD POPP EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

## Marielle Scherrer-Crosbie, MD, FASE

# COUNCIL ON PEDIATRIC & CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE FOUNDERS’ AWARD

## Hugh D. Allen, MD

# OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN PERIOPERATIVE ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY AWARD

## Michael Cahalan, MD

# 2015 ALAN D. WAGGONER STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

* Alyssa Brooks, Yale-New Haven Hospital School of Diagnostic Ultrasound, New Haven, CT
* Hoa Tuyet Gip, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences DMS Program, Little Rock, AR
* Brittney Guile, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee DMS Program, Milwaukee, WI
* Genevieve Hammett, Clemson University CVT Program, Clemson, SC
* Rianna Herbolingo, Hudson Valley Community College DMS Program, Troy, NY
* Steven Kiyokawa, Bellevue College DMS Program, Bellevue, WA
* Christina Landish, Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare-St. Francis Hospital DMS Program, Milwaukee, WI
* Aubrey Moder, Mayo Clinic DMS Program, Rochester, MN
* Jason Morgun-Le, Grossmont College CVT Program, El Cajon, CA
* Cristy Murray, South Hills School of Business & Technology DMS Program, State College, PA
* Michelly O’Malley, University of Maryland Baltimore County DMS Program, Baltimore, MD
* Catherine Sistrunk, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center CVT Program, New Orleans, LA
* Madeline Schiminger, Johns Hopkins Hospital Cardiac Sonography Program, Baltimore, MD
* Brian Whittemore, Bunker Hill Community College DMS Program, Boston, MA
* Meghan Wilson, Hoffman Heart & Vascular Institute School of Cardiac Ultrasound, Hartford, CT

# Honorary Fellow of the American Society of Echocardiography

# Roberto Canessa, MD, FASE

# The organization then showed a list of the 110 members that were awarded the Fellow of the American Society of Echocardiography (FASE) designation. This designation is given to members who apply and meet rigorous standards showing that they are dedicated echo professionals with proven contributions. Congratulations to the new FASE from January 2014 – December 2014.

**WELCOME ASE’s NEW PRESIDENT!**

# Dr. Weissman introduced and welcomed Susan Wiegers, MD, FASE, as the new president of the ASE.

# **ADDRESS BY ASE’s NEW PRESIDENT**

## Dr. Wiegers thanked Dr. Weissman for his work and presented him with a plaque for his inspiration and dedication as President of the American Society of Echocardiography from June 2014 - June 2015. The crowd gave a round of applause in appreciation for his service. Dr. Wiegers gave a brief presentation with an overview of her upcoming term as President.

# **ADJOURNMENT**

# With no further business to report, the meeting adjourned with the announcement of the next annual meeting, the 27th Annual Scientific Sessions to be held in Seattle, WA.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Robin Wiegerink  
CEO