RADIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA
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Radiological Society
of North America

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Thomas Keane, MD, MBA
Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C St SW
Floor 7
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Assistant Secretary Keane,

On behalf of the board and membership of the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA), I wish to congratulate you on your appointment as the Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy (ASTP) and National Coordinator for Health Information Technology. As ASTP Director you have the power to initiate and direct actions that can materially improve the quality, safety and efficiency of healthcare and the health and well being of the American people. RSNA looks forward to working with you to improve access to necessary health information for patients and providers and coordinate the adoption of technologies that advance the state of the US health system.

RSNA is an organization representing over 52,000 medical imaging professionals in over 150 countries with the mission of promoting excellence in health care through education, research, and technologic innovation. As you are likely aware as a past participant, RSNA's annual meeting is one of the largest medical gatherings in the world.

We strongly support the mission of ASTP/ONC to improve healthcare through the access, exchange and use of data. RSNA has a long history of fostering innovation by promoting data standards and interoperability:

- In the early 1990s, public demonstrations at the RSNA Annual Meeting accelerated adoption of the DICOM imaging standards that led to radiology being the first medical specialty to become fully digital.
- RSNA's support of the Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE) initiative has produced data and workflow standards that enable efficient communication and collaboration among diagnostic and electronic health record systems.

- RSNA has produced foundational semantic standards, including the RadLex ontology of radiology terms and the RadElement library of common data elements that help bridge machine and human readability of data.

As you know, real opportunities remain for improving access to information and supporting technologic innovation in medical imaging. While the achievements of your predecessors and colleagues at ASTP/ONC have helped expand the use and availability of health data, access to medical imaging has remained frustratingly inconvenient and inconsistent.

Although data and interoperability standards (DICOMweb, HL7 FHIR, IHE) for medical imaging are well established and widely implemented, their overall adoption in the US is patchy and sometimes in conflict with incompatible proprietary approaches. Patients and care providers are too often forced to resort to redundant imaging procedures or to make less well-informed medical decisions because convenient access to prior imaging is not available.

Direction from ASTP/ONC and other federal agencies on a common approach for image sharing and properly aligned incentives for image sharing would bring real benefits to patients and providers. RSNA would be pleased to dedicate resources to helping ASTP/ONC in this effort.

The adoption of artificial intelligence tools in medical imaging is another area where ASTP/ONC could foster substantial progress to benefit patients and providers. As you know, medical imaging has been the leading area for adoption of AI, representing more than three quarters of FDA-approved medical devices. The implementation and use of these tools in practice has often proved difficult and disappointing partly because there is little guidance and few standards for how to integrate them into existing workflows.

Working with Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE), volunteer leadership of RSNA has developed a growing set of interoperability standards to integrate AI tools in medical imaging. We would look forward to working with ASTP/ONC to convene care providers, industry and other stakeholders to consider how adoption of such standards could be promoted through mechanisms such as the USCDI and the HIT Certification program.

RSNA stands ready to collaborate with ASTP/ONC in advancing the use of information technology to improve the health and well-being of all Americans. We welcome the opportunity to work with you to increase patient and provider access to necessary health information, including medical imaging and to foster the adoption of new information technologies to improve the quality, efficiency and safety of patient care.

We would appreciate the opportunity to schedule an introductory meeting with your office and members of your team at an appropriate time. In addition, RSNA's leadership would be very pleased to host you at our 2025 annual meeting, being held November 30 to December 4 in Chicago. Please reach out to RSNA staff, including Chris Carr, Director of Informatics (informatics@rsna.org) or Libby O'Hare, Director of Government Relations (eohare@rsna.org) should you have any questions and to arrange follow-on communications.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey S. Klein, MD
RSNA, Chair of the Board

Adam E. Flanders, MD
RSNA Board Liaison for Information Technology

George L. Shih, MD, MS
RSNA Radiology Informatics Council (RIC)

cc: Pari Pandharipande, RSNA Board Liaison for Government Relations
        Mark G. Watson, RSNA Executive Director
        Angela Colmone, PhD, RSNA Assistant Executive Director, Publications & Informatics
        Bridget Krause, RSNA Assistant Executive Director, Governance & Board Engagement
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