

Editor: Kathleen A Ward, MD, FACR

## IRS Elects New Officers and Alternate Councilors for 2010-2011



Gary L. Dillehay,  
MD, FACR

The Illinois Radiological Society elected new officers and alternate councilors to the American College of Radiology at their Annual Meeting held March 20<sup>th</sup>. The terms will become effective following the ACR Meeting in Washington, May 15-20, 2010.

**Gary L. Dillehay, MD, FACR**, Northwestern University Medical Center, Chicago, Illinois, will become President, moving up from President-Elect/Treasurer. Previously Doctor Dillehay served as Secretary/Assistant Treasurer.

**Mandar A. Pattekar, MD**, Methodist Medical Center, Peoria, Illinois, will become President-Elect/Treasurer. Previously he served as Secretary/Assistant Treasurer.

**Thomas M. Anderson, MD, FACR**, Mercy Hospital and Medical Center, Chicago, Illinois, will become the new Secretary/Assistant Treasurer.

**Kathleen A. Ward, MD, FACR**, Loyola University Medical Center, Maywood, Illinois, will have completed her presidency and will become the Immediate Past President.

Two individuals were elected to a one-year term as Alternate Councilors to the American College of Radiology. They are **Paul J. Chang, MD, FACR**, University of Chicago Medical Center, Chicago, Illinois, and **Gregory D. Moss, MD, FACR**, Resurrection Medical Center, Chicago, Illinois.

Councilors and Alternate Councilors also serve on the Executive Committee of the Illinois Radiological Society. For a complete list of officers, councilors and alternate councilors, please visit the IRS website at [www.illradsoc.org](http://www.illradsoc.org).

### ***In this issue of the IRS Newsletter:***

- ***IRS Reps meet with Attorney General Lisa Madigan***
- ***IRS Members to Receive ACR Fellow Designation***
- ***Resident and Fellows Sections Elect New Officers***

## IRS- CRS Meeting with BCBS on Musculoskeletal Ultrasound Reimbursement

Members of the IRS and CRS met with Doctor Will Harms, Medical Director, National and Major Accounts for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois, in January to discuss reimbursement of Musculoskeletal Ultrasound (MSK US).

Members present included Doctors Thomas Anderson, Kate A. Feinstein, Brian Kincaid, Imran Omar, Ruth Ramsey and Scott Stacy

According to Doctor Harms, BCBS of Illinois is in a healthcare group with Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico, and the policy to not cover musculoskeletal US was made by consensus of the entire group and that he was the lone minority voice.

Doctor Harms stated that he had reviewed hundreds and hundreds of claims for nonspecific foot pain in which the patient received bilateral foot radiographs and bilateral foot ultrasound examinations at every visit. He discussed the groups performing these studies and stated that BCBS could not discriminate against any one group.

The IRS members discussed guidelines that various societies, including the ACR jointly with the AIUM, have established just for MSK US imaging and also presented Doctor Harms with photocopies of multiple supporting articles and pertinent guidelines. The use of US for diagnosis of Baker's cyst was reviewed, and the use of US in rheumatologic diseases was discussed in depth. Cases in which US was the imaging modality preferred over MR were additionally reviewed, specifically Morton's neuroma and various dynamic examinations.

Doctor Harms talked about potential methods for provider accreditation, including setting up accredited centers or credentialed networks. He mentioned that there is no prior history of BCBS making payment decisions for MR based on origin of service even though there is already an ACR accreditation for that modality in place.

Self-referral patterns were also discussed. Equipment specifications and education requirements for the various examinations were considered. Operator-dependence in such examinations and preferences of referring physicians were additionally mentioned.

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The meeting ended on a positive note. Doctor Harms stated that it was very probable that the current MSK US reimbursement policy would be revised in the next month, however, it was likely that some areas would remain limited. He also stated he would welcome follow-up with the IRS group.

Following the meeting, the involved IRS members briefly discussed submitting a resolution on MSK US for the upcoming ACR meeting. (See next article.)

### **IRS Submits Resolutions to ACR on MSK Ultrasound and Portable Media**

The Illinois Radiological Society has submitted two resolutions to be discussed and acted upon by the ACR Council at the ACR Annual Meeting to be held May 15-19 in Washington, DC.

As a follow-up to the meeting that IRS/CRS representatives had with Doctor Will Harms, Medical Director of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois, to discuss reimbursement of Musculoskeletal Ultrasound (see article elsewhere in this newsletter), the IRS has submitted a resolution encouraging the ACR to investigate establishing an accreditation program for MSK Ultrasound.

A second resolution was submitted to have the ACR strongly encourage PACS vendors to adopt the Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE) standards-based profiles to improve portable media interoperability, provide consistent user interface and replace portable media with electronic web-based image transfer.

The text of the two Illinois Radiological Society resolutions are published below.

#### **RESOLUTION**

##### **Use of Ultrasound for Musculoskeletal Imaging**

**WHEREAS**, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois recently declined to pay insurance claims for ultrasound use in musculoskeletal (MSK) imaging;

**WHEREAS**, No criteria are available to certify qualified US "readers" and equipment;

**WHEREAS**, MSK imaging is rapidly expanding and evolving;

**WHEREAS**, Some practitioners utilize ultrasound in MSK imaging in their practices without training or appropriate equipment;

**WHEREAS**, Some practitioners utilize MSK sonography for inappropriate clinical conditions/scenarios, and

**WHEREAS**, That to ensure optimal patient care and the ethical practice of medicine, it is necessary to identify those persons who (1) are qualified to perform musculoskeletal (of MSK pathology and (3) apply evidence-based criteria when determining appropriateness of utilization of MSK sonography, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That the ACR investigate establishing accreditation of MSK ultrasound.

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#### **RESOLUTION**

##### **Portable Image Media (CDs and DVDs)**

**WHEREAS**, Radiology is evolving from the use of physical analog film to the use of portable digital media (CDs and DVDs) as the preferred method of inter-institutional image transfer and

**WHEREAS**, The existing vendor offerings that create these portable image media demonstrate disparate and inconsistent user interfaces and frequently lack interoperability, especially with respect to efficient import into an institution's PACS and

**WHEREAS**, Many of these CDs and DVDs are very difficult to use in a timely fashion and may introduce viruses into existing systems and

**WHEREAS**, These resulting inefficiencies and incompatibilities in image review compromise patient care and are perceived as a problem by both radiologists and non-radiologists and

**WHEREAS**, There are existing IHE (Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise) standards-based profiles (including Portable Data for Imaging (PDI), Basic Image Review, and Cross-Enterprise Document Sharing (XDS) for Imaging) that, if adopted by vendors, would greatly improve portable media interoperability, provide a consistent user interface to view portable media images, and ultimately replace portable media with electronic web-based image transfer, therefore

##### **BE IT RESOLVED,**

That the ACR strongly encourage the nation's PACS vendors to adopt these IHE standards-based profiles.

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### **Chicago Radiological Society Elects Officer and Trustees for 2010-2011**



Davide Bova, MD

At the Annual Meeting on April 15th, the Chicago Radiological Society elected Davide Bova, MD as its President for 2010 – 2011. Doctor Bova is a diagnostic radiologist and nuclear medicine physician at Loyola University Health System in Maywood, Illinois. He has just completed a two-year term as Secretary/Treasurer.

Vice President/Program Director Jennifer Lim-Dunham, MD, also from Loyola, will be serving her second year of a two-year term as Program Director and has taken on the title of President-Elect.

William Small, MD, a radiation oncologist from Northwestern University in Chicago, has been elected to a two-year term as Secretary/Treasurer.

Ejaz Rahim, MD, from the Chicago Medical School and the Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science in North Chicago, Illinois, was elected a First Year Trustee and will serve on the CRS Executive Committee.

For a full listing of the Officers, Trustees and Executive Committee members, visit the CRS website at [www.chi-rad-soc.org](http://www.chi-rad-soc.org).

## IRS Representative Meet With Attorney General Lisa Madigan's Office On Self-Referral and Leasing Issues

The Illinois Radiological Society continues to work on policy issues that are important to radiology. Several representatives from the IRS attended a meeting held in December with representatives of the Illinois Attorney General's office to discuss the issues of leasing and self-referral. Doctors Leonard Berlin, Ruth Ramsey, Thomas Anderson, and Richard Mintzer attended the meeting at the Attorney General's Chicago office, along with IRS Legislative Affairs Consultants, Michelle Gentry-Wiseman and Tom Ryder.

The Attorney General's Director of Legislative Affairs, the head of the Office of Consumer Rights and a representative from the Special Litigation Unit all were in attendance to discuss potential proposals to codify the recent consent decree in the case of *Illinois vs. Open MRI, LLC*. The IRS representatives were able to open a dialogue with the Attorney General's office about the national nature of this issue and provide them with significant background and data regarding self-referral and over-utilization of imaging services. The IRS representatives additionally shared copies of legislation offered in Connecticut and California, but, based on initial review, any legislative changes in Illinois would require a different approach as both of those states, unlike Illinois, regulate general billing practices.

Various options available under Illinois law were discussed, including adding enforcement provisions to the *Illinois Health Care Self Referral Act*, a bill supported by the IRS in the 90s. Both parties committed to continue to work together and remain in contact in order to move forward and draft a legislative proposal for consideration in an upcoming General Assembly.



## Advanced Imaging Accreditation - Be an Advocate for ACR By Kathleen A. Ward, MD, FACR

As an ACR member, you already know that accreditation is fundamental to differentiate the quality of medical imaging by radiologists from others who are not specialists in the field. And you understand that accreditation is the key to ensuring that patients receive the most appropriate imaging for their specific condition.

Now, your College needs your help to educate your peers about the unique value of ACR accreditation.

**Why choose ACR for accreditation?** In a word... quality. ACR accreditation is a peer-reviewed, educationally-focused evaluation of a radiology practice - conducted by board-certified radiologists and medical physicists who specialize in imaging. The ACR accreditation process is thorough - covering personnel, equipment, quality assurance and image quality - which affirms the commitment of radiologists to the highest quality of patient care. Most importantly, the ACR is the preferred CMS-approved accrediting body whose core focus is imaging.

**Patients want peace of mind.** With recent news coverage about radiation dose, it's no wonder that patients concerned about radiation safety seek out facilities that display the *ACR gold standard* seals. In fact, ACR accreditation is so highly regarded, more than 90 percent of accredited facilities renew with us following their initial three-year term.

**CMS makes it mandatory...ACR makes it happen.** The ACR has the experience, expertise, and infrastructure to help large numbers of advanced medical imaging providers gain accredited status by January 1, 2012, as mandated by the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA). We have streamlined our application process, so providers that want to ensure their Medicare reimbursements can complete accreditation in half the time previously required. Plus the ACR accreditation hotline is staffed by certified radiologic technologists who can guide providers through all stages of the accreditation process.

**How can you prepare for accreditation?** Applying for and achieving accreditation is a team process that involves everyone in your facility. Here are some ways you can prepare to meet these requirements:

- Designate one person in your facility to organize and submit all materials.
- Ensure clinical images submitted for review are approved by a physician.
- Stay current with accreditation requirements by visiting [www.acr.org/accreditation](http://www.acr.org/accreditation).
- Avoid the 2012 rush; apply for accreditation early.
- Be an advocate. The ACR is *your* College and the right choice for accreditation.

**Spread the word.** We appreciate your support in spreading the word that the ACR, *your College*, is the best choice for advanced imaging accreditation.

## **CRS and CIRS Surveying Membership Regarding CT Colonography for Colorectal Cancer Screening**

The Chicago Radiological Society and the Central Illinois Radiological Society are surveying their members to identify radiologists and radiology practices that are currently doing CT Colonography (CTC or virtual colonoscopy). In response to a large insurance carrier challenge to justify reimbursement of CTC for colorectal cancer screening.

Questions being asked include:

- Does your group currently offer CTC?
- How many CTC procedures do you perform each year?
- Does your group participate in the ACR NRDR CTC database?
- Has at least one radiologist in the group completed the ACR CTC course and received a certificate of participation?
- If no one in your group has an ACR CTC certificate, has at least one radiologist completed a similar course reading at least 50 test cases?

If you did not say yes to all the above questions, are you willing to modify and/or certify your practice if it would help gain reimbursement for screening CTC?

If you do CTC and wish to participate in the survey, you may click on the link below to answer these questions.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SK6WTHL>

A committee has been established to review the survey results and interact with this insurance carrier on the issue of reimbursement of CTC for colorectal cancer screening.

### **Doctor Gary L. Dillehay Honored with Chicago Radiological Society's Gold Medal**

*Chicago, IL* - The Chicago Radiological Society honored Gary L. Dillehay, MD, FACR, FACNM, Professor of Radiology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago, with the presentation of the Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor the Chicago Radiological Society can bestow upon a member. The Distinguished Service Award or Gold Medal was presented to Doctor Dillehay at the April 15, 2010, CRS Meeting, recognizing his many years of service to radiology and nuclear medicine as well as his leadership in organized medicine on both the state and national levels.



Gary L. Dillehay,  
MD, FACR

A native of Rochester, Minnesota, Doctor Dillehay received his undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota and his medical degree from the Mayo School

of Medicine in Rochester. Following an internship in combined medicine and radiology at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Doctor Dillehay went on to complete his radiology residency at Northwestern. He later completed postgraduate training in Nuclear Medicine, also at Northwestern, earning board certification in both nuclear medicine and radiology with special competence in nuclear radiology.

Doctor Dillehay left Northwestern in 1984 to join the faculty of Stritch School of Medicine at Loyola University Medical Center attaining the rank of Professor. While at Loyola, Doctor Dillehay served as the Acting Director of Nuclear Medicine from 1998 to 2002 and served on numerous hospital committees, including chairing the Utilization Review Board. In 2006, Dillehay left Loyola to join the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine as Professor of Radiology in the Division of Nuclear Medicine.

Past president of the Chicago Radiological Society, Doctor Dillehay is President-Elect of the Illinois Radiological Society and serves as state Councilor to the American College of Radiology. He has been an active member of the Executive Committees of both the Chicago Radiological Society and Illinois Radiological Society. Doctor Dillehay served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Chicago Radiological Society before being elected President and has since chaired the CRS Nominating Committee and Distinguished Service Committees. Besides chairing the Illinois Radiological Society's Bylaws Committee, he currently serves on the IRS Finance, Membership and Legislative Advisory Committees. Doctor Dillehay has chaired the Illinois Radiological Society's Fellowship Committee since 2002, and during his tenure 40 radiologists have been honored with fellowship status. He also serves as the Illinois Radiological Society (and American College of Nuclear Medicine) Representative to the Illinois Medicare Part B Carrier Advisory Committee. Doctor Dillehay has also served on the ACR's Commission on Nuclear Medicine and the Committee on Standards and Accreditation for Nuclear Medicine. An active participant in the ACR Annual Meeting and Chapter Leadership Conference, Doctor Dillehay has chaired and participated in several Reference Committees and regularly participates in the ACR'S annual visits to Capitol Hill. For his service to the ACR and his local chapters, Doctor Dillehay was awarded Fellowship in the ACR in 1997.

Dillehay is past president of the American College of Nuclear Medicine (formerly the American College of Nuclear Physicians) and has chaired its Membership, Finance, Strategic Planning and Fellowship Committees as well as Practice Management and Economics and Professional and Public Information Program Committees. For his scholarship, service and leadership in nuclear medicine, he was awarded Fellowship in the ACNP in 1992.

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Doctor Dillehay has also served on numerous committees with the Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM) and currently serves on the SNM's Commission on Health Care Policy, Computer Technology Assessment Committee, Commission on Education, and ACNP/SNM Government Relations Committee. He is past chair of the SNM's Commission on Education, Education and Training Committee and Continuing Education and Course Approval Committee, currently chairs the SNM's Coding and RVU Committee, and is the SNM's Delegate to the American Medical Association. Doctor Dillehay has also served on the SNM's Board of Trustees and Board of Directors and is a member of the SNM's House of Delegates and was elected Speaker of the House of Delegates in 2007-2009.

Doctor Dillehay has been equally as active at the Chapter level of the SNM, where he twice served as Central Chapter president. He has also chaired the Central Chapter's Publications, Program, and Constitution and Bylaws Committees. He is a current member of the Central Chapter Board of Governors.

Doctor Dillehay has extensively volunteered his time and talent, holding leadership positions in many other medical and radiology organizations. He is an active member of the American Medical Association, the Illinois State Medical Society and the Chicago Medical Society as well as the Association of University Radiologists. Doctor Dillehay also served on the Board of Directors for the Nuclear Medicine Technologist Certification Board and currently serves on the Joint Review Committee for Nuclear Medicine Training Programs and the American Board of Nuclear Medicine.

A member of the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA), Doctor Dillehay has served as a member of both the RSNA Program Committee and the Communications Committee, chaired its Nuclear Medicine Subcommittee and served on the Editorial Board for *RadioGraphics*.

A noted author and lecturer, Doctor Dillehay has co-authored two books on nuclear medicine, seven book chapters and numerous journal articles.

The applicable educational products include:

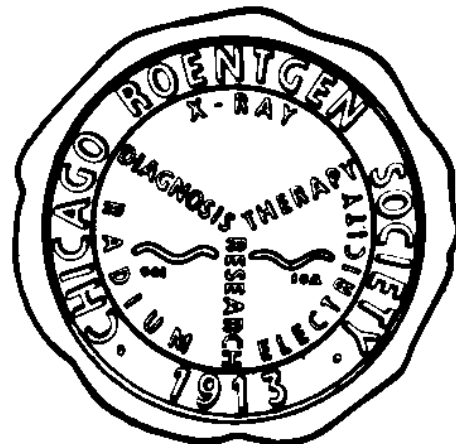
All automated programs on the ACR Campus, including:

- All lectures series (currently more than 165 lectures in various series such as Grand Rounds, Cardiac Basic, etc.)
  - The All\*Access Pass
  - Learning File On Line
  - Dr. Challenger
  - The Waiting Room
  - Non-Clinical SAMS Programs (Currently 3)
  - New lectures and automated programs posted periodically as developed.
- CD-Based Programs
  - ISA/Mammography Case Review Series (1-4+) Learning File CDs
- Print Products
  - Continuous Professional Improvement (CPI) Modular Series
  - Professional Self Evaluation PSE/Syllabi Series
- Off-Site Meetings
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Body MRI - March 26-28, 2010
  - 34<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Breast Cancer - April 9-11, 2010
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual PET/CT Update - Sept 24-26, 2010
  - Quality Meeting - October 22-23, 2010

## IRS Enters into Educational Materials Marketing Agreement with ACR

The IRS is entering into a marketing agreement with the ACR to promote the sale of its Educational Materials. This agreement will proceed on a one year trial basis before this opportunity is expanded to include other chapters. The IRS will be given a 15 % sales credit for those sales transactions that are designated by the use of the Marketing Code, ACRILRS.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Illinois Radiological Society will collaborate with American College of Radiology in ACR's efforts to market and sell ACR educational products to radiologists, radiation oncologists, interventional radiologists, nuclear medicine physicians and medical physicists. Specifically, the Society may market and sell the ACR educational products listed below. If you are interested in purchasing any of the material listed, please use the ACRILRS marketing code to help the IRS continue its programs on behalf of its membership.



## Seven IRS Members to Receive ACR Fellow Designation

One of the highest honors the ACR can bestow upon a radiologist, radiation oncologist or medical physicist is recognition as a Fellow of the American College of Radiology. ACR Fellows demonstrate a history of service to the College, whether in organized radiology, teaching, or research. Approximately 10% of ACR members achieve this distinction. The Illinois Radiological Society is pleased to recognize seven members who will be awarded Fellow status in the American College of Radiology at the ACR meeting to be held in Washington in May. The Fellow designates include:

**Masoud Hemmati, MD**, Department of Diagnostic Radiology. University of Illinois at Chicago

**Roger B. Perry, MD**, Department of Radiology Mercy Hospital and Medical Center in Chicago

**Michael Racenstein, MD**, Department of Radiology, Alexian Brothers Medical Center, Elk Grove Village

**Howard J. Rose, DO**, Department of Radiology, Mercy Hospital and Medical Center in Chicago

**William Small, Jr., MD**, Department of Radiation Oncology, Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago

**Stephen M. Smith, MD**, Director, Department of Ultrasound, The Methodist Medical Center of Illinois in Peoria

**Robert H. Wagner, MD**, Chief, Division of Nuclear Medicine, Loyola University Health System in Maywood

## Resident & Fellows Section Elects New Officers



Christopher Chan, MD, a diagnostic radiology resident from Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, has been elected President of the Resident and Fellows Section for 2010-2011. Previously, Doctor Chan served one year as Vice President.

Christopher Chan, MD Elected Vice President was Patrick Alore, MD, a resident from Rush University Medical Center. Previously, he served a one-year term as Treasurer.

Damon D. Shearer, DO, Loyola University Health System in Maywood, Illinois, was elected Treasurer.

Daniel K. Jeong, MD, also from Rush University Medical Center, was elected the Program Director and will be coordinating the Resident and Fellow Section educational programs held in conjunction with the CRS monthly meetings.

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