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## Editorial

These are exciting times in health care. Diagnostic imaging has become a key triage event in almost every medical encounter. Computers are familiar appliances in every home and office, and the Web is supplanting the telephone as a means of communication and information exchange. Nowhere was the enthusiasm for digital medical imaging technologies more apparent than at this year's Society for Computer Applications in Radiology (SCAR) Annual Meeting held May 2-5, 2002 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Once again, the Program Committee put on an excellent mix of research paper presentations, SCAR University courses on a wide variety of topics, tutorials, and discussion sessions. Vendor participation produced our largest exhibit hall ever, and attendance at this year's meeting was a record 2,030. At the Meeting, Samuel J. Dwyer III, PhD affectionately known as the "Father of PACS," was inducted into the College of SCAR Fellows. Dr Dwyer's lifetime of achievements and contributions to digital medical imaging are referred to today as seminal works. His kind and modest demeanor make him beloved by all those who have had the privilege of working with him. Join me in congratulating Dr Dwyer on this latest honor.

SCAR is in a unique position to make significant contributions to the continuing evolution of health care because of our multidisciplinary member talents. To advance digital imaging in medicine, we must continue our efforts in education and research, as well as maintain industry collaborations to quickly move advancements in our field to the clinical arena. Education, research, and clinical and technological service are

the pillars of SCAR and of the specialty of radiology in general. We must ensure that imaging professionals at all levels are prepared, through education and training, to meet the challenges of our technically intensive, dynamic discipline.

Research is the future of our profession. Without radiological research, the clinical discipline of radiology may not survive. Each of us in the field of medical imaging must encourage critical learning by our own example as well as support research with resources and recognition within departments, within institutions, and within the profession as a whole. We must communicate our research findings and clinical experiences through appropriate forums, and further instill our enthusiasm for research in our colleagues and trainees to continue moving our profession forward. Through these activities, we can identify future leaders of our profession, as well as broaden our own horizons and impact the direction of our field.

SCAR educational efforts continue to encompass innovative mechanisms for enjoyable and effective learning experiences through our Annual Meeting, through refresher courses at the Radiological Society of North America Annual Meeting taught by SCAR faculty, through our various publications, our web site and access to expert resources. SCAR research has defined its focus as that which fosters the application of technology into the medical practice of radiology. Several mechanisms exist within SCAR for facilitating and coordinating exploration of new ideas.

Through our Annual Research and Development (R&D) Symposium, SCAR sponsors a timely topic for study, culminating in a SCAR-published white paper and presentation. This

year's R&D Symposium focused on technologist productivity in the transition from film-based to filmless operation. Details of this project are contained in a series of articles to be published in the next issue of the *Journal of Digital Imaging (JDI)* which highlights radiological workflow in the digital environment. The topic for next year's symposium is a comparison of 3- versus 5-megapixel displays for primary diagnostic interpretation.

Through our Grants and Fellowships Subcommittee of the R&D Committee, SCAR will, for the first time, sponsor competitive research grants in medical imaging informatics. These grants are intended for radiology residents and fellows, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, or junior faculty in radiological informatics. A request for proposals for this grant funding currently is on the SCAR website. The deadline for applications is September 4, 2002, with funding announcements to be made January 1, 2003.

Critically important is the translation of professional experience and research knowledge into technological advancements, medical imaging applications, and clinical practice. This might best be accomplished in an interdisciplinary environment of collegiality. Clinical and technical professionals must communicate their needs and capabilities to each other, through mutually beneficial collaborations. Academics and private practitioners must partner with industry to expedite the evolution of medical imaging in health care.

SCAR facilitates communication between the clinical and technical service professionals in digital medical imaging through SCAR-sponsored users groups. These group activities provide a bridge between the medical imaging industry and radiology, enabling users to impact current and future products and services, as well as industry to ascertain what today's and tomorrow's market holds.

Regardless of whether we as individuals are predominately involved in any one piece, we must promote with enthusiasm and support with resources, each aspect of medical imaging informatics education, research, and clinical and technical service. It is critical to the future of our profession. Without a proper balance of all 3 missions, the pyramid will collapse under the weight of one wall.

I look forward to another exciting and productive year for SCAR as we promote research, education, and clinical technology development in radiological informatics. Our society is only as strong as its members, and, as such, I invite you to become more involved in SCAR. Let us know your interests, concerns, and suggestions. Publish your manuscripts including research articles, experiential reports, technical notes, and educational review articles in our society's journal *JDI*. Plan to attend the SCAR 2003 Annual Meeting to be held in Boston, Massachusetts June 7-10, 2003. Preparations for another superb conference are already well underway. Please join me and the SCAR Board of Directors as we continue our journey toward the next frontier of digital imaging in medicine.

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