FROM THE STR PRESIDENT:

Dear STR Members:

I WOULD LIKE to take this opportunity to update you on some of our efforts on your society’s behalf the past several months.

Much of our effort revolved around the big news from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), which issued a draft recommendation in favor of annual screening for lung cancer with low-dose computed tomography (LDCT) in persons at high risk for lung cancer based on age and smoking history. This has tremendous ramifications for our specialty, as the Affordable Care Act requires that Medicare and private insurers provide coverage of all medical exams or procedures that receive such a recommendation. During the public comment period, the STR, through the new Advocacy Committee, voiced its support to the USPSTF.
Now that the USPSTF has made their final recommendation on lung cancer screening, CMS will be working with stakeholders to make their coverage determination, allowing for the costs of screening our patients to be covered. We recognize that it is important to develop nationwide, evidence-based infrastructure to ensure that patients have access to uniform, quality care through screening programs. As such, the STR, through our Practice Guidelines and Technical Standards Committee, is cosponsoring the soon to be completed “ACR–STR Practice Guideline for the Performance and Reporting of Lung Cancer Screening Thoracic Computed Tomography (CT).” There are several other aspects that are simultaneously being addressed to make chest CT screening for lung cancer a reality, including development of structured reporting systems, accreditation, appropriateness criteria, reimbursements, and education. The STR is well represented in many of these ongoing efforts. I will continue to support and direct needed resources towards all appropriate avenues where the STR can have a positive impact.

I would like to draw your attention to a useful lung cancer screening resource. Our outstanding JTI editor and STR Treasurer, Phil Boiselle, has created the Lung Cancer Screening corner. You can find the link to this valuable resource here:

http://journals.lww.com/thoracicimaging/Pages/lcs.aspx

In further recognition of the growing stature of the STR, we were recently invited by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) to participate as subject matter experts to draft recommendations that will assist clinicians in the evaluation and treatment of patients presenting with symptoms of anthrax. We have designated the Chair of our Practice Guidelines and Technical Standards committee, Loren Ketai MD, to be our representative at the Clinical Utilization Plan for Anthrax Countermeasures in a Mass Event Setting Workshop, March 2014.

In other news, as of the New Year, I am pleased to announce that Dr. Jeff Kanne, from the University of Wisconsin, will assume the role of STR representative to the Academy of Radiology Research. He replaces Dr. Gautham Reddy, whose term has expired. Through this position, we welcome Jeff to the STR executive council.
This past November 8th, (the day that Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen discovered the existence of x-rays in 1895), the STR joined more than 85 medical societies in 40 countries around the globe in taking part in this celebration of the International Day of Radiology, helping to raise awareness of the value that radiology contributes to safe patient care and improving understanding of the vital role radiologists play in the healthcare continuum. Of interest, lung imaging was the highlighted theme this year. I hope you had a chance to see the publication “Breathe Easy”, highlighting the important role that radiology plays in the detection, diagnosis and management of a wide variety of lung diseases, with contributions from several of our STR members (http://www.internationaldayofradiology.com/publications/).

One of the great strengths of our society is, of course, our annual meeting. We are fortunate to be able to capture the cutting edge presentations by our many talented members through a mutually rewarding relationship with Oakstone Medical publishing company. Through this relationship, CMEInfo.com provides us with both enduring content for our education portal (http://education.thoracicrad.org/online_edu.htm ) and a royalty-based revenue stream to help support our educational efforts. I am pleased to say that we have renewed our contract with Oakstone and will be continuing this arrangement annually for the next several years. I offer my personal gratitude to all of the contributors to this effort.

We have accomplished much in recent months, and we have many more exciting “irons in the fire” that I will share with you in future newsletters. With your help, we will build on all of these recent and ongoing initiatives, promoting the mission of the society and leading our organization to further heights and greater impact.

I look forward to welcoming you in San Antonio in March 2014.

Eric J. Stern, MD
President, STR
I would like to bring to your attention the January 2014 issue of JTI, which ushers in the 29th year of publishing the journal.

In 2013, we strategically published the largest annual number and variety of cardiopulmonary imaging review articles in JTI’s history. With the January 2014 issue, we continue this trend with the publication of several “hot topic” review articles with an emphasis upon cardiothoracic MRI:

- **PET/MRI evaluation of lung cancer: current status and future prospects**, by Drs. Soon Ho Yoon, Jin Mo Goo, and colleagues

- **A practical guide to non-vascular thoracic magnetic resonance imaging**, by Dr. Jeanne Ackman

- **Magnetic resonance stress imaging of myocardial perfusion and wall motion**, by Drs. Nadine Kawel-Boehm and Jens Bremerich

- **Cardiovascular magnetic resonance imaging and computed tomography in the pregnant patient**, by Dr. Diana Litmanovich and colleagues

In 2014, we will also be publishing timely symposia issues devoted to:

- **Imaging the Heart-Lung Axis**, guest edited by Dr. Edwin van Beek
- **Cardiac Function and Physiology**, guest edited by Dr. Albert deRoos
- **Quality and Safety**, guest edited by Dr. Jeff Kanne

These offerings will be complemented by our continuing editorial and educational features, as well as a variety of cutting-edge research articles. Toward this end, I encourage you to contribute your original research articles to JTI this year. In addition to a rising impact factor, JTI offers a quick turnaround time for editorial decisions (average 17 days) and now publishes articles ahead of print within a few months of acceptance. This timeline ensures that work published in JTI is rapidly available to our readership and to the larger scientific community, thus enhancing its potential impact.
STR has 753 Members (136 International Members) from 27 Countries.
STR Seed Grant Award Announcement
Dr. Jane Ko

THE STR ANNOUNCES the funding of $19,926 to Dr. Diana Litmanovich and colleagues at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard Medical School for the proposal: “Functional MRI assessment as a primary imaging modality for diagnosis, follow-up and guidance of therapy decisions of COPD patients with tracheomalacia.”

Dr. Litmanovich is currently an Assistant Professor of Radiology at Harvard Medical School and serves as Director of Cardiac CT in the Department of Radiology of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston. After graduating from Technion Medical School in Haifa, Israel, Dr. Litmanovich completed an internship in internal medicine and surgery and residency in Diagnostic Radiology at Rambam Medical Center, also in Haifa. She finished her fellowship training in thoracic imaging at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in 2008 and joined the staff at the same institution. She assumed the directorship of the Thoracic Imaging Fellowship program as well as the Longitudinal Primary Clinical Experience (PCE) Radiology course at Harvard Medical School and serves on national committees including the Cardiovascular Committee of the American College of Radiology Imaging Network as well as the Educational Committee of the North American Society for Cardiovascular Imaging.

The proposed research project investigates the use of MRI to assess for tracheomalacia in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Dr. Litmanovich and colleagues aim to refine and validate MRI techniques and measure the degree of tracheal collapse with MRI performed during exercise as compared to forced expiratory maneuvers. The overall goal is to provide a technique that detects clinically significant tracheomalacia without the use of ionizing radiation.

The STR seed grant process is aimed at offering seed grant support for young investigators to pursue novel research in thoracic imaging and related fields. The submission deadline for seed grant proposals is September 15. For more information, please refer to the STR research webpage at http://thoracicrad.org/research/guidelines.htm.
THE 6TH IWPFI was held this past July 18-20, 2013 here in Madison, WI. The conference had over 130 attendees. There were 7 countries represented (S. Korea, Japan, Australia, England, Scotland, Netherlands, Germany, India, and the United States). The workshop’s opening address was by Provost Paul DeLuca who gave an entertaining speech about the status of UW-Madison as a major research institution in the United States and how the rankings for external research funding are skewed in favor of Johns Hopkins University due to their government sponsored atomic weapons research grants.

The plenary session was opened by STR member Hiroto Hatabu, M.D., PhD the founder of the Workshop and a leading teacher of pulmonary functional imaging. His talk highlighted the twelve unsolved issues in functional pulmonary imaging. The specific issues that were discussed included the role of hyperpolarized gases in ventilation and how Xenon may be used clinically to determine segmental diffusion in the lung parenchyma. STR member Eric Hoffman, PhD discussed the quantification of lung CT in emphysema and asthma. Yoshiharu Ohno, M.D., PhD spoke about pulmonary quantification in MRI. Christopher Francois, M.D., Chief of Cardiac Imaging showed his work on 4D flow MR imaging in the heart. He showed how using 4D flow imaging, with color coded stream lines, right heart failure can be observed with more helical flow patterns in the ventricle and main pulmonary artery. Later on the first day STR member Dr. Chris Meyer reviewed the current knowledge of radiation induced lung fibrosis. Daisy Chen, M.D. then presented her work on the use of PET/CT for early lung
inflammation in human volunteers. Then STR member Scott Nagle, M.D., PhD chaired an outstanding session where the world leaders of cystic fibrosis were featured speakers (Alan Brody, M.D., Harm Tiddens, M.D., PhD, Michael Puderbach, M.D., Talissa Altes, M.D., and Paul Guillerman, M.D.).

The second day of the workshop was dedicated to Lung Cancer Imaging and Radiation therapy organized by Robert Jeraj. This featured Ken Krohn, PhD from the University of Washington discussing the molecular imaging of hypoxia and proliferation. Robert Gilles, PhD from Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa presented his novel work using radionomics for the early classification of malignant lung nodules. Radionomics combines CT imaging features and correlates the growth rate and margin of these nodules (imaging phenotype) to the genotype of the resected specimen. The afternoon session dealt with the problems of radiation therapy in the lung and how to deal with cardiac and lung motion. Paul Keall, PhD from Sydney Australia presented his group’s novel algorithm for the predication of respiratory and cardiac motion and limiting the exposure of normal lung tissue. Soren Bentsen of UW Human Oncology Program discussed the clinical features of radiation toxicity to the lung while John Bayouth discussed the practical techniques of Radiation treatment planning to avoid pulmonary toxicity. Larry Marks, M.D., Chair of Radiation Therapy at the University of North Carolina, gave an inspired lecture on the prediction of pulmonary injury after radiation therapy. Also, Louis Hinshaw, M.D., Chief of Abdominal imaging at UW-Madison, gave an excellent overview of the methods for percutaneous lung cancer ablation. The implementation of novel reconstruction methods for Low dose CT using PICCS was ably discussed by its inventor, Guanghong Chen, PhD of UW Medical Physics Department.

The last day of the conference was split into two parallel sessions. The QIBA session chaired by David Lynch, MBBS (Board Member and former President of the STR) of National Jewish Medical Center in Denver along with Phil Judy, PhD of Harvard discussed the methods needed for the quantification of CT Images in the future. The second parallel session was organized by Christopher François, M.D. and STR member David Levin, M.D., PhD of the Mayo Clinic that highlighted the right heart in pulmonary hypertension and a discussion of thromboembolic disease. STR member Joon Beom Seo, M.D. of Asan
Hospital in Seoul Korea presented his group’s data on the use of dual energy CT in the diagnosis of perfusion defects in patients with pulmonary emboli. They found that the absolute drop in lung perfusion as measured by a drop in whole lung enhancement was the most important feature of severity correlating best with patient outcome. Also, Jim Runo, M.D., of Pulmonary Medicine presented the clinical aspects of pulmonary arterial hypertension treatment. STR member Dr. Mark Schiebler, President and Scientific Program Director of the IWPFI, presented the UW experience with MR angiography for the diagnosis of pulmonary embolism.

The afternoon of the last day of the IWPFI was ably organized by Dr. Sean Fain of the UW Medical Physics group and STR member Warren Gefter, M.D. of the University of Pennsylvania. The Asthma session was terrific and leadoff with an excellent lecture given by Nizar Jarjour, M.D (Professor and Chief of Pulmonary Medicine) the lead investigator of the Severe Asthma Research Project. The COPD session was enlightening as well, helping to shed light on this difficult to treat disease. Dr. Keith Meyer, Professor of Medicine at UW in the pulmonary division, shared his experiences in treating and diagnosing this profoundly debilitating disease. This session was highlighted by a panel discussion of STR members that included world experts in COPD CT imaging (Drs. Hatabu, Lynch, Newell, Gefter, Seo, Meyer) trying to reach a consensus on whether or not all of the imaging metrics that we come up with are in any way meaningful for treatment and prognosis.

Overall, the IWPFI was a great success and was well received by all of the attendees. The next meeting will be in Edinburgh, Scotland in September of 2015 and will be organized by Edwin Van Beek, M.D., PhD. This meeting will be paired with the European Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine and Biology (ESRMB).
In Search of Venous Thromboembolism: The First 2,913 years
Dr. Larry Goodman

THE PATH TO UNDERSTANDING pulmonary embolism (PE) and deep venous thrombosis (DVT) has spanned almost three millennia and many continents. Susruta in India, (approximately 600-900 BC) described a swollen, painful leg similar to DVT as we know it. The first attempts at modern scientific explanation did not occur until the 17th and 18th century. Virchow in the 1850’s was the first to link DVT and PE and propose a mechanism for thrombosis (stasis, vessel injury and hypercoagulability).

In vivo documentation waited for Röntgen’s discovery of x-ray in 1895 and subsequent radiographic, scintigraphic and sonographic studies.

This article published online in the American Journal of Radiology (http://www.ajronline.org/doi/abs/10.2214/AJR.13.10604) in October 2013 highlights this 3,000 year journey.
Fourth World Congress of Thoracic Imaging

Update

ON DECEMBER 2, 2013 at RSNA, Dr. Theresa McLoud, President of the Organizing Committee, reported on preparations for the Fourth World Congress of Thoracic Imaging which will be held June 18-21, 2017 at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston. As for past World Congresses, this one will be co-sponsored by five societies: European Society of Thoracic Imaging; Fleischner Society; Japanese Society of Thoracic Radiology; Korean Society of Thoracic Radiology; and Society of Thoracic Radiology. Representatives from each society will serve on each of the major committees; Drs. Gerald Abbott and Alexander Bankier will serve as the Secretary-General and Treasurer of the Congress, respectively. This preparatory meeting ended with signature of the memorandum of understanding by the presidents of the five societies or their authorized representative.
Contributors to STR Development Campaign

THANK YOU for your generous donations to the 30th Anniversary Fund.

**AS OF DECEMBER 15, 2013**

**PATRONS | $5,000 and above**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lynn Broderick</td>
<td>Theresa McLoud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeffrey Klein</td>
<td>Melissa Rosado de Christenson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BENFACTORs | $2,500 - $4,999**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gerald F. Abbott</td>
<td>Cristopher Meyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeremy Erasmus</td>
<td>Reginald F. Munden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terrance Healey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**STEWARDS | $1,000 - $2,499**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phillip Boiselle</td>
<td>Matrix Meetings, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brett W. Carter</td>
<td>Perry Nystrom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jugesh Cheema</td>
<td>Julia Prescott-Focht</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joel Fishman</td>
<td>Gautam Reddy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eric M. Hart</td>
<td>Sanford A. Rubin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeffrey Kanne</td>
<td>Mark L. Schiebler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loren Ketai</td>
<td>Robert Steiner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Leung</td>
<td>Eric Stern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Lynch</td>
<td>Charles White</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SPONSORS | $500 - $999**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jeanne B. Ackman</td>
<td>Jane Ko</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judith Amorosa</td>
<td>Santiago Martinez-Jiménez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanjeev Bhalla</td>
<td>Page McAdams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alan Brody</td>
<td>Michael Meyers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irwin Freundlich</td>
<td>Robert Tarver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence Goodman</td>
<td>Carl Zylak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Heyneman</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FRIENDS | $499 and less**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denise Aberle</td>
<td>Ella Kazerooni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fereidoun Abtin</td>
<td>Arfa Khan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryo Benson</td>
<td>Michio Kono</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gordon Beute</td>
<td>Jeffrey Kunin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katherine Birchard</td>
<td>Guy Matthew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jean Chalaoui</td>
<td>David Naeger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan Chung</td>
<td>Smita Patel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jannette Collins</td>
<td>Perry F. Pernicano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julianna M. Czum</td>
<td>Sudhakar Pipavath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patricia de Groot</td>
<td>Santiago Rossi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Diethelm</td>
<td>Harry Shulman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debra Dyer</td>
<td>Diane Strollo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Gierada</td>
<td>Stephen Swensen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gregory Gladish</td>
<td>Jana Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas E. Hartman</td>
<td>Tyler Ternes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eric Jensen</td>
<td>Carol Wu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Beth Zigmund</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Donations may be made at www.thoracicrad.org
All donors will be recognized at future venues of the society.
The 2015 STR meeting will be held March 15 through March 18, 2015 at the spectacular Park Hyatt Aviara Resort in Carlsbad, California. Located just north of San Diego, this casually elegant resort is secluded amidst 200 acres of verdant hillsides and valleys, with views of the Pacific ocean and an adjacent wildlife sanctuary.

In addition to providing state-of-the-art conference facilities, this 5-diamond resort offers spacious guestrooms with private balconies that overlook the ocean, lush gardens, or golf course.

Recreational opportunities abound, including tennis, golf, a state-of-the-art fitness center and spa, and beach butler service. Listed in Travel+Leisure as one of the world’s best hotels, it is also rated as the best golf resort in San Diego by Golf Digest in 2012.

Be sure to bring your spouse and family members to enjoy all that the resort and the adjacent Carlsbad, La Jolla, and San Diego communities have to offer.
Dr. Rockoff’s Kudos

**JUST A BRIEF NOTE** from the founding President of the STR to let you and the leadership...and the membership (past and present) know how proud I am of how great you have all made the STR. I am with you in spirit if not in body...and my warm wishes to all of my ‘old’ and ‘new’ friends in the Society who have done so much to build the Society. If I manage to stay healthy and active when the meeting comes to Carlsbad, CA, I intend to drop in for the meeting to renew old, and to make new friendships.

With warm regards to members new and old,

David
Prof. (Emeritus) S. David Rockoff, M.D., M.Sc. (Med.), F.A.C.R.
The Society of Thoracic Radiology is managed by the professional association management firm of Matrix Meetings, Inc. located in Rochester, MN. All society correspondence can be directed to them at:

**Society of Thoracic Radiology**

% Matrix Meetings, Inc.
1202 1/2 Seventh Street NW
Suite 209
Rochester, MN
55903-7169

**Tel**
507.288.5620

**Fax**
507.288.0014

**E-mail**
str@thoracicrad.org
admin@matrixmeetings.com

**Website**
www.thoracicrad.org
www.matrixmeetings.com

---

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

**Submission Deadlines**

Winter: December 15
Spring: March 15
Summer: June 15
Fall: September 15

---

**Publication Dates**

Winter: January 15
Spring: April 15
Summer: July 15
Fall: October 15

---

**STR Officers:**

Eric J. Stern, President
Jeremy J. Erasmus, President-elect
Ann N. Leung, Secretary
Phillip M. Boiselle, Treasurer

**STR Publications Committee**

Ann N. Leung, Chair
Jeffrey B. Alpert
Phillip M. Boiselle
Brett W. Carter
Jonathan H. Chung
Myrna Godoy
Diana Litmanovich
Joseph W. Lowry
Edith M. Marom
Sushil K. Sonavane
Eric J. Stern (ex-officio)
Jubal R. Watts, Jr.