Peggy J. Fritzsche, MD, President, Radiological Society of North America

The Radiological Society of North America
89th Scientific Assembly and Annual Meeting
Sunday, November 30 to Friday, December 5, 2003, McCormick Place, Chicago, Illinois

Communication is the cornerstone of life. Without it, we would not have the ability to exchange information, build rapport, increase efficiency, or improve technology.

In medicine, communication is a fundamental element in educating physicians so that patients ultimately are the benefactors. That is why the theme of the 2003 RSNA Scientific Assembly and Annual Meeting is “Communication for Better Patient Care.”

Now more than ever, radiology is an integral component of medical care. All members of the radiology team—radiologists, radiation oncologists, medical physicists, and their support personnel—must remain aware of the latest scientific research, the current trends, and the newest technology, to provide the highest level of care to our patients.

With that in mind, RSNA has developed an annual meeting program that is relevant, inspiring, and intellectually satisfying. In addition, physicians have the opportunity to earn a maximum of 80.5 hours of category 1 continuing medical education (CME) credits toward the American Medical Association (AMA) Physician’s Recognition Award.

Last year, nearly 60,000 people participated in the event; they experienced an impressive array of scientific presentations, hands-on workshops, courses, educational exhibits, technical exhibits, and an unparalleled opportunity to network with top imaging leaders from around the world.

For this year’s meeting, the RSNA Board of Directors has made several changes that will enhance the scientific program and make the meeting more “user friendly.”

One big change is the way the Scientific Program will be delivered. All RSNA members are entitled to one free copy of the Scientific Program as a benefit of membership. To request a copy of the program, go to www.rsna.org/program, then choose either to have the program mailed in advance of the annual meeting (deadline, September 1, 2003) or request to pick up the program at the annual meeting. Members who neither pick it up nor request their copy will not receive a print copy of the program.

The Scientific Program content will also be available online. The online version makes it easy for attendees to customize a schedule that will give them maximum benefits from the meeting. They will be able to perform comprehensive searches, design a detailed schedule, and download the information to a computer or personal digital assistant. A step-by-step tutorial on how to create a customized meeting schedule will be included in the October issue of RSNA News.

Another change for the meeting is the addition of Case-based Review Courses. These new single-day refresher courses will focus on neuroradiology, vascular and interventional radiology, or pediatric radiology. Each daylong course will have morning and afternoon breaks and a lunch recess. The Case-based Review Courses will be interactive—a feature that will be incorporated in an increasing number of courses this year. More digital scientific sessions will also be offered. These are selected scientific paper presentations made available as narrated Microsoft PowerPoint demonstrations.

In response to your requests, the lunch period will be longer this year so that attendees will have the opportunity to spend more time viewing exhibits, visiting with colleagues, or walking to the next course.

Back by popular demand, the Essentials of Radiology Refresher Course Series will provide 12 hours of category 1 CME credits.
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in a compact 2-day session. This series is designed for general radiologists, residents, and subspecialists who want to review other areas of radiology. The course block will include sessions on imaging of the breast, chest, liver, and shoulder, as well as pediatric and trauma imaging, ultrasound, and uro radiology.

RSNA 2003 will offer an impressive array of lectures, courses, orations, symposia, panel discussions, poster sessions, paper presentations, education exhibits, and workshops. More than 7,700 scientific abstracts were submitted. Only the very best will be chosen.

For more than a year, four major RSNA committees—the Scientific Program Committee, Refresher Course Committee, Education Exhibits Committee, and Electronic Communications Committee—have been planning the scientific and educational portion of RSNA 2003, while the Technical Exhibits Committee has overseen the development of the Technical Exhibition.

More than 200 Scientific Paper and Poster Sessions will feature more than 2,000 scientific abstracts in both oral and poster formats and representing 15 radiologic subspecialties. The Scientific Sessions highlight completed research with a comprehensive report; a work-in-progress report of research under way with initial, defined results; or a brief report of a particular new aspect or understanding of clinical radiology. The variety of presentation formats allows increased flexibility and improved communication of ideas.

The nearly 300 Refresher Courses will include 45 limited-attendance workshops that feature intensive demonstration, discussion, and question-and-answer opportunities. Among the highlights of this year’s Refresher Course selection are a Categorical Course in Diagnostic Radiology, Musculoskeletal Imaging: Exploring New Limits; a Categorical Course in Diagnostic Radiology Physics, Advances in Digital Radiography; an update course on CT physics and technology; and an Update Refresher Course in Diagnostic Radiology, Findings at Ultrasound—What Do They Mean?

About 1,100 Education Exhibits will offer everything from displays to fully interactive computer-assisted demonstrations. They are designed to allow review of radiologic signs, pathologic correlations, procedures, techniques, treatments, and interventions or other aspects related to the practice of imaging.

infoRAD will provide a dynamic learning experience featuring more than 120 education and commercial exhibits showcasing hands-on computer-assisted self-instruction, Web-based applications, clinical software, and virtual reality. Courses will be presented on several Web-based applications including PubMed/MEDLINE searches, the National Library of Medicine/Internet2 Next Generation Internet, as well as courses on submitting material to Radiology and Radiographics. New for 2003 are a classroom featuring courses on RadLex and the Medical Image Resource Center and two lunchtime international informatics panels on the electronic medical record and education by means of the Internet.

Presentations will be available on The Radiologists and the Internet, How to Submit Work to the RSNA Journals and to Use the Journals Online, and Next Generation Internet, Internet2, and the Future of Medical Practice and Education.

Year 5 of RSNA’s IHE Workshops will showcase the expansion of Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise beyond its widespread adoption by vendors and users and the addition of solutions for pressing radiology workflow problems.

With industry leaders as the instructors, Hands-on Workshops will give attendees first-hand experience with the latest computer products available. These workshops will include How to Get Radiologic Images into Your Personal Computer, and sessions on computer-assisted diagnosis, radiology information systems, picture archiving and communications systems, and training on state-of-the-art computer equipment.

The Honorary Members for RSNA 2003 are Nicholas C. Gourasoyiannis, MD, from Heraklion, Crete, Greece; Lilian F. L. Y. Leong, MD, from Hong Kong, China; Alois Rüttimann, MD, from Zurich, Switzerland; and Jacob Valk, MD, PhD, from Wilnis, the Netherlands. They will receive their awards on Monday afternoon. The Gold Medalists will receive their awards on Tuesday afternoon. They are Stanley Baum, MD, from Philadelphia, Pa; William G. Bradley, Jr, MD, PhD, from San Diego, Calif; and David B. Fraser, MD, from Musquodoboit Harbor, Nova Scotia, Canada.

My Presidential Address, Communication: Key to Improved Patient Care, will open RSNA 2003 at 8:30 AM on Sunday, November 30. Following the address, the Opening Session will be Trauma Imaging: Who, How, and Why, moderated by George Bisset III, MD. Lecturer C. Craig Blackmore, MD, MPH, will present Clinical Prediction Rules in Trauma Radiology, and lecturer M. C. Myriam Hunink, MD, PhD, will discuss the Cost-effectiveness Analysis in Trauma Radiology.

At 4:00 PM on Sunday, Seymour H. Levitt, MD, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the RSNA Research & Education Foundation, will present the latest Foundation news, followed by the popular Image Interpretation Session. Michael P. Federle, MD, from Pittsburgh, Pa, will moderate the session. The panelists are Faye C. Laing, MD, Jeffrey S. Klein, MD, Alec J. Megibow, MD, MPH, Richard B. Towbin, MD, and Hugh D. Curtin, MD.

On Monday, December 1, at 1:30 PM the Eugene P. Pendergrass New Horizons Lecture, entitled The NIH Vision, will be presented by Elias A. Zerhouni, MD, Director of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md. Immediately following will be the AAPM/RSNA Basic Physics Lecture for the Radiologic Technologist on Understanding Patient Radiation Dose.

Also beginning on Monday, the RSNA Associated Sciences Consortium will host the first of three symposia. The theme for this year’s program is Shaping Our Future—Forces at Work. The sessions will be held from 10:30 AM until noon. Monday’s session is Consumer-driven Healthcare: Strategies for the Retail Medicine Era of Radiology, presented by Russell C. Coile, Jr. Tuesday’s sessions are “Show me the Money”: Government Reimbursement Policy, presented by Bibb Allen, Jr, MD, and Are You Getting Paid for What You Do? Key Indicators to Audit, presented by James P. Trotter, Jr. Wednesday’s session is The Cost of Doing Business, presented by Monte G. Clinton and Bobbi Miller, RT(R)(M).

The Associated Sciences program will also include a series of eight refresher courses designed primarily for radiologists, managers, and supervisors of radiology departments. The courses are How to Effectively Manage the Capital Asset Cycle; From Acquisition Planning to Replacement Strategies; Continuity of Care; Advanced Radiographic Practice; Maximizing Your Practice Potential with Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants; Workforce Crisis: Strategies for Management; The Digital Department: Its Architecture and Design; HIPAA: The Operational Impact in Radiology; and Digital Technology for Diagnostic Imaging.

Special Focus Sessions will be presented on Monday and Wednesday from 4:30–6:00 PM, and from 3:00–4:00 PM on Monday. Sessions are Refocusing Radiological Education for the 21st Century, moderated by Richard B. Gunderman, MD, PhD; Women’s Ultrasound Imaging, moderated by Carol B. Benson, MD; Management of Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms, moderated by Barry T. Katzen, MD; Facing New Threats of Terrorism: A Radiologist’s Perspective, moderated by Jacob Sosna, MD; Molecular Imaging: Potentials and Challenges for Radiology, moderated by Philip O. Alderson, MD; Controversies for Image-guided Tumor Ablation, moderated by S. Nahum Goldberg, MD, and Stuart G. Silverman, MD; Practical Work to the RSNA Journals and to Use the RSNA Journals Online, moderated by Robert C. Gilkeson, Jr, MD; Malignant Neoplasia: A Primer of Primaries, moderated
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by Kelly K. Koeller, Capt, MC, USN; HIPAA Compliance: Are You There Yet? moderated by Donna Boswell; Reduction of Error in Radiology: Better Care Better Outcome, moderated by Edward I. Bluth, MD; Breast Image-guided Intervention: The Future, moderated by Laura Liberman, MD; and CT and Radiation: Finding the Bottom Line, moderated by Donald P. Frush, MD.

Thursday’s Special Focus Sessions are NIBIB, by Roderic I. Pettitgrew, MD, PhD; Image Processing: Principles, Applications, and Future Directions, moderated by Ron Kikinis, MD, and Daniel P. Barboriak, MD; Web-based Results Distribution: New Channels of Communication, moderated by Kimberly E. Applegate, MD, MS; 3T MRE: Is It Relevant? moderated by Neil M. Rofsky, MD; and Legal Implications of Screening, moderated by Leonard Berlin, MD.

Also as part of the Special Focus Sessions, ASTRO invited papers will be presented on Monday, ASNR invited papers will be presented on Wednesday, and SIR invited papers will be presented on Thursday.

The Annual Oration in Diagnostic Radiology will be presented on Tuesday at 1:30 PM on Internal Derangements of Joints: Anatomic-pathophysiologic Imaging Correlation by Donald L. Resnick, MD, from San Diego.

The Annual Oration in Radiation Oncology will be given on Wednesday at 1:30 PM by Lester J. Peters, MD, from Melbourne, Australia, on The Invaluable Role of PET in Radiation Oncology.

The RSNA/AAPM Symposium will be held on Thursday at 1:50 PM on PET/CT: Function and Form Together. The symposium will be moderated by David R. Pickens III, PhD; it immediately follows the inauguration of the RSNA Board of Directors for 2004 and the introduction of the 2004 AAPM Officers and Council Chairs.

On Friday, the Imaging Symposium will be MR Imaging of Sports Related Injuries, moderated by John F. Feller, MD.

These very important programs would not be possible without the dedication of more than 2,000 volunteers, who have worked tirelessly for the past 18 months. I would like to thank each one of them for helping to prepare a stimulating program that will ultimately have a positive impact on patient care. The following committees and key representatives are to be congratulated for their commitment to excellence:

The Scientific Program Committee is responsible for review and selection of all scientific papers proffered for the annual scientific assembly, within budgetary and space limitations, and for the organization of special symposia: George S. Bisset III, MD, Chairman; William W. Olmsted, MD, Education Editor and Editor, RadioGraphics; Anthony V. Proto, MD, Science Editor and Editor, Radiology; David R. Pickens III, PhD, AAPM Liaison; Gary J. Becker, MD, Board Liaison; Program Subcommittee Chairs: Gilda Cardenosa, MD, Breast Imaging; Melvin E. Clouse, MD, Cardiac Radiology; Caroline Chiles, MD, Chest Radiology; Jay P. Heiken, MD, Gastrointestinal Radiology; Philip J. Kenney, MD, Genitourinary Radiology; Kimberly E. Applegate, MD, MS, Health Services, Policy and Research; Georges Y. El-Khoury, MD, Musculoskeletal Radiology; Charles F. Lanzieri, MD, Neuroradiology/Head and Neck; Patrice K. Rehm, MD, Nuclear Medicine; Simon C. Kao, MD, Pediatric Radiology; Maryellen L. Giger, PhD, Physics; Chul Soo Ha, MD, Radiation Oncology and Radiobiology; H. Hugh Hawkins, Jr, MD, Radiology Informatics; Myron A. Pozniak, MD, Ultrasound; and Anne C. Roberts, MD, Vascular and Interventional.

The Refresher Course Committee is responsible for curriculum organization and faculty selection: Ronald J. Zagona, MD, Chairman; Robert A. Novelline, MD, Vice-chairman; David E. Avrin, MD, PhD; Ken Buckwalter, MD; Peter A. Cooperberg, MD; Bradley Erickson, MD, PhD; Laurie E. Farjado, MD; Michael P. Federle, MD; Stephen A. Feig, MD; Richard M. Gore, MD; Robert T. Heelan, MD; Stephen G. Ho, MD; Diego Jaramillo, MD; Jeffrey S. Klein, MD; Paul A. Larson, MD, Associated Sciences Committee Liaison; Vivian S. Lee, MD, PhD; Laurie A. Loevner, MD; Frederick A. Mann, MD; Vincent Mathews, MD; Shirley M. McCarthy, MD, PhD; Lawrence R. Muroff, MD; William W. Olmsted, MD, Education Editor and Editor, RadioGraphics; Bhudatt Paliwal, PhD; Anthony V. Proto, MD, Science Editor and Editor, Radiology; Ehsan Samei, MD, AAPM Liaison; Arthur J. Segal, MD; Richard Semelka, MD; William E. Shiels II, DO; Perry Sprawls, Jr, PhD; Ronald L. Van Heertum, MD; Srinivasan Vijayakumar, MD; Shao Y. Woo, MBBS, Radiation Oncology Subcommittee Chairman; and Theresa C. McLoud, MD, Board Liaison.

The Education Exhibits Committee is responsible for review and selection of education exhibits offered through formal application, within budgetary and space limitations, and is responsible for developing category 1 programming within the educational exhibits: Kerry M. Link, MD, Chairman; John D. Hazel, PhD, AAPM Liaison; William W. Olmsted, MD, Education Editor and Editor, RadioGraphics; Anthony V. Proto, MD, Science Editor and Editor, Radiology; Theresa C. McLoud, MD, Board Liaison; Education Exhibits Subcommittee Chairs: Arthur B. Diamond, MD, Breast; Robert M. Steiner, MD, Cardiac; Lawrence R. Goodman, MD, Chest; Richard Lewis Baron, MD, Gastrointestinal; Melissa Rosado de Christenson, MD, Multisystem/Special Interest; Thomas L. Pope, Jr, MD, Musculoskeletal; Edgardo J. C. Angt uaco, MD, Neuroradiology; Marie E. Lee, MD, Nuclear Medicine; Teresita L. Angtuaco, MD, Obstetrics/Gynecology; Johan G. Blickman, MD, PhD, Pediatrics; Joel E. Gray, PhD, Physics; Jerry W. Froelich, MD, Policy and Practice; Katherine L. Griend, MD, Radiation Oncology; Susan Hilton, MD, Uroradiology; Michael A. Bettmann, MD, Vascular/Interventional.

The Electronic Communications Committee is responsible for evaluating computer software and hardware data-storage devices, and electronic data networks that facilitate communication of medical images and related information: Ronald L. Arenson, MD, Chairman; David E. Avrin, MD, PhD; Paul J. Chang, MD; David S. Channin, MD; Keith J. Dreyer, DO, PhD; Adam E. Flanders, MD; Donald P. Harrington, MD; H. Hugh Hawkins, Jr, MD; Ramin Khorsan, MD; Curtis P. Langlotz, MD, PhD; David W. Piraino, MD; Raymond F. Rodebaugh, PhD, AAPM Liaison; Eliot L. Siegel, MD; R. Gilbert Jost, MD, Board Liaison.

The Technical Exhibits Committee is responsible for review and acceptance of all applications for commercial exhibit space, limiting such exhibit space to educational opportunities for radiologists and allied scientists, and is responsible for implementation of the Society’s policies and regulations related to exhibiting and for monitoring rules and regulations: Michael C. Brunner, MD, Chairman; Jonathan M. Alexander, MD; Javier Beltran, MD; John E. Connolly, Jr; Gail C. Hansen, MD; Anton N. Hasso, MD; Dennis Kay, MD; James R. Marbach, PhD, AAPM Liaison; Alice C. Patton, MD; Shayle B. Patzik, MD; and R. Gilbert Jost, MD, Board Liaison.

RSNA 2003 presents an exciting opportunity to evaluate the results of new research in radiology and to develop knowledge and skills vital to clinical practice. The registration deadline is October 10, 2003, for attendees outside of North America to receive their badge wallet in advance, and October 31 for those living within North America. Online registration is available 24 hours a day through RSNA's Web site, RSNALink: www.rsna.org/rna/advanceregistration/index.html.

Make sure you register early to avoid the $100 on-site registration fee, and plan your meeting schedule in advance to ensure you maximize your experience at this truly extraordinary event.