**2020 Annual Report of the RSNA Board of Directors Chair**

Few could have predicted the events of 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused worldwide disruption and suffering. We in radiology, along with our colleagues in all other medical specialties, have been affected in different ways and have been called upon to find innovative solutions to provide safe and excellent care for our patients. From early on, when RSNA’s journal *Radiology* published some of the first scientific studies, through to the COVID-19 sessions presented at RSNA 2020, the Society has been an essential informational and educational resource for its members and colleagues across the medical continuum. RSNA pivoted its approach to current projects and programs when necessary, innovated to leverage new challenges and opportunities that arose, and continued on its path of providing its members and constituents with outstanding education, compelling new science, and important technological breakthroughs.

**Moving Quickly to Address COVID-19**

From the first image published in *Radiology* in January, RSNA has used its unique position as a global source for education, research and connection to support radiologists through the pandemic. RSNA journals published over 130 COVID-related articles with five million page views.

In order to quickly develop the resources most needed by our members and health care professionals around the world, the Board gathered leaders with the particular expertise and experience needed to help our colleagues manage this crisis. The Board established the RSNA COVID-19 Task Force, chaired by Mahmud Mossa-Basha, MD, and the AI COVID Task Force, chaired by Matthew P. Lungren, MD, along with a parallel RSNA staff task force to help develop and quickly execute new projects. Just a few of the accomplishments to come from these groups include:

* Webinars – Nearly 60,000 views of COVID-related webinars.
* Community – Over 3,700 participants in the COVID-19 online community share news, questions, support and information.
* Image Repository – RSNA’s International COVID-19 Open Radiology Database (RICORD) saw interest from hundreds of institutions around the world when it launched in April. The efforts for open-source data to fuel machine learning quickly grew into RSNA’s co-leadership of a new Medical Imaging and Data Resource Center (MIDRC). Funded by NIH, MIDRC will be an open access platform to collect, annotate, store and share tens of thousands of COVID-related medical images.
* Dedicated COVID-19 webpage providing rapid access to the latest in best practices, consensus statements, educational videos, structured reporting templates, imaging tools and more.

**Highlights of RSNA 2020: Human Insight/Visionary Medicine**

In late April, amid global uncertainty about how large public events would unfold, RSNA received 11,039 scientific and educational abstract submissions for RSNA 2020. While we closely monitored the global pandemic in the early part of the year, on May 26 the Board announced that RSNA’s 106th Scientific Assembly and Annual Meeting — previously scheduled to be held Nov. 29–Dec. 4 at McCormick Place in Chicago — would be held as an all-virtual event Nov. 29–Dec. 5. The decision was difficult but necessary to ensure the health and safety of RSNA’s meeting attendees, presenters, exhibitors, vendors and staff. Overall reaction to the announcement was sadness that it was a necessary step, but strong support of the Society’s decision.

The organization then pivoted to produce an annual meeting specially formatted for a fantastic virtual educational and industry experience. Just a few highlights of the virtual event include:

* Programming in smaller segments with both live-chat and on-demand options. Over 2,300 educational courses, education exhibits, scientific posters and presentations were included. Around the clock access through April 2021 ensured time to view every session.
* Plenary speakers included Shankar Vedantam, host of NPR’s Hidden Brain, whose reporting focuses on human behavior and the social sciences.
* A virtual AI Showcase featured new products, research, demonstrations and results of the RSNA AI Challenge along with networking opportunities.
* The virtual technical exhibition excited attendees with companies showing their latest innovations in new virtual showrooms, providing educational programming, and producing after-hours events.
* The unique opportunity to experience the entirety of RSNA 2020 virtually drew enthusiasm with members from around the world registering in unprecedented numbers.

The annual meeting program was dedicated to the memory of former RSNA Board member Robert E. Campbell, MD, in recognition of his significant contributions to radiology, to RSNA and to RSNA’s R&E Foundation.

**Case Collection**

RSNA launched a new, first-of-its-kind case report collection developed by and for radiologists to enhance diagnostic outcomes. Edited by Mariam Moshiri, MD, the RSNA Case Collection provides an online resource of clinical cases intended to be used as an educational tool. Led by experts and developed as a cooperative effort among the radiology community, the Case Collection further enhances the professional development of radiologists and the industry as a whole. It includes image-focused case reports from across radiology subspecialties, and consists of images, relevant patient information, final and differential diagnoses, case discussions and references. Cases are searchable by diagnosis, imaging keywords, imaging modality and patient population. Visitors can view cases, use the advanced search options, take quizzes and generate differential diagnoses. New cases are being published each week.

**Journals**

The RSNA suite of journals improved its stronghold in the imaging community with gains in readership for *Radiology: Artificial Intelligence, Radiology: Cardiothoracic Imaging*, and *Radiology: Imaging Cancer*, and significant gains in Impact Factor for flagship journals *Radiology* and *RadioGraphics*. The latest Impact Factor for *Radiology*, edited by David A. Bluemke, MD, PhD, is 7.931, up from 7.608 in 2018, with 52,731 total citations. The Impact Factor for *RadioGraphics*, edited by Jeffrey S. Klein, MD, is 4.967, up from 3.923 in 2018, with 12,418 total citations.

*Radiology* increased its ranking to third among radiology, nuclear medicine and medical imaging journals. It was ranked fourth in 2018. *RadioGraphics* increased its ranking to 15, up from 21 in 2018. All RSNA journals strive to reach diverse audiences through traditional publishing, visual abstracts, podcasts, and social media.

Cooky Menias, MD, will succeed Dr. Klein as the next *RadioGraphics* editor beginning in 2021.

**International Programs**

RSNA launched its first Global Learning Center (GLC) at Stellenbosch University in Cape Town, South Africa this year and has already driven changes in clinical practice and patient care there. This summer the Society was awarded a $750,000 grant by the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), which will be used to develop a new GLC at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences in Tanzania beginning in 2021. Each GLC receives a three-year customized educational program, in-person and virtual instruction, and service or purchase of imaging equipment.

**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

As part of its ongoing commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion in both the profession and patient care, RSNA has begun requiring that volunteer leadership, editorial boards and program planners take part in unconscious bias training. While RSNA’s leadership gender composition outpaces demographics of the U.S. radiologist population, more work remains to ensure that a broad spectrum of perspectives is included across the organization.

The Society’s first unconscious bias training for leadership took place in September, with additional training planned at the annual meeting and beyond. RSNA 2020 offered numerous sessions and studies related to diversity, equity and inclusion. RSNA’s Online Learning Center also offers courses related to this important topic and will continue to add more.

**R&E Foundation**

RSNA’s Research and Education (R&E) Foundation awarded $4 million in research and education grants in 2020, achieving a 28% funding rate of grant applications. As part of the Foundation’s diversity initiatives to build a pipeline of radiology research, this year the Foundation’s Board of Trustees launched a new initiative to fund additional grants to medical students who self-identify as members of racial or ethnic groups historically underrepresented in medicine (UIM). Three new medical students’ research grants were funded through the UIM initiative, with their areas of research ranging from optimizing immune responses for patients with liver cancer and skin cancer to investigating how artificial intelligence can be utilized to classify bone lesions.

In total, the Foundation will support 93 recipients from 47 different institutions across North America, including 49 new grant recipients, 26 new medical student grants and 18 continuing grants. AI and machine learning continued to be popular research areas across various subspecialties.

**Radiology in Public Focus**

While the world turned its attention to COVID-19, RSNA continued to promote public awareness and understanding of radiology and the role of the radiologist in patient health care. *RadiologyInfo.org*, the RSNA-ACR patient education website available in both English and Spanish, garners over 20 million visits annually. While the number of visitors to the website dropped early in the pandemic, our work to provide patients with accurate and useful radiology information continued. Visits to the site have now rebounded to pre-pandemic numbers, with more than two million visits per month.

RSNA joined the multidisciplinary #ReturnToCare campaign encouraging patients to talk to doctors about scheduling missed or delayed exams. The campaign was promoted in social media, member communications and public outreach, such as via *RadiologyInfo.org*.

**Members**

I am pleased to note that as the leading organization for radiology professionals, RSNA has more than 52,000 members from 153 countries around the world.

**Leadership**

At the close of RSNA 2019, the Society was pleased to welcome Carolyn C. Meltzer, MD, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia, as the newest member of the RSNA Board of Directors. Dr. Meltzer assumed the role of Board Liaison for Science.

**Volunteers**

The Board of Directors approved appointments of numerous members to leadership positions throughout the organization as well as RSNA members to represent the Society in groups hosted by other radiology and medical societies. The Board truly appreciates the time and energy that volunteer members contribute to creating the best experiences for all members. This year, in particular, we appreciate the speed with which many of our knowledgeable and talented members have volunteered to produce meaningful radiology resources that the world needed. An adage RSNA has heralded before, “We are in this together,” took on meaning beyond radiology in 2020, but it is still important for us to remember and take to heart. It is together that we will best serve our patients.

**Bruce G. Haffty, MD**

Chair

RSNA Board of Directors