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## **ASTRO Strengthens Its Government Relations, Research Departments**

March 1, 2007 – The American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology announces the hire of two new positions to aid in ASTRO’s growing Government Relations and Research departments.

Richard Martin, Esq., is a new Legislative and Regulatory Analyst, joining ASTRO’s Government Relations Department. Mr. Martin comes to ASTRO from BNA, Inc., where he worked as an editor and writer for labor and tax law publications. Mr. Martin received his Bachelor’s Degree in History and a Juris Doctorate from Tulane University in New Orleans. He is admitted to the bar in Louisiana, Virginia and the District of Columbia. After law school, he practiced law in both New Orleans and Washington, primarily in the areas of bankruptcy and commercial litigation. In his new position at ASTRO, Mr. Martin will handle tracking and responding to proposed regulations and legislation affecting radiation oncology.

Anil Vaish is ASTRO’s new Research Health Analyst. Mr. Vaish earned his medical degree from Indore University in India. Upon finishing his degree, Mr. Vaish immigrated to the United States where he taught micro-vascular surgery to surgical residents and fellows at Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh, Pa. Mr. Vaish has previous experience in counseling mental health patients and coordinating pediatric head trauma research. He also volunteers with Med-Share International, an organization that provides recycled medical equipment and supplies to third world countries. Most recently, Mr. Vaish coordinated breast cancer research at The George Washington University Medical Center in Washington. At ASTRO, Mr. Vaish will be in charge of managing ASTRO’s research and grant awards program, drafting policy statements and developing white papers and testimony.

“Richard and Anil bring knowledge rich in legislative and health-related backgrounds,” said Laura I. Thevenot, ASTRO’s Chief Executive. “Their experience will help ASTRO to expand our growing research awards and grants program as well as our legislative agenda, and improve our ability to serve our members.”

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*ASTRO is the largest radiation oncology society in the world, with more than 8,600 members who specialize in treating patients with radiation therapies. As the leading organization in radiation oncology, biology and physics, the Society is dedicated to the advancement of the practice of radiation oncology by promoting excellence in patient care, providing opportunities for educational and professional development, promoting research and disseminating research results and representing radiation oncology in a rapidly evolving socioeconomic healthcare environment.*

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