“Pessimists are usually right and optimists are usually wrong but all the great changes have been accomplished by optimists.”

~ THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

IN THIS ISSUE:

- STR Annual Meeting 2021!
- STR Fee Structure Response to Global Wealth Inequities
- STR Trainee Commitment
- STR Twitter Case Competition
- STR leadership in Artificial Intelligence on Display
- STR-ITMIG Collaboration
- STR Health and Wellness
- STR Bylaws – Proposed Amendment
STR Annual Meeting 2021!
Sanjeev Bhalla, MD

We are excited about the Virtual Meeting 3/6-3/10/21. Of course, we will miss the face to face sessions that have always made the STR so special. On the other hand, the virtual format affords the program to include features and content (see below) that were not available in prior years.

Our plan is to have prerecorded talks for most of the meeting which will be broadcast at assigned times. The chat boxes will be monitored during the scheduled lecture times and we will have live, moderated Q/A at the end of each session. Content will also be available on demand after it has been broadcast (during which chat boxes will not be monitored).

The meeting program will include:

SATURDAY, MARCH 6 robust Introductory Session (free for trainees worldwide and all participants registered for the main conference).

1. AM: 3rd Annual STR Resident Bootcamp run by Drs. Caroline Chiles and David Naeger.

2. PM: NEW this year, HRCT for Practicing Radiologists organized by Drs. Jane Ko, Seth Kligerman and Travis Henry

SUNDAY, MARCH 7 THE SHOW BEGINS!

1. Two sessions on diffuse lung disease - one including our guest Pathologist Dr. Kirk Jones from UCSF who will speak on Hypersensitivity Pneumonitis

2. Cystic Lung Disease session, featuring both Dr. Jones and Pulmonologist Dr. Adrian Shiffren from Washington University.

3. First of this year’s Four Cardiac Sessions, all with amazing submissions

4. Sunday PM- Critically Acclaimed Clinical Conundrums – host Dr. Geoff Rubin
MONDAY, MARCH 8
1. Two Cardiac Sessions and a concurrent session on Lung Cancer Screening

2. Midday Monday we will debut Wellness Vignettes and will host Dr. Arghavan Salles. Surgeon and Scholar in Residence at Stanford University speaking on stereotype threat in the reading room.

3. Session on the Thoracic Aorta featuring Dr. Jennifer Lawton, Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Johns Hopkins

4. Business meeting end of day for STR members

TUESDAY, MARCH 9
1. Concurrent sessions on Lung Cancer and imaging of the Pulmonary Vasculature

2. Debut of STR's in Spanish Session (speaker will also give equivalent talks in English during other sessions).

3. Concurrent sessions on lung cancer and our fourth on cardiac imaging.

4. Conclusion with first ever STR/ASER joint session on Chest Trauma

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10 – FULL DAY!
1. Sessions on infection, and an entire session dedicated to COVID 19.

2. Concurrent session on MR and post treatment imaging

3. Inaugural joint NASCI/STR session on Advanced Cardiac imaging.

4. Three Scientific sessions including awards for best presentations

5. Panel discussions with focused dialogue on running a thoracic section, issues in resident training, QI and QA in a Thoracic section, Young Faculty careers.
STR Fee Structure Response to Global Wealth Inequities
STR Executive Committee

In keeping with the STR Mission, “to advance cardiothoracic imaging in clinical application, education and research worldwide” the STR has aligned membership fees with global economics. The World Bank identifies nations as low, lower middle, upper middle and high income (the latter defined as gross national income per capita > $12,535/yr). Individuals residing in nations in the first three income groups are eligible for a discounted STR yearly membership fees of $200 ($440 value). Qualifying countries can be found on the World Bank Link provided on the STR membership website also.

Also for this year, given the economic impact of COVID on these countries in particular, we are offering for individuals residing in these nations a discounted annual 2021 meeting fee of $350 ($495 value). It is our hope that these changes in fees will help the STR welcome new members and meeting participants from around the globe.
Pending approval of proposed Bylaw revisions (see later in the newsletter) the STR Fellowship Committee name will be changed to the STR Fellowship and Resident Committee to reflect the incorporation of residents into a newly formed Trainee Section. The Trainee Section of the Fellowship and Resident Committee consists of 6 residents and 1 fellow. The two leads for the Trainee section are Jina Pakpoor M.D. and Ajay Kohli M.D. The five members nominated and selected for the Trainee Section are William Fenner Griffin M.D., Zachary Hartley-Blossom M.D., Maximiliano Klug M.D., Shravan Sridhar M.D., and Kacie Steinbrecher M.D.

The goals of the Trainee Section are a) to increase communication of STR with members in training about STR initiatives directed towards trainees b) to identify society activities and specific areas of cardiothoracic imaging that are of interest to trainees c) to identify and carry out methods to increase engagement of residents and fellows as STR members in training, with goal of their continued engagement as full STR members after completing training d) to identify how to initially engage radiology residents with an interest in cardiothoracic imaging.
STR Twitter Case Competition
Charles Lau, MD

STR (@thoracicrad) celebrated September by sponsoring an interesting case contest conducted entirely on Twitter. Medical students, residents, and faculty were invited to share their favorite thoracic and cardiac teaching cases via tweet. From an outstanding pool of submissions from three continents our expert panel (Drs. Bret Elicker, Travis Henry, Kim Kallianos, David Naeger, Cristina Fuss, Chuck Lau, Sanjeev Bhalla and Loren Ketai) selected six finalist Tweets:

- Accessory fissur e pneumoperitoneum mimic by @GrumleyScott
- Allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis by @MaximilianoKlug
- Isolated RV non compaction by @DrDavidSzames
- Mediastinal Mullerian cyst of Hattori by @DanielVargasMD
- Panlobular emphysema by @velasco_md
- Rheumatoid nodules by @velasco_md

Each finalist case was shared from the STR’s Twitter account and the number of likes and retweets earned by each case tallied over a week. This fall’s winning entry, which earned 63 likes and 38 retweets, was an outstanding allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis case assembled by Dr. Maximiliano Klug of Sheba Medical Center, Israel. Dr. Klug won an Amazon gift card, an invitation to expand his entry for inclusion as a future Case of the Month, and will be recognized at our upcoming Annual Meeting in March.

STR thanks everyone who helped make this contest a smash. Watch for our next contest soon!
The Society of Thoracic Radiology is proud to have provided key leadership in the 2020 RSNA Pulmonary Embolism Detection Challenge. Carol Wu, MD (chair) and Stephen Hobbs, MD (member) of the STR Big Data Committee represented the STR as experts on thoracic imaging and machine learning for this multinational effort. This competition has created the largest publicly available annotated data set for pulmonary embolism, comprised of more than 12,000 CTs from five different facilities.

In order to analyze this many studies, Drs. Wu and Hobbs helped enlist and coordinate the effort of over 80 STR and RSNA cardiothoracic imagers from 79 institutions in 18 countries. That work resulted in over 4.5 million annotations being placed by your cardiothoracic imaging colleagues across the world. The labeling effort includes not just information on acute PE, but also chronic PE, artifacts, and right heart strain. This complexity made this project the most complex RSNA AI challenge to date.

Over 780 machine learning teams participated in trying to develop the best machine learning algorithm with over 30,000 dollars in prize money distributed to the top 10 winners.

“Stephen and I deeply appreciate the enthusiasm and dedication of the STR members who participated in this project” – Dr. Carol Wu.
Participating STR Members:

Anastasia Oikonomou, MD, PhD, FRCPC  
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, University of Toronto - Canada

Claudio Silva  
Clinica Alemana de Santiago - Chile

Patricia Bitar, MD  
Clinica las condes - Chile

Juntima Euathrongchit  
Chiang Mai University - Thailand

Timothy Mickus  
Allegheny Health Network

Ritu R. Gill, MD  
Beth Israel Lahey Health

Ruchi Yadav, MD  
Cleveland Clinic

Adam Guttentag, MD  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Jugesh Cheema  
Deaconess Healthcare, Evansville, IN

Hongju Son, MD  
Einstein Healthcare Network

Narainder Gupta, MD, FRCR, ML  
Hospital of University of Pennsylvania & Perelman School of Medicine

Pushpender Gupta, MD  
Inland Imaging, PS; Providence Health & Services, Kadlec Regional Medical Center

Cheng Ting Lin, MD  
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Christopher Lee, MD  
Keck School of Medicine of USC

Stephen Machnicki, MD  
Lenox Hill Hospital - Northwell Health

Robert L. Karl, MD  
Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center

Shaunagh McDermott, DDR(RCSI)  
Massachusetts General Hospital

Prabhakar Rajiah, MD, FRCR  
Mayo Clinic

Sushilkumar K. Sonavane, MD  
Mayo Clinic

Bradley Sabloff, MD  
Anderson

James O’Brien  
Mecklenburg Radiology Associates

Veronica A. Arteaga, MD  
Moffitt Cancer Center

Palmi N. Shah, MD  
Rush University Medical Center

Ramya S. Gaddikeri, MD  
Rush University Medical Center

Emily Tsai, MD  
Stanford University

Diana Palacio, MD  
The University of Arizona

Kimberly Kallianos  
University of California San Francisco

Michael Hewitt  
University of Pennsylvania

Kavitha Yaddanapudi, MD  
University Arizona

Matthew J. Stephens, MD  
University of Cincinnati School of medicine

Jonathan W. Revels, DO  
University of New Mexico

Jacob W. Sechrist, MD  
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
Participating STR members (continued)

Susan Hobbs  University of Rochester
Jitesh Ahuja, MBBS  University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Fernando U. Kay, MD, PhD  University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Jeffrey S. Klein, MD  University of Vermont College of Medicine
Jeffrey P. Kanne, MD  University of Wisconsin - Madison
Amy Mumbower, MD  UT Health San Antonio
Kiran Batra, MD  UT Southwestern Medical center
Joanna E. Kusmirek, MD  UW Madison

For further information, please visit rsna.org
STR- ITMIG Collaboration
Edith Marom, MD

In September 2020, the memorandum of understanding between the STR and the International Thymic Malignancy Interest Group (ITMIG) was signed for collaborative research studies between STR and ITMIG members, related to the mediastinum. I am happy to announce that the first meeting took place on November 9th 2020. Nine STR members, interested in collaborative research participated. Areas of need for further research were debated, focusing on the imaging approach to diagnosis and follow-up of mediastinal diseases, and that approach’s effect on treatment. Future meetings are scheduled to take place once a month, to prioritize ideas and create a multidisciplinary multi-institutional study to help further our knowledge in mediastinal diseases. STR members who are interested in performing such multidisciplinary studies can reach Pam Bruce: pbruce@thymic.org to be included in the next ITMIG mediastinal workgroup conference call.
With 2020 in our rear view mirror and vaccines being administered, it is now time to gaze outside our collective “COVID bubbles” to a 2021 filled with reconnecting with our friends, colleagues and the upcoming virtual STR annual meeting. The Health and Wellness committee is pleased to be presenting Wellness Vignettes - an opportunity for our colleagues to share “best practices” as we all find balance. Look for our inaugural session at the virtual Annual Meeting on Monday March 8.

An important ongoing H & W Committee initiative is the membership burnout and workload survey. It is hard to believe that 2 years has already gone by since our last survey, the results of which were published by Eisenberg RL et al. in the Journal of Thoracic Imaging 2020, 36(1):57-64. It was notable that we identified at least one component of burnout in 86% of respondents. With that in mind, the VGN STR leadership defined several goals for the Health and Wellness Committee.

The first, to define the full extent of membership workload (not just work RVU’s) and to define workload thresholds that may contribute to a higher likelihood of burnout. A second goal is to define what specific institutional resources members have available to accomplish their work. Recognizing that survey research is a field of study unto itself, the committee issued an RFP and selected Susan Sherman, DPA/PhD, and an accomplished investigator in this field, to assist in designing the next phase. This will start with a series of stakeholder interviews to best frame the survey.

While still in evolution, we anticipate the possibility of 2 separate surveys. The first one to be completed by a single member of each practice location defining average workload and resources available per site by region. And the second will be a short anonymous survey of the entire STR membership that includes the Maslach burnout questions adapted to thoracic imaging and questions related to individual workload perception and work stressors.

When the survey arrives, please take a few minutes to participate. It is an important step in defining healthy workload practices for the incoming generation of thoracic imagers and the future of our specialty.
Several revisions to the STR Bylaws have recently been approved by the STR Executive Council, and await approval by the STR membership at the upcoming annual meeting. These changes were driven by the desire to better define the process for selection of officers and expand STR outreach to radiology trainees.

Recent review of the STR Bylaws revealed that the document did not clearly specify the method for approving new STR officers recommended by the Nominating Committee. This ambiguity in guidelines likely occurred inadvertently, when the Bylaws were amended several years ago. The proposed amendments clarify the new officer approval process, both as it applies to the annual officer selection and the filling of unexpected vacancies.

STR has also recently recognized the need to encourage education in thoracic radiology among radiology trainees. Towards that end, the proposed Bylaws would change the “Fellowship Committee” to the “Fellowship and Residency Committee” and augment the committee roster with seven non-voting trainee members. In order to broaden the trainee’s opportunities to be involved with STR’s mission, individual trainee members would also be designated as ad hoc members to additional STR committees relevant to trainee concerns (such as Membership Committee).

Please review the proposed Bylaws amendments and be prepared to vote at the Annual Business Meeting in March!

**ARTICLE VI**

**DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

**Section 6.5** VACANCY OF OFFICE. If the office of President-Elect becomes vacant during the course of the year, the Secretary or Treasurer, whoever has been in office longer, will succeed to this office. After obtaining the candidate's consent, the Nominating Committee shall nominate one candidate for the office of Secretary or Treasurer from among the committee chairs that have served at least three years and report the name to the STR Executive Committee for approval. If the candidate is approved as a nominee by the STR Executive Committee, the Executive Council will then vote on whether the nominee will be appointed to the office of the Secretary or Treasurer.
ARTICLE VII

COMMITTEES

Section 7.9  ABSTRACTS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE. The Abstracts and Awards Committee shall consist of five to seven Members in good standing and one non-voting member-in-training from the ad hoc Trainee Section of the Fellowship and Residency Committee as a liaison. The committee shall review all scientific and educational abstract submissions for the annual meeting and/or post-graduate course(s) to create program sessions including but not limited to oral scientific, clinical conundrum, and scientific/educational exhibits. It shall have the right to accept or reject papers and exhibits submitted for presentation at the meeting and shall exercise proper control over the format and arrangements for presentation. The Committee shall set up criteria for awards that recognize the contributions of the members and attendees at the STR annual meeting (including scientific presentations and exhibits) and for recognizing member or attendee participation at the annual meeting. The chair of the Abstracts and Awards Committee shall also serve as a member of the Program Committee.

Medical Education for the purpose of securing and maintaining STR’s accreditation.

Section 7.11  MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE. The Membership Committee shall consist of three to six members in good standing and one non-voting member-in-training from the ad hoc Trainee Section of the Fellowship and Residency Committee as a liaison. The Membership Committee shall receive completed applications for membership in the STR. The Committee shall review and screen all individuals suggested for membership in accordance with the provisions of Article IV of these Bylaws, to insure that they fulfill the requirements for membership in their appropriate category.

The Committee shall be responsible for overseeing requests for changes in membership categories from “Member-In-Training” to “Member” or from “Member” to “Emeritus Member”. The Membership Committee will give an annual report of changes in membership status to the Executive Council. The Committee shall receive the names of members who are delinquent in dues payment.
and shall initiate proceedings to retain or terminate the membership of these individuals.

Section 7.15 EDUCATION COMMITTEE. The Education Committee shall consist of six to 10 members in good standing, including the Chair of the Fellowship Committee and one non-voting member-in-training from the ad hoc Trainee Section of the Fellowship and Residency Committee as a liaison. The chair will be a member of the Program Committee. The committee shall oversee issues pertaining to educational programs in thoracic (cardiopulmonary) imaging, including the curriculum for residency training in Diagnostic Radiology, and educational programs for physicians-in-training and physicians. The committee will oversee the historical legacy of the STR, and take the lead in organizing events that commemorate STR history.

The committee shall oversee the educational content of the annual meeting. This includes monitoring and recording all conflicts of interest disclosed by speakers. The committee shall solicit, record and review speaker evaluations and provide feedback to the speakers and the program committee. The committee shall select courses for development of self-assessment modules (SAMs) and solicit review and approval from the American Board of Radiology. The committee shall monitor the creation and implementation of the SAMs. The committee shall review, evaluate and update educational offerings available on the STR web site. The committee shall be responsible for interacting with the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education for the purpose of securing and maintaining STR’s accreditation.

Section 7.16 FELLOWSHIP AND RESIDENCY COMMITTEE. The Fellowship and Residency Committee shall consist of five to eight Members in good standing and seven non-voting members-in-training. The committee shall oversee issues pertaining to Cardiothoracic Imaging fellowship programs and be the primary conduit to the various national societies that oversee fellowship program regulation and accreditation. The committee will maintain an updated listing of cardiothoracic imaging fellowship training programs that will be available on the STR website, update
the STR Fellowship Core Curriculum and seek methods to encourage more trainees to pursue Cardiothoracic Imaging fellowship. The chair of the Fellowship and Residency Committee shall serve as a member of the Education Committee.

**Ad hoc Trainee Section**

The seven members-in-training shall form an ad hoc Trainee Section with two co-leads and five Trainee Section members. The goals of the Trainee Section are to increase communication of STR with members in training about initiatives of STR directed towards trainee, to identify areas of interest for trainees pertaining to cardiothoracic imaging and society activities, to identify and carry out methods to increase engagement of residents and fellows in the STR as members in training, with aim of continued engagement after completing training in the role of a full member and to identify methods of how to engage residents with interest in cardiothoracic imaging. Trainee Section members will also take part as ad hoc committee members and liaison in these five committees: ad hoc Social Media Committee, ad hoc Online Content Committee, Membership Committee, Education Committee and Abstracts and Awards Committee.

**ARTICLE XIII**

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**Section 13.1** The Secretary or Treasurer, depending on which one will succeed to President-Elect, shall be announced at the annual meeting.

**Section 13.2** The method of procedure for holding election of officers of the STR shall be as follows:

A. After obtaining the candidate’s consent, the Nominating Committee shall nominate one candidate for the office of Secretary or Treasurer from among the committee chairs that have served at least three years and report the name to the STR Executive Committee for approval. If the candidate is approved as a nominee by the STR Executive Committee, the Executive Council will then vote on whether the nominee will be appointed to the office of the Secretary or Treasurer.
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