

# The Society for Computer Applications in Radiology

**S**OMETIMES I get the impression that it's informatics versus imaging. How often have radiologists and other users been frustrated to find that their new million-dollar piece of imaging equipment is unable to capture any patient demographic information from the hospital or radiology information systems? It's good to see that a number of vendors are now starting to face this problem. In addition, several articles have appeared in this and other journals explaining how individuals have solved portions of this problem in their own departments.

One way to assure that there will be future compatibility and interconnectivity is to insist that future hardware and software purchases include the HL-7 standard for hospital information systems and the American College of Radiology/National Electrical Manufacturers Association DICOM standard for radiology equipment and networking. Manufacturers need to be made aware that this is an important issue for radiology departments. Proprietary formats for equipment and networks prevent the interconnectivity that is needed. For example, as a radiology department expands into more uses of teleradiology, it would be a shame if a radiologist had to have two or three computer-monitor systems on his or her desk to see images from the intensive care unit, the ultrasound area, and the computed tomography and magnetic resonance scanners. In this era of cost containment and retrenchment, this type of duplication of equipment and effort has become unacceptable.

The US Army and the US Air Force have developed the Medical Diagnostic Imaging Support (MDIS) program as a prototype for the all-digital radiology department. A radiology information system is built in and is connected to the hospital information system. Experience with this program at multiple sites will be an excellent learning experience.

Members of the Society for Computer Applications in Radiology (SCAR) have been at the

forefront in efforts to increase compatibility and user friendliness of computer-based medical equipment. Everyone with knowledge and experience in this field should consider submitting articles to the *Journal of Digital Imaging* so that we can all learn about the latest information.

The biannual Symposium on Computer-Assisted Radiology (S/CAR) meeting, June 12 to 15, 1994, hosted by Bowman Gray Medical School in Winston-Salem, NC, will be a great place to learn the newest ways of handling these issues. The keynote speaker at this meeting will be Daniel R. Nays, the Director of the Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications, which is part of the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, MD. Alan Rowberg and Neil Wolfman, cochairmen of the Scientific Committee, report that 195 abstracts have been received and sent out for peer review. Because of the large number of excellent abstracts received, the program will include three parallel sessions during most of the meeting that will allow the presentation of 50% more papers than at our last conference in 1992. The program will include 113 papers selected for presentation, a few invited sessions, and other abstracts selected for tabletop demonstrations or presentation at the poster sessions. Over 60 SCAR members volunteered to review abstracts. This peer review process does much to enhance the quality of the meeting and its usefulness to attendees. The Scientific Committee extends its thanks to the SCAR membership for its support, and to those reviewers for their service to the Society and its meeting. I look forward to seeing you in Winston-Salem in June.

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