



# Foundation FOCUS

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE RADIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA RESEARCH &amp; EDUCATION FOUNDATION

INSPIRE | INNOVATE | INVEST *The Campaign*  
for Funding Radiology's Future®

## R&E Foundation Board of Trustees Makes Big Impact by Funding 30% of Grant Applications

In a strong and steadfast show of support for the future of the specialty, the Foundation's Board of Trustees reached two funding milestones for the second consecutive year. "Thanks to the contributions of our many members, friends, private practice partners



Research Resident Grant Recipient Priya Rajagopalan, MBBS, MPH, Indiana University

and corporate supporters, the RSNA R&E Foundation is able to once again fund more than \$4 million in research and education grants," said N. Reed Dunnick, MD, chair, R&E Foundation Board of Trustees. "The funding rate of 30% is approximately three times that of the NIH and gives the R&E Foundation a much needed role in helping younger investigators conduct the feasibility studies needed to compete for NIH and other federal funding."

The Board's action signifies its unwavering commitment to funding the future of radiology by continually investing in innovative research and education projects. The 2017 R&E grant recipients hail from 50 institutions across North America and abroad with recipients in Hong Kong, the Netherlands and Nigeria. Some of the recipients and their quality projects include:

**Priya Rajagopalan, MBBS, MPH**, will utilize a pulsed arterial spin labeling technique to investigate cerebral blood flow alterations associated with cortisol gene variants in subjects with mild cognitive impairment (MCI). Dr. Rajagopalan's project will enable discovery of novel genetic contributions to cognitive decline, hemodynamic alterations and brain atrophy related to stress and cortisol with a strong translational potential to identify novel therapeutic targets for Alzheimer's disease (AD) and enable enrichment for AD clinical trials.



### THE COMMITMENT CONTINUES.

View full list of  
Centennial Pathfinders at  
[RSNA.org/Campaign](http://RSNA.org/Campaign)

Inside this Issue:

**Thomas M. Grist, MD**  
**Makes Investment**  
**in Campaign**  
Page 3

**Trainee Grants Climb**  
Page 4

**Online Giving a**  
**Breeze with your**  
**Mobile Device**  
Page 7



**Manisha Bahl, MD, MPH,** will investigate the application of machine learning algorithms to risk-stratify patients with ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS). The development of a highly reliable prognostic tool for predicting the risk of concurrent invasive disease and future cancer recurrence in patients with DCIS would improve clinical decision-making and decrease the morbidity and costs of overtreatment of DCIS. If successful, this machine learning model could support more targeted and precise treatment options for women diagnosed with non-invasive breast cancer.

Research Scholar Grant  
Recipient Manisha Bahl,  
MD, MPH, Massachusetts  
General Hospital

**Patricia Balthazar, MD,** will examine disparities in the

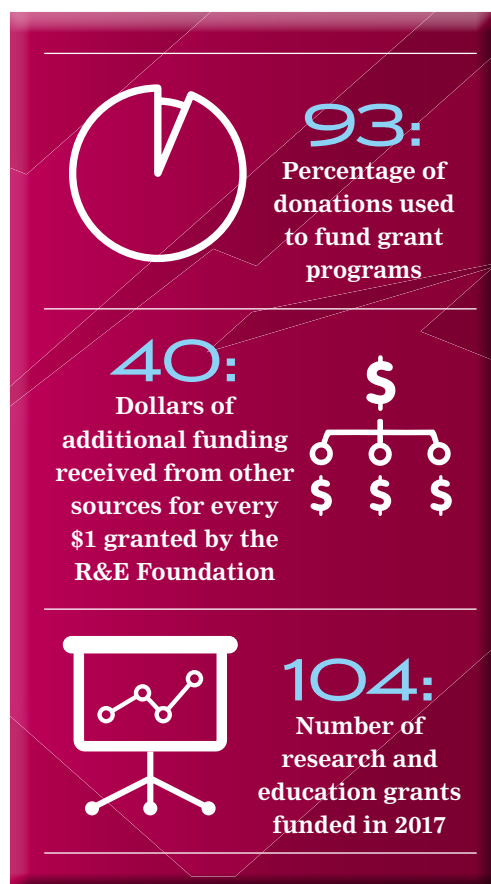
utilization of emergency department computed tomography for common illnesses. She will use an all-payer dataset to improve understanding of drivers of computed tomography utilization in emergency departments across the United States. The results will provide important information to practicing clinicians, researchers, the public and policy makers who are interested in identifying potential targets for quality improvement initiatives that would have the most impact in improving the value of medical imaging.

For a full list of the  
2017 funded grants visit  
[RSNA.org/Grants-and-Awards](https://www.rsna.org/Grants-and-Awards)



Research Resident  
Grant Recipient Patricia  
Balthazar, MD, Emory  
University

## Inspire–Innovate–Invest: The Time is Now



### The Campaign for Funding Radiology's Future

The Inspire-Innovate-Invest Campaign is a bold initiative to raise \$17.5 million to fund grants in radiologic research and education, bridging gaps in funding for promising investigators and educators.

Launched in 2014 in honor of the RSNA Centennial, this Campaign has been a celebration of past innovations as well as a look to the future, to ensure that critical discoveries come to light.

### Donors Make the Difference

The need to fund imaging scientists increases every year, but traditional funding sources are becoming more difficult to obtain and it has fallen on the radiology specialty itself to bridge the gap. The RSNA R&E Foundation is proud to meet this need and, in 2017, \$4 million will be awarded.

Great strides have been made, but as the Campaign enters its final stretch, help across the entire medical imaging community is needed to finish strong and achieve the goal of \$17.5 million.

### Help Shape the Future of the Field

Medical imaging professionals can help shape the future of radiology by making a donation to the R&E Foundation during the Campaign's final year. Together, the community can meet—or even exceed—this shared goal.

Incredible research has been made possible because of grants awarded by the RSNA R&E Foundation—and every donation will have a direct impact on efforts to fund even more.

Learn more about *Inspire-Innovate-Invest: The Campaign for Funding Radiology's Future®* or make a contribution today at [RSNA.org/Donate](https://www.rsna.org/Donate). The future of radiology depends on all of us.



# Leading through Innovation and Education

Innovation in healthcare is the driving force that inspired **Thomas M. Grist, MD**, toward medical advancement. Dr. Grist has always wanted to care for patients while also improving methods of care. His early studies in biomedical engineering led to a position at GE Medical Systems, where he was inspired by medical imaging. "I was truly intrigued by the impact and fast pace of technological innovation in imaging and its benefits to patients," he said. He later contributed to the development of MRI at GE and the National Biomedical Electron Paramagnetic Resonance (EPR) Center at the Medical College of Wisconsin, one of the largest EPR facilities in the nation.

Dr. Grist currently serves as the chair of the Department of Radiology at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. As chair, he understands the importance of support for research and education efforts in radiology. "In today's highly competitive environment for securing extramural support, the RSNA grant process is incredibly helpful, especially to junior investigators, fostering a climate that supports novel ideas and the development of new contributors to the field," he said. "The impact on our department in particular has been tremendous, and many of the fantastic faculty we have got their start by securing initial funding from the R&E Foundation."

Dr. Grist and his wife, **Jeanne Grist**, recently committed to the Inspire-Innovate-Invest Campaign as Silver Centennial Pathfinders. "It is important for us to continue to invest in new investigators who, through their innovation and hard work, will undoubtedly continue

to contribute to the development of imaging to improve patient care. By supporting the RSNA as Centennial Pathfinders, it is our privilege to give back to a field that has given so much to us," said Dr. Grist.

In addition to his commitment to the Campaign, Dr. Grist supports RSNA by serving on the R&E Foundation Board of Trustees. "In my collaborations with others as well as in my leadership role within the department of radiology at UW-Madison, the impact of the RSNA

*"It is important for us to continue to invest in new investigators who, through their innovation and hard work, will undoubtedly continue to contribute to the development of imaging to improve patient care. By supporting the RSNA as Centennial Pathfinders, it is our privilege to give back to a field that has given so much to us."*



Thomas M. Grist, MD and Jeanne Grist

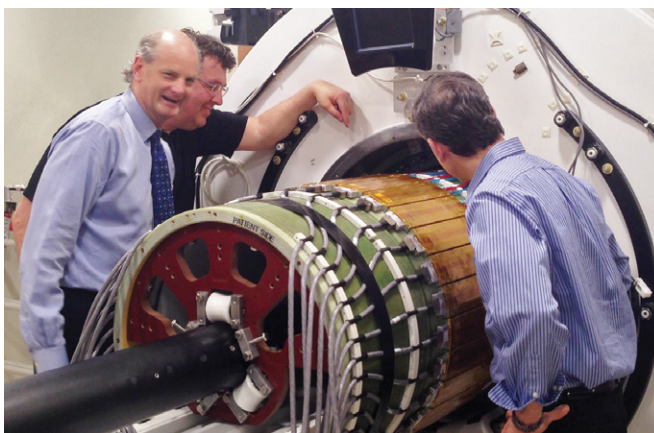
## Thomas M. Grist, MD

R&E Foundation has truly been remarkable. Therefore, when asked to serve, I felt this was a fantastic way to give back to a program that has benefited so many of my colleagues, my department and

myself through the years," he said. "The fact there has been such a great return on investment from the seed funding provided by the R&E Foundation makes me enthusiastic about participating

because this is, in my opinion, one of the most impactful areas of investment in radiology."

While Dr. Grist has a remarkable resume of achievements and accolades, he is most proud of his contributions to the innovations applied every day in patient care and educating aspiring radiology students. "That's a time when my ability to impact human health through innovation in imaging really comes full circle and I strive to inspire new entrants into our field to continue that tradition here at UW and beyond," Dr. Grist said.



Thomas M. Grist, MD





# Research Trainee Grant Applications on the Rise

When the study sections convened earlier this spring, there was plenty of work to be done reviewing the Foundation's 2017 grant applications. Though applications remain steady across all of the Foundation's grant programs, the radiology resident and fellow research grant applications have seen a steady uptick.

"The R&E Foundation Research Resident/Fellow Trainee Grant is an excellent way for a radiology trainee to learn how imaging research is initiated, planned and completed," said **Steven C. Horii, MD**, chair, Radiology Research Trainee

*"Learning to develop hypotheses, methods to test them, statistics to evaluate results, and turning these into a research proposal are skills that will be of continuing importance as the trainees' careers advance."*

**Steven C. Horii, MD**

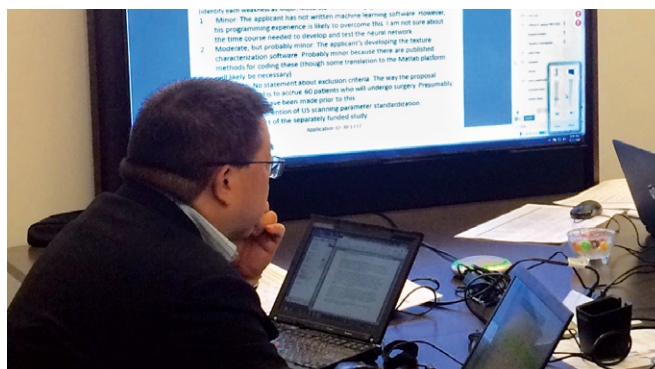
Grant Study Section. "The trainee's advisors and the members of the study section who review the applications share a goal of educating trainees and fostering their careers in academic medicine. Learning to develop hypotheses, methods to test them, statistics to evaluate results, and turning these into a research proposal are skills that will be of continuing importance as the trainees' careers advance. For those trainees who choose a fully clinical career, learning how research is conducted and evaluated is still an important set of skills. Since radiology, and medicine as a whole, advances so rapidly, practicing physicians have a responsibility to 'keep up.' Understanding

*"Understanding research creates critical thinkers, individuals who can decide for themselves if published research studies have merit and, if uncertain, know what questions should be asked."*

**Steven C. Horii, MD**

research creates critical thinkers, individuals who can decide for themselves if published research studies have merit and, if uncertain, know what questions should be asked."

The 28 members of the Radiology Research Trainee Grant Study Section met for a full day in March to review and score the applications. Funding decisions were made by the R&E Foundation Board of Trustees in late April and work on these projects will begin in July.



Steven C. Horii, MD, leads the virtual Radiology Research Trainee Study Section at RSNA headquarters.

## Receive Tax Relief while Supporting the Campaign

If you are at least 70 years old, you are eligible to roll over up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA while reducing your taxable income. Updated last year, the IRA charitable rollover no longer carries an expiration date so you are free to make annual gifts to the R&E Foundation this year and well into the future.



### Why should you consider this gift option in 2017?

- Gifts of \$25,000 or more qualify you as a Centennial Pathfinder to the campaign. Supporters at this level receive special recognition and benefits—at the RSNA annual meeting and beyond.

- You pay no income tax on the gift. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions.
- If you have not taken your required minimum distribution for the year, an IRA Charitable Rollover gift can satisfy all or part of that requirement.

An IRA charitable rollover is a perfect way for you to receive tax relief while supporting the Foundation at a critical time with the Inspire-Innovate-Invest Campaign coming to a close.

To learn more, visit [RSNA.org/LegacyGiving](http://RSNA.org/LegacyGiving) or contact Bob Leigh at 1-630-590-7760 or [rleigh@rsna.org](mailto:rleigh@rsna.org).



# Multi-year Commitments Highlight VIP Growth During Campaign

A surge in practice group giving through the Visionaries in Practice (VIP) Program demonstrates the commitment of our partners and private practice groups to funding radiology's future as the Inspire-Innovate-Invest Campaign moves toward its goal.

Since the start of the Campaign in 2014, practice group donors have set an impressive number of VIP giving milestones, including:

- ✓ Over \$3 million raised via practice group donations and commitments.
- ✓ Agreements from Austin Radiological Association and Strategic Radiology to fund named grant awards for the first time in practice group giving history.
- ✓ Multi-year commitments from a record nine practice group donors.



There is still time for new practice groups to become VIP donors before the end of the Campaign. Donate in 2017 or join a prestigious group of VIP donors by making a multi-year commitment to give annually in honor of the Campaign.

Visit [RSNA.org/VIP](http://RSNA.org/VIP) or contact Bob Leigh at 1-630-590-7760 or [rleigh@rsna.org](mailto:rleigh@rsna.org) to learn more.

**Thank you to the following VIP donors making multi-year commitments in honor**

**of the Inspire-Innovate-Invest Campaign:**

- Austin Radiological Association, Austin, TX
- Asheville Radiology Associates, P.A., Asheville, NC
- Mecklenburg Radiology Associates, Charlotte, NC
- Radiology Associates of South Florida, Miami, FL
- Radiology Consultants of Little Rock, P.A., Little Rock, AR
- Raleigh Radiology, Raleigh, NC
- St. Paul Radiology Foundation, St. Paul, MN
- Strategic Radiology
- University Radiology Group, East Brunswick, NJ

*Thank You!*

## Past Grant Recipient is RSNA President

**Richard L. Ehman, MD**, professor of radiology and Blanche R. & Richard J. Erlanger professor of medical research at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, is the first RSNA R&E Foundation grant recipient to serve as RSNA president. Since receiving the Agfa HealthCare/RSNA Research Scholar Grant in 1989 for his project "Development of a Comprehensive Method for High Definition Magnetic Resonance Imaging of Moving Structures," Dr. Ehman has continued his research in novel MRI techniques with grant

support from the National Cancer Institute, National Institute of Biomedical



Richard L. Ehman, MD

Imaging and Bioengineering and the National Institute of Aging. His work has resulted in more than 40 patents and over 320 peer-reviewed scientific publications.

Dr. Ehman has been a steadfast supporter of RSNA and the R&E Foundation since receiving his

initial award in 1989. He has lent his expertise to numerous RSNA committees, including the R&E Foundation Board of Trustees. Dr. Ehman and his wife, **Margaret Houston, MD**, support the Foundation as R&E Platinum Visionary donors and Silver Centennial Pathfinders to the Campaign.

As an internationally recognized author, educator, leader and innovator, Dr. Ehman will work tirelessly to further RSNA's commitment to foster continuous innovation in patient-focused radiology during his tenure as RSNA president.



# Volunteer Leader Profile — R&E Board of Trustees Chair N. Reed Dunnick, MD

Last December, **N. Reed Dunnick, MD**, Fred Jenner Hodges professor and chair of the Department of Radiology at the University of Michigan, became chair of the R&E Foundation Board of Trustees. His chairmanship of the Foundation is one of many roles this visionary leader has embraced during his 40 years as an RSNA Member.



R&E Board of Trustees Chair N. Reed Dunnick, MD

## *How long have you been active with the R&E Foundation?*

I first became involved with the R&E Foundation in 2001 as a grant reviewer on the Radiology Research Study Section. I was impressed with two things during my service on the study section. First, the members of the study section worked incredibly hard to critique the grants; as reviewers, we wanted our “investment” in these young investigators to pay dividends. Second, there was a huge range of medical imaging science that required a large number of reviewers to properly evaluate the many applications we received. I then realized we would need a “bigger boat” if we were going to help more radiologists, imaging scientists and radiation oncologists to do the feasibility studies necessary to compete for major external funding.

## *What attracted you to the chairmanship of the R&E Board of Trustees?*

Having served as a grant reviewer and chair of the Radiology Research Study Section, Grant Program Committee and Evaluation Committee, as well as RSNA Board of Directors science liaison to the Foundation, I felt I not only understood the need to help more investigators to become successful, but also truly appreciated the mission of the Foundation and the strong commitment of the RSNA Board of Directors to support the Foundation.

## *As a department chair, how does an R&E grant assist you in achieving your department's research objectives?*

Academic medical centers have an obligation to advance the field. In order to do so, we must give our faculty the resources to pursue their ideas and the time to do it. While that must eventually come from major funding sources such as the NIH, very few faculty can start at that level. Most will begin with an idea, test it out preliminarily and then perform a carefully designed feasibility study. Resources are needed at each step. The department can provide initial time and some access to imaging equipment, but more serious studies need to be externally supported. As a source of external support with a Board of Trustees that strives to achieve a 25-30% funding rate of R&E grant applications, the Foundation is a committed partner to radiology departments.

## *What does it mean to you to be an R&E Foundation donor?*

Being an R&E Foundation donor brings several rewards to me. First, I see the progress that these scientists are making to advance our field. Second, I see the help the Foundation is





giving to their careers. And finally, I am gratified to see their later success. With an average of more than \$40 of subsequent funding received as principal or co-investigator for every \$1 awarded by the R&E Foundation, supporting the Foundation is a wonderful investment with an impactful return.

***What would you say to a potential donor who is considering making their first gift to the R&E Foundation?***

Make a contribution only if you want to do it. If you see value in our field, if you want to help our younger colleagues succeed, if you want to help the next generation maintain intellectual leadership in medical imaging and image guided therapy, then make a gift!

***What are your hopes for the future of radiology and what role can organized radiology play in the future?***

Radiology is in the information business. It isn't about the images, but about the information contained in those images that can be translated into better patient care. We have learned to interrogate at the cellular level, we are learning to be quantitative, and we are starting to participate in the type of precision medicine that will enable us to study the right patient with the right test at the right time. It is an incredible time for our specialty. 'Our future's so bright, I gotta wear shades.'

Dr. Dunnick and his wife **Marilyn Roubidoux, MD**, support the Foundation as Platinum Visionary Donors, Silver Legacy Donors and Silver Centennial Pathfinders to the Campaign.



Marilyn Roubidoux, MD and N. Reed Dunnick, MD

*“Academic medical centers have an obligation to advance the field. In order to do so, we must give our faculty the resources to pursue their ideas and the time to do it [and] resources are needed at each step. As a source of external support with a Board of Trustees that strives to achieve a 25–30% funding rate of grant applications, the Foundation is a committed partner to radiology departments.”*

**N. Reed Dunnick, MD**

INVEST

## Online Giving Has Never Been Easier

With the proliferation of mobile devices, more daily activities such as charitable giving are being conducted using the latest technology. In an effort to create a more user-friendly experience for our donors, several updates have been initiated to improve the R&E Foundation's online donation page.

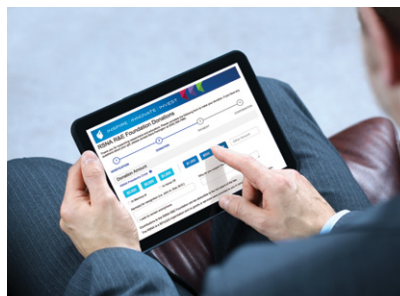
Through a phased approach, the following elements will be implemented to improve the user experience with a more streamlined and efficient process.

Phase I launched on April 1, 2017,

and includes optimization for any mobile device. The result? Short, simple steps to easily donate. The page also supports gifts at any level, regardless of amount. Don't miss your chance to be a part of the Inspire-Innovate-Invest Campaign!

Phase II will go live later this summer, with even more enhancements, including the addition of a monthly donation option so donors can make the gift that works best for their individual needs.

Check it out today at [RSNA.org/Donate!](http://RSNA.org/Donate!)



INVEST



## Siemens Healthineers Renews Commitment during the Inspire-Innovate-Invest Campaign

The R&E Foundation is pleased to announce that Siemens Healthineers has made a new \$225,000 commitment in support of the Inspire-Innovate-Invest Campaign. Siemens Healthineers has long been one of the Foundation's strongest supporters. A Vanguard donor since 1990, Siemens has supported 35 grant recipients.

The impact of these grant recipients was evident throughout the halls of McCormick Place dur-



Dave Pacitti, president, Siemens Healthineers North America and Immediate Past R&E Board of Trustees Chair Burton P. Drayer, MD

ing RSNA 2016, with 17 current and past recipients presenting at 67 sessions. The power of Siemens Healthineers' support is further demonstrated through the outstanding professional accomplishments of those grant recipients.

Siemens Healthineers is committed to

becoming the trusted partner of healthcare providers worldwide, enabling them to improve patient outcomes while reduc-

# Thank You!

**SIEMENS**  
**Healthineers**

ing costs. Driven by its long legacy of engineering excellence and a pioneering approach to developing the latest advancements, Siemens Healthineers is a global leader in medical imaging, laboratory diagnostics, clinical IT and services.

Siemens Healthineers is dedicated

to helping its customers be successful—clinically, operationally and financially.

With this new commitment, Siemens Healthineers' impact will continue to inspire for many years to come.

"Siemens Healthineers is proud to continue supporting the research efforts of radiology's emerging leaders through this Campaign," said Dave Pacitti, president of Siemens Healthineers North America. "Tomorrow's pioneers in medicine need opportunities today to kick-start their research. The outcome of this critical research will lead to healthier tomorrows for millions of patients."

Thank you, Siemens Healthineers, for your enduring support of the R&E Foundation.

## Three Easy Ways to Give



VISIT  
[RSNA.org/Donate](http://RSNA.org/Donate)



CALL  
1-800-381-6660



EMAIL  
[REfoundation@rsna.org](mailto:REfoundation@rsna.org)