



ILLINOIS RADIOLOGICAL SOCIETY
STATE CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF RADIOLOGY
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Membership Update Summer 2008

New IRS Officers Elected for 2008-2009

Matthew J. Kuhn, MD, FACR from the Department of Radiology at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield is the new President of the IRS having served as the Secretary/Assistant Treasurer and then President-Elect/Treasurer for the past two years. He replaces **Kate A. Feinstein, MD, FACR** from The University of Chicago who was President for 2007-2008. **Kathleen A. Ward, MD, FACR** from the Department of Radiology at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood was elected President-Elect/ Treasurer and **Gary L. Dillehay, MD, FACR** from Northwestern University was elected Secretary/Assistant Treasurer. **Jonathan W. Berlin, MD** from Evanston Northwestern Healthcare was elected Alternate Councilor for the American College of Radiology (ACR). **Joy Sciamberg, MD**, from Rush University Medical Center was appointed to a new position created and funded by the ACR called *Young Alternate Councilor* to encourage participation by more youthful physicians. Councilors and Alternates also serve as members of the IRS Executive Committee. For a full listing of Executive Committee members, visit the IRS web site at www.illradsoc.org.

Chicago Radiological Society Installs New Officers for 2008-2009

John F. Hibbeln, MD from the Department of Diagnostic Radiology at Rush University Medical Center was elected President of the Chicago Radiological Society for 2008-2008. Previously he served as President-Elect and Secretary-Treasurer. He replaces **Jay L. Korach, MD** of Stat Imaging in Chicago who served as CRS President for 2007-2008. **Edward A. Michals, MD** from the Department of Radiology at the University of Illinois Hospital continues as the Vice President and Program Director while now taking on the additional title of President-elect. **Davide Bova, MD** from Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood was elected to a two-year term as Secretary-Treasurer. For a full listing of officers, Executive Committee and Trustees, please visit the CRS web site at www.chi-rad-soc.org.

Resident and Fellow Section Elects Officers

Mustafa Bashir, MD from Rush University Medical Center was elected President of the Resident and Fellow Section, replacing **Joseph Carabetta, MD** from the University of Chicago Hospitals who was president in 2007-2008. **Alice Yao-Lee, MD** from Rush University Medical Center was elected Vice President and President-Elect. **Christopher Chan, MD** from Rush University Medical Center was elected Secretary-Treasurer and **Sonia Babra, MD** from the University of Illinois at Chicago will serve as the RFS Program Director. The RFS meets in conjunction with the monthly meetings of the Chicago Radiological Society.

IRS, CRS and CIRS Schedule 2008-2009 Meetings

The Illinois Radiological Society and its two divisions, the Chicago Radiological Society and the Central Illinois Radiological Society have scheduled their slate of meetings for the 2008-2009 season.

The **Central Illinois Radiological Society** has scheduled a dinner meeting for **Friday, August 8** at the Par-a-Dice Hotel and Casino in East Peoria, Illinois. The featured speaker is Tammie L.S. Benzinger, MD, PhD, Director, Neuromagnetic Resonance Imaging for the Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology in St. Louis. All radiologists are welcome. For detailed information and online registration follow this link, https://bacon-hedland.secureserverdot.com:443/cirs/register_live.asp

The **Chicago Radiological Society** will hold five monthly meetings October 2008 to April 2009 with a joint meeting with the IRS scheduled for Saturday, March 14th. The CRS Meetings will again be held at the Searle Conference Center in the Professional Building at Rush University Medical Center. Watch your mail, email and the CRS and IRS web sites for updated information. The dates for the CRS meetings are as follows: Thursday, **October 16, 2008**; Wednesday, **November 19, 2008**; Thursday, **January 15, 2009**; Thursday, **February 19, 2009**; Thursday, **April 16, 2009**.

The **Joint Meeting** of the Illinois Radiological Society, Chicago Radiological Society and Central Illinois Radiological Society scheduled for Saturday, March 14th will again focus on "Hot Topic in Radiology". **Leonard Berlin, MD, FACR** from Rush North Shore Medical Center is serving as program chair.

Radiologists hold Capitol Hill Day in Washington

During the ACR Annual Meeting and Chapter Leadership Conference held in May in Washington, over 300 radiologists from around the United States visited with their respective Congressional Offices. Illinois Congressional Offices visited included

Senators Richard Durbin and Barack Obama and Representatives Bobby Rush, Rahm Emanuel, Danny Davis, Mark Kirk and Ray LaHood. The key issues addressed for 2009 were Medicare physician payments; No further cuts to medical imaging in Medicare; and the inclusion of imaging utilization reforms in the next Medicare Bill

Residents Gain Exposure to Socio-Economic Issues

The American College of Radiology and the respective state chapters again sponsored residents and fellows to attend the ACR meeting in Washington. In addition to attending special programming aimed toward residents and fellows, our younger colleagues attended the general sessions and witnessed firsthand the policy-making sessions of the ACR Council. Seven residents from Illinois attended the meeting under sponsorship of the ACR and the IRS. They included **Syam Vasireddy, MD** from the SIU School of Medicine in Springfield, **Joseph Tan, MD** from the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria, **Daniel Hurst, MD**, from the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria, **Virginia Diavolitsis, MD**, a radiation oncology resident from Northwestern University in Chicago, **Alice Yao-Lee, MD** from Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, **Mustafa Bashir, MD** from Rush University Medical Center, **Douglas Brylka, MD** from Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood and **Sonia Bobra, MD** from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Illinois Radiologists Receive Fellowship Status in ACR

Eight Illinois Radiologists received their Fellowship designation at ceremonies at the ACR meeting and may now include FACR as part of their credentials. Illinois had the largest class of all of the Chapters, followed by Texas who had seen. They are:

- Nancy L. Brown, MD, University of Illinois at Chicago
- Joseph D. Calandra, MD, St. Francis Hospital, Evanston
- Edward C. Elliott, MD, Decatur Memorial Hospital, Decatur
- Katherine L. Greim, MD, Rush University Medical Center, Chicago
- Ronald W. Hendrix, MD, Northwestern University Medical Center, Chicago
- Carl L. Kalbhen, MD, Northwest Community Hospital, Arlington Heights
- David M. Paushter, MD, The University of Chicago, Chicago
- Jeffrey P. Shafer, MD, Provena Saint Joseph Hospital, Elgin

Radiologists, radiation oncologists or physicists interested in applying for consideration in 2010 should apply by March 1, 2009. Fellowship information is available on ACR web site at www.acr.org, under the membership tab.

Legislative Session Overview

IRS Legislative Affairs Consultant, Michelle Gentry-Wiseman reports that while the negotiations and the “back and forth” between the caucuses, the two chambers, and the Governor seemed to take up a great deal of time and effort during the period the legislature was in Springfield this year, when all was said and done, very little was actually accomplished during the 2008 Regular Session of the 95th General Assembly. A total of only 283 bills (128 Senate Bills and 155 House Bills) were passed (as of July 10th) by both chambers and sent to the Governor for consideration. Compared to last year – which was contentious by any measure – the number of measures passed this year were less than half of those passed during 2007. 750 Bills (367 Senate Bills and 383 House Bills) were sent to the Governor for his consideration in 2007. The IRS monitored some 115 bills during the session, ranging from a requirement for increasing Medicaid reimbursement to Medicare levels, to the institution of regulation of “retail health care” facilities. The potential for impacting the practice and business of radiology was definitely there during 2008 but the political games and infighting seemed to put a damper on much consideration of real change this year.

The outcome of the state budget, and the revenues on which to base the budget, along with the intertwined fate of a capitol bill, seemed to be the true saga during 2008. The House and Senate ended up passing and sending to the Governor one spending package but they passed differing proposals related to revenue. The Senate passed bills that would have expanded gambling, provided for fund sweeps, the sale or lease of the state lottery and pension obligation restructuring. The House, however, failed to pass those proposals. In the end, Governor Blagojevich vetoed some \$1.4 Billion dollars from the budget sent to him. The Governor ended up making significant cuts to human service areas, including Medicaid, proposed wage increases for workers assisting the mentally ill and handicapped, senior and veteran services, among others. The administration claims that under the current budget, Medicaid payment cycles for hospitals may extend up to 150 days – the hospitals claim that the outliers will have to wait up to 6 months. The impact of the cuts on the payment cycles to physicians and other health care providers is yet to be determined.

There were some positives that resulted during the session. Both the House and Senate overwhelmingly agreed to an extension of the Certificate of Need law and an extension of the timeframe for a report from the State Task Force on Health Planning Reform. The report is now scheduled to be completed by November of this year, while the statute remains in place until July of 2009. We anticipate legislation during the Spring session that will make revisions to the law based on the Task Force report.

And, while it did not pass the House, efforts to address the issue of reimbursement rates for pediatric specialties, including radiology, were brought in both chambers of the legislature this session. The subject, initially brought forward by a coalition started by Children’s Memorial Hospital, clearly seemed to resonate with legislators. Efforts to enact legislation that would bring Medicaid reimbursement levels to a comparable rate as Medicare will be continuing in 2009.