

Educational Courses Explained

The breadth and variety of scientific and educational offerings at the RSNA meeting can be confusing and overwhelming to even experienced RSNA attendees. The following explanation of the types of offerings is meant to give you, the first-time attendee, a head start as you explore the many available options.

Refresher Courses

Refresher Courses are designed to cover traditional and cutting-edge topics in a subspecialty area. Each subspecialty program consists of eight, 90-minute courses conducted in lecture format over six days (Sunday–Friday). There are 43 separate tracks. In some cases, aspects of a subspecialty may be addressed in more than one track.

At least one new course series in diagnostic radiology and in physics is added each year. These first-time courses, approved by the RSNA Board of Directors, are called **Categorical Courses** and are accompanied by a course syllabus. Categorical Courses generally prove popular with meeting attendees and will be repeated for a second and/or third year with updated information. These are called **Update Courses**.

In addition to the traditional eight-session series, a number of four-session series take place over a three-day period (Sunday–Tuesday or Wednesday–Friday). These are called **Mini-courses**.

Attendance in traditional refresher courses ranges from 100 to 1,500. Two additional types of refresher courses, **How-to Courses** and **Hands-on Courses**, limit attendance to 75. How-to Courses seek to enhance interchange with the faculty. Hands-on Courses allow participants to practice a technique during the course.

In 2002, RSNA launched a new type of refresher courses series consisting of eight 1½-hour sessions concentrated over two days (Tuesday and Wednesday). The **Essentials of Radiology** series includes courses on ultrasound, pediatric imaging, chest, shoulder, liver, urology, trauma CT and breast imaging.

Another variation of the refresher course concept is being inaugurated at the 2003 RSNA meeting. **Case-based Review Courses** are a daylong, interactive series of four sessions designed for self-assessment and expansion of knowledge. 2003 topics include neuroradiology (Monday), interventional radiology (Tuesday) and pediatric radiology (Wednesday).

Refresher courses are approved for AMA PRA category 1 CME credit. Depositing a completed critique form at the conclusion of each course will verify the CME credit. There is no added fee to participate in courses, but an admission ticket is required for initial seating. Refresher course ticket desks are located at the Help Centers. If a course is filled, last-minute cancellations may make seating available on a stand-by basis once the session is under way.

Plenary Sessions

Plenary Sessions are highlights of the RSNA Scientific Assembly. Scheduled throughout the week, these sessions are open to all registrants. Plenary sessions consist of invited, featured lecturers and/or panel discussions that address topics of a broader appeal. Plenary sessions are approved for category 1 credit.

Focus Sessions

Focus Sessions address topics important to radiology that are late breaking or particularly controversial, or require in-depth analysis. These 1- to 1½-hour sessions do not require a ticket for admission. They are approved for category 1 CME credit.

Education Exhibits

Education Exhibits are visual presentations designed to teach or review radiologic signs, pathologic correlations, procedures, techniques, treatments and interventions, or other aspects related to the practice of imaging. They can include a single- or multi-modality approach. Exhibits allow attendees to study a display at their own pace and return to it later in the meeting. Over 1,100 exhibits in 16 topic areas will be on display at RSNA 2003. Some Education Exhibits are available for category 1 credit, Monday through Thursday, between 12:15 p.m. and 1:15 p.m., at which time an author of the exhibit will be in attendance. Attendees must leave an attendance voucher with the author at the end of their discussion.

Case of the Day Exhibits are also presented in the Education Exhibits area. Each day, Sunday through Thursday, 12 new cases are featured. Attendees submit their diagnosis electronically via *RSNA Link Onsite* terminals. Each correct diagnosis earns 0.5 category 1 credit.

Scientific Sessions

Scientific Sessions reveal new science. **Scientific Papers Sessions** consist of oral presentations grouped by subspecialty and area of interest. More than 200 scientific paper sessions are scheduled during nine timeslots, Sunday through Friday. Each oral presentation is limited to seven minutes, followed by three minutes of discussion. Oral presentations are awarded category 1 credit. Time is allotted during the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon sessions for **Hot Topics**—work of importance that occurred after the deadline for submitted abstracts.

Scientific sessions are developed by the RSNA Scientific Program Committee, which reviewed 5,700 submitted scientific abstracts. The Committee chose 1,550 abstracts for Scientific Paper Sessions and 611 abstracts for **Scientific Poster Displays**.

Scientific Posters are on display adjacent to the Education Exhibits for review throughout the week. In addition, groups of posters are assigned to a one-hour scientific session with the authors present during which time they discuss the poster with the audience. Category 1 credit is available during the assigned one-hour scientific session presentation. Self-study credit is available during the rest of the meeting.

infoRAD

infoRAD workshops, classrooms and theaters all provide opportunities for radiologists to educate themselves about the informatics aspects of imaging. From its beginnings, radiology has required an understanding of the physics underlying imaging technology. Now that images are digital objects and part of a broader electronic health record, radiologists must also understand the information technology underlying their field.