Dear STR Members:

Each summer, the Society of Thoracic Radiology sends representatives to the Intersociety Summer Conference organized by the American College of Radiology. This past August, Dr. Loren Ketai and I represented STR at the 2019 event, focused on “Fostering Wellness and Professional Fulfillment by Developing High-Functioning Teams.” The meeting outlined ways to address physician burnout and promote wellness, and dovetailed with the current efforts of Drs. Chris Meyer, Julianna Czum, Ronald Eisenberg and Steven Montner on the STR Health and Wellness Committee. Understanding the scope of the problem within STR members is the first priority, prompting the survey you received last year asking about your work environment.

The Intersociety Committee also proposed that radiology societies adopt a Statement of Professionalism, wherein we promise to treat each human being with dignity, kindness and respect. When you register for the annual meeting this year, you will be asked to read and accept a statement.
addressing Conduct Expectations during the Educational Program as well as STR sponsored social events. Loren Ketai, the author of this document, has emphasized “STR’s commitment to ensuring that our meeting participants act respectfully and with civility”, so that our meetings remain safe and welcoming environments for all individuals.

During the STR meetings, session moderators have the responsibility of introducing each speaker, fielding questions from the audience and making sure the meeting stays on time. Beginning with the 2020 meeting, we will ask our moderators to adopt a standard method of introducing each speaker, including professional titles and last names. We initiated this in response to a recent article in the Journal of Clinical Oncology. Dr. Narjust Duma and her colleagues, in an article entitled “Evaluating Unconscious Bias: Speaker Introductions at an International Oncology Conference”, noted that female presenters were not introduced in the same manner as male presenters at ASCO meetings over the last two years. They found that male moderators, when introducing female presenters, were less likely to include a professional title, and more likely to use a first name as compared with their introductions of male presenters. When women performed speaker introductions, no gender differences were noted. Although the casual, first name only introduction may be intended as friendly, it unfortunately undermines the expertise and competency of the speaker.

Last but not least, the STR Resident Bootcamp returns on Saturday, March 7, 2020 the day before the Annual Meeting. This year, the Bootcamp includes 4 sessions, each containing five 20-minute talks. The 4 sessions are entitled The Acutely Ill Patient, The Patient with a history of MVA, The Patient with Chest Pain, and Cardiovascular Imaging. Our residents at last year’s Bootcamp requested more cardiac, and more interactive sessions. In 2020, we will include an Audience Participation System, and the fifth talk in each session will be entirely interactive, giving the resident a chance for self-assessment. Please share the STR Resident Bootcamp schedule with your residents.

I look forward to seeing you in Indian Wells!

Caroline Chiles MD
Hello, look forward to seeing you all at our STR annual meeting at the Hyatt Regency Indian Wells & Resort in the Greater Palms Springs Region! We would like to update you about the meeting since our last newsletter.

The final program has been issued and is available on our website for the full schedule. Registration is now open for the meeting! We have a broad range of topics covered in the meeting and look forward to the new small group sessions, the guest lectures pertaining to ILD, lung cancer, and wellness. We are excited to introduce our new audience response system (ARS) which will be available through the meeting app and integrated into many presentations in the Annual Meeting and Bootcamp (see below). In addition, Chris Treml from the ACR will be presenting in our session on quantitative imaging and Artificial intelligence (AI) on how we can participate in AI development. We thank Carol Wu, chair of the big data subcommittee, for facilitating this visit and for facilitating the participation of the Asian Society of Thoracic Radiology (ASTR). Six honored ASTR members will be travelling to participate in the annual meeting. (See “Welcome to the Asian Society of Thoracic Radiology”).

Thank you all for the growth in submissions for clinical conundrums, and both educational and scientific abstracts (increased by one third over 2019). Many thanks are given to the awards committee headed by Dr. Saurabh Agarwal for his hard work in evaluating the submissions. Some exciting scientific sessions and posters and the educational exhibits will be in store for our meeting, so please bookmark these on your calendars to support our junior faculty and trainees who often present in these sessions.

Both the registration brochure and website include information on our Monday afternoon networking activities, including two special tours and other area attractions for you and family members. The #thoracicrad2020 hashtag is up and running, so please follow us on your twitter account, in addition to facebook (below). Also please refer to our Dining Guide for local restaurants in the Indian Wells area. The guide represents a sometimes “cheeky” synthesis of social media and internet sites: We are looking forward to hearing your first hand experiences at the meeting.
The STR Annual Meeting program continues its dedication to growing careers in thoracic radiology. This year’s program includes a junior faculty and trainee session directed towards developing future leaders, followed by a reception for junior faculty, trainees, and new first-time members of the society. We will also be awarding STR travel awards for trainees presenting abstracts at our conference. Perhaps most important to the future of thoracic radiology, STR Resident Bootcamp will return in 2020 after its enthusiastic reception in 2019. The bootcamp will be held March 7, 2020 the day prior to the meeting for radiology trainees. Program directors Drs. Caroline Chiles and David Naeger have fashioned a curriculum aimed towards on call-preparation for residents. Registration is free for your residents, so please spread the word about this exciting program, and please refer to Dr. Chiles President’s letter in this newsletter for details.

The 2020 program has been put together from collaboration from our members, and we hope you will learn something interesting and new, meet more colleagues, and enjoy your time at the meeting. Look forward to seeing you!

Follow us at:

Society of Thoracic Radiology

Society of Thoracic Radiology and #ThoracicRad2020
Welcome to the Asian Society of Thoracic Radiology

Carol C. Wu, MD

The STR is delighted to welcome the participation of the Asian Society of Thoracic Radiology (ASTR) in the STR 2020 Annual Meeting. The ASTR was founded in 2006 to advance the science and art of thoracic imaging through education, research, and quality control in Asia. Its Executive Committee consists of members from China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam. Every four years the ASTR hosts the Asian Congress of Thoracic Imaging (ACTI), the most recent meeting held in Shanghai, China, in July of 2019.

Members of the ASTR have graciously agreed to travel to Indian Wells to contribute to the meeting as moderators or speakers. Included among ASTR participants will be Professor Yung-Liang (William) Wan, the immediate past President of ASTR and an Associate Editor of Journal of Thoracic Imaging (JTI). Please give a warm welcome to Dr. Wan and the other ASTR participants whose pictures appear below.

Moderators (in alphabetical order by last name):

Prof. Li Fan
Shanghai Changzheng Hospital, China

Prof. Yasuyuki Kurihara
St. Luke’s International Hospital, Japan

Prof. Keiko Kuriyama
Osaka National Hospital, Japan

Prof. Wenjie Yang
Ruijin Hospital Affiliated with Shanghai Jiaotong University School of Medicine, China

Speakers (in alphabetical order by last name):

Prof. Chang Min Park
Seoul National University, Korea
Topic: AI in Chest Radiographs: From Development to Clinical Applications

Prof. Yung-Liang Wan
Linkou Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Taiwan
Topic: Significance & evaluation of coronary artery calcification in low dose lung CT
The STR collaborated with ACR and Society for Imaging Informatics in Medicine (SIIM) on the Pneumothorax Detection and Localization Machine Learning Challenge. Thirteen STR members, Drs. Veronica Arteaga, Maya Galperin-Aizenberg, Ramya Gaddikeri, Ritu Gill, Myrna Godoy, Stephen Hobbs, Jean Jeudy, Archana Laroia, Sundeep Nayak, Palmi Shah, Dharshan Vummidi, Carol Wu, and Kavitha Yaddanapudi, participated in the annotation and adjudication process. In total, 15,000 CXR selected from the publically available National Institute of Health chest radiograph (CXR) dataset were annotated by STR and SIIM volunteers. The competition was hosted on the Kaggle website. Over 1,400 teams participated in the challenge. Both the annotated dataset and top ranked machine learning algorithms from the competition are now publically available.

Additional information of the challenge can be found on the Kaggle website and the SIIM website. A manuscript related to the annotation and adjudication process has been published in the Journal of Digital Imaging.

In addition, the STR Big Data Subcommittee collaborated with the ACR Data Science Institute (DSI)’s Thoracic Use Case Panel on the development of an incidentally detected CT pulmonary nodules use cases. The ACR DSI is developing an extensive list of use cases describing clinical scenarios in which artificial intelligence applications can add value for the health care community. Additional information regarding the ACR DSI’s efforts on development of use cases can be found here. There are many ways that radiologists can participate in creating these use cases and you can find them here.

The STR Big Data Subcommittee will work jointly with ACR and RSNA to develop a list of common data elements (CDEs) for thoracic imaging. CDEs have been described as “a predefined question and a set of allowable
answers to that question”, the “answers” usually representing numeric values or predefined terms. CDEs have many potential applications. For instance the use of CDEs would facilitate natural language processing translation of freeform dictations into standardized reports. In this setting CDEs would inform radiologists about the basic elements that should be mentioned while dictating, and vendor software could target key information for capture and placement into a standardized format. Ultimately, CDEs should facilitate the collection and exchanged of data for development of deep-learning algorithms. The RSNA website regarding CDEs can be found here.

Practice Standards and Technical Guidelines Committee – Paul Cronin, MD, MS

The Society of Thoracic Radiology (STR) is dedicated to the lifelong learning of cardiothoracic radiologists and other health professionals and to the advancement of medical care through the science of radiology and allied disciplines and the Practice Standards and Technical Guidelines Committee is an important component of this mission. The work of our committee is central to the dissemination to radiologists and other health professionals of the most critically appraised and evidence-based current scientific and clinical information on cardiothoracic imaging and image-guided interventional procedures.

Our committee’s work involves partnering and collaborating with our sister radiologic and clinical organizations. Most of our inter-society projects have been in partnership with the American College of Radiology (ACR). Depending on the imaging modality and/or patient population relevant to the practice standard and technical guideline, we may partner solely with the ACR or the ACR in conjunction with other organizations. The fruits of these labors are documents that are educational tools designed to assist practitioners in providing appropriate radiologic care for their patients. A recent collaboration with the ACR was the production of the ACR–STR Practice Parameter for the Performance and Reporting of Lung Cancer Screening Thoracic Computed Tomography (CT). The practice parameter outlines the principles for performing high-quality thoracic CT in adults at high risk for lung cancer.
Collaborations with the ACR and Society of Pediatric Radiology (SPR)

In conjunction with the ACR, we have also developed several practice standards and technical guidelines with the SPR as these were relevant to both adult and pediatric patient populations. One example is the ACR–SPR–STR Practice Parameter for the Performance of Chest Radiography which assists practitioners in the performance of chest radiography. Another example is the ACR–SPR–STR Practice Parameter for the Performance of Portable (Mobile Unit) Chest Radiography.

In other collaborations with both the ACR and the SPR, we produced practice standards and technical guidelines related to thoracic nuclear medicine studies, including both cardiac and pulmonary imaging. The ACR–SPR–STR Practice Parameter for the Performance of Cardiac Positron Emission Tomography - Computed Tomography (PET/CT) is a guide for physicians performing and interpreting positron emission tomography–computed tomography (PET/CT) of cardiac diseases in adults and children. The ACR–SPR–STR Practice Parameter for the Performance of Pulmonary Scintigraphy is a guide to physicians performing pulmonary scintigraphy in adult and pediatric patients.

Collaborations with the ACR and Multiple Radiologic Societies

Other collaborations have included the Society of Computed Body Tomography & Magnetic Resonance (SCBT-MR) in addition to the ACR and SPR with the development of the ACR–SCBT-MR–SPR–STR Practice Parameter for the Performance of Thoracic Computed Tomography (CT). This practice parameter outlines the principles for performing high-quality thoracic CT in adults and children.

Further practice parameters have been produced with the North American Society for Cardiovascular Imaging and Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging. The ACR–NASCI–SNMMI–SPR–STR Practice Parameter for the
Committee Highlights

Practice Standards and Technical Guidelines Committee – Paul Cronin, MD, MS

Performance of Cardiac Scintigraphy, was produced to further guide physicians performing and interpreting cardiac scintigraphy in adults and children. In a partnership with the Society of CardiovascularComputed Tomography (SCCT) and the STR the 2016 SCCT/STR guidelines for coronary artery calcium scoring of noncontrast noncardiac chest CT scans was published (1-3). This guideline has a number of important functions. It endorses the reporting of coronary artery calcification (CAC) on all noncontrast chest CT (NCCT) examinations as the appropriate standard of care. It also aims to increase awareness of the prognostic importance of CAC among physicians ordering chest CTs irrespective of the physician’s specialty, and to develop risk classifications that may be included in the CT report. References are given below (1-3).

Collaboration with Clinical Societies

We have also partnered and collaborated with clinical organizations. We partnered with the American Thoracic Society and the Society of Thoracic Surgery in the production of the clinical practice guideline for the management of malignant pleural effusions (4). This guideline provides the most current evidence-based recommendations to guide contemporary management of patients with a malignant pleural effusion (MPE). A multidisciplinary panel developed seven questions using the PICO (Population, Intervention, Comparator, and Outcomes) format. The panel made the following recommendations in favor of: 1) using ultrasound to guide pleural interventions; 2) not performing pleural interventions in asymptomatic patients with MPE; 3) using either an indwelling pleural catheter (IPC) or chemical pleurodesis in symptomatic patients with MPE and suspected expandable lung; 4) performing large-volume thoracentesis to assess symptomatic response and lung expansion; 5) using either talc poudrage or talc slurry for chemical pleurodesis; 6) using IPC instead of chemical pleurodesis in patients with nonexpandable lung or failed pleurodesis; and 7) treating IPC-associated infections with antibiotics and not removing the catheter.
Committee Highlights

Practice Standards and Technical Guidelines Committee – Paul Cronin, MD, MS

Web links and references for these practice standards and technical guidelines have been included and we would encourage the STR membership to review these if not already aware of these. Future directions include continued production of new inter society practice standards and technical guidelines or updating existing practice standards and technical guidelines in partnership with our fellow radiology and clinical organizations. We would love to hear from the STR membership who have suggestions for future practice standards and technical guidelines. These could include important clinical topics with conflicting current evidence or recommendations on topics where there is new evidence and therefore a need to update.

It is an honor and privilege for me to work with this committee. I would like to thank all the committee members past and present for all their hard work and thoughtful insights and constructive comments during the production and/or final review of these practice standards and technical guidelines. The current committee members in alphabetical order are Jared D. Christensen, Jonathan H. Chung, Brett W. Carter, Diana Litmanovich, Mizuki Nishino Hatabu, Terrance T. Healey, Carole A. Ridge, Eva Kusmirek, and Paul Cronin, committee chair.

Yours sincerely and best wishes

Paul

References


Society of Thoracic Radiology (STR) is a founding member society of the Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research (Academy) since 1995. It is important for STR members to be aware of the efforts of the Academy which serves as a representative of the broader medical imaging research community and advocates for sustainable increase in federal investment at the National Institutes of Health and medical imaging research.

The Academy is our collective voice in Washington, DC, for imaging research funding and carries the torch for our community through their advocacy and educational efforts on Capitol Hill.

Academy Initiatives and STR collaboration:

• The STR signs several Congressional letters in support of NIH funding each year through the Academy’s role with the AAMC Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research. For FY 2020, the Ad Hoc Group recommended appropriation of at least $41.6 billion for the NIH, a $2.5 billion (or a 6.4%) increase over the FY 2019 program level. These important advocacy letters were disseminated to all Congressional offices. It is noteworthy that of the > 300 signatures, 40 were from imaging societies.

• Another important initiative of the Academy is Diagnostic Cockpit of the Future (DxCP). This is a collaborative effort between multiple societies, industry, academia and federal agencies to improve diagnostic accuracy and efficiency. The DxCP initiative will empower precision medicine by bringing together cutting-edge diagnostic technology and advanced artificial intelligence-based computing to better match patients with the best treatments and create the optimal working environment for radiologists and other clinicians. The Academy aims to maintain the momentum created by the establishment of the Interagency Working Group on Medical Imaging (IWGMI) in the White House, which was supported by the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) at the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). In collaboration
with STR’s Big Data Subcommittee initiatives, as well as other partners, the Academy will take impactful measures to accelerate innovative medical imaging research. Dr. Caroline Chiles will be STR’s point of contact for the DxCP effort. The Academy is developing a central webpage which will promote STR and other society initiatives. This is important as multiple federal agencies are interested in the DxCP and ensuring awareness of our efforts beyond our community will be valuable.

- Council of Early Career Investigators in Imaging (CECI2): The Academy offers travel awards for early career investigators to attend the annual Coalition for Imaging and Bioengineering Research (CIBR) Medical Technology Imaging Showcase in Washington DC. These awards create a unique opportunity for investigators to meet with Directors and program staff at the NIH; attend advocacy training; advocate on Capitol Hill for research with Members of Congress; participate in the annual Medical Imaging Technology Showcase in the Senate; network with patient advocacy groups, federal agency representatives, industry and academic leaders; attend the annual Academy Research Roundtable for academia and industry leaders; receive weekly funding and grant opportunities from the Academy; join the mentorship program and attend events at the RSNA including the Imaging Shark Tank session.

STR leadership is working closely with the Academy and is exploring nominating an STR early career investigator to join the Council of Early Career Investigators in Imaging CECI2 and attend spring events in Washington, DC, annually.

Communication from the Academy:

- The Academy Board meets twice a year, during both the AUR and RSNA meeting. At these meetings, STR representative is presented with Academy’s efforts and initiatives.

- In addition to these in person meetings, email communications regarding weekly NIH funding opportunities, newsletters with important event and advocacy information, legislative updates and grassroots opportunities are sent to board members.

It has been my privilege to serve as the liaison between STR and the
The Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research & STR Update
– Prachi Agarwal MD

Academy. If you are interested in a brief history of the Academy, its CECI² program or the DxCP, please view these links or reach out to me anytime as the STR representative to the Academy.

Online Longitudinal Assessment (OLA) for MOC

Recently the ABR has moved away from the MOC Part 3 (Assessment of Knowledge, Judgment, and Skills) requirement of an exam every 10 years to an online longitudinal assessment (OLA). We have many STR members who are working to generate content under the leadership of Rakesh Shah (Northwell University) for Thoracic and Laura Heyneman (Duke University) for Cardiac. Each committee consists of approximately 12-15 member radiologists who contribute questions. These questions are peer reviewed, vetted and then assembled each year for release the following year.

The assessment process for Diagnostic Radiology began in January 2019 and it has been quite successful. Please find attached preliminary statistics from the first 10 months. If any STR members are interested in participating please feel free to contact Sanjeev Bhalla. Applications for writing questions may be submitted online.
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