

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

As I reflect on the challenges faced by every practicing physician in these uncertain times, it is clearer than ever before how important is the mission of SAWI for the practitioners of Women's Imaging and the women that they serve. Never before in my lifetime have our patients faced so many economic challenges, such dramatic financial hardships, and the imminent prospect of healthcare reform with predictable consequences of restricted utilization of services and care. Too many patients have lost their jobs and their homes.

Physicians are likely to see declining reimbursement, and increasing regulation, which may result in decreased access for women to the care that they need. The current and further expected declining use of screening, prevention, and wellness services by women will be a sad and dangerous consequence of these harsh realities. SAWI is mission critical to you, your practice, and your patients if you understand these ominous and imminent threats.

The Society for the Advancement of Women's Imaging (SAWI) was established in 1993 to promote the radiologic diagnosis and treatment of women. There is a clear mandate for this society. Women's health care is distinguished from non-gender based health care, making SAWI an imperative. The costs of women's imaging are staggering. Diverse fund of knowledge, expertise, and finesse are required in everyday practice. The goal is saving women's lives. SAWI is the only society specifically dedicated to all of women's imaging. Not only does SAWI support residency and fellowship training, but also the practicing radiologist through education and networking. SAWI can give you the resources that you need to cope with the demands of practicing Women's Imaging today.

In the next two years, my goal is to improve visibility of SAWI and to enable access of all of our constituents to SAWI, especially the community practitioners, trainees and fellows. I invite you to join me in this effort, take a look at what SAWI has to offer, and don't hesitate – join now. You and your patients will benefit. You will have resources and a group to advocate for your needs. I look forward to working with you and hope to see you at next years SAWI meeting in 2010.

Marcia C. Javitt, MD FACR
SAWI President