



Winter 2007

Editor: David A. Lynch, MD

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Ariel View of Sanibel Harbour Resort & Spa

2008 Annual Meeting: Sun, Sea, and Sand

The 2008 Annual Meeting and Post Graduate Course will be at the Sanibel Harbour Resort and Spa, a 4-Diamond AAA resort close to Fort Myers, Florida. The hotel overlooks Sanibel and Captiva Islands on Florida's southwest Gulf Coast and is a gracious 85-acre seaside resort with world-class amenities.

Mark your calendars now for March 2-5. Begin planning your trip to this peaceful, lovely spot. Pack the sunscreen and be ready to scoop up some shells. And encourage your fellows to come, so that they can learn what the STR is all about.



*Sanibel Harbour Resort & Spa
Fort Myers, Florida*



*Sunset at Sanibel
Harbour Resort & Spa*

*PLAN NOW TO
ATTEND THE
UPCOMING STR
MEETINGS*

*2008 ANNUAL
MEETING*

*March 2-5, 2008
Fort Myers, FL*

*2009 World
Congress of
Thoracic
Radiology*

*May 30-June 2, 2009
Valencia, Spain*

STR Research Committee

Jeremy Erasmus, Chair (2006-2009)

Jonathan Goldin (2004-2007)

Hiroto Hatabu (2006-2009)

Michael Brooks (2006-2009)

Kavita Garg (2004-2007)

James Gruden (2004-2007)

Geoffrey Rubin (2006-2009)

Ed Donnelly (2004-2007)

Edward Lee (2007-2010)

The Society of Thoracic Radiology (STR) Research and Education Fund was established to promote and support the educational and research initiatives of radiologists interested in thoracic imaging. This effort to improve the understanding and excellence of thoracic radiology has been funded by the generosity of the STR members who contribute voluntarily at the time of the annual payment of membership dues. The emphasis and intent of the members has been to promote the scientific endeavors of young investigators and \$50,000 - \$60,000 has been made available annually for the Research Committee to provide seed-grant support. Historically, the number of young investigators seeking seed grant support has been low and the annual allocation of funds has been sufficient. In this regard, the allocation of funds in 1999 was only \$14,880. However, recently there has been a tremendous increase in the number and scientific strength of research initiatives being submitted for seed grant support. In 2007, 6 grants were submitted for consideration for seed grant support in the first of three scheduled application dates (compared to 5 for the entire preceding two year period). Accordingly non-committee STR members were solicited to increase the number of reviewers and also for their expertise in the topics being investigated. The committee is grateful and appreciative of the help provided by Drs. Warren Geffer, Lacy Peterson, Charles White, Gautham Reddy, Curtis Green, David Lynch, Reggie Munden and Greg Gladish. Additionally, because of the increase in the number of grants being submitted, the committee has instituted a new policy that the P.I. or senior sponsor/collaborator will now be expected, if required, to be available for reciprocal seed grant review in the following year.

Also, in an effort to facilitate the process of grant solicitation and review, the STR has formed a liaison with the Inter-Organizational Research Council (IORC). This association will co-ordinate research support/funding and the STR website is now listed with all the other academic radiologic societies on the IORC web-site (www.radresearch.org) with a cross-link to the STR website. An issue to be addressed in the future with the IORC is a common electronic application. This will streamline the application process and a uniform, common application will allow the submission and routing of completed applications to the specific organizations to be done more efficiently.

There has been a perceptible improvement in the overall intellectual merit, scientific strength and rigor, and innovation of the seed grants submitted to the STR Research Committee over the last decade and this was particularly apparent in 2007. Two applications were particularly exciting in their proposed research undertaking and received \$25,000 seed grant support in 2007:

- "Evaluation of Hyperpolarized ^3He MRI in Pediatric Patients with Asthma: Assessment of Technology, Evaluation of Ventilatory Status and Direct Clinical Application for Pediatric Patients" from the Children's Hospital, Boston (P. I. Dr. Edward Lee)
- "64 Slice Coronary CT Angiography vs. Standard Therapy in the Emergency Room: Determining Cost-Effectiveness and Predicting Clinical Outcome in Patients with Low and Moderate Risk for Acute Coronary Syndrome" from the University of Michigan Hospital (P. I. Dr. Suzanne Chong).

However, the support of these two seed grants depleted the available resources for further seed grant funding and a moratorium was placed on the submission of seed grants for review until the allocation of funds in the 2008 fiscal/academic year. Because

STR Officers (2007-2008)

President

Jud Gurney, MD

President-Elect

Jannette Collins, MD

Secretary

David A. Lynch, MD

Treasurer

Charles S. White, MD

Interested in increasing your participation in the STR?

Many STR committees foster growth and excellence in the field of cardiothoracic imaging.

Participation on an STR committee does make a difference!!

Contact the STR office to have your name placed on a list of potential STR committee members to be considered for a 2008-2009 appointment.

of budgetary constraints, the Executive Committee of the STR has affirmed the policy that the allocation of funds for research and education in the 2008 fiscal/academic year and subsequent years will be predicated on the amount donated by the STR members to the Research and Education fund. This has resulted in \$35,000 being approved/allocated for research support for the 2008 fiscal year. This is significantly less than the \$60,000 allocated in 2006 and ironically occurs at a time of increasing interest and recognition of the STR as an academic society committed to furthering research in cardiothoracic imaging.

To conclude, it would be remiss of me not to thank the society for the opportunity to serve as the chair of Research Committee and to thank the members of the committee for their expertise, commitment and dedication to the time-consuming task involved in seed grant review. The future of cardiothoracic radiology is strong and the endeavors of the members of the STR will ensure continued academic success. I thank all the members for their generous support of the research and educational component of our society and appeal for continued and additional support. The society has a strong tradition of nurturing research in thoracic radiology and supporting the intellectual pursuits and innovations of its members. We are a small society with more than of 500 full members and the funding of research is solely dependent on us. This support is and will continue to be funded completely by voluntary contributions by the members of the society. Your support and commitment will make a difference in the strength of our academic and research activities and the depth and breadth of opportunities available to our young investigators. I urge all of you to consider increasing your contribution to the Research and Educational fund so that the meaningful momentum that we have attained in research is maintained. ***Contributions to the STR Research and Education fund are welcome and needed. Tax-deductible donations should be sent to: STR c/o Matrix Meetings, Inc., PO Box 7169, Rochester, MN 55903-7169 or to the STR@thoracicrad.org. Please identify that the donation is for the STR R&E Fund.***

STR Standards Committee

The Standards Committee, headed by Dr. Ann Leung, is actively engaged in organizing the effort to develop a position paper on imaging of pulmonary embolism in pregnancy. Currently committed to the project are the following societies: Society of Thoracic Radiology; American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; American Association of Physicists; and, Society of Nuclear Medicine. We anticipate receiving approval for the project from the board of the American Thoracic Society in December 2007.

Once all societies and their participating members have been decided, the project should start in early 2008 with a time line of 8 -12 months for completion. The position paper is to be written in the form of a conference proceeding and will use the internationally accepted GRADE system that classifies recommendations as strong or weak and the quality of evidence as high, moderate or low.

Radiology Fellowship Application Proposal Fails

Over the past several years the Association of Program Directors in Radiology (APDR) and the Society of Chairmen of Academic Radiology Departments (SCARD) have attempted to organize a national fellowship match program. These attempts have failed in all specialties except neuroradiology and interventional radiology, which currently accept fellows through a national match. The failure stemmed from several large fellowship programs not participating and the perception that "off-line deals" were being made. In addition, fellowship candidates had numerous concerns regarding not knowing where they would end up until match day.

Despite the absence of a universal radiology fellowship match, many program directors are in favor of a later interview period, a more “even playing field” and reduced pressure placed on candidates to make early decisions. The Fellowship Issues Committee of the APDR recently proposed a set of guidelines for the fellowship application process: 1) interviews would not start until January 1 of the junior year of residency, 2) internal candidates would be subject to the same rules and regulations as external candidates, 3) programs would post online the number of positions being offered and number filled by internal candidates as a running total, 4) offers would not be made before February 15, 5) candidates would have 7-14 days to make a decision, and 6) candidates would sign an APDR-approved letter of commitment within 14 days of accepting an offer. These guidelines would not apply to the American Society of Neuroradiology (ASNR) or Society of Interventional Radiology (SIR), as these specialties participate in a formal match program.

In September 2007, the APDR committee solicited support for their proposal from 13 radiology societies. The proposal called for societies to comply with the following: 1) list programs online that comply with the guidelines, 2) deny eligibility for society committee membership for three years to any program director who does not comply with the guidelines, 3) deny eligibility for society grants, prizes and awards for three years to any member who does not comply, and 4) agree, as a society, that members of the society will not provide recommendation letters for any candidate who does not comply with the guidelines.

The Board of the Society of Computed Body Tomography and Magnetic Resonance (SCBT-MR) voted overwhelmingly not to endorse the proposal. Although supportive, it felt their members had no control over program directors for abdominal imaging and didn't know what programs were “out there”, as there are currently numerous varieties of hybrid body imaging fellowships. The Society of Uroradiology (SUR) strongly supported the proposal. The Society of Skeletal Radiology (SSR) was unable to reach a consensus that would appropriately reflect the position of its members and consequently could not endorse the proposal. The Society of Interventional Radiology (SIR) was concerned that an alternate selection process would jeopardize the interventional radiology and neuroradiology matches. SCARD never came out forcibly behind the proposal, which many people felt would greatly reduce the proposal's likelihood of success. Other societies failed to weigh in.

The STR Executive Committee did not have a chance to meet and discuss the proposal until late November, but responded that it would support the proposal if there was consensus among other societies to do so. By the time the STR Executive Committee met, there had already been enough negative response from other societies that the proposal was declared “dead.” Reviving the process would require the strong leverage of SCARD and the reversal of decisions made by the leadership of other opposed societies. Piece-meal adoption of the proposal by only some fellowship programs was not felt to be a viable option.

Jannette Collins, MD, MEd, FCCP
President-Elect, STR
and
David M. Yousem, MD, MBA
Chair, APDR Fellowship Issues Committee

Recognition of STR members

Dr. Theresa McLoud was inaugurated as President of RSNA at the recent meeting. Dr. McLoud is associate radiologist-in-chief and director of education for the Department of Radiology at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston and a Professor of Radiology at Harvard Medical School. Among many other



**STR Members in the
News**

Dr. Theresa McLoud

Dr. Christian Herold

Dr. Claudia Henschke
Dr. Ned Patz
Dr. Arl Van Moore
Dr. Phil Costello

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achievements, Dr. McCloud has been a pioneer in international radiology education. She was instrumental in creating the program for the successful first World Congress of Thoracic Imaging, and is now involved in planning the second World Congress. She is past president of the STR, the Fleischner Society and the ARRS.

Also at RSNA 2007, Dr. Christian Herold was awarded honorary membership of RSNA, in recognition of his contributions to pulmonary research and to the international radiology community. Dr. Herold is director of diagnostic and pediatric radiology at the Medical University of Vienna. He was president of the European Congress of Radiology in 2006-2007, is president-elect of the International Society for Strategic Studies in Radiology, and has also served as president of the European Society of Thoracic Imaging and the Fleischner Society.



In September, three STR members (Drs. Claudia Henschke, Ned Patz, and Arl Van Moore) were among 14 individuals identified by RT Image magazine as Radiology's most influential individuals. Dr. Phil Costello was recognized as a notable individual in the same issue. Dr. Henschke was also recognized as the most influential radiology researcher in a recent survey by the Aunt Minnie website.

World Congress on Thoracic Imaging- 2009

Following the outstanding 2005 World Congress in Florence, the second World Congress will be held in the historic and beautiful city of Valencia on Spain's Mediterranean coast. The STR, Fleischner Society, European Society for Thoracic Imaging, Japanese Society of Thoracic Imaging, and Korean Society of Thoracic Imaging will again jointly sponsor this Congress. Dr. Jose Vilar of Valencia will chair the Congress. Dr. Charles White is the primary STR representative for the Congress, and the Planning Committee includes 9 other STR members in various capacities.



Call for newsletter items

The STR Publications Committee has decided to expand publication of the newsletter to a quarterly schedule. In future editions, we plan to discuss educational, clinical and research issues important to thoracic radiologists. We are also interested in recognizing significant achievements by STR members. All suggestions and contributions are welcomed, and should be submitted to Jan Severson at str@thoracicrad.org or jan@matrixmeetings.com.

