

# Working For You

## Making MIRC™ Work

RSNA News continues its profiles of real-world users of RSNA's Medical Imaging Resource Center (MIRC™).

This month's user, **William Weadock, M.D.**, an associate professor of radiology at the University of Michigan, shows an enthusiasm not unlike that of a new sports car owner—he's expanding MIRC's limits with a "let's see what this thing can do" attitude.

*Making* **MIRC™** *Work*

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**W**E HAVE created nearly 3,000 cases in our system," said Dr. Weadock, who began working with a MIRC server about four years ago. "The amount of text in cases is variable—some contain only the diagnosis, while others have findings, discussion, pathology, quiz questions and differential diagnoses."

Dr. Weadock also uses MIRC for a "Case of the Day" project launched in February 2005. Nearly 190 people in the radiology department, including residents, fellows, faculty and medical assistants and researchers, receive a daily e-mail with a link to a case residing on the MIRC server.

Cases on the Michigan system span every subspecialty in radiology, giving users access to ultrasound video clips, volume-rendered CT angiograms, even pediatric radiographs from the 1930s.

"The MIRC system is a great way to disseminate knowledge to everyone

in a group—a case with text and annotations can be published within minutes," said Dr. Weadock, himself the creator of RadPix®, a software program that facilitates creation of MIRC electronic teaching files.

"For example, when a new aortic stent graft is released, we can post CT and MR images of the device in place, so radiologists can become familiar with the appearance," he said.

Dr. Weadock particularly appreciates being able to use MIRC to teach, no matter where the class is being held. "If I'm discussing MR artifacts with fellows, I can do a search and quickly show them several examples," he said.

While singing the praises of MIRC's perks—user control over whether to display annotations on an image, intuitive interface, ability to add



**William Weadock, M.D.**

video clips and other documents to a case—Dr. Weadock also has some suggestions for improvement.

"I'd like the server to track cases a user has already viewed, so residents studying for oral boards can choose only cases they have not already seen, he said. "I would also

like the ability to scroll through a stack of images, like in a PACS." Ever enthusiastic, he has been working with fellow MIRC users and developers to implement these enhancements to the system.

The RSNA Medical Imaging Resource Center (MIRC) can be accessed at [RSNA.org/MIRC](http://RSNA.org/MIRC).



## 10<sup>th</sup> Connectathon Draws More Than 400

Having outgrown its space at RSNA Headquarters, the 2007 Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE) Connectathon was held at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. In addition to the opportunity to test their equipment for interoperability with other systems, Connectathon attendees also heard from information technology leaders from the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology and other organizations. In all, 430 engineers from more than 80 organizations participated in the 2007 Connectathon, testing the interoperability of more than 160 systems and applications. Detailed data, including previous years' test results, are available online at [www.ihe.net/Connectathon/results](http://www.ihe.net/Connectathon/results). The first Connectathon was held in 1998.