

Working For You

Making MIRC Work

This month *RSNA News* continues its profiles of real-world users of RSNA's Medical Imaging Resource Center (MIRC). This month's user is **John Freymann**, informatics manager for the Cancer Imaging Program at the National Cancer Institute. Freymann talked about how MIRC is improving the use of imaging in today's cancer research and practice.

Making **MIRC** *Work*

RSNA'S FREE ONLINE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION TOOLS

EFFICIENT and flawless file moving is critical in many business settings, but perhaps nowhere more so than at the National Cancer Imaging Archive (NCIA), where data are used to develop software for such vital functions as lesion detection and classification, accelerated diagnostic imaging decisions and quantitative imaging assessment of drug response.



John Freymann

A searchable repository providing the cancer research community, industry and academia with access to in vivo cancer images, NCIA is a part of the Cancer Imaging Program of the National Cancer Institute (NCI). And thanks to MIRC, which was incorporated into the design of the NCIA submission process from its inception, the repository can accept data across firewalls from a variety of different file systems and PACS.

"Without MIRC, we would likely be dealing with data on CDs in many different ven-

dor-specific formats," said Freymann, who shared his experience with MIRC in demonstrations and lectures at RSNA 2006.

With image data coming from cancer centers, research sites and the pharmaceutical industry, MIRC's ability to manage deidentification schemas—while allowing local sites to make modifications to comply with specific institutional review board conditions—is particularly appreciated, Freymann said.

NCIA customized MIRC for its special needs by adding extensive code, said Freymann, to tie the MIRC server to a relational database. In keeping with the MIRC approach of users supporting other users, Freymann made the code open-source and available at the NCIA Web site at <https://imaging.nci.nih.gov/ncia/>.

MIRC is a critical part of the National Cancer Imaging Archive, which provides access to resources that will improve the use of imaging in today's cancer research and practice by:

- Increasing the efficiency and reproducibility of imaging cancer detection and diagnosis
- Leveraging imaging to provide an objective assessment of therapeutic response
- Ultimately enabling the development of imaging resources that will lead to improved clinical decision support

Membership Cards in the Mail

RSNA members who recently joined the Society will receive their membership cards, with an attached 2006 sticker, within the next few weeks. Do not discard the membership card, as a 2007 sticker will be mailed in the spring. Replace the 2006 sticker with the 2007 version.



Career Connection Redesigned

Career Connection, the RSNA Web site that links job-searching radiology professionals to employers looking for candidates, has been redesigned. New features make the site easier to navigate. Career Connection can be accessed at RSNA.org/career.



If you have a colleague who would like to become an RSNA member, you can download an application at RSNA.org/mbrapp or contact the RSNA Membership and Subscriptions Department at 1-877-RSNA-MEM [776-2636] (U.S. and Canada), 1-630-571-7873 or membership@rsna.org.