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FROM THE STR PRESIDENT-ELECT

Dear STR Members:

HAPPY NEW YEAR! With the start of 2018, the Society of Thoracic Radiology (STR) Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas is just around the corner. I would like to thank all of you for the staggering array of topics that you submitted for our consideration. We received 384 proposed lecture topics and 184 abstract submissions for the scientific session and educational exhibits. With so many great options, the Education and Awards Committees had a tough task winnowing the list down to fit into a four-day program. The result is a program full of fresh content.

There are some noteworthy changes to the program:

1. Cardiothoracic Conundrums: Cases that Amaze and Inform will be moderated by Dr. Geoffrey Rubin in place of our previous Film Panel Competitions. We will have 10 short case presentations by fellow society members during this hour-long session, emphasizing diagnostic dilemmas and management challenges. The goal is to enhance our collective wisdom by learning from one another’s mistakes in an entertaining format.
2. Our two morning scientific sessions are designated closed sessions (that is, “STR Members Only”). This change is intended to encourage our members to present their cutting edge research at the annual meeting, while leaving them the option to present the same data later in a larger venue.

3. An American-Idol format session for Trainees and Junior Faculty intended to serve as a mentoring session. Georgeann McGuinness, Phillip Boiselle and Sanjeev Bhalla will constitute our panel of judges; now, who will play the part of Simon Cowell?

The named lectures cover an exciting array of new thoracic topics presented by recognized experts in their clinical fields. The Benjamin Felson Memorial Lecture is titled “IgG4 Related Disease” and presented by Jay Ryu, MD. The Gordon Gamsu Lecture is “Radiation Induced Lung Injury: Detecting Recurrence and Texture Analysis” by David Palma, MD, MSc, PhD, FRCPC, and the Scanlon Lecture is “Emerging and Recurring Occupational Lung Disease in the 21st Century” by James Lockey MD.

Finally, what do you picture when you hear Austin, Texas? Well, Austin does claim to be “the live music capital of the world” and the South by Southwest® (SXSW®) Conference & Festivals kicks off in Austin the week after the Annual Meeting. While tacos and barbecue are well represented in Austin and a Texas staple, a broad spectrum of eateries from food trucks to haute cuisine are available to please every palate. Watch for our “What to do in Austin” e-mail for suggestions in early 2018.

Can’t wait to see you in Austin!

Cris Meyer

President-Elect, Society of Thoracic Radiology
A Fond and Grateful Farewell to JTI

In 2009, I was honored to serve as the Journal of Thoracic Imaging’s sixth Editor-in-Chief, a position that has afforded me the opportunity to contribute to the field of cardiothoracic imaging by guiding the scientific and educational growth of its primary subspecialty journal.

My initial goals as editor were to maintain the existing outstanding elements of the journal, while working collaboratively and creatively to increase its electronic presence, expand international participation, and improve its quality and reputation. As I depart this role, I am proud that these goals have been achieved by harnessing the collective creativity and talents of our editors, editorial board members, publication team, reviewers, authors, and readers.

From 2009 to 2012, the journal transitioned from a quarterly, print-only publication to a bimonthly journal with a vibrant web-based presence. With the growth of social media, mobile apps, and published-ahead-of-print content, the journal began to offer continuously updated digital content, drawing viewers from across the globe on a 24/7 basis. In the span of just a few years, the journal website developed into a primary hub for information on cardiothoracic radiology training, practice, public policy, research, quality initiatives, and continuing medical education.

International participation in the journal expanded in 2010 through a new affiliation with the European Society of Thoracic Imaging and from the initiation of open-access contributions to GO-RAD, the Global Outreach of the International Society of Radiology. That same year, the journal celebrated its 25th anniversary by publishing historical articles on five international societies, including the Society of Thoracic Radiology, Japanese Society of Thoracic Radiology, Korean Society of Thoracic Radiology, European Society of Thoracic Imaging, and the Fleischner Society. Over the subsequent years, international contributions have expanded in all facets of the journal, from editorial board membership to reviewer and authorship participation. The international scope of the journal was uniquely highlighted in the 50th anniversary feature “50-on-30,” in which 50 international experts shared their perspectives on the most influential article published in JTI in the previous 30 years.
The quality of the journal has steadily increased due to continuous quality-improvement efforts, ranging from improved copyediting to reduced publication time. For example, from 2012 to 2016, the time from acceptance to print publication decreased from 10 months to 4 months, and we are now publishing articles ahead of print in just 2 months from the time from acceptance. The scientific reputation of the journal has also grown, with >100% increase in the Impact Factor. Indeed, in June 2017, JTI’s Impact Factor reached a historical high, ranking in the 2nd quartile of journals in the Radiology, Nuclear Medicine & Medical Imaging category for the first time.

These collective achievements were due to the collaborative efforts of many, an international “village” of cardiothoracic imagers. I am especially grateful for the friendships fostered through this role, which connected me on a daily basis to a global community of cardiothoracic radiologists.

I could easily fill all the pages of this issue with personal thanks to the many individuals who contributed their time and talents toward the advancement of JTI during my tenure as Editor. Alas, the space constraints of an editorial only permit me to name a few. With this in mind, I would like to thank: Drs. Jeff Kanne and Joe Schoepf, Deputy Editors; Dr. Gautham Reddy, Deputy Editor Emeritus; Stella Bebos, Publisher; Marianna Hagan, Editorial Coordinator; and Megan Bollinger, Production Editor. I also owe a great deal of debt to Editors Emeriti Drs. Jeff Klein and Charlie White for their sage counsel and unwavering support. I am deeply appreciative of my wife Ellen, who has provided invaluable support and counsel.

As I look toward the future, I am grateful to be passing the baton to Dr. Joe Schoepf, an internationally renowned cardiothoracic imager with a wealth of editorial experience. I look forward to witnessing the journal’s next chapter under his visionary leadership!

Phillip M. Boiselle, MD
Outgoing Editor, Journal of Thoracic Imaging

REFERENCES:
Transition, according to Merriam-Webster, is a passage from one state, stage, subject, or place to another. As such, it is as much about the past, as it is about the future. As we transition the Editorial Team at the Journal of Thoracic Imaging (JTI), we are looking back at a formidable past. The lineage of previous Editors - from our Founding Editor, the immortal Eric Milne, to my immediate predecessor, Phil Boiselle - have worked tirelessly, dedicating their energy and genius to the growth of the Journal. They have left no stone unturned to develop JTI into the cherished, revered platform for lively scholarly discourse and education in the cardiothoracic imaging sciences. Owing to them, the Journal is in an excellent position as a versatile, widely respected, and trusted resource for all things imaging. Thus, as I humbly and gratefully commence my service as the Editor of JTI, I will have large-enough shoes to fill following in their tradition. It will be a daunting, yet limitlessly rewarding task to solidify and sustain my predecessors’ accomplishments and carry on their legacy.

JTI is in great shape, and I find it unlikely that any abrupt major changes in its structures and inner workings are needed. Yet, in order to prepare JTI for future challenges and seeing to its continued growth, we are gradually introducing some subtle adjustments and new features.

**EDITORIAL BOARD** While the overall size of the Board has not changed, we rotated roughly 15 percent of the Board seats with the goals of involving the next generation of leaders in cardiothoracic imaging, further enhancing gender balance, and ensuring greater international diversity across our sponsoring Societies. It is my distinct pleasure to announce that Dr. Dorith Shaham from Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem has kindly accepted my invitation to succeed me as Deputy Editor and serve alongside Dr. Jeff Kanne who has thankfully agreed to continue his tenure. New Consulting Editor positions for Pathology (Dr. Teri Franks) and Statistics (Dr. Roze Vliegenthart) were created to better formalize and acknowledge the increasingly important role of special expertise in these areas. Dr. Diana Litmanovich will handle all submissions from the University of
Wisconsin, Hadassah Medical Center / Hebrew University, and the Medical University of South Carolina as the new Conflict-of-Interest Editor. In order to better engage our members and integrate them into the editorial process, the Editorial Board is now organized in eleven disease- or topic-specific sections, each headed by a Section Editor. Those sections span the traditional topics covered by our Journal, yet we placed special emphasis on the expansion into hitherto uncharted scientific territories which we expect to become of increasing importance to our field. Examples include the new sections on “Health Policy, Evidence, and Cost-Effectiveness,” as well as the “&BEYOND” section on Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, -Omics, Quantitative and Multiparametric Imaging. Finally, to ensure a dynamic, vibrant team for many years to come, Board positions are now subject to a renewable three-year term.

**New Article Types** “Current Controversies in Cardiothoracic Imaging” (Series Editor: Dr. Charles White) pits two single experts in the field against each other to debate the pro and con sides of a current contentious topic in short contributions. This article type does not contain any Tables or Figures and, only limited References. My hope is to provide an engaging public platform for the exchange of vigorous, healthy controversy to address and eventually resolve contentious issues in cardiothoracic imaging.

“Current Evidence in Cardiothoracic Imaging” (Series Editor: Dr. Jonathon Leipsic) has an expert (or group of experts) review the grander health-care picture of an important field of application in cardiothoracic imaging. This article type is evidence-based on the outset, compares the existing evidence with current practice patterns, and ends with specific recommendations on steps that foster the alignment of practices with the state-of-the-art.

We cherish suggestions from our readership for topics to be covered by these new article types.

**What we are not changing** is the culture, spirit, and tradition of JTI as an academic home, platform, and sounding board for its stakeholders - our readers, our authors, our reviewers, and our sponsoring societies. We are determined to maintain our Journal’s high standards of ethics in publishing and to increase our international outreach as well as our interdisciplinary appeal. To do that, we will continue to bring you the most authoritative, high-quality, and cutting-edge content in our field.
A splendid example of our strive for excellence and topicality can be found in the pages of the January 2018 issue of the Journal, where recognized experts launch our journey into some of the above mentioned topics that, for better or worse, will become part of our future. Authors of international renown and recognition gaze into the crystal ball for us to augur the impact of Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, and Radiomics on our field of Cardiothoracic Imaging. Happy reading!

What remains is to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude to our authors and reviewers who form the bedrock of our publication, our Editorial Board who so gracefully agreed to continue our adventure together with me, my predecessors who left the fields fertile, and to our sponsoring Societies, the Wolters-Kluwer Publishing Team, and the members of the Search Committee who entrusted me with the stewardship of this prized trophy - our Journal - for the coming years. I will do my utmost not to disappoint you.
An international symposium, State-of-the-Art in Chest Imaging, was held in Barcelona, Spain on October 28-29, 2017. This outstanding multidisciplinary meeting was organized by Tomás Franquet, MD, STR member and Past President of the European Society of Thoracic Imaging to honor Nestor Müller, one of the giants in chest imaging. Nestor was joined at the conference by his wife Isabela Silva and their son Noah.

Nestor Müller is a Past President of the STR (1996-97) and was awarded the STR Gold Medal for Lifetime Achievement in 2011. Nestor worked for a number of years at Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada and was instrumental in the development of high-resolution CT for the evaluation of interstitial lung disease. He has published numerous journal articles and book chapters. Additionally he has written and edited several books, including High-Resolution CT of the Lung which he co-authored with David Naidich and W. Richard Webb, who both are also STR Gold Medal recipients. This book is currently in its fourth edition and is essential reading for radiologists for the diagnosis of interstitial lung diseases.

During his time at VGH, Nestor trained numerous residents and fellows from around the world in the art of HRCT and thoracic imaging in general. His trainees have gone on to have successful careers in radiology, and many of them gathered in Barcelona to speak at the meeting and to honor him. The meeting was a spectacular success not only on an educational but also for the memorable social interactions that were made available courtesy of Dr. Franquet.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Franquet for his tireless efforts in organizing this wonderful event. I would also like to thank Nestor Müller on behalf of all of his trainees over the years for his teaching, mentorship, and friendship that had such a profound impact on all of our careers.
Dr. Nestor Müller

Former trainees, invited speakers, and friends with Dr. Müller

The Hospital de la Santa Creu, where the dinner in honor of Nestor Müller was held

Former trainees, invited speakers, and friends with Dr. Müller
The STR announces that Dr. Florian J. Fintelmann and colleagues at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School have been awarded an STR seed grant award of $20,000 for the proposal: “Role of Imaging Biomarkers on Chest CT for Preoperative Risk Stratification of Lung Cancer Patients: A Multi-Center Precision Medicine Initiative using Machine Learning.”

Dr. Fintelmann is currently an Assistant Professor of Radiology at Harvard Medical School. After graduating from the University of Ulm Medical School, Germany, Dr. Fintelmann completed a research fellowship in Radiology at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital, followed by an internship in Medicine at Carney Hospital. He then completed both residency in Radiology and fellowship training in Thoracic, Musculoskeletal, and Abdominal Imaging and Intervention at Massachusetts General Hospital. In 2014 he joined the Division of Thoracic Imaging and Intervention at Massachusetts General Hospital. He specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of thoracic neoplasms including biopsies and thermal ablation. He serves on institutional and national committees including the Standard of Practice Committee of the Society of Interventional Radiology and the Membership Committee of the STR.

The proposed research project investigates the association of body composition and other imaging biomarkers on routine chest CT with outcomes after lobectomy for lung cancer. The team of researchers will use machine learning algorithms to improve precision of preoperative risk assessment.

The STR seed grant process is aimed at offering funding support for young investigators to pursue novel research in cardiothoracic imaging and related fields. For more information, please refer to the STR research webpage.
The STR Big Data Subcommittee was formed in 2016 under the leadership of Dr. Ann Leung. After Drs. Thomas Hartman and Cris Meyer attended the Intersociety Summer Conference on “Big Data and Machine Learning” and developed linkages that resulted in STR being invited to participate on the Dataset Subcommittee of the American College of Radiology (ACR) Informatics Commission. I am serving as the STR representative on the ACR Dataset Subcommittee and the newly formed Data Science Institute, with support and input from the multiple societies including the STR Big Data Subcommittee.

Under the guidance of the Research Committee, the Big Data Subcommittee works to navigate and shape thoracic radiologists’ roles in the machine-learning research environment. In 2017, the STR was asked by the ACR to derive two use cases and desired outputs for machine learning research. A number of possibilities were derived by the STR Big Data Subcommittee with assistance of the Research Committee. The Executive Committee further narrowed the list to focus our future efforts on two issues related to lung cancer and interstitial lung disease.

The Big Data Subcommittee is currently working to draft proposals to:

1) Create a repository of lung cancer/nodule and interstitial lung disease cases to use as validation datasets to verify the efficacy of machine learning created algorithms and

2) Recommend standardized CT scanning protocols to facilitate future data sharing and research efforts.
Inspiration

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The STR newsletter, Inspiration, has the following submission and publication dates:

Submission Deadlines
Winter: December 15
Spring: March 15
Summer/Fall: August 15

Publication Dates
Winter: January 15
Spring: April 15
Summer/Fall: September 15

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