NIBIB Director Enthusiastically Seizes Historic Opportunity

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Two Major Honors for Hricak

Hedvig Hricak, M.D., Ph.D., chair of the Department of Radiology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, has been elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies. Election to the Institute is both an honor and an obligation to work on behalf of the organization in its governance and studies. The Institute’s committees engage in a broad range of studies on health policy issues such as how best to assure the health of the public in the 21st century and a project examining the long-term medical and social results of cancer treatment and survival.

Dr. Hricak was also awarded the prestigious Marie Curie Award from the American Association for Women Radiologists during a luncheon presentation at RSNA 2002.

Cohen New Editor-in-Chief of PSE Series

Harris L. Cohen, M.D., has been named editor-in-chief of the American College of Radiology’s professional self-evaluation syllabi series. Dr. Cohen is a professor of radiology at State University of New York–Stony Brook where he is also chief of ultrasound and pediatric body imaging and vice-chairman of research affairs.

Dr. Cohen succeeds Barry A. Siegel, M.D., of the Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology in St. Louis, as editor-in-chief of the PSE series—a position Dr. Siegel held since 1988.

RSNA Research Fellow Earns NIH Award

Jay Locke, M.D., from the Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology at Washington University in St. Louis, is the recipient of a five-year Mentored Clinical Scientist Development Award (K08) from the National Institutes of Health.

“Without the support of RSNA, none of this would have been possible. Convincing a chairman to give substantial time off as a resident and then as a junior staff member is not an easy task. Because of the funding RSNA provided to me as a resident and fellow, my request became a reality,” says Dr. Locke.

His 1999 Research Resident project was titled, “Mechanism of Heat Inhibition of Radiation-induced Activation of NF-KB,” while his 2000 RSNA Fellowship project was titled, “The Cellular and Cytotoxic Effect of Heat Shock, Indomethacin and the Regulation of AP-1.”

In Memoriam

Simon Kramer, M.D., a leader in radiation oncology, died in June at the age of 83. Dr. Kramer was the founding chairman of the Department of Radiation Therapy and Nuclear Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and had also been a research scientist for the National Cancer Institute. The RSNA 2001 Annual Oration in Radiation Oncology was dedicated to him.

McClellan New FDA Commissioner

On October 17, the U.S. Senate confirmed the nomination of Mark B. McClellan, M.D., as FDA commissioner. Dr. McClellan was a member of the President’s Council of Economic Advisers and has a background as an economist, researcher, practicing internist and college professor.

Carter Earns ASHNR Gold

Barbara L. Carter, M.D., chief of ENT Radiology at Tufts University School of Medicine, is the recipient of the 2002 Gold Medal from the American Society of Head and Neck Radiology. The award was presented at the ASHNR annual meeting held in Cleveland in September.

Continued on next page
ACR Elected Officers

Officers for the American College of Radiology for 2002-2003 are:
President: Valerie P. Jackson, M.D.
Vice-President: Christopher R.B. Merritt, M.D.
Speaker: R. Terrell Frey, M.D.
Vice-Speaker: Paul H. Ellenbogen, M.D.

They were elected at the ACR’s annual meeting in September in Miami.

RSNA Outstanding Educator

Barbara N. Weissman, M.D., professor of radiology and vice-chair of Ambulatory Services at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston, is the recipient of the RSNA 2002 Outstanding Educator Award.

Dr. Weissman is a leading clinician and educator in the field of musculoskeletal radiology. Her approach to clinical care of patients with rheumatologic and orthopedic conditions has set the standard in the field. She has promulgated collaboration between radiologists and their orthopedic and rheumatologic colleagues to improve patient care. Part of this effort is exemplified by the publication of the textbook, *Orthopedic Radiology*, which she coauthored with orthopedist Clement B. Sledge, M.D.

For more than 25 years, Dr. Weissman has been director of the Harvard postgraduate course “Orthopedic Radiology.” This course brings together clinicians and radiologists to explore current and innovative methods of imaging and treating musculoskeletal conditions. She developed and directed a musculoskeletal radiology fellowship that has become one of the most sought after in the country. Dr. Weissman has also taught at the medical student level, coordinating the radiologic anatomy curriculum and computerizing it. She was one of the first full professors of radiology at Harvard Medical School.

The RSNA Outstanding Educator award recognizes and honors a senior individual who has made original and significant contributions to the field of radiology or radiological sciences throughout a career of teaching and education.

American Joint Committee on Cancer

John Andrew Ridge, M.D., Ph.D., chief of head and neck surgery at the Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, has been appointed to serve on the American Joint Committee on Cancer as a representative of the American Head and Neck Society.

RSNA Outstanding Researcher

Ferenc A. Jolesz, M.D., the B. Leonard Holman Professor of Radiology at Harvard University and vice-chair for Research in Radiology at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, is the recipient of the RSNA 2002 Outstanding Researcher Award.

Dr. Jolesz is a great innovator and leader in radiologic research, making breakthrough contributions in the domain of image-guided therapy and in several other areas of MR imaging. He has also been credited with developing, refining and introducing into clinical practice the idea of direct, real-time MR imaging-guided surgical intervention. One of his best-known accomplishments is the design and clinical implementation of the intraoperative MR system that can be located within an operating theater. This breakthrough system is now widely used for MR-guided therapy and surgery.

Dr. Jolesz has been recognized for his work in perfecting the use of high-intensity focused ultrasound as a non-invasive tissue ablation tool and integrating it with an MR imaging guidance system. MRI-guided focused ultrasound surgery is now being introduced into clinical practice.

The RSNA Outstanding Researcher Award recognizes and honors a senior individual who has made original and significant contributions to the field of radiology or radiologic sciences throughout a career of research.
**RSNA News a Favorite Among Radiology Residents**

More than half of radiology residents regularly read *RSNA News*, according to a new survey.

The online poll of nearly 550 RSNA members-in-training found that among a list of publications provided, *RSNA News* was the publication most residents (58 percent) said they read regularly, followed by the *American Journal of Roentgenology* (44 percent) and the *ACR Bulletin* (34 percent).

The residents were questioned separately about their preferences for reading the printed and online versions of RSNA's two peer-reviewed journals, *Radiology* and *RadioGraphics*. The survey found that 42 percent of the residents preferred reading both the print and online formats of the journals, while another 40 percent preferred the print version only.

**ACR/ASRT Confer on Radiologist Assistant Role**

In October, the leadership of the ACR and the American Society of Radiologic Technologists met to discuss possible development of a “radiologist assistant” (RA) position, including its potential roles and responsibilities. The leadership of ACR and ASRT believe that the advent of an RA, with mutually agreed-upon responsibilities, will enhance the performance of radiological procedures and patient care and will also provide a professionally satisfying career pathway for radiologic technologists. This concept is pending approval of the ACR Council at its 2003 annual meeting in May.

**Findings at Ultrasound Syllabus Now Available**

The syllabus is now available in print and electronic formats for the 2002 *Categorical Course in Diagnostic Radiology: Findings at Ultrasound – What Do They Mean?* Edited by Peter L. Cooperberg, M.D., J. William Charboneau, M.D., and Thomas C. Winter, M.D., either version may be purchased online through the RSNA Education Center Catalog at [www.rsna.org/education/catalog](http://www.rsna.org/education/catalog). The print version may also be purchased by phone at (800) 272-2920. RSNA members receive a member discount.

The syllabi from last year can also be purchased through the RSNA Education Center Catalog. The *2001 Categorical Course in Diagnostic Radiology: Thoracic Imaging—Chest and Cardiac* is available in electronic format. The *2001 Special Cross-Specialty Categorical Course in Diagnostic Radiology: Practical MR Safety Considerations* is available in print format.

Contact the Education Center for specific pricing information.

**NEW! Virtual Journal Club**

Beginning in January 2003, one article from the current issue of *RadioGraphics* will be chosen for the new Virtual Journal Club ([vjc.rsna.org](http://vjc.rsna.org)). This interactive site will be especially valuable for residents and fellows. After reviewing the article, either as a PDF or on *RadioGraphics Online*, readers are encouraged to post their questions and comments to which the authors of the article will respond. The Virtual Journal Club will be “live” for a specified, three-week period after which, the discussion will still be open, but the authors will not respond.

Additional information will be available in future editions of *RSNA News*.

**NEW! Membership Renewal Online**

It’s time to renew your RSNA membership. Beginning this year, you can renew online at [www.rsna.org](http://www.rsna.org). At the top of the page, click Members LOGIN and follow the instructions.

Invoices for 2003 RSNA membership were mailed in early November. Because online access to *Radiology* and *RadioGraphics* is tied to membership status, payments not received by December 31, 2002, may trigger automatic inactivation of online subscriptions.

For more information or to renew by phone, contact the RSNA Membership and Subscriptions Department at (630) 571-7873 or membersh@rsna.org.
There would be nothing surprising about a Ph.D. from M.I.T. taking over as head of one of the federal government’s hard-science crown jewels such as the National Science Foundation or NASA. But when a new director at one of the National Institutes of Health’s 27 Institutes and Centers comes on board with a Ph.D. in applied radiation physics from the Cambridge “Palace of Technology,” something interesting is happening.

That something interesting is the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB). Roderic I. Pettigrew, its first director, who started work on September 23, is a head-turner. No question about that. Forget about his Ph.D. thesis on the development of a boron-neutron capture therapy for treatment of malignant brain tumors. How many physicians—he received his M.D. from the University of Miami School of Medicine in an accelerated two-year program—would leave a residency to work at a manufacturing company? Before diving into academic waters as a faculty member at Emory University in 1985, Dr. Pettigrew spent a year with Picker International, the first manufacturer of MR imaging equipment. Prior to joining NIBIB, he was a professor of radiology, medicine (cardiology) and bioengineering and director of the Emory Center for MR Research at the Emory University School of Medicine, and a professor of bioengineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

It is fitting that Dr. Pettigrew’s background is unique because so is the new Institute he now heads. Only just beginning its second year, NIBIB is at the crossroads where technology and biomedical sciences meet. Its role, according to Dr. Pettigrew, is to foster emerging technologies that cross-cut multiple disciplines and either make or enable them to bear on organ systems and in biological fields in order to make fundamental leaps in knowledge or understanding.

Even after his first month on the job, Dr. Pettigrew was impressed with the wide range of issues landing in his lap. “In my first week here, I attended meetings where initiatives discussed included computational cell biology, combination hormone replacement therapy in menopausal women, functional imaging of pancreatic beta cells, biosensors and tissue engineering, and technology for imaging on a nanoscale,” he relates. “All of these things are of major importance.”

Given the unique expertise NIBIB has to offer, directors at the other NIH Institutes and Centers have enthusiastically welcomed Dr. Pettigrew’s arrival. That didn’t surprise him, but others in radiology might be surprised given the notion that has gained some credence: that the other disease- and organ-based Institutes were trying to undercut NIBIB and absorb its imaging responsibilities within their Institutes. In fact, prior to Dr. Pettigrew’s arrival, it had been alluded to that there were initial concerns about the creation of NIBIB within NIH.

NIBIB Director Enthusiastically Seizes Historic Opportunity

Roderic I. Pettigrew, M.D., Ph.D., director of NIBIB, says his number 1 funding priority is extramural grants.
Dr. Pettigrew senses none of that concern. “There is considerable enthusiasm for the role quantitative science can play in helping other Institutes achieve their missions,” he says. He mentions, for example, a potential initiative on diabetes, but because it is still under development, he was hesitant to provide details. The new effort is a result of a meeting with the National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases. “One of the major drawbacks in managing diabetes is an inability to visualize, assess and determine the number and functional level of beta cells in the pancreas,” he explains. “The development of a method that is able to make this kind of determination would be a significant step in the effort to better diagnose, treat and manage therapies for diabetes.”

Other similar collaborative efforts are in the works. NIBIB will be joining the computational cell biology project being run by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. “What if we could model the behavior of cells on a computer?” asks Dr. Pettigrew. “That would have broad implications for all organ systems. Our input into this project will be from the engineering, modeling and computer science areas.”

Something else unique about Dr. Pettigrew, besides his physics Ph.D., is his long-standing relationship with Elias Zerhouni, M.D., the NIH director. Dr. Zerhouni is also a radiologist. He and Dr. Pettigrew have rubbed elbows at society meetings and the like for 15 years.

Asked if that friendship has helped him in his first few months in the job, Dr. Pettigrew laughs. “Dr. Zerhouni is a very level-headed scientist, human being and administrator. His job and his focus is setting policy for NIH as a whole. He has to be concerned about all 27 Institutes and Centers. We probably get 1/27 of his concern.”

Like all NIH Institutes, NIBIB’s budget for fiscal 2003, which started October 1, is still to be finalized since Congress left town in mid-October without passing the NIH appropriations bill. President Bush proposed $271 million for the year. There is the possibility, however, that Congress will boost that a little bit. Dr. Pettigrew says he will work with whatever budget he receives. “There is no paucity of problems, projects and ideas to pursue,” he notes. “The challenge is optimizing the utilization of funds that have been entrusted to you.”

His number 1 funding priority is extramural grants. In looking at some of the investigator-initiated applications that have come in to NIBIB, Dr. Pettigrew has acknowledged, “there are some very bright people out there.” But at the same time, he worries—like others in radiology—about the shortage of clinical research faculty at academic centers and the lack of high-quality radiology research training programs. He expects to expand on training efforts begun before he arrived, such as the NIBIB National Research Service Award Institutional Research Training Grants and NIBIB National Research Service Awards for Individual Postdoctoral Fellows. There are also likely to be more inter-agency collaborative training programs such as the NIH/NSF Bioengineering and Bioinformatics Summer Institute (BBSI) Program. NIBIB and NSF are providing a total of $6 million over four years for that program.

So while others may be worried about perceived radiology research shortcomings, Dr. Pettigrew is invigorated by the challenge of solving the problem. He sees the glass half full and a pitcher full of progress firmly in his grasp. “We need a new type of researcher who speaks the language of the biologist but is a solid-state mathematician, applied sciences physicist or computer chip engineer,” he concludes. Researchers like Rod Pettigrew, in other words.

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**NIBIB Mission**

The mission of NIBIB is to “improve health by promoting fundamental discoveries, design and development, and translation and assessment of technological capabilities. The Institute coordinates with biomedical imaging and bioengineering programs of other agencies and NIH institutes to support imaging and engineering research with potential medical applications and facilitates the transfer of such technologies to medical applications.”

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Expert Panel Recommends Routine Osteoporosis Screening

For the first time ever, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force is recommending that women over age 65 be routinely screened for osteoporosis to reduce the risk of fracture and spinal abnormalities often associated with thinning of the bones.

The panel also urges women aged 60 to 64 to have routine screening if they are at increased risk for osteoporosis. “We defined increased risk as women not currently taking estrogen and women who weigh less than 154 pounds,” says Janet Allan, Ph.D., R.N., vice-chair of the task force.

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force is an independent panel of experts sponsored by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). Its new recommendations, published in the September 17 issue of the Annals of Internal Medicine, are based on a report from a team led by Heidi Nelson, M.D., M.P.H., and Mark Helfand, M.D., M.P.H., of AHRQ’s Evidence-Based Practice Center at the Oregon Health and Science University.

Dr. Nelson says the team conducted repeated, careful literature searches for all studies applicable to screening for osteoporosis—including bone densitometry, ultrasound and other modalities for measuring bone. “We went through all of that and evaluated it, rated its quality and combined it, whenever we could, to come up with some statements about the value of certain things—such as the value of these measurement modalities, how reliable are they and how well they predict fractures,” she says.

“We also looked at all the different drugs for treatment of low bone density to see what some of that evidence looks like—if there really are effective, safe treatments that could be applied to a primary care population,” Dr. Nelson continues. “And we put all of that together in what we call a systematic evidence review. Based on that report, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force made the recommendations.”

“We gave it a ‘B’ recommendation,” says Dr. Allan. “That means it’s not our highest level of recommendation. ‘A’ is the highest level of recommendation. But we did find good evidence that bone mineral density measurements accurately predict the risk for fractures in the short term, and that treating women early reduces their risk for fracture.”

In 1996, the Task Force found insufficient evidence to recommend for or against osteoporosis screening. But more research has been done since that time.

Dr. Nelson says treatment options have also come a long way, as indicated by convincing trials over the past few years. “So, if the clinician finds a person has low bone density, there are some effective things you can do,” she says. “It doesn’t mean that every person is a candidate. That’s a whole other set of decisions. But there is a longer list of things that can be done now. That makes a huge difference whether you screen or not. It’s not worth screening if you can’t do anything about it.”

The Task Force made no recommendation for or against routine screening for women under age 60 and for those aged 60 to 64 who are not at higher risk based on weight or use of estrogen.

The panel also made no recommendations on how often women should be screened for osteoporosis. “We couldn’t make a recommendation on the frequency of having this test done, because we don’t have the evidence to determine the optimal interval between tests,” says Dr. Allan. “We also have no data on when to stop screening either. We don’t have very much data on women over age 85. That is another area for research.”

Much of the research on osteoporos-
sis screening involves the dual x-ray absorptiometry scan (DEXA), the most commonly used modality. “We’re not specifically recommending DEXA in our recommendations—we don’t do that. We just recommend the screening,” says Dr. Allan. “But we have said that the DEXA is the best predictor of hip fracture. And it also does a comparable job of looking at fractures in the forearm and other sites.”

“I think, in the short term, most people will remain with DEXA as the gold standard, simply because with that technology, the understanding about how bone density relates to fracture risk is best,” says Leon Lenchik, M.D., associate professor of musculoskeletal radiology at Wake Forest University School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, N.C. “There is less that we know about that relationship with other devices, such as CT or peripheral devices.”

Dr. Nelson says that while peripheral ultrasound scans are becoming popular, there is less data about them. “Also, it’s important for clinicians and patients, that all the clinical trials that show us if a medicine works all used DEXA criteria for entry into the trials,” she says. “So we really don’t know if someone measured by ultrasound, and then treated, is really the same person that would be found by DEXA and be treated.”

Dr. Lenchik believes the recommendations from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force are very good overall, and supported by the current literature and understanding of the importance of osteoporosis diagnosis in preventing fractures. But he suggests the report may be a little too narrowly defined, compared to the standard practice in the community.

“They seem to be focused in particular on the femoral neck measurement with DEXA,” he says. “And I think that’s probably a little bit too narrow, in particular because the majority of clinicians use both the spine in the PA projection and the hip DEXA.”

Dr. Lenchik suggests the new recommendations should increase the overall utilization of the technology. “And what that means is that radiologists should be more familiar with not only how to perform bone densitometry correctly, but also how to interpret the results correctly and to be able to communicate with the referring clinicians effectively,” he says.

“In the osteoporosis community in general, there is some criticism of radiologists not doing this interpretation correctly,” Dr. Lenchik continues. “So, as the demand for the services increases, I think radiologists should use that as an opportunity to increase their expertise in the field and to provide more accurate and more clinically relevant interpretations of the results.”

The osteoporosis recommendations and materials for clinicians are available on the AHRQ Web site at www.ahrq.gov/clinic/3rduspstf/osteporosis/.
Politics as Important as Economics in Funding Medical Research

Just as medicine fights battles with viruses and other diseases, so too must presidents and governments fight battles to support medical research, says John C. Burnett Jr., M.D., director for research at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., who spoke recently at a conference on medicine and the media at the Mayo Clinic.

In a session devoted to addressing how politics and government affect medical research, Dr. Burnett highlighted a number of high priority issues in the relationship between medicine and government, most of which focus on the importance of funding. These include the many factors that govern the distribution of federal dollars into medical research, such as the current strength of the economy, political issues that channel monies into current areas of interest (such as the current war mentality and focus on bioterrorism) and regulations and laws governing the availability of funding from philanthropy.

The primary influence of funding on medical research has been highlighted in numerous publications. In his address at RSNA 1999 and subsequently published in Radiology, then-RSNA president Seymour H. Levitt, M.D., described the impact of the 1997 Balanced Budget Act and managed care on academic health centers as a whole and radiology/radiation oncology in particular.

An article in the October issue of RSNA News reported on current questions being addressed by the Academy of Radiology Research (ARR) in dealing with funding issues that will directly affect research efforts in imaging for the year 2003. Among them is the reorganization within the Center for Scientific Review that could potentially change the way imaging grant applications are reviewed.

Other issues that play a strong role in how radiology and radiation oncology are shaped by current economic demands and needs include the ever changing focus on “hot” areas of research, the limitations of human resources within radiology and radiation oncology departments, and strictures on research and development posed by the lengthy FDA approval process.

Clearly, the major obstacle to basic research is the increasing clinical load, the lack of organized residency research rotations and the poor research training offered to residents and fellows in training, —William P. Dillon, M.D.

Hot Areas of Research

There are certainly fluctuations in funding opportunities, says 2003 RSNA Board Chairman David H. Hussey, M.D., a clinical professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in San Antonio. “In the past, it was difficult to get clinical projects funded, whereas now it is somewhat easier.”

He says the current hot topics within radiology and radiation oncology include molecular biology, cancer biology, genes and gene therapy, and functional imaging. It is more difficult to get support for classic radiation biology and outcomes research, according to Dr. Hussey.

During an interview on National Public Radio in September, radiologist and NIH Director Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D., pointed to three hot areas:

- The ability to image the entire body in less than a minute and for computers to analyze the data for abnormalities.
- The development of image-guided therapies.
- The new field of molecular imaging.

The RSNA Research & Education Foundation also noted molecular imaging as a hot topic this year. It is this year’s “topic of interest” for the RSNA Research Fellow Grants awarded to young investigators.

Governmental agencies, other than those that fund research, can also provide a significant incentive for research. For example, “The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) authorized payment for intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) last year, with good reimbursement,” Dr. Hussey noted at this year’s meeting of the American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology. “This has led to significant purchase of IMRT equipment over the past year and a tremendous increase in research in this area.”

Limited Human Resources

A major obstacle facing radiology departments is the lack of sufficient human resources and the shortage of radiologists needed to carry out research activities. The heavy demands of clinical care that dominate the activities of clinical departments in academic healthcare centers in the wake of man-
aged care have placed limitations on the ability of these departments to carry out their research and educational missions.1 “Clearly, the major obstacles to basic imaging research are the increasing clinical load, the lack of organized residency research rotations and the poor research training offered to residents and fellows,” says William P. Dil-lon, M.D., vice-chairman of the Depart-ment of Radiology and chief of the Neuroradiology Section at the Univer-sity of California, San Francisco.

In addition, there are not enough mentors or research training centers with faculty and resources required to develop the interests of young investig-ators, says 2003 RSNA Board Liaison for Science Gary J. Becker, M.D., of the Miami Cardiac & Vascular Institute. “Nor do we have the radiology trainees who are inclined to enter research centers or who are sufficiently trained and experienced to enable such a selection. Most of them have the wrong back-grounds.” RSNA can play a big role here, he adds.

The current focus on bioterrorism will undoubtedly have an effect on how federal monies are distributed, says Wayne Hanson, Ph.D., director of RSNA’s Department of Research. He adds that this will affect research in all disciplines, not just radiology and radi-ation oncology. On the other hand, for radiology in particular, he says basic research for such things as radiation protectors is in a boom period right now.

A Call to Action
In addition to supporting basic research through contributions to the RSNA Research and Education Foundation, ARR urges all radiologists, radiation oncologists and allied scientists to join RADPAC, the American College of Radiology (ACR) political action com-mittee.

ARR has entered into an agreement with ACR through which RADPAC will expand its support for legislators who serve on committees with jurisdiction over funding for medical research. The primary focus of this cooperative effort has been funding for the National Institutes of Health, particularly for the newest institute, the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB). Greater participation in RADPAC by members of the imaging community will enable RADPAC to build increased support among the Sen-ators and Representatives who make the decisions on the budgets for the NIH and other federal agencies that support radiology and imaging research.

“Participation in RADPAC is important, but is not the only means of strengthening the voice of the imaging community,” says ARR Executive Director Ed Nagy. “Grassroots contact with legislators on specific issues remains the heart of the Academy’s advocacy strategy. Radiologists, radiation oncologists and allied scientists who are willing to contact their Representatives and Senators in support of increased funding for imaging research should advise the Academy through its Web site: www.acadrad.org. The Academy will then contact you and provide supporting materials when letters, e-mails or personal visits to legislators are needed.”

He adds that personal contact from constituents is the most effective means of communicating with lawmakers—it was the key element in the passage of legislation creating NIBIB. “The Acad-emy is the leading advocacy organization for imaging research, and increased participation in its grassroots efforts will make a positive difference for radiology,” Nagy says.

Editor’s Note: See related article on RSNA’s Revitalizing the Radiology Research Enterprise on page 10.

Reference:
1. Radiology 2000; 216:618-623
RSNA Pilot Program Advances Imaging Research in Academic Radiology

“Today’s research is tomorrow’s clinical care.” N. Reed Dunnick, M.D., says that’s why he’s so excited about RSNA’s pilot program, Revitalizing the Radiology Research Enterprise (RRRE).

RRRE is designed to help academic radiology departments strengthen their research infrastructure and clarify their strategic direction with regard to radiology research. Two senior level radiology researchers from other institutions visit the departments and provide consultation.

Dr. Dunnick is the chair and Fred Jenner Hodges Professor of Radiology in the Department of Radiology at the University of Michigan Health System in Ann Arbor. His program was one of five to complete the process in the first two years of RRRE. Now, he’s the lead committee member for planning and managing the next cycle of visits.

“Just as a rising tide raises all boats, this program will improve the quality and quantity of all radiology research,” he says.

Launch of RRRE
Under the direction of the Research Development Committee, the RRRE subcommittee received approval in 1999 from the RSNA Board to “enable academic radiology research departments to more effectively achieve the progress in biomedical imaging necessary to meet societal expectations of improved health and public welfare.”

Both Dr. Dunnick and Foundation Trustee C. Leon Partain, M.D., Ph.D., credit another RSNA member, Edward V. Staab, M.D., chief of the Diagnostic Imaging Branch in the Biomedical Imaging Program at the National Cancer Institute, for urging the RSNA Board to create this program. Dr. Partain is the chair of RSNA’s Research Development Committee and the Carol D. and Henry P. Pendergrass Chairman and Professor of Radiology and Radiology Sciences at Vanderbilt University Medical School in Nashville, Tenn.

“This initiative is critically important in the larger context of new knowledge for the future,” Dr. Partain says. “RRRE is a new operating paradigm. It is my hope that RRRE will redefine and reenergize research,” he adds.

“We need to focus more on research. It is an important part of our work,” Dr. Dunnick adds.

How RRRE Works
Academic diagnostic radiology and radiation oncology programs are invited to participate in RRRE through a Request for Proposals (RFP) released by RSNA in December. Dr. Dunnick explains that each step of the RRRE process is positive.

He says when department chairs apply to participate in RRRE they must crystallize thoughts about their own goals for research. Applicants then meet in the Chicago area to present their research goals.

Six programs are then selected. In the first year of RRRE, two upper-level, two mid-level and two lower-level research centers were chosen. Of the six, five completed the process. They are: Indiana University, State University of New York (SUNY) in Stonybrook, University of Alberta in Canada, University of Michigan Health System and University of Texas Health Sciences Center at San Antonio.

Two senior research-oriented radiologists visit the universities to get an overview of the program. Department chairs, faculty and staff are required to do a great deal of preparation in advance of the visit.

While there, the senior radiologists review research work and meet the faculty and dean. They ask dozens of questions, such as: How will your department’s participation in this program benefit the radiology profession?
What is the total amount of clinical funds set aside for research during the past fiscal year as a percent of net operating revenues? Does the department have a departmental plan for research?

The senior consultants make suggestions about ways to improve the program and frequently present ideas they’ve seen at other institutions. After the visit, they write a report offering their recommendations on ways to nurture more and better research.

A follow-up plan is being created so that the five academic institutions in the first round of RRRE visits remain connected and share information on how RRRE has improved their research programs. “Lessons learned may be applied across North America,” Dr. Dunnick explains.

“RSNA is an important organization. The fact that RSNA is sponsoring a program like RRRE shows how significant it is,” he says.

A special focus session on RRRE will be held at RSNA 2003.

Dr. Dunnick and his committee welcome input on what aspects of RRRE should be preserved and what should be eliminated in future years. Comments should be sent to rdunnick@umich.edu.

All department chairs will receive a request for proposals. For more information, contact Wayne Hanson, Ph.D., director of the RSNA Department of Research, at (630) 368-3751 or hanson@rsna.org.

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Editor’s Note: See related article on research on page 8.

The Department of Radiology at the University of Michigan Health System in Ann Arbor was one of five programs to complete the process in the first two years of RRRE. Isaac Francis, M.D., left, is the associate chair for research; Lubomir Hadjiyski, Ph.D., right, is a research investigator.

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Fellow Needed for Cardiovascular Imaging Program

The first RSNA Research and Education Foundation Institutional Clinical Fellowship in Cardiovascular Imaging Grant has been awarded to the Section of Cardiovascular Imaging of the Division of Radiology at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. The three-year grant provides $50,000 salary support for one fellow per year, under the scientific guidance of Richard D. White, M.D. (Head, Section of Cardiovascular Imaging). The Cleveland Clinic is seeking the first Fellow to participate in the program from July 2003-June 2004. Interested applicants must be citizens or permanent residents of a North American country, have completed their residency training in the radiologic sciences, hold an M.D. degree or the equivalent as recognized by the American Medical Association, and must be ACGME-certified in radiology or be eligible to sit for such certification.

For more information, contact Richard D. White, M.D., at (216) 444-2740 or whiter@ccisd1.ccf.org.

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Operation of Sensors In Vivo

The National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering and the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders seek investigator-initiated applications for research grant awards (R01) or exploratory/developmental research grant awards (R21) for the development of innovative technologies designed to increase the utility of a sensor in vivo. Applications are due January 21, 2003. For more information, go to www.nibib.nih.gov/research/investigators.htm

Continued on page 16
Inspiration comes in a variety of packages. In Augusta, Ga., inspiration is packaged in the person of Sava M. Roberts, M.D., a senior staff radiologist at the Augusta VA Medical Center.

At age 93, Dr. Roberts works five days a week as a part-time diagnostic radiologist. He is also an assistant clinical professor of radiology at the Medical College of Georgia, a position he has held since 1975.

Dr. Roberts has taught many generations of radiologists rotating through the VA's radiology department. “Dr. Roberts always told us that radiology keeps him young, and I believe him,” says former resident Katarzyna J. Macura, M.D., Ph.D., now an assistant professor in the Russell H. Morgan Department of Radiology and Radiological Science at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions in Baltimore.

Dr. Roberts worked full time until his bypass surgery a few years ago.

“Dr. Roberts is an inspiring person because of his enthusiasm and love for radiology,” says Dr. Macura. “When I was a resident, Dr. Roberts was in his 80s. I know he was coming to work every day, not only to do the work, but also because he truly enjoyed what he was doing. I felt that Dr. Robert’s strong ties and bonds with radiology were something very special. It was an interesting experience being a new resident and seeing how radiology becomes your life. It was important to see how much the profession can mean to a person.”

Lloyd B. Schnuck, M.D., a staff radiologist at the Augusta VA Medical Center and an associate professor at the Medical College of Georgia, estimates that Dr. Roberts has seen more than a million films in his career. “He has truly seen everything since the 30s,” says Dr. Schnuck. In addition to diagnostic radiology, Dr. Roberts has worked in radiation therapy, nuclear medicine and ultrasound, as well as radium and radon implants.

Dr. Macura describes Dr. Roberts as a walking encyclopedia of radiology. “When I was a resident, a group of us was looking at an x-ray of a woman’s hands trying to identify what we were seeing. We were puzzled and started to pull out books. Dr. Roberts happened to walk by and commented, ‘Oh, what a nice case of sarcoidosis.’ We were delighted.”

In the late 1930s, Dr. Roberts started a general practice outside of Fort Wayne, Ind., making house calls to farms. “As I recall this was mostly in the middle of the night. I charged only 25 or 50 cents. Times were tough.”

After leaving private practice, Dr. Roberts joined the United States Army in 1939 as a post surgeon at Camp Custer Michigan, now Fort Custer. “I had a 25-bed hospital with a portable 10-milliamp Kellakat. It was the late 30s, and I could hear the distant beating of the drums of war. Following the Pearl Harbor attack, I was shipped out to the Pacific where the army made me a radiologist. The station hospital had 500 beds and we used a 10-milliamp Picker Field unit. I did everything with it.”

After the war was over, Dr. Roberts completed his radiology residency training and accepted a position with the newly formed VA hospital at the Augusta facility. “They didn’t have much better equipment than the army,” recalls Dr. Roberts. “The VA had a cou-
ple of old Kellakat machines. You had to stand them up and crank them into position. The tube was open in the bottom of the table. Every now and then it would short circuit and spark. Radiology involved a lot of guesswork. In those days I made my own stuff for angiograms—I would use one of the Kellakat machines and the Picker Field machine and would do cerebral angiography for the neurosurgeons. I’d have one tube hanging from above and the side tube for the laterals would be the Picker Field unit. I’d pull the strings as quickly as I could while the dye was still moving through the vascular structures. Back then we all wore red goggles to accommodate our eyes.”

After more than 20 years as the chief of radiology, Dr. Roberts left the VA in 1969 for a seven-year stint in private practice in Americus, Ga. “My health was poor, so I gave it up. About that time I received a call from the VA asking me to take over the department again.”

“I’ve been exposed to so much radiation that I gave up nuclear medicine, radiation therapy and ultrasound,” says Dr. Roberts. “I had been stretching myself too far. The field of radiology became so vast that no one person can really manage to be an expert in all of the sub-branches.”

“Up until five years ago, he was taking call and was reading every modality we had. The chief relieved him that so he wouldn’t have to drive at night,” says Dr. Schnuck. Several years ago, Dr. Roberts was awarded a 50-year pin for federal service. “Dr. Roberts is a joy to work with and is a wonderful person,” added Dr. Schnuck.

“I am not the retiring kind. I am very active now, and I’ve been busy all my life,” says Dr. Roberts. “I think retiring early is one of the worst things that could happen to a human being. I think the worst thing that could happen is to get up in the morning and have only four walls and a television.”

Dr. Macura is thankful for his commitment to radiology. “Dr. Roberts maintains an extraordinary level of excitement that was exhilarating to me when I was a resident. He is highly curious about new technology and is always attending educational courses. Dr. Roberts taught me that a good radiologist has a combination of interest and passion,” she says.

An RSNA member since 1951, Dr. Roberts has attended virtually every RSNA scientific assembly.

He attended RSNA 2002 and took an ultrasound refresher course. In a typical year, Dr. Roberts attends two or three meetings or symposia.

Dr. Roberts has been married to his wife, Emma, for 64 years. He has three children—his son, Dion, is a pediatrician in Anchorage, Alaska; his daughter Bonnie is a social worker in Atlanta; and his daughter Alice lives in southwest Georgia. He has six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Dr. Roberts was born in what was formerly Austria and is now Croatia. He immigrated to the United States after World War I. He attended the University of West Virginia for two years and earned his medical degree from the University of Louisville in Kentucky in 1937. He interned at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne, Ind., and completed his residency at Louisville General Hospital following World War II.


Dr. Sava M. Roberts, M.D., views patient information at a lighted viewbox station at the Augusta VA Medical Center.
The new cabinet system of management for RSNA, as established by Society leaders in the late 1970s, was operating smoothly by 1985. However, since RSNA was now publishing Radiology, RadioGraphics and the Scientific Program for the annual meeting, with plans being discussed to print course syllabi and a catalog of educational materials, RSNA leaders believed a new cabinet position—a liaison for publications—needed to be added to the Board of Directors. Consequently, to avoid increasing the size of the Board, the positions of secretary and treasurer, which had been combined temporarily in the 1960s, were combined again and filled by California radiologist Malcolm Jones, M.D. The first liaison for publications was E. Robert Heitzman, M.D.

Introducing RSNA Today Video
Soon the Society developed another cutting-edge, year-round continuing education publication. By the mid-1980s, videocassette technology had established itself in American society. Individuals were purchasing new videocassette recorder/players (VCRs) and small stores that offered videotapes of movies for rent began dotting the landscape. RSNA leaders believed the Society should add videotape recordings of courses, lectures and annual meeting sessions to its library of slides and audiocassettes. From this idea came the development of a “videotape journal.” Periodically, RSNA members received a videotape containing news and presentations on various radiology topics. This new type of journal was called RSNA Today Video. Dr. Heitzman served as interim editor until Irvin I. Kricheff, M.D., was selected as the permanent editor. Circulation approached 2,000, although RSNA had difficulty attracting advertisers to this new concept.

Farewell to Adele Swenson
The middle of the decade was also marked by fond farewells to the Society’s dynamic executive director, Adele Swenson, who had announced her retirement. As a reflection of the gratitude Society leaders felt for Swenson, a special book was put together in her honor entitled RSNA Remembered: Reminiscing with Adele —1985. The book was coordinated on behalf of the past RSNA presidents and the Board of Directors by 1984 RSNA President Douglas W. MacEwan, M.D., and his wife. Many past presidents contributed chapters to the book, which described events in RSNA history from the formation of the Western Roentgen Society to the development of RadioGraphics.

The Board of Directors, through a selection committee, chose Mary Ann Tuft to replace Swenson. Tuft had a master’s degree in education from Lehigh University. She began her career as an elementary school teacher. Like Swenson, Tuft had a solid background in administration, which included experience with the Girl Scouts. In 1966, Tuft had joined the Great Valley Girl Scout Council of Allentown, Pa., as director of personnel services and worked her way up to the national in-service instructor of education courses for the Executive Staff of Girl Scout Councils. Her experience with medical societies began when she became a consultant to the National League for Nursing in New York. By 1969, she
was the executive director of the 35,000-member American Student Nurses’ Association and was responsible for operations, fundraising, financial management, publication and recruiting. She was also president of the Board of Directors of the New York Society of Association Executives.1

Staying in Chicago
On November 17, 1985, the 71st RSNA Scientific Assembly and Annual Meeting commenced in Chicago’s McCormick Place. The number of scientific sessions and scientific exhibits had increased from the previous meeting, which had been held in the much smaller Washington Convention Center. The plenary session schedule was unchanged, although the New Horizons Lecture was renamed the Eugene P. Pendergrass New Horizons Lecture to honor the Society’s 1954 president and one of the most important leaders in radiology education.

The RSNA Board of Directors had also formed a site-selection committee to analyze potential alternative locations for future meetings, but RSNA leaders were convinced Chicago was the best place for the scientific assembly. The city had the optimal combination of an adequate convention center, large international airport, topnotch hotel accommodations, appealing cultural attractions, fine restaurants and efficient transportation. However, by the late 1980s, the RSNA meeting was taking up nearly all the exhibit and classroom space at McCormick Place. For those radiologists who had attended crowded Society meetings at Chicago’s Palmer House Hotel, it seemed incredible that the scientific assembly could be on the verge of becoming too large for McCormick Place. Fortunately, plans were under way to build an addition to the convention center, which would be connected to the original lakeside building by a pedestrian walkway that would span Chicago’s busy Lake Shore Drive. The RSNA Board of Directors scheduled every annual meeting in McCormick Place through the end of the century.

Reference

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New Exhibitor’s Circle Program
Unveiled at RSNA 2002

The RSNA Research & Education Foundation is offering a new corporate giving program. The RSNA Exhibitor’s Circle, introduced this month at RSNA 2002 in Chicago, allows small and mid-size companies to annual-ly support research at more modest levels than required for the Vanguard Program.

“The Exhibitor’s Circle is a way for these smaller companies to take part in forging the future of radiology,” stated Michael A. Sullivan, M.D., 2002 chairman of the Foundation’s Board of Trustees.

“We decided to offer the Exhibitor’s Circle because a few corporate representatives said they were eager to contribute, but were unable to commit at least $100,000 per year as is required in the Vanguard Program. They realize that there is nothing more critical to the future of radiology and imaging than the support for scientific inquiry now.”

The Foundation’s Board of Trustees hopes this new program will further build bridges between clinical investigations and commercial innovations by allowing more companies to participate.

Since 1984, the RSNA Research and Education Foundation has awarded nearly $17 million in grants to more than 425 physicians and scientists conducting research in the radiologic sciences.

RSNA Exhibitor’s Circle

PLATINUM CIRCLE MEMBERSHIP
$10,000 per year

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$1,000 per year

For more information or to become a member of the Exhibitor’s Circle program, contact Deborah Kroll at (630) 368-3742 or dkroll@rsna.org.

Biomedical Imaging Research Opportunities Workshop

Register online for the Biomedical Imaging Research Opportunities Workshop (BIROW) to be held January 31–February 1, 2003, at the Hyatt Regency, Bethesda. The workshop is co-sponsored by RSNA, AAPM, ARR and BMES along with support from many other radiologic, engineering and basic imaging science societies.

This workshop is intended to iden-tify and explore opportunities for basic science research and engineering develop-ment in biomedical imaging as well as related diagnosis and therapy. Topics will include:

- An example of imaging solutions to a multi-disease biological challenge—imaging of hypoxia
- Extending imaging methodologies and systems across spatial scales
- Assessment and validation of imaging methods and technologies
- Image-guided therapy

Registration before January 3, 2003, is $275. Onsite registration is $325. CME credit will be awarded.

To register or for more information, go to www.birow.org or send an e-mail to birow@aapm.org.

For more information or to become a member of the Exhibitor’s Circle program, contact Deborah Kroll at (630) 368-3742 or dkroll@rsna.org.
Vanguard Company Spotlight:

Shimadzu Medical Systems

As one of the premier manufacturers of advanced imaging systems and equipment, Shimadzu Medical Systems develops, manufacturers and distributes a wide range of diagnostic systems with clinical applications in CT, digital subtraction angiography, cardiovascular systems, digital radiography and fluoroscopy systems, ultrasound and general radiology equipment. Shimadzu’s imaging experience dates to 1909 when the company produced the first x-ray apparatus in Japan for medical use. Since then, Shimadzu has remained a prominent manufacturer of equipment for use in the diagnosis and treatment in the medical arena.

“We are proud to join with other corporate partners in support of the RSNA Research & Education Foundation and its Board of Trustees. Our contribution to the Foundation is a sign of our support to this valuable endeavor,” says Frank Serrao, Shimadzu’s Marketing Manager.

Shimadzu has pledged to donate $200,000 to the Foundation.

The company’s commitment to the advancement of the radiologic sciences is evident through its support of two Medical Student Departmental Awards. The Medical Student Departmental Award is a program designed to permit radiology investigators greater opportunities to identify medical students to work with them to mutual advantage. The RSNA Research and Education Foundation will provide matching funds to a radiology department of $1,000 per month for each medical student. The school/department will identify medical students to work for a minimum of a three-month period. Grants are awarded to Departments of Diagnostic Radiology, Radiation Oncology or Nuclear Medicine allied with fully accredited North American medical schools for five consecutive years.

The current Shimadzu Medical Systems/RSNA Medical Student Departmental Awardees are Marna J. Eissa, from the Department of Radiology at the University of California, San Francisco. Eissa will participate on the research study “Percutaneous Placement of Extraluminal Stent-Graft: A New Concept for Treatment of Occlusive Disease in the Superficial Femoral Artery.” Schiffner will assist in a study titled, “MRI-Guided Cardiovascular Therapy.”

For more information on the RSNA Research & Education Foundation Grant programs, contact Scott Walter at (630) 571-7816 or walter@rsna.org.

For more information about becoming an RSNA Research & Education Foundation Vanguard Company, contact Deborah Kroll at (630) 368-3742 or dkroll@rsna.org.
The Research Fellowship in Basic Radiologic Sciences was developed to provide training and research opportunities for scientists, who possess a Ph.D. degree, to gain insight into scientific investigation and to develop competence in research in basic radiologic sciences. Additionally, the program is designed to promote and enhance the understanding and utilization of basic radiologic sciences within departments of diagnostic radiology, radiation oncology and nuclear medicine. The fellowship provides $45,000 salary support for one year with $5,000 to the institution to be applied to direct expenses. Application for renewal for a second year of salary support at $50,000 with $5,000 to the institution will be considered based on progress toward the stated goals during the initial year.

Deadline for applications is January 15 each year.

The Institutional Fellowship in Radiologic Informatics is designed for a department to provide training opportunities to young physicians and scientists in the radiologic sciences who are not yet professionally established in the area of informatics. The program is intended to:

- Promote and enhance the understanding and utilization within radiology departments of communications capabilities, PACS, Internet-based databases and educational materials, and computer-linked modalities.
- Increase the integration and efficiency of electronic media within radiology departments and hospital environments.
- Assist in collaboration with industry in the establishment and implementation of clinical requirements for electronic media communications.

Departments that successfully compete to provide Fellowships in radiologic informatics will be funded for three consecutive years. This grant provides $50,000 per year to be used as salary support for the selected Fellows. Fellows are chosen from physicians in North America who have completed their clinical training in residency programs in diagnostic radiology, radiation oncology or nuclear medicine. It is expected that one or more research projects will be undertaken during the Fellowship training.

Deadline for applications is June 1 each year.

For information on these and other RSNA Research & Education Foundation grants and awards, contact Scott Walter at (630) 571-7816 or walter@rsna.org or look on the RSNA Web site at www.rsna.org.
Patient Education Brochures
RSNA has developed new patient education brochures to help patients prepare for various radiologic procedures. Five brochures are available, including one on Abdominal Ultrasound Scanning. This brochure provides insight into how and why the procedure is performed, explains how to prepare for an ultrasound, and teaches the patient about the physician who interprets the results.

Other brochures are available on Mammography, CT of the Body, MRI of the Musculoskeletal System and Radiology & Your Health.

For more information or to place an order, go to www.rsna.org/practice/index.html or call (800) 272-2920. RSNA members receive a discount.

InteractED Awards 72,000 Category 1 Credits
RSNA’s online education resource, InteractED (www.rsna.org/education/interactive), continues to be an important resource for the radiology community. InteractED currently features 275 programs including cases of the day, education exhibits, refresher courses and cardiovascular imaging programs. More than 7,300 InteractED registrants have been awarded 72,000 certificates of AMA category 1 credit. RSNA members have free access to InteractED, while non-members pay $15 for seven-day access per program. For more information, contact the Education Center at (630) 590-7715 or ed-ctr@rsna.org.

Intellectual Property Rights and Medical Images
Beginning in January, RSNA introduces a new policy regarding medical images from the authors of scientific manuscripts and educational material submitted for publication by RSNA. Currently, authors transfer copyright ownership in total to RSNA—a policy followed by nearly all publishers. Under the new policy, authors will still transfer copyright ownership to RSNA, but RSNA will give authors a license for publication of their images that extends for the full term of copyright and allows the authors to sublicense their images to others. Thus, when an author wishes to use images from his or her Radiology or RadioGraphics article in an article or book chapter to be published by another organization, the author need not request RSNA permission.

A special communication on this new policy will appear in the January issue of Radiology, the January-February issue of RadioGraphics, and the January issue of RSNA News.

If you have a colleague who would like to become an RSNA member, you can download an application at www.rsna.org/about/membership/memberapps.html, or contact the RSNA Membership and Subscription Department at (630) 571-7873 or membersh@rsna.org.
SERVICE TO MEMBERS:
Mark works closely with the Board of Directors, the Research & Education Foundation Board of Trustees and various committees to help assure the Society and its Foundation operate in a fiscally sound manner. His areas of responsibility include accounting, administration, human resources, building management, and membership and subscriptions services. Specific responsibilities include preparation of financial statements, annual budgets and long-range financial forecasts; making short-term investments and monitoring long-term investments for compliance with Board-established guidelines; managing the activities of the Society’s Headquarters building; maintaining competitive benefits for the RSNA employees; and overseeing membership retention and recruitment efforts. While many of Mark’s areas don’t provide direct service to members, they supply the structure and facilities that enable those services to be delivered.

WORK PHILOSOPHY:
My philosophy is to lead by example. My staff knows that I am very detail oriented, willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done, that I won’t ask anybody to do anything that I am not willing to do myself and that I expect the same of them. I strive to present clear and concise financial reports to the RSNA and Foundation boards so they can make informed decisions. The core of my work ethic was instilled into me by my father, and that is “if a job is worth doing, it is worth doing right.”

NAME:
Mark G. Watson, C.P.A.

WITH RSNA SINCE:
May 29, 1990

POSITION:
Assistant Executive Director: Finance and Administration

connections
Your online links to RSNA

RSNA Link
www.rsna.org

RadioGraphics Online
radiographics.rsna.org

Education Portal
www.rsna.org/education/etoc.html

CME Credit Repository
www.rsna.org/cme

RSNA Index to Imaging Literature
rsnaindex.rsna.org

Database of Funding Opportunities
www3.rsna.org/dor/

RadiologyInfo™
ACR-RSNA public information Web site
www.radiologyinfo.org

RSNA Online Products and Services
www.rsna.org/member services
Radiology in Public Focus

Press releases have been sent to the medical news media for the following scientific articles appearing in the December issue of Radiology (radiology.rsnajnls.org):

“Female Genitalia: Dynamic MR Imaging with Use of MS-325—Initial Experiences Evaluating Female Sexual Response”

The recently developed blood pool agent MS-325, used during serial MR imaging of the external genitalia, enables study of vascular changes associated with female sexual arousal response.

Anastasia V. Deliganis, M.D., and colleagues from the University of Washington in Seattle, say their findings hold promise for future studies of sexual arousal dysfunction in women.

They write, “Given the difficulty in viewing the underlying anatomy and the complex physiologic response simultaneously, it is essential to the study of female sexual dysfunction that a simple, objective and less intrusive technique for monitoring changes that occur during sexual arousal be developed.”

They cite recent studies showing that 30 percent to 50 percent of all women have some form of sexual dysfunction. (Radiology 2002; 225:791-799)

“Prediction of Adverse Outcome with Cerebral Lactate Level and Apparent Diffusion Coefficient in Infants with Perinatal Asphyxia”

Higher Lactate/Choline ratios in the basal ganglia/thalami predict worse clinical outcomes for infants with perinatal asphyxia.

Maria K. Zarifi, M.D., and colleagues from Children’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston, compared cerebral lactate and apparent diffusion coefficient (ADC) in infants with perinatal asphyxia in the early postnatal period.

They write, “Cerebral lactate by proton MR spectroscopy is a noninvasive predictor useful in identifying infants who would benefit from early therapeutic intervention.” Although ADC images were useful in the clinical evaluation of these infants, the study shows that quantitative ADC values were not predictive of outcome.

The researchers add that early identification of neonates with perinatal asphyxia at risk for hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy is crucial because of the cascade of biochemical events that eventually may lead to neuronal necrosis and/or apoptosis. (Radiology 2002; 225:859-870)

Editor’s Note: The findings of the Zarifi study were presented during an AMA media briefing on medical imaging held in New York on November 14.

RSNA press releases are available at www2.rsna.org/pr/pr1.cfm.

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News about RSNA 2003

Abstracts for RSNA 2003

It’s not too early to make preparations to submit scientific abstracts for RSNA’s 89th Scientific Assembly and Annual Meeting. All abstracts for RSNA 2003 must be submitted online. The submission site will be operational beginning in early 2003 through RSNA Link (www.rsna.org).

Complete abstract submission instructions will be printed in the back of the January, February and March 2003 issues of Radiology and the January–February 2003 issue of RadioGraphics.

All abstracts must be received by April 15, 2003.

Abstracts are required for scientific papers, scientific posters, education exhibits and infoRAD exhibits.

Scientific presentations can be made in either oral or poster format. Oral presentations will be delivered at an assigned date and time and will be limited to six minutes followed by three minutes for discussion. Attendees of oral presentations are awarded category 1 CME credit. An author of a poster will be assigned to a one-hour scientific session in which attendees will earn category 1 CME credit. Posters will be on display during the entire week for independent review by attendees who can claim self-study credit.

Important Dates for RSNA 2003

April 15  Deadline for abstract submission
April 28  RSNA and AAPM member registration opens
June 23   General registration, housing and refresher course enrollment opens
Oct. 10   Registration deadline for Non-North American participants to have badge wallet mailed
Oct. 31   Final advance registration deadline
Nov. 30–Dec. 5  RSNA 89th Scientific Assembly and Annual Meeting

For more information about RSNA 2003, call (630) 571-7862 or e-mail reginfo@rsna.org

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RSNA News
December 2002
RSNA 2003 Exhibitor News

The RSNA 2002 Buyer’s Guide will be available online (www.rsna.org) until September 2003. The site can be used as a year-round business tool. Exhibitors who wish to make changes to their listing should contact RSNA Technical Exhibit Services at (630) 571-7851.

Exhibitor Survey

By now, RSNA 2002 exhibitors should have received their 2002 Exhibitor Survey. Please complete this survey and return to RSNA. Your feedback is very important for the continued success of the annual meeting.

RSNA 2003 Exhibitor Meeting

All RSNA 2002 exhibitors are invited to attend the RSNA 2003 Exhibitor Planning Meeting on February 18 at Rosewood Restaurants and Banquets near O’Hare International Airport. The meeting is intended to review RSNA 2002 and plan for RSNA 2003. More information will be sent to each exhibitor’s official contact in mid-January.

Important Exhibitor Dates for RSNA 2003

- February 18: Exhibitor Planning Meeting
- March 31: Exhibitor Prospectus Mails
- June 24: Exhibitor Planning/Booth Assignment Meeting
- July 3: Technical Exhibitor Service Kit Mails
- Nov. 30–Dec. 5: RSNA 89th Scientific Assembly and Annual Meeting

For more information, contact RSNA Technical Exhibits at (630) 571-7851 or e-mail: exhibits@rsna.org.

The Manipal Education and Medical Group (MEMG) India, in partnership with Wipro, has set up a teleradiology center in Bangalore that will link up with US hospitals. This center will handle supplementary radiology work from US hospitals by providing readings on X-rays and other images. A link has already been established with Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) in Boston.

American Board Certified Radiologist
(to be based in Bangalore, India)

MEMG wishes to appoint an American Board certified Radiologist for the teleradiology center in Bangalore. The appointed should have a medical license to practice in the US or be eligible for licensure. A competitive US dollar-based salary will be offered.

Apart from practice, at the Bangalore center, a faculty appointment will also be offered at Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) and the MGH-Harvard University for appropriately qualified individuals. Periodic short-term visits to partner hospitals in the US will be arranged for developing and participating in research and teaching collaborations.

For further details please contact: GG Christo

Manipal Academy of Higher Education
(Deemed University), University Building, Manipal 576 119
Ph: 91 825 571000 Fax: 91 825 571908
Email: dpplan.mahe@manipal.edu
RSNA Link and Web Browsers

RSNA Link’s updated look and improved functionality is well preserved in the latest version of Microsoft’s Internet Explorer (IE) 6.0, as well as in Mozilla 1.0, a free, Netscape-like browser released this year.

CNET called Mozilla “speedy and stable” in a generally favorable review.1 “Because Mozilla aimed this browser primarily at Web developers and seasoned Web surfers,” the reviewer states, “it’s a little too complicated for the average consumer. Nonetheless, speedy version 1.0 is hard to crash and includes an impressive e-mail program.”

In August, eWeek, a trade journal of information technology, gave Mozilla a strong recommendation, “The fact that Netscape 7.0 arrives hot on the heels of the similar but superior Mozilla 1.1 only serves to illuminate the small but significant differences between the two: Mozilla is highly customizable and offers a number of user options, while Netscape forces users to accept many features and functions they probably don’t want while removing some they probably do.”3

As you might expect, there are also differences between Mozilla and IE in performance as well as in features. Some sites designed for IE don’t work at all, or don’t work well, with Mozilla.

RSNA Link appears to function equally well in Mozilla and the latest version of IE.

Mozilla 1.0 is available at:
www.mozilla.org/releases/mozilla1.0/

In recent years, RSNA Link administrators have received fewer complaints based on browser differences, perhaps as a result of the increasing popularity of IE.2 (In April 2002, CNET reported findings by a Web analysis company in Amsterdam that 97 percent of Web browsers are one version or another of IE.) Most reported problems seem to have been caused by differences between versions of IE for PCs and those for Macintosh computers. (Microsoft releases new versions of IE for PCs before it releases new ones for the Mac, which constitutes a much smaller market segment than PCs.)

At RSNA 2002, all RSNA Link Onsite terminals (PCs) used IE 6.0.

References
3. www.eweek.com/article2/0,3959,493248,00.asp

E-Mail Pages from Annual Meeting Publications

Even though RSNA 2002 is over, important online information from the annual meeting will remain available through most of 2003. At rsna2002.rsna.org, you may view information from the Scientific Program, Buyer’s Guide or press releases. New this year is an “e-mail this page” icon that allows you to e-mail a link to a particular page on the site. You can insert a comment before you send the message.

New R&E Fellowships

The RSNA Research & Education Foundation has two new fellowships.


Finding RSNA

Plan to drive to RSNA headquarters in Oak Brook? Links to driving directions from Chicago O’Hare International Airport and Midway Airport are available, courtesy of MapQuest, on the About RSNA and Headquarters Office topic pages. These links were added to help airline passengers from out of town, such as RSNA committee members and course participants, find RSNA headquarters in the western suburbs of Chicago.

New Additions

Two Virtual Monographs, “PET Imaging” and “Breast Imaging,” were added to the Education Portal in October. The seven-part series by Katarzyna J. Macura, M.D., Ph.D., “Internet Mini Tutorial,” which ran in RSNA News, has been archived in the Technology section of RSNA Link.
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Radiology
Info
Medical Meetings
January 2003 – April 2003

JANUARY 4-7
Indian Radiological & Imaging Association (IRIA), 56th Annual Congress, Jaipur, India • www.56iriajaipur.net

JANUARY 23-26
Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG), Hyatt Regency Houston • (215) 574-3189

JANUARY 31–FEBRUARY 1
Biomedical Imaging Research Opportunities Workshop (BIROW), RSNA/ARR/AAPM/BMES, Hyatt Regency, Bethesda • www.birow.org

FEBRUARY 1-5
Mexican Society of Radiology and Imaging (SMRI), XXVII Annual Course of Radiology and Imaging, Sheraton Hotel Centro Historico, Mexico City • www.servimed.com.mx

FEBRUARY 6-7
Fourth National Forum on Biomedical Imaging in Oncology, NCI/FDA/CMS/NEMA, Hyatt Regency, Bethesda • www3.cancer.gov/dctd/forum/

FEBRUARY 8-15
American Board of Radiology (ABR), Winter Meeting, Hualalai Resort, Kona, Hawaii • www.theabr.org

FEBRUARY 15-16
Society of Gastrointestinal Radiologists (SGR), 32nd Annual Meeting, Fiesta Americana Grand Coral Beach, Cancun, Mexico • www.sgr.org

MARCH 2-6
Society of Thoracic Radiology (STR), Annual Meeting and Scientific Session, Loews Hotel, Miami Beach, Fla. • (507) 288-5620

MARCH 7-11
European Congress of Radiology (ECR), Vienna, Austria • www.myecr.org

MARCH 12-16
3rd Annual PACS Conference, University of Rochester Department of Radiology, Westin Riverwalk Hotel, San Antonio, Texas • (585) 275-1050 or www.urmc.rochester.edu/pacs2003

MARCH 24-28
Society of Computed Body Tomography and Magnetic Resonance (SCBT/MR), 23rd Annual Course, Westin Mission Hills Resort, Rancho Mirage, Calif. • (507) 288-5620

MARCH 27-APRIL 1
Society of Interventional Radiology (SIR), Convention Center, Salt Lake City, Utah • www.sirweb.org

MARCH 30-APRIL 2
American College of Cardiology (ACC), 52nd Annual Scientific Session, Chicago • www.acc.org

APRIL 9-13
Society of Chairmen of Academic Radiology Departments (SCARD), Fontainebleau Hilton, Miami • www.scard.org

APRIL 11-13
Japan Radiological Society (JRS), 62nd Annual Meeting, Yokohama, Japan • www.radiology.or.jp/english/index.htm

APRIL 12-15
Society of Breast Imaging (SBI), 6th SBI Postgraduate Course, Westin Diplomat Resort and Country Club Hollywood, Fla. • www.sbi-online.org

APRIL 27-MAY 2
American Society of Neuroradiology (ASNR), 41st Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C. • www.asnr.org

NOVEMBER 30–DECEMBER 5
RSNA 2003, 89th Scientific Assembly and Annual Meeting, McCormick Place, Chicago • www.rsna.org